

City of Gainesville

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



Minutes

May 18, 2016

1:00 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 1:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Member Annie Orlando entered the meeting at 1:05 p.m.

Member Robert Walpole entered the meeting at 1:08 p.m.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted as drafted. However, General Manager Ed Bielarski explained that item 160022 would be informational instead of an action item as listed in the agenda. The Board approved the modification.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the May 4, 2016 Utility Advisory Board meeting were approved as drafted.

160014. Minutes of the May 4, 2016 Utility Advisory Board Meeting (B)

Attachments: [160014 UAB 5.4.16 Meeting Minutes 20160518](#)

RECOMMENDATION *Staff recommends that the Board approve the minutes.*

NEW BUSINESS**160022. Gainesville Regional Utilities Unaudited Internally Prepared Financial Statements for the Period Ended March 31, 2016. (B)**

Attachments: [160022 Unaudited Interim Financial Statements -PE 3.31.16 - 20160518](#)

CFO Justin Locke gave a presentation and led the discussion of GRU's unaudited quarterly financial statements for the period ending March 31, 2016. The Board received this item for informational and educational purposes. Most of the questions from the Board centered on water/wastewater connection charges. After numerous questions arose, CFO Locke stated that we would put a discussion of connection charges on a future agenda as a separate item for a more in depth discussion. The Board asked that we send them a copy of the ordinance that created and details Infrastructure Improvement Areas.

RECOMMENDATION *The Utility Advisory Board review and recommend to the City Commission that they accept the GRU Unaudited Internally Prepared Financial Statements for the period ended March 31, 2016.*

160023.

**Gainesville Regional Utilities Internally Prepared Supplementary Data
for the Period Ended March 31, 2016 (B)**

Attachments: [160023 Supplementary Data -PE 3.31.16 - 20160518](#)

The Board heard a presentation by Diane Wilson on supplementary financial information. They agreed that GRU will bring the financials back to the Board every quarter.

Citizen Jim Konish spoke on this item.

Vice-Chair Orlando made a motion that citizen comment on individual items be limited to three minutes and restricted to the item, and that three minutes be given for citizens during the citizen comment period at the end of the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

RECOMMENDATION *The Utility Advisory Board review and recommend that the City Commission accept the GRU Unaudited Internally Prepared Financial Statements for the period ended March 31, 2016.*

[160015.](#)

GRU's Top Priorities (B)

Attachments: [160015 GRU Priorities 20160518](#)
 [150910 GRUFY15BusinessPlan 20160518](#)
 [150910 Dash Board Report 2016 March 20160518](#)

General Manager Ed Bielarski presented GRU's top three priorities which were developed in a strategic planning session with GRU's Executive and Leadership teams. Chair Cook suggested that GRU might want to develop a culture statement.

Each Board member listed their priorities as follows:

Michael Selvester - Bring perspective of student/recent grad into Board deliberations; increase competitiveness; private marketing arm to sell natural gas

Robert Walpole - Mayor's Blue Ribbon plan come to life through GRU

Mary Alford - Track basic tenets of utility service; safety; budget; reliability; streetlight charges; benchmarking connection charges; innovation on LEDS - how do other cities do it?

Annie Orlando: Make sure all GRU decisions are in the best interest of the customer; get rates down to lower third or middle of pack; keeping up with technology and innovations in generation for the future; GFT and the city; UF as a customer

Sandy Campbell - Make rates more affordable for all customers; fresh look at relationship with the city; operational policies (e.g. cut-off times)

David Denslow - Objectives apply to Board; focus on long term issues vs short term/immediate issues; Board must learn to deal with uncertainty and risk; keep Board apprised of rules imposed on GRU (e.g. relationship with city, regulations)

Darin Cook - Board look at longer term impacts; GREC's impact on poor and small businesses, what changes can we make to help them; economic development rate;

Nest for LEEP program; look at existing technologies

After listing their priorities, the Board agreed that they should create their own long-term vision statement, and asked that a discussion of that be put on the next meeting agenda.

RECOMMENDATION

Hear and discuss the General Manager's priorities for GRU.

150910.

State of the Utility (B)

Attachments: [IT Projects - W.Banks SOU UAB - 5-18-16](#)

CFO Justin Locke spoke briefly about the process of bringing our FY17 budget before the Board.

Chief Information Officer Walter Banks handed out a list of current IT projects. The Board asked for time to look at them before the next meeting and for him to be prepared to answer any questions they may have.

RECOMMENDATION

Receive report from staff.

MEMBER COMMENT

Mary Alford - Please make sure that anything put on the overhead is large enough to read. Put State of Utility on the agenda first.

Annie Orlando - Asked if it is possible to have GRU-related emails that are sent to the City Commission by either staff or citizens sent to the Board automatically. Staff agreed that we will copy the Board on any emails that we send out but stated that our IT department will have to determine if there is any automatic process they may be able to undertake for emails that come from citizens. It is not possible under our current system.

CITIZEN COMMENT

NEXT MEETING DATE

June 29, 2016 at 3:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.