City of Gainesville

City Hall
200 East University Avenue
Gainesville, Florida 32601

Meeting Agenda

January 14, 2021

6:30 PM

Modified Agenda

City Hall Auditorium

Utility Advisory Board

Wendell Porter (Member)
Wes Wheeler (Member)
Barry Jacobson (Member)
Carla Miles (Member)
Theresa Spurling-Wood (Non-Voting Member)
Tim Rockwell (Member)
Don Davis (Non-Voting Member)
Fletcher Crowe (Member)
Jason Fults (Member)

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CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

ADOPTION OF CONSENT ITEMS

200692. **Minutes of the November 18, 2020 and December 17, 2020 UAB Meetings**

Explanation: *Staff has prepared minutes from the UAB's November 18, 2020 meeting and December 17, 2020 workshop.*

Fiscal Note: *None.*

RECOMMENDATION *Approve minutes as drafted.*

200692_UAB_11.18.20_Meeting_Minutes_20210114

200692_UAB_12.17.20_Workshop_Minutes_20210114

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

STATE OF THE UTILITY

200694. **GRU Operational Update for the Month of December 2020 (B)**

Explanation: *Staff has prepared a report of statistical and operational data for GRU in the month of December 2020.*

Fiscal Note: *None.*

RECOMMENDATION *Receive report.*

200694_UAB_Ops_Update_All_Depts_20210114

OLD BUSINESS

200621. **UAB Annual Report 2019-2020 (B)**

Explanation: *The City Commission has requested that each City advisory board and/or committee draft an annual report on the board's activities for the Fiscal Year 2019-2020. The UAB discussed this at their December 17, 2020 workshop and agreed that Chair Porter would draft the report and the board would review, comment and finalize the report at their January 14, 2021 meeting prior to submitting it to the City Commission.*

Fiscal Note: None.

RECOMMENDATION *Discuss any changes or concerns from board members and finalize the report.*

200621_Advisory_Boards_and_Committees_Annual_Report_2019-2020_20201

200621_UAB_2019-2020_Annual_Report_Draft_20210114

200621_UAB_2019-2020_Annual_Report_F.Crowe.Edits_20210114

NEW BUSINESS

180361. **Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Approval (B)**

Explanation: *Over the last decade, Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) has been one of the top initiatives for utilities around the U.S. The technology employed through AMI systems is no longer a cutting edge technology. It is a mature technology tested and deployed throughout the utility industry. AMI is a must have for any utility tasked with driving organizational and customer efficiencies.*

AMI is an integrated system of smart meters, communications networks, and data management systems that enable two-way communication between utilities and customers. These systems provide a number of important functions that GRU cannot currently deploy or has to perform manually, such as the ability to automatically and remotely measure consumer consumption, connect and disconnect services, detect meter tampering, identify and isolate outages, and monitor voltage.

AMI technology offers utilities valuable information about customer usage, including consumption behavior, effects of external variables and outages. Both the customer and the utility are able to find out how energy is used. The knowledge of the customer's usage improves the customer service representatives' ability to work with a customer to understand his or her bill, which in turn increases customer confidence in the billing process.

Additionally, the customer will have the ability to monitor their utility usage. Those GRU customers who take advantage of this new benefit can better understand their usage, change their behaviors and ultimately be rewarded with lower energy usage and lower utility bills.

Overall, GRU envisions the successful deployment of an AMI system resulting in better customer interaction, improved quality of service and shortened response times to outages.

GRU has done extensive homework in regard to AMI. In 2014, GRU conducted a rollout of a small pilot program. An ITN was issued and an AMI vendor was awarded the opportunity to participate. This vendor provided an AMI solution that gave the utility the ability to investigate

functions of smart meters, head end system software, and various types of communication protocols. This pilot program was rolled out strategically over a four-year period and the tests consisted of automated internal controls, meter to cash integrations (AMI meter data combined with billing system requirements equals billing statement), and various backhaul solutions and data analytic programs (communication efforts).

This AMI pilot program proved successful and provided the utility with a blueprint to not only deploy, but also maximize the potential benefits of an AMI system. With knowledge from the pilot system, as well as multiple site visits with other organizations that were using AMI, in 2017/2018 the utility engaged two industry consultants to develop the business case, as well as a gap analysis, assessment, and feasibility study for AMI. The business case quantified the cost and benefits that an AMI system deployment could have for the utility.

Based on the success of the pilot program, business case, gap analysis, assessment and feasibility study, in late 2018, GRU initiated two invitations to negotiate (ITN) for the AMI technology as well as the installation of the meters. After review of the proposals, consultations with other utilities and consultant guidance the team determined Itron (technology/meters) and Aclara (installation), could provide the best value to GRU. These two vendors were selected to move forward to negotiate. After extensive negotiations, GRU recommends the award of the AMI and Installation ITNs to Itron and Aclara, in general agreement with the current draft documents, subject to approval by the City Attorney as to form and legality.

Fiscal Note: *$47.1 Million - Total Estimated Implementation Cost*
$79.6 Million - Total Estimated Cost of Ownership (includes implementation costs) over the 21-year agreement
$81.2 Million - Total Estimated Cost Savings and Benefits over 21 years
$ 1.6 Million - Net Estimated Cost Savings of solution

RECOMMENDATION

1. Authorize the General Manager or his designee to execute a Master Agreement with Itron for a term of 21 years that includes the purchase of the metering assets, network infrastructure, software licenses, professional services to implement the project and the provision of ongoing software as a service for the hosting and ongoing maintenance of the software in a secure cloud. The Master Agreement set of documents includes SaaS, SOW, Order Document and MSA, which are all subject to approval by the City Attorney as to form and legality.

2. Authorize the General Manager or his designee to execute an agreement with Aclara SGS for the installation of Smart Meters for the AMI solution. The agreement and SOW are subject to approval by the City Attorney as to form and legality.

180361 AMI ITN Update - UAB 20180913

180361_AMI_Presentation_20210114

200693. **Integrated Resource Plan Discussion (B)**

****This Item is Informational Only****

Explanation: *The Integrated Resource Plan is a strategic planning tool used by utilities to study different options to meet the future generation needs of its system. GRU has completed an interim Integrated Resource Plan. The methodology, inputs, and results of that plan are important to building GRU's strategic plan going forward.*

Fiscal Note: *None.*

RECOMMENDATION *Hear staff presentation on the methodology, scope, and results of the most recent Integrated Resource Plan.*

200693_GRU_IRP_Presentation_20210114

MEMBER COMMENT

NEXT MEETING DATE

January 26, 2021 (Joint with City Commission)
February 11, 2021 (Regular meeting)

ADJOURNMENT