

City of Gainesville

City Hall
200 East University Avenue
Gainesville, Florida 32601



Minutes - Draft

January 27, 2022

1:00 PM

City Hall Auditorium

General Policy Committee

Mayor Lauren Poe (At Large)
Commissioner Reina Saco (At Large, Seat A)
Commissioner Desmon Duncan-Walker (District 1)
Commissioner Harvey Ward (District 2)
Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem David Arreola (District 3)
Commissioner Adrian Hayes-Santos (District 4)

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CALL TO ORDER - 1:00 PM

ROLL CALL

Present 6 - Mayor Poe, Commissioner Hayes-Santos, Commissioner Saco, Commissioner Ward, Commissioner Duncan-Walker, and Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Arreola

[210869.](#)

Attendance Affidavit (B)

Need to click on Item Number for attachment.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Adopt agenda with updates and move Member Comment to first discussion item.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Saco, that this Matter be Adopted with updates. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Mayor Poe, Commissioner Saco, Commissioner Ward, Commissioner Duncan-Walker, and Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Arreola

Nay: 1 - Commissioner Hayes-Santos

AM APPROVAL OF MINUTES

AM-1 [210745.](#) Approval of Minutes from the January 13, 2022 General Policy Committee Meeting (B)

RECOMMENDATION *The General Policy Committee approve the January 13, 2022 minutes.*

A motion was made by Commissioner Hayes-Santos, seconded by Commissioner Saco, that this Matter be Approved as Recommended. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Mayor Poe, Commissioner Hayes-Santos, Commissioner Saco, Commissioner Ward, Commissioner Duncan-Walker, and Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Arreola

MEMBER COMMENT

Commissioner Ward motioned to terminate the contract of GRU General Manager Ed Bielarski, second by Commissioner Saco.

Interim City Attorney Dan Nee spoke to the matter.

Public comment: Nathan Skop, Donald Shepherd, Jenn Powell, Cynthia Chestnut, Evelyn Foxx, Robin Baxley

Mayor Poe commented suggested Tony Cunningham to serve as Acting GRU General Manager.

Motion clarified by Commissioner Ward to terminate Mr. Bielarski without cause; and to offer the opportunity to Tony Cunningham to serve as Interim CEO.

GRU General Manager Ed Bielarski spoke to the matter.

Motion passed 4-2. Commissioner Duncan-Walker and Commissioner Arreola in dissent.

DP DISCUSSION OF PENDING REFERRALS

DP-1 [210813](#) GRU and General Government Department Consolidation (B)

Motion: (1) approve staff recommendation (2) focus on consolidation focusing on long-term savings, services and efficiencies for neighbors (3) explore a name and brand change for GRU that reflects that the utility is part of the City; (4) review of policies and standards across the City general government and GRU.

Interim City Manager Cynthia Curry introduced the item.

City Auditor Ginger Bigbie spoke to the matter.

Commissioners discussed.

Public comment: Nathan Skop, Donald Shepherd, Jo Beatty, Debbie Martinez

2:35 pm - Mayor called a meeting recess

2:38 pm - Meeting resumed.

RECOMMENDATION

The General Policy Committee hear presentations from staff and discuss.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hayes-Santos, seconded by Commissioner Saco, that this Matter be Approved, as shown above. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Mayor Poe, Commissioner Hayes-Santos, Commissioner Saco, Commissioner Ward, Commissioner Duncan-Walker, and Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Arreola

DP-2 [210781.](#)

Special Events Services - Project Update (B)

Interim City Manager Cynthia Curry introduced the item. Jacqueline Stetson, Director of Citizen Centered Design, gave a presentation.

Commissioners discussed.

Ms. Curry spoke to the matter.

Staff will continue working with Commissioners and bring back with recommendations on a City Commission agenda.

Public comment: Nathan Skop

RECOMMENDATION *It is recommended that the City Commission hears a presentation by city staff and give feedback on specific policy questions.*

Discussed

DP-3 [210267.](#)

Discussion on Broadband Initiative (B)

Commissioner Ward and Mayor Poe commented.

Interim City Manager Curry spoke to the matter.

Courtney Violette and David Brevitz, Magella Advisors, gave a presentation.

Mayor Poe departed the meeting.

Commissioners discussed.

Commissioner Hayes-Santos commented in support of considering moving forward with a business plan for municipal broadband for homes and businesses with initial rollout to the priority 1 area using ARPA funds; following a utility pricing model and create a free broadband plan; and move \$10 million in ARPA funds for revenue replacement.

Mayor Pro-Tem Arreola commented that motions will not be taken due to lack of a physical quorum.

Public comment: Nathan Skop, Bryan Eastman, Amy Pfannesnsteil, Telford Cartwright, Cynthia Chestnut,

RECOMMENDATION *It is recommended that the General Policy Committee hear a presentation from Magellan Advisors about the Broadband Business Model Options and provide feedback to staff and the consultant.*

Discussed

DP-4 [210688.](#) **Federal Legislative Priorities 2022 (B)**

Mayor Pro-Tem requested that Commissioners communicate preferences to Harry Glenn for the Commission to vote on later.

Harry Glenn, federal lobbyist, gave a presentation.

RECOMMENDATION *The City Commission review and approve the list of Federal Legislative items and adopt the 2022 Federal Legislative Priorities for our Federal lobbying team.*

Discussed

PUBLIC COMMENT

Nathan Skop

Mayor Pro-Tem Arreola gave a statement.

NEXT MEETING DATE

February 10, 2022

ADJOURNMENT - 5:22 PM