

City of Gainesville

City Hall
200 East University Avenue
Gainesville, Florida 32601



Minutes

May 25, 2021

5:30 PM

**Workshop
Revised Minutes
Virtual via Zoom**

Utility Advisory Board

Wendell Porter (Member)
Wes Wheeler (Member)
Barry Jacobson (Member)
Carla Lewis (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

The meeting was called to order at 5:38 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Members Wheeler, Fults, Crowe, Jacobson

Absent: Members Davis, Spurling-Wood, Porter, Rockwell, Lewis

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted with the following modifications:

Hear New Business before Old Business

OLD BUSINESS

[200693.](#)

Discussion of GRU's Integrated Resource Plan (B)

Attachments: [200693 GRU IRP Presentation 20210114](#)
[200693 GRU IRP Report Master Final 20210126](#)
[200693 UAB Inputs to IRP 20210323](#)
[200693 Draft UAB IRP Input Presentation 20210323](#)
[200693 Energy Efficiency in Southeast Ann Rept 20210408](#)
[200693 Member Wheeler Notes from 1-26-21 20210408](#)
[200693 Resolution 180442 20210408](#)
[200693 Recommendations Member Fults 20210408](#)

RECOMMENDATION *Continue discussion of the IRP with consideration of the Commission's feedback.*

This item was heard after Item #210031.

Discussion among members included:

Include a scenario in 2022 IRP to have 100% renewable by 2030?

Enhance Demand side management – IRP include required periodic self-rating from GRU

Environmental impacts of climate change – lifecycle cost of fuels – include in IRP – each scenario should include a carbon impact

Ensure adequate back-up capacity for reliability – would like to see some discussion of including local renewables as source of reliability

Board members agreed that they should continue working on achievable, measurable timeline goals for obtaining 100% renewable by 2045 and stated

that these goals be included in the final policy plan and in the 2022 IRP base scenario.

Board members recommended that the 2022 IRP include a required periodic self-rating from GRU based on the same metrics discussed in the recent ACEEE report "Unrealized Potential" so that we can see how GRU stacks up against other FL utilities with regard to its efficiency efforts. Also, staff should use total resource costs tests for evaluating energy efficiency, as used in states outside of Florida, rather than relying on the ratepayer impact measures currently in use here.

Board members asked that staff report to the UAB and City Commission on the Commission's motions on how GRU might discontinue fossil gas rebates and that staff revisit and possibly reconsider how it is marketing fossil gas as clean energy as soon as practicable.

Board members recommended that the 2022 IRP couch future planning within the context of climate projections over the next 20 years, cumulative carbon emissions, & projected impacts of climate change on this community. These discussions should also include, to the extent practicable, the complete life-cycle costs of the fuels GRU uses, rather than simply the "tailpipe emissions."

Board members agreed that the 2022 IRP should include a discussion on how locally produced renewable energy should be considered a fundamental underpinning of resilient and available local supply when other fuel source deliveries are interrupted.

[180258.](#)

Utility Advisory Board's Draft Energy Policy for the City of Gainesville (B)

Attachments: [180258 Energy Policy Presentation 20210610](#)
[180258 Energy Policy Survey Analysis 20210610](#)

RECOMMENDATION *Discuss results of citizen survey on the draft energy policy.*

Board decided to discuss this item before Item #200693.

Staff presented survey results and board asked for staff to return with additional information at their June 10th meeting. They would like a statistical analysis of the data. The board will vote at their June 10th meeting on whether to discuss this with the Commission at the July 27, 2021 joint UAB/Commission meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

[210031.](#)

City Commission Directives (B)

Attachments: [210031 CCom Comments 4-27-21 Joint UAB Meeting 20210525](#)

RECOMMENDATION *Discuss the City Commission's motion from the April 27th meeting and the list of additional Commission comments in the back-up.*

Took up motion regarding gas rebates from CCom. GM Ed Bielarski

commented that we are in process of cutting the FY22 budget and are looking at possibility of decreasing gas rebates. Will send report as soon as possible. Can't address gas marketing at this time.

Member Fults – Specifics on what portion of rebates going to non-GRU customers. Marketing in media and public sphere, irked hearing ads about clean natural gas.

Member Jacobson – Can we exclude GRU customers from gas rebates and give them to non-customers? Ed will check into it.

Come back to workshop on 6/22 w/answers on rebates and marketing.

MEMBER COMMENT

Member Fults - thinks we have to start focusing on helping neighbors achieve more affordable bills

Member Jacobson – FIT was designed to be financial equivalent to solar rebates.

Member Wheeler – Have to keep focus on bigger picture – not just spreadsheets.

Citizen Nathan Skop spoke for public comment.

NEXT MEETING DATE

June 10, 2021

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 p.m.