

# City of Gainesville

City Hall  
200 East University Avenue  
Gainesville, Florida 32601



## **Minutes - Final**

January 27, 2022

1:00 PM

City Hall Auditorium

## **General Policy Committee**

*Mayor Lauren Poe (At Large)*  
*Commissioner Reina Saco (At Large, Seat A)*  
*Commissioner Desmon Duncan-Walker (District 1)*  
*Commissioner Harvey Ward (District 2)*  
*Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem David Arreola (District 3)*  
*Commissioner Adrian Hayes-Santos (District 4)*

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

**Present** 6 - Mayor Poe, Commissioner Hayes-Santos, Commissioner Saco, Commissioner Ward, Commissioner Duncan-Walker, and Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Arreola

[210869.](#)

**Attendance Affidavit (B)**

*Need to click on Item Number for attachment.*

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

*Adopt agenda with updates and move Member Comment to first discussion item.*

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

**Aye:** 5 - Mayor Poe, Commissioner Saco, Commissioner Ward, Commissioner Duncan-Walker, and Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Arreola

**Nay:** 1 - Commissioner Hayes-Santos

**AM APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**AM-1** [210745.](#) **Approval of Minutes from the January 13, 2022 General Policy Committee Meeting (B)**

**RECOMMENDATION**

*The General Policy Committee approve the January 13, 2022 minutes.*

**A motion was made by Commissioner Hayes-Santos, seconded by Commissioner Saco, that this Matter be Approved as Recommended. The motion carried by the following vote:**

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

**MEMBER COMMENT**

*Commissioner Ward motioned to terminate the contract of GRU General Manager Ed Bielarski, second by Commissioner Saco.*

*Interim City Attorney Dan Nee spoke to the matter.*

*Public comment: Nathan Skop, Donald Shepherd, Jenn Powell, Cynthia Chestnut, Evelyn Foxx, Robin Baxley*

*Mayor Poe commented suggested Tony Cunningham to serve as Acting GRU General Manager.*

*Motion clarified by Commissioner Ward to terminate Mr. Bielarski without cause; and to offer the opportunity to Tony Cunningham to serve as Interim CEO.*

*GRU General Manager Ed Bielarski spoke to the matter.*

*Motion passed 4-2. Commissioner Duncan-Walker and Commissioner Arreola in dissent.*

## **DP DISCUSSION OF PENDING REFERRALS**

### **DP-1 [210813.](#) GRU and General Government Department Consolidation (B)**

*Motion: (1) approve staff recommendation (2) focus on consolidation focusing on long-term savings, services and efficiencies for neighbors (3) explore a name and brand change for GRU that reflects that the utility is part of the City; (4) review of policies and standards across the City general government and GRU.*

*Interim City Manager Cynthia Curry introduced the item.*

*City Auditor Ginger Bigbie spoke to the matter.*

*Commissioners discussed.*

*Public comment: Nathan Skop, Donald Shepherd, Jo Beatty, Debbie Martinez*

*2:35 pm - Mayor called a meeting recess*

*2:38 pm - Meeting resumed.*

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

*The General Policy Committee hear presentations from staff and discuss.*

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

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

**DP-2     [210781.](#)**

**Special Events Services - Project Update (B)**

*Interim City Manager Cynthia Curry introduced the item. Jacqueline Stetson, Director of Citizen Centered Design, gave a presentation.*

*Commissioners discussed.*

*Ms. Curry spoke to the matter.*

*Staff will continue working with Commissioners and bring back with recommendations on a City Commission agenda.*

*Public comment: Nathan Skop*

**RECOMMENDATION**

*It is recommended that the City Commission hears a presentation by city staff and give feedback on specific policy questions.*

**Discussed**

**DP-3     [210267.](#)**

**Discussion on Broadband Initiative (B)**

*Commissioner Ward and Mayor Poe commented.*

*Interim City Manager Curry spoke to the matter.*

*Courtney Violette and David Brevitz, Magella Advisors, gave a presentation.*

*Mayor Poe departed the meeting.*

*Commissioners discussed.*

*Commissioner Hayes-Santos commented in support of considering moving forward with a business plan for municipal broadband for homes and businesses with initial rollout to the priority 1 area using ARPA funds; following a utility pricing model and create a free broadband plan; and move \$10 million in ARPA funds for revenue replacement.*

*Mayor Pro-Tem Arreola commented that motions will not be taken due to lack of a physical quorum.*

*Public comment: Nathan Skop, Bryan Eastman, Amy Pfannesnsteil, Telford Cartwright, Cynthia Chestnut,*

**RECOMMENDATION**

*It is recommended that the General Policy Committee hear a presentation from Magellan Advisors about the Broadband Business Model Options and provide feedback to staff and the consultant.*

**Discussed**

**DP-4    [210688.](#)**

**Federal Legislative Priorities 2022 (B)**

*Mayor Pro-Tem requested that Commissioners communicate preferences to Harry Glenn for the Commission to vote on later.*

*Harry Glenn, federal lobbyist, gave a presentation.*

**RECOMMENDATION**

*The City Commission review and approve the list of Federal Legislative items and adopt the 2022 Federal Legislative Priorities for our Federal lobbying team.*

**Discussed**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

*Nathan Skop*

*Mayor Pro-Tem Arreola gave a statement.*

**NEXT MEETING DATE**

**February 10, 2022**

**ADJOURNMENT - 5:22 PM**