

**AGENDA ITEM 3-a**

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE UTILITIES COMMISSION, CITY OF NEW SMYRNA BEACH, FLORIDA, HELD THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2021, AT 3:00 P.M., AT 200 CANAL STREET, NEW SMYRNA BEACH, FLORIDA

*(NOTE – THIS REGULAR U.C. MEETING WAS HELD ON-SITE)*

Chairman Davenport opened the Regular U.C. Meeting. Commissioner Hawes led in the Pledge of Allegiance and Commissioner Conrad provided the invocation.

Safety Message by John McMurray – Holiday Gatherings – Drinking, Driving and Fatigue:

Chairman Davenport stated John McMurray, give us a safety message regarding Holiday Gatherings, Drinking, Driving and Fatigue. Thanks, John.

Mr. McMurray addressed the Commission and stated okay, Commissioner Davenport this is up your alley here.

Chairman Davenport stated thank you.

Mr. McMurray continued and stated okay, I'll read a few things, good afternoon everybody and as we approach the holidays, I want everybody to have a good time with their families and friends but want to pause just a minute and talk about safe driving. Some things are happening this time of year, there are holiday parties, there's gatherings and there's also more tourists coming in town. And there's more tourists coming down from the north, I-95, but also across from I-4. They're down at Disney World, they're coming over to the beach, you guys and everyone here is familiar with that. What does that mean for us, that means that some of these drivers are going to be drinking, some of them are going to be drowsy, they're running long days, they're also going to be distracted. They might not know the road system too well and they might be going left when they really should be going right, so they might be changing lanes, stopping traffic, and pulling out. I always talk to the linemen in my prior experience and tell them to slow down and make sure they've got the buffer around them because sometimes somebody wants to go right and they're in the far left and they'll merge right in and slam on their brakes and a 30,000 lb. truck doesn't stop very quickly. So make sure that buffer is there. And then we'll also have the weather hazards, sometimes we'll get a little bit of rain, and a little bit of fog and that kind of adds to it.

Mr. McMurray continued, on the flip side of things if you're going on vacation make sure you get a good night's sleep if you're going to be driving before you depart, avoid drowsy driving, plan ahead, leave early to avoid the crowds, and designate a sober driver if you're traveling locally during holiday gatherings and such, and make sure that you and your loved ones are putting their cell phones away. And then the last thing I want to cover is the five principles of Smith's System Driving and I think this is real important, this is what has been taught throughout the electric utility industry and industries in general. And so number one is aim high in steering, so when you're driving make sure that you're looking out about 10 to 15 seconds, as far out ahead as you can. Number two is get the big picture, make sure that you understand all the vehicles around you, the situational awareness, the lights, the traffic, anything in the environment that's around you, as you see it and you're watching it. Number three is keep your eyes moving, scan around your vehicle, use your mirrors and look, even be turning your head and make sure you're signaling when you're turning. Number four, leave

Safety Message by John McMurray – Holiday Gatherings – Drinking, Driving and Fatigue (cont.):

yourself an out. So that if you're traveling in heavy traffic and you're maybe on one of the interstates, it is you can see behind you, you can see in front and if something ten seconds ahead is happening, it's you're ready and you're prepared to do what you need to do. And number five is make sure they see you, sometimes people are turning, they're not looking. If you have to, even in your windshield, is wave at them or signal them to cross the road, whatever that may be. So as we approach the holidays make sure that you and your loved ones are dealing with these challenges with the right awareness so that you can drive safely and enjoy the holidays with your friends and family. Thank you.

Chairman Davenport stated Mr. McMurray, that was great, very good.

Mr. McMurray then asked Chairman Davenport if he wanted to add anything, because you deal with all this.

Chairman Davenport stated no, and it's just like you said, give yourself an out. Give yourself an out and I like riding on the inside lane because think about it. I was going, coming in from Orlando one day on 17-92, and I'll never forget it, you never forget something like this. A car hit another car and then came right across the median, went right in front of me, missed me by ten feet and wound up in the ditch over here. But the two lanes, I was on the out, in the outside lane closest to the land if you will, the trees. And if I would have been in the inside, he would have hit me. So I always like that, like you said a second can save your life, I like watching what's going on around me. And the motorcycles what we've got to watch out for too, driving as fast as they are. Then stated that's good, very good, thank you, sir.

