

**MINUTES OF THE
JOHNSON CITY ENERGY AUTHORITY
D/B/A
BRIGHTRIDGE**

April 28, 2026

PRESENT: James Haselsteiner
Andy Dietrich
Ronald Hite
Gary Mabrey
Kimberly McCorkle
Andrew Morse
Richard Tucker
Joe Wise
Jeffrey R. Dykes, Chief Executive Officer
Rob Arnold, Chief Operations Officer
Brian Bolling, CPA, Chief Financial Officer and Supply Chain Officer
Bonnie Donnolly, Chief Development and Market Strategy Officer
Eric Egan, Chief Data Officer
Stacy Evans, Chief Broadband Officer
Lori Farmer, Supervisor, General Accounting
Sam Ford, Chief Engineering and Facilities Officer
Tiphonie Watson; Chief Customer Officer
Stephen Darden, Hunter Smith & Davis, LLP

ABSENT: James Smith
Connie Crouch, Chief Employee Relations Officer
Donnie Hall, Safety/Environmental Manager
Tim Whaley, Director of Public and Governmental Affairs

Chairman Jim Haselsteiner called the meeting to order.

Upon motion of Mr. Mabrey, seconded by Mr. Wise, item relating to the Utility Board Agreement was removed from this meeting agenda. The motion carried unanimously by roll call.

Upon motion of Mr. Mabrey, seconded by Dr. McCorkle, the monthly power distributor's reports submitted to the Tennessee Valley Authority for March 2026 were approved. The motion carried unanimously by roll call. Year-to-date income was \$2,462,553.70 more than last year's year-to-date figure and year-to-date actual net income was \$492,104.89 more than the budgeted figure. The general fund balance stands at \$14,290,088.11, the reserve fund balance stands at \$27,018,041.74, the special reserve fund balance stands at \$2,276,747.15, the tax equivalent fund balance stands at \$4,732,180.82,

the economic development fund balance stands at \$2,201,502.26, the 2017 and 2021 bond and interest sinking fund balance stands at \$3,571,552.11, the renewal and replacement fund balance stands at \$9,027,950.12, the miscellaneous proceeds fund balance stands at \$2,729.75; and the self-insurance fund balance stands at \$2,000,986.63. BrightRidge is currently serving 85,723 customers, which is an increase of 1,429 customers since the same time last year, which represents a 1.70% growth rate.

Upon motion of Mr. Mabrey, seconded by Dr. McCorkle, the monthly financial statements for March 2026 for the Broadband Division were approved. The year-to-date income was \$5,433,418.35 more than last year's year-to-date figure, and year-to-date actual net income was \$-442,331.09 less than the budgeted figure. The broadband debt service fund balance stands at \$2,403,391.10, the reserve fund balance stands at \$220,221.79, the broadband checking account balance stands at \$1,569,316.54, the broadband tax equivalent account balance stands at \$305,746.20, the voice service balance stands at \$4,996.01, and the video service balance stands at \$6,066.82.

Mr. Bolling concluded his report by adding that the current year-to-date kWh sales are up \$1.2 million. The year-to-date Operating Revenues are up \$9.7 million. The year-to-date Operating Expenses, excluding Power Cost, are down \$767,390 compared to last year and under budget by 9.58%. The year-to-date Average Load Factor is 55.29% and the year-to-date Net Income is \$2.9 million, an increase over the last year. The FCA is up 33.2% from March 2025 to March 2026. Mr. Bolling also reported that Broadband customers are up 1,429 over the last 13 months and the year-to-date Net Income of \$2.4 million.

Upon motion of Dr. McCorkle, seconded by Mr. Tucker, the Board approved the following item on the Consent Agenda:

- (a.) The minutes of the Board meeting on March 24, 2026;

The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Mr. Hite spoke on behalf of the Finance and Audit Committee that met on April 20, 2026, to consider the Aid to Construction charge proposal, which did not include transformer costs. The updated Aid to Construction cost schedule will begin Monday, July 6, 2026. By motion of the Committee, seconded by Mr. Morse, the board voted to accept the Aid to Construction charge as presented. The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

In addition, the Finance and Audit Committee reviewed the staff memo and engagement letter from Blackburn, Childers, and Steagall regarding the 2026 audit. By motion of the Committee, seconded by Dr. McCorkle, the board voted to accept the proposal as presented, which includes our annual audit at \$76,350 and a Federal Single Audit at \$16,350. The Federal Single Audit requirement is due to BrightRidge receiving Middle Mile Grant Funds in excess of \$1 million. The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

RETIREMENT RESOLUTION – DARYL PRITCHARD

On April 1, 2017 the Johnson City Power Board was renamed Johnson City Energy Authority; on October 3, 2017 Johnson City Energy Authority announced their DBA name as BrightRidge.

