



Utilities Advisory Board Regular Meeting Minutes

September 23, 2025 at 12:00 PM

City Hall Commission Chambers
401 S. Park Avenue

Present

Michael Poole, Kathryn Sutton, Leon Huffman, Christopher Warshaw, Todd Weaver, Katherine Johnson

Absent

Alison Yurko

Staff Present

Director of Water and Wastewater Utilities David Zusi, Director of Electric Utility Jamie England, Director of Finance Wes Hamil, Electric Utility Operations Manager Miguel Cruz, Deputy Director of Water and Wastewater Utilities Jason Riegler, Integrated Resources Program Manager Lisa Vedder (virtual), Administrative Coordinator Jennifer Vicente, Director of Natural Resources and Sustainability Gloria Eby

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:03 pm.

Returning UAB member Katherine Johnson was introduced.

2. Approval of Minutes

- a. Minutes of August 5, 2025

Ms. Sutton asked to remove the word "unanimously" since the vote was 5-1, not unanimous, and to add the word "expenditure" after "elective capital."

Motion made by Mr. Weaver to approve the minutes with amendments, seconded by Mr. Poole. Motion carried unanimously with a 6-0 vote.

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

4. Action Items

5. Non-Action Items

- a. IRP Roadmap Update

Integrated Resource Planning (IRP) and Clean Power Program Manager Lisa Vedder introduced herself and provided an update on the IRP effort.

In 2022 in support of the City's Sustainability Action Plan (SAP), Quanta carried out a comprehensive feasibility study to assess the viability of achieving full decarbonization

within a reasonable timeframe and budget. The plan aims for 100% electricity from renewable sources by 2050. Quanta employed a production cost model that forecasted the resources required to enable the city to reach its renewable energy target by 2050. The model incorporates technology cost, weather forecasts, and socio economic, economic, and financial factors to develop a power portfolio by resource and cost.

Ms. Vedder described the study's original roadmap milestones, organized by four categories—Financial, Studies, Technology, and Purchases—and time horizon—short, medium and long. She then discussed the updated roadmap that reflects completed milestones and incorporates resource limitations, sequencing of events, and critical path considerations.

All short-term goals have been achieved as of January 2024. Ms. Vedder reviewed the mid- and long-term goals and provided an updated timeline to the Board. Ms. Sutton inquired about the expected date for the long-term goals, to which Ms. Vedder responded four years.

Ms. Johnson asked whether any adjustments to the plan had been made due to the funding pause caused by the two recent Executive Orders. Ms. Vedder responded that the City had been engaging in preliminary exploratory discussions related to incentives introduced under the previous Administration. Given changes under the new Administration, these efforts have stalled and staff is now monitoring developments weekly. Ms. Vedder also noted that certain goals, such as TOU, EE, and DR programs, utility bill financing, an EV adoption study, and updating the Quanta study, have been moved to the long-term category.

It was noted that development and implementation of TOU, EE and DR initiatives were contingent on meter upgrades. Mr. Poole raised the topic of meter purchases, noting that the deployment schedule for residential time-of-use applications has not yet been determined. Mr. England replied that current meters have reached end of life. The city is currently in discussions with vendors, ensuring that they will have multiple vendor options capable of supplying the meters they will specify. Given the cost of meter replacement, this would likely be a five-year effort.

Ms. Eby described the behind-the-scenes activities of the Sustainability Department related to EV and solar initiatives. Mr. Weaver mentioned that the fleet's EV conversion should have been coordinated with the electric utility study. Ms. Eby noted that city EV usage is monitored through the Sustainability Action Plan.

Ms. Vedder reviewed the long-term goals, which included conducting and updating technology maturity assessments, fleet electrification, among others. She then outlined the roadmap efforts to date, covering progress on analysis, non-utility-scale solar, utility-scale solar Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs), utility-scale solar at Rice Creek, bulk power supply, and other general items.

Mr. Poole requested an update to the public-facing EV charging station usage patterns in the year since implementation of the new rate structure last November. Staff agreed

to prepare an update. He also asked about the new EV charging stations over by the train station and noted concerns over consistent signage. Ms. Eby explained that the new charging stations are third-party-owned and situated at the mobility hub at the corner of Morse Blvd. and New York Ave. Rates and terms of use are set by the owner and adhere to the statewide model for charging rates. Ms. Eby agreed to provide the agreement with Optimus, the third-party owner, as well as the adopted terms by the City Commission. Additionally, quarterly reports on usage from Optimus will be provided once they are received. Ms. Vedder added that the scope of the Cost of Service and Rate Study includes developing a tariff for sales-for-resale for privately owned EV chargers.

