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1		BEFORE THE
2	FLORIDA	PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
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4	In the Matter of:	
5		DOCKET NO. 20190038-EI
6	PETITION FOR LIMITE PROCEEDING FOR RECO	
7	INCREMENTAL STORM RESTORATION COSTS RELATED	
8	TO HURRICANE MICHAE GULF POWER COMPANY.	
9		/
10		
11	PROCEEDINGS:	COMMISSION CONFERENCE AGENDA
12		ITEM NO. 2
13	COMMISSIONERS PARTICIPATING:	CHAIRMAN ART GRAHAM
14		COMMISSIONER JULIE I. BROWN COMMISSIONER DONALD J. POLMANN COMMISSIONER GARY F. CLARK
15		COMMISSIONER ANDREW GILES FAY
16	DATE:	Tuesday, May 14, 2019
17	PLACE:	Betty Easley Conference Center Room 148
18		4075 Esplanade Way
19		Tallahassee, Florida
20	REPORTED BY:	DEBRA R. KRICK Court Reporter and
21		Notary Public in and for the State of Florida at Large
22		
23		PREMIER REPORTING 114 W. 5TH AVENUE
24	Т	ALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA (850) 894-0828
25		

1 PROCEEDINGS 2 Okay. Let's go back around CHAIRMAN GRAHAM: 3 to Item No. 2. And I am told that we have some So I will let staff tee 4 speakers on Item No. 2. 5 this up, and then we will hear from the speakers, and then we will hear from the parties. 6 7 Good morning, Commissioners. MR. PEREZ: I am Tristen Perez with Commission staff. 8 9 Item 2 is staff recommendation on Gulf Power 10 Company's request for approval to implement an 11 interim storm restoration recovery charge. 12 On February 6th, 2019, Gulf Power Company 13 filed a petition for a limited proceeding seeking 14 authority to implement an interim storm restoration 15 recovery charge to recover an estimated \$342 16 million for incremental restoration costs related 17 to Hurricane Michael and to replenish its storm 18 reserve. 19 The approval of an interim storm restoration 20 recovery charge is preliminary in nature and is 21 subject to refund pending a further review once the 22 total actual storm restoration costs are known. 23 Based on a review of the information provided 24 by Gulf in its petition, staff recommends the 25 Commission authorize Gulf to implement an interim

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1 storm restoration recovery charge subject to 2 refund. Once the total actual storm costs are 3 known, Gulf shall be required to file documentation of the storm cost for Commission review and shore 4 5 up any excess or shortfall. Federal executive agencies and the Office of 6 7 Public Counsel have intervened in this docket. 8 There are 285 consumer comments in the 9 correspondence file. There are parties here to 10 address the Commission. Staff is available for any questions at this 11 12 time. Thank you. 13 CHAIRMAN GRAHAM: Okay. If you are here to 14 speak on this issue, can I get you to raise your 15 hands real quickly? We have only four or five, is 16 that correct? 17 All right. Let's come up to the microphone 18 I need for you to leave your name one at a time. 19 and location or position, and then you will get 20 three minutes to speak. The podium is way over 21 here. 22 Mr. Chairman, Commissioners. MR. EVERETT: Ι 23 hope y'all are well today. 24 I come before you from Washington County. My 25 job title in Washington County is Washington County

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1 Chamber Director, Washington County EDO and the 2 Chipley Redevelopment Agency Director, and 3 therefore, I can assure you that I was able to talk 4 to many businesses, many citizens. 5 Sir, before you continue --CHAIRMAN GRAHAM: 6 MR. EVERETT: I'm sorry, my name? 7 Yes, thank you. CHAIRMAN GRAHAM: 8 MR. EVERETT: Theodore Samuel Everett. 9 CHAIRMAN GRAHAM: Thank you. 10 MR. EVERETT: Yes. 11 As I was saying is I can assure you that I was 12 in a position where I was able to talk to many 13 businesses and citizens after the storm. And I was 14 also aware that our EOC had mobilized and were 15 getting ready for what we all know was a 16 cataclysmic storm. 17 The day after the hurricane, it looked like 18 However, it seemed real quickly that Gulf chaos. 19 Power had everything under control. We saw their 20 trucks rolling in. The utility companies, they 21 also garnered to help them with the effort of 22 recovery. 23 And I can assure you, and this was -- this 24 was -- we could not believe it was done. Power was 25 coming on four, five, six days after the storm. In

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a very rural area, 600 miles of dirt roads, trees
 everywhere, they were there, and they were picking
 up the pieces.

