

## Utilities Commission Meeting 23 August 2022

**Participants** Chair Buddy Davenport, Vice Chair Rich Hawes, Secretary Treasurer Lillian Conrad, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer James Smith, Commissioner L. Kelly, Jr., Counsel Thomas Cloud and GM/CEO Joe Bunch

**Safety Message** Back to School Safety Awareness: Be aware of schools and slow down, pay attention and be careful of bicycles, pedestrians, and school buses!

### Consent Items - All unanimously approved

- **Minutes** of Final Public Hearing and Regular U.C. Meeting Held 7-25-22
- **Approval of Award for Continuing Professional Service Agreements**
  - ✓ Burns & McDonnell Engineering Company Inc. (Electrical)
  - ✓ Atwell, LLC (Electrical)
  - ✓ Stantec Consulting Services Inc. (Electrical and Civil)
  - ✓ CPH, LLC (Civil and General Services & Mapping)
  - ✓ Tetra Tech (Civil)
  - ✓ EMT Surveying & Mapping, Inc. (General Services & Mapping)
- **Approval** of Fire Hydrants Inspection and Flow Testing agreement Between UCNSB and County of Volusia
- **Agreement Renewal** - General Manager/CEO Employment Agreement  
**Discussion** Chair Davenport suggested that the GM's dental/vision coverage be included. The GM's contract is unrelated to other UC employees. The motion to include dental/vision in GM's compensation was made and approved unanimously.
- **Ratification Approval** 2nd Year Extension Option for Water/Wastewater Treatment Chemicals
- **Project Approval** WRF Biosolids Dewatering Improvements (Design – CPH Consulting LLC)

### General Manager's Report

- **Financial Status** July 2022 FYTD positive change of \$5.5M driven by increased revenue offset by increased purchased power and operating expenses. Natural gas prices still are inching up playing the critical factor in pricing "purchased power." FY22 appears to be trending in line with last year. However, mortgage applications are down and rates up will likely cause a slowdown in permits and sales. This is being tracked this toward anticipating UC growth.
- **Unanimously approved** Commissioner Travel Expenses FMEA 2022 Annual Conference  
**Presentation** NSBU's FY2023 Strategic Goals focuses on capacity and growth via a new metrics, improving external relationships with the community/city commission, bond issuance, grid infrastructure modernization and water optimization among other topics.  
**Noted:** artificial intelligence use in grid modernization and self-grid healing (trip savers) to detect potential power outages before they occur. **Other items:** completion of the Fiber Loop Plan for the city, staff recruiting and assessment of utility scale solar phase. **Major 2023 projects:** 115v breaker replacements, direct buried primary cables, feeder crossings on I-95, the western complex, water-pellet softening, wastewater-reclamation facility improvements and a new regional lift station on Airport Rd. Also EV charging infrastructure, building the NSB Fiber Ring and advance metering infrastructure.

- **Informational Presentation** Customer Experience Transformation  
The customer service department will be streamlining in the next 2 months with a new, friendlier website. Customers will be able to see their consumption and how it compares to last year. Also, smart forms will allow for faster processes for common services. An automated power outage line already allows customers to report outage and receive callbacks when power is restored. This system can handle 18,000 calls per hour.

### **Commission Counsel's Report**

A special closed meeting prior to next month's meeting was requested for discussion concerning a potential settlement of the **Floridians Against Increased Rates/Hightower v. FPL** suit. Also, a new FL law pertaining to utilities may cause a change in what details can be publicly shared and could cause a security concern for UC infrastructure.

- **Ratification** – Settlement Agreement and General Release for UCNSB v. Cory  
**Unanimously approved**

### **New Business**

#### **FY2023 Employee Insurance Renewals**

For Medical, 6% increase in renewals = an average \$11 per pay period. Rates will go down if claims reduce. Term Life Insurance rates decrease 6% and Dental increases 4%.