

City of Gainesville

City Hall
200 East University Avenue
Gainesville, Florida 32601



Minutes - Final

June 7, 2021

3:00 PM

City Commission Special Meeting

City Hall Auditorium

City Commission

Mayor Lauren Poe (At Large)

Commissioner Reina Saco (At Large, Seat A)

Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Gail Johnson (At Large, Seat B)

Commissioner Desmon Duncan-Walker (District 1)

Commissioner Harvey Ward (District 2)

Commissioner David Arreola (District 3)

Commissioner Adrian Hayes-Santos (District 4)

If you have a disability and need an accommodation in order to participate in this meeting, please contact the Office of Equal Opportunity at (352)334-5051 at least two business days in advance. TTY (Text Telephone Telecommunication Device) users please call 711 (Florida Relay Service). For Speech to Speech (STS) relay, please call 1-877-955-5334. For STS Spanish relay, please call 1-877-955-8773. For STS French Creole relay, please call 1-877-955-8707.

CALL TO ORDER - 3:06 PM**AGENDA STATEMENT****ROLL CALL**

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

Absent 1 - Commissioner Duncan-Walker

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

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

Aye: 6 - Commissioner Hayes-Santos, Mayor Poe, Commissioner Saco, Commissioner Ward, Commissioner Arreola, and Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Johnson

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Duncan-Walker

BUSINESS DISCUSSION ITEMS[201211.](#)**Continued Discussion of GRU's Proposed FY22 Budget (B)**

Ed Bielarski, GRU General Manager introduced.

Claudia Rasnick, GRU Chief Financial Officer gave a presentation.

Lee Feldman, City Manager spoke to the matter.

RECOMMENDATION

The City Commission hear a presentation from staff on the FY22 GRU budget and take action as appropriate.

Heard

[201207.](#)**General Government Budget (B)**

Lee Feldman, City Manager introduced.

Karen Fiore, Budget Manager gave a presentation.

Cintya Ramos, Finance Director spoke to the matter.

Fire Chief Dixon spoke to the matter.

Zeriah Folston, Policy Oversight Administrator gave a presentation.

Motion by Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Johnson: Staff come back at the July 17th meeting with: Data for eligibility requirements for recurring assistance. Source of potential funds for recurring assistance. Framework and parameters for a program. Staff come back with efficacy of current programs, i.e. ProjectSHARE, Leep, etc. Motion died for lack of a second.

Motion by Commissioner Arreola, seconded by Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Johnson: Accept GRU's recommendation as presented, in order to mitigate negative impacts to those most negatively impacted by potential rate increases (low-income neighbors) and to look more deeply into what expanded utility assistance will look like.

At our July 17th meeting, the following info is presented to us:

- Staff come back to Commission with eligibility requirements and guidelines and a program for 1) recurring assistance; and 2) pay off existing plans, source of funds included but not limited to ARP Funds, General Fund and Utility Tax Revenue. Efficacy of programs such as CWC, Leap, HEAP, Energy Home Assistance Program.*
- Bring back framework for weatherization and energy efficiency programs in order to lower people's utility bills.*
- Bring back info on what the state and county have spent on COVID utility programs including what funding is left.*
- Allow Commission ARP referrals to E&I and other appropriate staff for analysis.*

Motion passed 5-1, (all except 7% increase) Commissioner Hayes-Santos in dissent. Commissioner Duncan-Walker absent.

Motion passed 5-1 (with 7%) Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Johnson in dissent. Commissioner Duncan-Walker absent.

Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Johnson left the meeting at 6:06 PM.

Public Comment: Donald Shepherd, Nathan Skop, Debbie Martinez, Armando Grundy-Gomez.

RECOMMENDATION

The City Commission hear a presentation from staff and take action as deemed appropriate.

Approved, as shown above

PUBLIC COMMENT

MEMBER COMMENT

ADJOURNMENT - 6:20 PM