

# I. Meeting Packet



**State of Florida**  
**Public Service Commission**  
**INTERNAL AFFAIRS AGENDA**  
Tuesday – December 15, 2020  
Immediately Following Special Agenda  
Room 148 – Betty Easley Conference Center

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1. Legislative Updates
2. General Counsel's Report
3. Executive Director's Report
4. Other Matters

BB/aml

OUTSIDE PERSONS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION ON  
ANY OF THE AGENDAED ITEMS SHOULD CONTACT THE  
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AT (850) 413-6463.

# III. Supplemental Materials for Internal Affairs

Note: The records reflect that there were no supplemental materials provided to the Commission during this Internal Affairs meeting.

# IV. Transcript

BEFORE THE  
FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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PROCEEDINGS: INTERNAL AFFAIRS

COMMISSIONERS PARTICIPATING: CHAIRMAN GARY F. CLARK  
COMMISSIONER ART GRAHAM  
COMMISSIONER JULIE I. BROWN  
COMMISSIONER DONALD J. POLMANN  
COMMISSIONER ANDREW GILES FAY

DATE: Tuesday, December 15, 2020

TIME: Commenced: 9:45 a.m.  
Concluded: 10:02 a.m.

PLACE: Betty Easley Conference Center  
Room 148  
4075 Esplanade Way  
Tallahassee, Florida

REPORTED BY: DEBRA R. KRICK  
Court Reporter and  
Notary Public in and for  
the State of Florida at Large

PREMIER REPORTING  
114 W. 5TH AVENUE  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA  
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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Good morning once again.

3 Clear?

4 All right. We are going to go ahead and call  
5 Internal Affairs meeting to order this morning.  
6 It's good to see everybody once again. We are  
7 going to begin this morning with our legislative  
8 updates.

9 Mr. Potts, would you will like to give our  
10 legislative update this morning?

11 MR. POTTS: Yes, sir.

12 Good morning, everyone. I just wanted to  
13 give, since we are getting into that season, kind  
14 of a, you know, quick overview of what's coming up  
15 and going on.

16 So committee weeks are going to start on  
17 January 11th. They will also be the week of the  
18 25th of January, the 1st of February, the 8th of  
19 February and the 15th of February. And then  
20 session starts on March 2nd and runs through April  
21 30th.

22 A couple of quick notes. Some of our  
23 committees have changed names with the new Speaker  
24 and President. So in House, you might see tourism,  
25 infrastructure and energy is our policy

1           subcommittee, and that falls under the commerce  
2           committee. And then for appropriations, in the  
3           House, it's state administration, technology  
4           appropriations, and then that falls under the radar  
5           of Appropriations Committee.

6                     In the House, we still are waiting on  
7           subcommittee chairs and committee assignments, and  
8           I think those might be coming out this week, at  
9           least the chairs.

10                    In the Senate, we are back to being under  
11           regulated industries, which we used to be for  
12           years. So that name has changed, and it's the  
13           same, ag, environment and general government  
14           appropriations and appropriations.

15                    So far, there has there has been some bills  
16           filed. There is not a massive amount of them.  
17           We've seen and had request for bill analyses for  
18           several bills that we've seen in the past,  
19           renewable energy, Energy 2040 Task Force and  
20           solar -- (inaudible) --

21                    And then, you know, right now, that's really  
22           all I have got. I am not completely sure how  
23           session is going to go, but we will see. It's  
24           going to be interesting.

25                    CHAIRMAN CLARK: Okay. All right. Anybody

1 have any questions for Adam?

2 Commissioner Brown.

3 COMMISSIONER BROWN: Thank you.

4 Thanks, Adam, for the update -- I had an echo.  
5 Question: Senator Brandes has two bills recently,  
6 have they been assigned to committees yet?

7 MR. POTTS: Okay. The Senate has done  
8 committee assignments for their bills for most of  
9 them. The House hasn't started assigning any yet  
10 that I have seen.

11 COMMISSIONER BROWN: Are we tracking those two  
12 bills?

13 MR. POTTS: Yes. Yeah, we are tracking all  
14 the bills that have any -- but, yes, those are A  
15 bills, those three are.

16 COMMISSIONER BROWN: Thank you so much.

17 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Any other questions for Mr.  
18 Potts this morning? Anyone?

19 All right. Thank you very much for your  
20 report this morning.

21 General Counsel's report, Ms. Helton.

22 MS. HELTON: There is no report this morning,  
23 Mr. Chairman.

24 CHAIRMAN CLARK: All right. Thank you very  
25 much.



1 Executive Director's report, Mr. Baez.

2 MR. BAEZ: Good morning, Mr. Chairman and  
3 Commissioners. A few updates.

4 First, regarding the SARC customer meetings on  
5 December 16th, that's Wednesday, tomorrow, staff is  
6 going to conduct two virtual customer meetings for  
7 SARCs. One at 9:30 for the customers of Lake Yale,  
8 one at 6:00 p.m. for the customers of McLeod  
9 Gardens. They will both be virtual.

