



**Gainesville Regional Utilities Authority
Agenda Item Report**

File Number: 2025-809

Agenda Date: October 8, 2025

Department: Gainesville Regional Utilities

Title: 2025-809 Approval of Agreement Between GRU and the City of Gainesville for Solid Waste and Stormwater Billing Services (B)

Department: Gainesville Regional Utilities/Customer Operations

Description: This agenda item seeks approval of an Agreement between the Gainesville Regional Utilities Authority (GRUA) and the City of Gainesville for the continued provision of billing services related to Solid Waste and Stormwater. Under this agreement, GRU will continue to provide billing, collection, and remittance services for the City's Solid Waste and Stormwater fees. The agreement outlines the scope of services, responsibilities of each party, and the associated administrative fees.

Fiscal Note: The City of Gainesville will compensate GRU for billing services through an administrative fee structure outlined in the agreement. The fees are based on a percentage of the total revenue collected for Solid Waste and Stormwater services. These funds will support GRU's operational costs associated with billing, customer service, and remittance processing.

Recommendation: The GRU Authority authorizes the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and execute an amended agreement between GRU and the City of Gainesville for solid waste and stormwater billing services.



City of Gainesville

Office of the City Manager

City Manager Memorandum No. 250063

To: Edward Bielarski, Chief Operating Officer Gainesville Regional Utilities

From: Cynthia W. Curry, City Manager

Date: September 25, 2025

Re: Solid Waste and Stormwater

Thank you for committing to further discussion with the GRU Authority regarding the Solid Waste and Stormwater billings and GRU continuing to provide this service to the City of Gainesville. As noted in my March 7, 2025 Memorandum, this continues to be the City's preferred method of collection of these fees as there are mutual benefits to the arrangement; GRU received revenues to support its billing system infrastructure and it is a reliable fee collection process for the City.

City staff is open to discussing continuing this arrangement with the City Commission with revised terms. Based on the current MOU, the following terms revisions are proposed:

- Executing an agreement between the City of Gainesville and the GRU Authority
- Paragraph 1 – Revising condominium, apartment and mobile units to a TBD ERU.
- Paragraph 3 – adding condominium, apartments and mobile homes as a calculated ERU.
- Paragraph 5 – Revising 50 to 80 account adjustments in accordance with current practices.
- Paragraphs 17 and 18 – Revise payment terms to 4% of revenues collected.
- Paragraph 21 – Delete clause
- Add clause – Stormwater and Solid Waste must remain on same bill as Utility Bill. If billed separately, then utility accounts and stormwater/solid waste accounts must be tied together with any account payments made be applied to the earliest billing.

The FY26 charge for service under the current MOU is \$824,810. Adjusting the service to 4% of revenues collected would result in an approximately \$952,000 charge for services if all budgeted revenues are collected in FY26. As such, this would result in an increase in revenue for GRU and a cost saving to be public compared to Tax Collector billing, tax saving credit for early payments and Property Appraiser fees. Currently, the City increases fees by 5% every other year, as such, revenues for GRU would increase on the same schedule.

The statutory deadline to adopt a resolution to change the billing method to the tax bill is December 31, 2025. In order to provide time for negotiations, the City would appreciate feedback from the GRU Authority at its October 8, 2025 meeting but no later than the November meeting.

If you have any questions or would like to meet with staff to discuss further, please let me know.

cc: City Commission
Dennis Nguyen, Director of Finance
Cintya Ramos, Executive Chief of Staff
Andrew Persons, Chief Operating Officer
Brian Singleton, Special Advisor to the City Manager

Animal Services Fee Waiver

Collaboration between ACDSS and Alachua County Animal Services to grant a fee waiver allowing indigent persons to reclaim their pets. Exclusions may apply; once in a lifetime.

Assessment Hardship Exemption Program

The Assessment Hardship Assistance Program will provide a waiver of assessment fees for qualified low-income homeowners in Alachua County for Solid Waste, Stormwater, and Fire. There is one streamlined application for all assessments.

For an Assessment Hardship Exemption Application Packet to complete, please contact Social Services at 352-264-6750 or email socialservices@alachuacounty.us.

● The following items are needed when applying for assistance:

Applying for Services

Thank you for your interest in Alachua County Division of Social Services. We are committed to helping Alachua County citizens reach or return to self-sufficiency by providing temporary short-term assistance through a variety of programs.

To request an application for services, please contact Social Services at 352-264-6750 or email socialservices@alachuacounty.us.

The following items are needed when applying for assistance:

- Photo ID (driver's license or Florida ID card) for all adult household members
- Social Security card for all household members
- Birth certificate for all household members (other options: passport, permanent legal US residency card, or other official documentation of place of birth for US citizenship). ***Please contact our office, if you are unable to obtain photo ID, social security card, or birth certification documentation***
- Two (2) proofs of Alachua County residency (lease; original utility bill; shelter statement; voter registration card; current school record; business mail with current address, etc.) NOTE: If you are requesting rent, mortgage, or utility assistance, your proofs of residency MUST include the lease, mortgage statement, and/or utility bill respectively
- Proof of all household income for past 60 days - Gross wages (before taxes/other deductions), other countable income and assets (things you own) for the past 60 days for all household members including: Social Security retirement, SSI, SSDI, child support payments, alimony, pay check stubs, alimony, income tax return; etc.
- Food stamp benefit letter (issued by DCF or via ACCESS) confirming monthly amount

4/3/25 GRU Authority
M. notes or 3/12/25 Action

Kiersten Ballou gave a brief presentation on the Sunshine Law, Public Records and Ethics. She advised that each one carries criminal charges if violated. Chair Lawson requested each Director be emailed the presentation by Folds Walker.

M. BUSINESS DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. 2025-178 State of the Utility FY25 January (B)

Chief Operating Officer, Tom Brown, discussed a few highlights from the FY25 January State of the Utility Report.

Recommended Motion: The GRU Authority hear a monthly update from the utility's operational areas.

2. 2025-175 Gainesville Regional Utilities MOU with the City for Stormwater Management Utility (SMU) and Solid Waste (SW) Billing services (B)

CEO Bielarski gave a presentation regarding stormwater and refuse.

Public Comment: Jim Konish, Chuck Ross

Director Carter spoke to the item on the floor.

Chair Lawson asked the CEO to find alternative methods to make up for the revenue loss caused by removing these fees from the GRU bill.

Moved by Craig Carter

Seconded by Jack Jacobs

Recommended Motion: GRU Authority hear a presentation and recommend GRU to continue to work with the City to remove these billings off GRU's bill no later than November 2026 given the scheduling requirements.

Approved

N. RESOLUTIONS (Roll Call Required)

1. 2025-177 Resolution of the Gainesville Regional Utilities Authority, a unit of city government of the City of Gainesville, FL approving the execution, delivery, and performance of one or more natural gas supply agreements with Municipal Gas Authority (B)

Moved by Craig Carter

Seconded by Vice-Chair Haslam