

City of Gainesville

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



Minutes

Tuesday, May 20, 2014

5:00 PM

Roberta Lisle Kline Conference Room

Regional Utilities Committee

*Commissioner Todd Chase, Chair
Mayor Ed Braddy, Member
Commissioner Lauren Poe, Member*

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

CALL TO ORDER**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA****APPROVAL OF MINUTES****130859. March 13, 2014 RUC Meeting Minutes (B)**

Attachments: [130859 RUC 3-13-14 Minutes 20140410](#)

RECOMMENDATION *Approve the minutes of the March 13, 2014 meeting as drafted.*

The minutes of the March 13, 2014 RUC meeting were approved as drafted.

CURRENT ACTION ITEMS**130775. Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) (B)**

Attachments: [130775 Case Study - RUC 20140313](#)
[130775 Comparison PACE to non-ad assess-RUC 20140313](#)
[130775 PACE Econometric-Study-RUC 20140313](#)
[130775 What is Pace - RUC 20140313](#)
[130775 PACE Presentation 20140313](#)
[130775 PACE - County Comm Wkshop Info 20140520](#)

Asst City Manager Paul Folkers gave an update on the request by a local citizen group to start a PACE program in Alachua County. He explained that he and other City/GRU staff members had met with the PACE advocate group and learned that they planned to recommend to the County Commission the formation of an ad hoc citizens advisory group that would study existing PACE programs in other cities/states and make recommendations for the formation of a commercial PACE program in Alachua County. He further explained that city staff thinks it most advisable that any such program be managed by the County and that city staff only participate in any advisory group that may be formed.

Citizens Nathan Skop, Jim Konish, Jo Lee Beaty and Donald Shepherd spoke on the matter.

RECOMMENDATION *The Committee hear a brief update and recommend that the City Commission support City staff representation on any ad hoc committee created by Alachua County to explore a commercial PACE program.*

Commissioner Poe moved that the RUC recommend to the full commission that if the county moves forward with a commercial PACE program, the city commission authorize designated staff to participate in the discussion process of creating a PACE program. Mayor Braddy seconded, and the motion passed.

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

Attachments: [090588 ConnectFree Presentation 2014.05.20](#)

Rick Hutton of W/WW gave an overview of the resolution that governs the Connect Free program, where the funds come from, and how they're currently being used, He gave a history of the program and explained that the funds come from a surcharge on W/WW connection charges from customers outside the city limits.

Commissioner Pinkoson asked what additional costs GRU incurs to serve customers outside the city limits.

Mr. Hutton explained that policy direction is that growth has to pay for itself.

Commissioner Pinkoson asked whether the City charges a surcharge just because it's allowed by law. He said customers in the unincorporated area are subsidizing folks in the city and that there is no benefit to those in the unincorporated area. He said it's not right, that GRU should stop collecting the surcharge and the Connect Free program should be phased out over time.

Mayor Braddy said we should use existing funds to mitigate rates for this year and next. Going forward he has concerns about the surcharge and how it's used. He stated that it's not fair, and suggested a discussion at a future joint city/county meeting.

Commissioner Pinkoson left meeting at 6:03 pm (before motion & vote.)

Commissioner Poe said he was concerned that if the WMD's ever require residential wells to connect, we wouldn't have funds to help them connect if we stop the program.

Mr. Hutton and Ms. Viehe expressed that everything they've heard from the WMD's is that they will not require residential wells to connect to city services.

Commissioner Chase suggested a moratorium so we could figure out the best use of the current balance and take time to decide whether to close the program, put the current balance into rates. He expressed wanting to show good faith to the county by discontinuing the surcharge. But he said he wants to be sure we understand the impact of the loss of the revenue.

Commissioner Chase asked if we know the lifetime value of a new home to GRU in terms of services purchased. Looking at that might be helpful in economic development.

Commissioner Chase said if we reduce the GFT to mitigate the loss of the surcharge, he wants the onus of finding those funds on GG, not GRU.

Citizens Jo Lee Beaty, Nathan Skop, Jim Konish and Donald Shepherd spoke on the matter.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1) Hear a presentation from staff on the history and current administrative structure of the ConnectFree program and discuss possible alternate uses for the funds.
- 2) Discuss alternate responsibility and procedures for administration of the ConnectFree program.

Commissioner Poe made a motion to recommend to the full Commission that they remove this item from Committee and ask for staff's recommendations to be included as part of GRU's budget discussions in July. Commissioner Chase seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

130957. Power Supply Planning (Power 2020) (B)

Attachments: [130957 Power 2020 RUC 2014.05.20](#)

After hearing from Mr. Stanton why we were bringing this item forward, the Committee agreed to table the item and hear it at a future meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

The RUC receive a presentation from staff.

MEMBER COMMENT

Commissioner Poe requested 5-10 minutes on the next RUC agenda to discuss his trip to the APPA National Conference.

CITIZEN COMMENT

*Nathan Skop spoke on the Power 2020 issue and the Fuel Adjustment.
Jim Konish spoke on issues regarding GRU's methods of applying taxes.*

NEXT MEETING DATE

August 14, 2014

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.