Roll Call:

Chairman Davenport then stated okay, Mrs. Simmons, can we have roll call please ma'am.

A roll call was taken, a majority of the U.C. Commissioners were in attendance as follows:

Commissioner Lawrence Kelly, Jr. (Absent)  
Commissioner James Smith  
Commissioner Lillian Conrad  
Chairman James Davenport  
Commissioner Richard Hawes

Others in attendance were as follows: J. Bunch, General Manager/CEO; E. Chavez, Director, Finance/ CFO; J. Couillard, Director, Engineering; T. Beyrle; Director, System Operations; B. Keehn, Director, Information Technology; S. Heil, Interim Water Resources Director; John McMurray, Director, Strategic Programs; Laquavius Green; Help Desk Technician; M. Spellers, Sr. Help Desk Technician; D. Simmons, Exec. Mgr./ Recording Secretary; General Counsel Thomas Cloud Esquire – Gray| Robinson Attorneys at Law; and Lorraine Sharp, a member of the public in attendance on site.

(1) Agenda Changes, Additions and Deletions:

Chairman Davenport stated okay, number one on the agenda here, do we have any changes, additions or deletions?

Mr. Bunch stated Mr. Chairman no changes, additions or deletions today. A relatively concise agenda and I think after the past couple meetings of two and a half hours we owed you to end the year on a pretty concise agenda.

Chairman Davenport stated this agenda is very concise, as well as the 169 pages and not 340 something pages usually.

(2) Public Participation:

Chairman Davenport stated next, number two item here on agenda do we have any public participation? Anybody on the phone or ?

There was no public participation at this time.

(3) Approval of Consent Items:

Chairman Davenport stated okay, number three, consent agenda. Can I have a motion on that, or anybody want to pull anything? There being none from the other Commissioners, Chairman Davenport stated I would like to pull g., just to get a little clarity on that myself personally.

Commissioner Conrad stated well, I'll make a motion then to approve a. through f.; specifically a motion to approve the consent items – item 3-a. Minutes of Regular U.C. Meeting Held 11-22-21, annotated version -- Due to shorter time frame between meetings, these minutes will be provided on the January 24, 2021 Regular U.C. Meeting agenda for approval. (Results of 11-22-21 meeting were distributed on 12-2-21); item 3-b. Project Approval – North Atlantic Avenue Water Main Improvements, approve this project with a total project budget of \$375,000.00, will be designed in-house and will include a City of NSB joint bid and MOU and Cost Share agreement forthcoming for approval, and authorization for the GM/CEO or his designee to execute all documents associated with this project; item 3-c. Project Approval – North Glencoe Road Reconductor Rebuild, approve this project with a total project budget of \$500,000.00, including the proposal from TRC Engineers, Inc. in the amount of \$26,401.00 and authorization for the GM/CEO or his designee to execute all documents associated with this project; item 3-d. Award of RFP No. 21-21 – Well Assessment and Rehabilitation, approve the award of this RFP and issuance of two annual service agreements, to Layne Christensen Company and A.C. Schultes of Florida, Inc. for these services and authorization for the GM/CEO or his designee to execute all documents associated with this matter; item 3-e. Granted and Accepted Third Party Utility Easements, granted to UCNSB for a water main on S.R. 44, ratify the acceptance of these utility easements from TT of Smyrna Beach LLC and Mitchell Equity Group LLLP, attached hereto and hereby submitted to the Commission; and item 3-f. Project Approval – Roof Replacement

(3) Approval of Consent Items (cont.):

– WRF North MCC Building, approval of award of ITB No. 03-22 to R/J Group, Inc. for the North MCC Roof Replacement Project in the amount of \$115,000.00 and authorize the GM/CEO or his designee to execute all documents associated with this project.

Chairman Davenport asked if there was a second.

