

City of Gainesville

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



Minutes

March 15, 2017

3:00 PM

MODIFIED AGENDA

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 3:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Michael Selvester, Sandy Campbell, David Denslow, Annie Orlando, Darin Cook, Robert Walpole, Mary Alford.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Adopted

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[160847.](#) Minutes of the 02-15-17 UAB Meeting (B)

Attachments: [160847 UAB 02-15-17 Meeting Minutes 20170315](#)

*The minutes of the 2/15/17 meeting were approved with the following amendment:
Change Darin Cook's attendance from absent to present.*

RECOMMENDATION *Approve minutes as drafted.*

CITIZEN COMMENT

Citizens Jim Konish and Nancy Deren spoke.

STATE OF THE UTILITY

[160845.](#) GRU Operational Update for February 2017 (B)

Attachments: [160845 UAB Operational Data - 2017Feb 20170315](#)

Update heard.

RECOMMENDATION *Receive information and metrics regarding GRU's operations.*

[160846.](#) GREC Update (NB)

Attachments: [160846 GREC GRU History 20160316](#)
[160846 GREC MOU - Signed Final 20170503](#)
[160846 - Draft GREC APA 20170517](#)

Update heard. Member Orlando requested an update on funds spent to date on outside counsel for the GREC issue.

Citizens Jim Konish, Donald Shepherd and Nancy Darin spoke on the matter.

RECOMMENDATION

Receive update from staff.

OLD BUSINESS

Before taking up the first item of old business, Chair Cook asked the board to address the letter of evaluation on Ed Bielarski they had previously drafted and submitted to the City Commission. The City Commission chose to remove it from the agenda and Chair Cook asked whether the board wanted to read the letter into the record or send it to the City Commission in an email so that it would become part of the public record. Member Campbell made a motion, seconded by Member Orlando, to send the letter to the City Commission, including the Commissioners-elect, by email. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

160747.

GRU Bills (B)

Attachments: [160747 Sample Bill 2016Dec 20170215](#)

The Board discussed various issues with the design of GRU's bills and the information printed on the bills. Some of the issues discussed were:

Making the amount due for GRU service and the amount for City services (stormwater and garbage) more clear so that customers understand that some of the services are billed on behalf of the City.

Making clear the number of days of service being billed.

Putting the taxes and surcharges under the GRU services that were being taxed and not under the City services.

They asked staff to consider these and other options for bill design changes.

As to the issue of whether GRU should bill stormwater and garbage on behalf of the city, some members expressed that it isn't good policy to cut off water and electric service if a person can't pay the entire bill. They discussed that another option is to have these services billed through the county tax collector, but cautioned that failure to pay in that instance would cause the county to place a lien on the home. Ultimately, the board felt that further discussion should be delayed until a member of City staff could be there for questions and answers.

RECOMMENDATION

Discuss.

160745.

Visit Rate Structures for Both Relief and Economic Opportunity (B)

Attachments: [160745 Overview of Electric Rates 20170215](#)

Staff gave a presentation on GRU's current rate structure for both residential and non-residential customers, as well as the REAL service rider and the economic development incentive. The board voted 6-0 with member Walpole absent, to continue discussing this issue at their next workshop. They asked staff to bring

additional information and prepare some alternatives to the REAL and EDI.

Citizen Jim Konish spoke on the issue.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1) *Hear a presentation from staff*
- 2) *Vote on whether to focus only on non-residential electric rate structures at this time.*

NEW BUSINESS

160860.

Professional Services Agreement for Implementation of Remedial Action Plan Modification at Former Gainesville Manufactured Gas Plant Site (Depot Park) (B)

Attachments:

[160860 Draft ECT Prof Svcs Agreement 20170315](#)

[160860 ECT Proposal Attachment C 20173015](#)

The Board voted 6-0, with member Walpole absent, to support staff's recommendation to the City Commission.

Citizen Donald Shepherd spoke on the issue.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the City Commission: 1) authorize the General Manager or his designee to execute a contract with Environmental Consulting & Technology (ECT), subject to approval of the City Attorney, for the installation of a groundwater monitoring well and groundwater sampling and laboratory analysis; 2) approve the issuance of a purchase order to ECT for the work in the amount of \$160,250.40.

160843.

Florida House Bill 759 (B)

Attachments:

[160843 HB 759 Governance 20170315](#)

[160843 HB 759 - Current Version 20170503](#)

[160843 Email from D.Cook re Indep Util Brd 20170517](#)

After discussion amongst the Board members, Member Orlando made a motion to put HB 759 on the next workshop agenda for further discussion and to establish the Board's position on the issue. Dr. Denslow seconded and the motion passed 6-0 with member Walpole absent.

Citizen Jim Konish spoke on the issue.

RECOMMENDATION

Discuss.

MEMBER COMMENT

Member Orlando said that citizen Ray Washington sent an email to the UAB but it was not received. She asked staff to check into why it wasn't received. She distributed a copy of the email.

CITIZEN COMMENT

Citizens Donald Shepherd and Nancy Daren spoke.

NEXT MEETING DATE

April 19, 2017

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:32.