



## CITY COUNCIL MEETING

City Hall – Council Chamber  
405 Bagshaw Way, Edgewood, Florida  
Tuesday, December 17, 2024 at 6:30 PM

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### MINUTES

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

Council President Horn called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

#### B. ROLL CALL & DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

City Clerk Riffle confirmed a quorum with Mayor Dowless and all Councilmembers present.

##### Elected Officials Present:

John Dowless, Mayor  
Richard A. Horn, Council President  
Chris Rader, Council President Pro-Tem  
Susan Lomas, Councilmember  
Casey McElroy, Councilmember  
Beth Steele, Councilmember

##### City Staff Present

Sandra Riffle, City Clerk  
Dean DeSchryver, Police Chief  
Miguel Garcia, Deputy Police Chief  
Stacey Salemi, Code Enforcement Officer  
Drew Smith, City Attorney

#### C. PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

#### D. CONSENT AGENDA

##### 1. November 19, 2024 City Council Meeting Minutes

Mayor Dowless made corrections to the minutes. Under "New Business" add "new" before "expenses" for clarification. Also, under the Mayor's Report, part of the third paragraph about the meeting is redundant.

*Councilmember Lomas made a motion to approve the November 19, 2024 City Council meeting minutes with corrections, seconded by Councilmember Steele. The motion was approved by voice vote ((5/0)).*

#### E. ORDINANCES (FIRST READING)

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

##### 1. Ordinance 2024-20: County to City Rezoning 1140 Holden Ave.

City Attorney Smith read Ordinance 2024-20 in title only.

There was no discussion or public comment.

***Councilmember Lomas made a motion to approve Ordinance 2024-20; seconded by Councilmember McElroy. The motion was approved by roll call vote (5/0).***

Councilmember Rader	Favor
Councilmember Lomas	Favor
Councilmember Steele	Favor
Councilmember McElroy	Favor
Council President Horn	Favor

**2. Ordinance 2024-21: Fee Waiver for Variance and Zoning Bulk Table Update**

City Attorney Smith read Ordinance 2024-21 in title only. He said he incorporated the change for the one-time waiver from fees to include all fees.

There was no further discussion or public comment.

***Councilmember Rader made a motion to approve Ordinance 2024-21; seconded by Councilmember Lomas. The motion was approved by roll call vote (5/0).***

Councilmember McElroy	Favor
Councilmember Steele	Favor
Councilmember Lomas	Favor
Councilmember Rader	Favor
Council President Horn	Favor

**G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**H. NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Vision Zero Action Plan**

Mayor Dowless said a correction should be made in the appendix of the Vision Zero Action Plan (VZAP) estimates report. "Orlando Avenue" should read "Orange Avenue."

City Clerk Riffle confirmed to McElroy she sent Fennessey's report to the Council.

Further discussion ensued and Councilmember Rader questioned the 95% metric on page 49. He noted that all medians are paved, but the report describes unpaved medians.

Councilmember Rader said he would like the Orange/Holden/Gatlin Avenue intersection to be put into the table on the table of crash profiles on page 50.

Councilmember Rader noted that the report says to redo the Holden Avenue intersection, but the County has denied the improvement.

Councilmember Rader said page 52 suggests a roundabout where there is no intersection. Council President Horn added that a roundabout may not work within 150 feet of a railroad track

Councilmember Rader said if there is an application for an improvement, this becomes a document.

In response to Council President Horn, Attorney Smith said there could potentially be an issue if Council adopts the plan with faults, particularly as this is a regional study.

Mayor Dowless said approval is time-sensitive to be able to apply for funds that are available in February or March. Mayor Dowless communicated with Ms. Fennessey that there were some ambiguities that needed to be cleared up.

Mayor Dowless said he would like to table the decision until the January 21, 2025 meeting. There was no objection from the Council.

## **I. GENERAL INFORMATION**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that the City of Edgewood, Florida, will hold a general election on Tuesday, March 11, 2025, **to elect the Mayor and one council member**. The candidates elected will serve a three-year term. The candidate for Mayor receiving the highest number of votes and the candidate for City Council receiving the highest number of votes for their respective offices shall be deemed elected to serve.

