

DRAFT

1                                   **ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

2           **An ordinance of the City of Gainesville, Florida; proposing an amendment to**  
3           **the Charter Laws of the City of Gainesville to create and empower a Board of**  
4           **Trustees of Gainesville Regional Utility; providing for submission of the**  
5           **charter amendment to the voters for approval or disapproval at the**  
6           **\_\_\_\_\_ municipal election; approving the question to be placed**  
7           **on the ballot; providing that this charter amendment shall become effective if**  
8           **approved by the voters; providing directions to the codifier; providing**  
9           **directions to the clerk of the commission; providing a severability clause;**  
10          **providing a repealing clause; and providing an immediate effective date.**

11  
12           **WHEREAS**, the City Commission has duly considered the charter amendment and by  
13 passage of this ordinance indicates its desire to approve the charter amendment as set forth herein,  
14 subject to approval of the electorate at a municipal election; and

15           **WHEREAS**, the City Commission desires to amend the Charter Laws of the City of  
16 Gainesville, Florida, pursuant to the procedures provided by law; and

17           **WHEREAS**, notice was given as required by law that the text of the Code of Ordinances  
18 of the City of Gainesville, Florida, be amended; and

19           **WHEREAS**, at least ten (10) days' notice has been given once by publication in a  
20 newspaper of general circulation notifying the public of this proposed ordinance and of public  
21 hearings in the City Hall Auditorium located on the first floor of City Hall in the City of  
22 Gainesville; and

23           **WHEREAS**, public hearings were held pursuant to the notice described above at which  
24 hearings the parties in interest and all others had an opportunity to be and were, in fact, heard.

25           **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE**  
26 **CITY OF GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA:**

1 **Section 1.** The following proposed amendment to Chapter 90-394, Laws of Florida, 1990, as  
 2 amended, otherwise known as the Charter Laws of the City of Gainesville, Florida, is approved for  
 3 submission to the electors of the City of Gainesville, Florida, for approval or disapproval at the  
 4 municipal election set for \_\_\_\_\_:

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT**

6 **Section 2.** Section 1.03 of the Charter Laws is amended as set forth below. Except as  
 7 amended herein, the remainder of Section 1.03 remains in full force and effect.

8 **1.03. – Construction.**

9 (1) The powers of the city shall be construed liberally in favor of the city, limited only by the State  
 10 Constitution, general law, and specific limitations contained in this ~~aet~~ charter.

11 (2) If any provision of this ~~aet~~ charter or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is  
 12 held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the invalidity shall not affect other provisions or  
 13 applications of the ~~aet~~ charter which can be given effect without the invalid provision or  
 14 application, and to this end the provisions of this ~~aet~~ charter are declared severable.

15 (3) All powers and authority granted by this ~~aet~~ charter are supplemental and additional to all other  
 16 statutory and constitutional authority.

17 (4) For purposes of this ~~aet~~ charter, the term:

18 (a) “City” means the City of Gainesville.

19 (b) “Commission” means the city commission as established in Article II.

20 (c) “State” means the State of Florida.

21 (d) “Board of Trustees” means the Board of Trustees of Gainesville Regional Utilities as  
 22 established in Article IV.

23

24 **Section 3.** Section 3.06 of the Charter Laws is deleted in its entirety.

