



CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

City Hall – Council Chamber
405 Bagshaw Way, Edgewood, Florida
Tuesday, May 16, 2023 at 6:30 AM

MINUTES

A. CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council President Horn called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. He asked for a moment of silence and then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. ROLL CALL & DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

City Clerk Riffle announced a quorum with all Council Members and Mayor Dowless present.

PRESENT

Council President Horn
Council President Pro-Tem Ben Pierce
Councilmember Chotas
Councilmember Susan Lomas
Councilmember Chris Rader

STAFF

Sandra Riffle, City Clerk
Dean DeSchryver, Police Chief
Shannon Patterson, Chief of Staff
Drew Smith, City Attorney
Allen Lane, City Engineer

OTHER ATTENDEES

C. PRESENTATION

- **Special Presentation by Chief DeSchryver**

Chief DeSchryver presented Officer Jesse Bird a letter from Governor DeSantis. Officer Bird received a recruitment bonus of \$5,000.

Officer Nicolle Crock received the Officer of the Year Award for 2022.

Mayor Dowless noted Officer Crock's positive attitude and that she always wants to help the City through situations.

- **Required Communications Letter**

Yvonne Claiborne with CRI presented the City's 2021-22 fiscal year audit. Council, staff and the public were provided with a copy of the presentation.

D. CONSENT AGENDA

- April 18, 2023 City Council Draft Meeting Minutes

Planner Hardgrove and Mayor Dowless submitted changes to the minutes before the meeting. City Clerk Riffle provided copies of the proposed changes at the dais.

Councilmember Chotas made a motion to approve the April 18, 2023 minutes with the submitted changes. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Lomas. Motion approved by voice vote (5/0).

E. ORDINANCES (FIRST READING)

F. PUBLIC HEARINGS (ORDINANCES – SECOND READINGS & RELATED ACTION)

- **County to City Rezoning 5317 Hansel Avenue**

Attorney Smith read Ordinance 2023-04 in title only.

He said this Ordinance rezones from Orange County Professional Office (PO) to City PO. The standards are all the same; some Orange County uses are not in the new City zoning but no businesses are affected.

There was no further discussion and no public comment.

Councilmember Chotas made a motion to approve Ordinance 2023-04; seconded by Councilmember Rader. Motion approved by voice vote (5/0).

G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

H. NEW BUSINESS

- **Police Legal Advisor and Litigation Services**

Chief DeSchryver said the proposed contract with DeYoung Law Firm would allow direct access to a legal advisor. Erin DeYoung, a retired trial lawyer from the State Attorney's office, was recommended and has vast experience with police legal services. Services would be utilized on an as-needed basis, primarily for police legal updates such as case law and legislative updates and subject matter specific to the district.

In response to Councilmember Lomas, Chief DeSchryver said the contract would be funded primarily from the current training budget.

No public comment.

Councilmember Pierce made a motion to approve the contract with the DeYoung Law Firm; seconded by Councilmember Chotas. Motion approved by voice vote (5/0).

- **Budget amendments**

City Clerk Riffle explained that each of the proposed budget amendments would result in a net zero change to the budget.

Councilmember Rader asked if a decision was made regarding the ARPA funds. Mayor Dowless responded that the funds would be used for payroll as that is a permitted use of the funds.

No public comment.

Councilmember Pierce made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-02; seconded by Councilmember Lomas. Motion approved by voice vote (5/0).

- **SDR Contract Extension**

City Clerk Riffle explained that Southern Disaster Recovery (SDR) was contracted as the City's hauler during the 2022 hurricane season. The contract has expired, but the City can opt to renew the contract for one year. City Clerk Riffle said that SDR provided excellent service during Hurricanes Ian and Nicole and recommended approving the extension.

In response to Council President Horn, Attorney Smith said that FEMA does not approve contractors' rates.

No public comment.

Councilmember Rader made a motion to approve the extension of the SDR contract; seconded by Councilmember Pierce. Motion approved by voice vote (5/0).

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

J. CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were no citizen comments.

K. BOARDS & COMMITTEES

- **Variance 2023-01
485 Mandalay Road Boat Dock**

Engineer Lane introduced the variance request to allow a dock to extend 28.8% into the canal instead of the allowable 25%. He said the elevation of the seawall makes it so that the backyard cannot be used as an extension of the boat dock, and reducing the width of the walkway access to the boat would result in an overly confined space.

