

City of Gainesville

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



Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, July 10, 2007

1:00 PM

CITY HALL ROOM 16

Regional Utilities Committee

*Commissioner Jack Donovan, Chair
Commissioner Ed Braddy, Member
Commissioner Craig Lowe, 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: Edward Braddy, Craig Lowe and Jack Donovan

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Karen Johnson mentioned that the RUC may want to defer Item #061213 to another meeting since Commissioner Braddy had not arrived yet and may not be able to attend. Note: Commissioner Braddy arrived at 1:40 p.m. for the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

070194. Regional Utilities Committee Meeting Minutes for June 12, 2007 (B)

Commissioner Donovan requested that future minutes of the Regional Utilities Committee include more details of what was discussed at the meeting. Staff advised that this would be done.

RECOMMENDATION *The Regional Utilities Committee approve the minutes for June 12, 2007 as circulated.*

This matter was Approved as Recommended. The motion carried.

RUC June 12, 2007 Meeting Minutes.pdf

COMMITTEE ACTION ITEMS

061214. Photovoltaic Policies - Proposed Energy Neutral Neighborhood - Commissioner Craig Lowe Referral (NB)

At the RUC meeting of July 10, 2007 David Barclay, Utility Analyst II, made a presentation to the RUC entitled "Photovoltaic Incentive Program: How to Achieve Cost Effectiveness." There was discussion regarding this item and questions were asked related to the information presented. Several citizens were in attendance and spoke to the matter.

During the discussion C/Lowe raised the issue of the angle of the sun on the panels. Rob Brinkman informed the Committee that there is one type of array that can track the sun. David Barclay advised that staff can provide some information that discusses the advantages and disadvantages of the different technologies.

The RUC reviewed the cost breakdown for photovoltaics including rebates that are available. Commissioner Lowe asked if using the figures listed would achieve energy neutral status. David Barclay responded that keeping a 3 kW system with an energy efficient home would provide an energy neutral home. David Barclay informed the RUC that Home Depot may be considering moving into the Florida market installing

solar panels on customer's homes.

Commissioner Donovan asked what the impact of really maximizing this kind of initiative would have on GRU and the City. Would it reduce GRU revenue or bonding needs? Would it reduce customer's bills? What is the impact of reduced customer bills on the financial well being of GRU and the City? Are there other utility companies out there pushing this? What is the goal we are trying to achieve and the best ways to achieve that goal?

Commissioner Braddy asked if we look at the rebates quarterly. David Barclay advised that we do look at them quarterly to check the performance.

RUC RECOMMENDATION:

Commissioner Lowe proposed the wording for the recommendation to be presented to the full Commission as follows: 1) GRU maintain existing rebate levels through FY 08; 2) provide the analysis to Mr. Schackow and receive his feedback; 3) staff will re-evaluate rebate levels next fiscal year; and 4) retain the item in Committee.

RECOMMENDATION *The Regional Utilities Commission (RUC) receive a presentation from staff reviewing the effects of available incentives and rebates on the cost of photovoltaic generation and take any action deemed appropriate.*

This matter was Approved as shown above (See Motion). The motion carried.

Roll Call: Present: Edward Braddy, Craig Lowe and Jack Donovan

061213.

Digital Cities Conference in Washington DC - Commissioner Braddy Referral Item (NB)

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

RECOMMENDATION *The RUC receive an update from staff and continue discussion on digital infrastructure development.*

Deferred

070035.

GEAC Recommendation for Carbon Footprint Assessment Tool (NB)

At the July 10, 2007 RUC meeting Mr. Van Soestbergen made a presentation explaining to the RUC how the Carbon Footprint Assessment Tool being developed would work. This tool would be accessed online and allow users to determine their carbon footprint and view graphic representations of their impact. It would also allow for comparisons between different size and types of users. There was discussion regarding this item and questions were asked related to the information presented. Several citizens were in attendance and spoke to the matter.

Commissioner Donovan stated that he hoped the conscious awareness of usage will influence people to control their CO2 as they become aware. Commissioner Donovan further asked if customers would see changes in their bills.

Commissioner Braddy suggested working with the School Board to promote this among young people.

Kathy Viehe mentioned to the RUC that we purchase an on-line energy program and we would like to determine if this is something they are developing and would be included at no extra cost.

The RUC discussed keeping this referral item until staff could investigate what other programs may be available and explore how we can do the data sharing needed that would maximize the accuracy of the product as well.

Mr. Soestbergen advised the RUC that the product has not been completely built yet and doesn't see an issue with the data.

Kathy Viehe reminded the group that we have implemented a new billing system and we can't get the data at this time. David Barclay stated that the County Tax Appraisal's data and our billing records do not match by address field. Karen Johnson suggested that we come back to the RUC with a better understanding of the issues. Kathy Viehe suggested she meet with Mark and try to resolve some of these issues.

The RUC agreed that staff would return to the next meeting with additional information related to this item.

RECOMMENDATION *The Regional Utilities Committee discuss funding for a carbon footprint assessment tool.*

Discussed

MEMBER COMMENT

CITIZEN COMMENT

OUTSTANDING REFERRALS

051194

GRU Wholesale Sales of Electricity (NB)

RECOMMENDATION *The Regional Utilities Committee review the status of this referral.*

Backup for Item #051194 GRU Wholesale Sales.pdf

060294.

General Fund Transfer and Electric Surcharge (B)

RECOMMENDATION *The Regional Utilities Committee: 1) hear a presentation from staff on the General Fund Transfer and the impacts of annexation on the electric surcharge; 2) consider alternatives for mitigating this impact; and 3) retain this item on the referral list.*

060775.

Impact of Tiered Rates on People With Low Income Levels (NB)

RECOMMENDATION *The Regional Utilities Committee hear a presentation from staff on the impacts of tiered rates on people with low income levels, and remove this item from the referral list.*

070181.

Forest Certification Stewardship Issues (B)

RECOMMENDATION *The Regional Utilities Committee: 1) hear a presentation from staff on forest management programs; and 2) remove this item on the referral list.*

RUC Forestry Presentation October 9 2007.pdf
Backup for Forest Stewardship Item #070181 Oct 9.pdf

NEW BUSINESS

NEXT MEETING DATE

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