And wherever they went, I can assure you when you go to a rural county -- I can speak for Washington County in particular -- those linemen were well fed by the people that they were serving.

8 When you have a small rural county, and very small population, to get those businesses up and 9 10 running, and get those people with power is 11 extremely important. We have -- we struggle in a 12 lot of ways, and we struggled mightily, and we are 13 still struggling after the hurricane. But the one 14 thing we did not struggle with was power from Gulf 15 Power. It was on very guickly. And even after 16 they got the bulk of the power on, they came back, 17 Made additions. Cleaned up reset more lines. 18 more.

And as you know, and I know, they are not entitled to any insurance. They are not entitled to any federal disaster recovery money. And I will assure you that I think the good people of Washington County would like to know that they would pay a little bit more on their monthly bill in order to make sure that if, or when, another

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1 storm comes through, we can rely on Gulf Power 2 being whole to come back and fix the job again. 3 We do not want to see anything like we have 4 been through, but there is always that potential. 5 And for Gulf Power to be whole from this, it's very important for them to go forward, and for the 6 7 confidence of the general public to know that when 8 a storm comes again, they will be ready because 9 they were ready. 10 I will be glad to answer any questions. 11 CHAIRMAN GRAHAM: Thank you, Mr. Everett. 12 Commissioners, any questions? 13 Seeing none. Thank you, sir. 14 MR. EVERETT: Thank you. 15 You guys all might as well CHAIRMAN GRAHAM: 16 come over here and sit over there in those seats. 17 Welcome, sir. 18 Good morning, Mr. Chairman, MR. BOWEN: 19 Commissioners, my name is Mark Bowen. I am the 20 Chief of Emergency Services for Bay County, 21 Florida. 22 Just like every other community in the nation, 23 we are a very power dependent community. 24 Technology being as it is, we have more and more 25 citizens that have everything from home dialysis

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systems to oxygen generators, elderly population very, very power dependent.

3 In addition, in the aftermath of Hurricane 4 Michael, everybody from homeowners to hospitals, 5 fire stations, you know, we had backup power, but our generators were destroyed. 6 They were damaged. 7 Many homeowners, just like their home air 8 conditioner, or anything else that insurance covers 9 or doesn't cover, they still have not gotten their 10 backup power back on-line. And so even the most 11 resilient components of our community were very, 12 very dependent on power.

My colleagues and I estimated that it would take months. I mean, we saw the infrastructure damage. And in less than two weeks, we had over 95 percent of the Gulf Power customers back.

17 And I have been in the fire service for 30 18 years, and I know that that power -- that timely 19 restoration of power literally saved lives. And I 20 just can't overstate the importance of reliable 21 power coming back to our businesses and citizens. 22 It is a critical issue. I am here in support of 23 the company's efforts to make sure that they can 24 perform this task again, hopefully not in our 25 community, but, you know, to anybody that might

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1 need this. 2 Again, I just cannot overstate the importance 3 of this for our citizens and our first responders, 4 and the whole of government. 5 CHAIRMAN GRAHAM: Thank you, Mr. Bowen. 6 MR. BOWEN: If you have any questions, I would 7 be happy to answer them. 8 CHAIRMAN GRAHAM: Do you know CFO Commissioner 9 Jimmy Patronis? 10 Yes, sir. Very well. MR. BOWEN: 11 CHAIRMAN GRAHAM: And you let him stay in the 12 county? 13 Glad to have one of our own in the MR. BOWEN: 14 So I mean, he is the State Fire Marshal role. 15 so... 16 CHAIRMAN GRAHAM: He was up here with us for 17 about a year-and-a-half, and we do miss him. 18 Yes. Well, we are glad to have MR. BOWEN: 19 him back. 20 Thank you, sir. CHAIRMAN GRAHAM: Thank you 21 for coming today. 22 MR. BOWEN: Yes, sir. Thank you. 23 MR. WRIGHT: Commissioners. Thank you for 24 allowing me to speak today. My name is Garrett 25 Wright, and I am the Vice-President of the Bay

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Economic Developmental Alliance.