Commissioner Hawes stated I will second.

Chairman Davenport requested Mrs. Simmons to call the roll please.

Commissioner Conrad's motion then passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

(3-g) Project Phase Approval – Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Project – Phase 2:

Chairman Davenport stated all right on g. what I wanted to know, that's on the metering, that's the smart meters, is that what that's about? I mean I...

Mr. Bunch stated yes, and then requested John McMurray to come back up to the podium and talk about the phases involved in preparing for this and where this phase fits in.

Mr. McMurray stated certainly, so this is Phase 2. We're at the, towards the end of Phase 1 right now. So Phase 1 was the kick-off and the interviewing of our employees for the Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI). Right now the U.C. is manually reading each meter monthly throughout our system. With AMI, smart meters, we'll be reading throughout our system every quarter hour. As stated, Phase 1 is nearing completion and we'll be working on an RFP next month. Phase 2 will be completing the draft RFP, placing on the street in March or April, and then start interviewing the vendors. Should be October, November, I'm hoping it's sooner, that they will recommend a vendor. They go through the whole interviewing, I'm sorry, they recommend and also, we go through negotiations with the vendor and we start the project. October, November is what they're saying, I'm hoping we can pull that into the middle of the year if it will work. But Phase 2 is that process of vetting out who is going to be the vendor, going through the negotiations of the features in the system and then beginning to implement. And then Phase 3 is the implementation stage.

Mr. Bunch stated and at the end of Phase 2 or sometimes towards the end we would come to the Commission for the approval of the project. So after the vendor has chosen the technology you'd have dollar amount and we would discuss that with you for approval.

Commissioner Hawes stated are there, I don't know, a few top-tier companies in this, or does it not really work like that? Is there?

Mr. McMurray stated there are top tiers, so there are AMI providers that have done this for millions of meters around the world and they'll be ones that are on our short list. We went out with a pre-qualification letter. We offered that to open, basically open to everybody, and ten vendors came forward, filled it out and we're going through that process right now. And I think by the end of this month, Quanta is reviewing and we'll make, they'll give us the final

(3-g) Project Phase Approval – Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Project – Phase 2 (cont.):

tally of what that has. And then those vendors shortlisted, and I don't know the number right now but say five, plus or minus a couple. We'll go out and we'll send out that official RFP in a March time frame. They'll respond and like I said we'll probably select, I think it's in May, June, July. No, actually it's in mid-April, we'll be in the selection phase and then we go forward.

Mr. McMurray continued by stating this is a smaller cost part of the project that we're on, Phase 2. The larger cost, like Mr. Bunch said is the implementation, it's buying all the meters, installing the communication system and implementing all that technology. That's the Phase 3, that where, you know, Phase 2 we're coming to the end making you aware, but Phase 3, which will be mid to late next year will be more expensive.

Chairman Davenport stated regarding Phase 3, what guesstimate, I'm curious about the dollar amount.

Commissioner Conrad stated well, the budget is \$8.4 million.

Chairman Davenport commented is it right there in front of me and I didn't read it; okay.

Mr. McMurray stated it's in there, yes, \$8.5 million, it's a ballpark estimate. I don't know that we really know until we get the bids back to be honest with you.

Chairman Davenport then stated great job Mr. McMurray, thank you.

Mr. Bunch stated just to add.

Chairman Davenport stated yes sir, go ahead.

Commissioner Conrad interjected I would think that since this budget was prepared that there's been some instability on a supply chain issue and it looks to me like you have this projected out through 2030; is that correct?

Mr. McMurray stated no, the installation.., I should say the word "no".

Commissioner Conrad stated so when do you expect it to be completed?

Mr. McMurray stated the implementation will be about a two-year project. Quanta is saying somewhere between 2024, we're hoping that we can start installing meters in 2022, next year, and be done by the end of 2023. That's a little bit expedited but they're saying somewhere later in 2024. But the plan, the meters will be in for a much longer time, that's just, this is just installing them and the system. So essentially this is the project, the AMI project will be complete when we install the last meters.