25 ~~**3.06. – General manager for utilities.**~~

- 1 ~~(1) Appointment; administrative head of municipal utilities; qualifications; terms. The~~  
2 ~~commission shall appoint a general manager for utilities ("general manager") who shall be~~  
3 ~~responsible to the commission. The general manager shall be responsible for the efficient~~  
4 ~~administration of the Utility System. The general manager for utilities shall serve at the will~~  
5 ~~of the commission.~~
- 6 ~~(2) Powers and duties generally. The general manager:~~
  - 7 ~~(a) Shall be responsible for and have exclusive management jurisdiction and control over~~  
8 ~~operating and financial affairs of the Utility System including, but not limited to, the~~  
9 ~~planning, development, production, purchase, sale, exchange, interchange, transmission~~  
10 ~~and distribution of all electricity; the planning, development, purchase, sale, exchange,~~  
11 ~~interchange, transmission and distribution of all natural gas; the planning, development,~~  
12 ~~supply, treatment, transmission, distribution and sale of all potable water; and the~~  
13 ~~planning, development, collection, treatment, disposal and billing of all wastewater now~~  
14 ~~or hereafter provided by the city;~~
  - 15 ~~(b) Shall submit to the commission for its consideration a yearly budget for the operation of~~  
16 ~~the Utility System;~~
  - 17 ~~(c) Shall be the purchasing agent for all equipment, materials, supplies and services~~  
18 ~~necessary for operating and maintaining the Utility System subject to policies~~  
19 ~~promulgated by the commission;~~
  - 20 ~~(d) Shall propose ordinances to designate the job titles of subordinates that are to be~~  
21 ~~considered directors of department;~~
  - 22 ~~(e) Shall appoint and, except as otherwise provided in this charter, remove all directors of~~  
23 ~~departments at will;~~
  - 24 ~~(f) Shall recommend to the commission all measures necessary and expedient for the~~  
25 ~~proper governance and management of the Utility System;~~
  - 26 ~~(g) Shall keep the commission fully advised as to the management, governance and needs~~  
27 ~~of the Utility System;~~
  - 28 ~~(h) Shall perform all other duties prescribed by law, this charter, ordinance, or direction of~~  
29 ~~the commission.~~

30  
31 **Section 4.** A new Section 4.04 is hereby created and added to the Charter Laws.

32 **4.04. – Board of Trustees of Gainesville Regional Utilities.**

33 (1) Creation. The Board of Trustees of Gainesville Regional Utility is hereby created and made  
34 a part of the government of the City of Gainesville, Florida. The Board of Trustees of  
35 Gainesville Regional Utility shall be responsible for and have exclusive jurisdiction over the  
36 governance of GRU, subject to the requirements of this charter. The board shall operate as a  
37 separate unit of city government, and except as otherwise provided in this charter, the board  
38 shall be free from the jurisdiction, direction, and control of the city commission and the City

CODE: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

1 charter officers.

2  
3 (2) Definitions.

4 (a) Customer means the natural person or legal entity that has a utility services account in  
5 his/her/its name and is responsible for payment for utility services at that specific  
6 location.

7  
8 (b) Gainesville Regional Utilities or GRU means the city-owned utility system providing  
9 electric, gas, telecommunications, water, and wastewater services to customers.

10  
11 (c) General manager of utilities means the chief executive officer of the utility responsible  
12 for utility management as more particularly described in this article.

13  
14 (d) Transition period means the time between the appointment of the board members and the  
15 time the board has an opportunity to evaluate and act on items under its authority.

16  
17 (e) Board of Trustees or board means the Board of Trustees of the Gainesville Regional  
18 Utilities created by this article.

19  
20 (f) Utility governance means the making and administering of the utility’s course of action.  
21 Governance decisions are those decisions designed to influence and guide management’s  
22 decisions, actions and other matters of the utility. The board shall make those  
23 governance decisions pursuant to the requirements of this article.

24  
25 (g) Utility management means the directing, supervising or carrying on of utility business  
26 affairs in a manner as directed by the board. The responsibility for utility management is  
27 more specifically described in this article.

28  
29 (3) Membership, terms, officers, suspension and removal.

30 (a) Membership. The board shall have seven members appointed by majority vote of the city  
31 commission.

32  
33 1. All board members shall reside within the GRU service territory and receive GRU  
34 utility service.

35  
36 2. The membership shall be comprised of individuals with subject matter expertise and  
37 qualifications that the commission deems relevant and beneficial to GRU as more  
38 specifically identified by ordinance adopted by the city commission.

39  
40 3. At all times, a minimum of one board member must be a resident of the  
41 unincorporated area of Alachua County or another municipality in Alachua County.  
42 The board will annually review the ratio of GRU electric meters installed outside of  
43 the city limits to the total number of GRU electric meters installed in GRU’s service

territory and report that ratio to the city commission. In the event the ratio exceeds 40 percent, at the next board member vacancy or term expiration, the city commission will appoint a second board member who is a resident of the unincorporated area of Alachua County or another municipality in Alachua County.

