



CITY COUNCIL MEETING

City Hall – Council Chamber
405 Bagshaw Way, Edgewood, Florida
Tuesday, July 21, 2026 at 6:30 PM

MINUTES

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

Council President Horn called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm. He then asked for a moment of silence and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. ROLL CALL & DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

City Clerk Riffle confirmed a quorum with all elected officials present.

Present: Mayor Dowless, Council President Horn, Council President Pro-Tem Lomas, Councilmember McElroy, Councilmember Santurri, Councilmember Steele

Staff: City Clerk Riffle, Deputy Chief Garcia, Corporal Meade, Officer Arellano-Zane, Planner Hardgrove, and Attorney Smith.

Absent: Chief DeSchryver

C. PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. EPD Fleet Presentation

Presentation of the Citizenship Award: Deputy Chief Garcia presented an award to Brett and Jack Barner for their heroic rescue efforts that saved two storm victims on Lake Jessamine. Brett Barner thanked the first responders and expressed sympathy for the family of the boy who could not be saved.

Police Department Fleet Modernization Proposal

- **Current Operational Challenges:** Deputy Chief Garcia and Corporal Meade highlighted rising maintenance costs on aging, out-of-warranty vehicles (e.g., recurring water pump failures on 2019 models). Currently, 13 of 18 fleet vehicles (72.2%) operate without warranty coverage, incurring average maintenance costs of \$4,500/year per vehicle—3.75 times higher than units under warranty (\$1,200/year).
- **Proposed Replacement Plan (Phase 1):** The department proposed procuring 15 new 2026 Ford vehicles using Ford Pro Government Price Concession (GPC) pricing:
 - 1 Ford Expedition Active (Chief)
 - 1 Ford F-250 XLT Diesel 4x4 (Deputy Chief / Heavy Towing)
 - 1 Ford Explorer Active (Mayor)
 - 2 Ford Explorer FPIU Unmarked (CID)

- 10 Ford Explorer FPIU Marked (Patrol)
- **Financial Impact & Operational Savings:** Total initial investment is estimated between \$888,200 and \$918,000 (\$772,000 base cost plus ~\$23,000 per vehicle for upfitting). The investment includes a 5-Year / 100,000-Mile Commercial Powertrain Warranty and is projected to yield \$320,000+ in total 5-year savings (maintenance reduction, fuel efficiency, and reduced downtime), bringing the net operational cost to approximately \$528,000–\$580,000. Mullinax Ford also offered mobile service to eliminate officer travel time to Apopka.
- **Safety & Risk Mitigation:** Features include a projected 30–45% reduction in vehicle liability claims and enhanced officer safety via 75-mph rear crash testing, optional ballistic door panels, and Police Perimeter Alert tech.
- **Council Input:** Council President Horn and Councilmember Steele expressed interest in avoiding another major replacement cycle in five years and requested staff evaluate alternative 3-year versus 5-year depreciation and replacement timelines. Deputy Chief Garcia confirmed staff will review these options with Ford.

D. CONSENT AGENDA

1. June 16, 2026 City Council Meeting Minutes

Council member Lomas made a motion to approve the June 16, 2026, City Council Meeting Minutes as presented; seconded by Councilmember Steele. The motion was approved by voice vote (5/0).

E. ORDINANCES (FIRST READING)

1. Ordinance 2026-05: Fence Scrivener's Error

Attorney Smith read Ordinance 2026-05 in title only.

The proposed ordinance adds wrought iron and powder-coated aluminum designed to mimic wrought iron to that pre-approved list. Wrought iron and powder-coated aluminum designed to mimic wrought iron are recognized in other sections of the City's fence regulations. These materials were inadvertently omitted from the consolidated list of pre-approved permanent fence materials during the last fence regulation update in 2025.

There was no public comment.

Councilmember Lomas made a motion to approve Ordinance 2026-05 as presented; seconded by Councilmember Santurri. The motion was approved by roll call vote (5/0).

Councilmember Lomas	Approve
Councilmember McElroy	Approve
Councilmember Santurri	Approve
Councilmember Steele	Approve
Council President Horn	Approve

2. Ordinance 2026-06: Smoke Shop & Convenience Store Definitions

Planner Hardgrove said there are no definitions in the zoning code for "Convenience Store" and "Tobacco and E-Cigarette/Vape Shops," which is an issue as Tobacco/Vape shops are prohibited within the City. The existing code lacks standards necessary to differentiate them from standard retail, particularly convenience stores, which typically sell tobacco or vaping products as a minor, incidental portion of their inventory. The proposed ordinance amends Chapter 134 to establish measurable definitions based on floor area and product inventory and creates a legally compliant framework to bring pre-existing, nonconforming retail operations into compliance over time.

In response to Councilmember Steele, Attorney Smith said there is an amortization over a year included in the ordinance. If there is a hardship, the ordinance includes the ability for City Council to offer an additional 180 days for the business to come into compliance. He said the purpose of the one-year amortization period is to allow a business to change what they are selling, rather than having to shut down. The Ordinance does not introduce new prohibited uses; vape and smoke shops are already prohibited in the City.

In response to Councilmember McElroy, Attorney Smith said that the Ordinance introduces a metric to differentiate the type of business. Planner Hardgrove added that if a store offers any paraphernalia, it is automatically a smoke shop. Attorney Smith said that "excluding lighters" can be added to the verbiage under Schedule 1 to ensure stores that sell them are not automatically considered a tobacco and vape shop. Discussion ensued related to P&Z's recommendation to add the sale of synthetic and artificial drugs to the qualifications for a tobacco/vape shop, which was added to the proposed ordinance following the P&Z hearing.

