

City of Gainesville

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



Minutes

May 4, 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

The meeting was called to order at 5:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

The agenda was adopted as drafted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES**150967. Minutes of the April 12, 2016 UAB Meeting (B)**

Attachments: [150967 Minutes 4-12-16 UAB 20160504](#)

The Board approved the minutes of the 4/12/16 UAB meeting as submitted.

RECOMMENDATION *Approve minutes as drafted.*

UNFINISHED BUSINESS**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](#)

The Board continued discussions from the last meeting about the content of the draft rules. Most of the discussion centered around absences and whether Board members could call in to the meeting if they could not attend. Attorney McNeill explained that a call in could be an option if the Board chose. Sandy Campbell made a motion that the number of excused absences be increased to four (4), a call in not be considered an absence, and that the Board itself determine whether absences are excessive. Mary Alford seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion was had about what constitutes an excused absence. Dr. Denslow made a motion that the absence policy be amended to "absences" rather than "excused" absences. Mary Alford seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.

Chair Cook asked how soon the attendance policy could be approved. Attorney McNeill explained that she once she made the changes to the draft rules, they would have to be approved by the Commission and the ordinance that created the Board would have to be amended, so it would probably take between 6-8 weeks for the changes to be finalized.

Attorney McNeill asked for clarification on the call in option, specifically how many

people would be allowed to call in during one meeting. The Board thought that there should be a cap on the number allowed to call in for one meeting. Attorney McNeill said that she would incorporate the suggestions into the rules and bring them back to the next meeting for the Board to vote on.

RECOMMENDATION

The board: 1) confirm meeting schedule; 2) discuss the draft rules and accept or revise; 3) discuss the draft rules of order and accept or revise; 4) decide on a process for giving the Board's recommendations on GRU agenda items to the City Commission.

NEW BUSINESS[150971.](#)**AMEND THE RETENTION LETTER WITH WINSTON & STRAWN LLP TO CONTINUE REPRESENTATION OF THE CITY IN THE REVIEW OF ISSUES RELATED TO THE BIOMASS POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT (NB)**

General Manager Ed Bielarski explained why we were requesting that the City Commission increase the amount of money we could spend to retain the legal services of Winston and Strawn. After discussion, the Board voted unanimously to recommend approval by the City Commission.

Citizens Jim Konish and Donald Shepherd spoke to the matter.

RECOMMENDATION

The Board: 1) recommend that the City Commission authorize the Office of the City Attorney, on behalf of the General Manager for Utilities, to amend the retention letter with Winston & Strawn LLP for the representation of the City d/b/a in the review of issues related to the Biomass PPA to reflect a maximum cap of \$200,000 in legal fees; or 2) provide an alternative recommendation.

[150966.](#)**Residential Billing Cycle and Disconnections (B)**

*****This item is for informational purposes.*****

Attachments:

[150966 UAB Disconnects-Customer Assistance 20160504](#)

GRU Chief Customer Officer Bill Shepherd gave a presentation about GRU's disconnect policy, and outlined some disconnect statistics. This item was for informational purposes only.

RECOMMENDATION

Hear a presentation from Chief Customer Officer Bill Shepherd.

[150910.](#)**State of the Utility (NB)**

No operational reports were given.

CITIZEN COMMENT

Nancy Deren asked the Board to study the Ft. Collins (Colorado) Utility Energy Board, and submitted a copy of their 2016 Energy Board Work Plan for the record.

[160072.](#)

Citizen Comment

Attachments: [N.Deren - Submittal to UAB 5-4-16](#)

BOARD COMMENT

Chair Cook asked that for the next meeting, the General Manager outline his priorities. He also asked that the Board members list their top three priorities for discussion at the next meeting.

Member Alford asked if GRU's 2015 goals were on the website. She stated that the Board would like to know how we did on those goals and how we're doing by comparison in 2016. She asked that we take 10 minutes of each meeting to give an update on various metrics, including safety, financials, outages, and other such things.

NEXT MEETING DATE

May 18, 2016 at 1:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:39 p.m.