



Utilities Advisory Board Regular Meeting Minutes

January 27, 2026 at 12:00 PM

City Hall Commission Chambers
401 S. Park Avenue

Present

Alison Yurko, Michael Poole, Leon Huffman, Christopher Warshaw, Todd Weaver, Katherine Johnson

Absent

Kathryn Sutton

Staff Present

Director of Water and Wastewater Utilities David Zusi, Director of Electric Utility Jamie England, Director of Finance Wes Hamil, Electric Utility Engineer Manager Mourad Belfakih, Integrated Resources Program Manager Lisa Vedder (Virtual), Administrative Coordinator Genie Brown, Director of Natural Resources & Sustainability Gloria Eby

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:03 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes

- a. Minutes of December 2, 2025

Motion made by Mr. Weaver to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Warshaw . Motion carried unanimously with a 5-0 vote.

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

4. Action Items

5. Non-Action Items

- a. UAB Financial Report - December 2025

Mr. Hamil presented the highlights of the Financial Report.

- Both water and sewer are about 4% below revenue projections for the first three months, mainly from outside city sales where customers pay a 25% premium. Inside city sales are slightly up. Water sales can vary significantly from month to month, but are relatively consistent over 12 months. Water and wastewater are operating within budget.
- Electric operating revenues' non-fuel revenue is about 3.5% below projections, now 2.2% behind budget due to residential sales. Cold weather will boost kilowatt-hour sales. Non-fuel and fuel charges are under budget from buying less power.
- Number of days working capital is within the 45-day policy.
- Fuel cost stabilization fund target is \$1.6M for FY2026 based on a higher fuel budget.

Actual fuel costs are expected to rise due to cold weather and high national fuel demand, causing volatile rates and impact.

- The primary expenses for water and wastewater operations were personnel, chemicals, and water meters.
- Electric's cash balance is just over \$5M, with \$2.3M in the fuel stabilization fund and \$1.5M committed to capital project balances rolled over from FY 2025. Inventory stands at \$9.5M. Mr. Hamil asked the board to review the chart comparing budget, actual, and prior year figures by major revenue and expense categories.

Mr. Hamil agreed to provide the financials in the format showing capital expenses in major categories. Mr. Poole will send an example to Mr. Hamil.

6. Staff Updates

a. Electric Utility - Jamie England

Mr. England presented the Electric Utility update

- Miles of undergrounding completed to date.
- Community event at the library; article in the American Public Power Association (APPA) acknowledging its success.
- ENCO, the call center, seeking to introduce more of their services not being used.
- The EU/City website will have a button to report outages, making it easier to report issues. Both ENCO and the website are available for outage reports, but the process is now more streamlined.
- A new design team, KCI, has been assigned to the substation transformer project. The lead time is 3-4 years.
- There is an effort to double OUC feeders; if feeders 1 and 2 are out, feeders 3 and 4 will help share the load.
- A pole inspection program under review for those remaining poles. If the poles are not owned by the city, communication companies will need to take responsibility and may eventually be motivated to underground them.
- The Park Ave streetlight project covers the area from Swoope to Garfield. The 2700 Kelvin light will stay the same.
- About 45 transformers have been identified for painting; it is within our budget this year.
- In our two substations, we will install thermal cameras that can detect issues early before they become problems. The vendor has been selected, and the purchase order has been issued.
- Compound security assessment initiative.
- OMS/GIS (solicitation).
- The meter replacement program affects the water department, with plans down to three vendors and decisions ongoing regarding a mesh or network system.
- The submersible transformer that feeds the Bank of America has a different voltage than the other four. We are considering replacing it with an above-ground transformer for better accessibility and safety.

- The office design is currently in the pricing phase.
- The Cost of Service study is scheduled for the fourth quarter of this year.

Mr. England invited the board to the January 30, 2026, State of the City Address and will update Mr. Poole on the undergrounding budget. One lineworker was briefly injured but is back at work after two days.

b. Performance Measurement – Wes Hamil

Mr. Hamil presented the performance measurement chart for November.

