

# **City of Gainesville**

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



## **Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, May 13, 2009**

**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

## ROLL CALL

Present: Pegeen Hanrahan, Craig Lowe and Lauren Poe

## ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

### 090002. Regional Utilities Committee Meeting Minutes for April 8, 2009 (B)

**RECOMMENDATION**      *The Regional Utilities Committee approve the minutes for the April 8, 2009 meeting as circulated.*

**This matter was Approved. The motion carried.**

RUC Meeting Minutes for April 8 2009.pdf

## RUC CURRENT ACTION ITEMS

### 080696.      **Broadband in Older Neighborhoods (NB)**

*Ted Kellermann, Sales and New Services Director, gave a presentation which included discussion regarding broadband stimulus funding and a review of GRUCom projects.*

*Mayor Hanrahan expressed a concern that there are some areas particularly east of the City that may not have as great availability of services.*

*Commissioner Lowe asked where GRUCom is located geographically.*

*Ted Kellermann advised GRUCom is heavily located in apartment complexes in the southwest and have some in the northwest as well.*

*Commissioner Lowe expressed the concern that we have a social equity issue in terms of how our broadband is distributed and would like to address it to the extent that we can. He further expressed the desire to look for ways to make this economically feasible for other parts of the city.*

*Mr. Kellermann advised that we are starting to see more redevelopment on the east side and we can use these opportunities to do outreach.*

*Commissioner Lowe questioned if the CRA boards were aware of what is available and stated he would like for staff to do an outreach to them. He also asked that staff*

*examine what other cities are doing in terms of providing service to existing neighborhoods and apartment complexes and how to provide the service more equally throughout the community.*

*Commissioner Poe stated that we have some significant redevelopment opportunities coming up such as Segrey, Kennedy Homes and possibly Seminary Lane.*

*Mayor Hanrahan asked if it is taken into consideration whether or not developments are using our product as part of the calculus with respect to how much of an incentive they might receive from the City. She further asked if we would legally be able to compel use of our service when a development receives substantial redevelopment incentives. If we can't legally compel it, can we give some more points in the evaluation process for it? Mayor Hanrahan recommended continuing this referral and have the attorneys review what can be done within the bounds of the law to encourage greater use of our services in projects that have received substantial city incentives.*

*Commissioner Lowe expressed his request for staff to research what other localities are doing with regard to providing broadband to existing and new development in redevelopment areas.*

*Richard Williams was recognized and spoke to the matter.*

*Staff will return at a future meeting with answers to the questions raised regarding this item.*

**RECOMMENDATION**      *The Regional Utilities Committee: 1) Receive an update on broadband availability in older neighborhoods, opportunities from federal stimulus packages from staff; and 2) remove this item from the referral list.*

#### **Discussed**

### **080421.**

#### **Evaluation of Rates for Reclaimed Water Usage - Discussion of Proposed Changes to GRU's Reclaimed Water Policy (B)**

*At the start of the meeting Commissioner Poe requested and the other Committee members agreed to postpone the discussion of rates related to the reclaimed water item until the next meeting. Commissioner Poe's request to postpone the reclaimed water rates was based on a request from a representative of the Cobblefield homeowners group.*

*Rick Hutton, Supervising Utility Engineer gave a presentation on the reclaimed water master plan and policy. He explained that staff will be proposing changes to increase the rate at which we are connecting customers to reclaimed water which is largely in response to St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) requirements. SJRWMD is proposing that the entire district, which we are a part of, be a priority resource caution area. GRU is in the process of getting the necessary*

consumptive use permits for the well field. Mr. Hutton explained that the proposed reclaimed water plan will focus on extending reclaimed water in the southwest area.

Mayor Hanrahan asked where inside the City limits is reclaimed water already provided or capable of being provided. Mr. Hutton responded by showing the area on a map. Mayor Hanrahan further asked if single family, multi-family and business along that main could connect and if a partnership with the Matheson Museum had ever been considered. Hutton stated that areas adjacent to the reclaimed water main running from the Main Street Water Reclamation Facility to the South Energy Center may be feasible to serve with reclaimed water. Areas further away may be feasible depending on the distance and the amount of area being irrigated.

Commissioner Poe asked if Ironwood Golf Course was on reclaimed water. Mr. Hutton replied that it was not and that we had considered running a line down Main Street but that it was too expensive. We might be able to serve some of the properties along the way but most of those are not irrigated right now. He also stated that Ironwood is pretty wet so they don't use that much water. Commissioner Poe stated he would like to see a more robust breakdown on that because if Hatchett Creek development gets approved it might be cost feasible. Rick Hutton commented that Ironwood is pretty wet so they don't use as much water as Haile Plantation golf course.

Mr. Hutton continued his presentation discussing the area being considered for service and different funding mechanisms. Staff is proposing to raise the water/wastewater connection charges. GRU staff is working with Alachua County staff regarding possible LDRs for reclaimed water extension. There was discussion regarding options being proposed.

Mike Castine from the Alachua County Planning Department was recognized and spoke to the matter.

Jay Brown, local civil engineer with Brown and Cullen and a member of the Builders Association of North Central Florida (BANCF) was recognized and spoke to the matter. Mr. Brown stated that GRU has been discussing the proposed changes to GRU's reclaimed water policy with a BANCF workgroup. Mr. Brown requested on behalf of the BANCF workgroup that the proposed connection charge increases be phased in over multiple years, rather than as a single large increase.

The RUC agreed to revisit this item at the next meeting. RUC members requested that staff evaluate phasing in of connection charge increases, and evaluate the effects of increasing the reclaimed water usage rates.

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Regional Utilities Commission (RUC) receive a presentation from staff describing proposed changes to GRU's reclaimed water extension policy and recommend that the City Commission approve the revised reclaimed water extension policy.

**Discussed**

RUC Presentation re Reclaimed Water 5 13 09.pdf  
RUC Presentation re 080421 August 27 2009.pdf

**070528.****Nuclear Energy Option and Recommendation (NB)**

**RECOMMENDATION**     *The Regional Utilities Committee recommend that the City Commission remove this item from the referral list.*

**This matter was Approved as Recommended. The motion carried.**

**070516.****Conservation and Energy Use Goals - Mid Year Efficiency Program Update (NB)**

**RECOMMENDATION**     *The Regional Utilities Committee recommend that the City Commission remove this item from the referral list.*

**This matter was Approved as Recommended. The motion carried.**

Mid Year Energy Efficiency Report to RUC June 10. 2008.pdf

**070352.****Status Report on Maximum Energy Efficiency (NB)**

**RECOMMENDATION**     *The Regional Utilities Committee recommend that the City Commission remove this item from the referral list.*

**This matter was Approved as Recommended. The motion carried.**

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## OUTSTANDING REFERRALS

**081008. Regional Utilities Committee Outstanding Referral Status Report (B)**

**RECOMMENDATION**     *The Regional Utilities Committee review the Outstanding Referral Status Report dated May 13, 2009.*

**No Action Taken**

RUC Outstanding Referrals status report May 13 09.pdf

## MEMBER COMMENT

## CITIZEN COMMENT

## NEXT MEETING DATE

## ADJOURNMENT

*The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.*