Mr. Bunch stated so we're in the process of working with Quanta actually to schedule a Workshop with you. I believe Mrs. Simmons, we're shooting for the first week of February?

(3-g) Project Phase Approval – Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Project – Phase 2 (cont.):

Mr. McMurray then interjected February 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Bunch stated so the second week of February and over a several hour period we'll talk about modernization overall. Mr. McMurray and Quanta will present, talk about everything we want to do in the next five, seven, however many years. Where AMI fits in, the budget, the timeline, the current timeline of the projects, and recognizing that two, if not three of our Commissioners weren't here when we did the Modernization Presentation a year and a half or two years ago. I'm kind of losing the exact time at this point but we figured we'd be, give everybody a chance to A., see a presentation on modernization from an industry expert outside of us, ask tons of questions, talk specifically about smart meters and AMI. The dollars, the time frame, ask questions, poke holes in it, the whole nine yards and just recommit to what we want to accomplish with the current set of Commissioners.

Commissioner Hawes stated I think that's a really important thing to do, thank you.

Chairman Davenport stated that answers it, thank you very much Mr. McMurray and Mr. Bunch; adding this is exciting right here for the future.

Mr. Bunch stated yes, truthfully advanced metering infrastructure is the core foundational technology in modernizing. It's not just meters, it enables a lot of things.

Chairman Davenport stated exactly.

Mr. Bunch continued, we'll be talking about that in the Workshop and again there's going to be a gentleman named Julio Aguero who's worked with us before but really sharp fellow, recognized industry expert and I think you'll enjoy his presentation and you've got the opportunity to ask him questions. And not that you don't trust us, but it gives somebody outside of here an opportunity to give you a perspective on what we're doing, does it make sense and why we're doing these things, as we're asking you to support the project expenditures.

Chairman Davenport interjected right.

Mr. Bunch continued, a vote of confidence that these are the right things to do for the customers and our community.

Chairman Davenport stated well, it's futuristic, need to do it. Okay, I'm fine with g., so.

Commissioner Hawes stated I would make a motion to pass 3-g. please; specifically a motion to approve the next phase of the AMI Project – Phase 2, in the amount of \$185,000, services to Quanta Technology, LLC, in the amount of \$183,351.00. and authorize the GM/CEO or his designee to execute all documents associated with Phase 2 of this project.

Commissioner Conrad stated second.

(3-g) Project Phase Approval – Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Project – Phase 2 (cont.):

Chairman Davenport stated call the roll Mrs. Simmons please.

Commissioner Hawes motion then passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

(4) General Manager's Report:

Chairman Davenport then stated okay, number four on the agenda, General Manager's Report, Mr. Bunch.

Mr. Bunch stated I'm going to ask Mr. Chavez to come up and give the financial summary for the month – Mr. Chavez.

(4-a) Financial Status – November 2021:

Mr. Chavez stated thank you and commenced his presentation entitled "December 2021 Financial Performance". Then stated okay, as we're starting the new year our financial statements reflected a change in net assets of about \$1.9 million. So what we're seeing is increased revenue, usage and volumes, and then of course we did have the rate change that we recently implemented October 1<sup>st</sup>. We do have slightly lower operating expenses and increased capital contributions. So pretty good, you know the trends, that we've seen over the last couple of years, continue. The developments and such you know of course are pending completion and they turn them over to us as far as the infrastructure. But things are continuing, no surprises from the economic side. Resources are still tight from, but more from a commodity standpoint, the materials and the purchasing side of it we're managing and we're just paying particular attention to the lead time on a number of whatever we're looking at, cable, transformers, etc. So critical materials and supplies, our Purchasing Department are making sure they're working with the right folks and making sure they're putting enough lead time with the groups; so just an update in general. On the capital expenditures side we're about \$3.6 million, \$1.3 million in major projects and \$2.3 million in annual projects. The major project spend includes the pond expansion, electric reliability improvement program, and that would be line 7, 14, 16, 25. Those are running ahead of schedule so that's good. And on the annual project spend, just normal pole replacements and new business. So overall, no surprises, which is exactly what we would want.

