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ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN
for
TWO-YEAR TERM BEGINNING JANUARY 2018

Tuesday, November 7, 2017

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 (Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance led by
3 Commissioner Clark.)

4 CHAIRMAN BROWN: Thank you, Commissioner
5 Clark.

6 So, this meeting is officially called to
7 order. And the first item that we're going to take
8 up is the election of the new Chairman for a two-
9 year term starting in January 2018.

10 And I must say, while I really enjoyed being
11 Chair of the Public Service Commission over the
12 past two years, there definitely comes a time
13 when -- in the Chairman's tenure when you're ready
14 or it's time to have someone newly come be elected
15 with fresh ideas, renewed spirit to lead the
16 organization.

17 And it really has been such an honor to lead
18 this Commission during the very, very, very busy
19 time. So, I'm looking forward to supporting that
20 person, whoever that may be.

21 And with that, I would take nominations for
22 the new Chairman beginning in January 2018.

23 Commissioner Brisé.

24 COMMISSIONER BRISÉ: Thank you, Madam Chair.

25 And for me, this is bittersweet, right,

1 because I think this is the last time, as a member
2 of this Commission, that I have the opportunity to
3 participate in nominating and voting and selecting
4 a chair. So, this is particularly interesting for
5 me this morning.

6 So, Madam Chair, thank you for the opportunity
7 to address the Commission. First of all, I would
8 like to take a moment of personal privilege to
9 thank you for your leadership, for your thoughtful
10 and energetic leadership over the last 23 months;
11 though, you still have a month to go.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: Aye.

13 COMMISSIONER BRISÉ: Right? But you have a
14 certain attention to detail that you bring that
15 makes this institution better. So, for that, I
16 want to express my gratitude. And I know, on
17 behalf of my colleagues, we express that gratitude
18 to you, but I know, at a different time, we'll have
19 an opportunity to roast and toast you. So, we'll
20 leave that for then.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

22 COMMISSIONER BRISÉ: So, to the nomination. I
23 have the privilege to nominate a friend that I've
24 gotten to know over the last seven years. We got
25 appointed together twice and have served -- came in

1 under tumultuous times and have seen the stability
2 of this organization come to where it is today, a
3 place where stability is the name of the game,
4 regulatory certainty is the name of the game. And
5 Commissioner Graham has had a major role to play in
6 ensuring that stability continues to exist here at
7 the Commission.

8 Commissioner Graham is a man of integrity, a
9 man of faith. He's thoughtful, one who appreciates
10 efficiency. And so, anyone who's been around here
11 for a minute recognizes that Commissioner Graham
12 has a great love for efficiency.

13 However, he greatly appreciates this process
14 and understands the importance that this Commission
15 plays in the economy of the state; in ensuring that
16 the regulatory environment is what it needs to be
17 so that people receive the just, reasonable service
18 as -- at reasonable rates that they are entitled
19 to.

20 He's also interested in the reputation of this
21 institution and the well-being of the Agency; cares
22 about those who are -- who make up the professional
23 staff here at the Agency. And he has shown that by
24 his engagement in everything that this Commission
25 does.

1 He recognizes the independence of each office;
2 however, also recognizes the importance of the
3 interdependence of each office and the
4 collaboration that needs to occur in order for us
5 to provide a product through our votes that is
6 important and necessary to maintain that stability
7 and regulatory environment that those who are on
8 the outside, are looking in, can see that we have
9 stability here.

10 So, I know with -- with Commissioner Graham's
11 leadership, this Agency will continue to serve the
12 public well, will continue to serve our state well
13 and, as he coined the term several years ago, that
14 we will continue to be "Team Florida."

15 So, with that, it is my pleasure to put into
16 nomination my friend Commissioner Art Graham for
17 Chairman of the Public Service -- Public Service
18 Commission for the term beginning in January 2018
19 until December 2020.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Commissioner Brisé.
21 And that was a beautiful, well-articulated motion,
22 of which I fully support as well.

