

City of Gainesville

City Hall
200 East University Avenue
Gainesville, Florida 32601



Minutes - Draft

April 23, 2019

6:00 PM

Joint City Commission/Utility Advisory Board Special Meeting

Gainesville Regional Utilities Multi-Purpose Room

City Commission

Mayor Lauren Poe (At Large)

Commissioner Helen Warren (At Large)

Commissioner Gail Johnson (At Large)

Commissioner Gigi Simmons (District 1)

Commissioner Harvey Ward (District 2)

Commissioner David Arreola (District 3)

Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Adrian Hayes-Santos (District 4)

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CALL TO ORDER - 6:02 PM**AGENDA STATEMENT****ROLL CALL**

Present 7 - Mayor Poe, Commissioner Ward, Commissioner Arreola, Commissioner Warren, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Simmons, and Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Hayes-Santos

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

A motion was made by Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Hayes-Santos, seconded by Commissioner Warren, that this Matter be Adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Mayor Poe, Commissioner Arreola, Commissioner Warren, Commissioner Simmons, and Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Hayes-Santos

Absent: 2 - Commissioner Ward, and Commissioner Johnson

BUSINESS DISCUSSION ITEM**[180258.](#)****Utility Advisory Board's Draft Energy Policy for the City of Gainesville (B)**

Utility Advisory Board members gave a presentation on proposed Utility and Energy Policy. Provided explanation of document outline and development process.

Commissioner's Johnson and Ward arrived at 6:06 PM.

Commissioner Simmons asked a question regarding timeline of policy process. UAB member responded; the process is ongoing, will include community engagement opportunities for citizens before policy is finalized.

Commissioner Ward expressed support for policy framework presented. Asked for measurable goals for each area. UAB member responded that goals will follow after policy established.

Commissioner Ward commented about General Government involvement with UAB during the policy process. Interested in working with partners on using conservation land for solar fields. Commented in favor of a joint communication/education component in the policy. Supports meeting with UF to learn about reasons for not buying from GRU.

Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Hayes-Santos commented about the presentation. UAB members responded.

Commissioner Arreola commented in support of energy efficiency programs and GRU assisting new developments in increasing energy efficiency. Supports expanded utility services for businesses as infill growth increases; and supports strong financial planning and balancing renewable energy goals with costs to customers. Requests more information from UF on how its utilities operate on campus.

Commissioner Warren commented about housing partnerships. Thanked UAB for the presentation. Agreed about importance of learning from UF about power provided by Duke Energy, how GRU can serve campus. Commented about cautiously considering expansion of services.

Commissioner Simmons thanked Board for presentation. Asked question about the 10-year site plan. Supports net zero home pilot program and comments of other Commissioners.

UAB member Don Davis commented about expanding the service area.

Commissioner Johnson thanked Board for work on the policy. Commented about the importance of GRU and GG including equity in all policies and procedures; spoke about equity conference attended last week. Will present information from conference at the May 16 City Commission meeting. UAB member requested references and additional information from conference.

Commissioner Warren requested information outcomes of a recent redevelopment at the Majestic Oaks apartment complex.

Mayor Poe thanked UAB for the presentation. Supports the net zero pilot idea. Mayor has scheduled meetings with joint UF and GRU staff; will add to GPC to review discussion. Commented that Board should keep framework as a guiding document in making all decisions, votes, recommendations.

UAB Board Chair asked if board members could attend joint meeting with UF and UAB. Mayor responded to relay question to City Attorney Nicolle Shalley to consider any conflict.

UAB member commented in support of the policy, emphasizing community equity and education.

UAB member spoke in favor of electric vehicles, benefit to GRU.

UAB members spoke in favor of solar power.

Ed Bielarski commented on the policy presentation.

Commissioner Warren commented about balancing cost versus service needs in moving forward with the policy.

Commissioner Ward commented about the importance of developing and following the energy policy.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1) Hear a presentation from the Utility Advisory Board.
- 2) Direct staff to review the energy policy and provide input on language to mitigate issues/conflicts between the policy language and GRU's operational policies and financial constraints.
- 3) Take any additional action deemed appropriate.

Discussed

PUBLIC COMMENT

*Nathan Skop
Nancy Darren
Bennett Brummer*

MEMBER COMMENT

ADJOURNMENT - 8:05 PM