

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE FORT PIERCE UTILITIES AUTHORITY,  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2007, 4:00 P.M. CITY COMMISSION CHAMBERS.

Members present: Chairman, Darrell Drummond; Vice Chairman, Pamela K. Cully; Secretary, Robert W. Summerhays, Jr.; Deputy Secretary, Thomas K. Perona; Mayor Robert J. Benton III.

Others Present: Acting Director of Corporate Services; Director of Electric/Gas Systems; Director Water/Wastewater Systems; Corporate and Community Relations Manager; Purchasing Manager, FPUA Attorney.

Chairman Drummond called the meeting to order.

The Invocation was given by Dr. Willie Russ of the Miracle Prayer Temple.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The roll was called and a quorum declared.

Motion by Mayor Benton, seconded by Mr. Summerhays and unanimously carried to approve the items listed on the Consent Agenda:

1. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 2, 2007.
2. Approve increase in the amount of \$119,480.10 for St. Lucie project expenses related to power supply.

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Mr. Tom Richards presented a request for authorization to rescind the approval of August 21, 2007, for award of engineering services for design of remanufacturing of Hartman autotransformer HT-1 to Electric Supply of Tampa, Inc.

Mr. Richards explained one of the options we had in mind was the possibility of using that transformer in case we needed to put it back into service at a higher capacity in rebuilt form in case the transformer we ordered did not arrive on time. After the Board authorized Phase I for design work, the remanufacturing shop called us and told us they were unable to meet our impedance specification. It is a technical issue, but what it amounts to is if we were to try to use the remanufactured transformer in parallel with the old transformer, they wouldn't share the load in proportion to their size. We would not be able to get the capacity out of that combination that we thought we would get. As it turns out, it is not really a good stop-gap option for us in case the transformers we ordered are late. We would like to work on some other plan to try to mitigate the possibility that the transformers are late. The manufacturer is sticking to the delivery date of February, so we are hoping they will stick with the schedule as promised.

Mr. Perona said these transformers are coming from Korea. Originally, the manufacturer had a great record for delivery, but then there was some doubt as to whether the transformers would arrive on time even though the manufacturer says they will. What jeopardy do we face now that we are not rebuilding this transformer? Mr. Richards said we are in the process of making arrangements with FMPA to allow us if necessary, to man and make available the combined cycle and the diesel units at the King Plant after May 1<sup>st</sup> if we need them due to the transformers not being delivered on time. That would give us enough capacity to cover our

peak load during the summer. We would only need them if the Vero tie line was open for some reason. We are fine as long as all the transformers stay in service. We are not fine if the Vero tie line is out of service after May 1<sup>st</sup>. He doesn't think it will be an issue with FMPA. Hopefully, we won't need to use it, but he thinks it will be there for whatever period of time we need it at relatively no cost.

Mr. Perona asked if the transformers don't arrive and we need to use the King Plant, will we still be able to meet our turnover to the City in November. Mr. Richards said it depends on what you mean by turnover. We do not have a Memo of Understanding with the City yet. Mr. Richards said we decided to go out and get bids to determine what it would cost to demolish the plant and what would be involved. Until that information is available, we will play it by ear. He thinks we will collect bids in early January to see what they look like. When we have a better idea of how many dollars are involved, we will figure out who wants to be responsible for what. Any delay in the May 1<sup>st</sup> date will delay demolition of the plant by that much time. If the transformers are a month late, it might be a month later before we could really start on demolition. There may be some things that can be done in the plant to begin making it safe.

Motion by Mr. Summerhays, seconded by Mrs. Cully and unanimously carried to Rescind approval of August 21, 2007, to award of engineering services for design of remanufacturing of Hartman Autotransformer HT-1 to Electric Supply of Tampa, Inc. due to inability of vendor to meet specifications.

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Mr. Thiess explained the Utilities Authority has been an investment partner with the Economic Development Council for a number of years. The amount of this year's request matches that of the past two years. Mr. Larry Pelton, President of the Economic Development Council, is present today to address the Board regarding where the Council is going, what is in the works now, where they've been in the recent year and, perhaps, answer the Board's questions.

