

# City of Gainesville

City Hall  
200 East University Avenue  
Gainesville, Florida 32601



## **Minutes - Final**

November 28, 2017

6:00 PM

**Joint City Commission/Utility Advisory Board Workshop**

**GRU Administration Building Multi-Purpose Room - 301 SE 4th  
Avenue, Gainesville, FL  
City Commission**

*Mayor Lauren Poe (At Large)*

*Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Harvey Budd (At Large)*

*Commissioner Helen Warren (At Large)*

*Commissioner Charles Goston (District 1)*

*Commissioner Harvey Ward (District 2)*

*Commissioner David Arreola (District 3)*

*Commissioner Adrian Hayes-Santos (District 4)*

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**ROLL CALL - 6:02 PM**

**Present** 7 - Commissioner Goston, Mayor Poe, Commissioner Hayes-Santos, Commissioner Ward, Commissioner Arreola, Commissioner Warren, and Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Budd

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

*Jim Konish spoke to the matter.*

**A motion was made by Commissioner Warren, seconded by Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Budd, that this Matter be Adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 6 - Commissioner Goston, Mayor Poe, Commissioner Hayes-Santos, Commissioner Arreola, Commissioner Warren, and Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Budd

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Ward

**AGENDA STATEMENT**[170569.](#)**GRU Governance (NB)**

*Commissioner Ward arrived at 6:04 PM.*

*Commissioner Ward stated at this point he was not prepared to pass off authority for decision making.*

*Commissioner Hayes-Santos stated that we are one City and one organization, and to bring the City together and to not divide it; and having an advisory board that has experts is important for advice on a number of issues.*

*Commissioner Goston stated that he was concerned that the UAB has a lack of input.*

*Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Budd stated that there is a compromise, and it's about nomenclature which is the key element.*

*Commissioner Warren stated that the relationship with the UAB and City Commission needs to have the issue of disagreements taken care of because its creating a wall among the two.*

*Commissioner Ward stated that he would welcome advice from the UAB on how to help folks pay their utility bills and to meet quarterly to discuss the budget.*

*Commissioner Arreola stated that we are still figuring out how to work soundly for GRU's betterment.*

*Mayor Poe stated that we have the best of both worlds, in that we have a final decision making authority that is accountable throughout to the owners of the utility, but at the same time, having two sets of expert advice to inform those decisions.*

*The Clerk's office will put on the December 7, 2017 agenda an item to create a*

*subcommittee consisting of two UAB members and two City Commission members to look at the strengths and weaknesses and find ways for improvements.*

*Jim Konish, Donald Shepherd, Nancy Deren, Don Fields, Russell Stiriz, Ernesto Martinez and Susan Bottcher spoke to the matter*

**RECOMMENDATION**      *The City Commission and Utility Advisory Board discuss GRU Governance, with a focus on the UAB's role and relationship to the City Commission.*

**Discussed**

[170571.](#)

**Rate Distribution (B)**

*Justin Locke and Thomas Brown made presentations.*

*UAB Member Mary Alford stated that she would like for the UAB and City Commission to discuss connection charges for water/wastewater because there are serious implications for affordable housing.*

*Commissioner Arreola would like to see an option to be weighted on the residential side (10% instead of a number).*

*Mayor Poe left the meeting at 9:04 PM.*

*Commissioner Goston left the meeting at 9:11 PM.*

*Chair Cook stated that the UAB will have a recommendation by December 14, 2017.*

*Commissioner Hayes-Santos would like for the City's Lobbyist to talk to FEMA and report back to see if there are any savings available.*

*Chair Cook read into the record recommendations from the UAB to the City Commission.*

*Commissioner Hayes-Santos requested that an agenda item be added to the December 7, 2017 meeting regarding utility tax.*

*Jo Beaty spoke to the matter.*

**RECOMMENDATION**      *The City Commission and Utility Advisory Board discuss how rates will be distributed among customer classes when the rates change following the purchase of the biomass facility.*

**Discussed**

[170572.](#)

**City Commission and Utility Advisory Board Priorities for GRU in FY2018 (B)**

*Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Budd suggested that a master list be created regarding priorities and to schedule this discussion at a later date.*

*Commissioner Hayes-Santos stated that he would like to discuss on the list of priorities the Urban Design Standards and the budget.*

*Commissioner Warren stated that she would like to discuss on the list of priorities a*

*relief for economic opportunities (electric rates).*

*Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Budd stated that he would like to discuss on the list of priorities the issue of governance.*

*Chair Cook nominated UAB Members Mary Alford and Michael Selvester to the UAB Subcommittee.*

*Donald Shepherd and Nancy Deren spoke to the matter.*

**RECOMMENDATION**

*The City Commission and Utility Advisory Board discuss and define the two bodies' priorities for GRU for FY2018.*

**ADJOURNMENT - 9:59 PM**

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**Sharon D. Williams**  
**Interim Clerk of the Commission**