

City of Gainesville

*City Hall
200 East University Avenue
Gainesville, Florida 32601*



RUC ITEM 100692
FEBRUARY 16, 2011

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 10, 2010

3:30 PM

GRU ADMINISTRATION BUILDING MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM

Regional Utilities Committee

*Commissioner Lauren Poe, Chair
Mayor Craig Lowe, Member
Commissioner Thomas Hawkins, Member*

Persons with disabilities who require assistance to participate in this meeting are requested to notify the Office of Equal Opportunity at 334-5051 or call the TDD phone line at 334-2069 at least two business days in advance.

CALL TO ORDER

Present: Lauren Poe and Thomas Hawkins
Absent: Craig Lowe

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

100490. Regional Utilities Committee Meeting Minutes for September 8, 2010 (B)

RECOMMENDATION *The Regional Utilities Committee approve the meeting minutes for September 8, 2010 as circulated.*

This matter was Approved as Recommended. The motion carried.

CURRENT ACTION ITEMS

090588. Dedicated Funding Source to Assist Non-Profit Agencies (NB)

Rick Hutton, Supervising Utility Engineer, gave a presentation to the RUC providing background from the previous discussion, and an explanation regarding the ConnectFree Program and how the funds from that program are used. He also provided staff's suggestions on how to implement the use of ConnectFree funds for assisting small non-profit community service organizations with water and sewer extensions.

Commissioner Hawkins expressed his thoughts that we should differentiate between sizes of non-profits but wasn't sure how we would measure that because organizations like Planned Parenthood have a large national organization but the local organization is much smaller. He further suggested that we have no bright line rule but a series of guidelines to follow. Commissioner Hawkins stated that he would defer to staff on the maximum extension allowance per property and to the \$50,000 per calendar year. He suggested initially that use of the funds may not need to be limited to structures within the City limits. However, on further consideration it was recognized that since the ConnectFree fund is a City General Government fund, it may not be appropriate to spend funds on projects outside the City limits. Commissioner Hawkins asked if we would require the non-profit to own the structure; if they are leasing from a tax paying property owner would they be eligible; and do we have any limitations on the disposition of properties that have received funding? Also, would we want to get a lien for a term of years to make sure if it closes up we could get the money refunded?

Raymond O. Manasco, Jr., Utilities Attorney advised the RUC that the ConnectFree program has a resolution that may need to be looked at. He also reminded the RUC

about a community grant program that was available. There was discussion by staff and the RUC regarding the intent of the community grant and how to handle the eligibility requirements between the two programs.

Commissioner Poe advised he thought the focus should be within the City limits and maybe narrow it down from that. He continued that the gross revenue issue was difficult to figure out and that he would like to look at different options and maybe talk to some of the non-profits to see if there's a way we can subdivide those revenues in order to help small non-profits connect. Commissioner Poe also expressed concern between the maximum allowance per property and the cap per year in that one property could potentially use up the cap. He suggested setting the annual cap at a higher value such as \$90,000 so that at least two organizations could be helped per year.

Commissioner Henry advised that he had a conversation with Mr. Blackburn about the community grant and that the intent was not that community grant recipients be denied funds if they receive partial funds from other governmental entities.

Commissioner Poe suggested that, ideally, he would like to see a list of 501c3s in Gainesville with their gross revenues so that an assessment can be made as to how many of them would be included with various gross revenue caps.

Staff will continue to evaluate the options and bring back some recommendations to the RUC at a future meeting. The item will be retained in committee.

RECOMMENDATION *The Regional Utilities Committee: 1) receive a presentation from GRU Staff on the use of Connect Free to fund extensions and connection charges for non-profit agencies; and 2) take appropriate action.*

100494. Alternative Vehicle Fuels (NB)

Ed Regan, Assistant General Manager for Strategic Planning gave a presentation on three referrals related to the issue of alternative vehicle fuels (#100000 - Facilities for Electric Car Plug-ins; #080927 Natural Gas Fueling Stations; and #071148 - Corn and Other Biofuels for Vehicle Fuels). Mr. Regan introduced Dexter Martin, Will Massey and Paul Starling from Fleet Operations and RTS who were there to help answer questions.

There was discussion regarding the upcoming negotiations on the waste contract for the City and County and requiring natural gas vehicles as part of the waste haulers fleet. The RUC also discussed the various technologies being developed and how we can position ourselves for the community's sake to be able to transition smoothly to alternative fuels.

Terence McDavid and Walter Willard were recognized and spoke to the matter.

Staff will continue to evaluate the use of alternative vehicle fuels and bring back some recommendations to the RUC at a future meeting.

RECOMMENDATION *The Regional Utilities Committee hear an update on the following outstanding referral items: #100000 - Facilities for Electric Car Plug-ins; #080927 - Natural Gas Fueling Station; and #071148 - Corn and Other Biofuels for Vehicle Fuels; and discuss strategies related to alternative vehicle fuels.*

MEMBER COMMENT

CITIZEN COMMENT

OUTSTANDING REFERRALS

100491. Regional Utilities Committee Outstanding Referral Status Report (B)

Commissioner Poe moved to discuss the RUC Outstanding Referral List.

Mr. Hunzinger, General Manager, stated that there were several items the RUC might consider removing from the referral list. The following items were discussed: #080480 - Monitor the Progress of Koppers Superfund Site; #080184 - Water Conservation Policy; #071148 - Corn and Other Biofuels for Vehicle Fuel; #070718 - Residential Solar Panels; and #070255 - Home Energy Rating Systems.

Action Taken:

The RUC agreed as follows:

#080480 - Monitoring Koppers - retain in Committee

#080184 - Water Conservation - combine it with item #100339 - Conservation Strategies

#071148 re Corn and Other Biofuels - recommend removal from list

#070718 - Residential Solar Panels - recommend removal from list

#070255 - Home Energy Rating Systems - recommend removal from list

RECOMMENDATION *The Regional Utilities Committee review the Outstanding Referral Status Report dated November 10, 2010.*

Recommended for Approval, as shown above

Roll Call: Present: Lauren Poe and Thomas Hawkins

Absent: Craig Lowe

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting is scheduled for December 22, 2010. However, this may change based on the schedule of the committee members.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.