



TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2026 CITY COUNCIL MEETING

City Hall – Council Chamber
405 Bagshaw Way, Edgewood, Florida
Tuesday, March 17, 2026 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 confirmed a quorum with all Councilmembers and Mayor Dowless present.

Elected Officials Present:

John Dowless, Mayor
Richard A. Horn, Council President
Susan Lomas, Councilmember
Casey McElroy, Councilmember
Beth Steele, Councilmember

Staff Present:

Sandra Riffle, City Clerk
Dean DeSchryver, Police Chief
Miguel Garcia, Deputy Police Chief
Drew Smith, City Attorney
Allen Lane, City Engineer

C. PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. Police Department Award of Administrative Excellence

Presentation of Awards

Chief DeSchryver presented the Award of Administrative Excellence to Corporal Adam Lafan. This honor, the agency's sixth-highest award, recognizes Corporal Lafan's dedication, performance, and significant impact on the department's accreditation.

Chief DeSchryver discussed a recent water rescue at Lake Jessamine. Officer Camerer self-dispatched to the scene, and other officers on duty responded by swimming out to the victims and using a boat with Officer Camerer. Orange County units recovered three of the boys; however, one child remains missing.

The Chief formally recognized Officer Camerer for his bravery during the operation.

Council President Horn stated that the city cannot function without the Police Department. He expressed his personal thanks and appreciation to Corporal Lafan and Officer Camerer.

D. ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

1. Administration of Oath of Office to Councilmember Susan Lomas

City Clerk Riffle administered the Oath of Office to Councilmember Susan Lomas to serve her next term on the City Council.

2. Election of Council President and Pro-Tem

Councilmember Lomas made a motion to elect Councilmember Horn as Council President. Seconded by Councilmember Steele. The motion was approved by voice vote (4/0).

Council President Horn made a motion to elect Councilmember Lomas as Council President ProTem, seconded by Councilmember Steele. The motion was approved by voice vote (4/0).

3. Designation of Councilmember Assignments

The Council reached a consensus to maintain all current member assignments in their existing capacities. A vacancy on the Land Development Master Plan committee, formerly held by the late Councilmember Rader, was addressed. Council President Horn volunteered to oversee this assignment.

Mayor Dowless noted that filling the seat immediately may not be critical to operations. He explained that discussions and meetings regarding Land Use frequently occur directly with the City Planner. He clarified his typical practice of including the most applicable and interested Councilmembers in those planning meetings as needed.

Council President Horn made a motion to continue the designated assignment and replace the Land Development Master Plan assignment by Council President Horn. Second by Lomas (4/0) by voice vote.

The 2026/2027 areas of assignments are as follows:

Finance	Councilmember McElroy
Code Enforcement	Council President Horn
HAINC and Cypress Grove Liaison	Councilmember Steele
Lane Development Master Plan	Council President Horn
Public Works	Councilmember Lomas
City Hall Staff Police Department Staff Contract Staff	Mayor Dowless

E. CONSENT AGENDA

1. February 17, 2026 City Council Meeting Minutes

Councilmember McElroy made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda as presented; seconded by Councilmember Steele. The motion was approved (4/0) by voice vote.

F. ORDINANCES (FIRST READING)

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

H. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

I. NEW BUSINESS

1. Harbour Island Bridge Report

Allen Lane (CPH) provided an update on the Harbour Island bridge, introducing Engineer Mike Albano, a Vice President of DRMP (a sister company to CPH) to discuss technical assessments.

Engineer Lane clarified that previous reports utilized FDOT regional numbers. Local EPD counts indicate a daily average of 296 vehicles (ranging from 226–263), significantly lower than the figures presented in the initial Ayres report submitted to the City.

Engineer Albano summarized the Bridge Health and Longevity. The bridge is currently rated at 63.9, and a rating between 60 and 80 is considered good; rehabilitation is expected to improve this score. The Health Index is currently 82.5, which falls within the "good condition" range of 70–90. The bridge is approximately 61 years old and is estimated to last another 20 years. The low volume of heavy truck traffic contributes to its longevity.

Council President Horn initiated a discussion on the dewatering process and sheet piling. Mr. Albano noted that while the "dry" method of dewatering is typically best for these repairs, they will investigate "in-the-wet" systems, such as using steel piles, to see if they are viable. CPH and DRNP will investigate required dewatering permits and coordinate with FDOT.

Mr. Albano said that guardrail work can be performed at any time. Repairs would likely be conducted on one side of the bridge at a time.