Engineer Lane said he reviewed the plans to verify that there is a minimum distance of 25' between the proposed dock and the next adjacent dock. The plans show a 30' distance to the nearest dock on the opposite side of the canal, which complies with the code.

There were no objections from Council.

The homeowner was in attendance but did not comment. There was no public comment.

Council President Horn made a motion to approve Variance 2023-01 to allow a proposed dock at 485 Mandalay Road to be constructed 28.88% into the navigable corridor of the canal in lieu of the allowed 25%. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Pierce. Motion approved by voice vote (5/0).

L. STAFF REPORTS

- **City Attorney Smith**

Attorney Smith said that he is still working to communicate with the company that provided the street banners. At this time their attorney will not return his call.

During the June Council meeting, he expects to discuss recent State legislation regarding minors and golf carts.

- **Police Chief DeSchryver**

- Chief DeSchryver said that the Police Department has adjusted approximately 13 policies including internal affairs, discipline, response to resistance, and procedures to respond to complaints.
- He discussed the restructuring of personnel. He said he would like to have three people on shift rather than two to allow personnel to take time off.
- He has been preparing for collective bargaining and ensuring compliance with that process.
- He is working to meet residents and attend the HOA meetings.
- In response to Councilmember Chotas, Chief Deschryver said he does not know Belle Isle's crime rate but that he will look into it.

- **City Clerk Riffle**

City Clerk Riffle presented the TRIM calendar for the 2023/2024 fiscal year budget process. The first budget workshop was moved to Monday, July 11, 2023 at 5:30 pm.

M. MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

- **Mayor Dowless**

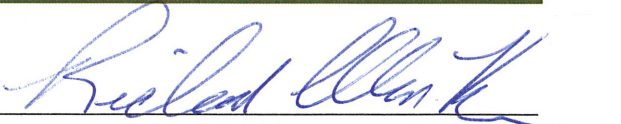
- The City was approved for a \$211,000 grant for two vehicles.
- He said that Channel 13 is trying to do a story about speeding on Gatlin Avenue. Orange County communicated that Edgewood would be responsible for speed humps on Gatlin Avenue. Attorney Smith spoke with Orange County's

attorney. The press is wondering why the City is not installing them and that is because it is Orange County's road. Their attorney will talk with their staff to see if there can be a solution.

- Mayor Dowless and Councilmember Lomas have been actively pulling up snipe signs on the ROW while Code Enforcement is out on leave. Mayor Dowless asked the other Councilmembers to assist with picking up snipe signs.
- New street signs have been ordered to replace those that are fading or are not in good condition. City Hall is preparing to order decorative signs for Orange and Hansel Avenues at approximately 14 cross streets.
- Mayor Dowless met with Duke Energy to ask for a contribution to the Centennial celebration in 2024. What Duke gives the City might influence how other donors contribute.
- Mayor Dowless said that he requested prospective charter changes from City Council but he has not received any.
- **Council President Horn**
 - Council President Horn said that he attended the HAINC meeting and learned a dog park is planned for Cypress Grove Park. There will be a community meeting on June 1, 2023, for discussion and Councilmembers may want to attend.
 - The proposed 60% increase for the Lake Conway Navigational Board was approved. Council President Horn spoke out against the increase during the meeting. While he understands that the MSTU requires revenue to provide water improvement, he is opposed if it being used to subsidize Orange County Marine Patrol and other law enforcement. Commissioner Uribe said she would approve an increase up to 40%.
- **Council Member Chotas** – no report
- **Council Member Pierce** – no report
- **Council Member Rader**
 - Councilmember Rader asked for some adjustments with the Boardvantage agenda on the tablets to make it easier to follow along. City Clerk Riffle said she would talk with Brett Sollazzo about improving the presentation of the agenda.
- **Council Member Lomas**
 - Councilmember Lomas requested someone to sit in for her at the next CAB meeting and Mayor Dowless said he would attend.

N. ADJOURNMENT

Council President Horn made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 pm.


Richard A. Horn, Council President

Attest:


Sandra Riffle, City Clerk

Approved in the 6/20/2023 City Council meeting