Mr. Chavez went to the next slide and stated so this is just the waterfall on the operating income standpoint. So we were at a loss this time last year, about just under \$200,000. Currently we're at an operating income of \$1.4 million and that is driven by the change in revenues, operating expense decrease, and then the change in the purchased power. But, and when we say the change in the purchased power it really is around we were previously over-recovered where we had our fuel and purchased power adjustment at around \$15.75. Currently as part of the rate study and the change in rates we did a credit, so now we are giving back some of that over-recovery which is what we had planned to do as part of the rate study.

(4-a) Financial Status – November 2021 (cont.):

Mr. Chavez went to the next slide and stated change in net assets, really this is just the addition of the capital contributions. So this is going to the very bottom and the change from the previous slide is really the increase in the capital contributions of about \$300,000 and then a little bit on the, the \$134,000 which would be the change in our other income, expenses, other items below the line, so that would be our debt expense. So now we're on par with what we had in debt last year because that's kind of where we were at in the sense of now where it's comparable year over year. So overall the numbers are coming into where we'd expect them to be. We are monitoring as such and unless there are any other questions, on those, that was the main part of the slides. In the appendix you'll have the key performance indicators, those do look pretty good but we will review those in further detail, unless you have any questions, in January.

Mr. Bunch then asked if there were any questions for Mr. Chavez.

Commissioner Smith stated just one, Mr. Chairman. Is there anything that you're concerned about?

Mr. Chavez stated no, from a standpoint of, you know, the macro-economic side of it, we're keeping an eye on the materials, the supplies, but those have been an issue, not an issue but those have been a challenge for the last several months so we're adjusting. So now we make sure that we are looking at those lead times and making sure that we're covered. From the purchased power side, Mr. Beyrle and I, which is probably our single largest expense, we noticed that the natural gas which drives our purchased power, that's stabilizing. West Texas, West Texas Intermediate, which they call WTI, that's also stabilizing. But we're keeping an eye on it, so really from a macro perspective as those things impact us. But of course, as we think of things or as we encounter things, we will definitely let you know. But overall it's turning out to be a pretty good fiscal year.

Commissioner Smith stated I hate to phrase a question like that because I don't know the answer and I just, you know, when I look at all these tables and all these numbers and I'm going what does it all mean? And that's really what it means to me, are there any things out there that we need to be concerned about or you're concerned about that may have an effect.

Mr. Chavez stated no, and I appreciate the question, we are definitely keeping an eye on those things and our main areas we're keeping a close eye on and thankfully the impact of Omicron and such, it really hasn't done much. This is the second year of COVID I think so yes, the supply chain issues we're already ahead of, so nothing new. It's not getting any, may not be getting much better but it's not getting worse.

Commissioner Smith stated okay, thank you.

Chairman Davenport thanked Mr. Chavez and stated to Commissioner Smith, you know what you just asked was a good question too by the way. And you mentioned a while ago Mr. Bunch trust, you know Quanta and you know you can trust us. But sitting here is one thing about it I can honestly say, I personally feel comfortable because I trust everybody in the organization. At one time I couldn't honestly say that, that's all I'll say, thank you.

(4-a) Financial Status – November 2021 (cont.):

Mr. Bunch stated this is a very, the team has a lot of integrity, everybody in the room you're looking at here. Mr. Chavez and I meet regularly to go over these numbers. And so the one thing we are keeping an eye on that Mr. Chavez spoke to is the cost of our purchased power supply but you might remember last year we were over collected on the reserve. So as the credit chips away at that we know at some point off and away in the future we have to make an adjustment but other municipalities around us that didn't really have the reserve built up have had to increase their purchased power because of the changes in natural gas costs that occurred in the last four or five months. So the reserves served us well, keeping that money aside as a cushion for the customers and us, and it allows us to kind of glide through those peaks and valleys. And then as Mr. Chavez and Mr. Beyrle look out six, nine months in the future they'll tell us in advance if we need to make some minor changes but because of their planning that won't be abrupt or a surprise to you.

Chairman Davenport stated thank you.

Mr. Chavez stated sounds good, thank you.