23 Commissioner Polmann?

24 COMMISSIONER POLMANN: Thank you, Madam
25 Chairman.

1 First, let me echo Commissioner Graham's [sic]
2 remarks for your Chairmanship. Truly, it's been a
3 pleasure working with you.

4 COMMISSIONER BRISÉ: Let me jump in, I'm not
5 bald yet.

6 (Laughter.)

7 COMMISSIONER GRAHAM: You said Graham.

8 COMMISSIONER POLMANN: Hmm?

9 COMMISSIONER GRAHAM: You said Graham, not
10 Brisé.

11 COMMISSIONER POLMANN: Well, my apologies.
12 Somehow I imagine he might say the same thing
13 about -- about the Chairman.

14 But thank you, Madam Chairman, for your
15 leadership; effectively and efficiently running the
16 business for the past year and -- and truly guiding
17 the Commission from the Bench.

18 Representing the Agency -- you've done so much
19 work out in the public, and just a phenomenal job.
20 And I just want to acknowledge those many diverse
21 contributions; truly, so many different things
22 you've done. And it's really done great service
23 for the Commission.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

25 COMMISSIONER POLMANN: And I appreciate that.

1 It's been my honor, truly, to work with
2 Commissioner Graham. We first met in 2012 in the
3 nomination process. And getting to know you here
4 this past year, working together, I've gotten to
5 know you as a person and as a regulator.

6 It's great to have a fellow engineer on the
7 board. We've had some discussions as engineers and
8 I -- I kind of feel great about that. It's -- it's
9 good to know that, many times, we're -- we're
10 aligned. And then, as -- as professional
11 engineers, sometimes we see things a little
12 differently, but it -- you're always thoroughly
13 reviewed and knowledgeable on the subject matter.
14 And it -- as -- what's your name?

15 COMMISSIONER BRISÉ: I'm not sure today.

16 (Laughter.)

17 COMMISSIONER POLMANN: As Commissioner Brisé
18 indicated, always efficient, right to the point.
19 And you know how to make a decision, which is a --
20 a well-known attribute of -- of technical folks.
21 It's been great to watch you, procedurally. And
22 it's great to work with you.

23 So, the next two years have a very wide range
24 of infrastructure investments across the utilities,
25 a great number of challenges out in the industry

1 and, therefore, complex issues that we're going to
2 be dealing with. And I know you'll get right to
3 the business of guiding us through that decision-
4 making process.

5 We have, coming up, kind of in the -- in the
6 beginning, getting into the middle, and we'll be
7 seeing an intensive review on hurricane
8 preparedness, responsiveness. So important for
9 Florida. And I'm looking forward to your
10 leadership on that. Growing importance -- we've
11 done some work on that so far.

12 Correspondingly, the -- the thorough
13 examination, conservation demand management, and
14 what we're seeing is increasing penetration into
15 all the utilities on renewables. A lot of work was
16 already started on solar, and so much more to be
17 done. Again, highly-technical issue.

18 And I -- I think you're -- you're going to
19 help us in such a way, again, being thorough with
20 that. And I think bringing your knowledge and
21 prior experience is going to be great.

22 I know you have prior -- you bring the prior
23 knowledge, having been Chairman, a great deal of
24 experience on that. Now, I understand this will be
25 your third term, I think. The third term is the --

1 the third is the charm.

2 (Laughter.)

3 COMMISSIONER POLMANN: So, not to say your
4 first two efforts weren't -- weren't notable.
5 They're great, from -- from what I've seen in the
6 record. But it's my privilege to -- to second the
7 nomination. I really look forward to working --
8 sitting in the chair next to you.

9 So, let me second the motion for Commissioner
10 Art Graham as Chairman for the coming term.

11 THE CHAIRMAN: Excellent. So, we have a
12 motion to nominate Commissioner Graham for the --
13 as the new Chairman beginning January in 2019
14 [sic], for a two-year term, seconded properly by
15 Commissioner Polmann.

16 Any further comment or discussion before we
17 take up the vote? Seeing none, all those in favor,
18 signify by saying aye.

19 (Chorus of ayes.)

20 THE CHAIRMAN: The motion passes unanimously.
21 Woo. All right.

22 (Applause from the audience.)

