

**JOINT LEGISLATIVE AUDITING COMMITTEE
MEETING SUMMARY
February 23, 2023**

Members in attendance:

**Senator Jason Pizzo, Alternating Chair
Representative Mike Caruso, Alternating Chair
Representative Christopher Benjamin
Senator Jason Brodeur
Senator Tracie Davis
Representative Peggy Gossett-Seidman
Representative Dianne Hart
Representative Vicki Lopez
Senator Corey Simon**

Senator Nick DiCeglie and Representative Daniel Alvarez, Sr. were excused

Also in attendance were the following members of the Alachua County Legislative Delegation:

**Senator Jennifer Bradley
Senator Keith Perry
Representative Yvonne Hinson**

Presentation of the Auditor General's operational audit of the City of Gainesville and the response from the City

Derek Noonan, Audit Manager with the Auditor General's Office, presented the audit report.

Harvey Ward, City Mayor; Cynthia Curry, City Manager; Tony Cunningham, Gainesville Regional Utilities (GRU) General Manager; and Daniel Nee, City Attorney addressed the following concerns and questions from Committee and Delegation members:

- whether the City has applied for any available funds from state programs such as Low Income Home Energy Assistance, Weatherization Assistance, or Low Income Household Water Assistance, to assist GRU customers with energy rehabilitation and weatherization and high utility bills;
- credit rating downgrades (past and any expected in the future) and the costs on debt service due to such;
- plans to decrease GRU's debt; and
- the purchase power agreement to purchase solar power over the next 20 years, which contains significant redacted financial information, including the price per megawatt hour, because such is considered trade secrets.

The following citizens submitted appearance cards and spoke to the Committee regarding their concerns related to the City of Gainesville and the GRU:

Jo Lee Beaty
Don and Kristina Fields
Angela Casteel (Read Statement by Nathan Skop)
Fiorella Recchioni
Tyler Forest
James Ingle
Brian O'Brien

Consideration of the Department of Lottery's audit for the 2022-23 fiscal year

Chair Pizzo recognized Representative Caruso who moved that the Committee direct the Auditor General and OPPAGA to conduct the audit of the Department of Lottery for the 2022-23 fiscal year.

The Auditor General will be responsible for the financial statements, internal control, and compliance issues. The Auditor General may also use her discretion to include operational topics.

OPPAGA will be responsible for developing recommendations to enhance the earning capability of the lottery and to improve the efficiency of the department's operations.

Motion was adopted.

With no further business before the Committee, Senator Brodeur moved to adjourn.