

Dear Mayor and Gainesville City Commissioners:

I write this justification on behalf of the utility advisory board (UAB) for a joint meeting between the UAB and the Gainesville City Commission (GCC) to work together to explore granting the UAB more decision-making authority as opposed to being a board that only recommends positions to the GCC.

Several months ago, both the UAB and GCC voted to hold a meeting between the two bodies to begin discussions to grant the UAB more decision-making authority. The meeting was scheduled for September 14<sup>th</sup> but was cancelled by Mayor Poe to prioritize security, response, and the City of Gainesville's preparation for the arrival of hatermonger Richard Spencer.

The joint meeting is now proposed for your consideration for November 28. Following is justification for having this meeting:

- 1) Both bodies already voted to have it.
- 2) The UAB has been working for many months to develop a proposal to the GCC for more decision-making authority. Although no official vote for a proposal has occurred, there is a draft proposal to be voted upon by the UAB and if approved will be brought to the GCC for consideration.
- 3) Commissioner Harvey Budd attended one of the UAB meetings and asked that we work with the GCC in a joint meeting before making a proposal. The UAB took this suggestion.
- 4) In November 2018, City of Gainesville residents will vote whether to form an Independent Utility Advisory Board. If this passes, the UAB will be disbanded. By granting more decision-making authority to the UAB, this may decrease the chances it passes.
- 5) Without the joint meeting, I will recommend that the UAB vote on its current UAB decision-making proposal to the GCC.
- 6) Many on the UAB have stated publicly that if nothing changes, they would individually support an independent utility board.

For these reasons, I strongly recommend that this meeting take place as proposed on November 28.

Sincerely,

Darin Cook  
UAB Chair