



CITY COUNCIL MEETING

City Hall – Council Chamber
405 Bagshaw Way, Edgewood, Florida
Tuesday, June 17, 2025 at 6:30 PM

DRAFT 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 confirmed a quorum with Mayor Dowless and all five Councilmembers present.

Staff 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

Sandra Riffle, City Clerk

Michael Fraticelli, Police Sergeant

Stacey Salemi, Code Compliance Officer

Drew Smith, City Attorney

C. PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS - No items

D. CONSENT AGENDA

1. May 20, 2025 City Council Meeting Minutes

Councilmember Rader made a motion to accept the May 20, 2025 minutes as presented; seconded by Councilmember Steele. The motion was approved by voice vote (5/0).

E. ORDINANCES (FIRST READING)

1. Ordinance 2025-05: Registration Fine Amount

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

City Attorney Smith read Ordinance 2025-05 in title only.

Council President Horn asked if a \$30 fine is appropriate. Attorney Smith responded that the State charges a similar amount and clarified that, unlike other violations, an unregistered vehicle parked on the right-of-way is not a statutory offense. He noted that issuing parking tickets for this might raise questions, as a lack of registration is not a safety hazard.

In response to Council President Horn, Attorney Smith stated that the State's fine schedule had likely not been reviewed in years.

There was no public comment

Councilmember Rader made a motion to approve Ordinance 2025-05; seconded by Councilmember Steele. The motion was approved by roll call vote (5/0).

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

G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - No items

H. NEW BUSINESS

1. Resolution 2025-02: Fingerprint Fee Amendment

Attorney Smith read Resolution 2025-02 in title only.

There was no public comment.

Councilmember McElroy made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-02; seconded by Councilmember Lomas. 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. FCC Environmental Services Update (Franchise Fees)

City Clerk Riffle provided an update on the status of FCC Environmental Services' franchise fees. She reviewed the findings of the financial audit report, noting that FCC is habitually late in paying franchise fees to the City and has not yet paid fees for the first quarter of 2025. She stated that per the contract, the franchise fee "shall be paid quarterly to the City by the Contractor no later than the last day of the month following quarter's end."

Clerk Riffle further reported that, per Council's direction, she requested a customer list of FCC's commercial customers. She received a report full of errors and is still awaiting a correct accounting, with FCC providing no timeline for when the City should expect a complete report.

City Clerk Riffle confirmed to Council President Horn that the City's contract with FCC ends in September 2026. She submitted a paper version of the contract to Attorney Smith.

3. Non-Ad Valorem Assessment FY 2025-2026

City Clerk Riffle reviewed her memo regarding the next fiscal year's non-ad valorem rate. Per the City's contract with FCC, the City is only required to increase FCC's rate by 3%. FCC requests an increase of 5.06% to cover its fees.

Mayor Dowless explained that the City sets aside funds to prepare for hurricane cleanup.

In response to Council President Horn, Attorney Smith stated that the City is preparing for the possibility that FEMA may not provide reimbursements in the future, and if so, there will be no need for monitors.

A brief discussion followed regarding a proposed new non-ad valorem rate. Council President Horn preferred to set the rate at \$345 "out of caution," in case FEMA reimbursements are not received.

Councilmember Rader expressed concern about the 5.06% increase request, noting that no CPI was at 3% in the 4/24 to 3/25 comparison. Councilmember McElroy stated he did not think CPI was the most relevant measurement and that FCC was quoting generic costs.

In response to Councilmember McElroy, Attorney Smith confirmed the City could raise the rate with a cushion, provided it was not an arbitrary number.

The Council reached a consensus to raise the non-ad valorem rate to \$345.00 and to further consider FCC's rate increase at a future meeting.

Council President Horn made a motion to increase the non-ad valorem rate to \$345.00 per unit annually; seconded by Councilmember Lomas. The motion was approved by roll call vote (5/0).

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

I. GENERAL INFORMATION - No items**J. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Caleb Castro, President of the Lake Harbor HOA, stated that the HOA is preparing to restripe their entrance to show designated traffic lanes. He noted that at the east end of Bagshaw Way, there are no lines to indicate the direction of traffic flow going left onto Hansel Avenue or across into Lake Harbor. Mayor Dowless stated he would look into the issue.

K. BOARDS & COMMITTEES – No items

L. STAFF REPORTS

City Attorney Smith – no report.

