

REGULAR MEETING OF KISSIMMEE UTILITY AUTHORITY HELD WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2025 AT 3:30 P.M., BRINSON BOARD ROOM, JAMES C. WELSH ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 1701 WEST CARROLL STREET, KISSIMMEE, FLORIDA

Present were Director Manny Ortega, Director Rae Hemphill, Director Reginald Hardee, Director Melissa Thacker, Director Michele Lebron, Mayor Jackie Espinosa, President & General Manager, Brian Horton, General Counsel, Grant Lacerte and Acting Recording Secretary, Leticia Rivera.

A. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Director Ortega called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

The Board members and staff recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

At this time, Director Ortega welcomed Michele Lebron, KUA's newest board member and also expressed Happy 40<sup>th</sup> Birthday to KUA!

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**ACTION: Director Hardee made a motion, seconded by Director Thacker. Chairman Ortega advised the question was moved and seconded to approve the agenda.**

**MOTION PASSED 5 – 0**

D. INSTALLATION OF NEW BOARD MEMBER

Michele Lebron was sworn in as the newest KUA board member; her five (5) year term runs through September 30, 2030.

E. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Director Ortega opened the floor for nominations.

**ACTION: Director Hemphill made a motion, seconded by Director Hardee. Chairman Ortega advised the question was moved and seconded to approve the offices of the KUA Board as follows: Director Ortega, Chairman; Rae Hemphill, Vice Chairman; Reginald Hardee, Secretary and Melissa Thacker, Assistant Secretary.**

**MOTION PASSED 5 – 0**

F. AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS

1. 2025 TOP WORKPLACE AWARD

Cindy Herrera, Vice President of Human Resources, advised the Board that KUA was recognized as a 2025 Top Workplace employer and also received a special award for Training. The awards were presented by the Orlando Sentinel's Top Workplace program held September 19, 2025. Mrs. Herrera presented the awards to the Board.

Director Hemphill advised with so many of the various departments represented today, they are the ones who should be honored for this award. She thanked all the employees and advised them to keep up the great work.

2. MARY-LAVINNIE SANCHEZ, BUSINESS PROGRAMMER/ANALYST, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, MASTER OF SCIENCE IN SOFTWARE ENGINEERING FROM GRAND CANYON UNIVERSITY

3. 5-YEAR SERVICE AWARD – TIFFANY HENDERSON, DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS, CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS

4. 10-YEAR SERVICE AWARD – CHAD NICHOLS, INSTRUMENT CONTROLS & ELECTRIC TECHNICIAN II, POWER SUPPLY

5. 15-YEAR SERVICE AWARD – YEIDEE SEQUINOT, BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY ADMINISTRATOR, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
6. 20-YEAR SERVICE AWARD – WANDA DEL VALLE NIEVES, CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE II, CUSTOMER SERVICE
7. 30-YEAR SERVICE AWARD – MARCELLO MCDONALD, LEAD LINEMAN, OPERATIONS
8. 30-YEAR SERVICE AWARD – LUIS SANTIAGO, LINE CREW SUPERVISOR, OPERATIONS
9. EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH FOR OCTOBER 2025 – ALEXANDRA SANCHEZ, AMI ACCOUNT ANALYST, CUSTMER SERVICE

Mr. Horton congratulated Alex for being selected employee of the month for October 2025.

G. HEAR THE AUDIENCE

Director Ortega asked if anyone from the public would like to address the Board. In hearing none, the Board moved forward.

H. CONSENT AGENDA

**ACTION: Director Thacker made a motion, seconded by Director Hemphill. Chairman Ortega advised the question was moved and seconded to approve the items 1 – 5 under the consent agenda.**

**MOTION PASSED 5 - 0**

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 10, 2025 BOARD MEETING
2. VIVA OSCEOLA SPONSORSHIP

**RECOMMENDATION: Approve a \$15,000 sponsorship for Viva Osceola.**

3. BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF CENTRAL FLORIDA SPONSORSHIP

**RECOMMENDATION: Approve a \$10,000 sponsorship for the Boys & Girls Club of Central Florida.**

4. OSCEOLA ARTS SPONSORSHIP

**RECOMMENDATION: Approve a \$10,000 sponsorship for the Osceola Arts.**

5. APPROVAL OF AWARD (IFB 25-063-JG) TO ASPHALT365 TO MILL & REPAVE THE TRANSFORMER & WIRE "POLE YARD" STORAGE AREA

**RECOMMENDATION: Approve the award of contract (IFB 25-063-JG) Mill & Repave the Transformer & Wire Storage Area to Asphalt365 in the amount of \$294,966 plus 10% contingency for any additional unforeseen paving requirements and authorize the President & General Manager to execute any necessary contract documents.**

I. INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATIONS (REQUIRING NO ACTION)

1. BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

Tiffany Henderson, Director of Corporate Communications, introduced Alicia Hodge, Vice President of Development of the Boys & Girls Club of Central Florida. Ms. Hodge thanked KUA for its continuous support throughout the years.

Ms. Hodge also thanked former KUA employee, Susan Postans who retired from the Boys & Girls Club board after 16 years, and the one word that describes Susan is transformational. Ms. Hodge also recognized Cindy Herrera as the new board member and the one word that describes her is inspirational and we are excited to be working with Cindy.

Director Ortega and Director Hardee shared that they are products of the Boys & Girls Club. Director Lebron also shared that her husband volunteered at the Boys & Girls Club in her former neighborhood in the Bronx, and he initiated a golf program for the children.