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The Bay EDA is the economic development entity for Bay County. So we are tasked with diversifying our economy by our Board of Directors with recruiting new companies and working with our existing industry outside of the pillars of our established economy of military and tourism.

8 Bay County is a very special place to have the ability to do economic development and live in. 9 10 Prior to Hurricane Michael, our community was 11 having significant success in economic development 12 projects. A few projects that our community was 13 able to attract and announce prior to hurricane 14 Michael were Eastern Ship Building's \$10 billion 15 Coast Guard contract, a thousand new jobs. GKN 16 Aerospace's \$50 million investment, 170 new jobs. 17 Tyndall Air Force Base's new MQ-9 Reaper wing and 18 ATCM, Inc., their high tech air space supplier and 19 several others.

In the 18 months leading up to Hurricane Michael, we had significant success in economic development activity, and our economy was buzzing. However, in October of last, our community's path forward was guite altered.

In the days leading up to Hurricane Michael my

colleague and I were in the UK promoting Bay County's economic development prospects. In the immediate aftermath, due to the devastation and many unknowns, we had to make the decision to come back immediately, and two days later, after the storm, we flew back.

7 Much to our dismay, kind of what we witnessed 8 when we got on the ground were thousands of homes, 9 businesses and schools destroyed. Countless --10 countless roads and countless trees and debris 11 litters the rights-of-ways, but the one positive 12 sign that we saw in all of the devastation was Gulf 13 Gulf Power had thousands and hundreds of Power. 14 linemen already on our streets repairing our 15 electrical grid.

16 Immediately following Hurricane Michael, our 17 economy -- there was a lot of uncertainty regarding 18 the future of our economy. As you can expect, if 19 our companies can't power their equipment, turn on 20 their lights, or the basic electrical tasks, their 21 workforce can't come to work, so our economy does 22 Luckily for our community, and for our not move. 23 citizens, the response displayed by Gulf Power was, 24 simply put, amazing.

25 Through this effort, Gulf Power was able to

1 repair electrical grid within a matter of days, and 2 within two weeks, had almost all service back up 3 and running. Many of our largest employers received their electrical services within a matter 4 5 of days, and they were turning out products for their customers within a month. 6 This kept their 7 contracts with their customers in time.

8 We are very gracious for the response 9 displayed by Gulf Power in the aftermath of 10 Hurricane Michael, but our local economy would not 11 be where it is today if our community -- if Gulf 12 Power hadn't responded in the way in which they 13 did.

As the 2019 season hurricane approaches, it reminds us every day that we are all vulnerable from Pensacola to Destin to Panama City and beyond, that we are all vulnerable to hurricanes. We don't know when the next hurricane will hit, but must always be vigilant.

For those reasons and more, we are in support of the petition requested by Gulf Power for the recovery of incremental storm restoration costs. CHAIRMAN GRAHAM: Thank you, Mr. Wright. Thank you for coming up today. MR. KING: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen

1 of the Florida Public Service Commission. My name 2 is Alex King. I am with the Panama City Port 3 Authority. I work in cargo development and I would like to thank each 4 commercial development. 5 and every one of you for the opportunity to speak this morning on behalf of the Port Authority and 6 7 Gulf Power.

8 First a little background on our port.

9 Our port is progressive seaport located in 10 We have two deep water terminals. Panama City. We 11 are also very bullish on industrial development in 12 creating good, high paying manufacturing jobs in 13 We do this by expanding regional Bay County. 14 opportunities, by providing modern seaport 15 facilities to promote trade and development.

