

City of Gainesville

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



Minutes

April 5, 2017

5:30 PM

Special Meeting

City Hall Auditorium

**Revised Agenda
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

The meeting was called to order at 5:33.

ROLL CALL

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted as drafted.

CITIZEN COMMENT

Because this was a special meeting, the chair chose not to include an opening citizen comment section on the agenda. However, since there was a large group of citizens, the Chair offered to allow citizens who couldn't stay until the end a chance to speak before the item was taken up. He stated that anyone who spoke in the opening comment period wouldn't be allowed to speak after the item.

Citizens Arthur Stockwell, Ernesto Martinez, Gabriel Kamowitz, Don Glendenning, Adele Frantzen and George Pefotti (clerk is unsure of spelling) spoke.

NEW BUSINESS

[160909](#)

UAB Recommendation on Memorandum of Understanding between GRU and GREC (B)

Attachments: [160909 WhyapproveMOU_UAB 20170405](#)
[160909 Tax of GREC Tax Bill FY17 20170405](#)

General Manager Ed Bielarski gave a presentation. After much debate and many questions, Dr. Denslow made a motion, seconded by Member Alford, to recommend that the City Commission approve the MOU with a counteroffer of \$675 million purchase price and that GRU get to create the first draft of the contract. Member Walpole asked for an amended motion to include that any reduction in future costs be used by the City chiefly for rate relief. Member Alford asked for another amendment that the recommendation to the City Commission be changed to include that any contract negotiated would also be subject to a recommendation from the UAB. Dr. Denslow accepted the two amendments. The board voted 5-1 to approve the motion, with Member Orlando in dissent and Member Campbell absent.

Citizens Nancy Daren, Ernesto Martinez and Paula Stahmer spoke on the issue.

RECOMMENDATION

UAB recommend to the City Commission that they:
1) approve the Memorandum of Understanding; and
2) authorize the General Manager, or his designee, to negotiate a contract with Gainesville Renewable Energy Center, Inc., subject to approval by the City Attorney as to

form and legality and subject to final approval by the City Commission.

[160911.](#)

House Bill 759 and Senate Bill 1568 (2017) regarding governance of the City of Gainesville Utilities (B)

Attachments: [160911 House Bill 759 20170405](#)
[160911 Impact Statement and Analysis 20170405](#)
[160911 Senate Bill 1568 20170405](#)

The Board discussed the merits of HB 759 and decided to continue the discussion at their May workshop.

Citizens Debbie Martinez, Ernesto Martinez, Jim Konish, Nancy Daren, and Don Field spoke on the matter.

RECOMMENDATION *Discuss HB 759 and SB 1568.*

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:28.