

AGENDA ITEM 3-a

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE UTILITIES COMMISSION, CITY OF NEW SMYRNA BEACH, FLORIDA, HELD MONDAY, MAY 24, 2021, AT 3:00 P.M., AT 200 CANAL STREET, NEW SMYRNA BEACH, FLORIDA

(NOTE – THIS REGULAR U.C. MEETING WAS HELD ON-SITE (WITH MASKS AND SOCIAL DISTANCING) AND WITH LIMITED ON-SITE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – VIA APPOINTMENTS)

Chairman Holcomb called the Regular Meeting of the Utilities Commission to order. Commissioner Davenport led in the Pledge of Allegiance and Commissioner Conrad provided the invocation*. (**Comms. Conrad read a prayer given by Archbishop Charles Chaput at a City meeting in Philadelphia in 2011.*) Commissioner Conrad indicated this prayer sort of fit with today and at the conclusion added a few more statements in remembrance of the upcoming Memorial Day.

Roll Call: All of the U.C. Commissioners were in attendance as follows:

Chairman Jack Holcomb
Commissioner James Smith
Commissioner Lillian Conrad
Commissioner 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 Ops.; B. Keehn, Director, Information Technology; T. West, Director, Water Resources; B. Beck, Director, Central Services; R. Walsh, Interim Director of Electric Ops.; J. DeFries, Safety & Risk Manager; Laquavius Green; Help Desk Technician; M. Spellers, Sr. Help Desk Technician; D. Simmons, Exec. Services Mgr./ Recording Secretary; General Counsel Thomas Cloud Esquire – Gray|Robinson Attorneys at Law; and John Moss, a member of the public (on-site via appointment).

Safety Message by John DeFries – “Rubber Glove Inspection”:

Chairman Holcomb then stated I’d like to call up, for a safety message, John DeFries.

Mr. DeFries addressed the Commission and stated not too many times in life you get to do a do-over. But since we had problems with the video last time, we decided to do a quick do-over and I thought I’d bring you all a toy to play with. So you kind of know what our linemen are doing in these gloves and my challenge to you guys is something kind of simple; see how good you are. Now I’m a 17-year lineman so I shouldn’t fail at this, part of this takes a lot of dexterity to do this stuff. Whoa, almost dropped it, so you can’t really drop this stuff from the air, will cause problems. Anybody want a challenge to see if they can pick that up without dropping it? (He was wearing lineman gloves and separating a washer from a bolt.)

Commissioner Hawes stated I do.

Safety Message by John DeFries – “Rubber Glove Inspection” (cont.):

Mr. DeFries stated I knew you would and then added I’ll put that back together. Then stated those things are really stiff, never get in a hand shaking contest with a lineman because you probably are going to lose.

Commissioner Hawes stated we’ll see what happens here.

Commissioner Davenport commented if you keep doing that it will come off.

Commissioner Hawes stated yes, I just have to make sure I hang on to it. Then stated I did it, now I have to put it back on, I guess.

Commissioner Davenport stated good job.

Commissioner Hawes responded thank you.

Mr. DeFries stated anybody else want to play? And then indicated the gloves could be passed around to look at them. Went back to the podium and stated so we’re going to talk about gloves and what our people have to deal with. I have a video for you that we’re going to try to play – there it is. (Displayed a YouTube video from the Northwest Lineman College entitled “Rubber Glove Inspection”.)

At the conclusion of the video, Mr. DeFries commented yay, it worked. So just to give you a little bit back on that, the guys have to do a daily inspection on their gloves before they use them and then we have to do an inspection every six months. They can sit on a shelf for 12 months and we can issue at that last day and get 18 months out of them, but it will never go that long because usually its in a process. The more frequent they use gloves we could even have more inspections if we needed them. They work voltages from 24,000 down to 76.20 volts here with those gloves to protect them. Those gloves are class 3, they’re tested at 30,000 volts and they can work up to 28.5 thousand volts. Let’s see what else I’ve got, the outside coating, I’m sorry the outside glove is actually called a protector and they have to wear those, it’s a regulated process that they have those protectors on the outside to protect the glove from getting pinholes like in the video we saw. So, that’s pretty much it, are there any questions before we go forward?

Chairman Holcomb stated Commissioners?

Commissioner Conrad stated yes.

Mr. DeFries stated sure.

Commissioner Conrad stated is each person issued a set of gloves or do they interchange them, can anybody use a set of gloves.

Mr. DeFries stated well, you have to be qualified of course, like a lineman or somebody. It doesn’t necessarily have to be a lineman but whatever they’re doing they have to be trained to do. But they’re issued mainly to people who work the electricity.

Safety Message by John DeFries – “Rubber Glove Inspection” (cont.):

Commissioner Conrad stated but they're issued to individuals as opposed to a group?

Mr. DeFries stated yes. Anything else? Then added, you've got my gloves.

Commissioner Conrad then asked how much do they cost?

Mr. DeFries stated those are around \$350 a pair. We also have a class 0 (zero) they use for working on low voltages, they can work on 1,000 volts or less, for like small, like the voltage in your house.

Commissioner Hawes commented, jokingly, they're probably really nice to use in the summer time.

Mr. DeFries responded oh yes, they're wonderful, the guys love them. Then added no, they're pretty hot. And then stated thank you guys.

Mr. Bunch thanked Mr. DeFries.

(1) Agenda Changes, Additions and Deletions:

Chairman Holcomb then stated Mr. Bunch, any agenda changes, additions or deletions?

Mr. Bunch stated no changes, additions or deletions Chairman.

(2) Public Participation:

Chairman Holcomb stated at this time we'll call for public participation, if there's anybody that would like to speak please come to the podium, state your name and address. After pausing, he then stated at this time it doesn't look like there's anybody out there. Is there anybody on line that wants to participate, do we still have that available?

Mrs. Simmons indicated no.

Chairman Holcomb stated all right, we'll close that segment and move on to approval of consent items.

(3) Approval of Consent Items:

Chairman Holcomb stated do any of the Commissioners want to pull any of the five consent agenda items. With no Commissioners indicating they would like to pull a consent agenda item for discussion, Chairman Holcomb stated I need a motion to approve the consent items.

Commissioner Davenport stated I so approve; specifically a motion to approve the consent items – item 3-a. Minutes of Regular U.C. Meeting Held 4-26-21 (*Annotated Version – held on-site w/limited public via appts.*), approve as submitted; item 3-b. Granted and Accepted Third Party Utility Easements, ratified the acceptance of the third party granted utility

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

Easements, granted to UCNSB for Coastal Woods D / Coastal Woods Homeowners' Association, Inc. and for Alba Court Assisted Living Facility / Alba Court Development Group, attached hereto and hereby submitted to the Commission; item 3-c. WRF (Water Reclamation Facility) East Clarifier Drive Unit Replacement Project, approve this project in the total amount of \$108,400, the associated sole source purchase of the East Clarifier Drive Unit from Ovivo USA, LLC in the amount of \$107,400, and authorization for the GM-CEO or his designee to execute any additional documentation for this project; item 3-d. Revising UCNSB 2021 (CY) Regular Meeting Schedule for September and October, 2021 – revising the September and October Regular U.C. Meeting dates to September 28 and October 26 (Tuesdays) respectively; and item 3-e. Agreement for Continuing Professional Services Between UCNSB and KCI Technologies, Inc., approve agreement as submitted and authorize the GM/CEO or his designee to execute all documents associated with this matter.

