



CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING

City Hall – Council Chamber
405 Bagshaw Way, Edgewood, Florida
Monday, November 07, 2022 at 2:00 PM

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council President Horn called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm. He asked for a moment of silence followed by leading the pledge of allegiance.

ROLL CALL & DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

City Clerk Riffle announced there was a quorum with four council members and Mayor Dowless present. She said that Councilmember Pierce was out of the country and requested to be excused.

Councilmember Chotas made a motion to excuse Councilmember Pierce; seconded by Councilmember Lomas. Motion approved (4/0) by voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Chief Peter Gauntlett (Retired) introduced himself and his wife, Margaret. He gave a brief review of his employment history, which is included in the agenda file. He retired in December 2021 from the City of St. Cloud Police Department.

Councilmember Chotas said that he liked the contract and noted that it assisted in negotiating for a future chief. He is prepared to appoint Chief Gauntlett as Interim Police Chief.

Mayor Dowless thanked Sergeant Cardinal and said has done a great job as acting Chief. Sergeant Cardinal has communicated everything that has occurred in the City. Mayor Dowless added that the main reason he decided to bring in an interim chief is that the Police Department is shorthanded and the City needs someone with experience to keep the department on track. Mayor Dowless said he believes that Chief Gauntlett has the right experience and demeanor to help the City.

Chief Gauntlett said the City should be proud of its organization as an accredited Police Department. He said that only approximately 30% of police departments are accredited in the State of Florida. He looks forward to helping with communication and problem-solving and assisting with the selection of a new Chief.

Councilmember Chotas said residents of Edgewood perceive the Police Department as the primary reason to live in the City and to keep their population safe. Chief Gauntlett said he was aware of Edgewood's support of the Police Department.

Councilmember Rader addressed the contract and asked if there should be a provision for when a new Chief is hired so there isn't a minimum amount of hours required in order for the contract to remain active. Mayor Dowless responded that he did not want the Chief to have to complete time cards and also to stay mindful of the budget. He is open to changes in the future.

There was no public comment.

Councilmember Chotas made a motion to approve the selection of Pete Gauntlett as Interim Chief and also moved to approve the contract as presented. The motions were seconded by Councilmember Lomas. (Motion approved 4/0).

The motion was approved by roll call vote.

Councilmember Rader	Favor
Councilmember Chotas	Favor
Councilmember Lomas	Favor
Council President Horn	Favor

CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were no citizen comments.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Chotas made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Councilmember Rader. Motion approved (4/0) by voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 pm.



Richard A. Horn, Council President

Attest:


Sandra Riffle, City Clerk

Approved in the Dec. 20, 2022 City Council meeting.