



CITY COUNCIL MEETING

City Hall – Council Chamber
405 Bagshaw Way, Edgewood, Florida
Tuesday, March 18, 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

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

Staff Present:

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

C. ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

1. Administer Oath of Office

City Clerk Riffle administered the Oath of Office to Mayor Dowless and Councilmember Horn.

2. Election of Council President and Pro-Tem

Councilmember Rader made a motion to elect Councilmember Horn as Council President; seconded by Councilmember Lomas. The motion was approved by voice vote (5/0).

Councilmember Lomas made a motion to elect Councilmember Rader as Council President ProTem, seconded by Councilmember Steele. The motion was approved by voice vote (5/0).

3. Councilmember Responsibility Designations

Councilmember assignments were designated as follows:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| • Finance | Councilmember McElroy |
| • Code Compliance | Council President Horn |
| • HAINC Liaison | Councilmember Steele |
| • Cypress Grove Liaison | Councilmember Steele |
| • Land Development/Master Plan | Councilmember Rader |
| • Public Works | Councilmember Lomas |

- MetroPlan John Dowless
- Police Department John Dowless
- City Hall John Dowless
- Contract Staff John Dowless

Councilmember Rader made a motion to approve the recommended Councilmember assignments, seconded by Councilmember Steele. The motion was approved by voice vote (5/0).

D. CONSENT AGENDA

1. February 18, 2025 City Council Meeting Minutes

Councilmember Rader requested a change to page six to read. "Attorney Smith responded to Councilmember Rader and said it is permissible to add a similar and compatible use without a public hearing process outside of public notice, but it would be heard at a publicly noticed Council meeting. If approved, it would be added to the list of allowed uses."

Mayor Dowless requested a change to the last paragraph on page 6 to read, "Mayor Dowless noted that this is not a heavy industrial use. He visited similar properties and saw a variety of businesses and vehicles, not just large trucks, and many professionals in suits. He asked Ms. Wilson to elaborate on hours and uses for those properties."

Councilmember Lomas made a motion to approve the minutes with corrections, seconded by Councilmember Rader. The motion was approved by voice vote (5/0).

E. ORDINANCES (FIRST READING)

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

1. Ordinance 2025-03 - TECO Franchise Fee Agreement

Attorney Smith read Ordinance 2025-03 in title only.

There were no changes since the first reading. There was no public comment.

Councilmember Rader made a motion to approve Ordinance 2025-03 in title only; 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

G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

H. NEW BUSINESS**1. Planning and Zoning Board Appointment**

Mayor Dowless recommended Angie Sharp to fill the seat on the Planning and Zoning Board that K. Charles Phillips will soon vacate. Mayor Dowless said that Ms. Sharp is a 10-year resident of Edgewood and has volunteered her time in the City.

Ms. Sharp addressed the City Council, stating that she was born and raised in the Orlando area and is a professional accountant. Councilmember Rader thanked her for volunteering her time, and Councilmember Steele expressed excitement about her joining the P&Z Board.

Council President Horn made a motion to appoint Angie Sharp to the Planning and Zoning Board; seconded by Councilmember Steele. The motion was approved by voice vote (5/0).

City Clerk Riffle administered the Oath of Office to Angie Sharp.

2. MOU - Taskforce Model to assist Immigration and Custom Enforcement

Note: This item was moved from the Consent Agenda to New Business.

The purpose of this MOA is to establish the terms and conditions under which selected Law Enforcement Agency personnel will be approved and trained by ICE to perform certain functions of an immigration officer. The MOU is endorsed by Florida Police Chiefs.

In response to Councilmember Lomas, Attorney Smith clarified that cities are responsible for their own staff and costs. Chief DeSchryver noted to Councilmember McElroy that the duration of the training is not specified in the document.

There was no public comment.

Councilmember Steele made a motion to approve the MOU as presented; seconded by Councilmember Lomas. The motion was approved by voice vote (5/0).