Chairman Holcomb stated I need a second.

Commissioners Hawes and Smith simultaneously stated second.

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

(4) General Manager's Report:

Chairman Holcomb stated all right, General Manager's Report, Mr. Bunch.

Mr. Bunch stated before I ask Mr. Chavez up, would just mention two items from the written portion of the General Manager's Report. We're winding down the rate study as we speak and the consultants will be here to make a presentation, the recommendations in the June meeting. And if possible, we'll get to you what we can in advance or offer individual meetings with you, but again you'll see the full presentation, it's planned for the June meeting. Is that correct Mr. Chavez?

Mr. Chavez confirmed.

Mr. Bunch stated the next item I want to mention in the General Manager's Report also is our I.T. Department, Mrs. Brandy Keehn, won an American Public Power Association / FMPA grant a couple of weeks ago for a cyber monitoring service and that will have a \$350,000 to \$400,000 three-year value for us. So it's 24/7, its cyber monitoring, you've heard all kinds of things in the news lately about the hacks and ransom. Those typically don't take place very fast. People get into your system, they've got a route and ferret around a long time before they can figure out where the gold's stored. And then when they get their hands on the gold and they hold it hostage, that's when the ransom occurs. But systems like this, which they're actually used a bit more in the electric business prominently, because of the risk to that business. But services like the one that we will be getting are becoming more popular and more available. Hopefully they become more cost effective too, but for the purposes of the three years it will have somewhere in that \$350,000 to \$400,000 value to us. As I mentioned last month, Mrs. Keehn also recently got a quote for this same service and as it turned out the same company we got the quote from is the one partnering with APPA on offering this service. So coincidental as it may be, it's really good for us because while we've got multiple

(4) General Manager's Report (cont.):

levels of system backups and this monitoring service is an extra level of insurance for our business. So I want to shout out to Mrs. Keehn back there and say thanks for a job well done.

Commissioner Davenport stated and what happens after the three years? Then it would be on us, would be our responsibility or continue the program, adding or we were already looking at it anyway weren't we.

Mr. Bunch stated yes, I think we would have an option at that point in time to look at continuing the service. So there's a lot of upfront costs but for the service we were looking at, for two levels of monitoring, was about \$50,000 a year. So I think we'll have some experience between now and then in terms of what value we think it delivers and there's probably going to be some more products available on the market. But to your question, I think the short answer is yes, we will look at the continuation option.

Commissioner Davenport stated that's great, adding that's a lot of money.

Mr. Bunch stated it is and I can't, again, I want to thank Mrs. Keehn.

Commissioner Davenport interjected great job.

Mr. Bunch continued, because had she not had the relationship with FMPA, those are the ones that recommended us to APPA for the grant. And Mrs. Keehn seemed to believe we were just one of six municipalities that got that grant; so a pretty big deal for us.

Commissioner Davenport stated its huge.

Chairman Holcomb stated absolutely.

Commissioner Conrad also stated thank you.

(4-a) Financial Status – April 2021:

AND

(4-b) Balanced Scorecard and Enterprise Metrics – April 2021:

Mr. Bunch then stated okay, let's move to the financial status and I'm going to ask Mr. Chavez to come up and he'll go right into the balanced scorecard and enterprise metrics.

Mr. Chavez stated good afternoon and proceeded to the first page of his presentation entitled April 2021 Financial and Operating Performance. From April 2021 fiscal year to date we're at a change in net assets of about \$37,000. We've got increased revenue and continued purchased power favorability. On the revenue side it's primarily water and reclaimed. And then of course we have higher operating expenses and higher debt expense. And once again, this is year versus year before. On the capital side we've got \$9.1 million in fiscal year to date - \$5.6 million in major projects and \$3.5 million in annuals. On the major projects some of the ones there, PLC Replacement, it's complete. South Beach Pump Station is complete. Smyrna Substation is finished. Sugar Mill is in progress, so that's underway. And then we have a number of third-party projects, 10th Street, 5th Street, Barracuda Bridge. The third-

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

AND

(4-b) Balanced Scorecard and Enterprise Metrics – April 2021 (cont.):

party projects are pretty much at the whim of whatever, if it's the City or the County. So we have a number of them budgeted in 2022, but what we did was we kind of separated them out so we know that these are really not our control but just to kind of give you an update. We do try to factor those into our budgets and forecasts. On the annual project side, Pole Inspection Replacement, Potable Water Meters, Overhead and Underground Extensions, and then we're getting vehicles in, which is according to the plan that we set out a couple of years ago.

Mr. Chavez went to the next slide and stated so this is the waterfall comparing April year to date last year versus April year to date this year. So \$1.8 million of an operating loss, that's the revenue and the operating expenses, and then \$2.4 million of an April year to date loss this year. Higher than the year before, once again it's the operating expenses, veg. management, trimming, which reduces the outage frequency. We will, in next year's budget, will be on the regular cycle so we've gotten ahead, we did in advance this year but next year will be more on the regular cycle; will be a little more predictable in that regard. Higher depreciation, amortization expense. We did have lower electrical commercial revenue, but it still really hasn't been too hot yet, as we go into more of the summer months it will definitely pick up some more. And then we have continued purchased power favorability and the increased reclaimed and water usage from a revenue standpoint.

Mr. Chavez went to the next slide and stated this one is the all-in net assets view and from last year \$1.2 million of a change in net assets versus \$37,000. So at least now we're not kind of negative any longer, we've now got our capital contributions, have increased, so we're in a much better spot than where we were, but pretty much it's the same story as the slide before, this just incorporates the net assets and the like. He then asked if there were any questions so far?

There being none, Mr. Chavez proceeded to the next slide, the key performance indicators. Just from a high level, on this slide, safety, electric and water resources. On the safety side the PMVA's, we're at six but we do have plans. John DeFries is working with the folks to try to improve on safety in the vehicle back-up procedures. On the electric side we're getting better, as we do the reliability improvements it will improve, it will reduce the number of impacts to the customers.

Mr. Chavez went to the next slide and stated Customer Service, green as always. What we will do is try to reduce, raise our targets in essence because we've performed pretty well so we're probably going to increase a little more, just to reflect the continued favorability. And on the next slide, stated on the safety and risk side, we had one minor OSHA incident. I think what this is a good indicator of, you know with our safety focus and culture employees know that it's better to report. They don't see it as more of, you know it's having an issue, but more of a positive atmosphere, we want our folks to report injuries. So this one was a minor one, laceration of leg but no stitches, but that's the environment and culture we want to promote. We have one third party claim for an AT&T line cut, but nothing significant. On the safety and risk side, as we talked about, six PMVA's and five which were vehicle backing and one where an employee hit a bollard when pulling out of, through a space. So once again we're reinforcing the safe driver and the vehicle backing procedures because that is where the issue

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

AND

(4-b) Balanced Scorecard and Enterprise Metrics – April 2021 (cont.):

has been, a lot of vehicle backing. On the electric reliability side, SAIFI and SAIDI and CAIDI. CAIDI is green for April and April fiscal year to date, so that's the restoration times. So we've typically always done a really good job of restoring our customers. On the SAIFI side, that's where, as we start to put in reclosures and other reliability improvement items, that will get better.

