

# City of Gainesville

City Hall  
200 East University Avenue  
Gainesville, Florida 32601



## **Minutes - Final**

July 27, 2021

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 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 - 6:00 PM****AGENDA STATEMENT****ROLL CALL**

**Present** 4 - Mayor Poe, Commissioner Ward, Commissioner Duncan-Walker, and Commissioner Arreola

**Absent** 3 - Commissioner Hayes-Santos, Commissioner Saco, and Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Johnson

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

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

**Aye:** 4 - Mayor Poe, Commissioner Ward, Commissioner Duncan-Walker, and Commissioner Arreola

**Absent:** 3 - Commissioner Hayes-Santos, Commissioner Saco, and Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Johnson

**BUSINESS DISCUSSION ITEMS****[201103.](#)**

**Proposed Cost Agreement with St. Johns River Water Management District to Meet Lake Brooklyn and Geneva Minimum Flows and Levels (MFLs) (B)**

**\*\*This item was presented to the UAB on July 8, 2021.\*\***

**Summary:** GRU staff worked with St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) staff to develop a proposed cost participation agreement which will enable the City of Gainesville d/b/a Gainesville Regional Utilities (“GRU”) to comply with Minimum Flows and Levels (MFLs) rules for Lakes Brooklyn and Geneva. Under the proposed agreement GRU will pay \$2.71 million to SJRWMD as a cost participation for the Black Creek Water Resource Development Project. The agreement will ensure GRU’s compliance with these MFLs through at least 2045. GRU will pay the money into an escrow account, which has a separate escrow agreement associated with it. The proposed cost participation and escrow agreements will be presented to the SJRWMD governing board for their approval on July 13, 2021. Staff recommends that City Commission approve the agreements and have the mayor sign them, upon approval of SJRWMD governing board.

*Tony Cunningham, Water/Wastewater Officer, GRU, introduced the item.*

*Rick Hutton, GRU gave a presentation.*

**RECOMMENDATION**

- 1) *City Commission approve the proposed cost participation and escrow agreements and settlement stipulation and have the mayor sign them.*
- 2) *City Commission approve the dismissal of all petitions related to the MFLs and Recovery Strategy, upon approval of these agreements by the SJRWMD governing board.*

*On July 8, 2021, the UAB voted 6-0, with Member Lewis absent, to advise the Commission to approve the staff recommendation.*

**A motion was made by Commissioner Arreola, seconded by Commissioner Ward, that this Matter be Approved as Recommended. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 4 - Mayor Poe, Commissioner Ward, Commissioner Duncan-Walker, and Commissioner Arreola

**Absent:** 3 - Commissioner Hayes-Santos, Commissioner Saco, and Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Johnson

**210206.****Update on Natural Gas Rebate Policies and Marketing (B)**

*Motion: 1) Direct staff to stop using the term “clean” and “environmentally friendly” in relation to natural gas and other fossil fuels in marketing materials; and 2) Provide UAB with staff support to bring back recommendations on energy rebate programs.*

*Tom Brown, GRU Chief Operating Officer and Tom Lipton, Engineer and Utility Designer III gave a presentation.*

*Public Comment: Armando Grundy-Gomes, Roberta Gastmeyer, Jeffrey Shapiro and Nathan Skop.*

**RECOMMENDATION**

*Discuss and take action deemed appropriate.*

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

**Aye:** 4 - Mayor Poe, Commissioner Ward, Commissioner Duncan-Walker, and Commissioner Arreola

**Absent:** 3 - Commissioner Hayes-Santos, Commissioner Saco, and Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Johnson

**180258.****Public Engagement Strategy for Public Input on the UAB's Energy Policy Plan (B)**

*Motion: Mayor to work with staff to develop a public engagement process to collect input on Energy Policy Plan.*

*Mayor Poe introduced the item.*

*UAB Chair Wheeler spoke to the item.*

**RECOMMENDATION**

*The UAB and City Commission discuss and the Commission either provide direction for further work on the policy or decide whether to accept and implement the policy as is.*

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

**Aye:** 4 - Mayor Poe, Commissioner Ward, Commissioner Duncan-Walker, and Commissioner Arreola

**Absent:** 3 - Commissioner Hayes-Santos, Commissioner Saco, and Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Johnson

[210158.](#)

**Partnership Opportunities for Federal and State Grants (B)**

*Mayor Poe will communicate with University of Florida and Santa Fe College leadership and report back about partnering on funding opportunities.*

**RECOMMENDATION**

*Discuss and take any action deemed appropriate.*

**Discussed**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**MEMBER COMMENT**

**ADJOURNMENT - 8:33 PM**