

City of Gainesville

City Hall
200 East University Avenue
Gainesville, Florida 32601



Minutes - Draft

April 14, 2022

1:00 PM

City Hall Auditorium

General Policy Committee

Mayor Lauren Poe (At Large)
Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Reina Saco (At Large, Seat A)
Commissioner Cynthia Moore Chestnut (At Large, Seat B)
Commissioner Desmon Duncan-Walker (District 1)
Commissioner Harvey Ward (District 2)
Commissioner David Arreola (District 3)
Commissioner Adrian Hayes-Santos (District 4)

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CALL TO ORDER - 1:02 PM

Mayor Poe welcomed the delegation from Duhok, Iraq and announced a moment of silence for the anniversary of the Kurdish genocide.

1:03 pm: Commissioner Arreola arrived.

ROLL CALL

Present 6 - Mayor Poe, Commissioner Hayes-Santos, Commissioner Ward, Commissioner Chestnut, Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Saco, and Commissioner Arreola

Absent 1 - Commissioner Duncan-Walker

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

A motion was made by Commissioner Hayes-Santos, seconded by Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Saco, that this Matter be Adopted as Modified. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Mayor Poe, Commissioner Hayes-Santos, Commissioner Ward, Commissioner Chestnut, Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Saco, and Commissioner Arreola

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Duncan-Walker

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

AM-1 [210970.](#) **Approval of Minutes from the February 24, and March 10, 2022 General Policy Committee Meetings (B)**

RECOMMENDATION *The General Policy Committee approve the February 24, and March 10, 2022 minutes.*

A motion was made by Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Saco, seconded by Commissioner Ward, that this Matter be Approved as Recommended. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Mayor Poe, Commissioner Hayes-Santos, Commissioner Ward, Commissioner Chestnut, Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Saco, and Commissioner Arreola

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Duncan-Walker

DISCUSSION OF PENDING REFERRALS

DP-1 [211064.](#) **Introduction and Welcome of Duhok Delegation (B)**

Mayor Poe welcomed the delegation and gave introductory remarks.

Bahar Armaghani, University of Florida, Director of Gainesville Sister City relationship, introduced the delegation and gave remarks. Governor of Duhok, Kurdistan Region, Iraq, gave a presentation.

Commissioners thanked the delegation and gave remarks.

1:28 - Meeting recessed

1:32 pm - Meeting reconvened

RECOMMENDATION *The General Policy Committee hear remarks.*

Heard

DP-2 [211055.](#)

General Policy Committee Administrative Session (B)

Motion: Request the City Attorney to draft a resolution amending the Commission's rules to change the sunset date of the referral list to December 31.

Mayor Poe introduced the item. Commissioners discussed.

The Commission agreed to approve the proposed 3rd quarter schedule with the following modifications:

- Combine the RTS parking update and app into one item; and move to a Regular City Commission meeting when the Interim GRU General Manager is ready.*
- Special Election Discussion on 5/26 with public outreach information on which the issue is being discussed.*
- Move the Broadband Discussion to a Regular City Commission meeting when the Interim GRU General Manager determines the item is ready.*
- Commissioners should notify Mayor Poe when they have ideas ready to discuss, and he will work with the City Clerk on scheduling Commissioner items.*

Anthony Cunningham, Interim GRU General Manager, spoke to the matter.

Morgan Spicer, Policy Oversight Administrator, spoke to the matter.

RECOMMENDATION *The General Policy Committee set its agendas for the 3rd quarter of FY22 and discuss whether any referrals should be retained for further work prior to the automatic sunset date of April 30th.*

A motion was made by Commissioner Hayes-Santos, seconded by Commissioner Ward, that this Matter be Approved, as shown above. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Mayor Poe, Commissioner Hayes-Santos, Commissioner Ward, Commissioner Chestnut, Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Saco, and Commissioner Arreola

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Duncan-Walker

DP-3 [211101.](#)

One City Community Relations Plan (B)

Yvette Carter, Office of Government Affairs and Community Relations, gave a presentation.

Commissioners discussed and thanked staff.

