

City of Gainesville

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



Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 12, 2009

3:30 PM

CITY HALL ROOM 16

Regional Utilities Committee

*Commissioner Lauren Poe, Chair
Mayor Pegeen Hanrahan, Member
Commissioner Craig Lowe, 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

Agenda was adopted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

090515. Regional Utilities Committee Meeting Minutes for October 8, 2009 (B)

RECOMMENDATION *The Regional Utilities Committee approve the minutes for October 8, 2009 as circulated.*

This matter was Approved as Recommended. The motion carried.

Roll Call: Present: Pegeen Hanrahan and Lauren Poe

Absent: Craig Lowe

RUC Meeting Minutes for October 8 2009.pdf

RUC CURRENT ACTION ITEMS

060294. General Fund Transfer from GRU (B)

The Regional Utilities Committee heard a presentation from Mark Benton and Jennifer Hunt on the history of the General Fund Transfer (GFT) Formula and how it was applied to all of the Utility systems.

Mayor Hanrahan asked how did staff calculate the base general fund transfer? Mark Benton responded that back in 2000 staff took the actual dollar transfer of the last year prior to the change for the base and grew it by 3%. Mayor Hanrahan asked if the previous formula had just been a straight 14.65% of just net revenues or was the surcharge still pulled out? Mark Benton advised it was the gross revenues and the surcharge, taking out the two years proceeding surcharge and adding back in the current year surcharge on top of it. Jennifer Hunt commented that was pretty much how the Water/Wastewater System operates today.

There was discussion on how the GFT is calculated for GRUCom.

Mark Benton stated that the electric system is declining but there is still growth in the other systems. This is important to General Government because 35% of revenue comes from the GFT.

Commissioner Poe asked how do we model our projections.

Diane Wilson advised that population levels, household size and historical usage are

some of the categories that make up the foundation of our forecast model.

Commissioner Poe asked if staff looks at land use and zoning?

Bob Hunzinger replied that he was concerned because we are growing into our developable space in the city. We are affected by County planning regulations and growth as well as City planning. Our territory is somewhat limited due to territorial agreements.

Jennifer Hunt and Mark Benton reviewed the identified interests between General Government and GRU. Staff will be looking at what other cities and utilities are doing and look at what the city would be receiving if we were an investor owned utility. Staff will also look at millage rate impacts resulting from any GFT adjustment.

Jennifer Hunt reviewed the two alternatives for consideration by the RUC.

Commissioner Poe asked what the time frame for the discussions would be.

Jennifer Hunt responded that staff had identified meeting times and would plan on bringing something back to the RUC in the August to October 2010 time frame and then a recommendation to the full Commission by this time next year.

There was discussion regarding the timing and the RUC expressed the hope that staff could bring this matter back earlier than the fall of 2010 but understands the complexity of the issue.

ACTION TAKEN: The RUC directed General Government and GRU staff to work together to provide additional information to the City Commission and present alternatives to the current GFT formulas to the RUC during the fall of 2010 or earlier if possible.

RECOMMENDATION *The Regional Utilities Committee hear a brief history of the General Fund Transfer and provide direction to staff.*

Discussed

GFT RUC Presentation Oct 20 08.pdf

Backup for RUC Item #060294 GFT 11 12 09.pdf

MEMBER COMMENT

CITIZEN COMMENT

OUTSTANDING REFERRALS

090516.

Regional Utilities Committee Outstanding Referral Status Report (B)

Commissioner Poe brought up the discussion about what to have on the next meeting agenda which is scheduled for January 14, 2010. The Mayor indicated that she did not have any specific items on the referral list she wanted to bring up. Commissioner Poe stated that the RUC would try to include the Broadband item and any other items that could be brought forward on that date.

RECOMMENDATION *The Regional Utilities Committee review the Outstanding Referral Status Report dated November 12, 2009.*

Discussed

RUC Outstanding Referrals status reportNov 12 09.pdf

NEXT MEETING DATE

The December 10, 2009 meeting has been cancelled. The next RUC meeting date is January 14, 2010.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.