

City of Gainesville

City Hall
200 East University Avenue
Gainesville, Florida 32601



Minutes - Final

February 28, 2019

1:00 PM

Joint City Commission/Utility Advisory Board Workshop

GRU Multi-Purpose Room

City Commission

GRU Multi-Purpose Room

Mayor Lauren Poe (At Large)

Commissioner Helen Warren (At Large)

Commissioner Gail Johnson (At Large)

Commissioner Gigi Simmons (District 1)

Commissioner Harvey Ward (District 2)

Commissioner David Arreola (District 3)

Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Adrian Hayes-Santos (District 4)

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CALL TO ORDER - 1:00 PM**AGENDA STATEMENT****ROLL CALL**

Present 7 - Mayor Poe, Commissioner Ward, Commissioner Arreola, Commissioner Warren, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Simmons, and Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Hayes-Santos

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

A motion was made by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Simmons, that this Matter be Adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Mayor Poe, Commissioner Ward, Commissioner Warren, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Simmons, and Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Hayes-Santos

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Arreola

PUBLIC COMMENT

Commissioner Arreola arrived at 1:14 PM.

*Jim Konish
Don Fields
Nathan Scott
Donald Shepherd
Ray Washington
Jo Beaty
Brian O'Brien*

BUSINESS DISCUSSION ITEM**180211. GRU Financial Sustainability (B)**

GRU General Manager, Ed Bielarski gave a presentation with the following recommendations: 1) Implement proposed rate increases; 2) Restructure debt; 3) Reduce GFT payments; and 4) Reduce expenses.

Interim City Manager, Deborah Bowie gave opening remarks.

City Budget Manager, Karen Fiore made a presentation with the following recommendations: 1) Increase millage rate between 1 and 2 Mills, as well as with some budget cuts that are limited to any kind of service level impacts ; 2) General Manager and Interim City Manager negotiate a new sustainable GFT calculation; 3) One time hiring freeze; and 4) Expenditure reduction options; revenue increase options.

Staff asked for direction from the Commission on budget, preferred options for

revenue increase and expense reduction.

Future budget workshops are scheduled.

Listed below are Commission Comments:

Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Hayes-Santos: Total Rewards Study needs to be a part of the information.

Commissioner Simmons: 1) Question regarding revenue increase options. Would like staff to look at potential revenue from sales of City-owned property; and 2) Requests future budget workshops to include actual numbers of recurring baseline expense increases.

Mayor Poe: Would like staff to bring back information about funds, GRU or GG spending to support outside agencies or governmental institutions.

Commissioner Arreola: 1) Asked a question about budget estimate presented.

Commissioner Warren: 1) Supported moving forward with debt reduction presented by GRU Manager; 2) Staff to come back with scenarios on various approaches for moving forward.

Commissioner Ward: 1) Thanked all staff; 2) Renewables; and 3) Debt refinancing.

Commissioner Johnson: 1) Asked questions regarding potential revenue opportunities presented by GRU; 2) Rebate; 3) Rehabing Kelly Unit; 4) Debt restructuring; and 5) Request to use fewer acronyms in presentations.

Tina Fields; Nathan Skop; Donald Shepherd; Ray Washington, Nancy Daren and Randy Wells spoke to the matter.

City Auditor, Carlos Holt spoke to the matter.

RECOMMENDATION Hear a presentation from staff.

COMMISSION COMMENT

ADJOURNMENT - 4:15 PM