

City of Gainesville

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



Minutes

July 19, 2017

3:00 PM

MODIFIED AGENDA

City Hall Auditorium

Utility Advisory Board

*Annie Orlando
Darin Cook
David Denslow
Robert Walpole
Mary Alford
Sandra Campbell
Michael Selvester*

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

CALL TO ORDER**ROLL CALL**

Members Walpole and Alford were absent. All others were present. Member Denslow entered the meeting at 3:03.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted with the following modification: Hear new business before old business.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[170220.](#) **Minutes of the UAB 6/14/17 Regular Meeting, 7/5/17 Workshop, 7/5/17 Special Meeting, and 7/12/17 Special Meeting (B)**

Attachments: [170220 UAB 6-14-17 Meeting Minutes 20170719](#)
[170220 UAB 7-5-17 Special Meeting Minutes 20170719](#)
[170220 UAB 7-5-17 Workshop Minutes 20170719](#)
[UAB 7-12-17 Special Meeting Minutes](#)

The minutes were approved 5-0, with Members Walpole and Alford absent.

RECOMMENDATION *Approve the minutes of the 6/14/17 regular meeting, the 7/5/17 workshop, the 7/5/17 special meeting and the 7/12/17 special meeting as drafted.*

CITIZEN COMMENT

Citizens Jim Konish and Debbie Martinez spoke.

STATE OF THE UTILITY

[170221.](#) **GRU Operational Update for June 2017 (B)**

Attachments: [170221 Ops Update FY17June - All Depts 20170719](#)

COO Tom Brown gave a brief summary of the operational data.

RECOMMENDATION *Receive a report from staff.*

OLD BUSINESS

170235. **City Commission Votes on GRU Budget (NB)**

The Board discussed the Commission's July 18, 2017 vote on GRU's budget, in particular why the Commission did not take the Board's advice. They decided that although the Commission's vote on the budget was already taken, it would be worthwhile to reinforce the Board's recommendation that the Commission vote that all monies saved from purchasing the GREC facility be put toward rate relief. They asked staff to include that on the August 6, 2017 Commission meeting agenda.

As part of the discussion of this issue, Member Orlando voiced concern that the intent of the Board's reasoning for their recommendation was not relayed correctly to the City Commission. Discussion followed that perhaps the Board should hire an intern who could attend the Commission meetings when GRU items were to be voted on, to read a statement from the Board into the record. The intern would also have other, general scribe duties.

Citizens Jim Konish, Commissioner Adrian Hayes-Santos, Debbie Martinez and Ernesto Martinez spoke.

RECOMMENDATION Discuss.

1) Recommend again that the City vote that all monies recoup or saved from the purchase of the GREC facility stays at GRU and is applied to rate relief on a net basis. Motion made by Member Orlando, seconded by Member Campbell, passed 4-1, with Member Denslow in dissent and Members Alford and Walpole absent.

2) Start the process of finding an intern to help the Board communicate their messages to the City Commission and perform general scribe duties. Motion passed 4-0, with Members Campbell, Walpole and Alford absent. Motion made by Member Selvester, seconded by Member Campbell, passed 4-0, with Members Campbell (left the meeting at 5:03), Walpole and Alford absent.

[170236.](#)

GRU Governance Discussion with City Commission (NB)

Attachments: [170236 Ordinance No 140384 20170719](#)

The Board discussed the outcome of the July 18, 2017 joint meeting with the City Commission and agreed that it would be most beneficial for the two bodies to work together on whether to create an independent utility board or possibly expand the powers of the UAB. They agreed that the Commission should ask the City Clerk to find dates for a joint workshop.

RECOMMENDATION Discuss the outcome of the GRU governance discussion with the City Commission.

NEW BUSINESS

[170196.](#)

Bid Award - External Cost of Service and Utility Rates Study (B)

Attachments: [170196 Bid Tab COS - Util Rates Study 20170719](#)
[170196 Cost of Service Study - UAB Advice 20170803](#)
[170196 Bid Award - GRU External COS Study Presentation 20170803](#)
[170196 RFP No. 2017-059 COST OF SERVICE AND UTILITY RATES STUDY](#)
[170196 Baker Tilly Proposal COS Study 20170803.pdf](#)
[170196 UFS Proposal COS Study 20170803.pdf](#)

Staff gave a presentation on the results of the RFP to choose a firm to conduct a cost of service study. After questions about the firm's qualifications, the Board asked that GRU make sure the study includes a look at the three tier rate system, suggestions on a rate structure for conservation and help for the economically challenged, as well as commercial versus residential rates.

Citizen Jim Konish spoke on the matter.

RECOMMENDATION *The Utility Advisory Board review and recommend that the City Commission: 1) authorize the General Manager, or his designee, to negotiate and execute a contract with Willdan Financial Services for the provision of cost-of-service and utility rate studies, subject to approval of the City Attorney as to form and legality; and 2) approve the issuance of a purchase order in the amount of \$99,380 pending final appropriation of funds.*

Member Campbell made a motion to recommend the City Commission approve staff's recommendation. Member Denslow seconded and the motion passed 5-0, with members Walpole and Alford absent.

MEMBER COMMENT

Chair Cook directed staff to include a focus on the joint discussion of governance on the Board's August 22, 2017 standing workshop agenda.

CITIZEN COMMENT

Citizens Jim Konish, Debbie Martinez and Ernesto Martinez spoke.

NEXT MEETING DATE

August 10, 2017. This meeting will be a joint meeting with the City Commission to discuss the GREC APA if the APA and accompanying documents are ready for review by this date. Otherwise, it will remain a regular UAB meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:49 p.m.