Mr. Pelton said he would like to give the Board a little background on the Economic Development Council and explain what their direction is. This is the next generation of the Economic Development Council of St. Lucie County. This is not the Economic Development Council we've had in the past.

Mr. Pelton explained that he was asked to come here and take over the EDC and ramp it up, especially to assist the County in recruiting the Burnum Institute to this area. That was based on experience he has had in recruiting Scripps to Palm Beach County. He came in with the idea of trying to structure a community that could support world class research and technology. We were unsuccessful in getting Burnham, but we were very successful in getting Torrey Pines as an alternative to that. In retrospect, Torrey Pines was the perfect size operation for this County and a perfect introduction of our County into the burgeoning bio and life science cluster that is happening in the State of Florida. Mr. Pelton stated he is using that as a basis of where we are heading with the EDC. The EDC suddenly was put into a competitive field that we had never been in before. Prior to the location of Torrey Pines to our County, our competition had been Martin County and Indian River County and Okeechobee County. Suddenly, we're not competing with them anymore. We are competing with Palm Beach County, Orlando, Tampa, Atlanta, New Orleans and locations in the California area. We have to be prepared for that and we weren't. Torrey Pines was a real reward for the

community, but we did not have the infrastructure in place to support the bio-cluster or the scientific cluster. Our job now is to try to go back and retrofit the community to support and grow with science and technology. That doesn't leave out the Fort Pierce area. We have discovered Torrey Pines, USDA, Smithsonian and Harbor Branch have mutual science, and they use similar equipment and the same scientific protocols. They use very similar technology. What we are beginning to do is create partnerships so that we now have our own research triangle. He doesn't want the Board to think EDC's attention is solely on the scientific and technology industries. They are also here to try to stimulate growth of existing companies and try to attract companies from other targeted industries.

Mr. Pelton stated, presently, EDC is working on a couple of other very significant scientific institutes that will create an enormous amount of activity in our County and region. We are also working with a very large manufacturing company, a Fortune company that many of you are probably aware of that would locate in FPUA's service territory, but not within the city limits. With the support of Bill Thiess and the Mayor we are very, very close to getting them here. We are in the top three cities; we've made the cut from seventeen counties down to three in the State of Florida. We are continuing to try to make that project work. It would be a great boost to the tax base and to your rate base if we're successful in getting it.

Mr. Pelton further stated, while we are expected to recruit companies, people think of EDC as the sales people of the County, which is very artificial. We have to look at the support base for industries in this County. If a company who is competing worldwide with their competition, cannot be located here and be competitive in their own industry, we can't attract them or keep them. What we are talking about with science and technology is an economy that recognizes and endorses intellectual property. That means we will have to underwrite the success of our effort to grow this economy and diversify the economy of this County through education. We have to find a way to keep the brightest and best in this County or at least find opportunities for them to return to this County. When he says brightest and best, he has to qualify that. We certainly want kids to have the opportunity to go into science and technology fields, but we are also talking about trying to figure out how our children, who are all bright in their own way, can have the best opportunity to express that brightness and be rewarded for the intellectual capacity they have. He is talking about trying to bring to the County opportunities for several generations to perform at their peak and to be rewarded for that performance. We organized several businesses, and we are creating three computer centers in Fort Pierce. One is in the Haitian church; one in an Hispanic church and a third some place else. We are trying to bring technology into the neighborhood, especially neighborhoods that are not characteristically able to have the high speed internet connections and access to computers by creating it for the community. We even had business people recently painting the Haitian church. We've donated furniture and computers to the church. The UA donated internet service for a year. AT&T had donated wireless capacity for the computer centers. We are talking about bringing school children in to help tutor parents and seniors in the area. The point is technology creates great opportunities for those who can comprehend and utilize the technology. We have to make certain we don't create a gap that further stimulates separation of income levels in our community. We have to try to create the opportunity and help engender the skills necessary to participate in that change.