10 The customers are invited to comment by phone,  
11 and they should call the staff at (850)413-7080  
12 prior to the meeting to make their arrangement to  
13 participate.

14 Secondly, the Utilities Inc. rate case service  
15 hearings, we had two virtual last week, as you well  
16 know, on the 10th, and the next ones are scheduled  
17 for January 6th, that's a Wednesday, and Thursday  
18 January 7th. Both -- I'm sorry, the January 6th is  
19 at 10:00 a.m. The Thursday, January 7th meeting,  
20 is at 6:00 p.m. Again, customers are asked to  
21 contact the staff, that's (850)413-7080.

22 And lastly, on the demand-side management  
23 rule-making, we are scheduled today for staff to  
24 issue a notice of rule development and a workshop  
25 on the DSM goals and programs. That notice is

1 available under Docket No. 20200181, and on the  
2 Commission's website under the rule development  
3 tab. A staff workshop will be held on Thursday,  
4 January 14th at 1:00 p.m. to discuss the draft rule  
5 amendments included in the notice, and the details  
6 on that will follow to interested parties.

7 And then lastly, Mr. Chair -- oh, if there is  
8 any questions on those items?

9 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Anybody have any questions?  
10 All clear. Keep going.

11 MR. BAEZ: Great. Thank you, Chairman.

12 And before I turn it over -- turn it back to  
13 you, I wanted to take a point of personal  
14 privilege, if you will indulge me.

15 Once again I wanted to thank the staff, as we  
16 are closing the year and getting to the last few  
17 meetings of the year, I wanted to thank them again  
18 from all points of the agency for their hard work,  
19 for their consistent work, for never having let the  
20 side down. This has been the most extraordinary  
21 year certainly of my life, and that includes  
22 children. I will pay for that later.

23 This has been the most challenging year for  
24 this agency in many respects. I am sure that the  
25 challenges are -- there are more challenges still

1 to come, but the staff has held up their side so  
2 well, and I wanted to tell them, those that are  
3 listening, how proud I am of the work that they've  
4 done.

5 I also wanted to thank you all, Commissioners.  
6 You all have been incredibly adaptable,  
7 incredibly -- your cooperation and your support  
8 through this most extraordinary year has been  
9 wonderful. And the work that you have done and how  
10 you have helped us prepare you and support you has  
11 been an example that I have never seen. So thank  
12 you all for the work that you do and the support  
13 that you give the staff and the entire agency.

14 And lastly, as we are ending the year, I also  
15 wanted to thank Dr. Polmann on behalf of the staff  
16 for his work and for his service, and personally  
17 for his mentorship. You know, he came in four  
18 years ago with a heck of a lot of experience in  
19 this game that he wasted no time in trying to pass  
20 on. And hopefully, by some osmosis, some things  
21 have sunk in. But I did want to thank him  
22 personally for his service and wish him farewell  
23 and God speed.

24 And if you have any questions, I am happy to  
25 answer.

1 Thank you, Chairman.

2 CHAIRMAN CLARK: All right. Thank you,  
3 Director Baez.

4 All right. Let's move on to other matters. I  
5 think there are a few things that a couple of  
6 Commissioners have.

7 I am going to begin with you, Commissioner  
8 Fay. I think you have an item you wanted to  
9 discuss.

10 COMMISSIONER FAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

11 And just real quick, as Braulio was speaking  
12 here, I just remember that the Commission lost  
13 somebody recently who put in 50 years of service,  
14 and I just think that's an amazing achievement, but  
15 was a huge part of this Commission, so I know this  
16 has been a tough year for all of us, and losing her  
17 was, I think, something hard for the folks at this  
18 Commission. So just add that to the things that  
19 staff has dealt with and overcome during the year.

20 I did have -- I probably should also add that  
21 Commissioner Graham is wearing a tie at Internal  
22 Affairs, which might be the most -- you know, the  
23 memorial thing of this entire year at this point.

24 But from a substance standpoint, I know that  
25 the Commission is tasked with operating and

1           overseeing some of the relay services components.  
2           And in talking to some of my colleagues around the  
3           country, there has been some discussion about  
4           improvements in those areas and the potential  
5           impact for new technology and those sort of things.  
6           And so if you would allow it, Mr. Chairman, my hope  
7           would be that maybe sometime early next year, we  
8           could have our staff come forward and bring us an  
9           update as to how those are operating, and maybe  
10          just give us a little more information so when that  
11          budget hits us at some point, we've got a little  
12          more background as to how they are functioning, and  
13          potentially get some questions answered at that  
14          time.

