

Rate Advisory Board

Composition

Seven members appointed by the City Commission, each of whom will serve three year terms. It is desired that Board members have expertise or demonstrated leadership in one or more of the following areas: accounting/finance, construction management, engineering, law, or executive business management. Members will be customers of Gainesville Regional Utilities and shall include...

- Residential Customers
 - 2 residential customers living inside the Gainesville city limits
 - 1 residential customer living outside the city limits
- General Service Customers – to include one General Service Demand and one General Service non-demand
 - 1 General Service Customer from inside the Gainesville city limits
 - 1 General Service Customer from outside the city limits
- Large Power Customers – no geographic designation allows for future inside/outside balance
 - 1 Electric Large Power Service Customer
- Multi-family Customers – (50 units minimum) no geographic designation allows for future inside/outside balance
 - 1 Multiple-Family Water Customer

Powers

It is the purpose and intent of the City Commission to establish the Board to serve as an advisory body providing advice and recommendations to the Mayor and City Commission on the city's retail utility service rates. The Board shall, in its investigation, deliberation and advice, strive to advise the City Commission on rates and charges for use of and services rendered by the municipally owned electric, water, wastewater and Natural Gas utilities, which are nondiscriminatory, reasonable and just, and which will produce sufficient revenue to maintain the utility property in a sound physical and financial condition to render adequate and efficient service.

The powers and duties of the Board shall be as follows:

- Review and comment on proposals made by the department for changes to the utility service rates.
- Develop and provide recommendations to the Mayor and City Commission on issues relevant to the setting of the utility service rates, provided that the Board shall have no authority to review or revise the utility service levels.
- The Rate Advisory Board shall hold rate hearings on proposals made by Gainesville Regional Utilities to change the utility retail service rates or establish new utility service rates for property-related services furnished by the utilities, excluding taxes and surcharges, and upon conclusion of the hearing, provide recommendations to the mayor and city council on such proposals. In the preceding sentence, "rate hearings" means the public hearings.

- Act as a liaison to encourage community understanding of, and participation in, the utility service rate setting process.

Appointment

Members shall be appointed by the City Commission for two-year terms, (see categories above). The nominated person must get a majority vote of the City Commission to be appointed. Members serve a two year term, staggering the terms. Members may leave the board at any time. No member shall serve for more than three consecutive terms. They may only be removed from the advisory board at the end of their term by the vote of the City Commission appointing someone new. In order to establish staggered terms, the initial appointments of four of the members shall be for a two-year term, and the initial appointments of three of the members shall be for a three-year term.

At its first meeting, and annually thereafter, the Board shall elect from among the Board members a chairperson and vice chairperson, who each shall hold that office at the pleasure of the Board. When there is a vacancy in the office of the chairperson or vice chairperson, the Board shall fill that office from among its members. The Board may adopt rules and procedures as it may deem necessary, and consistent with the provisions of the Gainesville Code of Ordinances, for the conduct of its business. Staff support to the Board shall be provided by one or more city employees designated by the General Manager for Utilities.

The advisory Board members will be voluntary and not paid. However, an appropriate annual budget would be established for expenses they may incur; orientation and or additional training through American Public Power association or Florida Municipal Electric Association educational courses, conferences, or other industry events.

Conflict of Interest

All appointees to the Board shall be subject to the City's conflicts of interest policies and shall be required to file statements of economic interest pursuant to the city's conflict of interest code. A current city employee or elected city official may not serve as a member of the Board.

Board Meetings

The Board shall establish a time and place for regular meetings to be held approximately quarterly, not to exceed twelve (12) times per year. Each meeting shall be noticed and held in accordance with the appropriate provisions.

A quorum comprised of Board members present and qualified to act shall be required for the Board to conduct a meeting and take any action. A quorum shall consist of four members. The affirmative vote of a majority of the members present and qualified to vote shall be necessary to approve any item.