Present:

COMMISSIONERS:
Cesar E. Calvet, President
Britta Gross, First Vice President
Larry Mills, Second Vice President (via telephone)
Gregory D. Lee, Immediate Past President (via telephone)
Mayor Buddy Dyer

Clint Bullock, General Manager & Chief Executive Officer
Jan Aspuru, Chief Operating Officer
Mindy Brenay, Chief Financial Officer
W. Christopher Browder, Chief Legal Officer
Linda Ferrone, Chief Customer Officer
Latisha Thompson, Chief Employee Experience Officer
Greg Rodeghier, Interim Managing Director, Information Technology
LeMoyne Adams, Luz Aviles, Wade Gillingham, & Ken Zambito, Vice Presidents
Nanci Schwartz, Recording Secretary

The Budget/Rate Workshop of the Orlando Utilities Commission was held Tuesday, July 9, 2019, at 2:00 P.M., at the Orlando Utilities Commission’s Reliable Plaza Commission Chambers. President Calvet noted that Commissioner Mills and Commissioner Lee were attending the meeting via telephone.

Clint Bullock provided brief opening remarks noting that the public workshop was noticed to customers in May and that no official action will be taken at this meeting.

Mindy Brenay discussed the agenda and purpose for the Budget/Rate Workshop.

Ms. Brenay provided an overview of the 2020 Proposed Operating Budget, Five-Year Capital Plan, and the proposed pricing changes.

Commissioner Gross asked about the increase in infrastructure expenses and whether growth will turn into revenue for OUC versus the increased cost of doing business. Ms. Brenay stated that a good portion of increased infrastructure expenses are laying the foundation for future customer growth. As OUC infrastructure is required at the front end of projects, revenue growth
tends to lag behind the use of Capital Plan resources. Additional information is available in the Five-Year Capital Plan.

Commissioner Gross asked for clarification regarding the portion of the Capital Plan dedicated to sustainability, and how that percentage needs to increase to reach OUC’s ambitious goals. Ms. Brenay stated that the Budget Book includes projections for the clean energy portfolio as a result of the installation of large solar facilities scheduled to come online in 2021. She discussed tax incentives versus leveraging purchase power agreements, and how current tax regulations are providing OUC with greater value through purchase power agreement versus asset ownership and the use of Capital Plan resources. Mr. Bullock added that changes in legislation regarding tax credits may change this trend and lead back to the use of utility Capital Plan resources for the construction and ownership of renewable resources.

Commissioner Gross inquired about outlier utilities impacting the price comparison for residential water prices. Ms. Brenay responded that while the City of Cocoa is an outlier with higher than average water prices, excluding them from the water price comparison does not impact the Florida average because the water industry is made up of hundreds of small utilities.

Ms. Brenay thanked all the staff for their work on the proposed Operating Budget and Capital Plan, especially Gina Johnson, Erin Lowery, and Heather Comer.

Ms. Brenay informed Commissioners that the 2020 Proposed Operating Budget, Five-Year Capital Plan, and proposed pricing changes will be presented to the Commission on August 13, 2019 for approval and adoption. Once approved, the Marketing and Communication team will launch a communication plan related to the price changes.

President Calvet asked for a motion to adjourn the workshop. Mayor Dyer moved to adjourn the workshop and Commissioner Gross seconded. On unanimous vote, the Budget/Rate Workshop adjourned at 2:31 P.M.