Mr. Pelton said EDC is involved in some other things. They have been active with the County trying to deal with the tax reform issue. That is a very complicated issue. It is a short term and long term issue that has to be dealt with. He stated our ability to incentivise the

economic growth we're trying to stimulate here is greatly dependent also on the ability to provide the public incentives necessary to attract the kinds of companies that we want here. The first reaction from the public sector on the tax reform was to tighten up and say they can't participate in providing the incentives any longer. We have to look at the ability to provide those incentives as necessary to compete for the kinds of companies we're going after. It is because we are not competing with the county to the north and the county to the south. We are now competing with major areas for the kinds of companies we're going after. We also recognize that the public sector in this County is a major consumer of products and services as well. Everyone has to comprehend what the impact of cutting back expenditures and acquisitions from the private sector in this County are going to be. We think it is a very big problem in that we have to figure out rational solutions to the issues.

Mr. Pelton said the other thing we are presented with here that we've got to deal with is that we don't have business parks available for companies we're recruiting to relocate to. The trends of the past real estate market were obviously to go after residential development rather than business parks, development and creation of buildings and sites that would accommodate jobs. We have to have that in place. The County is going to soon approve a Comprehensive Plan amendment that would encourage and incentivise business parks to be developed in our County. The primary locations are going to be in the central and northern part of the County. If you follow the access to the Interstate and to the Turnpike, those are the logical locations for business parks. We are involved in helping do that.

Mr. Pelton said we can't do our job without you. He would hope we would get ourselves in a position that you cannot do your jobs without us, as well. That is his goal.

Mayor Benton complimented Mr. Pelton on the job he has been doing. We have big expectations. We are looking to put together a dedication at Harbor Branch with Florida Atlantic University in the last week of November. He spoke with Senator Pruitt today, and we are hoping the Governor and legislators will be in attendance. We are hoping for a good turnout, because we are looking for additional help from Tallahassee. He thinks it is a move in the right direction to educate our young people and give them a little more hope and get 4-year degrees here in St. Lucie County.

Mrs. Cully asked Mr. Pelton if he can give us a timeline for new businesses to come into this area. We have contributed funds to the EDC in past years and haven't seen any results. We definitely would like to have new business come into the Fort Pierce area, itself, because that is how our ratepayers are going to benefit. Mr. Pelton said he hopes it will occur fairly quickly. We are working on a project now that would greatly benefit FPUA. Another priority is to work with the County to make the research and education park a success. That is within FPUA service territory. In his opinion, most of the projects EDC will be successful in attracting here in the future will locate within FPUA's service territory. That is where the locations are available. If we can get business park developers to come in and make the investment to develop the real estate that is available for industries, it is within the FPUA service territory. You are a priority for EDC. Each success we have attracts additional companies.

Mr. Pelton said recently he was in California, and they know who we are. That is because of the attention we've received due to the successes we've had. You heard and read about Alfred Mann buying twenty-two acres in Tradition. They're doing that because they are a

California based bio-park developer. They didn't care about locating in St. Lucie County until we started having successes in what we are doing. If we are successful with this other project he has made reference to, it will open this area up, substantially.

Mr. Perona said he has always wanted to know what the attraction is to St. Lucie County. When you are out there selling our community, what is it about St. Lucie County that attracts these large companies and financial interests to come to this community? Mr. Pelton said one of our opportunities for attracting companies is distribution – we have the Interstate and the Turnpike conversion right here. That opens us up for manufacturing companies. The attraction of science and technology is the proximity to Scripps and North Palm Beach County. Palm Beach County does not have sites available for the cluster that is following Scripps. At present, there are no sites in Martin County. We are getting the interest of the scientific community in our county because we are a thirty-five minute commute by highway to Scripps and a real-time connection through fiber. We are also located between Burnham and Orlando. The fact that we already have world-class science here is very attractive to world-class institutes. The other institutes he is working with are attracted because of Torrey Pines' decision to come here.