16 In addition to our general seaport operation, 17 we support major industrial companies located on 18 the port, such as Berg Steel Pipe and Oceaneering. 19 Together, these industries support several hundred 20 employees that live, work and call Bay County home. 21 Our intermodal distribution center, or inland 22 port we call, supports the large distribution 23 warehouse that provides vendor managed inventory for other large industries in Bay County. 24 We are 25 also aggressively marketing a 55-acre certified

1 site in partnership with our Bay Economic Development Alliance and Gulf Power. 2 3 As we know, Gulf Power plays a violate role by 4 providing reliable energy to power our port and our 5 industrial tenants. When Hurricane Michael struck Panama City and Bay County as a Category 5 storm on 6 7 October 10th, 2018, it left behind mass destruction, decimating all critical infrastructure 8 9 in our region, leaving over 136,000 customers 10 without provider. I can safely say this storm did 11 not discriminate. 12 Gulf Power's response to Hurricane Michael was 13 nothing short of heroic. Over 7,500 heros to be 14 exact descended in the Bay County immediately as 15 the last rain bands were moving north. 16 Following were entire convoys of power 17 equipment and trucks came generators, supplies, 18 food trucks, kitchens, bunkrooms, all the tools 19 necessary to rebuild the electric grid. 20 Gulf Power and contract crews from all over 21 the United States and Canada, as referenced in some

of the storm numbers put out after, replaced over 7,000 this poles, 4,000 transformers, 200 miles of distribution line, and repaired or replaced 100 miles of transmission line. They did all this too

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in 13 days. Not to mention the hundreds and
thousands of trees that had to be cleared of the
rights-of-way before this work could commence.
This resulted in 99 percent of power being restored
to customers that could accept power in Bay County.
Port Panama City and its industrial tenants

Fort Panama City and its industrial tenants
 rely on electricity provided by Gulf Power, just as
 hospitals, grocery stores and gas stations run on
 electricity to keep a community moving forward
 after a major storm.

Gulf Power restored our electricity to the port and our tenants in less than a week, allowing storm assessments and limited cargo operations to commence. This also enabled or on-port industrial tenants to access post-storm repair needs and work to restart manufacturing operations.

17 The hard work and dedication by Gulf Power to 18 right our ship by restoring power after the 19 hurricane is a critical first step in the healing 20 and rebuilding process. We will support the 21 decision of the Public Service Commission for the 22 storm recovery surcharge request. 23 I will say that Gulf Power is an integral part 24 of our community and region, and we are very 25 appreciative for their tireless work and dedication

1 to restoring power to our port, our customers, 2 community and the region in the wake of this storm. 3 Thank you. 4 CHAIRMAN GRAHAM: Thank you, sir. Thank you 5 for making the trip out here today. 6 MR. KING: Thank you. 7 CHAIRMAN GRAHAM: Okay. OPC, comments? 8 MR. DAVID: Tad David --9 COMMISSIONER GRAHAM: Microphone. 10 Tad David for OPC. I would also MR.. DAVID: 11 make an appearance for J.R. Kelly, the Public 12 Counsel. 13 We have no further comment to the petition. 14 It does appear to follow the settlement and 15 stipulation as referenced in the petition. 16 CHAIRMAN GRAHAM: Okav. Gulf? 17 MR. BADDERS: Good morning, Commissioners. 18 Russell Badders on behalf of Gulf Power. I am just 19 here to answer questions that you may have. 20 CHAIRMAN GRAHAM: Smart man. 21 I have that on record now. MR. BADDERS: 22 First time ever someone said that. 23 CHAIRMAN GRAHAM: Commissioners, any questions 24 of OPC, Gulf, staff? 25 Commissioner Brown.

1 COMMISSIONER BROWN: Thank you. And thank you 2 to those folks who came to Tallahassee to testify 3 today. 4 I have a question for Mr. Badders. 5 How many are still without service in Gulf's 6 territory? 7 Mr. Talley from Gulf Power is MR. BADDERS: 8 going to lead up -- led up the restoration efforts, 9 and he is continuing with that, so he should be 10 able to answer your question. 11 MR. TALLEY: Paul Talley, Technical Services 12 Manager for Gulf Power. 13 Currently, right now, he have about 8,600 14 customers that cannot receive power in the 15 eastern -- our eastern district. 16 Is that because the lines COMMISSIONER BROWN: 17 are not connected? 18 MR. TALLEY: No, ma'am. Those are where they 19 have not made their repairs, or been able to 20 restore their facilities to accept power. 21 Thank you for that COMMISSIONER BROWN: 22 clarification. 23 Are there any type of bill pay programs that 24 Gulf Power utilizes for those that have hardships? 25 MR. BADDERS: We do not have anything

specifically related to the storm. But we do
utilize what we would typically do when folks have
a difficult time paying, we have payment
arrangements and things like that, but nothing
specifically related to Hurricane Michael.

