

Utilities Commission Meeting October 26, 2020

Participants Vice Chair Buddy Davenport, Secretary-Treasurer Lillian Conrad, Assistant Sec.-Treas. Rich Hawes, Commissioner James Smith, GM and CEO Joe Bunch and General Counsel Thomas Cloud. Absent: Chair Jack Holcomb.

Safety Message: Keyless fobs can start a car in the garage and create the danger of carbon monoxide poisoning.

Consent Items –unanimously approved

- a. **Minutes of UC Meeting of 9-28**
- b. **Third-Party Utility Easement** for St. Pauls' Episcopal Church
- c. **Project approval of annual contract** for gravity sanitary sewer rehabilitation
- d. **Project approval of Glencoe Farms Road water main improvements and Spruce Street water main replacement**
- e. **Project approval of System 1 gravity sanitary sewer improvements and Lift Station #27 elimination**
- f. **"Red Flag" identity theft and prevention program**

General Manager's Report

- a. **Financial Status** steady with following updates
 1. **After 11 years of negotiations, UC anticipates Nov/Dec Finalization of AT&T contract** worth \$275K for the joint use of our utility poles with their attachments.
 2. **Edgewater completed \$150K water asset transaction** on October 20 for our providing sewer/water for Daytona State College & Edgewater Mission Oaks area since 2007; they just completed the necessary infrastructure.
 3. **The FL Public Service Commission** recently ruled against a proposal to temporarily halt electrical disconnection for residents struggling financially due to COVID-19. The UC suspended disconnections and late fees until July 1, but determined it was in the best interests of the customers and the UC to then "return to normal collection operations" to ensure services and reduce the risk of a future disconnection.
- b. **FY2021 Strategic Goals, FY2020 Organizational Accomplishments and Sept. 2020 Enterprise Metrics** Accomplishments review included pursuit of capital improvements, the challenges of COVID-19, attainment of all customer & community goals with systems safety and security, and Industry recognition re: Hurricane preparation and support of other utilities when needed. No changes in vision, mission and core values since 2001. 2019 salary changes (updated every 3 years) met with positive results in employees tenure. New grid modernization studies are having positive impact on efficiencies. The relationship with our City Commission is excellent. UC—City fiber optic communications infrastructure is improving and the joint use of our future Western complex for the City's fleet is under discussion. **Business and Financial Performance were 93% met.** Outages frequency due to storms remains a problem. The Purchasing Manual update is complete and the outsourcing of "utility location" to vendors provides another example of financial cost efficiency. Anticipated rate increase due to modernization projects will be offset to some degree by 3-5% customer growth.

Commission Counsel's Report The County has an issue (unspecified as yet) with the Williamson Blvd extension.