Mr. Perona said he hasn't had much experience in pulling in large companies or being involved in it. He recently was able to sit in on a couple of discussions Mr. Pelton has alluded to earlier. From a local utility standpoint, what concessions do you normally go to a utility with to try to entice a better package? Mr. Pelton said what drives every project is the competition. We are not competing with ourselves; we're competing with other locations. In the game of trying to recruit companies you are always going to have competition for those companies that you're trying to bring in. Competition dictates what kind of package you have to put together. Mr. Pelton said he is from Jacksonville, and one of his closest partners in Jacksonville in Economic Development was Jacksonville Electric Authority. He understands and so do companies, that you have regulatory issues that you can't bend. What it boils down to first is the quality of the service. A company has to be satisfied that the quality of the water, wastewater service, quality of fiber and gas matches the needs they have. If the answer is yes, then you start dealing with the cost of that. In a case like the one we are working on now, they are convinced the quality is here, the service is here, they can have uninterrupted service and can rely on the service. The issue for them is their up-front costs. What are their capital costs going to be when they select the location. It is to our credit that we are the highest of the three locations, yet we are still there in the running. What that means is we have the best location. We have to figure out how to make that work. His strategy has been to ask the UA to make more concessions, but the other strategy is trying to figure out how to make that decision revenue neutral to the company – trying to find other incentives that can be offered to the company so that the upfront costs will be neutralized.

Mayor Benton said something else he learned the other day at the summit at the Coates Center was most interesting, because we were led to believe companies coming in were looking for tax breaks, and we were told a lot of companies are looking for their employees to be educated. It is more important right now to have educational facilities here to educate our young people who can fill these positions. They were talking about a company in Arizona or New Mexico that was given huge tax breaks, but they could not get the employees. We do have a new distributor going in at the Reynolds Industrial Park on the old St. Andrews property, which will be a major distribution center for a lot of big retail chains. We hope that will be up and going soon.

Mr. Pelton said what is happening in industry today is if you don't have the workforce, you can't compete. It is more obvious in today's world, because industries are competing worldwide. It really is critical that we have the workforce, training and education component in place so that can happen. The idea of tax breaks is still important, but it isn't one element. The whole environment has to support the companies. It is a package.

Motion by Mr. Summerhays, seconded by Mr. Perona to approve the Economic Development Council Investment Partnership contribution in the amount of \$15,000.00 for fiscal year 2007.

Mr. Drummond said many moons ago he was president of the Chamber and loved to be a cheerleader for economic development when it was called the Go Team. He is no longer on the Commission, but understands development and being a partner and offering incentives, but he has to remember now at the utility level that we are at the table anyway. It has been his experience when a development is courting us or we are courting them, one of the first things is to look in terms of the infrastructure. We are then charged with the responsibility of making sure it is reliable and that we have the capacity to provide the services they are asking for. Inevitably, they look for ways we are able to make the deal a little sweeter. With each and every development that comes in it is generally not as small as a \$15,000 contribution, but sometimes very large contributions we are being asked to make in the form of an investment to bring those jobs and opportunities to the area. So, he thinks we are clearly at the table, and he is troubled. He believes it becomes a world where we are partners, and he doesn't know if this small investment is a benefit to the utilities as much as our making sure we are providing dependable service and that we do have capacity to meet those demands.

Mr. Pelton said he hopes he didn't mislead anyone. He doesn't have any complaints about the Utilities Authority. He has had great cooperation in what he has done so far with the Authority. He applauds the Authority. He can tell you that the consultants for this project came in and didn't just ask the questions, they demanded Bill Thiess take them out and let them look in the tanks at the water and wastewater plants. They wanted more than just convincing that the capacity was there. They were very satisfied with what they saw. Mr. Drummond agrees. He believes that is where our contribution comes in.

There being no further discussion, the roll was called and the motion carried with Mr. Drummond voting no.

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Mrs. Nina Hurtubise presented the August, 2007, Financial Operating Results.