WHEREAS Daryl Pritchard was employed by BrightRidge on November 24, 2003, until retiring from BrightRidge on Friday, May 29, 2026; and

WHEREAS during his twenty-two years and six months of service with BrightRidge, he served as a Construction Lineman and Construction Lead Lineman.

WHEREAS the Board of Directors of BrightRidge wishes to recognize Mr. Pritchard for his outstanding service to the customers and staff of BrightRidge by his years of dedication and loyalty;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of BrightRidge meeting in regular session on the 28th day of April 2026, that Daryl Pritchard be, and hereby is, officially commended for his twenty-two years and six months of service to the customers of BrightRidge.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be presented to Mr. Pritchard and be spread in full on the minutes of the proceedings of this meeting.

Upon motion of Mr. Wise, seconded by Mr. Mabrey, the Board approved the Resolution by unanimous roll call vote. A copy of this Resolution now appears in full on the minutes of the proceedings of this meeting.

Upon motion of Dr. McCorkle, seconded by Mr. Mabrey, the Board voted to approve the early purchasing of 24 IntelliRupters, 8 IntelliNodes, one docking station, and one power supply to support the 2027 capital budget. The total amount is \$1,532,080 from Irby Utilities. The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Upon motion of Mr. Tucker, seconded by Mr. Wise, the Board voted to approve the early purchase of one substation control house in the total amount of \$184,806 from VFP, Inc. The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Rob Arnold, Chief Operations Officer, presented the board with an overview of Operations, its various departments and highlighted their employees. Mr. Ryan Hardin, Construction Department Coordinator, has been with BrightRidge for 22 years and is responsible for scheduling crews, coordinating with engineers, field assessments and supports construction operations. Mr. Jason Long, Operations Specialist, has been with BrightRidge for 12 years, and is responsible for data tracking, compliance and project execution, as well as assisting with budget, reporting and invoicing. Ms. Denise Letterman, Operations Analyst, has been with BrightRidge for 21 years and coordinates across all Operations departments, oversees job tracking and contractor invoicing.

Operations is responsible for the Service and Construction Departments, Drone Team, Vegetation and Fleet Management. The Service Department handles outages, service connections, transfer work orders and street/private light systems. The Service Department manager, Neil Hartley, has been with BrightRidge for 23 years; and 64% of the department's employees having also worked at BrightRidge for over 20 years. The Construction Department is led by Bo Tatum (21 years at BrightRidge) and has a total of seven crews. They are responsible for building and maintaining the overhead and underground system, new construction, rebuilding infrastructure and assisting in outage response.

The Vegetation Management Department is led by Brad Tolley and Adam Jones, Jr. They are responsible for the proactive vegetation management along utility corridors, in order to prevent outages and clear right of ways. The Operations Drone Team consists of Russell Locher (6 years at BrightRidge) and Matt Brown (12 years at BrightRidge), who have completed training and licensure. Finally, the Fleet Management Department is leady by Joey Bowman (19 years at BrightRidge) and Charlie Davis (14 years at BrightRidge). These men are responsible for proactive maintenance, servicing and repairs on all fleet vehicles, of which there are 138 currently.

Mr. Dykes updated the board on the plans currently in the works for the upcoming TVPPA Rodeo scheduled for summer 2027, which BrightRidge has agreed to host. Meetings with area leadership in Johnson City and Kingsport are going well.

Mr. Dykes announced that the TVA interim CEO, Mike Skaggs, is expected to be in service for 6 months.

Mr. Dykes also announced that they are working to finalize the Gray Solar Farm ribbon cutting and will update the Board soon with those details. Gray I is currently online now, with Gray II in final testing with plans to be online by mid-late May.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.