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3 RESOLUTION NO. 30-2020 OF THE CITY OF LAKE WORTH BEACH
4 ACKNOWLEDGING THE IMPORTANCE AND VALUE OF THE LAKE
5 WORTH BEACH ELECTRIC UTILITY TO THE CITY, ITS IMPACT ON THE
6 SUSTAINABILITY AND VIABILITY OF THE CITY AND STATING THE
7 OWNERSHIP WITH THE RESIDENTS OF THE CITY

8

9 **WHEREAS**, Lake Worth Beach Electric Utility (LWBEU) has been and continues
10 to be an integral part of the history and is playing a vital role in the future of Lake Worth
11 Beach (City); and,

12 **WHEREAS**, Pioneers and their families are defined as those who were living here
13 when the 'lights were turned on in 1914 through the creation of the City's electric utility;
14 and

15 **WHEREAS**; LWBEU profits from the sale of electricity, pole attachments, street
16 and private area lighting are kept locally for the benefit of its citizen owners and
17 consistently provide a substantial subsidization of the City's General Fund and other City
18 Funds helping to pay for such things as Parks, Recreation, Police, Fire & Rescue, Shared
19 City Services, Code Enforcement, Sustainability, and other expenses that tax dollars
20 alone cannot cover; and,

21 **WHEREAS**, by virtue of owning its own electric utility the City has the ability to
22 focus resources and benefits locally and directly for its residents and local customers in
23 meeting their immediate needs; and,

24 **WHEREAS**, LWBEU is today providing over 38% of the electric power needs of its
25 citizen customers from carbon-free resources and will be a state and national leader by
26 increasing that amount to over 50% by 2024; and,

27 **WHEREAS**, LWBEU has committed to being a state leader in renewable energy
28 via commitments to solar energy projects through to at least 2043 and establishing the
29 City as a host for ocean current energy development; and,

30 **WHEREAS**, the City is a member of the Florida Municipal Power Agency (FMPA)
31 and a participant in multiple FMPA Projects that have provided the LWBEU with
32 competitively priced and reliable sources of electric power leveraging the benefits of
33 economies of scale and tax-free debt, access to subject matter experts critical to the
34 ownership and operation of an electric utility, and whose fellow members have provided
35 personnel and equipment to the LWBEU during periods of emergency; and,

36 **WHEREAS**, in 2012/2013 the City of Lake Worth Beach went through a thorough
37 and lengthy process involving residents, elected officials, staff and consultants to review
38 options such as selling the LWBEU during which there were open and public discussions
39 regarding the value of the utility to the City in terms asset worth, its value in the market,
40 and its value in revenue to the General Fund; and,

41 **WHEREAS**, the Electric Utility Advisory Board and its resident and customer
42 membership helped provide input to the City Commission during this process in order to

43 make the decisions and commitments to not sell the LWBEU, to invest in and move the
44 LWBEU forward, resulting in a process to improve rates, improve reliability, and to
45 become a leader in progressive, clean energy; and,

46 **WHEREAS**, the LWBEU has subsequently significantly reduced its operating
47 costs, has negotiated new low-cost energy supply contracts, restructured its operations,
48 has and is executing on neighborhood projects that are yielding improved reliability, has
49 defined and prioritized projects for system hardening and reliability improvement projects,
50 and has had those plans reviewed and endorsed by independent outside engineers; and,

51 **WHEREAS**, the LWBEU is positioned to experience further reductions in operating
52 costs as debt obligations from wise investments made in the 1980s mature; and,

53 **WHEREAS**, there is a movement by members of the Commission to push the issue
54 of selling the utility at a time when it would potentially derail these significant changes and
55 achievements, alters the vision of a largely carbon-free electric supply for its residents
56 and customers, and which through political posturing creates risk and uncertainty that
57 undermines the City's ability to do the best possible job in negotiating financing for the
58 System Hardening and Reliability Improvement Program (SHRIP), impacts retaining and
59 hiring LWBEU staff, and undermines the reputation that has been built over the past eight
60 years; and,

61 **WHEREAS**, it is the responsibility of the City Commission to provide clear and
62 consistent policy direction that demonstrates a commitment towards much needed and
63 long anticipated improvements and investments that will result in clean, affordable and
64 reliable energy for our residents, customers, and businesses; and,

65 **WHEREAS**, the City Commission should clarify its position as a necessary and is
66 a vital part of continuing to move the LWBEU forward; and,

67 **WHEREAS**, the City Commission of Lake Worth Beach supports the continued
68 ownership of the Lake Worth Beach Electric Utility so that it remains in the hands of the
69 Citizens of Lake Worth Beach and makes clear our intent to continue to improve reliability,
70 create competitive rates and aggressively pursue a progressive clean energy
71 commitment.

72 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE**
73 **CITY OF LAKE WORTH BEACH, FLORIDA, THAT:**

74 **SECTION 1.** Each of the above recitals are hereby incorporated herein.

75 **SECTION 2.** The Lake Worth Beach City Commission believes in Citizen Owned
76 Energy is the best way to provide electric utilities to the residents who own the utility.

77 **SECTION 3.** That the City of Lake Worth Beach retaining ownership of the Lake
78 Worth Beach Electric Utility is in the best interests and long-term benefit of the City and
79 affirms that such ownership remains with the City's residents for the foreseeable future.

80 **SECTION 4.** This resolution shall become effective immediately upon its
81 adoption.

82 The passage of this resolution was moved by Commissioner _____, seconded by
83 Commissioner _____, and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

84
85 Mayor Pam Triolo
86 Vice Mayor Andy Amoroso
87 Commissioner Scott Maxwell
88 Commissioner Omari Hardy
89 Commissioner Herman Robinson
90

91 The Mayor thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted on the ____ day of
92 _____, 2020.

93 LAKE WORTH BEACH CITY COMMISSION
94

95
96 By: _____
97 Pam Triolo, Mayor

98 ATTEST:

99
100 _____
101
102 Deborah M. Andrea, CMC, City Clerk