Mrs. Hurtubise said we are continuing to experience decreases in consumption compared to last year throughout all four of our systems. This is not unique to us. Everyone is learning to conserve and become more efficient as the public should. We are finally beginning to see some positive operating income for the month of August. Year to date it is \$2,573,000 before the City distribution and capital contribution. Hopefully, next month it will be a little better, as well. Capital contributions continue to be strong as new development continues to come to our community. For the first eleven months compared to last year, in electric we are looking at a decrease of 4.7%. This past month we discovered an error in our statistical reporting. Up until that time we were looking at negative unaccounted for electric. It was troublesome. We

finally found the problem. As a result we are now at an electric unaccounted for of 5.68% for the rolling twelve months. Although that seems high, when it was negative before, it is now more at the acceptable standard and a more reasonable number. We have gone back and restated those statistics back to January 2007. Even with that restatement, unit sales in electric are only down 4.7%. She emphasized that customers have been billed correctly. There were no errors on the billing side, but the amount we were recording as over or under collected from the customers has been adjusted. The water statistics are down. We are still under water restrictions. That is having an impact, as well as, more efficient appliances. This is also reflected in our wastewater statistics. They are down 8.2%. Our natural gas statistics are down about 6% for the eleven month period this year versus last year.

Mrs. Hurtubise said on the dollar side, electric overshadows the other systems. Electric operating revenues for the same eleven month period this year versus last year, are up about 1.9%. All the others are less. Water is down 1.4%; wastewater is down .2%, and natural gas is down 16%. We have been tracking operating income and debt service coverage for the past year and watching it slowly decline. She is pleased to see it is finally bouncing back upwards. It is a result of the adjustment we made this past month, but we expect it to continue to go up. She thinks it will look a lot better in September, when we have the adjustment from September 2006 drop off. We are still looking at the high depreciation for the power plant. Our interest expense is up. We have seen increases in salaries and wages. We have almost complete employment. Historically, we have had a lot of vacant positions, but we have been able to fill those positions at this point. Employee insurance is up about 15% from the same time last year. Operating supplies are up about 32% from last year, so there are some significant increases we've had that are not unique to us. We have had expense decreases. Unfortunately, the purchased power and natural gas decreases we've been experiencing are less remarkable than they have been in prior months. The decrease is decreasing. Hurricane expenses decreased from last year. Distribution to the City of Fort Pierce was decreased for this year. The City distribution that is based on 2007 that will be paid in 2008, for the 11 months ended August 31<sup>st</sup>, we're looking at about \$3.8 million. Annualized, that comes out to about \$4.1 million. It is a little less than what we paid out last year. We still have to go through our audit. We continue to be optimistic.

Mr. Drummond said you spoke in terms of annualizing the City transfer. How does that compare with the full transfer? Mrs. Hurtubise said for eleven months, it would be \$4.4 million, so she thinks it is about \$300,000 to \$400,000 short of the 6% transfer for twelve months.

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Mrs. Betsy Schnebli presented a request to declare an emergency and approve purchase of seven switchgears for the A1A project.

Mrs. Schnebli said staff would like to request the formal bidding process be waived in this instance. These switchgears are an integral part of the electrical distribution system and their failure will result in an extended power outage for many customers. Staff has looked at locations where switches are to be installed and have found storm surge requirements could not be met unless we used elevated pads. The switches we currently use are fused and to operate they require a vented compartment, which is subject to water intrusion. Installing these switches on tall pads is unsightly and increases exposure to flying debris during a storm. She showed the Board what one of these would look like. Installing the new Vista

switchgear, which operates in a vacuum, it is completely air tight and waterproof. FPUA would then meet the storm surge requirements with our standard pad, which is more aesthetically pleasing. There is a cost difference. Currently, we pay \$18,000 each for the standard pad, but addition of the taller pad would cost an additional \$6,500. Due to their elevation there is additional labor and equipment costs for operation and maintenance. The new switches cost about \$37,400 , but we can use our existing pad. The new switches are more reliable with no water intrusion and have improved safety and flexibility for operating and maintaining.

Mr. Perona asked if Mrs. Schnebli has an idea what the cost difference would be when you net everything out. Mrs. Schnebli said she would say it is probably close to \$50,000 more not including maintenance. Mr. Perona said based on what was written in the agenda item, that amount could be used up pretty quickly with damage to the higher pad. He asked what is the deal with the transformers then? Are they still on elevated pads? Mrs. Schnebli said no. We went out with City Engineering and surveyed locations for transformers. We moved a few around and found that with the 12 inch pad, we meet storm surge requirements. Mr. Perona said basically the cost is nil as far as reaching this objective. Mrs. Schnebli said it is saving us about \$40,000 knowing we can put the transformers on 12 inch pads. Mr. Perona said there is your \$50,000 price difference.