Chairman Holcomb interjected is that because you take the hands off the lines, am I understanding that right?

Mr. Chavez stated you start to stratify the customer so this way if you have an outage it impacts less, you start to break up the feeder itself. And then added to Ms. Couillard do you want to talk a little bit to that, on reclosers?

Chairman Holcomb stated I think I understand, yes I've got it, it's a work in process to get there.

Mr. Chavez stated yes, it is, the challenge first of all was to get the equipment and such. So we're getting those in and then we'll start installing them.

Chairman Holcomb stated and I think we talked about it at our last meeting, so.

Mr. Chavez stated yes, and then continued to Water Resources, green, so in pretty good shape there and Customer Service, green. He went to the next slide and continued, on the Customer Service side we're still 96.8% or 97% of our accounts are current; so really no issues with collections. The customer growth continues to remain strong. Materials Management, P.O. issuance days are green. On the H.R. side headcounts under budget by eleven and we're actively recruiting for five positions and two of those five positions have already been filled in May. So subsequent to this but still, we're heading in the right direction. On the I.T. side, cybersecurity participation is a slight decrease from March but the help desk tickets close out remains green. And at the staff meetings we do talk about, to be sure to reinforce our folks to take the cybersecurity exercises that are issued every month. And then concluded by stating unless there's any other questions, that's pretty much it.

Chairman Holcomb asked if the Commissioners had any questions – there were none.

Mr. Chavez stated thanks.

Mr. Bunch thanked Mr. Chavez.

Commissioner Davenport commented very concise and clear and transparent.

Mr. Bunch then stated that's it for the General Manager's section Chairman.

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

Chairman Holcomb stated Counsel's report, Mr. Cloud please.

Mr. Cloud stated we were successful in modifying the terms of the pole attachment legislation with the help of an awful lot of people, many of which are in this room. We were also able to defeat an effort that was initially aimed at changing the structure of municipal electric utilities in Florida. One of the utility companies and it was not Charter, had proposed a bill that changed the..., there's a little section in the back of 366 that was put in place in 1951, the year they decided that the state would regulate electric rates as opposed to cities. Because back before 1951 cities regulated electric rates, in the cities if they had a franchise, and what that provision does is it exempts municipal electric utilities from regulation, and it preserves franchise rights, which are rights held by cities in common for all of their citizens. And if you want to know how important they are, just ask anybody from Winter Park because it was the existence of their purchase option that enabled them to get into the electric business in 2005. There was a sort of a ham-fisted attempt to change that, the League made some inquiries about is this really doing what we think this is doing? The response back was yes, it is, here's how to fix it. So there have been at least a half dozen attempts to change municipal utilities this year, five of which were defeated and the sixth one was the one where you were involved in. So even though there's some not necessarily good things that happened to cities this year on Home Rule, municipal electrics were not included in that group that got impacted badly; and that's a good thing and you had a big role in that.

Mr. Cloud continued, June 3 we have a meeting with County staff on the Williamson Boulevard Agreement; hopefully to get that wrapped up. The tariff update will come next month and part of this will be to update the roughly 640 pages of stuff that the Public Service Commission has, some of which is outdated, some of which needs to be changed. But that will be teed up for the first time next month. And last but not least, the last item that's going to be cleared up is a part of the capital charge rewrite, is our Developer's Agreement. And we think that we'll have that wrapped up by June with some real minor changes that will enable us to proceed forward with pretty much what we have now. But what we were thinking about doing is when we get the form, some of these agreements, many of them, may last more than four years and so it might be prudent to have the City go ahead and approve the form. That way we won't have to take the agreements to the City, we just get them to approve the form. They have been helpful with us on similar issues in the past. And that's all I have to report.

Chairman Holcomb confirmed the Commissioners did not have any questions and then closed that section of the U.C. agenda.

(6) Old Business:(6-a) FDEP Easement Request for Barracuda Bridge Utility Relocations – Proposed UCNSB Resolution No. 2021-05:

Chairman Holcomb stated we'll go to 6. Old Business; Julie Couillard.

Ms. Couillard came to the podium and addressed the Commission by stating so this is related to the Barracuda Bridge Replacement Project. In doing that we're re-routing some of our facilities and upgrading our lift station. To do so we need the ability to have an easement on

(6-a) FDEP Easement Request for Barracuda Bridge Utility Relocations – Proposed UCNSB Resolution No. 2021-05 (cont.):

the Marine Center property. So to do that, Mr. Cloud put together a resolution for us to be able to obtain those easement rights on that property. That's all this pertains to.

Commissioner Hawes stated and it looks like, I'm not sure where I read it in here, but Chad understands all that, at the Marine Center?

Ms. Couillard stated yes, everybody's on board, it's just now the documentation to do so.

Commissioner Hawes stated okay, I'd like to make the motion to approve that. Specifically a motion to approve proposed U.C. Resolution No. 2021-05 which will allow the Utilities Commission to obtain an easement on State Owned Uplands from FDEP to support the utility relocations due to the FDOT Barracuda Bridge Project. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon passage. GM-CEO prior authorization for this project's documentation is ongoing.

Chairman Holcomb stated okay, second?

Commissioners Davenport and Conrad simultaneously stated second.

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

Chairman Holcomb then stated to Ms. Couillard, can I ask you one question on that, just one of those things. I was on my golf cart Sunday and I was realizing that when you go from downtown, from Flagler to downtown area, I saw your sign there for the meeting. When they close that bridge how are the golf carts going to maneuver; has the City addressed that yet?

Ms. Couillard stated you mean when they temporarily close the bridge?

Chairman Holcomb stated yes.

Ms. Couillard stated I have not heard discussion around the golf carts.

Chairman Holcomb stated I was sitting there and I saw the guys go by on their golf carts, I'm like that's the way we go from beachside to downtown and you have to go over that bridge, go down, you know, Quay Assisi and cut through. It was the first thing and then I happened to be sitting in the golf cart thinking, where are the golf carts going to go. Because there are people over regularly on the North Causeway that are not taking that route.

Ms. Couillard stated oh, that's a very good question, yes, I'll ask. She added it didn't come up at the meeting (U.C. public informational meeting held 5-4-21 at Brannon Center).

Chairman Holcomb stated okay, it just came up on my Sunday fun day routine.

Commissioner Davenport stated you're talking about where it goes from 35 then you've got to get to 40; it's just that 2,500 feet at 40 miles per hour.