4. No person who holds any other public office or who is an employee of the city or who has a current business relationship with GRU other than as a consumer shall be a board member.

(b) Term.

1. Each board member shall be appointed to a four-year term, provided however that for the first seven appointees, three will serve an initial term of two years and four will serve an initial term of four years. The city commission will designate which of its initial appointees will serve the two year terms.

2. Board members may be reappointed for consecutive terms and may hold office after expiration of their term until a successor has been appointed and qualified. Board members may serve no more than three consecutive terms.

3. When a position becomes vacant before the end of the term, the city commission shall appoint a substitute board member to fill the vacancy for the duration of the vacated term.

(c) Officers. The members of the board shall annually elect a chair and vice-chair from among their membership.

(d) Removal from board. Any board member may be removed or suspended from office by the city commission for malfeasance, misfeasance or nonfeasance in office, or upon conviction of a felony or if the board member no longer holds the minimum qualifications for the position. The city commission shall adopt by ordinance, rules of procedure for removal or suspension of a board member.

(4) Power and duties of the board. The Board of Trustees of Gainesville Regional Utilities shall have the legislative power and exclusive jurisdiction over the governance of GRU, except as limited by this Charter. The board in the operation of the utility services, both inside and outside the city limits, shall have the following powers and duties:

(a) Provide safe, reliable utility services to customers within the service territory at fair, just and reasonable rates, including a return on the city’s investment, all as more particularly described in this article.

(b) Promote the development of renewable energy; protect the economic viability of Gainesville’s existing renewable energy facilities; diversify the types of fuel used to generate electricity; lessen dependence on natural gas and fuel oil for the production of

1 electricity; minimize the volatility of fuel costs; encourage investment with in  
2 Gainesville, improve environmental conditions; and, at the same time, minimize the costs  
3 of power supply to customers.

4  
5 (c) Acquire, purchase, hire, construct, extend, maintain, own, operate, or lease local public  
6 utilities, including: electric, gas, telecommunications, water, and wastewater collection  
7 services; wastewater facilities, works for supplying water, wastewater, gas, electric, and  
8 telecommunications services; water, electric, telecommunication and gas production,  
9 transmission, and distribution systems; sanitary sewage facilities; and wastewater  
10 transmission and disposal facilities. In the event the board determines it is necessary or  
11 appropriate for it to provide, operate or maintain any other utility system or function  
12 other than electric, water, wastewater, gas, or telecommunications, the board shall by  
13 resolution identify such additional utility system or systems or function or functions and  
14 indicate its desire to provide such utility service or services or function or functions to the  
15 city commission. Upon the adoption and approval of this resolution by the board and the  
16 city commission, voting as separate entities, the board with respect to the specified  
17 system or systems, shall be vested with all powers set forth in this article or general law  
18 that would apply to such specified utility system or systems.

19  
20 (d) Subject to Section 4(j), supply water, electricity, gas, and wastewater service for domestic  
21 and other purposes to individuals, businesses, or corporations inside and outside of the  
22 city, and to charge and collect reasonable rates, prices and compensation therefor,  
23 including the costs for any part thereof for extension of said services as determined by the  
24 board, and upon such terms as may be imposed by the board, and the board may charge a  
25 different rate but not a lesser rate for customers outside the city limits than to customers  
26 within the corporate limits of the city.

27  
28 (e) To transfer, sell, finance, lease or otherwise provide services or products, or by-products,  
29 developed or used by GRU incident to the exercise of the powers conferred by this  
30 section, including but not limited to, energy performance contracting, water, wastewater,  
31 telecommunications, and natural gas (and any other utility service hereafter provided by  
32 GRU) contracting, power marketing services, the testing and maintenance of customer-  
33 owned facilities such as transformers, capacitors, lighting, HVAC systems, water cooling  
34 and heating systems, energy management systems, etc.; the temporary leasing of GRU  
35 facilities such as oil storage tanks; the supply of steam or other thermal energy; the  
36 provision of specially conditioned power on the premises of customers and the provision  
37 of services or products to build, transfer, lease, finance, operate or sell cogeneration  
38 facilities, small power production facilities, specially conditioned power, energy  
39 conservation, energy efficiency and dispersed generation to other electric utilities both  
40 within and without the state or to any wholesale or retail customers of GRU, upon such  
41 terms and conditions as the board shall, by resolution, fix and determine; and to transfer,  
42 sell, finance, lease or otherwise provide services, products or by-products developed or  
43 used by GRU incident to the exercise of the powers conferred by this section, in the  
44 delivery of water, wastewater, and natural gas services, including but not limited to the  
45 financing, testing, maintenance and operation of customer owned facilities used in water,

