



**CITY OF BELLE SLE, FLORIDA  
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET**

**Meeting Date:** March 5, 2019

**To:** Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

**From:** B. Francis, City Manager

**Subject:** Franchise Agreement with Duke Energy

**Background:** In reviewing the City's budget since becoming City Manager, I have questioned why the City does not collect franchise fees from Duke Energy. I spoke with Debbie Clements, the Government and Community Relations Manager from Duke and she stated that the City never wanted to do a franchise, but Duke would not object to a franchise agreement. A utility franchise is a contract between a city and a utility company that outlines certain requirements for the utility to use the city's public rights of way. The establishment of franchise agreements between cities and utilities is a customary business practice and legal process outlined by the state statutes. The City sets the structure of any proposed franchise fee and can only apply the franchise fee for customers within the jurisdiction of the City.

The franchise fees are a pass-through cost, from the customers within the city's jurisdiction to the City. These fees are listed as a separate item on customers' bills, showing the amount and the city's name to which the fee is payable. The company does not make any money on the franchise fee.

The City currently does not receive any form of compensation from Duke in exchange for use of public rights-of-way.

In 2003, the City of Belle Isle was interested in charging a franchise fee for electric; however, it did not happen.

According to Ms. Clements, Belle Isle is the only city in Orange County that Duke serves which is not having them collect and remit franchise fees. She calculated fees at 5% and 6%. The Council directed that the City staff investigate other revenue sources for this next budget year. This is one of several that the staff will be introduced.

**Staff Recommendation:** Move for with a 5% franchise fee.

**Suggested Motion:** I move that we approve a franchise agreement with Duke Energy with a 5% fee and direct the City Attorney to work with the City Manager to prepare the necessary documents.

**Alternatives:** Do not approve the agreement.

**Fiscal Impact:** 5% - \$375,857; 6% - \$451,028

**Attachments:**       Calculations at 5% and 6%  
                          Article on Franchise Fees  
                          Draft Ordinance

# Franchise Fee Estimate

City of Belle Isle

January 3, 2019

Estimate based on 2017 year end statistics

	Calendar '17 Revenue**	Projected Oct18-Sep19 Revenue	Amount for fee calculation*
<b>Revenue Class</b>			
01 - Residential	\$6,141,384	\$6,525,034	\$6,525,034
03 - Commercial	\$657,052	\$693,722	\$693,722
05 - Industrial	\$464,529	\$495,321	\$495,321
06 - Public Lighting	\$0	\$0	\$0
Electric Service Rev.	\$7,262,966	\$7,714,077	\$7,714,077
Streetlights Only	\$6,579		\$6,579
<b>Revenue for Calculation</b>			\$7,720,656
<b>Franchise Fee Percentage</b>			5.00%
<b>Franchise Amount due</b> ( includes Gross Receipts Tax and Regulatory Assessment Fee paid to state)			\$386,033
<b>Amount Due</b>			\$386,033
Less Gross Receipts Tax and Regulatory Assessment collected and paid to State			(10,176)
<b>Franchise Net Liability to City</b>			\$375,857

\* Based on Franchise Agreement

\*\* Includes Gross Receipts Tax, Franchise Fees and Regulatory Assessment Fees

**NOTES:**

1. This is a high level estimate that does not factor in specific characteristics of customers within each revenue class. For example, while this does consider overall customer mix within the jurisdiction, it does not consider specific rates that may be applicable within the revenue class. These are blended averages for each revenue class.
2. This estimate is based on current rates filed with the Florida Public Service Commission. Specific components of the bill including the fuel factor, nuclear construction costs, environmental and other cost factors may change for the fiscal year depending upon filings that are typically made each year for these components. Actual franchise fees will vary based on any changes in these cost factors that are approved by the PSC during the fiscal time period.

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Streetlights Only	\$6,579		\$6,579
<b>Revenue for Calculation</b>			\$7,720,656
<b>Franchise Fee Percentage</b>			6.00%
<b>Franchise Amount due</b> ( includes Gross Receipts Tax and Regulatory Assessment Fee paid to state)			\$463,239
<b>Amount Due</b>			\$463,239
Less Gross Receipts Tax and Regulatory Assessment collected and paid to State			(12,211)
<b>Franchise Net Liability to City</b>			\$451,028

\* Based on Franchise Agreement

\*\* Includes Gross Receipts Tax, Franchise Fees and Regulatory Assessment Fees

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FERNANDINA OBSERVER DAILY NEWS

# What the heck is a franchise fee anyway?

**Submitted by Suanne Z. Thamm**

**Reporter – News Analyst**

People understand terms like sales tax, gas tax and property tax better than they understand the term franchise fee. In general, a municipal franchise fee is the “rent” that a utility company pays the city to use the right-of-ways (ROW) for its lines, pipes, poles, etc. While the utility company collects this fee, it is turned over to the city, which uses it as a revenue stream. Laws governing municipal franchise fees vary from state to state. The Fernandina Beach City Attorney helped clarify the situation in Florida to better help *Fernandina Observer* readers understand the recent budget controversy over the role of franchise fees in the city of Fernandina Beach.



