

**AGENDA MINUTES
MEETING
AGENDA
MONDAY, MAY 4, 2026 5:30 PM**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The City of Leesburg Electric Advisory Board held a regular meeting on Monday, May 4, 2026, 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
Vice-Chair Marc Schwartz
Chairperson Jack Braton

Also, present were City Manager (CM) Al Minner, Electric Director (ED) Brad Chase, Electric Operations Manager (EOM) Chris Adkins, Budget Director (BD) Brandy McDaniel, Finance Director (FD) Paul Austin, City Clerk (CC) Andi Purvis, the news media, and others.

INVOCATION

Chairperson Braton gave the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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 March 2, 2026, minutes. If not, he would entertain a motion. Vice-Chair Person Schwartz 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 March 2, 2026

3. PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION:

A. Budget Review

CM Minner presented the draft FY27 electric utility budget and explained that no final action was required at this meeting. He reviewed the structure of the electric fund, including wholesale power,

operations, personnel, and capital improvements. He explained the "three-legged stool" approach to capital improvements: repairing damaged or aging infrastructure, growth-driven expansion projects and system resiliency, and reliability improvements. **Board Member Burge-Bosbous** asked what percentage of wood poles remain in the system. **CM Minner** replied that of the system about 60% is underground, so probably 40% are still wood poles. He then discussed ongoing investments in system upgrades, feeder looping, pole replacement, and outage reduction efforts. He reported annual capital spending has ranged from approximately \$5 million to \$12 million in recent years. He explained that the proposed FY27 budget is balanced. He reviewed growth-related infrastructure costs and developer contribution policies. Discussed inflation impacts and efforts to reduce transfers from the electric fund to the general fund. Transfers have decreased from approximately \$4.8 million in 2010 to about \$1.8 million currently. He explained that the transfer amount equals roughly 2.8% of adjusted revenues and is below the city charter maximum of 6%. Short discussion of operational budget pressures, including staffing, tree trimming, pole testing, and infrastructure maintenance. He explained current residential electric rates and the role of the power cost adjustment. He reported that the rate stabilization account balance is below the preferred target and discussed fuel cost volatility. He explained budget reductions included cuts to capital projects and some requested staffing additions. Reviewed workforce concerns related to retiring linemen and succession planning. Explained proposed staffing adjustments, including retaining one groundsman position instead of a meter technician trainee. CM Minner discussed major deferred capital projects, including, additional circuit redundancy improvements, Circuit 58/59 upgrades, and development of the proposed West Substation.

Board Member Burge-Bosbous asked whether FEMA and state emergency reimbursements had been fully received and reviewed the cash graph figures and questioned reimbursement timing. **CM Minner** reviewed the FEMA reimbursement delays related to prior hurricane recovery expenses. He compared Leesburg electric rates with neighboring utilities and statewide municipal utilities. He explained the advantages of participating in the Florida Municipal Power Agency (FMPA) all-requirements project. He reported that Leesburg rates remain competitive and are currently lower than FPL rates.

Vice-Chair Schwartz asked questions regarding how the 2.8% transfer amount was determined, and asked whether the City Commission approves transfer percentage adjustments. **CM Minner** clarified that the City Commission determines transfer percentages and that transfers below the charter maximum are currently being used. He stated that staff will continue refining the budget projections over the coming months before the final adoption. He noted the electric utility budget will go before the City Commission on July 9th.

CM Minner announced two advisory board resignations and ongoing recruitment efforts for replacement members. Board Member Michael Rankin resigned from the board after moving outside the electric service area, and Board Member Amanda McLea resigned following her election to the Lady Lake City Commission.

4. **ROLL CALL:**

Board Member Bethany Burge-Bosbous had no further comments.

Vice-Chair Marc Schawartz had nothing further.

Chairperson Braton had nothing further.

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 by Board member Burge-Bosbous and a second by Vice-Chair Schwartz the meeting adjourned at 6:18 p.m.