MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE FORT PIERCE UTILITIES AUTHORITY, TUESDAY, MAY 2, 2023, 4:00 P.M., CITY COMMISSION CHAMBERS.

Members Present: Chairman Kristina Gibbons, Vice Chair Barbara Bennett (via phone); Secretary Larry Lammers; and Deputy Secretary Frank H. Fee, IV.

Members Excused: Mayor Linda Hudson.

Others present: Javier Cisneros, Director of Utilities; 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 Caroline A. Valentin, General 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 Mr. Fee, and unanimously carried to approve the set agenda with modification to item G5 being presented first.

ITEM B: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Fee, seconded by Mr. Lammers, and unanimously carried to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 18, 2023.

ITEM C: COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mrs. Michele Mayhew, Comments regarding mulch dump at N. 11th Street.

ITEM D: CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Mr. Fee, seconded by Mr. Lammers, and unanimously carried to approve the Consent Agenda.

ITEM E: RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE

1. Mrs. Cortes read the following into the record:

We received a letter from the Florida House of Representatives, State Representative Dana Trabulsy to Barbara Mika. Dear Barbara and FPUA Finance Department, Congratulations on being awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the 28th year!! What a significant achievement! It is a direct result of your focus on fiscal responsibility and transparency. It takes a hard-working team that is connected and focused on excellence to accomplish this. Thank you for your service and best wishes on your continued success and future endeavors. Kindest Regards, Dana.

2. Michele Harris presented the GFOA Distinguished Budget Presentation Award.

ITEM F: OLD BUSINESS

ITEM G: NEW BUSINESS

1. Eric Meyer presented Storm Hardening Update – For Information Only

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2. Barbara Mika presented the Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) for March 2023

A motion was made by Mr. Fee, seconded by Mr. Lammers, and unanimously carried to decrease the PCA from $34 to $29 for the June 1st bill.

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3. Rachel Tennant reported the Mainland Water Reclamation Project – For Information Only

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4. Mr. Cisneros opened discussion for New Agenda Format.

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5. Mr. Cisneros and Susan Schumann presented the All-Requirements Solar III Energy Participation Agreement with FMPA Information for Discussion.

ITEM H: AWARD OF BID

ITEM I: RESOLUTIONS

1. Mr. Cisneros presented Resolution No. UA 2023-05 in Recognition and Appreciation of Jody L. Finklea and Dan O'Hagan.

Mrs. Cortes read RESOLUTION UA 2023-05 A RESOLUTION OF FORT PIERCE UTILITIES AUTHORITY IN RECOGNITION AND APPRECIATION OF THE SERVICES OF JODY L. FINKLEA AND DAN O'HAGAN. WHEREAS, JODY L. FINKLEA AND DAN O'HAGAN have served the citizens of the City of Fort Pierce as Special Counsel to the Fort Pierce Utilities Authority from December 6, 2022 until April 23, 2023; WHEREAS, JODY L. FINKLEA AND DAN O'HAGAN are respected attorneys in the field of municipal utility law; WHEREAS, JODY L. FINKLEA AND DAN O'HAGAN, have served with distinction in the above stated capacity and have rendered invaluable services to the Fort Pierce Utilities Authority, demonstrating outstanding abilities and untiring efforts in the discharge of their duties; WHEREAS, during their service, JODY L. FINKLEA AND DAN O'HAGAN provided sound legal advice thereby assisting in the fulfillment of the mission of the Fort Pierce Utilities Authority; and WHEREAS, JODY L. FINKLEA AND DAN O'HAGAN deserve public recognition for generously devoting their time to these efforts. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by Fort Pierce Utilities Authority of the City of Fort Pierce, Florida, that on behalf of the Board Members of Fort Pierce Utilities Authority, the people of the City of Fort Pierce, and Fort Pierce Utilities Authority Directors, Department Heads and Staff, hereby acknowledges with a deep sense gratitude, the services of JODY L. FINKLEA and DAN O'HAGAN for their service as Fort Pierce Utilities Authority Special Counsel. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be presented to JODY L. FINKLEA AND DAN O'HAGAN and be entered into the minutes of the Fort Pierce Utilities Authority as a permanent record of their appreciation. ADOPTED this 2nd day of May, 2023.

