MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE FORT PIERCE UTILITIES AUTHORITY, TUESDAY, MARCH 21, 2023, 4:00 P.M., CITY COMMISSION CHAMBERS.

Members Present: Chairman Kristina Gibbons, Vice Chair Barbara Bennett; Secretary Larry Lammers; Deputy Secretary Frank H. Fee, IV; and Mayor Linda Hudson.

Others present: Barbara Mika, Director of Finance and Administrative Services; Daniel Retherford, Director of Utility Support Services; Bo Hutchinson, Director of Water/Wastewater Systems, Craig Crawford, Director of Electric & Gas Systems, and Dan O'Hagan, Special Counsel to FPUA Board.

The meeting was called to order by Madam Chair Kristina Gibbons.

Opening Prayer was by Jason Mittler, FPUAnet.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The roll was called and a quorum declared.

ITEM A: SET THE AGENDA

A motion was made by Mr. Lammers, seconded by Mayor Hudson, and unanimously carried to approve the set agenda with walk-on item.

ITEM B: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mayor Hudson, seconded by Mrs. Bennett, and unanimously carried to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 7, 2023.

ITEM C: COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

ITEM D: CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Mayor Hudson, seconded by Mrs. Gibbons, and unanimously carried to approve the Consent Agenda.

ITEM E: RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE

ITEM F: OLD BUSINESS

ITEM G: NEW BUSINESS

1. Barbara Mika, Chuck Shaffer, Robert Barfield, and Dana McSweeney presented Seacoast Bank Financial Stability and Assurance – For Information Only

2. Eric Winterstein presented POA No. 22-31 for approval of the Single Source purchase of 15kV underground electric cable from Stuart C. Irby Company, of Jackson, Mississippi, in an amount not to exceed $47,810; and 2) additional funding in an amount not to exceed $700,000 annually for inventory purchases, for a total of $747,180 for the period of March 15, 2023 thru March 14, 2024.

A motion was made by Mr. Fee, seconded by Mr. Lammers, and unanimously carried to approve the Single Sole purchase of 15kV underground electric cable from Stuart C. Irby Company in an amount not to exceed $47,810 and additional funding in the amount not to exceed $700,000 annually for inventory purchases, for a total of $747,180 for the period ending March 14, 2024.

3. Daniel Retherford presented Approval of Emergency Purchasing of Goods and Services related to supply chain shortages due to ever-changing and fast-paced market of essential services and goods.

A motion was made by Mr. Fee, seconded by Mayor Hudson, and unanimously carried to approve the Emergency Purchasing of Goods and Services through December 31, 2023.
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4. Andrea Trasferini presented the Bill Comparison for January 2023 – For Information Only
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5. Barbara Mika presented the September 2022 Quarterly Financial Operating Results
6. Barbara Mike presented the FY 2022 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for approval as presented.

A motion was made by Mayor Hudson, seconded by Mrs. Bennett, and unanimously carried to approve the audit for FY 2022.

7. Bo Hutchinson presented Board Attorney discussion.

The Board has instructed to open negotiations with the candidate that has been interviewed.

ITEM H: AWARD OF BID

ITEM I: RESOLUTIONS

1. Barbara Mike presented Resolution No. UA 2023-03 – Approve Resolution No. UA 2023-03, a resolution amending the budget of Fort Pierce Utilities Authority of the City of Fort Pierce, Florida for the Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2021 and ending September 30, 2022.

Mrs. Cortes read RESOLUTION NO. U.A. 2023-03, A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE BUDGET OF FORT PIERCE UTILITIES AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2021 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2022.

A motion was made by Mayor Hudson, seconded by Mr. Fee, and unanimously carried to approve Resolution No. UA 2023-03 of the Fort Pierce Utilities Authority, a Resolution amending the budget of the Fort Pierce Utilities Authority of the City of Fort Pierce, FL for the Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2021 and ending September 30, 2022.

ITEM J: DIRECTOR

Mr. Hutchinson said just a few notes to pass on here. The map of the Tidewater PUD, that was the item that was missing, was distributed out to the Board. We will make sure those exhibits make it on future agenda items. An email also went out to the Board with several attachments related to the Charter Review Committee as well. The last one is just touching on the gas rates. Currently, they are around $2.50. It is looking like the futures right now; the 2024-2025 futures are at $3.82. That is 82 cents above the threshold for considering purchasing more.

ITEM K: ATTORNEY

Dan O'Hagan provided an update on the bills, there is a Joint Legislative Oversight Committee investigation specifically to Gainesville. Some of the Legislators behind that are the ones that are also Gainesville Representatives. They are really focused on cost at Gainesville. They also have some political and costs issues going on in Gainesville that is spurning some of this legislation. The original legislation which I reported on two or three meetings ago, subjecting all municipal utilities to the Public Service Commission Jurisdiction and restrict your transfers to the general fund. Since then, they have completely amended that bill. They removed that part about the Public Service Jurisdiction. It goes even further with some of the limitation on transfers to the general fund. The focus of both of these bills are, again, restricting the general fund transfers. Surcharge for out of the city residents in the new proposed legislation; it does look like it is silent on the electric and gas surcharge. It doesn't address the ability to charge that 10% that matches the municipal public service tax, but it does restrict the water and sewer water – there used to be a 25% allowable surcharge. They have stricken that. There is still some ambiguous language, it requires them to set just and reasonable rates for the outside the city water and sewer. It caps the total amount up to 25% greater than in the city.

ITEM L: COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Mrs. Gibbons said thank you Mr. Hutchinson for stepping in today, you did a great job. Also, I'm curious what your thoughts are on potentially have some funds in another back in case of emergency, and what FMPA is doing, if they have a standard. Mr. O'Hagan said I can certainly get back to you on what FMPA is doing.

Madam Chair Gibbons said if nobody has anything, meeting adjourned.

ITEM M: ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:54 pm.

ATTEST:

SECRETARY

CHAIRMAN

Note: These minutes are not verbatim, only important issues and motions are reproduced in writing for the benefit of the Fort Pierce Utilities Authority and Board Members. The recording itself is the official record for the meeting.