



CITY COUNCIL FINAL BUDGET HEARING

City Hall – Council Chamber
405 Bagshaw Way, Edgewood, Florida
Monday, September 22, 2025 at 6:00 PM

DRAFT MINUTES

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

Council President Horn called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm. He asked for a moment of silence and then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. ROLL CALL & DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Clerk Riffle confirmed there was a quorum with Mayor Dowless and four Councilmembers present. Councilmember Rader participated by phone but did not vote at this hearing.

Elected Officials Present:

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

Staff Members Present:

Sandra Riffle, City Clerk
Dean DeSchryver, Chief of Police
Drew Smith, City Attorney

Absent:

Chris Rader, Council President Pro-Tem
(participated by phone)

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

1. Ordinance 2025-10: Set Millage Rate Fiscal Year 2025/2026

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF EDGEWOOD, ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE FINAL LEVY OF AD VALOREM TAXES UPON THE ASSESSED REAL AND BUSINESS PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX ROLLS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2025/26, BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2025, AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2026 AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Attorney Smith read Ordinance 2025-10 in title only.

There was no public comment.

Council President Horn moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2025-10, setting the City of Edgewood's millage rate for Fiscal Year 2025/2026 at 5.250 mills, which represents a 7.760 percent increase over the roll-back rate of 4.872 mills. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Lomas and was approved by roll call vote (4/0).

Mayor Dowless noted that two public budget workshops were held before the two hearings. This is the fourth budget meeting for fiscal year 2025/2026.

Lomas, McElroy, Rader, Steele, Horn 4/0

2. Resolution 2025-04: Approved Budget Fiscal Year 2025/2026

Attorney Smith read Resolution 2025-04 in title only.

Mayor Dowless noted that there was an adjustment of approximately \$2,000 to the Police Department's budget. He also stated that he may have negotiated a better insurance rate than FMIT, which will save money.

There was no public comment.

Council President Horn said that the budget will transfer \$77,000 from reserves; however, this is money that taxpayers have already paid, and they do not wish to raise taxes.

Councilmember Lomas moved to adopt Resolution No. 2025-04. adopting the City of Edgewood's budget for fiscal year 2025/2026. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Steele, and the motion was approved by roll call vote (4/0).

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

CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were no citizen comments.

D. ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Steele made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:07 pm.

Richard A. Horn, Council President

Attest:

Sandra Riffle, City Clerk