I. GENERAL INFORMATION**J. CITIZEN COMMENTS** – There were no citizen comments.**K. BOARDS & COMMITTEES****L. STAFF REPORTS****City Attorney Smith**

Attorney Smith said the time frame for an appeal for the EPOC Ordinances 2025-01 (comprehensive plan) is 30 days for the State and 2025-02 (rezoning) is 30 days with the City from the date of signing.

Attorney Smith said Bell Rentals is not yet prepared to present an agreement.

Police Chief DeSchryver

1. Chief's Report February 2025

- Chief DeSchryver said that this year they have received two grants, including a \$10,000 JAG grant.
- Haymee Watkins is back from maternity leave. Officer White should return from deployment at the end of the fiscal year.
- The accreditation process will commence next month.
- A store in Versailles is performing animal sacrifices, which are legal if performed humanely. Residents have expressed concerns about this. In response to Councilmember Rader, Attorney Smith clarified that the issue pertains to freedom of religion, not zoning regulations.

City Clerk Riffle

1. Clerk's Report 2/17/2025 through 3/14/2025

- City Clerk Riffle announced that auditors will attend the April City Council Meeting to deliver their presentation.

Regarding the RFPs for Storm Debris Monitoring and Hauling Services, the Council reached a consensus to form a selection committee and present the top three choices to the Council for approval.

Mayor Dowless proposed that the RFP selection committee comprise of someone from EPD, resident Caleb Castro, and himself. The Council raised no objections.

Councilmember Rader made a motion to accept the Mayor's recommended RFP review committee a a resident, the Mayor and a representative from the Police Department. The motion was approved by voice vote (5/0).

- City Hall has purchased two new business welcome banners, which have been delivered and will soon be put to use.

City Clerk Riffle explained that street sweeping services for streets within MSTUs are not part of the main County budget, and not all streets within the MSTUs receive these services. The allocation of services is determined by board members, and the extent of services depends on the available budget.

Mayor Dowless expressed his desire to have all streets paying into the MSTU for Conway and Jessamine to receive some level of service. Currently, more streets in the Lake Conway MSTU receive services than in the Lake Jessamine MSTU.

Council President Horn suggested that a city representative regularly attend the Lake Board meetings.

M. MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

- **Mayor Dowless**

Mayor Dowless reported that he and Planner Hardgrove met with Orange County regarding the Holden/Orange/Gatlin Avenue intersection. Two years ago, Orange County commissioners committed to studying an alternative route and proposed a route through Ft. Gatlin Shopping Center by Oak Cove Lane. This route is expensive and does not account for lost business, stormwater management, or other related expenses. The county has agreed to pause the project but acknowledges the persistent nature of the problem. The county believes the costs outweigh the benefits.

Consultants have recommended two actions: creating two turn lanes from Orange to Holden (which would require Holden to have two receiving lanes) and restriping the turn lane leading to the former Le Coq Au Vin to serve as a queue line for traffic turning onto Holden Avenue.

- **Council Member Lomas**

Councilmember Lomas reported that the Orange County CAB's finance and budget committee is currently composed of only two people. She noted that the committee spends more on payroll than any other expense, and over half of a million-dollar grant was spent on eight employees.

- **Council Member McElroy** – no report
- **Council Member Rader**– no report
- **Council Member Steele** – no report
- **Council President Horn**

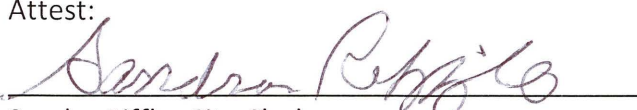
Council President Horn noted that he attends MetroPlan Transportation System Management & Operations (TSMO) when he can. Councilmember Lomas offered to serve as the backup representative when Council President Horn is unable to attend.

N. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:17 pm.


Richard A. Horn, Council President

Attest:


Sandra Riffle, City Clerk