The Consensus of the Council was to issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) with a project start date of February 2027, to take advantage of the dry season when water levels are at their lowest.

CPH will submit a formal proposal for construction plans and management, including updated cost estimates that account for dewatering and milling/resurfacing.

J. GENERAL INFORMATION

K. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Bruno Lahr, owner of Empire Tattoo Studio, requested permission to extend his operating hours past 9:00 pm. He explained that sometimes they have not completed a project by 9:00 pm. He said

he puts the "closed" sign in the window and will not take any more customers that day, and also will not accept any new clients after 8:30 pm.

Council President Horn explained the City would have to open the ordinance to make that change. He said that if the studio is not closed at 9:00 pm, they would be subject to a code violation. Mr. Lahr said they do try to adjust the schedule according to the project, but that some clients cannot come until after work.

Councilmember Lomas pointed out that time management was key, and Mayor Dowless said he could empathize with the situation, but at this moment, a new ordinance may not pass. He reminded Mr. Lahr that members of the public were opposed to their operating a tattoo studio in the City. He suggested that they demonstrate compliance to earn the community's trust. Councilmember Steele said to show that they are a good business in Edgewood.

Mr. Lahr thanked the Council for their consideration.

L. BOARDS & COMMITTEES

M. STAFF REPORTS

City Attorney Smith

City Attorney Smith reported that the first CBA session was held earlier in the day and the second session is scheduled for April.

Police Chief DeSchryver

1. Chief's Report February 2026

Chief DeSchryver said he met with CABT - Coalition Against Bigger Trucks. It appears the no one wants to have the bigger trucks, and he shared his grievances with them.

Council President Horn noted that either larger trucks or more smaller trucks will be on the road because a certain amount of freight will pass through.

On that subject, Councilmember Lomas asked about semi-trucks parking at the Auto Zone at SOBT and Holden Avenue at night, and whether they may be the trucks coming down Holden Avenue at 4:00 to 5:30 am. Council President Horn advised calling 311 because that location is in Orange County, and parking in the driveways is a code violation.

2. Clerk's Report 2-13-2026 through 3-12-2026

- EPD Roof: City Clerk Riffle requested Council guidance on the composition of the RFP review committee for the Police Department roof project. Rather than recommending including CPH in the review and scoring process, they preferred appointing a city resident with a relevant professional background to serve on the committee.
- Stormwater Project Updates:

- Oaks Circle & Commerce Drive: Repairs at Commerce Drive are complete. Follow-up work is required at Oaks Circle to repair the roadway where it subsided over the pipe, and backfilling is scheduled for the Commerce Drive site.
- Lake Mary Jess Shores Court: A technical update revealed that the pipe has separated from the block. As a result, the section requires full replacement rather than repair. The Clerk is currently awaiting cost estimates for this work.
- Sidewalk Maintenance Initiative: Clerk Riffle and Ashley Pagan will conduct a physical inspection of city sidewalks to identify sections requiring immediate repair. Councilmember Lomas expressed interest in the initiative and noted she would join the inspection as her schedule permits.

3. Code Enforcement Officer Zane

- Officer Zane provided a follow-up report regarding local noise concerns. He noted that no noise complaints were recorded during the evenings of the last two weekends.
- He met with Zen Tavern management to remind them of the city's nighttime noise regulations.
- Officer Zane expressed his desire to see this trend of compliance continue and will continue to monitor the area.

N. MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Dowless

- **City Council Vacancy:** Mayor Dowless recommended appointing Ryan Santurri to fill the seat left vacant by the passing away of Councilmember Rader. He said Mr. Santurri is an intellectual property attorney residing on Harbour Island Road and has a record of municipal service, having served two terms on the Planning & Zoning (P&Z) Board. There was no opposition from the Council.

Councilmember Lomas made a motion to appoint Ryan Santurri to the City Council; seconded by Councilmember McElroy. The motion was approved (4/0) by voice vote.

- **New Business: Telecommunications Infrastructure**

Mayor Dowless informed the Council of an upcoming "mini" cell tower installation on Jessamine Lane. To ensure the structure is as inconspicuous as possible, the tower will be a decorative model painted black. Additional landscaping will be planted around the base to help it blend into the surroundings. The Mayor clarified that under state law, the city is required to allow the installation of such telecommunications equipment within the right-of-way.

Council Member Lomas – no report

Council Member McElroy – no report

Council Member Steele – no report

Council President Horn – no report

O. ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Lomas made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 pm.



Richard A. Horn, Council President

Attest:



Sandra Riffle, City Clerk