Chairman Davenport stated anything else Mr. Bunch?

Mr. Bunch stated no sir Chairman, that's it for us.

Chairman Davenport stated I just want to make an observation of what I was just reading on page 143, just for the record here, according to the October 2021 survey published by Florida Municipal Electric Association, Utilities Commission, City of New Smyrna Beach's electric rates are currently the lowest in the state for residential customers of municipal and investor-owned utilities. Thank you, thanks Mr. Beyrle, our electric's a great price; so it doesn't go not noticed.

(5) Commission Counsel's Report – General Counsel:

Chairman Davenport stated okay, next on the agenda here, number 5., Counsel?

Mr. Cloud stated yes sir, just a couple of things. There are no problems out there that are insurmountable at present. You all may recall the story of JEA when there had been an attempt to sell it.

Chairman Davenport stated right.

Mr. Cloud stated and there have been a few articles that have been running in the Jacksonville Times Union paper that are quite remarkable and you know the depth to which the investigative reporting has gone on. The last one ended with okay, where are the indictments. So there, not only have they gone from we're going to sell it now no matter what, to nobody's touching it. But the people who were involved in it are likely to see some other consequences from their actions. So it also appears that someone had selected a winner for the sale and it was FPL. This is the same company that's just been hammered for supplying the funding to the

(5) Commission Counsel's Report – General Counsel (cont.):

consultant that was involved in the fake candidate down in south Florida. So it's good to see that JEA is going to stay in public ownership.

Mr. Cloud continued, there's a bill that's been introduced in Tallahassee, it comes out of south Florida. It's a dispute I believe between Miami Shores and North Miami Beach and the bill would change the statute and require cities to charge identical rates, both inside and outside the city. Now you don't do that, and I'm not sure that you ever have levied something called a surcharge. Historically, dating back to the 1940's Florida courts have upheld differential rates. If a city wanted to charge higher rates in outside the city service areas, they could do that. That was uniformly upheld and then in 1970, around the time I was a sophomore in high school, the legislature adopted a bill that permitted surcharges up to fifty percent with a hearing and twenty-five percent without a hearing. So, you could have a rate of one in the city and then a rate of one and a quarter in the county. And that statute has continued on for the better part of half a century. But this would do away in effect with the part of the statute that permits those out of city surcharges. I don't know that it will pass. It was introduced last year, sometime a lobbyist will introduce something you know on multiple occasions hoping that they'll be able to get the lobbying part of it right. But we should pay attention to it because it will have an impact on a number of other municipal utilities. I'd be surprised if it passed but you know.

Mr. Cloud continued by stated the other bill that I would mention to you just briefly today is one that is going to require business impact statement for any local government regulation – any local government regulation. And a companion bill that is going to subject local governments to lawsuits if businesses profitability is affected by any local regulations. And I guess a simpler way to do what these two bills would accomplish is to just abolish all cities and counties because there is no regulation that is neutral when it comes to business. It's kind of ludicrous to suggest that there is. But this year is going to be a very, very trying year for local governments in our legislature. There doesn't seem to be a whole lot of kumbaya out there for the people at the local level and I wish I had a solution for it. I am helping the League in coming up with some ideas for those bills so that they don't do any lasting harm to local governments. But I would just say stay tuned the next few months to our legislature. And that's it, that's all I have to report.

Chairman Davenport stated thank you Mr. Cloud. I just want to acknowledge your work on this pole attachment licensing agreement. I know that's been going back and forth and I read that, and I just appreciate what you've done, appreciate you working with the City on this. I've seen Carrie Avallone in there and so thank you very much, great job you've been doing for us.

Mr. Cloud stated yes sir.

(6) Old Business:

Chairman Davenport stated okay, next item on the agenda, any old business?

Mr. Bunch indicated none.

(6) Old Business (cont.):

There were no old business items to consider.

(7) New Business:

Chairman Davenport then stated any new business? No new business?

Mr. Bunch stated nothing additional.

There were no new business items to consider.

