

# City of Gainesville

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



## **Minutes**

**April 12, 2016**

**5:00 PM**

**City Hall Auditorium**

## **Utility Advisory Board**

*Annie Orlando  
Darin Cook  
David Denslow  
Robert Walpole  
Mary Alford  
Sandra Campbell  
Michael Selvester*

*Persons with disabilities who require assistance to participate in this meeting are requested to notify the Office of the Equal Opportunity at 334-5051 or call the TDD phone line at 334-2069 at least two business days in advance.*

## CALL TO ORDER

*Because this was the first meeting of the board and no chair had been elected, there was no official call to order. General Manager Ed Bielarski started the meeting at approximately 5:00 p.m.*

## ROLL CALL

*All Board members were present.*

## ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

*There was no official adoption of the agenda.*

## ACTION ITEMS

### 150907.

#### **Establish Rules of Order and Procedures for Board (B)**

**Attachments:**     [150907 Board Logistics Matrix 20160412](#)  
[150907 UAB Draft Rules 20160504](#)  
[150907 UAB Rules of Order - Draft 20160504](#)

*General Manager Ed Bielarski went through a list of decisions that needed to be made by the Board and gave GRU management's recommendation for each item, including board orientation, meeting schedule, process with executive team, meeting preparation, citizen comment, communication with city commission, communication technology. The list with management's recommendations is attached to these minutes.*

*After a brief discussion about meeting dates/times and orientation, Board member Denslow suggested that each member list their top priorities for Board discussion over the course of time. Each member's priorities are listed below.*

*David Denslow - Buying GREC, future prospects for GREC; disconnect policy; marginal cost pricing for water; procedurally, work with a combination of example and data; correlation between income and energy usage.*

*Darin Cook - GREC; amount of debt and types of debt; customer home efficiency as part of disconnect policy; innovation in restructuring of Florida's electric system policies to allow us to sell GREC's green energy across state lines.*

*Sandy Campbell - Average citizen, understands debt, water conservation, individuals' inability to pay their bills. Excited to participate in budget process.*

*Mary Alford - Water/Wastewater connection fees are high, look at ways to lower them or put them into the utility bill to be paid over a period of time, tie to incentive to build more energy efficient buildings and water conservation; making homes more energy efficient, concerned about people with high bills having to choose between utilities and food or other daily necessities; how GRU affects the environment, permitting, environmental problems, wastewater pipes, some citizens still on septic tanks;*

ground water quality.

*Robert Walpole - Make sure that all the issues and recommendations that arose out of Blue Ribbon Panel carry through to GRU and are lived up to.*

*Annie Orlando - Financials; business and operational efficiencies; budget, rates, debt; status of assets, plants getting older; how does GRU evolve to keep up with new forms of generation; how do we protect the GFT.*

*Michael Selvester - Perspective as student. Opportunities for competition that exist in Florida in the commercial natural gas arena, any advantages to opening up choice for business for natural gas, way to generate revenue for City by charging public service tax on natural gas.*

*Additional discussion surrounded selling energy to the University of Florida and the use of smart meters.*

**RECOMMENDATION**

*The board: 1) elect a chair and vice chair; 2) discuss the above-described procedural items.*

## STATE OF THE UTILITY

### 150910.

#### **Administration and Operations Updates**

*Chief Operating Officer Tom Brown, Chief Change Officer Michelle Lambert, Chief Information Officer Walter Banks and Chief Financial Officer Justin Locke each gave presentations on the areas of the utility under their management and each answered questions that arose from Board members.*

*Citizen Jim Konish spoke about GRU's financial and billing processes.*

## MEMBER COMMENT

*Dr. Denslow made a motion to ask either Darin Cook or Annie Orlando to be the board chair. Mary Alford seconded the motion. After some discussion, Dr. Denslow amended the motion to ask Darin Cook to be the chair and Annie Orlando to be the vice-chair. Mary Alford seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

*After discussion, the board agreed that meetings would be held on Wednesdays. No firm decision was made about whether to meet in the afternoon or the evening.*

*Robert Walpole made a motion that the board operate by Robert's Rules of Order. Annie Orlando seconded the motion. The motion failed on a 1-6 vote.*

*Dr. Denslow made a motion to use a modified version of Robert's Rules of Order similar to those used by the Gainesville City Commission. Sandy Campbell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

## CITIZEN COMMENT

## NEXT MEETING DATE

*To be determined.*

## ADJOURNMENT

*The meeting was adjourned at 8:53 p.m.*