Have you all contemplated 6 COMMISSIONER BROWN: 7 the potential -- other utilities do offer some type 8 of programs for assistance. Have you contemplated 9 any type of assistance program for those that are 10 still recovering and rebuilding and unable to pay 11 at this time and would like to defer it for a later 12 period? Have you contemplated any type of 13 programs?

MR. BADDERS: Nothing outside of what we do.
I mean, we have our bill pay arrangements that
would work in that fashion.

17 At this point, the folks who are unable to 18 receive power, the 8,600, as far as getting them, 19 you know, their meter cans and things like, that 20 that will basically be handled when they rebuild. 21 So we haven't seen or had any requests really 22 around a program that would help with that. 23 COMMISSIONER BROWN: And you all did a 24 commendable job at restoring service. So you 25 have -- it's a difficult situation for those that

are still struggling, and I would like to 1 2 acknowledge that. 3 That being said, also, Mr. Badders, have you 4 contemplated securitization as an option? 5 It is something we looked at MR. BADDERS: 6 initially. It is a very complex, very 7 time-consuming process. 8 We feel that the process that we have in the 9 stipulation and settlement that we are kind of 10 walking through now is more appropriate. It's 11 faster to get through, or should be, from a cost 12 perspective. 13 Securitization comes with a layer of costs 14 that would likely outweigh any of its benefits at 15 this point. So we are still looking at that, but I 16 don't believe that will be something we will pursue 17 at this point. 18 COMMISSIONER BROWN: Thank you. 19 Those are all my questions. 20 Thank you, Commissioner CHAIRMAN GRAHAM: 21 Brown. Commissioner Polmann. 22 23 COMMISSIONER POLMANN: Thank you, Mr. 24 Chairman. 25 Ouestion for staff.

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1 The opportunity is here for the utility to 2 request an amount above the \$4 per month, and so 3 forth, that's documented here in the analysis, and 4 what's being recommended is the \$8 amount. And my 5 question is whether any other alternatives were considered by the staff in your analysis. 6 Any 7 other dollar amount for the customer bill, or any 8 other terms other than -- what we have here is \$8 9 per month for a term that the utility expects to be 10 for 60 months. I am just questioning whether any 11 other alternatives were considered in the analysis? 12 You don't need to go through what they were. Ι 13 just want to know if any others were considered. 14 Well, Kurt Mouring with MR. MOURING: Commission staff. 15 16 With this storm in this area, just the amount 17 of damage that was done created a tremendous 18 problem in terms of the amount of damage relative 19 to the number of customers. As I think we've heard 20 a couple of times, it's a rural area. 21 COMMISSIONER GRAHAM: Yes. 22 And trying to find a way to MR. MOURING: 23 spread those costs over a period of time relative 24 to not extending the recovery out to a period of 25 time so long that you would run the risk of having

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1 another storm hit and additional costs incurred and 2 kind of pancaking of expenses, but maybe Elizabeth 3 could add to that, if that answers your question. 4 CHAIRMAN GRAHAM: Ms. Draper. 5 Elizabeth Draper with staff. MS. DRAPER: I just wanted to make one clarification. 6 The 7 charges proposed are it's a cents per kilowatt 8 charge so the --9 COMMISSIONER POLMANN: Oh, I'm sorry. Ι 10 misspoke. 11 MS. DRAPER: -- \$8 per month per thousand 12 kilowatt hour is just for a residential customer 13 that uses a thousand kilowatt hours. 14 COMMISSIONER POLMANN: Yes. 15 MS. DRAPER: But it's according to use, so I 16 just wanted to clarify that. 17 COMMISSIONER POLMANN: Okay. Yeah, I do 18 recognize that there was significant impact and 19 considerable dollars in that, the number of 20 customer accounts, compared to other utilities in 21 the state, is relatively smaller number, so the 22 charge -- the \$8 that we are talking about is 23 higher than we have seen in other cases just 24 because your number of customers and the dollar 25 amount is substantially different and compared to

