

City of Gainesville

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



Meeting Agenda

May 13, 2010

3:30 PM

GRU ADMINISTRATION BUILDING MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

090913. Regional Utilities Committee Meeting Minutes for February 11, 2010 (B)

RECOMMENDATION *The Regional Utilities Committee approve the meeting minutes for February 11, 2010 as circulated.*

RUC Meeting Minutes for Feb 11 2010.pdf

CURRENT ACTION ITEMS

090588. Dedicated Funding Source to Assist Non-Profit Agencies (NB)

Explanation: This item was referred to the Regional Utilities Committee on 11/19/09 and involves the consideration of identifying a funding source to assist with updating utility infrastructure for non-profit agencies that provide a public service. The original discussion relative to the Cotton Club expanded into a more general referral to discuss non-profit agency extensions or connection costs.

The Cotton Club required water and wastewater service to support facility restoration. Water and wastewater facilities were perceived to be deteriorated in the surrounding area and unable to provide the needed service without upgrade. After a full investigation, surrounding water and wastewater facilities, though fairly old, were deemed to be adequate to provide needed service for the Cotton Club Project. The actual costs to be charged for the Cotton Club for water and wastewater service consist of costs to connect to adjacent facilities and applicable connection charges.

GRU's water/wastewater extension policies require those requesting service to connect to the nearest location with available capacity. In many cases, extensions are required because facilities are some distance from the development (common in Greenfield development) or though facilities are nearby, they lack the capacity needed (more common in redevelopment areas). Either condition could result in the need for development projects (Greenfield or redevelopment) to pay for extensions.

Extension costs are site specific and vary by project. Extension costs could be funded for non-profit agencies providing a public service by a number of mechanisms including:

- 1. General Government funds - Connect Free or other;*

2. CRA funds;
 3. GRU funds
- A) Raise connection charges for non-exempt entities;
 - B) Base rate increase;

Given the financial challenges currently being faced by General Government, Connect Free appears to be the only viable funding source for extensions and or connection charges. Resolution #050601 adopted by the City Commission on November 14, 2005 specified that half of revenues from surcharges on Water/Wastewater Connection Charges be used as follows: 1) 20% Public Health, Safety and Environment; 2) 20% Affordable Housing; and 3) 60% Programmed Water/Wastewater Extensions. Program funding not expended in the Public Health and Affordable Housing set-aside by the end of each fiscal year is rolled over to the Programmed Extensions set-aside. The use of surcharge revenues to fund the costs listed above has been administered through a fund called Connect Free.

A decision to also set aside Connect Free funds for Non-Profit agencies that provide a public service would require the adoption of a new resolution by the City Commission.

For developments within Community Redevelopment Agency boundaries, CRA funding may be appropriate given the nature of the development. Non-profit agencies should seek CRA funding as appropriate.

GRU could pay for required extensions for non-profit agencies providing a public benefit. However, this would require that extension costs be funded by raising base rates or connection charges. Given current economic conditions, this seems to be a poor time to raise base rates or connection charges to fund improvements or waive connection charges for any purpose, including non-profit agencies.

RECOMMENDATION

The Regional Utilities Committee receive a presentation from GRU Staff on the range of options and impacts related to providing financial assistance to non-profit agencies that provide a public benefit and take appropriate action.

Legislative History

11/19/09	City Commission	Referred (6 - 0 - 1 Absent)	Regional Utilities Committee
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MEMBER COMMENT

CITIZEN COMMENT

090914.

Regional Utilities Committee Outstanding Referral Status Report (B)

RECOMMENDATION

The Regional Utilities Committee review the Outstanding Referral Status Report dated April 8, 2010.

RUC Outstanding Referrals status report May 13 2010.doc

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting has not been scheduled pending new committee assignments.

ADJOURNMENT