

Utilities Commission May 26, 2020

This summary was extracted from information provided by the UC Commission secretary as the meeting was held "virtually". Any discussion and voting results are not included in this summary.

General Manager's Report - Hurricane Preparedness Workshop (conducted annually) reflects procedural improvements implemented since Hurricane Matthew. **Discussion Items from agenda were:**

- Verify appropriate Storm Stock (Tools, Equipment, PPE and Food, including agreements with local restaurants)
- 9 year Pole Inspection and Replacement Program (last done in 2019)
- Vegetation Management
- Implement *Storm Playbook* one week prior to projected landfall; utilize *Incident Command Center* with UC staff identified for event roles; connect with Mutual Assistance Resources; City provides airport space for crew staging area.
- Use of website and social media for community communications, both at start of storm season, when storm is projected, and while storm impacts continue proved highly successful.
- **Concerns for 2020 given COVID-19:** Lodging/Food availability, PPE and Testing for Mutual Assistance crews, Augmentation of supplies beyond usual stock.

New Business - [UC FY 2021 Budget and Capital Improvements Plan 2021-2030](#) –

Proposed Resolution No. 2020-08 includes:

- Awaiting Bond purchase until the market offered best rate (May 21, 2020) resulted in an interest savings rate of 1 million dollars.
- Starting in 2020, UC embarked on grid & water modernization & optimization studies to more strategically and cost effectively improve operations and service. These studies will be consolidated into a *Long-term Strategy* and *Road Map* that will be presented to the Commissioners at a Fall 2020 workshop.
- Annual review of needs for CIP resulted in an increase from the 150 M 2019-2029 CIP to 180.8M for 2020-2030. This will likely increase again as plans for new building move forward.
- Against the historical current of a 3-6% annual increase in operating expenses, 2021 should see a decrease of 2.1%, driven by: 3.6% lower cost of purchased power, lower water treatment costs (lagoon cleanup has been completed), 180 employees rather than the budgeted 186 (though work toward filling those positions continues), vendor contract synergies, and fleet reduction.
- 2021-2023 *Electrical System Reliability Improvement Plan* includes projects previously approved as "Just Do It" along with some new reliability projects and a new Vegetation Management (Tree Trimming) plan that moves from per-hour workers to a "per mile" contract for trimming main and lateral roadways on a three-year cycle.