CITY ATTORNEY,  
TAMMI BACH

According to Fernandina Beach City Attorney Tammi Bach, “First, it is important to understand the difference between franchise fees and utility taxes. Utility taxes are taxes on utilities [like electric] that cap at 10% and can only be applied to certain parts of the sale. ([Click here for the link to Florida Statutes.](#))

Local and state communications services taxes are taxes on telecommunications based upon Florida state law, not municipal law, and replace municipal franchise fees on telecommunications.”

So what about franchise fees? Bach added, “Franchise fees are entirely different and are not a tax but a fee negotiated by electric utilities (no cap) by agreement with municipalities for the right to use the public rights-of-way. Cable and telephone franchise fees are no longer allowed in Florida ([Click here for further information.](#)) Franchise fees are required to be “passed through” to customers since 1976 based upon a court case involving City of Plant City, FL.”

ORDINANCE # \_\_\_\_\_

AN ORDINANCE GRANTING TO DUKE ENERGY FLORIDA, LLC. d/b/a DUKE ENERGY, A NON-EXCLUSIVE ELECTRIC UTILITY RIGHTS OF WAY UTILIZATION FRANCHISE; PRESCRIBING THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS RELATED TO THE OCCUPANCY OF MUNICIPAL STREETS AND RIGHTS OF WAY IN THE CITY OF **TOWN/CITY**, FLORIDA, FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING ELECTRIC SERVICE; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY OF PROVISIONS; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY **COMMISSION/COUNCIL** OF **TOWN/CITY**, FLORIDA:

**SECTION 1 - Findings**

The City deems it necessary, desirable and in the interest of its citizens to establish by ordinance a rights of way utilization franchise (sometimes referred to herein as the “Franchise”) granting the Company permission to occupy the Rights of Way in the City of **Town/City**, Florida, for the purpose of providing electric services.

**SECTION 2 - Short Title**

This ordinance shall be known and may be cited as the “Duke Energy Rights of Way Utilization Franchise.”

**SECTION 3 - Definitions**

For the purposes of this ordinance, the following terms, phrases, words, and their derivatives shall have the meaning given herein. When not inconsistent with the context, words in the present tense include the future, words in the plural number include the singular number, and words in the singular number include the plural number. The word “shall” is always mandatory and not merely permissive.

(A) “Adversely Affected” – For the Company, a loss of one percent (1%) of Base Revenues within the corporate City limits due to Retail Wheeling. For the City, a loss of one percent (1%) of franchise fees due to Retail Wheeling.

(B) “Base Revenues” – All Company’s revenues from the retail sale of electricity, net of customer credits, to residential, commercial and industrial customers and City sponsored street lighting all within the corporate limits of the City.

(C) “Company” or “Grantee” – Duke Energy Florida, LLC d/b/a Duke Energy, its successors and assigns.

(D) “City” or “Grantor” – The City of **Town/City**, Florida.

(E) “Electric Energy Provider” – Every legal entity or association of any kind (including their lessees, trustees or receivers), including any unit of state, federal or local government (including City herein), which owns, maintains, or operates an electric generation,

transmission, or distribution system or facilities, or which otherwise provides, arranges for, or supplies electricity or electric energy to the public, or which supplies electricity to itself utilizing Company's distribution or other facilities. Without limitation or the foregoing, "Electric Energy Provider" shall also include every Electric Utility, electric power marketer or electric power aggregator. It shall also include every entity providing such services as metering, customer billing, payment collection and processing, and customer information and data processing.

(F) "Electric Utility" -- Shall have the meaning set out in Section 366.02(2), *Florida Statutes* (2010), and shall also include every electric "Public Utility" as defined in Section 366.02(1), *Florida Statutes* (2010). "Electric Utility" shall further include every investor owned, municipally or governmentally owned, or cooperatively owned electric utility (including their lessees, trustees or receivers), which owns, maintains, or operates an electric generation, transmission, or distribution system in any State or County.

