



**General Policy Committee Meeting
MINUTES**

**November 9, 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

Meeting called to order at 1:00 p.m.

B. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Moved by Commissioner Saco

Seconded by Commissioner Eastman

Motion: The General Policy Committee adopt the agenda.

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

Approved (7 to 0)

C. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

**1. Approval of Minutes from the August 24, 2023 General Policy
Committee (B)**

Moved by Commissioner Eastman

Seconded by Commissioner Chestnut

Recommendation: The General Policy Committee approve the minutes from the August 24, 2023 meeting.

Motion: Approve 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)

D. BUSINESS DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. 2023-1109 Financial Advisor Discussion (NB)

Daniel Nee, City Attorney, spoke to the item introducing the financial advisor discussion.

Cynthia Curry, City Manager, spoke to the item to explain that the advisors were present to speak to the specifics of their positions in relation to the Gainesville Regional Utilities Authority being appointed.

Jay Glover, Managing Director, PFM Financial Advisors LLC, financial advisor to general government, gave an overview of his responsibilities, planning for the future, and open communications with the bond agencies. Any decrease in bond ratings will cause the city to pay more in interest, etc.

Michael Wiener, Bond Counsel, Holland and Knight, was present.

Recommendation: The General Policy Committee discuss and provide direction to staff as needed.

Discussed

2. 2023-1107 Gainesville Housing Authority (GHA) Board Member Requirements (B)

Kristen Bryant, Interim City Clerk, spoke about the process of reviewing and selecting candidates for the Gainesville Housing Authority.

Mayor Pro Tempore Duncan-Walker requested the item approving Mayor Ward's candidate selection be on the regular commission agenda for discussion.

Recommendation: The General Policy Committee discuss and take any action deemed necessary.

3. 2023-1008 Utility Advisory Board (UAB) Discussion (B)

Dan Nee, City Attorney, spoke to the item regarding the logistics of eliminating the Utility Advisory Board and creating a Sustainability Board.

Recommendation: The General Policy Committee discuss the Utility Advisory Board and take action deemed necessary.

Moved by Commissioner Eastman

Seconded by Commissioner Chestnut

Motion: Direct staff to bring back a model for a climate and sustainability advisory board in January 2024, and sunset the Utility Advisory Board.

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 Saco - Engine 4 from Gainesville Fire Rescue responded to a fire this morning that was controlled and put out in under half an hour. Gave thanks for the quick response.

Commissioner Eastman - Sweetwater Wetlands Trail is celebrating being designated Great Florida Birding Trail tomorrow.

Mayor Ward - Thanks staff and the City Commission for the work done at the meeting today.

F. NEXT MEETING DATE - January 11, 2024

G. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned 1:44 p.m.

Kristen J. Bryant, Interim City Clerk