



CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

City Hall – Council Chamber
405 Bagshaw Way, Edgewood, Florida
Tuesday, April 15, 2025 at 6:30 PM

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 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

Staff Present:

Sandra Riffle, City Clerk
Dean DeSchryver, Chief of Police
Miguel Garcia, Deputy Chief of Police
Stacey Salemi, Code Enforcement Officer
Mike Fraticelli, Police Sergeant
Chris Meade, Police Officer First Class
Drew Smith, City Attorney

C. PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. 2024 Officer of the Year Award

Chief DeSchryver presented the Officer of the Year Award to Officer First Class Christopher Meade.

D. CONSENT AGENDA

1. March 18, 2025 City Council Meeting Minutes

Councilmember Rader made a motion to approve the March 18, 2025 City Council meeting minutes as presented; seconded by Councilmember Lomas. The motion was approved by voice vote (5/0).

E. ORDINANCES (FIRST READING)

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

G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

H. NEW BUSINESS

1. Decommission of Vehicle #64 2014 Dodge Charger

Chief DeSchryver said Vehicle #64, Dodge Charger has gone to auction. Council had no objection with the disposal of the vehicle.

2. Review of Consultant Contracts

City Clerk Riffle gave a review of the City's current contractors. While there were some concerns with the Florida Environmental Services accounts payable and accounts receivable, the majority of the services have been good. Concerns with CRI involved the length of the audits, interaction with staff, and repetitive questions.

The consensus of the Council was to retain the current contractors with attention to improvements with FCC and CRI.

I. GENERAL INFORMATION**J. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Edgewood resident Caleb Castro spoke about FCC Environmental Services. He supports having FCC tag anything out of compliance. The Lake Harbor HOA website directs residents to the City's website for information about FCC's services.

K. BOARDS & COMMITTEES**L. STAFF REPORTS**

City Attorney Smith – no report

Police Chief DeSchryver

1. Chief's Report March 2025

Chief Deschryver said that the Police Department submitted the 287(g) form regarding immigration.

He told Council that the State Attorney General's Office is feuding with the local State Attorney over her policy to no longer accept non-arrest cases, with a few exceptions, like domestic violence. His concern is with the misdemeanor cases because, unless they are caught in the act, or an officer is in fresh pursuit, the police have no options to hold them accountable for the criminal activity.

As an example, Det. Crock had a serial shoplifter who had hit a local store numerous times. EPD knew the identity of the suspect but could not locate him. Det. Crock submitted for a misdemeanor arrest warrant; however, the judge denied the warrant unless the suspect had two prior convictions for petit theft or the amount stolen was of a certain value to make it a felony. The judge denied the warrant, and the State Attorney refused to take the case because there was no arrest, so the police had no avenue to get justice for the victims.

Chief Deschryver said that the Police Department passed their audits. If passed, the agency will receive an excelsior level for successfully completing five consecutive re-accreditations. The accreditation ceremony will be held on June 19th in Celebration.

He gave accolades to Code Enforcement Officer Salemi for her excellent preparation for the audit and to Sergeant Fraticelli for completing a six-month course for public safety leadership and development.

City Clerk Riffle

1. Clerk's Report 3-17 through 4-11

- City Clerk Riffle gave an update of City Hall activities.
The stormwater pond located at the end of Mary Jess Shores Court was bush hogged for the first time in 30 years. This will now be attended to on an annual basis.
- Sidewalk repairs have begun with the primary focus in the Waterwitch subdivision.
- Staff members Brett Sollazzo and Ashley Pagan have worked with businesses to come into compliance with window signage.
- City Hall staff is making the transition from checks to ACH payments for regularly occurring, budgeted items. City Clerk Riffle assured City Council that the list of ACH payments would be made available when checks are signed for their signatures.

M. MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

- Mayor Dowless

Mayor Dowless informed Councilmembers that the Florida League of Cities will hold an ethics training class on Thursday in Casselberry.

He said he met with Bell Rentals and will possibly have a presentation for the Council regarding that property.

Mayor Dowless said that he would like to consider opening up the parking code to make it easier for businesses. Businesses are permitted to use off-site parking lots, but it is a daunting process, and he would like to find a way that is more business friendly.

Attorney Smith said recording parking agreements with the comptroller became part of the process to provide protection if businesses change hands. The agreements follow the land.

Councilmember Steele said if the City wants to attract businesses to Edgewood, the City needs to make it easier to do so.

Councilmember Rader said the purpose of the agreements is to protect neighboring properties and help the business from failing.

Mayor Dowless said most businesses are not right up against residential zoning.

The consensus of the Council was to look into some parking agreement options.

- 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

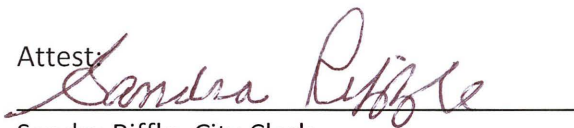
N. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:12 pm.



Richard A. Horn, Council President

Attest:



Sandra Riffle, City Clerk