(G) "Electric Utility System" – An electric power system installed and operated in the Franchise Area in accordance with the provisions of the Florida Public Service Commission establishing technical standards, service areas, tariffs and operating standards, which shall include but not to limited to electric light, heat, power and energy facilities, and a generation, transmission, and distribution system, with such extensions thereof and additions hereto as shall hereafter be made.

(H) "Franchise Area" – That area for which Company provides electric utility service within the corporate City limits of the City.

(I) "Facilities" – The meaning as set forth in Section 4.

(J) "Person" – Any person, firm, partnership, association, corporation, company or organization of any kind.

(K) "Public Service Commission" – The Florida Public Service Commission.

(L) "Rights of Way" – All of the public streets, alleys, highways, waterways, bridges, sidewalks and parks, and any other public ways or places owned by the City, as they now exist or may be hereafter constructed, opened, laid out or extended within the present limits of the City, or in such territory as may hereafter be added to, consolidated or annexed to the City.

(M) "Retail Wheeling" – A customer/supplier arrangement whereby an Electric Energy Provider utilizes transmission and/or distribution facilities of Company to make energy sales directly to an end use customer located within the Franchise Area.

#### **SECTION 4 - Grant of Authority**

(A) This grant of authority is limited to the provision by Company to have, maintain, or place its Facilities within the Rights of Way for its electric utility services. Accordingly, the City hereby grants to the Company, its successors and assigns the non-exclusive right, authority, and franchise to lay, erect, construct, maintain, repair and operate its Facilities in, under, upon, over and across the present and future Rights of Way, as they now exist or may be hereafter constructed, opened, laid out or extended within the present limits of the City, including but not

limited to conduits, cables, poles, wires, supports and such other structures or appurtenances as may be reasonably necessary for the construction, maintenance and operation of an electric generation, transmission and distribution system, including information, telecommunication, and video transmission used solely for the provision of electric service (collectively the "Facilities"), provided that all portions of the same shall conform to accepted industry standards, including but not limited, to the National Electrical Safety Code. Nothing in this Ordinance shall require Grantee to remove, de-energize, or cease using any poles, wires, or other things or Facilities identified hereinabove that were in place under previous ordinances or permits prior to the Effective Date of this Ordinance, regardless of whether such poles, wires or other Facilities are located outside "Rights of Way" as defined herein. Nor shall anything in this Ordinance prohibit Company from performing upgrades, replacements, maintenance or servicing of such poles, wires, or other Facilities after the Effective Date of this Ordinance. Rather, all such preexisting poles, wires, or other Facilities shall be authorized under this Ordinance. Because this Franchise is intended to grant Company the non-exclusive, but unrestricted right to place its Facilities within the Rights of Way, the City expressly acknowledges and agrees that Company shall not be required to pull or pay for permits to place its Facilities or perform any work maintenance activities on or related to its Facilities within the Rights of Way.

(B) Annexation or Contraction. City and Company agree that the Franchise Area is subject to expansion or reduction by annexation and contraction of municipal boundaries. If City approves any Franchise Area expansion or reduction by annexation or contraction, City shall provide written notice to Company's Annexation Coordinator, at the address provided below, within sixty (60) days of such approval and this Franchise shall automatically extend to include any such annexed areas.

Additionally, within sixty (60) days of any such annexation or contraction, City shall provide to Company an updated list containing the new or removed street names, known street name aliases, street addresses, and zip codes associated with each street name. All notices of annexation or contraction and address listings shall be addressed to the Annexation Coordinator as follows with the address subject to change:

Duke Energy  
Tax Team DT02-V  
9700 David Taylor Drive  
Charlotte NC 28262  
Or by email to: [TaxTeam@duke-energy.com](mailto:TaxTeam@duke-energy.com)

Company must revise its payments due to any expansion or reduction by annexation within a reasonable time after Company has received such notice and updated list from City, but no later than sixty (60) days after receipt of notice and the list. City understands and affirmatively acknowledges that the Company will exclusively rely upon the City to provide timely and accurate information to the Company regarding any such annexations or contractions, and that failure to do so will impair, inhibit, and/or preclude the Company's ability to revise any payments due to the City that are impacted by such annexations or contractions. Further, City acknowledges that if such information is not timely furnished to Company as required herein, any related obligation to collect payments shall be suspended during the period of delay.



