

City of Gainesville

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



Minutes

January 18, 2017

3:00 PM

City Hall Auditorium

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 3:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Michael Selvester, Sandy Campbell, Annie Orlando, Darin Cook, Dave Denslow, Mary Alford, Robert Walpole. Mr. Walpole entered the meeting at 3:05 p.m.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was approved as submitted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

160668. Minutes of the 12-14-16 UAB Meeting (B)

Attachments: [160668 UAB 11.30.16 Special Topics Subcom Mtg Minutes 20170118](#)
[160668 UAB 12-14-16 Meeting Minutes 20170118](#)

The minutes of the November 30, 2016 subcommittee meeting were approved as drafted 5-1, with Member Walpole absent. Member Selvester abstained because he did not attend the meeting.

The minutes of the December 14, 2016 regular meeting were approved as drafted 6-1, with Member Walpole absent.

RECOMMENDATION Approve minutes of the 12-14-16 UAB meeting as drafted.

CITIZEN COMMENT

Citizen Jim Konish spoke.

Member Sandy Campbell asked about the contract between General Government and GRU for the General Fund Transfer (GFT). City Attorney Nicolle Shalley said that the City's Finance Director, April Shuping, will attend the Board's February 20th legal training meeting and will address questions about the GFT.

STATE OF THE UTILITY

160666. State of the Utility (B)

Attachments: [160666 State of Utility Attachment A 20170118](#)
[160666 State of Utility Attachment B 20170118](#)
[160666 State of Utility Attachment C 20170118](#)
[160666 State of Utility Attachment D 20170118](#)
[160666 State of Utility Attachment E 2017118](#)
[160666 State of Utility Attachment F 2017118](#)

COO Tom Brown gave a brief update on the state of utility operations.

RECOMMENDATION *Receive information and metrics regarding GRU's operations.*

OLD BUSINESS

[150907.](#) **Draft Rules of the Utility Advisory Board (B)**

Attachments: [150907 Board Logistics Matrix 20160412](#)
[150907 UAB Draft Rules 20160504](#)
[150907 UAB Rules of Order - Draft 20160504](#)
[150907 UAB Draft Rules 20160720](#)
[150907 UAB Draft Rules 20161116](#)
[150907 UAB Draft Rules 20161201](#)
[150907 UAB Draft Rules 20170118](#)
[150907 UAB Draft Rules-Orlando Revision 20170118](#)

Board members addressed various concerns with the draft rules that had been sent back by the City Commission. They voted 6-1, with Annie Orlando in dissent, to make several changes. City Attorney Nicolle Shalley will incorporate the Board's requested changes into the draft document and bring it back for review at the February 15, 2017 UAB meeting.

RECOMMENDATION *Review draft rules for possible revision.*

NEW BUSINESS

[160671.](#) **Selection of External Auditors for Professional Auditing Services for GRU (B)**

This item is informational

CFO Justin Locke and Acting Accounting & Finance Director Claudia Rasnick gave an informational presentation.

RECOMMENDATION *Hear an update from staff.*

[160672.](#) **Preventing Sanitary Sewer Overflows in GRU's Wastewater Collection**

System (B)

Attachments: [160672 GRUs WW Collection System 20170118](#)

Water Wastewater Officer Tony Cunningham gave a presentation on GRU's efforts in preventing wastewater spills. He explained that the Florida Department of Environmental Protection had enacted a rule in September 2016 that required even the smallest wastewater release or other types of environmental spills be reported to the media and local governments. He explained that the rule had been overturned in the courts in late December and GRU felt that given the small number of wastewater spills that occur in our system that have any impact on public health and safety, it is no longer necessary to report minor and isolated spills to the media. GRU believes that the public will become inured if every small or isolated spill with no impact on health and safety is reported and that they may then fail to take larger spills seriously in the future.

Mr. Cunningham said that GRU needs the help of citizens in preventing clogs to minimize the occurrence of spills. He stressed that no other item except toilet paper and human waste should be flushed down the toilet, including "flushable" wipes. Additionally, no fats, oils or grease should be poured down the drain.

Mr. Cunningham stated that GRU was going to recommend to the City Commission that we don't continue to publish each incident in the media, but rather we continue reporting to the regulatory agencies as required and only alert the media about large spills and those that impact public health and safety. He asked the UAB for feedback on that recommendation.

After some discussion, the Board asked Mr. Cunningham to consider placing larger signs in areas of spills to make them more noticeable to the public. They also asked that Mr. Cunningham include spill information on the monthly dashboard report that is submitted to the UAB. The board voted 7-0 to recommend to the Commission that whether to report a spill to the media be left to management's discretion.

RECOMMENDATION *The Utility Advisory Board hear a presentation on the public notification rule and preventing sanitary sewer overflows in GRU's wastewater collection system.*

MEMBER COMMENT

[160673.](#) GRU Electricity Rates in 2015 Compared to the U.S.

Attachments: [160673 Comparison of GRU 2015 Electricity Rates 20170118](#)

The Board discussed Dr. Denslow's study.

RECOMMENDATION *Discuss.*

The board discussed scheduling the next subcommittee meeting in the first week of February. The agenda for that meeting is to include a discussion of rate structures and the issue of whether the board can retain outside legal counsel.

Member Alford requested that the board take a few minutes at the beginning of the

subcommittee meeting to go over the priority list and set time deadlines for each item.

CITIZEN COMMENT

NEXT MEETING DATE

February 15, 2017

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:47 p.m.