- The rolling 12 months of kilowatt-hour sales to customers decreased slightly from the previous two months.
- Assisted 6 customers with up to \$650 in aid through the Emergency Utility Assistance Program.
- Call volumes remain consistent month to month, and wait times are very good due to full staffing.
- Discussed the bad debt expense, with a goal of <0.25%, but for November, it was at 0.27%.
- The fuel cost stabilization fund balance was \$2.6 million in November; we under recovered in December and expect to under recover again in January.

c. Natural Resources & Sustainability - Gloria Eby

Gloria Eby, Director of Natural Resources & Sustainability, provided an update on the mobility hub, introducing Ben Pauluhn from Optimus Energy Solutions, the partner for EV charging stations. He recommended yearly updates to the board. The goal was to offer top amenities without burdening the city financially or operationally. Initially, Optimus covered all costs and made a small donation, maintaining over 98% uptime in 2025. They share some net revenue with Winter Park, which received a \$5K contribution in August 2024. Optimus paid nearly \$20K in electricity costs, installed a new commercial meter and transformer. The station averages 22 sessions daily, with charging sessions of about 45 minutes, and a load factor of 11.5%, totaling around 100K kWh.

Optimus committed to exploring locations across the city to expand DC fast charging infrastructure for the Winter Park community. They are currently working with two utility representatives at Cady Way Park and the Library to install fast chargers. Additionally, they have a broader agreement with a national quick-service restaurant to add four more DC fast chargers in South Orlando.

Mr. Pauluhn presented a map indicating the zip codes of drivers during all sessions in 2025. This highlights not only community service but also visitors from other locations. The Load Curve Patterns chart was shown, pinpointing the single instance when 300 kW was reached. Optimus is charging market rate or better, while providing leading up time, meaningful revenue is being sent back to the city with zero cost base. Technicians are in the city at least weekly, committed to the uptime.

A question was raised about whether frequent users are still leaving their cars in parking spaces all day. Mr. Pauluhn stated that the partnership took over management of the city's level two chargers and implemented the market rate. There is a grace period of approximately 20-25 minutes for fast chargers, and potentially 30 minutes to an hour for level 2 chargers. After this grace period, actual fees are applied if vehicles remain.

Ms. Eby confirmed stations are monitored by Winter Park police for parking without charging. Signage was discussed. Currently, there are seven fast charger plugs on Park Ave. and 22 level 2 plugs in the city. The police station and fleet plugs are not being managed by Optimus. Ms. Eby will include the other level 2 chargers in the next update. She presented the 2023 and 2024 Sustainability Action Plan (SAP).

Mr. Zusi indicated that the high per capita water use largely stems from the limited availability of reclaimed water within the city and its service area. Ms. Eby added that since the city is fixed in size and resources, reducing consumption is challenging. Most irrigating customers use a single meter.

An advantage of the new meter-reading software is its potential to identify and possibly automate notifications to users irrigating on incorrect days. The discussion then covered topics such as consumption, education, rebate programs, and the renewal of the Consumptive Use Permit (CUP). Mr. Zusi requested a 20-year CUP, and his team has been developing the private lift station and cross-connection control programs. The Water and wastewater department is collaborating with Public Works on the Sterling Bridge and Gulfside drive projects. He also mentioned several grant applications and noted that the reclaim plant is operating at 50% capacity.

Mr. Warshaw and Ms. Eby left at 1:11 pm.

d. Educational Campaign - Clarissa Howard

Ms. Howard forwarded the monthly newsletter for review.

7. Board Comments

Mr. Poole inquired whether the city is implementing a building restriction on AI data center construction and if there is a different rate under consideration. The board concurred that a discussion about data centers is necessary. Ms. Vedder added that lobbying groups—FMFA, FMEA, and OUC—are actively involved and currently advocating at the state legislature.

8. Upcoming Agenda Items

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

Approved by the board on February 24, 2026
/s/ Bahiyyah Layton, Board Coordinator