

City of Gainesville

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



Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 19, 2008

3:15 PM

City Hall Room 16

Regional Utilities Committee

*Commissioner Jack Donovan, Chair
Commissioner Ed Braddy, Member
Commissioner Craig Lowe, Member*

Persons with disabilities who require assistance to participate in this meeting are requested to notify the Office of Equal Opportunity at 334-5051 or call the TDD phone line at 334-2069 at least two business days in advance.

CALL TO ORDER

Present: Craig Lowe and Jack Donovan
Absent: Edward Braddy

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Adopted

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

071004. Regional Utilities Committee Meeting Minutes for February 12, 2008 (B)

RECOMMENDATION *The Regional Utilities Committee approve the minutes for the February 12, 2008 meeting as circulated.*

This matter was Approved as Recommended. The motion carried.

RUC Meeting Minutes for Feb 12 2008.pdf

CURRENT RUC ACTION ITEMS

070744. GRU's Delinquent Policies (B)

Bob Bergdoll, Customer Operations Director, made a presentation to the Regional Utilities Committee.

The RUC approved the recommendation as presented. Commissioner Donovan suggested being consistent in the write up in terms of using either express service fee or reconnection fee to avoid confusion. Commissioner Donovan also suggested making it clear to the City Commission that the fees for delinquent processing would actually be reduced by \$20.

The RUC agreed to recommend the City Commission: 1) accept the recommendation to lower the delinquent processing fees for disconnection and reconnection by \$20; 2) authorize the City Attorney to prepare and the Clerk of the Commission to advertise amendments to the Code of Ordinances relating to changes to the delinquent processing fees; and 3) remove this item from the referral list.

RECOMMENDATION *Staff recommends the Regional Utilities Committee: 1) receive a presentation that reviews the current delinquent processing policy in comparison with prior policies and practices; and 2) recommend the City Commission: (a) increase the service charge for a field visit due to delinquent payment from \$20.00 to \$40.00; and (b) eliminate the additional same day express service fee for requests made for delinquent reconnection*

during normal working hours.

This matter was Approved as Recommended. The motion carried.

Backup for #070744 Delinquent Policy Review Jan 8 081.pdf
Backup for #070744 Delinquent Policy Review Revised Jan 30 2008.pdf
Attachment to Item #070744 Delinquent Policy Referral Mar 19 2008.pdf
070744_200805121300.pdf

061214.

Photovoltaic Policies (B)

David Barclay, Utility Analyst, gave a presentation on recent Florida Public Service Commission actions and requirements under the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act related to net metering. Results to date of GRU's photovoltaic rebate program were also reviewed. Mr. Barclay expressed the need to schedule a public hearing to receive considerations, determinations and public input which is part of the requirements of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act. Mr. Barclay introduced Bob Reedy from the Florida Solar Energy Center.

Commissioner Donovan asked a question concerning the conclusions listed related to the financial impacts to the Utility and to the customers.

David Barclay responded that at today's level of solar use the impact would not be that significant. At some future date if photovoltaic really takes off, the impact could be significant resulting in having to look at alternative ways to collect for that revenue or possible rate increases.

Commissioner Lowe brought up the issue of what do we have in the way of standards for rebate eligibility. Are there standards for whether a system is properly or optimally installed?

David Barclay advised that we have some clauses in our rebates where we retain the right not to issue a rebate if they have too much shading. He further advised that Bill Shepherd, Energy and Business Services Manager, was working on some specific guidelines for that.

Commissioner Lowe further expressed concern about other installation issues such as a system not being installed properly, perhaps upside down or not facing in the correct orientation?

Bill Shepherd advised that staff was going to address those issues with the photovoltaic contractors. Some changes to the administrative guidelines will be made because some of the issues that have been brought up are valid concerns.

Commissioner Lowe asked what the timeline for that would be and suggested that the Regional Utilities Committee hear at a subsequent meeting a discussion of standards for installation for eligibility for rebates on photovoltaic systems.

Commissioner Donovan brought up the other part of the referral regarding the idea of purchasing the residential solar panels or of having an amortization process like

the one in Berkeley, San Francisco.

David Barclay advised that would be discussed along with the matrix item.

MOTION: Commissioner Lowe restated his motion and that was to recommend to the City Commission that it initiate the process for adopting net metering for photovoltaic systems and that the RUC hear at a subsequent meeting a discussion of the standards for installation for eligibility for rebates.

Commissioner Donovan seconded it.

Tom Bussing was recognized who expressed his support for bringing this item forward. He also expressed his concern about not having a solar system on any publicly owned buildings and asked that the issue of putting solar panels on the airport be considered.

RECOMMENDATION *The Regional Utilities Commission (RUC) receive a presentation from staff reviewing recent Florida Public Service Commission actions and requirements under the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act related to net metering, reviewing results to date of GRU's photovoltaic rebate program, and summarizing recommendations for GRU's customer owned renewable generation metering practice.*

**This matter was Recommended for Approval, as shown above
. The motion carried.**

Backup to RUC item #061214 Mar 19 2008.pdf

Backup for RUC item #061214 PV policies Mar 19 2008.pdf

070772. Energy Supply Options Matrix (B)

Ed Regan, AGM Strategic Planning, gave a brief presentation on the energy matrix. There was limited discussion due to time constraints.

Commissioner Dononvan stated it would be valuable to discuss the matrix in more detail at a future meeting.

RECOMMENDATION *The Regional Utilities Committee discuss the draft matrix received at the January 30, 2008 committee meeting which compares energy supply options on a wide range of criteria.*

Discussed

Backup for Item #070772 Energy Supply Options Matrix.pdf

Backup for Item #070772 Chilled Water Map.pdf

Backup for RUC item #070772 Mar 19 2008 re Matrix.pdf

MEMBER COMMENT

Commissioner Donovan noted that the title was incorrectly stated as Regional

Utilities Commission on one of the Items (#061214) and it should be corrected.

Commissioner Donovan also brought up an issue from a citizen regarding damage to appliances due to a power failure. Skip Manasco, Utilities Attorney, responded that GRU is not liable for damages in those types of situations per court decisions. The citizen should contact the responsible department director and discuss the issue with them.

CITIZEN COMMENT

Mr. Rob Brinkman asked about the status of the nuclear project proposed by Progress Energy. Ed Regan advised that Progress Energy had filed a certification of need and will not be looking for any commitments until sometime in July or August of this year.

070773. Regional Utilities Committee Outstanding Referral Status Report (B)

RECOMMENDATION *The Regional Utilities Committee review the Outstanding Referral Status Report.*

RUC Outstanding Referrals status report January 8, 2008.pdf

RUC Outstanding Referrals status report Feb 12 2008.pdf

RUC Outstanding Referrals status report March 19 2008.pdf

NEW BUSINESS

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting date is April 8, 2008 at 5:15 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 pm.