(6-a) FDEP Easement Request for Barracuda Bridge Utility Relocations – Proposed UCNSB Resolution No. 2021-05 (cont.):

Chairman Holcomb added they will pull you over.

Commissioner Davenport stated yes, they pulled me over.

Chairman Holcomb stated yes, right, like I said it was, because everybody goes and you're starting to get that flow now where people are following that pattern.

Ms. Couillard stated it's a good question, we talked about gas service, we talked about pavement; we didn't talk about golf cart access.

Chairman Holcomb stated and the meeting, I live in Venezia so there was an email that went out afterwards that seemed very positive, a lot of questions were answered, seemed like it was an open dialogue moving back and forth, and if there were any continued questions.

Ms. Couillard concurred.

Chairman Holcomb stated so it seemed like the feedback was good.

Ms. Couillard stated it was, I thought it was a great meeting.

Chairman Holcomb added, and in the email, it implied that, so thanks; then stated so that's it.

(7) New Business:

(7-a) UCNSB Municipal Fiber-Optic Network System Cost Sharing Agreement with the City of NSB and City and UCNSB Fiber Projects:

Chairman Holcomb stated all right, after that we're going to go to New Business, no. 7.

Mr. Bunch stated okay, I'll ask Brandy Keehn to come up and talk about the municipal fiber optic network cost sharing agreement.

Mrs. Keehn addressed the Commission by stating good afternoon, this is a great one. I first would like to bring up Thomas Farmer, he's the I.T. Director for the City of New Smyrna Beach and this is a shared project that we've been working on together since 2019. And what it is, we first started talking and we were looking for a way that we could save money, we also wanted to increase efficiencies and improve services. So we were looking at what I.T. did because it's kind of where it's going to come from is what we thought. So we found four items that we thought we could work together on as a shared service and we've done some with the other items but the one I wanted to bring to your attention today is our fiber network. And that's something that we've been working together with City staff and U.C. staff and we've had joint meetings and so now we have something to present to you. We'd like to get your approval and also tell you about the wonderful opportunity that is before you. So first, Mr. Farmer if you'll come up here; adding a comment, he's not getting away with this. And jokingly added and on the golf cart, here's a City person, right here.

(7-a) UCNSB Municipal Fiber-Optic Network System Cost Sharing Agreement with the City of NSB and City and UCNSB Fiber Projects (cont.):

Mr. Farmer addressed the Commission and stated hi, Thomas Farmer, City of New Smyrna Beach Director of I.T.; thanks, nice to meet you. It's been great working with Mrs. Keehn on this project and I think its going to be a great asset for the City and the citizens.

Mrs. Keehn stated okay, then proceeded to the first slide of her presentation, entitled UCNSB Fiber Optic Network. So lots of words but if you remember back in 2005, we had the telecom industry that we started. But within that the plan led to a fiber optic network construction and we were working toward facilitating the infrastructure for mission critical facilities. For all of our facilities is what we were trying to do, we were going to do a municipal ring that serviced all the U.C. facilities and infrastructure. Well, since then we now have nine miles of underground and overhead fiber that we've done since then. And the fiber project, we used to have a crew that did fiber, that kind of went to the wayside, now we've just been maintaining that fiber. And when there's projects that come up, infrastructure projects, if we can piggyback onto to those, we do that to build out the fiber, but there hasn't been a real strategic plan for quite a few years now. So what we want to do, the first thing we want to do is close the fiber ring. Right now we have a linear ring and we want to make a municipal ring, so we have four miles remaining to create the municipal fiber ring which will be the core ring. And it will close for the U.C., pointed out this is the U.C., it will make the core ring for us which will be single point of failure after we get that ring and it will increase our reliability; so that's where we're currently at.

Mrs. Keehn continued, we also, Ms. Couillard has brought in Burns and Mac. (McDonnell) for a strategic partner and they're helping us develop a road map for a telecommunications strategy among other things. But within the telecommunications strategy is our fiber network. So it's part of the Modernization Roadmap and once developed and built out, Burns & McDonnell are going to help us with the smart metering, the distribution, automation and lift station communications; all are going to be rolled into that. So we're going to work to refine our strategies to be more tactical and actionable, and we want to include the City of New Smyrna Beach in that. In 2019, Mr. Farmer and I started our communication and then 2020 is when we worked together on this fiber cost sharing project and we found that together we could improve operational efficiencies, reduce the costs, ensure better preparedness for emergencies during hurricanes, tornados or flooding. And then we also can expand the fiber optic network at a faster pace, rather than building two we're going to be building one, which just makes sense because we're servicing the same people.

Mrs. Keehn went to the next slide and stated the next slide shows the fiber locations and the span length, and that's the nine miles that I talked to you about with the underground and the overhead. And these are our facilities currently that they're at and that's what we've been working towards. And like I said it kind of slowed down, we've just been piggybacking on other infrastructure. We could put in conduit but we haven't really had a project that was just fiber based. And again, we need four miles of fiber to complete that municipal ring, to have the redundancy.

Mrs. Keehn stated so that's the nine miles and then proceeded to the next slide. The next slide, and it's hard to see but hopefully you can see in your powerpoint, that's our current fiber optic system. And if you see the red solid line that's our overhead fiber, the blue solid

(7-a) UCNSB Municipal Fiber-Optic Network System Cost Sharing Agreement with the City of NSB and City and UCNSB Fiber Projects (cont.):

line is our conduit which is the underground and then the blue dotted lines is our unoccupied conduit. So that's what our current infrastructure looks like as far as fiber and you can see how its that linear line, it's not the loop.

Mrs. Keehn went to the next slide and stated I wanted to talk about fiber sharing, capacity, just to reassure you that currently we're working towards the future and having enough fiber. First of all the speed of fiber is fast, to break it down 15.5 terabits of data per second. So what does that mean, in 25 seconds you can send the entire iTunes catalogue from Florida to London – 25 seconds; so it's fast. And the capacity of fiber, one single fiber strand can transmit 250 million phone conversations every second, that's what we're looking at. So when the work, if approved with the City, we're going to start utilizing a 144 strands of fiber optic cable for both of us, for both businesses/organizations, for their locations and priorities so that we have enough fiber for both. So when we start putting it in, we're going to go with the 144 strand. Currently there's different strands within this, we have some 24's and 72's but as we move forward it's going to be the 144 count. So we did put, you'll see in there as long as we have capacity, so if there ever was a time when the utilities needed it for something and there wasn't enough capacity, we wouldn't grant them that service at that time just because it would hinder what we're doing. But with 144 as we build out and you can see with one single fiber 250 million phone conversations, we have a lot of fiber coming. And another great thing about fiber, it's very secure. Because it transmits data through light and so it's harder to intercept, it's not an electrical signal. And then its safer than cable or internet and its also safer than the satellite internet. And what's nice about fiber is if someone just tried to hack it, it's detectable, you can see what's happening. So it's just another level of safety that we'll have once we have a smart city wired with fiber.