wastewater and natural gas functions; provided, however, that GRU will not enter into any activity pursuant to this section in addition to those activities listed herein without first without first obtaining approval of such activities by the city commission no less than 30 days before the commencement of such activity. Nothing in this article shall authorize or be construed to authorize GRU or the board to transfer any function or operation to the utilities system by sale, lease or otherwise to any other utility, public or private without approval by referendum of the voters.

(f) Enter into agreements with other municipalities either within or without Alachua County, or with governmental units or private utility companies, for selling or buying utility services; sell any surplus of water, electricity, gas to persons, firms, and corporations, public or private, on such terms and conditions as the board considers prudent.

(g) Exercise all powers and authority of the city to acquire by purchase, gift, lease-purchase, or otherwise, real or personal property for use in providing utility services.

(h) Enter upon any land or water for the purpose of making surveys and may exercise the right of eminent domain on behalf of the city for utility services whenever public necessity or convenience requires, and may exercise that power inside and outside the city limits in the manner provided by law.

(i) Acquire, build, construct, erect, extend, enlarge, improve, furnish, equip, and operate as a separate bulk power supply utility or system, electric generating plants, transmission lines, interconnections, and substations for generating, transmitting, distributing, and exchanging electric power and energy both within and without the limits of the city.

(j) To fix, pledge to establish or establish, levy, regulate, impose and collect rates, assessments, fees and charges for the use or benefit of the utilities system and to alter and amend same from time to time, which rates, assessments, fees and charges shall result in GRU receiving or possessing an amount which, together with accumulated balances from prior years available therefore is not less than is required to operate and maintain a self-liquidating or self-sustaining utility system. When establishing or altering rates, assessments, fees or charges for retail service (proposed changes), the board shall first give notice of and hold a public hearing in the city. The notice shall be published not less than one (1) week in advance in at least one (1) newspaper of general circulation in the city. Said notice shall be at least one-fourth page in size, inviting the public to be present and heard.

The city commission may adopt an ordinance allowing the city commission to veto rates upon a super-majority vote. If the commission adopts such an ordinance, the ordinance must establish a rolled back rate that is no less than the prior year’s rates.

The city and other public bodies shall be required to pay for any utility services provided by GRU upon the same basis as other users.