Mr. Drummond said he assumes this is an emergency, because we want to stay on schedule with the construction going on out there now. Mrs. Schnebli said that is correct.

Motion by Mr. Perona, seconded by Mrs. Cully and unanimously carried to declare emergency and waive formal bidding process and approve purchase of seven S & C Vista switchgears for the A1A Project in the amount of \$262,022.74 from HD Supply Company as a sole source supplier.

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Mrs. Thiess explained the next item is a result of projects that were approved in a previous meeting. Mrs. Schnebli requested the Board approve an increase in the unit price contract with Mastec North America in order to complete electric distribution projects at the Greens at Gator Trace and Indian River Community College Safety Complex.

Motion by Mr. Perona, seconded by Mrs. Cully to approve increase in the total amount of \$199,569.66 to unit price contract with Mastec North America, Inc. for cable equipment, electric services and lights for the Greens at Gator Trace and Indian River Community College Safety Complex.

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Mr. Thiess presented a request for approval of a resolution establishing a Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP).

It has been almost a year since we first began working on a DROP Plan and bringing it to the Board. We are very close to the end of that process. On October 17, 2006, the FPUA Board approved the conceptual cost estimate for the program. We brought it back to the Board on May 1, 2007, to approve the actual funding after the Actuary went through all the numbers. On August 1, 2007, it went before the Retirement Board and was approved by them. The City Commission approved Ordinance K-511 on October 1, 2007. That Ordinance allows FPUA to

participate in the DROP Program. The next step and final big step for this Board is to adopt the Trust Resolution and Administrative Services Agreement. This is actually the administration of the DROP Program through ICMA. The Trust Adoption resolution approves the Declaration of Trust, Vantage Trust through ICMA, and designates FPUA as trustee and our Human Resources Manager as coordinator of the program. Adoption of this resolution is required by ICMA as a prerequisite to entering the contract. We are also asking the Board to approve the Administrative Services Agreement with ICMA to administer the program.

Motion by Mr. Summerhays, seconded by Mr. Perona and unanimously carried to adopt Resolution UA 2007-10 Adopting a Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP).

Motion by Mr. Summerhays, seconded by Mr. Perona and unanimously carried to approve the Administrative Services Agreement between FPUA and ICMA.

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Under Public Comments, Mr. Brian Alexander of 123 North 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Fort Pierce, Florida, asked to speak.

Mr. Alexander said he may be out of line and doesn't know if this is the right meeting to bring this up to. If it isn't, please feel free to direct him accordingly. He is asking out of concern for the City of Fort Pierce and the public as far as these light bills are concerned. He has a problem with the light bills north of Orange Avenue as to how high their light bills are. His sister's light bill is running \$500.00 per month right now. One of the churches that came to the City Commission meeting last night and other churches, as well, are only open one or two days out of the week, and he is trying to understand what is going on with these light bills north of Orange Avenue. It is not the same south of Orange Avenue, because he has dealt with plenty of associates and friends and family members that are on the south side of Orange Avenue that don't have the same problem. He is asking this Board if we can investigate this situation or have some type of solution to find out what is going on with these light bills north of Orange Avenue and bring it to a solution. It has been over three years that the public and the city has asked these questions, and we don't have an answer for the increase in these light bills since 2004. It is still going on today. He is coming to ask if there is some way we can investigate this situation as far as the south and the north side of Orange Avenue and the light bills being as high as they are.