Mrs. Keehn went to the next slide and stated okay, so this is the plan, and the picture that you see right here is what we're looking to do with the City of New Smyrna Beach. And it's a cost sharing project and we'll go into what the City is doing and what we're doing, but the City's portion would be \$152,976, where ours would \$196,915. After going to the next slide she stated this is what the City's going to be doing with their portion. The City's going to connect City Hall, Police Station, Fire Station 50 and Fire Station 51. And that's where their \$152,976 comes in and they're going to use fiber that we currently have connected and fiber that they're building into it to develop this system. And we sat down with Danella, who is our third-party vendor that helps with the fiber, they help us maintain it, we have a RFP with them. And so we sat down with Tim Beyrle and Julie Couillard and then their experts and we laid out the best map where we could get some service from what they were doing too; to make the best sense of their routes and so we came up with this route.

Mrs. Keehn went to the next slide and continued, so then after they do that it's going to benefit the U.C. because now we will be closer to two very critical infrastructure sites that we do need fiber to and one of them is the Airport Substation, and the other is Lift Station 60, which is a master lift station. So we will now be able to connect both of those for a lot less, cheaper and do it sooner than we had intended; and our project is \$196,915.

Mrs. Keehn went to the next slide and stated on this next slide what we did is work with Julie Couillard's engineers and we had them pinpoint City priorities and U.C. priorities. And you

(7-a) UCNSB Municipal Fiber-Optic Network System Cost Sharing Agreement with the City of NSB and City and UCNSB Fiber Projects (cont.):

can see the red dots are City facilities, green dots the third-party vendor fees they're paying for telecom. Purple dots the U.C.'s locations, orange dots are police camera locations, pink dots airport substation, dotted green is field stations; it gets confusing. And then again, the overhead and underground that we talked about, and then you can see the City parks are the green filled and the gray filled is the City-owned parcels. So that's a big look at the City of New Smyrna Beach and what we're trying to do. So as we move forward with all of the capital projects, the road projects, things that are coming through, we'll be able to add that conduit into those projects. And work with the consultant on the roadmap, can start building out that fiber based on just a one dig kind of mentality; so that's where we were headed.

Mrs. Keehn went to the next slide and stated this is the benefits, and the benefits, there's just so many. We've got obviously the efficiencies, building out the fiber optics strategically, so rather than doing it ad hoc, we're going to strategically work with Burns & Mac. And they're going to look at our capital projects and the City's priorities and we're going to build that together. It will also support the development of future technology, so that everything that we're doing is going to require fiber and the City as well, anything smart you have to have fiber. So as we build this infrastructure, it's future proofing New Smyrna Beach, to be able to compete. We're also going to be able to eliminate and reduce contracts with third-party vendors. As you know cable is expensive and when you get into business cable at all of these different locations, all of them are \$100 to \$150 a month. We'll be able to eliminate those costs. We can utilize right-of-way and also the big one, we can leverage capital projects, road projects, existing infrastructure, existing conduit. There are just unlimited possibilities of what we can do. And mostly we're going to be driving efficiencies, reducing costs, expanding capabilities and have one fiber network for the City, facilitating all services – they're really the same people that we're trying to reach. It's strategic because we're expanding our fiber infrastructure now at a faster rate, so the things that we wanted to get accomplished, now we have a partner. And what they're doing is going to add to what we need to do so we will reach infrastructure and sites a lot quicker. And then it's going to improve disaster recovery and response, having a fiber network where we are self-contained. If there's something that happens it's just like having your own electric, water, wastewater, now we're going to have our own communications system that we're all going to be able to utilize.

Mrs. Keehn went to the next slide and stated what we're asking, the next step is for you to approve the I.T. Facilities Cost Sharing Agreement and that was put together for us by Mr. Cloud and he's been working with the City Attorney back and forth so they've come up with this as a best contract. And we'd like to use this sharing agreement for future projects, it will be the foundational contract that I bring back to you. So when you approve it we're going to use that as well, just for anything they'll want to get through the Commission. We'll sit down with them, find the best route similarly to what we're doing today and then we'll present it to you. And we'll show you what we're doing and then you'll have to approve it similarly to this. And then also awareness, Burns & Mac.'s Telecom strategy, it's going to lay the foundation for phased implementation of the grid mod. as well. So all of this is coming together in the roadmap that we're going to present to you shortly. And it's going to accurately reflect both the U.C. and City unique needs and constraints, so it's going to be what New Smyrna Beach needs as a whole. So that's what we're bringing for you today and

(7-a) UCNSB Municipal Fiber-Optic Network System Cost Sharing Agreement with the City of NSB and City and UCNSB Fiber Projects (cont.):

Mr. Cloud probably has a lot of the legal info. if you need it, and then Thomas Farmer and Tim Beyrle can give you anything if you want to know specifics about the fiber, if you want to get down deeper, but for other questions I'm happy to answer.

Chairman Holcomb stated any Commissioners, go ahead.

Commissioner Hawes stated I'm going back in memory and may not have my facts totally straight, but about 20 years ago prior to the tech crash in early 2000's there was an outfit called Global Crossings. I don't know if you remember or not but anyway, they're not in business anymore. But that's what they did, they laid fiber optic cable across the Atlantic from the U.S. to Europe and it was really some of the same things, it was security, the amount of data transferred, and you know, a whole bunch of stuff. And when I was sitting here listening to this, really kind of two thoughts came to mind. One is, is this sort of a best practice that others are using, do you know?

Mrs. Keehn stated yes, it is, there's a lot of municipalities that are doing this. Some are going to the extreme where they do the fiber to the home. We don't want to do that, we want it simply for municipality, government, City business. But this is becoming very common because of the cost of fiber and actually the conduit and the infrastructure, it's very expensive and if you don't do it correctly, it can be a big failure and not get you anything. So by partnering and working within the infrastructure that we're already putting in, it's a dollars and sense thing, and it really does make sense.

Commissioner Hawes stated and the other thought I had is this, and you kind of addressed it but I just want to make sure I understood it right, this looks like it kind of removes the City and the U.C. from the Internet, meaning internally. You don't have to use it because you've got this connection, is that correct or not.

Mrs. Keehn stated well, you'll still have your connection but what the fiber does is it runs it to different locations. Like for instance here, we have a fiber connection that runs to Mr. Beyrle's area and Electric Operations, and it's one, Spectrum, 200 mpbs that we have here and it runs all of those. So we still have it and we have a redundant AT&T, if that wouldn't work we'd fail over to that from our headend. So you would still have to have your service, but one rather than having it to each site and location. Right now we have sites we don't have our fiber ran to and we have to pay that service for that site. So it gets expensive when you have hundreds of sites and you need cameras and those types things, so this will eliminate all of those costs, but we will still have service costs.

Commissioner Hawes stated okay, and then the last part of this was is it best to have it all underground or is that not a big issue one way or the other?

Mrs. Keehn stated I guess that's, Mr. Bunch, that's kind of a...