### **1. Notice of Election**

City Clerk Riffle announced that qualifying for the March 11, 2025, municipal election will begin Friday, January 17, 2025. The election is for Mayor Dowless' and Council President Horn's seats.

## **J. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Edgewood resident Sandy DePorter asked about installing a traffic light at Jessamine Lane and Holden Avenue. She said she thought VZAP could provide the opportunity to get it paid for.

Mayor Dowless said Holden Avenue is on MetroPlan's project list. The direction is to go four lanes, and Edgewood does not want that. He said he would prefer turn lanes in the middle. He can ask MetroPlan about this to determine if the traffic light is an option.

## **K. BOARDS & COMMITTEES**

## **L. STAFF REPORTS**

- **City Attorney Smith** - No report.
- **Police Chief DeSchryver**

Chief's Report November 2024

Chief DeSchryver said he has a copy of the Orange County Sheriff's Office mutual aid agreement prepared for signature.



He noted that the toy drive went well, and they took three trips to the Rescue Mission to deliver the food and toys.

Chief DeSchryver said the police department is providing incentives for the officers to pass the physical aptitude test, noting that one officer was inspired to lose weight in order to pass.

The police department has been reaccredited for the 6th time. If there are no issues, they will reach the "Excelsior" level.

Police Clerk Haymee Watkins is on maternity leave and has a healthy baby girl named Ruby.

Deputy Chief Garcia and Officer Zane helped save a dog that had ingested an opiate. Deputy Chief administered Narcan, which saved the dog's life.

- **City Clerk Riffle**

Clerk's Report November 2024

City Clerk Riffle reviewed her report with the Council.

She asked for the Council's preference for the New Business flags, and the consensus was for a reverse red and white. City Hall will order two signs and see how they look.

## **M. MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL REPORTS**

### **Mayor Dowless**

Mayor Dowless began a discussion about the Waterfront. The restaurant needs to replace the drain field while they are in the process of connecting to sewer. One of the owners had health issues, and now money is an issue. They pump the septic tank every four to five days, which is very costly. If they can replace the drain field, they can make the current septic system last a little longer. They have been set back approximately nine months from their plan to complete the connection.

The Waterfront is also pursuing qualification for a SRS alcohol license. For this license, they must have 80 approved seats, and they currently have 79. Selling the liquor license would help speed up the process of having the funds to connect to sewer.

At worst, they may have to sell the restaurant. They have plans for The Waterfront to be an eclectic place in Edgewood, and they really want to continue with the business.

Attorney Smith referred to the City Code and said once the septic tank is touched, they are required to connect to the sewer if they are within 100 feet of a connection.

Ryan Davis, an owner of The Waterfront, said the drain field would be located in the same location as it is a temporary measure. They are not yet making the changes to parking and they cannot pull the necessary permits until they have connected to sewer.

Attorney Smith clarified that connection to sewer is a site plan requirement. If they just replace the drainfield, they can move forward under Orange County's requirements. However, if they plan to replace the septic tank, they are required by Code Section 66-19 to have sewer unless they submit a written petition.

Mr. Davis confirmed that it would just be the drain field and not the septic tank.

**Planning & Zoning Board Recommendation – K. Charles Phillips**

Mayor Dowless recommended that Katherine Charles Phillips retain her seat on the Planning and Zoning Board. Board Member Phillips just completed former Board Member Gibson's term on the Board, which she began in August.

*Council President Horn made a motion to retain Katherin Charles Phillips for a full term on the Planning and Zoning Board; seconded by Councilmember Lomas. The motion was approved by voice vote (5/0).*

Council Member Lomas - No report.

Council Member McElroy – No report

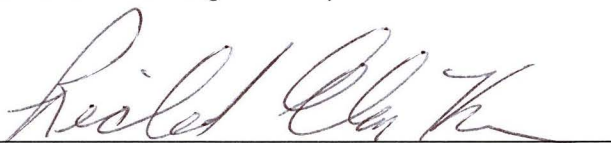
Council Member Rader - No report.

Council Member Steele - No report.

Council President Horn - No report.

**N. ADJOURNMENT**

Council President Horn made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:26 pm.



Richard A. Horn, Council President

Attest



Sandra Riffle, City Clerk