Mr. Drummond said he lives north of Orange Avenue, as well, and he is very much of the opinion that the rates are the same throughout the entire City. He will suggest if there are any residents who feel there has been a misreading of their meters or anything of this nature, we would certainly want to know about it and would be more than happy to investigate it. He believes the Mayor indicated last night that there was a survey done and some 43 meters throughout the City were looked at. Mr. Alexander said he was actually given a copy of that last night, but even if you look at the survey itself, the survey shows everything in Fort Pierce and north of Fort Pierce. We don't have a survey going on in Port St. Lucie, or Jensen as far as being a comparison of the prices of what we are paying today. We have no type of survey showing south of Fort Pierce. Mr. Drummond said he will be happy to meet with him, as will anyone on the UA's staff, including Mr. Thiess and his staff. We get a report on a monthly basis of all of the public utilities in the State of Florida, and what they are charging for electric. Each month we have been consistently below the average cost of electric for the State of Florida, and we are very happy that we are able to produce that electricity at a comparable

and competitive rate with other utilities. Our staff has that information, and he and staff will be happy to sit with Mr. Alexander and go over this. Mr. Alexander said that is what he is saying, and we had over a hundred people here last night that was basically coming for the same thing. They marched 13 blocks to City Hall to confront this matter. We have the public walking for 13 blocks concerning the issue, over one hundred people. That speaks for itself that it is a serious problem. We have a lot of elderly people that are on a fixed income and can't pay these light bills. It is at the point now that they are either going to pay the light bills or they will be in the dark or out of their house because they can't pay their rent. It is a serious situation, and it is at the point now the community don't know where to go or where to turn. He is saying to you that he has a survey he was presented by the Mayor last night that shows every city north of Fort Pierce almost to Georgia. If you can show him that, can you please show him south of Fort Pierce, also. If you can show him anything almost to Georgia concerning this matter and nothing south of Fort Pierce, it's a serious problem. It is something that needs to be looked into. Mr. Drummond said he doesn't have it in front of him, but he believes they do have some cities that are south of us as well on the survey. Mr. Alexander said they don't, sir. He looked over it and there is nothing south of Fort Pierce. Mr. Summerhays said Lake Worth is on the list and Key West. Mr. Alexander said he didn't see it, but he may have overlooked it. What about the main cities?

Mr. Drummond said, again, he will be happy to meet with Mr. Alexander to try to answer any questions he has. He wholeheartedly agrees if individuals are willing to walk and come out and suggest that they have concerns, we are listening. He believes staff is prepared to meet with small groups or large groups. Education is going to be the key component. As questions are brought forward, we want to address them. Where there are discrepancies, we want to address them. You most definitely came to the right place. He would be more than happy to schedule a meeting with Mr. Alexander and with anyone else, and we will be happy to go through different utility bills in different communities and show you exactly where we come out with regard to them. He would love to do it. Mr. Alexander said he would appreciate it. He will give Mr. Drummond a phone call and maybe we can set something up with the public. Mr. Drummond said he would be happy to meet with them.

Mayor Benton said the reason why cities south of here aren't included in the survey is because they are on Florida Power and Light, which is a privately owned utility. We can compare with them, too, but remember that their electric bill is all they receive from FPL. Our bill has garbage, water, sewer and a lot of things added on, whereas, FPL's bill only has electric. Mr. Alexander said we have had those things for years, and we didn't have this problem. This problem is getting to the point where our light bill has done went from \$200 to \$600. Some bills out there are \$1,000 and there is no way someone could be in a household running that much electricity in a single parent household. That is all he's saying. It is very ridiculous that we are paying these type of bills and trying to survive, too, with the economy being the way it is. Mayor Benton said if those bills are brought to us, we will be happy to look into them, because several of the bills that were brought to us after the storms two years ago, were for more than one month. We need to take into account the one month timeframe, because anything up in the \$900 range, especially, a residential home, is a lot of money. Mr. Alexander thanked the Board for their time.

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Mr. Perona thanked Mr. Thiess and staff for a wonderful tour of the Treasure Coast Energy Center. It was enlightening and made him proud to be in a community that had something to

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do with this type generation plant coming to our community. It is a great thing for our community. We had to get off the water cooling tower due to eminent lightening. Mr. Drummond echoed Mr. Perona's praise of the tour.

Mr. Perona said he would also like to welcome back Mrs. Hayes to the meetings. Elena Elderbaum did an exceptional job in your absence, and we really do like to see you back here. Mrs. Hayes thanked Mr. Perona and said it is good to be back.

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There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

ATTEST:

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Secretary

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Chairman