



Gainesville Regional Utilities Authority
MINUTES

January 17, 2024, 5:30 p.m.
GRU Administration Building
301 SE 4th Avenue
Gainesville, FL 32601

Members Present: Chair Craig Carter, Vice-Chair James Coats, IV, Robert Karow, Eric Lawson

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Craig Carter called the meeting to order at 5:30pm

Chair Craig Carter joined the meeting at 5:30 pm.

Vice-Chair James Coats, IV joined the meeting at 5:30 pm.

Robert Karow joined the meeting at 5:30 pm.

Eric Lawson joined the meeting at 5:30 pm.

B. ROLL CALL

C. INVOCATION

Chair Craig Carter provided the invocation

D. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

E. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Prior to General Public Comment the Chair provided comments.

Public Comment:

Jim Konish, Anthony Johnson, Debbie Martinez, Tanna Silva, Bob Chewning, Jo Beatty, Nancy Deren, Ernesto Martinez, Tom Cunilio, Kimpope Joy, Angela Casteel, Rachel Ryan, Bobby Mermer, Lee Scott

F. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Public Comment

Debbie Martinez, Jim Konish, Jo Beatty, Bobby Mermer, Kolee Blunt (name was inaudible), Donald Shepherd, Ernesto Martinez

Moved by Robert Karow

Seconded by Vice-Chair Coats

Motion: Move the Power District Overview Item (#2024-67) to the end of the agenda.

Aye (4): Chair Carter, Vice-Chair Coats, Robert Karow, and Eric Lawson

Approved (4 to 0)

G. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

No Public Comment was given.

The board did not provide comments.

Moved by Eric Lawson

Seconded by Robert Karow

Motion: Approval of the Minutes

Aye (4): Chair Carter, Vice-Chair Coats, Robert Karow, and Eric Lawson

Approved (4 to 0)

H. CEO/GM COMMENTS

The CEO/GM, Tony Cunningham, addressed a question from a citizen and provided additional comments.

I. ATTORNEY COMMENTS

The attorney, Scott Walker, provided some comments.

Chair Craig Carter left the meeting at 10:07 pm.

Vice-Chair James Coats, IV left the meeting at 10:07 pm.

Robert Karow left the meeting at 10:07 pm.

Eric Lawson left the meeting at 10:07 pm.

J. BUSINESS DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. 2024-73 GRU CEO/GM Search (NB)

Member Lawson introduced the item.

The board discussed the item.

The item was brought back to the board for discussion.

Public Comment:

Jim Konish, Chuck Ross, Austin Key, Nancy Deren, Anthony Johnson, Kimpope Joy

Chair Carter spoke to the item.

Moved by Robert Karow

Seconded by Vice-Chair Coats

Recommendation: Board to discuss and provide continued plan of action.

Motion 1: Move the CEO/GM Search Item (#2024-73) to the 4th item, following the GSC.

Aye (4): Chair Carter, Vice-Chair Coats, Robert Karow, and Eric Lawson

Approved (4 to 0)

Moved by Robert Karow

Seconded by Vice-Chair Coats

Motion 2: To continue the CEO/GM search with the vendor Mycoff-Fry up toward \$100,000 (\$90,000 for the search and \$10,000 for travel of the candidates), and a total of \$480,000 if you include severance, PTO, etc.

Aye (3): Chair Carter, Vice-Chair Coats, and Robert Karow

Nay (1): Eric Lawson

Approved (3 to 1)

2. 2024-67 Power District Overview (B)

Moved by Vice-Chair Coats

Seconded by Robert Karow

Recommendation: 1.) Authorize staff to issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a real estate brokerage firm to a) provide guidance for identifying the most advantageous method of liquidating the unused property; and b) upon approval of the methodology, provide services necessary to market and sell the property. 2.) Authorize staff to issue an RFP for the development of a space-needs assessment for operations currently housed in the Administration Building.

Motion: Move the Power District Item to 3/6 GRUA meeting.

Withdrawn

3. 2024-70 City Services Reduction (B)

The CEO/GM, Tony Cunningham, introduced the item.

The board discussed the item.

Public Comment (1st Motion):

Jo Beatty, Angela Casteel, Jim Konish, Cynthia Curry, Donald Shepherd, Mike Cook, Coulter Halloway, Ernesto Martinez, Anthony Johnson, Nancy Deren, Kimpope Joy, Debbie Martinez, Bobby Mermer

Public Comment (2nd Motion):

Jim Konish, Windy Wood, Donald Shepherd, Debbie Martinez, Bobbie Mermer, Chuck Ross, Jane Kupfer, Steve Varvel, Tyler Forrest

Moved by Vice-Chair Coats

Seconded by Eric Lawson

Motion 1: Permission for Chair Carter and CEO/GM Tony Cunningham to discuss the item (#2024-70) with the Charter Officers

Aye (4): Chair Carter, Vice-Chair Coats, Robert Karow, and Eric Lawson

Approved (4 to 0)

Moved by Robert Karow
Seconded by Vice-Chair Coats

Motion 2: Reduce the FCAP by \$180,906 per month starting February 2024 Continue to evaluate all services and make recommendations for FY25 budget

Aye (3): Chair Carter, Vice-Chair Coats, and Robert Karow

Nay (1): Eric Lawson

Approved (3 to 1)

4. 2024-69 Impact of GSC Alternatives on Rates and Debt Reduction (B)

GRU's External Legal Counsel, Scott Walker, introduced the item.

The CEO/GM, Tony Cunningham, introduced the item.

The Director of Accounting and Finance for Utilities, Mark Benton, spoke to the item.

The CEO/GM, Tony Cunningham, added some additional content on the item.

The Board discussed the item and the motion made by Member Karow.

The Attorney spoke to the board's discussion.

Public Comment:

Coulder Halloway, Alex Hood, Jenn Powell, Angela Casteel, Chuck Roth, Austin Key, Marilyn Eisenberg, Bobby Mermer, Windy Wood, Jane Kupfer, Natalie Nandelstadt, Nancy Deren, Jim Konish, Anthony Johnson, Kolee Blunt (Name was inaudible), Tyler Forrest

Chair Carter addressed the item.

Moved by Robert Karow

Motion 1: Reduce the GSC by 100%

Died for lack of second

Moved by Vice-Chair Coats

Seconded by Eric Lawson

Recommendation: The GRU Authority receive a presentation on alternate GSC scenarios, discuss and take any action deemed appropriate.

Motion 2: Have a joint City of Gainesville/GRU Authority meeting within the next 45 days.

Aye (3): Chair Carter, Vice-Chair Coats, and Eric Lawson

Nay (1): Robert Karow

Approved (3 to 1)

5. 2024-68 Integrated Resource Plan (B)

The Board discussed the item at hand.

Public Comment:

Jim Konish

Moved by Vice-Chair Coats

Seconded by Robert Karow

Recommendation: Hear staff presentation on the Integrated Resource Plan process and market overview presentation from TEA.

Motion: Move the IRP item to the 2/7 GRUA meeting and the Power District Item to 3/6 GRUA meeting.

Withdrawn

K. MEMBER COMMENT

Member Lawson provided a comment regarding the format of the meetings and agenda reviews.

Member Karow provided a comment.

L. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned at 10:07pm.

Christine Kunkel, GRU Authority Clerk