



Utilities Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

September 26, 2023 at 12:00 p.m.

City Hall, Commission Chambers
401 S. Park Avenue | Winter Park, Florida

Present

Michael Poole, Linda Lindsey, Paul Conway, Leon Huffman and Mary Dipboye.

Absent

Fred Guitton and Alison Yurko.

Staff Present

Director of Electric Utility Dan D'Alessandro; Director of Finance Wes Hamil; Electric Operations Manager Miguel Cruz; Virtually: Board Coordinator Tatia Ghviniashvili.

1) Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:01 p.m.

2) Consent Agenda

- a. Approve the minutes of regular meeting August 22, 2023

Motion made by Paul Conway to approve the minutes as presented; seconded by Linda Lindsey. Motion carried unanimously with a 5-0 vote.

3) Public Comments (for items not on the agenda):

Richard Parker, 1807 Alice Ave., spoke about purchasing electricity from different suppliers other than Covanta, and use excess on more sustainable power generation that is municipally grown.

Mr. D'Alessandro responded and highlighted that that Covanta contract is expiring December 2024, and the load will be picked up by the Florida Municipal Power Agency (FMPPA) with a more favorable rate than Covanta.

4) Action Items

- a. Disconnect for Non-Pay during Extreme Weather Policy - Wes Hamil

Mr. Hamil spoke briefly about the item and noted that the modification made from the previous draft was to simplify the policy. When Orange County Weather Services issue a heat warning, or a freeze warning, disconnects for non-pay will be suspended.

Staff will include the draft attachment of the policy at the next months meeting and the board will hold a formal approval at that time.

- b. Determining rates for public-facing Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Stations
- Dan D'Alessandro

The Keep Winter Park Beautiful & Sustainable Board asked that this board determine and vote on rates for EV charging stations. Staff provided the board with recommendations for rates, which included a Kilowatt per hour rate along with a fee for idle time.

The floor opened for discussion and the board asked questions pertaining to what entity receives the funding that will be collected from the charging stations, and various other logistics associated with the charging stations. A further discussion ensued and staff will bring back more detailed information about this initiative at the next meeting.

- c. Heart of Florida United Way Emergency Utility Assistance Program
Eligibility Criteria

Mr. Hamil spoke in detail about the assistance program, and an at-length discussion ensued about reasoning behind applicants receiving denial for the program, along with what the Heart of Florida United Way considers sufficient "proof" of a financial hardship that would deem someone eligible for the program. A further discussion ensued and the board asked staff to bring back a draft document highlighting that in order to be eligible for the program, an individual doesn't need to provide "proof" of a hardship, rather a description of what the hardship is. Staff will also provide statistics related to how many people apply vs. get denied/approved, along with any other relevant information that could benefit the board in their discussion and decision.

5) Non-Action Items

- a. Broadband and Smart City - Paul Conway

Various updates were provided, and Mr. Conway noted that the task force had presented the latest findings and recommendations to the City Commission in August. The City Commission did provide feedback, and voiced support for expanding the fiber back-bone of the city over time. Staff noted a recommendation made to the Commission, to hire a full-time/part-time employee responsible for coordinating and managing smart-city initiatives throughout the city. A further discussion ensued about the upcoming steps.

- b. City of Winter Park Energy Audit Study (15 Lightyears) - Dan D'Alessandro

Mr. D'Alessandro shared insights from the 15 Lightyears presentation that was given to the Keep Winter Park Beautiful & Sustainable Advisory Board. The presentation highlighted what was done in terms of auditing various city facilities, and what changes can be made in both the short and long term.

A discussion ensued and the board asked questions.

- c. Utility bill format

Various utility bill formats were presented (found in the agenda packet) and a brief discussion was held with staff highlighting the modifications/additions to the utility bill.

The board offered comments and suggestions, and staff will make the necessary adjustments before the finalization and debut in a couple of months.

6) Staff Updates

a. Electricity Utility - Dan D'Alessandro

The monthly report was presented and a brief discussion was held about the undergrounding project. The board asked questions about the Strategic Plan and staff highlighted the progress made, noting that an update will be provided at every meeting.

b. Educational Campaign - Clarissa Howard

Attachments were included in the agenda packet, but no discussion was held.

c. Performance measurement

A brief discussion was held and staff noted various significant numbers in the data, including the decrease of the cost stabilization fund balance by \$300,000.00 a month.

7) Board Comments

There were none.

8) Upcoming Agenda Items

- Weather Policy
- EV Charging Policy
- Heart of Florida United Way
- Broadband Update

All regular staff updates will carry over every month.

A discussion was held about upcoming meeting dates, and the board agreed to cancel the November meeting due to holidays, and move the December meeting.

9) Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:28 p.m.

Next meeting is scheduled for October 24, 2023.

Minutes approved by the board on _____.
/s/ Tatia Ghviniashvili, Board Coordinator