15                   And that's all that I had. Thank you.

16                   CHAIRMAN CLARK: Absolutely. Thank you for  
17                   that, Commissioner Fay. We, I believe, are trying  
18                   to get that scheduled for very, very upcoming IA.

19                   MR. BAEZ: I want to say we are shooting for  
20                   the February IA. That will give us a chance to  
21                   reach out to FTRI and our other stakeholders in  
22                   order to put together something that will be  
23                   informative that you --

24                   CHAIRMAN CLARK: And thank you, Commissioner  
25                   Fay, for your leadership on this item as well.

1           It's a very, very important task that we have and  
2           certainly something that needs our full attention.  
3           Thank you very much.

4                   COMMISSIONER FAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

5                   CHAIRMAN CLARK: All right. Commissioners,  
6           are there other Commissioners this morning? Any  
7           other comments or questions?

8                   All right. Seeing none, I want to just take a  
9           moment and conclude our meeting today with a very,  
10          very special -- it's kind of a sad day, Doc. It's  
11          been a absolute pleasure. Just once again, I know  
12          we all spent a lot of our time at Agenda  
13          Conference. We were roasting Doc a little bit, I  
14          think, that last day, but I want to say from the  
15          bottom of my heart, it has been a true pleasure to  
16          get to know you. I consider you a friend and a  
17          mentor. And we absolutely wish you the very best  
18          in all of your future endeavors. You will be  
19          greatly missed as a part of the Public Service  
20          Commission.

21                   And with that, I would also like to wish  
22          everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy holiday  
23          season. Add on to what Director Baez said, to  
24          thank you to the staff for all of your hard work  
25          during this year. It has been amazing year. It's

1           been a difficult year, but I have never seen a  
2           group of more dedicated and talented individuals  
3           that have pulled together the way this Commission  
4           staff has worked for the last year, to make sure  
5           that we were able to continue to deliver the  
6           exceptional customer service that the people of  
7           Florida expect. And I just can't -- can't say  
8           enough about how proud I am of this organization  
9           and how hard they have worked.

10                   Commissioner Graham, everybody in the whole  
11           room is just kind of laughing and giggling, and I  
12           am having to look to see what I am wearing that's  
13           wrong, and I looked down at the screen, and sure  
14           enough, you have exceeded my expectations once  
15           again.

16                   All right. Any final comments this morning  
17           before we stand adjourned?

18                   Doc.

19                   COMMISSIONER POLMANN: Thank you, Mr.  
20           Chairman.

21                   I appreciate everyone's gracious comments, and  
22           it's truly been a pleasure working with all of you.  
23           And I regret we have not had the opportunity to be  
24           together this year, but I thank everyone for their  
25           supports, and remotely, I think we've been very

1           successful.

2           As Mr. Baez has said, I know, on my team, we  
3           refer to him either affectionately or otherwise as  
4           BB, not to be confused with those of us old enough  
5           to know of an infamous gentleman from his area, I  
6           believe from the Nixon era. But, BB, thank you.  
7           Mr. Baez, I appreciate your friendship and the  
8           support that you provided me.

9           And, Commissioners, I am very a grateful for  
10          being great colleagues. And to everyone on staff,  
11          as I said at the last meeting, I appreciate your  
12          support and all that you have taught me.

13          Mr. Chairman, I can't say enough about how  
14          much I have enjoyed working here at the Commission,  
15          and I will remember every day that we've been  
16          together, every meeting that we've had, and truly,  
17          I have enjoyed working with all of our colleagues  
18          on the other side of the bench out there at the  
19          table and in the audience and our customers.

20          The utilities' customers, I consider members  
21          of the public because, in fact, we serve the public  
22          in everything that we do, and that's why we work.  
23          That's why we do what we do. And I understood that  
24          from day one. We are serving the public. It's  
25          most the important thing that we do to serve the



1 State of Florida and truly serve the public. And  
2 that's -- that's the greatest pleasure that I take  
3 from this.

4 So thank you for all of your support,  
5 Commissioners and staff, and I look forward to  
6 working with you in the future in whatever capacity  
7 I can.

8 So again, Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the  
9 opportunity to be here and to speak just for a few  
10 minutes.

11 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Thank you very much.

12 All right. Any final comments before we  
13 adjourn?

14 Seeing none, thank you all for your attendance  
15 today. See you in 2021.

16 We stand adjourned.

17 (Proceedings concluded.)

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

STATE OF FLORIDA )  
COUNTY OF LEON )

I, DEBRA KRICK, 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 22nd day of December, 2020.



DEBRA R. KRICK  
NOTARY PUBLIC  
COMMISSION #HH31926  
EXPIRES AUGUST 13, 2024