(C) Non-Exclusive Use. The Company's right to use and occupy Rights of Way for the purposes herein set forth shall be non-exclusive as to entities not engaged in the provision of electric energy and service, and the City reserves the right to grant to others the right to utilize the Rights of Way, to any person at any time during the period of this Franchise so long as such grant does not create an unsafe condition or unreasonably conflict with the rights granted to Company herein.

#### **SECTION 5 - Notice of Acceptance and Term of Franchise**

This ordinance shall become effective upon being legally passed and adopted ("Effective Date") by the City Commission; and it is further agreed that Grantee shall accept this Franchise as of the date of the passage and adoption by the City Commission and shall signify its acceptance in writing within thirty (30) days after the City Commission's approval of this ordinance by filing its written acceptance with the City Clerk. If Grantee fails to accept this franchise within thirty (30) days of its date of passage and adoption, then this Ordinance shall be null and void, and of no force and effect of any kind. Commencing on the Effective Date, the term of the Franchise granted herein shall be for a period of xx (xx) years.

#### **SECTION 6 - Payment to City**

(A) Effective the first day of the second month beginning after the Effective Date of this ordinance, City shall be entitled to receive from Company a monthly franchise amount that will equal six percent (6%) of Company's Base Revenues (the "Franchise Fee") for the preceding month, which amount shall be the total compensation due City for any and all rights, authority and privileges granted by this Franchise, including compensation for any required permits, parking fees, or any other fee or cost related to the rights granted hereunder. Any franchise amounts that will be paid to the City will be collected by the Company from Company's customers in the Franchise Area and passed through to the City in the manner described herein. The City expressly acknowledges that no additional or other amounts shall be due or remitted by Company for the exercise of its rights granted hereunder.

Payment shall be made to City for each month no later than the twentieth (20<sup>th</sup>) day of the following month. The monthly payment shall be made by wire transfer. Any monthly payment or any portion thereof made twenty (20) days after the due date without good cause shall be subject to interest at the rate of ten percent (10%) per annum.

(B) Only disputed amounts shall be allowed to be withheld by Company, and any such amount shall not accrue any interest during the pendency of any such dispute.

(C) The City acknowledges that all classifications and categories of retail customers of Company shall be subject to the payment of the Franchise Fee due hereunder.

#### **SECTION 7 - Favored Nations**

(A) In the event Grantee shall hereafter accept an electric utility franchise ordinance from any municipality providing for the payment of a franchise fee in excess of that provided for in Section 6 above, Grantee shall notify Grantor, and Grantor reserves the right to amend this Franchise to increase the franchise fee payable under this ordinance to no more than the greater franchise fee that Grantee has agreed to pay to such other municipality. Grantee's obligation to

pay such greater franchise fee to Grantor shall apply prospectively beginning with the next monthly franchise fee payment following Grantor's timely notice of its exercise of its amendment right to which Grantee may collect such increased fee from its customers. Grantee's failure to notify Grantor of such additional payments does not limit Grantor's right to amend to require such additional franchise fees.

(B) It is the intent and agreement of Grantor and Grantee that Grantee shall not be required to pay Grantor a franchise fee under Section 6 of a percentage greater than that paid to Grantor by any other Electric Utility or Electric Energy Provider utilizing Grantor's Rights of Way on such Electric Utility's or Electric Energy Provider's revenues attributable to services that are the same or substantially the same as those performed by Grantee. It is further the intent and agreement of Grantor and Grantee that Grantee should not be placed at a competitive disadvantage by the payments required by Section 6 of this Ordinance in the event other Electric Utilities or Electric Energy Providers provide services in competition with Grantee without utilizing Grantor's Rights of Way.

(C) If Grantor imposes a lesser fee, or no fee, or is unable to impose a fee on another Electric Utility or Electric Energy Provider providing or seeking to provide services in competition with Grantee to customers within Grantor's municipal boundaries, whether utilizing Grantor's Rights of Way or not utilizing Grantor's Rights of Way, Grantee's fee under Section 6 for such services shall be automatically reduced to the lesser fee charged the other Electric Utility or Electric Energy Provider (or to zero (0), if no fee is charged such other Electric Utility or Electric Energy Provider). In all events, City shall not grant more favorable treatment to other Electric Energy Providers than is granted to Company under this ordinance, it being the intent of the parties that no future provider of electric service, be it generation, transmission or distribution service, to customers within the corporate limits of City shall be given a competitive advantage over Company.