Mr. Bunch stated at this point it's not feasible for us to have it all underground, on the other hand if we were undergrounding main facilities in the future, we would underground this with it. But it's cheapest to use a pole line if you have it and during underground development

(7-a) UCNSB Municipal Fiber-Optic Network System Cost Sharing Agreement with the City of NSB and City and UCNSB Fiber Projects (cont.):

you're going to go underground; so we adopt whatever environment it's going in. But also it is a utility best practice as well so we could if wanted to extend beyond these main building connections down to pieces of equipment and that's part of the question Burns and McDonnell is also looking at as we're installing all these automation devices, do you connect them to fiber, do you use cellular or do you use radio. Looking at it as a system and that's part of the strategy that Mrs. Keehn mentioned as well.

Commissioner Hawes stated thank you.

Chairman Holcomb stated to Commissioner Davenport, you had something?

Commissioner Davenport stated yes, I was, and I get excited by your enthusiasm, because this has really concerned me since being on this, is the I.T. part of it. And I'm glad to see us working with the City like this and partnering with them.

Mrs. Keehn stated yes, it's been a pleasure working with Mr. Farmer and coming up with just different strategies and it's been a long process. Because, like I said, we started in 2019 and so it's been a lot of effort on his part as well and then the City, so it's been a good process and something I think that's really going to be unique and benefit everyone and save a lot of money which is great.

Commissioner Davenport commented I'm excited about it.

Mr. Bunch stated so in the agreement that Mrs. Keehn, Mr. Cloud, Mrs. Avallone, and other folks worked on, we basically said, and this is how we anticipate doing it in the future as well. So we don't have to rewrite how you will approach these situations and we have every expectation that if there's additional buildings we should be able to connect the City and they'll just refer back to the agreement that was struck here in terms of how its approached, who pays for what, and hopefully take out a question in the future should we even be doing these. We're saying yes, this is a really good thing and we think we should do it if it is at all feasible.

Chairman Holcomb stated anybody else?

Commissioner Smith commented I can see the picture in the background, adding I've never seen fiber optic cable.

Mrs. Keehn stated oh, wow, well we'll have to send you some, it's really neat, it's glass and we'll have the 144. But it's got a casing and the fibers go within the casing and each one of the 144 come out and then that's what you splice and connect to each location. Just as an example we're only using, right now what we're using is three strands of fiber for everything that we have routed in different locations from here to there. So 144 is a lot, it's a lot to share, we never know what the future holds or there could be a time where we don't have enough to have the capacity, but 144 is a lot. So it just looks like a little strand and its glass and it's different because it transmits light. And it's not susceptible to lightning or the heat, it's very

(7-a) UCNSB Municipal Fiber-Optic Network System Cost Sharing Agreement with the City of NSB and City and UCNSB Fiber Projects (cont.):

different than like the regular cable, so it lasts a lot longer, 20 to 50 years if you take care of it. So the investment lasts a very long time, different than what you would do with say, copper.

Commissioner Smith then asked what is the diameter of that cable?

Mrs. Keehn stated I'd have to get back to you, do you know Mr. Farmer, the diameter?

Mr. Farmer stated it's in microns, I mean it's very small.

Commissioner Smith stated no, I mean the 144.

Mr. Farmer stated oh, it's about the size of a quarter.

Mrs. Keehn stated yes, and there's something on there that's a neat example, let me read that one to you. For just that actually the size, it kind of gives you an example of that in here. It is right here, one mile of fiber weighs about 1/4th of a pound whereas copper cable with the same information-carrying capacity would weigh 33 tons; so that's the difference.

Commissioner Smith stated would it be possible to bring in a piece of that cable, I would love to look at it.

Mrs. Keehn stated sure, absolutely, yes, no problem. And if you would like to see it in our server room you can see it or we can bring in some fiber and let you see it, absolutely.

Commissioner Davenport commented I think they're looking for some installers too.

Mr. Bunch also stated yes, we can get you an example.

Commissioner Davenport then stated is this presentation which you've given, which is great, have you done it to the City too?

Mrs. Keehn stated Mr. Farmer goes on for approval I think, is it Tuesday?

Mr. Farmer stated yes, tomorrow night.

Mrs. Keehn stated so I'll be there, but I think he's doing something a little bit different for his presentation.

Commissioner Davenport stated oh, good.

Mrs. Keehn stated but it's similar, I mean it's the same.

Mr. Farmer stated mine won't be quite as in depth as Mrs. Keehn's, but yes, tomorrow night.

Commissioner Davenport commented well, maybe you should do it, it's really good.

(7-a) UCNSB Municipal Fiber-Optic Network System Cost Sharing Agreement with the City of NSB and City and UCNSB Fiber Projects (cont.):

Mr. Farmer stated yes, I know.

Mrs. Keehn then commented one's enough.

Chairman Holcomb stated so I have a common, a person that actually used to work in Tallahassee, and this is what he does, this is all he does, this is his life. Securities, efficiencies, so I just said hey, I sent this email to him and I said read 7-a., page 193, tell me what you see us gaining from this investment. Very simple question, not weighted to I'm looking for an outcome, just tell me what you think. Response was: in my opinion this is a no brainer. What this does is tie together all the locations with the private fiber optic network so the City and U.C. would share it, beyond that it would be private. The U.C. nor the City would need to roll out any vendor like AT&T or Spectrum for connectivity between the facilities. So even if the internet went down these facilities would be able to talk to each other and continue to operate internally; big benefit to the community. It's a much more efficient way to have a network, they call this a campus style network where the organization has all the buildings tied together in a private network that they own. Better for security, data transfer, and the whole nine yards; this is a no brainer. So you know again, for us to sit up here and kind of get into that world and say, you know if you bring nine pieces of fiber here I'm not going to know which one's which. And I responded back to him and I said I'm just glad I got that response.

Mrs. Keehn commented me too, you know like actually...

Chairman Holcomb stated but it was refreshing to hear that and again there's not a lot of people who have that exposure with City government, municipalities, and that's all he does, it's his life. So I'm absolutely for it, you know, I've been for it for quite a while. So does anybody else have anything to add to that?

Commissioner Smith stated just one thing, new developments are all laying fiber optic as required?

Mrs. Keehn stated well, we've talked about that and Mr. Farmer and I have talked about that, he's talked to some in the City about putting that in. We used to have something to that effect, but it was when we were trying to do fiber to the home. So I don't know how that's, we'd probably have to get Mr. Cloud involved and how we would pay, to say you have to put this in for new development. But we did look at that because that's what some other cities are doing but those cities that I looked at were providing fiber to the homes, so I don't know if that makes a difference or not.

Mr. Bunch stated you may recall, or not I don't know, we actually had a telecom business up until around 2005 and got out of that business. The portion in here that's shown through Venetian Bay would have actually been installed for that purpose back in the 2000's but at this point in time in those same communities it would be up to AT&T and Spectrum as to what they put in the ground. My guess is in a community like that you'd probably have the option in between both Spectrum cable and AT&T fiber. I have the same in my neighborhood. But in most communities, fiber cable is going to be put in by those companies

(7-a) UCNSB Municipal Fiber-Optic Network System Cost Sharing Agreement with the City of NSB and City and UCNSB Fiber Projects (cont.):

at their expense, the exception being where you do have the municipality involved in telecom. But so when we were doing the pole attachment discussion earlier this year, the whole rationale behind those internet companies were saying well, we want to extend broadband in the rural areas where its not feasible. Well, I was told 99+% of our customers have availability of high-speed internet at this point in time. So they should have access, either the cable, fiber which is AT&T, or maybe even both in the newer built areas at this point.

