

**AGENDA MINUTES  
MEETING  
AGENDA  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2025 5:30 PM**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The City of Leesburg Electric Advisory Board held a regular meeting on Monday, September 15, 2025, at Leesburg City Hall. Chairperson Braton called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. with the following members present:

Board Member Bethany Burge-Bosbous  
Board Member Mike Rankin  
Vice-Chair Marc Schwartz  
Chairperson Jack Braton

Board Member Amanda McLea was absent. Also, present were City Manager (CM) Al Minner, Deputy City Clerk (DCC) Anna Rottermond, the news media, and others.

**INVOCATION**

Chairperson Braton gave the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Chairperson Braton asked if there were any corrections to the June 2, 2025, and the May 5, 2025, minutes. If not, he would entertain a motion. Board member Rankin made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Board member Burge-Bosbous. Chairperson Braton stated all in favor to signify by saying aye, oppose the same sign. The Motion carried unanimously.

**A. Regular meeting held June 2, 2025**

**B. Regular meeting held May 5, 2025**

**3. DISCUSSION:**

**A. Bulk Power Cost Update**

City Manager Al Minner started out by saying we have not met since June and at that time we kind of thought, at the last report, that we were going to have to raise rates. Then the budget time came in and an email was sent out that said we did not need to raise electric rates and then subsequent to that we dropped the power cost adjustment. Just want to review that and wrap up the budget process. Most of the things with the budget that we discussed back in May and June, as far as projects that you all discussed and stuff that the electric department needed was pretty much funded as presented.

Really the biggest deviation since you all reviewed the budget, from what is potentially being adopted is the rates. The commission held their first budget hearing and adopted, through resolution, the budget pretty much as you reviewed it. The second review of the budget will be on September 22nd, and pending that date, that is when everything will be formalized. Subsequent to your meeting, I think we did it sometime in August, we approved the base rate with no change for the fiscal year 26, which starts October one.

Showing a power cost adjustment slide, he said this chart could be found on the city's website on the rate summary page that we do. The gray chart is the actuals, so, this is for fiscal year 25, which runs from October 2024 through the end of this month. You see all the actual numbers except for the last month of the fiscal year. The differences to show here is where we estimated our rate and remember our rate is the base rate which the commission does through resolutions. We thought this this might need to go up and we were hanging out at that \$127.97 number. Then in April, we thought we would need the extra 5 cents, so we did that and so you see everything is kind of going along as we planned through September. On September one, we made the power cost adjustment, the \$20 or two cents per thousand. So, the base rate will be 107, but this 25 will be 20, so that is going to be the 127 number. It is going to go back to this for the last, which shows we thought we were going to be higher, but we are actually lower. Then we have been tracking what our costs are from FMPA. So, you see our estimated costs versus our actual costs, and we are pretty close. If you carry this number over for the same two years, we are about 93 and a half percent of what we estimated. So that six percent delta accounts for a couple of million bucks. That is not a lot, but it is enough to get you this Delta, that five bucks. He thinks we saw our power cost a little bit less expensive than what we estimated, and then we did not quite peak out as bad as we did in previous years. So that helped us on our over recovery numbers.

By the time we got to August, the hot months, we started seeing our recoveries go up and at this point we were sitting on the 4.13 million. So that was the point where we started looking at the chart, thinking oh remember, we want this number to remain about three million and so, as we start leaking over this number we start plugging in numbers and essentially what we determined was the power cost could come down.

Showing the FY 25 BPCA Calculation Formula Chart, he said this number is important because we are at 129. This over-recovery instead of being a million we are estimating 1.79. So, this is an estimated number at 20 bucks, this is an estimated number at 25 bucks. So, if we kept going at the current rate, we would be at 3.26, plus 1.5 or 1.04. This would have started kicking us into the \$5 million range and we said we do not need to do that. The actuals in this column are hard to read, but we start setting up the estimates. So same base rate now with a power cost at 20 bucks and then these are all our estimates. We walk into the fiscal year at 4.293, and then we start rolling our estimates and you see some big losses, typically where we do it in the middle of the year, but what we try to do is to keep this number constant and the power cost adjustment constant, so everybody has the same rate. And then at the end of the year, we estimate, we will be right at \$3,780,038. So, if everything is perfect, we should be bam, right on that number.

That concluded his presentation. He thinks, hopefully, we have one fixed cost for the next year in 2026. Hopefully, if it goes anywhere, it goes down, but we probably will not be making those determinations. As we get into the springtime, April, May, and June are really important months because that is where we start seeing some deviations. We see some deviations up in the winter months, too, so extreme cold can mess us up and extreme hot messes us up. If everything turns out the way it is, we should be pretty consistent for 2026. Do not know what this does for 2027, it is anybody's guess. Do not think it is fair

going that far because now we are starting to get into power costs where we do not have hedges in from FMPA. We feel good for 2026 and hopefully we stay around the \$127.97 mark.