#### **SECTION 8 - Grantor Rights**

The right is hereby reserved to the City to adopt such regulations as it shall find necessary in the exercise of its police power, provided that such regulations, by ordinance or otherwise, shall be reasonable, and shall not be in conflict with the laws of the State of Florida or the lawful regulations of any state agency possessing the power to regulate the activities of the Company, or conflict with or otherwise interfere with the benefits conferred on the Company hereunder. In the event of a conflict between this Franchise Agreement and any other ordinance or regulation adopted by the City relating to Company's rights to perform work in and/or occupancy of the Rights of Way as permitted hereunder, the rights under this Franchise Agreement shall govern and control.

#### **SECTION 9 - Work In Rights of Way**

The Company is hereby granted the right, authority and privilege to perform all necessary work and excavations in said Rights of Way of the City related to its Facilities and necessary or incidental to carrying out such rights and obligations as permitted hereunder. The Company shall have the right to fasten and to stretch and lay along the lines of said poles, conduits, pipes and cables necessary for transmitting and conveying the electric current to be used in the Company's business, together with all the rights and privileges necessary or convenient for the full use including the right to trim, cut and keep clear all trees and limbs near or along Company's

Facilities that may in any way endanger the proper operation of same. Moreover, the Company shall have the right to construct, erect, operate and maintain within the City an electric system consisting of its Facilities for carrying on the Company's business; provided that, in accomplishing these purposes, the streets of said City shall not be unnecessarily obstructed for an unreasonable amount of time and work in connection therewith shall be done and carried on in conformity with such reasonable rules, standards, regulations and local ordinances with reference thereto as may be adopted by the City for the protection of the public and which are not in conflict with or otherwise interfere with the benefits conferred on the Company hereunder.

#### **SECTION 10 - Indemnification**

(A) The acceptance of this Franchise by Company shall be deemed an agreement on the part of Company to indemnify City and hold it harmless against any and all direct damages, claims, expenses, reasonable attorneys' fees (including appellate fees) and costs that City may incur to the extent arising out of or resulting from the negligence or willful misconduct of Company, its contractors and agents in the construction, repair, operation, or maintenance of its electric utility Facilities hereunder. In no event shall Company be liable to City for any consequential, incidental, punitive, exemplary, multiple, or indirect damages, lost profits or other business interruption damages, by statute, in tort (including negligence or strict liability), in contract, or under any indemnity provision or otherwise.

(B) Company shall maintain throughout the term of this Franchise sufficient financial resources to provide self-insurance insuring City and Company with regard to all damages set forth in Section 10 (A) in the minimum amounts of:

- (i) \$1,000,000 for bodily injury or death to a person;  
\$3,000,000 for bodily injury or death resulting from any one accident.
- (ii) \$50,000 for property damage resulting from any one accident.
- (iii) \$1,000,000 for all other types of liability.

(C) City acknowledges that Company provides its own liability insurance (self-insured).

#### **SECTION 11 - Records and Reports**

(A) Company Rules and Regulations. The following documents shall be available to City upon City's reasonable request: copies of rules, regulations, and procedures adopted by Company that relate to Company's use of City's Rights of Way.

(B) Accounting. Company shall use the system of accounts and the form of books, accounts, records, and memoranda prescribed by the Florida Public Service Commission or such other applicable governing agency having jurisdiction over Company as determined by Company.

(C) Reports. Company will submit monthly a statement of its estimated Base Revenues for the period on which such payment is based. The acceptance of any statement or payment shall not prevent the City from asserting that the amount paid is not the amount due, or from recovering any deficit by any lawful proceeding, including interest to be applied at the rate set forth in Section 6 (A).

(D) Availability of Records and Reports. Company shall supply information that City or its representatives may from time to time reasonably request relative to the calculation of franchise fees. Such records shall, on written request of City, be open for examination and audit by City and City's representatives at Company's headquarters in St. Petersburg, Florida, during ordinary business hours and such records shall be retained by Company for a period of three (3) years.

(E) Audit. City may require, upon prior written notice and during Company's normal business hours, an audit of Company's books related to this Agreement not more than once every five (5) years and then only for the preceding three (3) years. Company will reimburse City's audit costs if the audit identifies errors in Company's franchise Base Revenues of five percent (5%) or more for the period audited. If an underpayment of franchise fees has occurred due to the Company's error, interest will be calculated at the rate of ten percent (10%) per annum. Both the underpayment and interest shall be paid within ninety (90) days from completion of the audit.

(F) Customer Report. In addition to City's obligations in Section 4 (B), within ninety (90) days of the Effective Date of this Agreement, City shall provide to Company a report in a format acceptable to Company setting forth a listing of all addresses within the corporate limits of the City and annually thereafter a report identifying any changes to the address listing provided the previous year.