Commissioner Smith stated and another dumb question, I'm full of them.

Mr. Bunch commented it was an intelligent question actually.

Commissioner Conrad also confirmed that it was.

Commissioner Smith then stated well, I've always wondered about this, you know we go out around the country sticking up cell towers and 5G, which I have no idea what that means but anyway in some way in the future, are all this communications going to be done by satellite?

Mrs. Keehn stated well, and then directed this to Mr. Farmer.

Mr. Farmer stated I can only speak to this because I had that question asked of me. So the biggest benefit with fiber is the lower latency and the high bandwidth. Once you start going wireless, your latency increases which while you could have large bandwidth, the latency is how long do you wait for the response back once you've asked for something. So yes, while there will be advancements, we're seeing them being launched almost twice a month now down the coast with low earth to orbit satellites, they're still talking about 30 millisecond latency, where we're talking sub-1 millisecond latency on a fiber network. So I don't know in the foreseeable future if we'll see anything replace fiber. The only thing is the fiber will stay the same, it's the technology that rides it that is what's been growing. When I started one gig fiber was like oh wow, this was back in 2000. Now it's like 100 gig fiber I think is pretty commonplace, to be able to get 100 gigs on that strand of glass. I could easily go buy it from a vendor today and they're already talking about higher speeds than that, that they're developing.

Commissioner Smith stated so what are you projecting to be the life of this system once it's completed? You said, directed to Mrs. Keehn, 20 to 50 years.

Mr. Farmer stated I came from Daytona Beach where we had a very extensive, I think we had 65 miles of fiber in Daytona Beach. It started initially, there was some run before I started there in 2000, and we haven't replaced any of that yet and we're just continually adding to it. So I could easily see more than 20 years and like Mrs. Keehn said if you take care of it, you're pruning your trees. That's where we did see problems is trees will grow and they'll just sit there and rub the cable raw and it will deplete. And then car accidents, where they hit a pole or something. But they can be fixed, it's not like you replace the whole cable because of those, you just put a patch in and it keeps working.

Commissioner Smith stated and it's easier to repair than copper.

(7-a) UCNSB Municipal Fiber-Optic Network System Cost Sharing Agreement with the City of NSB and City and UCNSB Fiber Projects (cont.):

Mr. Farmer and Mrs. Keehn both indicated yes.

Commissioner Smith then stated I'm done.

Commissioner Hawes stated I was just going to mention and I follow this a little bit, but the issue with you recall 2G, 3G, 4G, and now 5G, and I think it was the same problem Mr. Farmer was running into with the telephone poles and in the rural areas. Was that 5G requires I don't know how to say this exactly, 4G can be spread like this, 5G has to be much closer together. And so that's a problem, will it solve certain issues and the answer is man, it's a ton faster but it's not as, you know, if the word is convenient.

Chairman Holcomb interjected accessible.

Commissioner Hawes stated yes, so the fiber optic stuff and that's why I mentioned the Global Crossings stuff. I mean this is, the company failed but guess what that thing is still out there and operating.

Mr. Farmer stated yes, and all those wireless networks, they still come down to a fiber point somewhere. Whether it's a 5G wireless, the short distances, all come back to a fiber node. Same thing with the satellites, they're trying to find strategic places across the country for those low earth orbit satellites to come back to on fiber.

Mrs. Keehn added, and I would say what we do have, when I went to a conference it was Distributech, they were very impressed or encouraged that we had the lights because that's how you could do 5G. We own those, so if they did put sensors on and they were going to do something like what you're talking about, we're the power company, we have the lights and the poles, so who's going to have that, we already have it. So we are in such good shape for all of these different opportunities that could come our way and working with Burns & Mac., they're pretty big. And so they work with utilities and they're taking into consideration all of our current infrastructure and now they'll be looking at the City. So they'll build something for us that's going to be unique but we have a lot of opportunities with just our lights and poles. So that's something to think about too, which isn't said yet, but I'm just saying we do have that.

Chairman Holcomb stated any other questions? There being none he stated all right I need a motion to approve the UCNSB/City Facilities Cost Sharing Agreement.

Commissioner Smith stated so moved; specifically a motion to approve the UCNSB/City of NSB I.T. Facilities Cost Sharing Agreement, to be executed by U.C. Chairman, inclusive of three (3) additional I.T. Facilities Projects for the City of NSB funding a total amount of \$152,975.56; and approval of two (2) UCNSB Fiber-Optic Network projects in the amount of \$196,915.43, with authorization for the GM-CEO or his designee to execute all documents associated with these projects.

Chairman Holcomb stated we need a second.

(7-a) UCNSB Municipal Fiber-Optic Network System Cost Sharing Agreement with the City of NSB and City and UCNSB Fiber Projects (cont.):

Commissioner Hawes stated second.

Chairman Holcomb stated okay, Mrs. Simmons please call the roll.

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

Mrs. Keehn then stated thank you very much.

Mr. Farmer additionally thanked the Commission.

(7-b) 2021-22 Collective Bargaining Agreement Reopener Between UCNSB and IBEW Local 2088:

Mr. Bunch stated okay, the next item we have is the Collective Bargaining Agreement and Ms. Beck is going to walk us through that.

Ms. Beck addressed the Commission and stated before you I have a request for approval of a few items that were negotiated with the Union earlier this month. We had negotiations for our Wage Reopener which is for the third and final year of this particular agreement. Next year we'll be negotiating for a new three-year contract. We had five items for negotiation this year and they're detailed within the memorandum that's attached to the agenda item. But one is realignment of our Linemen Job Family wage schedule and ranges. That didn't change their pay, what it did was pulling them into their own wage schedule. Makes it a little easier for us to do something like this than having them in with all of our other positions. But from Groundman to Apprentice Lineman IV, we change from having, currently having the wage schedule is four steps, A, B, C, and D. And per our policy what we've negotiated with the Union for is that apprentices go from Step D to Step D to Step D, so those steps A through C are never used for them. So that's why it's down to just one rate for those positions and that's reflective of what is currently Step D. For our Linemen we did some research to ensure that we remained competitive, not only for our wages but in how long it takes a Lineman to top out in wages once they reach the Journeyman level. And so what we've done here is again we've taken that four steps and made three steps so that we've shaved a year off of the time for them to reach top wages. So Steps A, B, and C are reflective of B, C, and D in our current schedule. And then the same for Line Crew Leader, we shaved off the first two steps, so what is shown here as A and B is actually C and D of our current schedule. So again, there's no changes in the actual pay, we've just did a bit of realignment.

