

City Pursuing Options for Electric Provision for Cape Coral

Legal counsel retained to continue evaluation of municipal electric utility and begin initial discussions with LCEC on new franchise agreement

At a workshop in January, City Council was presented a pro forma report from Spencer Consulting addressing the feasibility of the City establishing a “municipal electric utility.” The report indicated that establishing a municipal electric utility for Cape Coral is financially feasible.

Following presentations and discussion about both an MEU and a new franchise agreement with LCEC, City Council authorized the City administration to engage legal counsel to embark on a parallel track. The City will continue evaluating the establishment of an MEU as well as begin discussions with LCEC on a potential renewal of the franchise agreement.

The City’s 30-year franchise agreement with LCEC expires in 2016. Cape Coral customers represent 45 percent of LCEC’s service area. In a new franchise agreement, the City believes our citizens should receive similar benefits that can be achieved with an MEU. These benefits include:

- Auditable and transparent records
- City review of LCEC capital projects to allow coordination (see photo)
- Reporting of capital expenditures within Cape Coral vs. LCEC total service area – assure pro rata



Large LCEC electric equipment was installed opposite of a high-priced home with no input from residents.

- Establishment of City-directed “Capital Improvement Fund” for community projects – funded by small percentage of LCEC revenues collected from Cape Coral customers (e.g. undergrounding electric lines or other projects)
- Monthly reliability reports
- Development of community solar photovoltaic projects, modernized/lower-cost street lighting
- Requirement for LCEC to relocate systems in the public utility easement at their cost, not Cape Coral taxpayers, for needed road improvements or safety
- Fiber optics development
- Use of LCEC smart meter path for water meter data collection
- Reduced term – 10 years
- Right to purchase with definitive valuation methodology

What is a Municipal Electric Utility

A Municipal Electric Utility is a power utility system owned and operated by a local jurisdiction. Municipal electric utilities have been in place for more than a century. There are 34 municipal electric (public power) utilities in Florida serving about 15 percent of the state’s population (3 million people). In the United States, there are more than 2,000 municipal utilities, serving 14.7 percent of the nation’s electrical needs, or one in seven persons. ■

Municipal Electric Utility is a power utility system owned and operated by a local jurisdiction.

Key West ●

Coral Oaks Golf Course is Best Deal in Town

About the Course

Coral Oaks Golf Course has established itself as a leader in the Southwest Florida golfing community by offering a wide variety of playing and instructional programs, as well as the most competitive greens fee and membership pricing in the area. Coral Oaks was built in a century-old oak hammock and features eight lakes, 37 bunkers and five sets of tees. The golf course is not your typical Florida-style golf course and reminds many guests of the courses they play up north.

Golf Schools and Lessons

In addition to daily play, Coral Oaks offers the best golf instructional programs in the area including weekly adult clinics, five session golf schools, individual personalized lessons and free Junior Golf Clinics. Coral Oaks’ PGA Professional staff has more than 75 years of combined experience – also the most in the area – and will make your golf game and golfing experiences more enjoyable. Call to book your next private lesson, golf school or clinic and get on the road to a better golf game.

Hosting

If you are looking for a great place to host your next golf outing and/or like



to participate in special events, Coral Oaks hosts all-inclusive charity golf outings that include greens fees, range balls, food and beverages and gift card prizes for your winners. Each all-inclusive event allows your organization to maximize the charity resources and increase the funds raised. Coral Oaks can host anywhere from 24 to 144 players. Call to book an event or enter one of the many upcoming events this spring and summer.

Golf Associations

If you like to play on a more regular basis, Coral Oaks offers Men’s and Ladies’ Golf Associations that create a fun, social and competitive golfing experiences. Annual and 9-month golf memberships and various league play is available.

If you have interest in any golfing programs, golf outings, group bookings or would like to hold a banquet or party at the most competitive pricing in the Southwest Florida area, give us a call at (239) 573-3100, check out the website at www.CoralOaksGolf.com, and/or “Like us” on Facebook at www.Facebook.com/CoralOaksGolfCourse. You can also book tee times up to seven days in advance online at www.CoralOaksGolf.com. Remember “Every Day is a Great Day at Coral Oaks” and we look forward to seeing you soon. ■