- 1        (k) Adopt such rules and regulations regarding the management and operation of, or the sale  
2        or use of any utility service provided by GRU from the utility system.  
3
- 4        (l) Impose sanctions to enforce compliance with any rule or regulation which the board may  
5        adopt in the management and operation of, or the sale or use of any utility service  
6        provided by GRU from the utilities system including, without limitation, electricity,  
7        water, wastewater, gas, and telecommunications services.  
8
- 9        (m) Use the ground, over, under or along any road, railroad, highway, street, sidewalk,  
10       thoroughfare, alley, waterway, or other public way, in the operations of the utilities but  
11       shall, in all cases and subject to the applicable general regulations of the city, cause the  
12       surface of the public way to be restored to its usual condition.  
13
- 14       (n) Upon approval of both the city commission and the board, the city commission will issue  
15       and sell revenue bonds or certificates in such amounts as shall be deemed necessary to  
16       finance all or part of the costs of acquisition, construction, repairs, replacements,  
17       improvements, additions and extensions of the utilities and equipment required therefor.  
18       All of such revenue bonds or certificates issued by the city commission shall be  
19       obligations of the City of Gainesville. The board shall have no power to pledge the full  
20       faith and credit of the city and nothing set forth herein shall be so construed. No  
21       referendum or freeholders' election shall be required as a condition precedent to the  
22       issuance of such revenue bonds or certificates.  
23
- 24       (o) Borrow money for periods not to exceed two (2) years and may issue negotiable notes,  
25       payable from the revenues of the utilities or a division thereof, as evidence of the loans.  
26       The action of the board may be by resolutions which may be adopted at the same  
27       meetings at which introduced and shall take effect immediately upon adoption and public  
28       sale shall not be required.  
29
- 30       (p) Authorize reasonable expenditures to advertise and otherwise promote the use of the  
31       utility services and to acquaint the public with the operations, programs, and planned  
32       expansions of the utilities.  
33
- 34       (q) Invest idle funds in banks or savings institutions when qualified as city depositories,  
35       provided such investments are secured by direct obligations of the United States  
36       Treasury, or may invest idle funds in direct obligations of the United States Treasury.  
37       The board may also invest such idle funds in investments secured by indirect obligations  
38       of the United States of America.  
39
- 40       (r) Make annual payment to the city commission in accordance with the provisions of this  
41       article.  
42
- 43       (s) To sue and be sued, implead and be impleaded, complain and defend in all courts, to  
44       adopt and use a corporate seal, to apply for, hold and own patents and copyrights, to sell  
45       or license patents, copyrights, patented or copyrighted materials to other public or private



1 entities. Prices or fees for such sales or licensing may be based upon market  
2 considerations. GRU may designate how proceeds from such sales or licensing shall be  
3 used. Prices or fees for such sales of copyrighted data processing software, as defined in  
4 section 119.083, Florida Statutes, shall be established pursuant to said statute.

5  
6 (t) To enter into all contracts, leases, and agreements in the name of the city in furtherance  
7 of this article.

8  
9 (u) To allocate costs between the electric, water, wastewater, gas, telecommunications and  
10 any other utility system operated now or in the future by GRU on a cost accounted basis.

11  
12 (v) To employ and fix the compensation of the general manager for utilities, who shall  
13 manage the affairs of the utilities as set forth in this article under the supervision of the  
14 board.

15  
16 (w) To do all acts and deeds necessary, convenient or desirable, incidental to the exercise and  
17 performance of the powers and duties granted to the board in this charter.

18  
19 (5) Fiscal and budgetary functions.

20  
21 (a) The board shall, in addition to the reports and accounting it may otherwise be required by  
22 law to make, promptly after the close of the fiscal year, furnish the city commission its  
23 annual report which shall include the following statements as of the end of the preceding  
24 fiscal year: A balance sheet showing the financial condition of the utilities and each  
25 separate division, prepared as nearly as practical according to generally accepted public  
26 utility accounting principles; a statement of operations for each division of the utilities;  
27 and any additional supporting statements or schedules deemed necessary and desirable by  
28 the city commission to make a clear and informative presentation of the financial position  
29 of the utilities. The reports shall be kept on file in the city clerk's office and shall be  
30 open to public inspection. The funds and accounts of the utilities shall be audited  
31 annually by a certified public accountant appointed by the city commission.

32  
33 (b) The board shall prepare and adopt a budget for the ensuing fiscal year and furnish a copy  
34 to the city commission on or before July 1 of each year. The budget shall set forth  
35 GRU's estimated gross revenues and other available funds, and estimated requirements  
36 for operations and maintenance expenses, capital outlay, debt service, and depreciation  
37 and reserve account. The board shall hold budget hearings and approve the budget in the  
38 manner provided by law.

39  
40 (c) The board shall, except as specifically provided in this article, have the exclusive power  
41 and authority to manage and conduct its financial affairs in accordance with generally  
42 accepted accounting principles applied to municipal utilities systems and the provisions  
43 of resolutions authorizing its revenue bonds and other obligations.

44  
45 (d) All revenues derived from the utilities after paying the necessary costs and expenses shall

1 be applied to the payment of interest on and principal of bonds, revenue certificates,  
2 loans, and other obligations from monies borrowed, both senior and subordinate lien and  
3 to the sinking fund for the redemption thereof as required by law and ordinances under  
4 which said bonds were issued.