A motion was made by Mr. Fee, seconded by Mr. Lammers, and unanimously carried to adopt Resolution UA 2023-05 in Recognition and Appreciation of Jody L. Finklea and Dan O'Hagan.

2. Mrs. Caroline Valentin presented Resolution No. UA 2023-06 – Adopt Resolution Authorizing Release of Mineral Rights

Mrs. Cortes read RESOLUTION NO. UA 2023-06 A RESOLUTION OF THE FORT PIERCE UTILITIES AUTHORITY BOARD AUTHORIZING RELEASE OF MINERAL RIGHTS BY THE CITY OF FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA, PURSUANT TO SECTION 270.11, FLORIDA STATUTES; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

A motion was made by Mr. Fee, seconded by Mr. Lammers, and unanimously carried to adopt Resolution UA 2023-06, Authorizing Release of Mineral Rights.

ITEM J: DIRECTOR

Mr. Cisneros said just a couple of notes today. Next Monday, we will be meeting with the consultant to discuss the schedule and outline for the strategic planning session. Part of the process will include one-on-one session with the planner and each Board Member, and key personnel. We will have more information as we finalize the details next week. Update on recruitment front, May 16th, the HR staff and some of our internal field staff will be going to a mixture of these events. The School District of Indian River County Community Fair will be held at the Treasure Coast Technical College and will be highlighting the mechanic positions that we currently have vacant. We are also working with Boris Cameron of the Boys and Girls Club to arrange site tours bringing the Boys and Girls club to our facilities and giving them a tour of the water plant and wastewater plant. We are also working with Synergy Schools to bring some of the FPUA staff and some of the equipment to the school for demonstration. We specifically are targeting the bucket trucks. This is in the early planning stages, so if successful, we will develop other schools. Due to scheduling conflicts, we are working to finalize the budget workshop date. Today, natural gas prices are sitting around $2.20 but the curve still above the $3.00 threshold, it is at $3.82, a little higher than was a couple of weeks ago, so there are no additional approvals for fixed volumes for natural gas. Ed Leongomez has retired after 27 years of service. Some of the Board members know him since you had a chance to take a tour of the Energy Center, but for the last 14 years, he has been there as the Plant Manager. Jay Butters will serve as Interim Plant Manager. You will not recognize the name because he recently joined FMPA as Generation Operations Director. He comes from Kissimmee Utility Authority. He operated the plant that is almost identical to the Treasure Coast Energy Center. He will be interim until the position is filled. This is a chance to recognize Ed for his many, many years of service.

ITEM K: ATTORNEY

Mrs. Valentin said It is day seven on the job and I want to say that staff has been phenomenal in getting me up and running and getting integrated into the organization. I do really appreciate all of them. I appreciate you all for carving out time to meet with me to discuss some of your goals and vision. I am very excited to be a part of the team. I look forward to serving this Board and the community.

ITEM L: COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Mrs. Bennett said I am inviting the Board and FPUA staff to attend the kickoff of the Therapeutic Botanical Gardens. This is to help our children. It is on Friday, May 5th, starting at 9:00 am. It is a grant that I wrote to Team Depot at Home Depot of Fort Pierce. They supported it and got this rolling. It is to help our kids with mental health. We will be out there celebrating and putting the garden together for the children to be able to go and witness when they are in crisis.

Mrs. Gibbons said I was glad you told us how much natural gas was currently at $2.20, to put that into an equation for the solar, you chose approximately five dollars to be the equivalent rate. I wanted to touch on the comment earlier with the mulching. Mr. Cisneros said we will work with Craig Crawford to investigate it and see if we can get to the bottom of it, but not familiar with this issue. Mrs. Gibbons wanted to circle back to the PCA. Glad that we chose to reduce it month by month. Mr. Fee said that so long as we can keep it going downward, I think you will be okay. Let's hope there will not be an influx or increase in the summertime like last year. I think you are going in the right direction. Mrs. Gibbons said regarding the storm hardening presentation, it is interesting that FPL has a low amount they had a separate line item on their bills that customers pay a storm hardening fee that specifically goes right to that. These are all things that maybe we need to thing about as well.

Madam Chair Gibbons said meeting adjourned.

ITEM M: ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 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.