Ms. Beck stated the second item was wages for a new position, so we negotiated wages for a position of Head Customer Service Rep. The third item was to negotiate wages for another new position of a Building Maintenance Tech. The fourth item was to restructure our Field Ops. Job Family and there are no changes to their wages or where they're scheduled in the appendix, the pay grade scale. But what we wanted to do was tighten up their titles for one and give them a little bit of dignity for lack of a better term in their titles, these are licensed professionals and we wanted to make note of that in the titling of their positions. And then also adding in a second level of operator to provide for more growth opportunity for our staff in that Department, as well as provide the opportunity for the Crew Leader to get off of the

(7-b) 2021-22 Collective Bargaining Agreement Reopener Between UCNSB and IBEW Local 2088 (cont.):

backhoe and actually be able to lead the crew, manage the job, manage visitors and mentor their crew members. And then the fifth and final item was a General Wage Increase of 2.5%.

Ms. Beck stated so those were the items that were negotiated, they were tentatively agreed to by both parties and then last week the Bargaining Unit ratified those items and voted to approve those. So now I'm bringing that to you for approval tonight.

Chairman Holcomb stated any questions Commissioners? Okay, then we need a motion to approve items one through four. (*sic – s/b one through five; there was a scrivener's error in the recommended action on the agenda item*).

Commissioner Davenport stated I'll make that motion; specifically a motion to approve Items 1 through 5, as specified in the exhibit – Memorandum of Agreement, that was accepted by authorized representatives of both parties and as ratified by the Bargaining Unit on May 14, 2021, with effective dates specified by each item. (Note - Included a General Wage Increase (GWI) of 2.5% for Bargaining Unit employees effective 10-1-21.)

Chairman Holcomb stated we need a second.

Commissioner Conrad stated second.

Chairman Holcomb requested Mrs. Simmons to call the roll.

Mrs. Simmons stated and clarified, approval for items 1 through 5.

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

Mr. Bunch stated that's all the items we had under New Business Chairman; back to you.

(8) Possible Other Business – Time for Commissioners:

Chairman Holcomb then stated, and Mrs. Simmons brought this to my attention for Other Business – Time for Commissioners, there's the FMEA/FMPA Annual Conference, July 20-22, 2021. It's in, looks like Naples, Florida. Anything else you wanted to add or Mr. Bunch?

Mrs. Simmons stated we're just trying to determine interest in going.

Commissioner Davenport stated I'd like to go to this.

Chairman Holcomb stated okay.

Commissioner Smith stated he would like to attend as well.

Mr. Bunch stated and Mr. Beyrle, I know that you usually go to that. I haven't finalized my schedule, I'm not sure if I'll be there, have you planned to go as well.

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

Mr. Beyrle indicated he hadn't planned to attend this year.

Mr. Bunch stated okay, but it's usually a very good conference, a lot of general industry presentations and well attended by municipalities like us and some of the Commissioners. I think Naples makes it an even more interesting venue, so if others are interested feel free to let us know.

Chairman Holcomb stated I've been once, it was in Jacksonville, very informative. It was my first year, so it was very overwhelming. It's as much information that you want to take in, very open to questions. Probably most of the questions I got were after the sessions versus the general session where you just didn't know what to ask or how to ask it. But I felt it was very good, if you're looking to expand your understanding, it's a good place to go and see it all in one spot.

Commissioner Davenport stated and this is the one you went to.

Chairman Holcomb stated it was in Jacksonville, yes. So with that, Commissioner's comments, let's start with Commissioner Hawes.

Commissioner Hawes stated yes, and this is kind of a general comment and I don't know how it fits here today but it's a broad generalization. In my role, I'm a financial planner, investment management, an owner, I guess. I talk to people in and around the country on terms of investment management firms, the largest in the U.S., I have a lot of customers as well. And I wanted to give some flavor to some things I'm kind of hearing right now and I don't know if they have application to the Utilities Commission. And Mr. Beyrle, I think it's a darn good job you fought to get our contract set for a while. But as you probably have witnessed over the last little bit and if you go to the store you probably see it as well, but consumer prices and producer prices are up substantially, unlike they've been probably close to 40 years. This is causing some shaking out there in the business community and in the, just retail households. The other issue right now is all of the policies that are being debated in Washington and we can laundry list what those might be, no one knows if these are going to come to pass or not, but that's causing some shaking as well. With that said, the economy's obviously doing very well right now and I think we're seeing that as well. The question is what does that mean for the next year and the answer is nobody knows. But we could see a very different environment than what we've been used to in the last, pick a time frame, 30 years or so. And I'm not quite sure why I'm bringing all this up but I just felt it was important to kind of get on the record that we may see a different business environment than we've seen in quite a while, looking out, not necessarily this year. So that's my comment, thank you.

Chairman Holcomb then stated Commissioner Davenport?

Commissioner Davenport stated yes, I have to agree with you there Commissioner, a different environment. Anyway I appreciate sitting up here with you Commissioner, everybody, it's an honor to be here, I really enjoy this, the Utilities Commission, and I enjoy what ya'll do for us, thank you.

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

Chairman Holcomb stated Commissioner Smith?

Commissioner Smith stated I just reiterate that this is a very transparent organization and that really makes you feel good; you're presenting so much information. There's no Wizard of Oz behind the screen, so we appreciate that.

Chairman Holcomb stated Commissioner Conrad?

Commissioner Conrad stated I'd like to mention again that the work that Mr. Cloud and the rest of the people in that industry and the Commissioner, excuse me our Chair had in helping us prevent that pole intrusion into our home rules is greatly appreciated. And you're right, there was home rule that passed that is going to certainly change the way we do some things in our local community. And we have a coalition and a group that is out there trying to make sure we maintain as much home rule as we possibly can. And if you will take a look at the things that they're doing I think you'll find that we have a number of our residents that are really interested in protecting our rights in our community; thank you.

Chairman Holcomb stated thanks. From, you know, the unknown is the hardest thing we all manage and from our cyber, our I.T., I think I've said this a few times. If you just listen to where your exposure is, it's unknown, you can't see it or where it comes from it can be located in any state, any country. So the investment that I see, but what I would like about what I just heard was we're working with the City and we are sharing expenses which benefits the consumer. Like I said the ratepayer, the taxpayer, it's the same person. And when we start to work together in beating expense down and then picking up our, the safety on our network, the investment in the infrastructure but we share the costs, we work together so that we don't create, we understand what the other side's doing as well as they understand what we're doing. It just makes it a lot easier for everybody to have confidence in it and that's a long way from, you said a long time was 2019, I think it was 2016 or so around there that was the confidence didn't exist. And there's a lot of good things that are happening, I'm glad to hear Commissioner Smith say the transparency because that's one of the things that if you're doing a good job, then just put it out there. It doesn't mean you're always going to get it right, doesn't always mean, you know, certainty is something that's not guaranteed, it's something we work towards. And the more that these agreements keep coming and the more I see us with a willingness to work on behalf of the community of New Smyrna Beach, that's where I really take a lot of pride in for that. So I commend you all for that because it takes you guys getting along, working together to achieve that, not us. So thanks to all of you for that and that's all I've got for today; meeting is adjourned.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the Regular U.C. Meeting closed at 4:12 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.}