(8) Possible Other Business – Time for Commissioners:

Chairman Davenport stated okay, time for the Commissioners. Commissioner Smith. But then stated I'm sorry, just give me a minute, Commissioner Conrad, ladies first.

Commissioner Conrad stated oh, okay, and thank you very much. All I really have to say is I hope everyone has a safe and good holiday season and 2022 is great for everybody.

Chairman Davenport stated thank you. Now Commissioner Smith, sorry about that.

Commissioner Smith stated well I, you know, first I want to compliment Commissioner Conrad on your chaplain duties you do every meeting. Some of the best prayers I've heard in a long time and I think everybody appreciates it. It's been a long, strange year and it's probably going to get stranger as time goes on. But I think this staff is doing an excellent job, I think its obvious their boss has hired the right people in the right positions and most importantly, is listen to what they had to say. And I feel very optimistic about the future of the U.C. I don't know about the rest of the world but right now the U.C. looks pretty good.

Chairman Davenport stated thank you. Commissioner Hawes.

Commissioner Hawes stated just very quickly I'd like to echo both Commissioner Conrad and Commissioner Smith's comments. And also to say I think the modernization plan and some of the things we're doing and going through, this is a really important piece. With the bonds completed, having the money and having the plan, and really knowing where we're going is going to make a lot of difference to the City over a period of time. So, thank you.

Chairman Davenport stated thank you. I'd like to make a couple of observations. When I sat on the interview committee for Mr. Bunch and we talked about how it was so important for me that we, the City of New Smyrna Beach and the Utilities Commission to work together, almost as one but I know we're different. And Mr. Bunch you've done just that, I mean to read the letters and how the Fire Chief worked with the employees so many hours in that, that's a great job. I know you and our City Manager have lunch, get along, everything is, it's just a great feeling inside to know that that was one thing I had expressed when we hired you. The other thing I expressed was I couldn't figure out why the Utilities Commission, and we're a business, was not involved in our City more. What I mean by that was giving more, not that they weren't giving, but they're really involved in volunteering and the name's out there

(8) Possible Other Business – Time for Commissioners (cont.):

everywhere compared to, and giving to the kids, the gifts. I know that was done in the past but its being done much more now. And I just want to wish everybody a Merry Christmas and our hearts go out for the people in these tornados. That's probably the saddest thing that we can deal with, but do we have people going out there by any chance?

Mr. Bunch stated I think we were asked and we, Vernon Steele would have committed numbers, I believe at this point we're probably waiting to hear back from FMEA whether or not and when they would need folks. But I do know early this week Amy Zubaly from FMEA reached out to ask for availability. We would have provided some folks but probably not ready to receive them yet.

Chairman Davenport stated and I see it, I was reading this about Mrs. Fisher, we have less than two weeks until the U.C. takeover of the UMC community meals kitchen?

Mr. Bunch stated yes, so this past Tuesday about fifteen volunteers went to the Methodist Church down on Palmetto and they cooked lunches for about two hundred local folks. If you haven't been there before, it's a pretty amazing set up they have. They have a truck that comes in with mobile showers, somebody that cuts hair, and they have a bike repair volunteer person. They really do a good job of serving the local community's needs, very quietly, you don't hear a whole lot, but they do amazing work. And our employees did a great job for us.

Chairman Davenport stated well I just wanted to let you know its not going unnoticed, and I really, you've exceeded all my expectations, and ours.

Mr. Bunch stated it's this team, they're here every day, they just do amazing stuff.

Chairman Davenport added and the team is just unbelievable, can't say enough thank you's and kudos to you. Everybody have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and we'll close this meeting out for 2021.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Chairman Davenport adjourned the meeting, and the Regular U.C. Meeting closed at 3:35 p.m.

{NOTE – Effective at the U.C.'s 3-22-21 Regular U.C. Meeting, commencing with the minutes for Two Final Public Hearings and Regular U.C. Meeting Held 2-22-21, the Commission will start approving annotated minutes within the agenda package.}

These detailed, near verbatim minutes will still be prepared for reference, electronic searches, and will additionally be posted on the U.C.'s website – ucnsb.org.}