

City of Gainesville

City Hall
200 East University Avenue
Gainesville, Florida 32601



Minutes - Final

January 12, 2017

1:00 PM

Joint City Commission/Utility Advisory Board Special Meeting

Gainesville Regional Utilities Multi-Purpose Room

City Commission

Mayor Lauren Poe (At Large)

Commissioner Harvey Budd (At Large)

Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Helen Warren (At Large)

Commissioner Charles Goston (District 1)

Commissioner Todd Chase (District 2)

Commissioner Craig Carter (District 3)

Commissioner Adrian Hayes-Santos (District 4)

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ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA - 1:03 PM

Present 6 - Commissioner Goston, Commissioner Budd, Commissioner Chase, Mayor Poe, Commissioner Hayes-Santos, and Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Warren

Absent 1 - Commissioner Carter

AGENDA STATEMENT

[160650.](#)

STRATEGIC VISION FOR GRU (B)

Agenda adopted by consensus.

Commissioner Chase arrived at 1:08 PM.

Commissioner Goston arrived at 1:15 PM.

Item No. 1 - Recommend that GRU get an attorney that answers to the General Manager of GRU

- *Chair Cook: Attorney reporting to the GRU General Manager.*
- *Sandra Campbell: No financial impact.*
- *Nicolle Shalley: 1) Gave an understanding of the duties for the City Attorney's office; and 2) Nicolle Shalley will be attending all UAB meetings until the Utility Attorney is hired.*
- *Commissioner Hayes-Santos: 1) City Commission should set a policy that the UAB has an attorney at every meeting; 2) alter policy that there is an attorney over at the GRU building; and 3) alter the policy where the GRU attorney is an expert in energy matters.*
- *Commissioner Budd: 1) Be part of the Executive Management Team; and 2) new attorney to have a contractual background.*
- *Commissioner Chase: 1) Authorities of the UAB; and 2) continue to consider the decoupling of the Utility from the City.*
- *Annie Orlando: 1) UAB should have exercise oversight; and 2) add a link from the Consent Agenda to UAB's meetings.*
- *Commissioner Goston: 1) Supports anything that the UAB does to get the City back to where it needs to be.*
- *Mary Alford: 1) Set into place the same policies/procedures/processes.*
- *David Denslow: 1) Salary structure; and 2) favor of having a separate attorney that reports to the General Manager for Utilities.*
- *Robert Walpole: Legal opinions/advice (UAB needs their own attorney).*
- *Ed Bielarski listed a few of GRU's accomplishments.*

Jim Konish, Ray Washington and Robin Baxley spoke to the matter.

Item No. 2 - Visit rate structure for both relief and for economic opportunity

- Chair Cook: Different rate structures for the relief of the economic disadvantage/business opportunities.*
- Mary Alford: Look at connection fees and allowing some gradient of charges based on the cost of the home.*
- Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Warren: Incentives for landlords to reduce energy efficiency.*
- Commissioner Budd: 1) Incentives for Enterprise Zones (connection charges) and for the UAB to come up with suggestions/creative ideas with the Utility; and 2) Housing stock - make affordable.*
- Commissioner Hayes-Santos – 1) UAB to use their expertise to create policies to make GRU/City better; and 2) look at budget and rates.*
- Commissioner Goston: 1) Advantages of Enterprise Zones (developers are being hurt statewide); and 2) requests that the UAB and Chamber get with other cities to see how they logistically formulated their Enterprise Zones.*
- Commissioner Chase: UAB needs to focus on making an impact.*

Item No. 3 - Improve community outreach

- Chair Cook: Not enough good coverage to tell folks how good GRU is.*
- Commissioner Goston: Need better community outreach.*
- Mary Alford: Promote job opportunities working for GRU.*

Item No. 4 - Unfunded mandate transparency

Commissioner Goston left at 3:02 pm.

- Mayor Poe: UAB needs a more detailed level of budget.*
- Annie Orlando: Accountability for GRU to implement programs.*
- Sandra Campbell: Transfers of GRU/City (potential savings).*
- Commissioner Chase: Unfunded mandates.*
- Commissioner Hayes-Santos: 1) Transparency towards GRU budget; and 2) GRU/General Government work together on priorities list.*
- Tony Cunningham: GRU works with General Government (looking at whole neighborhoods).*
- Annie Orlando: UAB is getting a lot more transparent.*
- Robert Walpole: Unfunded mandates affect rates in the long-term.*

Item No. 5 - Long term strategy in the face of huge disruptive factors such as distributed generation and battery storage of electricity

- *Mayor Poe: Industry/new business opportunities.*

Item No. 6 - Expansion of service in basic products such as natural gas and other possibilities taking #5 into account

Commissioner Budd left at 3:29 pm.

- *Commissioner Hayes-Santos: Expansion of Broadband internet services (long-term financial).*
- *Commissioner Chase: GRUCom future will be the largest decision to make in the future.*
- *Annie Orlando: Companies that are delivering internet services are bigger than GRU (companies should be more accountable).*

Item No. 7 – Attracting and retaining talent (Human Resources)

- *Mayor Poe: 1) Work on priorities, starting a new pay study, look at turnover rates, and get methodology of pay study to the UAB.*
- *Sandra Campbell: - Salary survey, benchmarking, recognize employee's needs.*

Eugenia Allen was introduced as the new Human Resources Director.

Discussion Items not on list

- *Commissioner Hayes-Santos: Priorities for the UAB: 1) GRU Urban Design Standards; 2) 21st Century Utility in GRU and how that is implemented; and 3) how things are structured in the UAB (yearly topics).*
- *Mary Alford: Safety and environmental concerns.*
- *Commissioner Chase: Make sure UAB is involved in future discussions of GREC.*
- *Annie Orlando: Annual report.*

Motion by Commissioner Hayes-Santos, seconded by Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Warren: Clerk to schedule a joint meeting with the topic being the budget. Motion passed 4-0. Commissioners Goston, Budd and Carter absent.

RECOMMENDATION

Discuss the UAB's and the City Commission's priorities for GRU and combine them into a strategic vision for the Utility.

Action: As shown above or discussed.

ADJOURNMENT - 4:00 PM

Kurt Lannon, Clerk of the Commission