**ED Chase** asked if the city manager wanted to tee up the street light rental rates. **CM Minner** responded no, but now that you brought it up, laughing said you let the dirty little secret out of the bag. One of the things that Brad and his gang are working on is street light rentals. The margin there is somewhere in the million-dollar ballpark of potentially maybe what we are not collecting. Street lights are a component of a couple of different things. One is the street light rental and the city is probably our biggest street light customer. So, all the street lights you see up and down Main Street, 27, and incorporate city limits, 441, those are all city street lights just like any other city has in their municipal corporations. In our case, the city's electric utility provides those street lights. The general fund pays the electric fund for those street lights and it is a pretty big expense, in a neighborhood for the city of about 1.4 million bucks a year. The general fund pays the electric fund to provide lighting in your neighborhood and on the streets. On the electric side of the house, or Brad's side, that component is made up of two parts, the pole and the fixture, and then the energy that is used in that light. The pole and fixture is a cost that we pass on to the customer in the monthly rate. But what happens is the utility absorbs the cost to purchase a pole or a decorative fixture and then that is paid back over time in addition to the kilowatts that go through it and we make up that rate. Like everything else that we have seen in the electric fund, we have seen the cost for poles, lights, and fixtures greatly increase, but our street light revenue has not. Then on the other side, on the energy side of the house, there is either an assumption that we make based on what kind of light bulb is in that fixture, we know about the kilowatt usage, so we estimate that, or it is metered and we build that. What we have seen is a concern that our rates are too low. I have been hesitant to unilaterally increase our street lighting rates for two reasons. First, the city is its biggest customer, so we are being conservative on that cost because if we increase that, the general fund will have to pay that cost. So, if the electric utility is losing money, it is losing money to the city, and that is not necessarily a bad thing. Probably not something you would see in the investor-owned world, but it benefits the taxpayers who own the system.

The other issue is other businesses. It is extremely controversial and the case in point was probably SECO. SECO recently increased their lighting charges and it created some conflict amongst their customer base. So, before we increase those, I asked Brad and the crew to do some examination of exactly what the delta is, so that million dollars and Brad do not give out any answers. We will divulge, but I have not met with him yet, so, I am not ready to give what Brad's homework is yet until I argue with them first because that is the process. What is the number we' ae talking about? Out of the \$80 million electric fund, what is the delta that maybe is plus or minus that we are losing, and then what would the new rate be? Brad provided me probably about a month ago three different avenues to go down and before I could absorb that, I told him to go back and look at the deltas. If Brad came back and told me \$8 million of the \$80 million is street lights, I would have approached it probably with a little more haste because 10% is a big number. But one million in \$80 million where the general fund is the benefactor, I am kind of slow walking the increase that the electric department wants on street lighting increases. Brad has more data, he sent it to me probably middle or end of last week, and it is still sitting in an email that is unopened. That was the highlight and yes, we will talk about street lights in the coming months.

**Board member Schwartz** asked, Do you know the percentage of the street lights for the city of Leesburg? Like what does that pie chart look like as to who else are considered customers and what do they represent? **CM Minner** replied, we did. Number one is Leesburg. **ED Chase** added if looking municipal lights, city of Leesburg is just under 3,000. About 500 in Fruitland Park, 100 in Wildwood, and 350 in The Villages. Then rental lights, and again, we have them separated to cities. **CM Minner** stated we have municipal lights and we have rental lights. He asked for the numbers one more time. **ED Chase** said the city of Leesburg is 2969, Fruitland Park 468, Wildwood The Villages St. Catherine 98, in The Villages Fruitland Park 347. Rental lights are 4,855, but he does not have that breakdown. They are

divided into subdivisions, which is our HOAs, commercial properties, and then single residential and the bulk of those are going to be in the HOAs. Then we have a revenue side and we have a maintenance cost side and we have a net revenue, if you will. He thinks part of the bad PR that SECO received was they waited for 20 years to roll in an increase in rates and they had four to 600% increases. When they laid that out to The Villages, they went ballistic, so SECO backed down a lot of those costs. So SECO, got some really bad PR because they went for total cost update, cost of labor, cost of equipment, cost of material and if you throw all that cost in at one time, it can be significant. **CM Minner** asked if he had the revenue numbers from those or just the light numbers with him. **ED Chase** responded, no, but he could pull a couple slides if needed.

**CM Minner** said he does not want to talk about the lights tonight. The lights are coming, he and Brad need to talk first, but if you break those numbers down on a rough number, pretty much what he told you is spot on. Thirty-five percent all the lights is one customer, the city of Leesburg. The next biggest customer is probably The Villages of Fruitland Park. Note, he gave you those in two numbers, Leesburg numbers, Villages of Catherine numbers. So, whether it is the city, Wildwood, or Fruitland Park, some municipal corporation is paying for street lights. Street lights are the number one customer. Then the 455, which is a ton of other businesses that go from probably one street light to a lot of street lights like Jenkins. He and Brad need to meet so that they have a uniform front before we start talking street lights. The advocacy that you are seeing is the electric department bucking for more money and higher rates and the city manager being hesitant before we discuss it publicly. But that discussion is coming.

**4. ROLL CALL:**

The board had nothing further to discuss.

**5. ADJOURN:**

**PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES NEEDING ASSISTANCE TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY OF THESE PROCEEDINGS SHOULD CONTACT THE HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT, ADA COORDINATOR, AT 728-9740, 48 HOURS IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING.**

**F.S.S. 286.0105 "If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the Commission with respect to any matter considered at this meeting, they will need a record of the proceedings, and that for such purpose they may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based." The City of Leesburg does not provide this verbatim record.**

With a motion to adjourn from Board member Schwartz and a second from Board member Burge-Bosbous, the meeting adjourned at 5:49 p.m.