Mr. Poole noted that Winter Park's power supply is served approximately 10% by OUC and 90% by FMPA, and he was concerned by the City's over-reliance on FMPA. Mr. England responded that the current cost of the FMPA resource is the most favorable deal.

Ms. Vedder presented the City's power supply resource portfolio by month for the fiscal year along with a year-to-date summary. Ms. Vedder next compared the City's resource portfolio to that in the Quanta Study. Ms. Vedder provided an update of the plan to acquire 30 MW of greenfield solar from 3 projects through the FMPA consortium. When Whistling Duck comes online, the City will receive 18 MW, 13 MW 18 months earlier than originally planned, for a total of 23 MW. The developer, Origis, subsequently terminated the third PPA.

There was a discussion about whether nuclear energy is considered renewable. Ms. Vedder mentioned she is unsure if the city considers nuclear renewable, but believes it is essential for reaching the City's decarbonization target at reasonable cost. Mr. Weaver added that the city should also consider developing city-owned solar energy in the near future.

b. Update on electric budget and rates

Mr. Hamil provided an update on the electric budget and rates. Following discussions with City Manager Randy Knight and Michael Poole about capital needs and funding strategies, the city commission approved a 7.44% rate increase for non-fuel electric costs with a 3-2 vote during the September 10 meeting. This increase will not impact the monthly customer charge, and the undergrounding project remains on track for completion by 2030. The official approval of the fees and budget is expected at the commission's September 24 meeting.

Following Mr. Poole's recommendation, \$2M of inventory was allocated to the proposed 26 budget. Originally, \$400K was designated for undergrounding secondary service lines, but this was postponed to focus on completing the remaining undergrounding work. The remaining budget for new funding includes \$9.2M for undergrounding, \$565K for meter replacements, and \$833K for replacing substation transformers. Mr. Poole observed three significant matters during the work sessions: a study on the cost of

service, the commission acknowledged the need for improved vetting of the capital budget, and the bonding issue remains under consideration.

Mr. Poole noted the underspend for this year. Mr. Hamil explained that this underspend will be carried into the next fiscal year. Mr. England suggested that the remaining funds might be used to reimburse the program that covered the overspend from the previous year.

6. Staff Updates

a. Electric Utility - Jamie England

Monthly Electric Utility Update (July)

Mr. England provided the board with the monthly electric update for July, including the miles of undergrounding performed, updates on overhead and underground budgets, notes of interest, issues and concerns, and the 2025 Goals. No questions were raised by the board.

b. Water & Wastewater Utility – David Zusi

Mr. Zusi will provide the board with a detailed policy on implementing the cross-connection control backflow installation program, so they can evaluate it and make a recommendation to the Commission. The ordinances, rules, and requirements are already in place, and implementation is underway. An update on the program will be shared with the board at the next meeting.

The Water & Wastewater Department participated in the water quality taste test in early September and was awarded the best tasting in Central Florida.

Key positions vacated due to early retirement have been filled; however, an additional position remains available.

c. Performance Measurement – Wes Hamil

Mr. Hamil highlighted the key aspects of the utility's monthly performance metrics, noting that the customer service call wait time decreased in August following a period of high wait times in July, attributable to staffing shortages.

The fuel cost over-recovery was addressed by reducing fuel costs starting September 1. Over six months, the aim is to refund excess and recover projected fuel costs.

d. Educational Campaign – Clarissa Howard

The packet includes the educational campaign from Clarissa Howard.

Electric Utility 20th Anniversary Media Coverage

Winter Park Update newsletter – September-November 2025 issue

September Utility Bill Insert

7. Board Comments

Ms. Sutton inquired whether the November and December meetings would be combined, as they were last year. Mr. Poole explained that the November meeting is typically canceled, and the December meeting is moved to the first week of December.

Ms. Eby invited the board to the EV car show on Saturday, September 27, which has been relocated to Park Ave. and is now called Electric Avenue.

8. Upcoming Agenda Items

Follow-ups as previously discussed regarding the water/wastewater sector and the renewables sector.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:49 p.m.

Approved by the board on December 2, 2025
/s/ Bahiyyah Layton, Board Coordinator