



**City Commission Special Meeting
MINUTES**

**August 9, 2023, 5:30 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 5:30 pm.

B. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

C. BUSINESS DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. 2023-792 GRU FY24 Budget Summary (B)

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

Mark Benton, Accounting and Finance Director of Utilities, gave a presentation on the GRU Budget Summary for Fiscal Year 2024.

Public Comment: Chuck Ross, Jim Konish

Moved by Commissioner Chestnut

Seconded by Commissioner Book

Recommendation: The City Commission approve: 1) continuation of base rate increases initiated as part of FY22 budget: 3% Electric and 5% Wastewater; and 2) connection fees and lighting increases as covered in the May 22, 2023 budget workshop.

At their August 8, 2023 meeting, the UAB voted unanimously to advise the City Commission to approve the staff recommendation.

Motion: Approve as Recommended.

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

Nay (1): Mayor Pro Tempore Duncan-Walker

Approved (6 to 1)

D. MEMBER COMMENT

Commissioner Book - Hopes everyone has a safe first day back to school.

Mayor Pro Tempore Duncan-Walker - Posted information when you have to stop for school buses; it is hard to vote for a rate increase, voted on by previous commissions and professional staff.

Commissioner Willits - There is a community engagement meeting at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center on the proposed cultural arts center this evening, August 9; thank you to everyone who came out to the Prevent Gun Violence Summit, come to the Joint City and County meeting on August 28.

Mayor Ward - Schools opening tomorrow, be careful out there and be patient; GRU representing our values over the years, one way we express those values is that the city has consistently elected folks who believe climate change is real; Heart goes out to Mayor Richard Bissen of Maui, our countrymen losing everything because of wildfires consuming their island.

E. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 6:47 pm.

Kristen J. Bryant, Interim City Clerk