Councilmember Santurri made a motion to approve Ordinance 2026-06 with the addition of the verbiage "excluding lighters" to line 89; seconded by Councilmember Lomas. The motion was approved by roll call vote (5/0).

There was no public comment.

Councilmember Steele	Approve
Councilmember Santurri	Approve
Councilmember McElroy	Approve
Councilmember Lomas	Approve
Council President Horn	Approve

3. Ordinance 2026-07: Fire Assessment

Attorney Smith read Ordinance 2026-07 in title only.

The City of Edgewood is proposing Ordinance No. 2026-07, which is the first step to establishing the legislative home-rule authority to create and collect a non-ad valorem fire services assessment. This ordinance itself does *not* set rates or levy a tax; it establishes the legally required statutory framework under Florida law that allows the City to implement a fire assessment in a future budget cycle.

In response to Council President Horn, the first reading does not lock the City on a rate; the rate will be set later in the process.

There was no public comment.

Council President Horn made a motion to approve Ordinance 2026-07; seconded by Councilmember McElroy. The motion was approved by roll call vote (5/0).

Councilmember McElroy	Approve
Councilmember Steele	Approve
Councilmember Lomas	Approve
Councilmember Santurri	Approve
Council President Horn	Approve

4. Ordinance 2026-08: CBA Adoption

Attorney Smith read Ordinance 2026-08 in title only

Mayor Dowless said the negotiations from the Collective Bargaining process (CBA) between the City and the Police Union (PBA) ended in a good, if expensive, product. He said the PBA played "hardball" and Attorney Smith, Chief DeSchryver and DC Garcia all performed an indispensable job.

Councilmember Lomas stated concerns about the buyback for personal time off and said people deserve a vacation. Corporal Meade explained that some officers find it difficult to take time off, so the PBA requested to remove the maximum accrual so that people that do use the PTO will have hours saved for unforeseen circumstances, particularly for medical. Mayor Dowless added that leave requests are approved by the Chief to avoid too many absences at a time. Attorney Smith said 320 hours can be bought back; it is only the accrual that changed.

Attorney Smith stated that there are costs for leave but the buyback did not change. The accrual no longer has a capped amount, but the buyback amount is capped.

Mayor Dowless said that we do not know about the proposed tax initiative yet. The PBA agreed that if it passes, they will freeze the pay scale increases and lock in at that step.

There was no public comment.

Attorney Smith noted that Councilmember Lomas found a typo on page 88 and verbiage should be "there should be a "B or better". That change will be corrected.

Councilmember Lomas made a motion to approve Ordinance 2026-08 with the correction; seconded by Councilmember Santurri. The motion was approved by roll call vote (5/0).

Councilmember Santurri	Approve
Councilmember Steele	Approve
Councilmember Lomas	Approve
Councilmember McElroy	Approve
Council President Horn	Approve

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

G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

H. NEW BUSINESS

1. Tentative Millage FY 2026/2027

Clerk Riffle told the Council that the tentative millage rate can be set higher than the anticipated rate rather than lower as the rate cannot be set higher after it has been submitted to the Orange County Property Appraiser. City Council will have the ability only to keep the tentative rate or lower it at the final budget hearing. The consensus of the Council was not to raise the tentative millage from the current rate.

There was no public comment.

Council President Horn made the following motion: I move to set the City's tentative operating millage rate at 5.25 mills and direct the City Clerk to complete forms DR-420 and DR-420MM-P for formal submission to the Orange County Property Appraiser on or before noon on August 4, 2026. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Lomas and was approved by roll call vote (5/0).

Councilmember Lomas	Approve
Councilmember McElroy	Approve
Councilmember Santurri	Approve
Councilmember Steele	Approve
Council President Horn	Approve

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

J. CITIZEN COMMENTS - There were no Citizen Comments.

K. BOARDS & COMMITTEES

L. STAFF REPORTS**City Attorney Smith**

Attorney Smith said he attended a conference which included information on Artificial Intelligence (AI). He noted the legal complexities of integrating AI with public records law and cautioned staff to use it with discretion. He hoped the legislature will take it up and offer guidance.

Police Chief DeSchryver**1. Chief's Report June 2026**

Deputy Chief Garcia reported a successful, fully compliant annual inventory. The department welcomed new Officer Brian Hoffman.

Corporal Lafan was awarded the Accreditation Officer of the Year. DC Garcia said that he is instrumental to the department keeping its accreditation level.

City Clerk Riffle

Clerk Riffle said that City Hall is working with code enforcement and Planner Hardgrove on landscape in the CRECD corridor.

Due to the primary election date conflict at City Hall, Council unanimously approved moving the August 18, 2026, City Council meeting and budget workshop to August 11, 2026, starting at 5:00 PM.

Council President Horn made a motion to move the City Council meeting from August 18, 2026 at 6:30 pm to August 11, 2026, at 6:30 pm or as soon as possible thereafter; seconded by Councilmember Steele. The motion was approved by voice vote (5/0).

Code Compliance Officer Arellano-Zane

Officer Arellano-Zane is prioritizing commercial landscape compliance and monitoring the influx of roadside signage during the weeks before the election.

In response to Councilmember Lomas, Officer Arellano-Zane said Meineke cannot have the ground sign, but that Brett Sollazzo gave them some options. As of this date there has been no follow up from Meineke.

M. MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL REPORTS**Mayor Dowless**

Mayor Dowless said he received the bill analysis of the implications from the proposed property tax. with the following approximate reductions in Edgewood's revenue:

Year one: -\$454,000

Year two: -\$857,000

Year three: -\$960,000

Year four: -\$1,79,000

Year 5: -\$1,189,000

Council Member Lomas – no report

Council Member McElroy – no report

Council Member Santurri – 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 7:55 pm.



Richard A. Horn, Council President

Attest:



Sandra Riffle, City Clerk