5  
6 (e) The board shall pay to the city commission each year a sum equal to nine (9) percent of  
7 the gross revenues as hereafter defined, derived from the operation of the utilities for the  
8 preceding fiscal year, unless the city commission, by majority vote, agrees to accept a  
9 lesser percentage. This sum shall be paid on or before sixty days after approval and  
10 acceptance of the audit for such fiscal year by the city commission.

11  
12 (6) City commission authority. The city commission retains the following authority:

13  
14 (a) To appoint, suspend, and remove members of the board of trustees as specified in Section  
15 3.

16  
17 (b) To adopt by ordinance, the qualifications required of board members; the compensation  
18 of board members; the attendance requirements of board members; and the procedures  
19 for suspension and removal of board members, as specified in Section 3.

20  
21 (c) To issue bonds for GRU as specified in Section 4(n).

22  
23 (d) To approve, upon request of board, the provision, operation, or maintenance of other  
24 utility systems or functions as specified in Section 4(c).

25  
26 (e) To authorize additional income producing activities not provided for in Section 4(e).

27  
28 (f) To receive annual payments from GRU as specified in Sections 4(r) and 5(e).

29  
30 (g) To review the annual reports of the board as specified in Section 5(a).

31  
32 (h) To annually audit the utilities' funds and accounts as specified by Section 5(a).

33  
34 (i) To annually review the utility budget as specified by Section 5(b).

35  
36 (j) To establish personnel policies and benefits and Equal Opportunity policies as specified  
37 in Section 8; and in Article V of the Charter.

38  
39 (k) To adopt an ordinance authorizing the city commission to disapprove proposed changes  
40 to fees, charges, and rates, by six sevenths (6/7) vote of the commission, as set forth in  
41 Section 4(j).

42  
43 (7) General manager for utilities.  
44

1 (a) The board shall appoint a general manager for utilities ("general manager") who, as a  
 2 charter officer, shall be the chief executive officer of GRU. The general manager shall be  
 3 responsible for the efficient administration of Gainesville Regional Utilities. The general  
 4 manager shall be responsible to the board. The general manager for utilities shall serve at  
 5 the will of the board.

6 (b) Powers and duties generally. The general manager:

7 1. Shall be responsible for and have exclusive management control over operating and  
 8 financial affairs of GRU including, but not limited to, the planning, development,  
 9 production, purchase, sale, exchange, interchange, transmission and distribution of  
 10 all electricity; the planning, development, purchase, sale, exchange, interchange,  
 11 transmission and distribution of all natural gas; the planning, development, supply,  
 12 treatment, transmission, distribution and sale of all potable water; and the planning,  
 13 development, collection, treatment, disposal and billing of all wastewater now or  
 14 hereafter provided by the city;

15 2. Shall submit to the board for its consideration a yearly budget for the operation of  
 16 GRU;

17 3. Shall be the purchasing agent for all equipment, materials, supplies and services  
 18 necessary for operating and maintaining GRU subject to policies promulgated by  
 19 the board;

20 4. Shall propose to the board the job titles of subordinates that are to be considered  
 21 directors of department;

22 5. Shall appoint and, except as otherwise provided in this charter, remove all directors  
 23 of departments at will;

24 6. Shall recommend to the board all measures necessary and expedient for the proper  
 25 governance and management of GRU;

26 7. Shall keep the board fully advised as to the management and needs of GRU;

27 8. Shall perform all other duties prescribed by law, this charter, or direction of the  
 28 board, and

29 9. Is vested with authority to administer the assigned duties of his offices including the  
 30 employment and removal of all subordinate employees of his offices. The general  
 31 manager must make all appointments based on merit and fitness alone and, except  
 32 as otherwise provided in this section, may remove nonprobationary personnel only  
 33 for cause, obsolescence of position, budgetary restriction, or for other legitimate  
 34 reasons. The general manager may purchase and contract for supplies, materials,  
 35 equipment, and services required to perform his assigned duties under procedures  
 36 and limitations prescribed by the board.

