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# City of Gainesville

City Hall  
200 East University Avenue  
Gainesville, Florida 32601



## Minutes - Draft

February 28, 2019

1:00 PM

**Joint City Commission/Utility Advisory Board Workshop**

**GRU Multi-Purpose Room**

### City Commission

**GRU Multi-Purpose Room**

*Mayor Lauren Poe (At Large)*

*Commissioner Helen Warren (At Large)*

*Commissioner Gail Johnson (At Large)*

*Commissioner Gigi Simmons (District 1)*

*Commissioner Harvey Ward (District 2)*

*Commissioner David Arreola (District 3)*

*Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Adrian Hayes-Santos (District 4)*

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**CALL TO ORDER - 1:00 PM**

**AGENDA STATEMENT**

**ROLL CALL**

**Present** 7 - Mayor Poe, Commissioner Ward, Commissioner Arreola, Commissioner Warren, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Simmons, and Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Hayes-Santos

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

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

**Aye:** 6 - Mayor Poe, Commissioner Ward, Commissioner Warren, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Simmons, and Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Hayes-Santos

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Arreola

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

*Commissioner Arreola arrived at 1:14 PM.*

*Jim Konish  
Don Fields  
Nathan Scott  
Donald Shepherd  
Ray Washington  
Jo Beaty  
Brian O'Brien*

**BUSINESS DISCUSSION ITEM**

[180211.](#)

**GRU Financial Sustainability (B)**

*GRU General Manager, Ed Bielarski gave a presentation with the following recommendations: 1) Implement proposed rate increases; 2) Restructure debt; 3) Reduce GFT payments; and 4) Reduce expenses.*

*Interim City Manager, Deborah Bowie gave opening remarks.*

*City Budget Manager, Karen Fiore made a presentation with the following recommendations: 1) Increase millage rate between 1 and 2 Mills, as well as with some budget cuts that are limited to any kind of service level impacts ; 2) General Manager and Interim City Manager negotiate a new sustainable GFT calculation; 3) One time hiring freeze; and 4) Expenditure reduction options; revenue increase options.*

*Staff asked for direction from the Commission on budget, preferred options for*

revenue increase and expense reduction.

Future budget workshops are scheduled.

Listed below are Commission Comments:

Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Hayes-Santos: Total Rewards Study needs to be a part of the information.

Commissioner Simmons: 1) Question regarding revenue increase options. Would like staff to look at potential revenue from sales of City-owned property; and 2) Requests future budget workshops to include actual numbers of recurring baseline expense increases.

Mayor Poe: Would like staff to bring back information about funds, GRU or GG spending to support outside agencies or governmental institutions.

Commissioner Arreola: 1) Asked a question about budget estimate presented.

Commissioner Warren: 1) Supported moving forward with debt reduction presented by GRU Manager; 2) Staff to come back with scenarios on various approaches for moving forward.

Commissioner Ward: 1) Thanked all staff; 2) Renewables; and 3) Debt refinancing.

Commissioner Johnson: 1) Asked questions regarding potential revenue opportunities presented by GRU; 2) Rebate; 3) Rehabing Kelly Unit; 4) Debt restructuring; and 5) Request to use fewer acronyms in presentations.

Tina Fields; Nathan Skop; Donald Shepherd; Ray Washington, Nancy Daren and Randy Wells spoke to the matter.

City Auditor, Carlos Holt spoke to the matter.

RECOMMENDATION      Hear a presentation from staff.

## COMMISSION COMMENT

## ADJOURNMENT - 4:15 PM