

City of Gainesville

City Hall
200 East University Avenue
Gainesville, Florida 32601



Minutes - Final

October 22, 2019

6:00 PM

Joint City Commission/Utility Advisory Board Special Meeting

Gainesville Regional Utilities Multi-Purpose Room

City Commission

Mayor Lauren Poe (At Large)

Commissioner Helen Warren (At Large)

Commissioner Gail Johnson (At Large)

Commissioner Gigi Simmons (District 1)

Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Harvey Ward (District 2)

Commissioner David Arreola (District 3)

Commissioner Adrian Hayes-Santos (District 4)

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CALL TO ORDER - 6:01 PM**AGENDA STATEMENT****ROLL CALL**

Present 6 - Commissioner Arreola, Commissioner Warren, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Hayes-Santos, Mayor Poe, and Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Ward

Absent 1 - Commissioner Simmons

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Donald Shepherd spoke to the matter.

A motion was made by Commissioner Warren, seconded by Commissioner Hayes-Santos, that this Matter be Adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 4 - Commissioner Warren, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Hayes-Santos, and Mayor Poe

Absent: 3 - Commissioner Arreola, Commissioner Simmons, and Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Ward

BUSINESS DISCUSSION ITEMS[180475.](#)**Update on UAB's Draft Energy & Utility Policy (B)**

Motion: Direct General Manager to bring back staff analysis, adding consideration of additional revenue sources, communications plan, equity and diversity policies and internal control policies. Mayor requested to expand direction to all City staff.

Mayor Poe thanked UAB and staff for their work on the draft policy. Introduced the item.

UAB Chair Sylvester introduced the presentation on the draft policy.

Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Ward arrived at 6:05 pm.

Commissioner Warren asked a question about the goals and timeline included in the draft policy. Mr. Sylvester responded. UAB Member Wes Wheeler commented. Commissioner Warren asked follow-up questions. Wes Wheeler responded.

Commissioner Hayes-Santos asked a question about the goals. UAB

Member Wes Wheeler responded. Members discussed. GRU General Manager Ed Bielarski spoke to the matter. Commissioner Hayes-Santos asked for draft of more specific goals for policies. Mr. Bielarski commented. Wes Wheeler commented.

Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Ward thanked UAB members for their work. Commented about the goals and timeline for the draft plan, spoke in support of specific policy goals from the UAB to inform the Commission. UAB Member responded.

Commissioner Arreola arrived at 6:27 pm.

UAB Chair continued the presentation about renewable energy sources. Mary Alford, UAB Member, commented.

Commissioner Hayes-Santos asked a question regarding section 2.7, water supply. Member Alford responded.

Commissioner Ward commented in favor of strengthening items 2.7 and 2.8. UAB Members responded.

UAB Member commented about lack of policy on wastewater reuse. Members discussed. Commissioner Warren commented about wastewater.

Commissioner Hayes-Santos commented about wastewater and watering lawns.

UAB Chair continued presentation. Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Ward asked a question. UAB Chair and member commented about land development and environmental impacts.

Commissioner Johnson asked a question about environmental justice and impacts. Supports expanding recommendations of the Race and Equity Subcommittee to include consideration of GRU policies. UAB member responded. Commissioner Johnson commented about models of community benefits strategies from San Francisco utility.

Commissioner Warren thanked UAB for its work. Commented about balancing energy efficiency requirements with renters' needs.

Ed Bielarski commented about utility costs and the draft energy policy. Commissioner Warren responded.

UAB Member commented about the responsibility of GRU and City general government related to the draft policies. Members discussed.

Commissioner Hayes-Santos asked a question about whether UAB discussed how to address additional potential revenue sources to offset rate adjustments. UAB Chair responded. Members commented. Mr. Bielarski responded.

UAB Member discussed draft policy development; commented about referring to additional documents created, making policies more detailed and educating the public (customers). Members discussed.

Mayor Poe commented about upcoming proposed public engagement plan to be presented at upcoming Commission meeting (Community Engagement Toolkit). Members commented.

Commissioner Johnson responded about public engagement and communication; suggested including communication in the policy. UAB Member commented. Ed Bielarski commented about GRU Communications Plan; will provide copies to the Commissioners per Commissioner Johnson's request.

Commissioner Arreola asked to discuss continuing capacity upgrades for software/IT to account for costs.

Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Ward commented about the term "customer" to describe GRU and general government recipients of services.

UAB Member suggested communication plan to include messaging/public outreach. UAB members discussed terms "customer" and "owner" for residents.

Commissioner Hayes-Santos commented about communicating with residents as "owners"; the name of GRU.

Commissioner Warren commented about the "public facing" section of the policy. Suggested using positive communication about GRU work to the community (e.g., signage).

Ed Bielarski spoke to the matter. UAB Member commented about GRU employees and the economy.

Commissioner Johnson left the meeting at 7:32 pm.

Commissioner Arreola asked General Manager about staff input and research provided for this policy work; what will the expectation be going forward? UAB Chair responded. Ed Bielarski responded, discussed the draft policy. Commissioner Arreola commented about the draft policy, need for staff analysis moving forward.

Commissioner Hayes-Santos commented about including draft policies in the Comp Plan. UAB Chair responded. Commissioner Hayes-Santos commented about including general government analysis on policies.

Commissioner Warren commented about the plan.

Mayor Poe commented about additional revenue sources; communication; equity, diversity and inclusion (internal and external). Commented about staff analysis of policy, language to build flexibility and change in the policy. Wants staff feedback on which pieces of the draft policy are GRU and/or City government responsibilities. Asked UAB to review former drafts to include additional information, to share a "strike-through" version with the Commission.

Hayes-Santos commented about including a resource protection part.

UAB Member commented about discussion. Suggested adding a column to the policy document to include staff input. Member discussed comments.

Nancy Darren, Roberta Gasmeyer, Janice Gary and Donald Shepherd spoke to the matter.

Ed Bielarski commented about GRU community outreach.

Hayes-Santos commented in favor of including consideration of policies across Charter Officers.

RECOMMENDATION

Discuss and take any action deemed appropriate.

A motion was made by Commissioner Arreola, seconded by Commissioner Warren, that this Matter be Approved, as shown above. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Commissioner Arreola, Commissioner Warren, Commissioner Hayes-Santos, Mayor Poe, and Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Ward

Absent: 2 - Commissioner Johnson, and Commissioner Simmons

PUBLIC COMMENT

MEMBER COMMENT

Motion by Commissioner Hayes-Santos, seconded by Commissioner Warren: Direct the Clerk's office to open an application for the upcoming vacant positions. Motion passed 5-0. Commissioner Johnson and Commissioner Simmons absent.

UAB Members commented.

UAB member Mary Alford commented about submitted resignation in upcoming month. Thanked Commission.

UAB Chair commented about his upcoming resignation; suggestion for altering timeline for appointment of new members.

Mayor thanked members for their service.

Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Ward thanked everyone involved.

Commissioner Hayes-Santos thanked members for their service.

Commissioner Arreola thanked members for their service.

Commissioner Warren thanked members for their service.

Mayor Poe left the meeting at 8:17 pm.

ADJOURNMENT - 8:18 PM