RECOMMENDATION

The General Policy Committee hear a presentation by the Office of Government Affairs & Community Relations (GACR) regarding the Community Relations Plan.

Discussed

DP-4 [210813.](#)

GRU and General Government Department Consolidation (B)

Anthony Cunningham, Interim GRU General Manager, introduced the item and gave remarks.

Cynthia Curry, Interim City Manager, spoke to the matter.

Motion by Commissioner Hayes-Santos, second by Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Saco, to ask staff to bring back information on the pros, cons and potential issues of moving all City employees to one email domain; to request that the City Manager and GRU General Manager follow staff recommendations to reach out to similar organizations for information on consolidation; and to publish an RFQ to engage an outside firm to conduct further analysis to ask GRU to bring back a plan and potential costs for rebranding GRU and the City.

(1) Vote: Explore City/GRU rebranding: Motion passed 4-2. Commissioner Chestnut and Commissioner Arreola in dissent. Commissioner Duncan-Walker absent.

(2) Vote: Balance of motion. Motion passed 6-0. Commissioner Duncan-Walker absent.

RECOMMENDATION

The General Policy Committee hear presentations from staff

and discuss.

Approved, as shown above

DP-5 [211114.](#)

Charter Officers' Annual Performance Evaluations and Pay Increases (B)

The City Commission evaluate the performance of the Charter Officers from October 2, 2020 - September 30, 2021, and approve pay increases for Charters.

Motion by Commissioner Arreola, second by Commissioner Ward: 1) Accept the proposed 2.5% merit increases and amend the Charter Officers' contracts to remove the car allowance and transfer the amount to the base pay. Motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Duncan-Walker absent. 2) Approve an additional 10% salary increase for the City Clerk. Motion passed 4-2. Commissioner Hayes-Santos and Commissioner Chestnut in dissent. Commissioner Duncan-Walker absent.

Laura Graetz, Interim Human Resources Director, presented the item.

Zeriah Folston, Interim Director of the Office of Equity and Inclusion, spoke to the matter.

Morgan Spicer, Interim Policy Oversight Administrator, spoke to the matter.

Request by Commissioner Chestnut that Human Resources review the position of the City Clerk and bring back information comparing to similar positions in other cities.

RECOMMENDATION

The City Commission: 1) review the performance of each Charter Officer; 2) establish appropriate performance ratings; 3) decide appropriate increase in compensation for City Clerk's increased duties and 3) consider pay increases for FY21.

Approved, as shown above

DP-6 [211062.](#)

Wild Spaces & Public Places Update and Thelma A. Boltin Center Discussion (B)

Motion: Ask staff to place this item on an Historic Preservation Board meeting agenda for feedback; and to seek feedback from the Duckpond Neighborhood. The Commission directed to replace the Thelma Boltin building, including a multi-use trail and taking elements of the old building while seeking to find the best use; continuing to work with the current design firm. The Commission asked staff to come back with information on the cost

to light Possum Creek Park and identifying a funding source.

Betsy Waite, WSPP Director, gave a presentation.

Public comment: Billy Rohan, Erica Ramirez, Penny Weber

RECOMMENDATION

The General Policy Committee hear a staff update by Wild Spaces & Public Places.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hayes-Santos, seconded by Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Saco, that this Matter be Approved, as shown above. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Mayor Poe, Commissioner Hayes-Santos, Commissioner Ward, Commissioner Chestnut, Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Saco, and Commissioner Arreola

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Duncan-Walker

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tana Silva

MEMBER COMMENT

Commissioner Ward commented on parking near the new Blount Center.

Request by Commissioner Hayes-Santos for Mayor Poe to place an item on the 4/28 City Commission GPC meeting to give final direction on precinct maps; to hear the first reading of an ordinance on May 6; and to call a special meeting for a second reading of the ordinance if needed. Dan Nee, Interim City Attorney, spoke to the matter.

Commissioner Saco commented on an update requested on the GINI Program. Cynthia Curry, Interim City Manager, spoke to the matter.

NEXT MEETING DATE

April 28, 2022

ADJOURNMENT - 4:29 PM