J. PUBLIC HEARING - None

K. OLD BUSINESS

1. APPROVAL OF CONTRACT AMENDMENT NO. 1 FOR AR #24-072-RM WITH DAVEY TREE EXPERT COMPANY FOR VEGETATION MANAGEMENT SERVICES

Mark Flury, Vice President of Engineering & Operations, reminded the Board that KUA utilizes contractual services to assist in maintaining its vegetation management program. The vegetation management program helps the utility ensure reliability on the electric system and comply with regulatory requirements. Mr. Flury advised that the initial contract authorized an expenditure of \$850,000 per year for an initial three (3) year contract estimate of approximately \$2.550 million. Increasing the contract amount from \$850,000 annually to \$980,000 annually will match the funding needed to perform the tree trimming work planned for FY2025 and FY2026 as well as align the contract value with the approved budget amounts.

**ACTION:** Director Hemphill made a motion, seconded by Director Hardee. Chairman Ortega advised the question was moved and seconded to approve Contract Amendment No. 1 with Davey Tree Expert Company to increase the not to exceed amount to \$980,000 annually for the remaining two years of the agreement with a two (2) year estimate expense of \$1,960,000 and a four (4) year estimate expense of approximately \$3,920,000.

**MOTION PASSED 5 - 0**

2. APPROVAL TO AWARD CONTRACT (RFQu 25-057-RM) FOR ENGINEERING AND INSPECTION SERVICES WITH POWER ENGINEERS FOR THE NEOCITY TRANSMISSION UNDERGROUND CONVERSION PROJECT AND AUTHORIZE NEGOTIATIONS ON CONTRACT TERMS

Mr. Flury reminded the Board that per Osceola County's request, KUA partnered with the County to apply for approximately \$18.6 million in federal funding from the US Economic Development Administration (EDA) to cover the expenditures required to convert to underground a portion of KUA's existing 69kV overhead transmission lines that route through the NeoCity Development Campus (Underground Project).

At the February 7, 2024 meeting, the Board approved an agreement between KUA and the County for the Conversion of Transmission Facilities at NeoCity (Conversion Agreement). The Conversion Agreement binds the County to cover all Underground Project costs not reimbursed by EDA. The EDA has awarded a grant to KUA and the County for the Underground Project. Mr. Flury provided a slide showing where KUA's existing 69kV overhead transmission lines will convert to underground that will route through the NeoCity.

Director Thacker asked, in the slide shown where it goes back to above ground, is that driven by the amount of the grant or existing conditions, and why is it not continuing below ground all the way to Neptune. Mr. Flury advised that it is the extent of where that transmission line impacted those undeveloped lots. Their goal is twofold: aesthetics and to maximize the potential of the property.

**ACTION: Director Thacker made a motion, seconded by Director Hardee. Chairman Ortega advised the question was moved and seconded to approve the Award of Contract (RFQu 25-057-RM) for Engineering and Inspection Services with Power Engineers for the NeoCity Transmission Underground Conversion Project or with Kimley-Horn & Associates, Inc., in the event that terms with Power Engineers, Inc. may not be achieved, and authorize the President and General Manager to execute any necessary contract documents.**

**MOTION PASSED 5 - 0**

L. NEW BUSINESS - None

M. STAFF REPORTS

1. OPERATIONS SEMI ANNUAL REPORT

Mr. Flury provided the following highlights within the Operations departments: Operations Goals, reliability metrics, aged underground cable replacement, storm preparation, capital project status, and upcoming projects.

Director Hardee inquired with regards to the upcoming projects item does the Airport Substation have sufficient infrastructure to support a hotel. Mr. Flury shared that the expansion at the Airport Substation is planned for the 2029-2030 timeframe to address several inquiries we have received for proposed commercial and industrial developments in the Kissimmee airport. Currently, there is about 30 megawatts of capacity at the Airport Substation and part of the plans to expand will be to increase that capacity so there will be more than enough to serve a hotel and any additional development.

Mr. Horton added that essentially it is a half of a substation we will be adding and hopefully this will address all of the economical development needs.

2. POWER SUPPLY SEMI ANNUAL REPORT

Jason Terry, Vice President of Power Supply, provided an update on the following items in his department: Cane Island operations; Cane Island Unit 3 forced outage; Cane Island natural gas pipeline improvement project; ARP generation and natural gas market; ARP natural gas rate stability program; ARP generation assets; and ARP load and resource balance to 2033.

N. HEAR ATTORNEY, GENERAL MANAGER, DIRECTORS

Grant Lacerte, General Counsel, provided an overview of House Bill 278, which would expand federal control over public power utility infrastructure. APPA has sent a letter opposing H.R. 278 and Mr. Lacerte will keep the Board apprised of any updates.

Mr. Horton shared dates of upcoming events including this Friday's Movie in the Park and the continued 40<sup>th</sup> celebration.


Director Hardee congratulated and thanked staff for receiving the Top Workplace Award. Mayor Espinosa advised that she will share with the City the award KUA received. Director Thacker added that the longevity of the folks that were recognized today with 30 years of service and KUA's 40<sup>th</sup> birthday is a true testament to everything staff puts into this place every day.

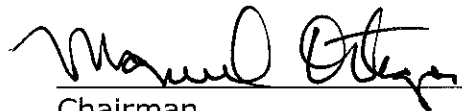
Director Lebron thanked the Board and the Mayor along with the City Commission on appointing her to be part of the KUA Board and shared that she is honored to have been sworn in on KUA's 40<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Each Board member welcomed Director Lebron as part of the KUA Board of Directors.

O. ADJOURNMENT

Director Ortega adjourned the meeting at 4:34 p.m.

  
Secretary

  
Chairman