#### **SECTION 12 - Retail Wheeling**

In the event the appropriate governmental authorities authorize Retail Wheeling, then either party, if Adversely Affected thereby, may reopen this ordinance upon thirty (30) days written notice to the other for the sole purpose of addressing the Franchise Fee payments between The Company and the City. If the parties are unable to agree within ninety (90) days of reopening, either party may declare an impasse and may file an action in the Circuit Court in Alachua County, Florida for declaratory relief as to the proper Franchise Fee in light of Retail Wheeling.

#### **SECTION 13 - Severability**

Should any section or provision of this Franchise ordinance or any portion thereof, the deletion of which would not adversely affect the receipt of any material benefits or, substantially increase the burden of any party hereunder, be declared by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remainder, as a whole or any part thereof, other than the part declared to be invalid. In the event of any such partial invalidity, City and Company shall meet and negotiate in good faith to obtain a replacement provision that is in compliance with the judicial authority's decision.

#### **SECTION 14 - Governing Law and Venue**

(A) This Franchise ordinance shall be construed and interpreted according to the laws of the State of Florida.

(B) In the event that any legal proceeding is brought to enforce the terms of this Franchise, the same shall be brought in enter County, Florida, or, if a federal claim, in the U.S. District Court in and for the Middle District of Florida, Ocala Division.

**SECTION 15 - Merger**

This Franchise agreement is the full, complete and entire understanding and agreements of the parties as to its subject matter, and the written terms supersede all prior contemporaneous representations, discussions, negotiations, understanding and agreements relating to the subject matter of this agreement. The parties shall not be bound or liable for any statement, prior negotiations, correspondence, representation, promise, draft agreements, inducements, or other understanding of any kind or nature not set forth or provided herein.

**SECTION 16 - Notices**

Except in exigent circumstances, all notices by either City or Company to the other shall be made by depositing such notice in the United States Mail, Certified Mail return receipt requested or by recognized commercial delivery, e.g. FedEx, UPS or DHL or facsimile. Any notice served by certified mail return receipt shall be deemed delivered five (5) days after the date of such deposit in the United States mail unless otherwise provided. Any notice given by facsimile is deemed received by next Business Day. "Business Day" for purposes of this section shall mean Monday through Friday, with Saturday, Sunday and City and Company observed holidays excepted. All notices shall be addressed as follows:

To City:  
City Clerk  
P.O. Box xx  
City, FL Zip  
Phone: (xxx) xxx-xxxx  
Facsimile: (xxx) xxx-xxxx

To Company:  
Gov't and Community Relations  
Duke Energy  
P.O. Box 14042  
St. Petersburg, FL 33733-4042  
Phone: (727) 820-5474  
Facsimile: (727) 820-5715

**SECTION 17 - Non-Waiver Provision**

The failure of either party to insist in any one or more instances upon the strict performance of any one or more of the terms or provisions of this Franchise shall not be construed as a waiver or relinquishment for the future of any such term or provision, and the same shall continue in full force and effect. No waiver or relinquishment shall be deemed to have been made by either party unless said waiver or relinquishment is in writing and signed by the parties.

**SECTION 18 - Repealer and Superseding Provision**

This ordinance shall supersede, as to the rights, privileges and obligations between City and Company, all ordinances and parts of ordinances in conflict with the terms of this ordinance. Ordinance No. xx and any amendments thereto, are hereby deemed null and void and/or repealed upon the effective date of this ordinance and none of the provisions of such repealed Ordinance No. xx and any amendments thereto shall have any further force and effect.

**SECTION 19 - Dispute Resolution**

The parties to this Franchise agree that it is in each of their respective best interests to avoid costly litigation as a means of resolving disputes which may arise hereunder. Accordingly, the parties agree that prior to pursuing their available legal remedies they will meet in an attempt to resolve any differences. If such informal effort is unsuccessful, then the Parties may exercise any of their available legal remedies.

FIRST READING AND PUBLIC HEARING:

20XX.

SECOND READING, ADOPTION, AND PUBLIC HEARING:

20XX.

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
xxxxxx, City Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
xxxxxxx, Mayor

Approved as to form and legality  
for the use and reliance of the  
City of Town/City, Florida, only.

\_\_\_\_\_  
xxxxx, City Attorney

\_\_\_\_\_  
Catherine Stempien, State President  
Duke Energy Florida, LLC d/b/a Duke Energy