Police Chief DeSchryver

1. Chief's Report May 2025

Sergeant Fraticelli summarized Chief DeSchryver's report. Principal highlights included:

- From May 19th through June 1st, the Officers of the Edgewood Police Department participated in the annual National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and FDOT Click it or Ticket campaign which is a campaign to educate the public on the importance of correct seatbelt usage. During this period, 18 citations and 2 warnings were issued for this violation.
- Officers conducted multiple traffic details citywide, including addressing speeding on Gatlin Avenue, railroad track violations on Holden Avenue, and blocking the intersection at Lake Gatlin Road.

Edgewood Police Department personnel participated in various training sessions this month:

- Code Enforcement Officer Salemi and Police Clerk Watkins attended the Property and Evidence Association of Florida's conference.
- Sergeant Fraticelli, Officer Meade Officer Lafan, Officer Aponte, and Officer Tejada participated in ICE 287G Task Force Training
- Officer Meade, Officer Simmons and Officer Barreto – Plain View Plain Feel Webinar
- All Edgewood Police Officers – Police Rifle Red Dot System Transition Course and several webinars.
- On May 25, the Edgewood Police Department participated in the annual Family Abduction Awareness Day, a campaign to educate the public on the harm to children and families when child abductions occur (when a child is wrongfully retained or concealed by a parent or family member, depriving another individual of their right to custody, visitation, or contact).
- In response to Councilmember Lomas, Code Enforcement Officer Salemi confirmed that written information for family abduction awareness is available, and the awareness day aims to educate the public. She noted there is a link to their website. Councilmember Lomas commented that she works for a family law attorney and some officers are unaware of who has or should have custody of a child.
- Councilmember Lomas also noted a hit-and-run on Holden Avenue on Sunday, which Code Enforcement Officer Salemi confirmed was apprehended on Michigan Avenue.

City Clerk Riffle

1. Clerk's Report 5/17 through 6/13

City Clerk Riffle reminded Council of the upcoming deadline to file their Form 1 and that there is a fine for those who file late.

She reviewed her report.

- Attended the annual Florida Association of Business Tax Officials (FABTO) Conference and renewed her FABTO certification for another three years.
- RFP bidding for Debris Monitoring and Debris Collection closed, resulting in bids from one debris monitoring firm and five debris hauling contractors. The RFP review committee will evaluate submissions and make a recommendation to Council for award.
- Senator Rick Scott's Mobile Office will be available at City Hall on Wednesday, June 25, from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM to meet with residents and local community members to discuss concerns or answer questions.
- The financial audit for FY 2023–2024 was completed and submitted to the State.
- She will conduct a citywide tree assessment for trees on the rights-of-way (ROW), focusing on overall tree health and identifying trees requiring pruning or elevation.
- She reminded Council to review and select their professional headshots and share their selection with her.

M. MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Dowless

- The RFP review committee will meet to review and make recommendations on submitted proposals for storm debris management.
- Encouraged Councilmembers to register for the Florida League of Cities conference, taking place August 14–16 at the Hilton Bonnet Creek.
- In response to Mayor Dowless, Attorney Smith stated he would research HOA enforcement of work vehicles parked in residential driveways. He noted that while the City code does not regulate commercial vehicle parking, they may not be parked in the right-of-way.
- In response to Councilmember Lomas, Attorney Smith confirmed that vehicle signage is addressed in the sign code and that a private vehicle could be considered commercial if it had signage. He also mentioned a weight limit determining a work or commercial truck.

Council Member Lomas

Councilmember Lomas reported that she attended the HAINC meeting:

- She asked HAINC to notify Councilmember Beth Steele of their meetings and for Friends of the Park.
- Commissioner Uribe said the County will be redistricting and adding two additional commissioners.
- OCPS is fighting Vision 2050.

- They discussed the EPOC development and said the old Howard Johnson will become a recovery home. She requested that HAINC address this with Commissioner Uribe.
- She is on the CAB committee until 2026.

Council Member McElroy – no report

Council Member Rader – no report

Council Member Steele – no report

Council President Horn

- Noted a number of old and abandoned AT&T boxes in the City and his neighborhood that are unsightly and have been hit. Mayor Dowless will contact AT&T.

N. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 pm.


Richard A. Horn, Council President

Attest:


Sandra Riffle, City Clerk