1 (c) Interference with general manager.  
2

3 Neither the board, city commission, board member, city commissioner, mayor nor board  
4 chair, may dictate the appointment of any person to office or employment by the general  
5 manager nor in any manner interfere with the independence of the general manager in the  
6 performance of his duties. Except for the purpose of an inquiry, the commission, board  
7 and each of the members thereof, including the mayor or board chairman, must deal with  
8 employees of GRU solely through the general manger, and neither the commission,  
9 board, nor any member thereof, may give orders to any subordinates of the general  
10 manager either publicly or privately. Any commissioner or board member who violates  
11 this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in  
12 Florida Statutes.  
13

14 (8) Employees, legal services, auditing services.

15 (a) To maximize efficiencies, reduce costs, and provide consistency among city employees,  
16 GRU shall utilize the city's human resources, risk management, city attorney, internal  
17 auditor, and Equal Opportunity Officer. By mutual agreement of the board and the city  
18 additional services may be provided from one party to the other but only on a cost-  
19 accounted basis.  
20

21 (b) All current and future employees of GRU shall be employees of the city, whose pay and  
22 benefits shall be an operating expense of GRU. All employees of GRU shall continue  
23 without loss of right or benefits as city employees. As city employees, all rights and  
24 benefits shall be informed by the city's human resources and equal opportunity policies.  
25

26 (c) The board and GRU shall use the legal services of the city on a cost-accounted basis  
27 except in those cases when the city attorney determines that the city legal staff cannot or  
28 should not provide legal services in the required legal area. The board shall appropriate  
29 the funds necessary to meet the obligations for outside legal services as determined by the  
30 city attorney. The city attorney shall consult with the board before he or she selects  
31 outside counsel.  
32

33 In the event the city attorney determines that it is no longer feasible to provide services  
34 from the city's legal staff, the city attorney shall notify the commission and the board.  
35 Upon receiving notice, the board shall be authorized to retain its own legal counsel and  
36 shall appropriate the funds necessary to meet the obligations for legal counsel.  
37

38 (d) The board and GRU shall use the internal auditing services of the city on a cost-  
39 accounted basis except in those cases when the city auditor determines that the internal  
40 auditing staff cannot or should not provide auditing services. The board shall appropriate  
41 the funds necessary to meet the obligations for outside auditors.  
42

43 (e) The board and GRU shall use the services and follow the policies established by the  
44 city's Equal Opportunity Officer.

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(9) Pre-existing obligations. The board shall have the same rights, obligations and remedies under pre-existing contracts and obligations as the city commission does. The board may sue and be sued on behalf of the City pursuant to those pre-existing obligations.

(10) Transitional period. All ordinances currently in effect regarding utility services shall be repealed by the city commission and re-adopted by the board by resolution. The resolution shall remain in effect until the board takes action to modify or repeal the resolution, or other actions.

**Section 5.** Section 5.04 of the Charter is hereby amended as follows.

**5.04. Disposal of utilities.**

The commission or board of trustees, may not in any manner, dispose of or agree to dispose of the city’s electrical or water production or distribution facilities or any part thereof so as to materially reduce the capacity of the city to produce or distribute electrical energy or water, unless the commission does so by ordinance with the prior approval of a majority vote of the qualified electors of the city voting at an election for the purpose of approving the ordinance.

**Section 6.** The following ballot title and question is approved for submission to the electors of the City of Gainesville, Florida, for approval or rejection at the municipal election set for \_\_\_\_\_:

CITY OF GAINESVILLE CHARTER AMENDMENT

Should the City’s Charter be amended to remove governance authority over Gainesville Regional Utilities from the elected City Commission and place such authority in a board of trustees appointed by the City Commission?

**Section 7.** The amendment to the Charter Laws set out in Section 2 through Section 6 of this ordinance is approved for submission to the electors of the City of Gainesville, Florida, for approval or rejection at the municipal election to be held on \_\_\_\_\_.



1 \_\_\_\_\_  
2 KURT M. LANNON  
3 CLERK OF THE COMMISSION

\_\_\_\_\_  
NICOLLE M. SHALLEY  
CITY ATTORNEY

4

5 This ordinance passed on first reading this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2015.

6

7 This ordinance passed on second reading this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2015.