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1 prior storms. This was a Category 5 storm, so this 2 is a very substantial issue that we are dealing 3 with. 4 I was just checking to see if there were other 5 alternatives. I certainly support this. I just, in due diligence, I was just checking to see. 6 7 Mr. Chairman, I am happy to hear other 8 questions. 9 There is a few more. CHAIRMAN GRAHAM: 10 Commissioner Clark. 11 COMMISSIONER CLARK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. 12 I wouldn't pass the opportunity to make a 13 couple of observations. 14 First of all, thank you to our folks who drove over this morning to testify on behalf of the 15 16 utility company for the work they did. I was one 17 of those that went through this storm myself, and 18 experienced the damage, and like most of the folks 19 in the area did, and also suffered from the outage 20 that was pretty extensive in duration. But also, 21 from having a little bit of experience in this 22 area, was able to witness the recovery, and the 23 amount of assets that were moved into the region in 24 this short amount of time, and was nothing less 25 than a impressed with the response that Gulf Power

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gave to the community the mass mobilization of those type of resources. And I would go even further to say the extensive preparation work that was done ahead of time.

5 I actually drove down and got to observe and 6 look at the tent city that was put up, and the 7 command center that was built on the old airport in 8 Panama City about two days after the storm, and it 9 was an absolutely amazing site. I have worked a 10 few storms, and been in this industry for a number 11 of years, and I had never seen anything like that.

12 Realizing it's an expensive process. Storm 13 recovery is not cheap. That's probably the most 14 expensive labor rate will you ever have to pay are 15 during those particular times.

16 But I also wanted to say thank you for helping 17 to work this out. I know, to address Mr. 18 Poulmann's guestion, I think there was, 19 Commissioner Polmann, a couple of observations 20 about recovery period and time, and the 21 cooperation, and stretching this thing out. There 22 was a 36-month, 48-month. I even heard those 23 numbers on stretching those timelines out. But to 24 go out 60 months and be able to bring that number 25 down a bit, I think, was in the best interest of

the consumers.

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It's going to hurt, obviously. You know, we 2 3 talk about the thousand kilowatt hour threshold. 4 That's probably not as much norm as the most houses 5 that are using 2,000 kilowatt hours a month. So a 6 lot of consumers are actually going to see a \$16 a 7 month charge. Some are going to see, you know, \$30 8 a month charges.

9 So I think that it's -- it is going to be 10 difficult, but in light of what we saw in the 11 response, and the essential nature of power to 12 everyone in this country, I think that it is a 13 justifiable -- a justifiable charge at this time, 14 and thank you all for the hard work that you did 15 during this time.

16 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

17 CHAIRMAN GRAHAM: Thank you.

18 Commissioner Brown.

19 COMMISSIONER BROWN: And at the end of the 20 day, the settlement agreement provides for this. 21 So with that, Mr. Chairman, I would move approval 22 of the staff recommendation on all issues. 23 COMMISSIONER POLMANN: Second. 24 It's been moved and second CHAIRMAN GRAHAM: 25 staff recommendation on all issues.

1	Any further discussion?
2	I would like to thank those people that came
3	down here today for this, and also I encourage you
4	to stay. I saw that three of the four of you were
5	in economic development. You will be encouraged by
6	the next item coming up, because I think Gulf is
7	involved in that as well. So hang around for the
8	next one as well.
9	If there is no other discussion, all in favor
10	say aye.
11	(Chorus of ayes.)
12	CHAIRMAN GRAHAM: Any opposed.
13	(No response.)
14	CHAIRMAN GRAHAM: By your action, you have
15	approved that motion.
16	Thank you very much.
17	(Agenda item concluded.)
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1	CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER
2	STATE OF FLORIDA) COUNTY OF LEON)
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5	I, DEBRA KRICK, Court Reporter, do hereby
6	certify that the foregoing proceeding was heard at the
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8	IT IS FURTHER CERTIFIED that I
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18	DATED this 22nd day of May, 2019.
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