23 THE CHAIRMAN: Commissioner Graham.

24 COMMISSIONER GRAHAM: Thank you, Madam Chair.
25 I knew for some reason you had a -- a pep in your

1 step this morning.

2 I've got a legal question first. I guess this
3 question is to Mary Anne. Just because I'm voted
4 in, does this mean I have to take it?

5 MS. HELTON: I refuse to answer that.

6 (Laughter.)

7 COMMISSIONER GRAHAM: No, I -- I truly
8 appreciate it. I -- I appreciate the kind words,
9 Commissioner Brisé, Commissioner Polmann. You
10 guys -- it's going to be hard just to even live up
11 to those words, but I do appreciate you guys saying
12 those things.

13 This is always a privilege to me. I mean, it
14 really, really is. I think a lot of this Agency.
15 I think a lot of the staff. It's amazing. I think
16 a lot of my staff, Jim Varian and Betty, who is
17 upstairs probably listening -- I don't think she's
18 down here. Ah, there's Betty.

19 THE CHAIRMAN: Betty is here.

20 COMMISSIONER GRAHAM: Those two -- they --
21 they -- they keep me out of trouble all the time.
22 They keep me focused. And they keep me directed.
23 It's amazing what those two individuals can do.

24 Jim, you know as well as everybody else in
25 here, you've got a lot going on. I'm sure

1 Katherine is more than happy to -- to pass this
2 obligation to you.

3 I am -- I am happy. I am very pleased. I
4 think there is, as Commissioner Polmann said, a lot
5 that's coming at us in the future. So, I just
6 think we need to cinch the -- the saddle tight and,
7 you know, be prepared for the ride.

8 Madam Chairman, now, I'm going out on a limb
9 here a little bit because I know you're ready to
10 pass the gavel and to move on, but it seems to me
11 like there's a lot that we have scheduled for our
12 December meeting with Commissioner Brisé leaving
13 after being with this Agency, now, for the end of
14 his second term, and also with you stepping down as
15 Chair.

16 I would like to propose, if we could
17 ceremonially pass -- I can pass the gavel to you in
18 January, so -- because I think both you and Ron
19 deserve your own days, your own day of celebration,
20 your own day of recanting [sic] what you've done
21 what you've done in your term.

22 If it's up -- and this is truly your call. I
23 would be more than willing to step back and let you
24 Chair the meeting in January so we can celebrate
25 Ron Brisé in December and then celebrate you in

1 January, if that's something you would be willing
2 to do.

3 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Commissioner Graham,
4 for that. And I would gladly do that. I can't --
5 I'm looking forward to celebrating Commissioner
6 Brisé. And I do want him to have his day. So, I
7 will absolutely oblige and continue serving the --
8 for the meeting in January.

9 COMMISSIONER GRAHAM: Thank you.

10 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

11 COMMISSIONER GRAHAM: And thank you,
12 Commissioners, for your nomination and your vote.

13 THE CHAIRMAN: All right. To the business at
14 hand today.

15 I am so happy, Commissioner Graham. I'm in a
16 great mood today, everyone. Great mood, and very
17 excited to support Commissioner Graham in this new
18 chapter at the Commission.

19 (Whereupon, the Election of Chairman was
20 concluded and the agenda conference resumed.)

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

STATE OF FLORIDA)
COUNTY OF LEON)

I, ANDREA KOMARIDIS, Court Reporter, do hereby
certify that the foregoing proceeding was heard at the
time and place herein stated.

IT IS FURTHER CERTIFIED that I
stenographically reported the said proceedings; that the
same has been transcribed under my direct supervision;
and that this transcript constitutes a true
transcription of my notes of said proceedings.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not a relative,
employee, attorney or counsel of any of the parties, nor
am I a relative or employee of any of the parties'
attorney or counsel connected with the action, nor am I
financially interested in the action.

DATED THIS 15th day of November, 2017.



ANDREA KOMARIDIS
NOTARY PUBLIC
COMMISSION #GG060963
EXPIRES February 9, 2021