

# City of Gainesville

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



## **Meeting Agenda**

**March 03, 2005**

**3:00 PM**

**GRU Administration Building - Multi-purpose Room**

## **Regional Utilities Committee**

*Commissioner Ed Braddy, Chair  
Commissioner Rick Bryant, 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**

**ROLL CALL**

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**041006 Regional Utilities Committee Meeting Minutes of January 6, 2005 (B)**

**RECOMMENDATION**      *The Regional Utilities Committee approve the minutes for January 6, 2005 as circulated.*

**COMMITTEE ACTION ITEMS**

**020285 Airport Solar Electric Project (Item #020285 & Item #031090)**

*Explanation: On July 16, 2001 the City Commission referred the issue of a solar electric project at the Airport to the Regional Utilities Committee (item #020285). On March 29, 2004 the City Commission referred the issue of developing an increased implementation of a photovoltaic rooftop system on the Gainesville Regional Airport Terminal to the Regional Utilities Committee (item #031090).*

*GRU has offered to build a solar electric system at the Gainesville Regional Airport. Funds sufficient to build this project have been included in the GRU budget for the past three (3) years. GRU has discussed the project with Airport staff and agreed to work within the on-going master planning process currently in progress. Airport staff has requested GRU staff to work with their planners at an appropriate point in the master planning process. Recent contact with Airport staff and their planners indicate that development of the master plan is now mature enough to allow consideration of how to integrate a solar electric system into their facility.*

**RECOMMENDATION**      *The Regional Utilities Committee: 1) receive an update from staff on the proposed Airport Solar Electric Project status; and 2) request that these two items #020285 and #031090 be removed from the referral list.*

**Legislative History**

7/16/01	City Commission	Referred	Regional Utilities Committee
8/28/02	Regional Utilities Committee	Discussed	
2/26/03	Regional Utilities Committee	Discussed	

031086

**Utility Policies to Promote Residential Grid-connected Solar Electric Systems (NB)**

*Explanation: GRU's current solar electric system interconnection policies and procedures are designed to encourage our customers to interconnect solar electric systems with the GRU electric distribution system and provide a standard contract that guarantees they can sell any excess electricity generated back to GRU. Excess energy is separately metered and bought back from the customer at a rate of the unbundled generation rate (\$0.025 per kWh) and the current month's fuel adjustment (typically around \$0.035 cents per kWh) for a total of about \$0.06 per kWh.*

*No utility in Florida offers rebates to customers for the installation of solar electric systems. JEA (Jacksonville) offered a solar electric system rebate last year, but has discontinued the program.*

*GRU's policies and procedures are consistent with Florida Public Service Commission rules (FAC 25-6.065) requiring investor-owned utilities to allow solar electric system interconnection and excess energy buy back. These rules do not apply to municipal utilities, but GRU voluntarily adopted these policies and procedures in order to help our customers adopt the use of solar energy systems.*

*There are currently seven solar electric systems interconnected with the GRU electric distribution system. Three of these systems are owned by GRU, three are owned by commercial customers and one is owned by a residential customer. The policies and procedures in place have identified problems with the initial installation of these systems, prevented potential safety problems, provided customers and installers with information necessary for safe and efficient solar electric system operation.*

**RECOMMENDATION**

*The Regional Utilities Committee: 1) receive a presentation on the GRU solar electric system interconnection policies and procedures; 2) make findings that the GRU interconnection policies and procedures are appropriate; and 3) request that this item be removed from the Referral List.*

**Legislative History**

3/29/04 City Commission Referred (7 - 0)

Regional Utilities  
Committee

**MEMBER COMMENT****CITIZEN COMMENT**

**OUTSTANDING REFERRALS****040240****Fire Hydrant Fees**Legislative History

7/22/04	City Commission	Referred (6 - 0 - 1 Absent)	Regional Utilities Committee
8/19/04	Regional Utilities Committee	Discussed	
10/14/04	Regional Utilities Committee	Heard	
11/18/04	Regional Utilities Committee	Approved, as shown above	
1/6/05	Regional Utilities Committee	Recommended for Approval, as shown above	
1/24/05	City Commission	Approved, as shown above (6 - 1)	

**NEW BUSINESS****NEXT MEETING DATE**

*The next RUC meeting is scheduled for 4/7/05.*

**ADJOURNMENT**