



**General Policy Committee Meeting
MINUTES**

**April 13, 2023, 1:00 p.m.
City Hall Auditorium
200 East University Avenue
Gainesville, FL 32601**

Members Present: Mayor Ward, Commissioner Book,
Commissioner Chestnut, Mayor Pro
Tempore Duncan-Walker, Commissioner
Eastman, Commissioner Saco,
Commissioner Willits

A. CALL TO ORDER - 1:00 PM

Commissioner Eastman joined the meeting at 1:03 pm.

Mayor Pro Tempore Duncan-Walker joined the meeting at 1:04 pm.

B. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Moved by Commissioner Saco

Seconded by Commissioner Willits

Motion: The General Policy Committee adopt the agenda.

Aye (5): Mayor Ward, Commissioner Book, Commissioner Chestnut,
Commissioner Saco, and Commissioner Willits

Absent (2): Mayor Pro Tempore Duncan-Walker, and Commissioner Eastman

Approved (5 to 0)

C. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- 1. Approval of Minutes from the March 23, 2023 General Policy Committee Meeting**

Moved by Commissioner Saco
Seconded by Commissioner Book

Recommendation: The General Policy Committee approve the minutes from the March 23, 2023 meeting.

Motion: Approved as recommended.

Aye (6): Mayor Ward, Commissioner Book, Commissioner Chestnut, Commissioner Eastman, Commissioner Saco, and Commissioner Willits

Absent (1): Mayor Pro Tempore Duncan-Walker

Approved (6 to 0)

D. BUSINESS DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. 2023-335 GRU Debt Reduction and Targeted Capitalization Rates, and Proposed Government Services Contribution Formula (B)

Anthony Cunningham, General Manager of Utilities, introduced the item.

Cynthia Curry, City Manager, spoke to the item.

Presentation given by Mark Benton, Director of Accounting and Finance for Utilities.

Presentation given by Steve Varvel, Acting Budget Director.

Public Comment: Donald Shepherd

Moved by Commissioner Eastman
Seconded by Commissioner Chestnut

Recommendation: The General Policy Committee approve 1) the recommended GSC formula methodology and 2) a ten year period to reach the 70% target capitalization rate.

Motion: Approve the recommended GSC formula with an added option brought back at an upcoming meeting with industry averages for electric, water, wastewater, natural gas, and telecommunications, franchise fees to approve a 10-year period to reach 70% capitalization rate and to re-review the formula upon reaching the 70% capitalization rate based on the methodology of any of the three bond ratings agencies.

Withdrawn

Moved by Commissioner Eastman
Seconded by Commissioner Chestnut

Motion: Approve staff's recommendation.

Aye (7): Mayor Ward, Commissioner Book, Commissioner Chestnut, Mayor Pro Tempore Duncan-Walker, Commissioner Eastman, Commissioner Saco, and Commissioner Willits

Approved (7 to 0)

Moved by Commissioner Eastman
Seconded by Commissioner Willits

Motion: Revisit GSC formula methodology for automatic review upon reaching 70% target capitalization.

Aye (7): Mayor Ward, Commissioner Book, Commissioner Chestnut, Mayor Pro Tempore Duncan-Walker, Commissioner Eastman, Commissioner Saco, and Commissioner Willits

Approved (7 to 0)

Recess - 2:23 PM

Reconvene - 2:42 PM

2. 2023-338 Fiscal Year 2024 Strategic Plan Discussion (B)

Anthony Cunningham, General Manager of Utilities, spoke to the item.

Cynthia Curry, City Manager, spoke to the item.

Recommendation: The General Policy Committee hear an update on the progress towards implementation of the FY 2023 Strategic Plan and provide direction to the Charters for the FY 2024 Strategic Plan critical needs, high and top priorities.

Heard

3. 2023-361 Revision to GRU's FY24 Budget Calendar (NB)

Anthony Cunningham, General Manager of Utilities, spoke to the item.

Moved by Mayor Pro Tempore Duncan-Walker

Seconded by Commissioner Chestnut

Recommendation: The General Policy Committee approve GRU's amended budget calendar.

Motion: Approved as recommended.

Aye (7): Mayor Ward, Commissioner Book, Commissioner Chestnut, Mayor Pro Tempore Duncan-Walker, Commissioner Eastman, Commissioner Saco, and Commissioner Willits

Approved (7 to 0)

E. MEMBER COMMENT

Commissioner Eastman: Expressed appreciation for all city employees. What we do as a city has a huge impact on the people of Gainesville, including making sure the roads are safe, providing parks services, and the police and fire departments keeping everyone safe. What cities do and what we do as a city is incredibly important this includes GRU maintaining a balanced grid.

Mayor Ward: Expressed appreciation and support for city employees and encouraged them to reach out with questions since the elected body doesn't make decisions in a vacuum. Happy to answer what he can. Echoed sentiments regarding GRU's work to ensure the lights are on for all.

F. NEXT MEETING DATE - April 27, 2023

G. ADJOURNMENT - 2:56 PM

Omichele D. Nattiel-Williams, IIMC-CMC, City Clerk