



**City Council Meeting Draft Minutes
February 15, 2022 at 6:30 pm**

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 followed by the pledge of allegiance

ROLL CALL & DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Interim City Clerk Riffle announced there was a quorum.

Attendees

John Dowless, Mayor
Richard Alan Horn, Council President
Ben Pierce, Council President Pro-Tem
Lee Chotas, Council Member
Susan Lomas, Council Member
Chris Rader, Council Member

Staff

Sandra Riffle, Interim City Clerk
John Freeburg, Police Chief
Shannon Patterson, Police Dept. Chief of Staff
Stacey Salemi, Code Compliance Officer
Don Hughey, Police Officer
City Attorney, Drew Smith
Ellen Hardgrove, AICP City Planner

PRESENTATIONS

Chief Freeburg gave a presentation to Officer Don Hughey for his retirement. Officer Hughey said he enjoyed serving the City of Edgewood and will miss the Edgewood family. Mayor Dowless and City Council thanked him for his service.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. January 18, 2022 City Council Meeting Minutes
Councilmember Chotas made a motion to approve the January 18, 2022 meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Lomas. Approved (5/0).

CONSENT AGENDA

None

ORDINANCES

None

PUBLIC HEARINGS (ORDINANCES – SECOND READINGS & RELATED ACTION)

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. 2022-03 1st Quarter Budget Amendment

Resolution 2022-03 - A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF EDGEWOOD, FLORIDA AMENDING THE CITY'S BUDGET FOR THE 2021/2022 FISCAL YEAR; AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND/OR HIS DESIGNEE TO TAKE ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THIS RESOLUTION; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Interim City Clerk Riffle explained this as a housekeeping item to account for first-quarter revenues and expenses not included in the budget.

Exhibit A featured new funds received from ARPA, and expenditures made for a pump replacement and to The Balmoral Group. Exhibit B was an update to the budget showing expenditures of \$ 43,663.00 from fire rescue impact fee restricted reserves for radio purchases.

There was no public comment.

Councilmember Pierce made a motion to approve Resolution 2022-03. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Rader. Approved (5/0).

The motion was approved by roll call vote.

Councilmember Pierce	Favor
Councilmember Chotas	Favor
Councilmember Rader	Favor
Councilmember Lomas	Favor
Council President Horn	Favor

2. Discussion Item: Code Section 110-2(g) Impact Fee Payment Exemptions

Attorney Smith said staff is seeking direction from Council related to impact fee payment exemptions. The need for clarification arose by a property owner who wants to tear down a house and rebuild.

Code Section 110-2(g) allows for an exemption if a building is rebuilt after an unwillful demolition. Another exemption is for an addition to an existing residential structure, provided the addition does not increase the number of dwelling units in the building. The

Code, however, does not define what constitutes an expansion or a threshold as to how much can be demolished and reconstructed, and what often happens is the applicant leaves one wall up and builds around it to avoid the impact fee payments.

Attorney Smith said Planner Hardgrove's and his recommendation is a common sense approach: treat a willful and unwillful demolition the same provided the numbers of units and impact is unchanged. The impact is the same.

In response to Council President Horn, Attorney Smith said an impact fee is to account for the impact of new development. He added that if a building is torn down and rebuilt, the impact fee would have already been paid except in the cases of some older properties that were not required to pay impact fees.

Councilmember Chotas said he supported amendments to the impact fee regulation as follows:

- Section 2 - "The construction of accessory buildings or structures which will not increase the traffic counts associated with the principal building or structure (or the land)". He said it should be rewritten to reflect an exemption for the construction of an additional building if it does not change the entire use and impact.
- Section 3 - He suggested deleting the proviso on Section 3 "provided that the destruction of the building or structure occurred other than by willful razing or demolition," which seems to be inconsistent with the City's determination to exempt those that have paid the fees prior to the implementation of impact fees by virtue of having prepaid impact fees with property taxes.
- Section 4 - He suggested adding "or increases traffic counts."

Further discussion ensued relating to impact fees for rebuilding structures.

Attorney Smith asked Council if they are comfortable with Planner Hardgrove's conveying that a single-family house rebuild is exempt from new impact fees and that leaving one original wall is not necessary. There was no objection from Council.

GENERAL INFORMATION

None

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Edgewood resident Mark Chapkis spoke in opposition to the proposed realignment of Orange-Holden-Gatlin Avenue. He said the proposed realignment would hurt the area's desirability because the residential roads will become thoroughfares and bring more traffic.

Mayor Dowless said that cut-through traffic on Gatlin Avenue results from traffic jams on the main thoroughfare as people attempt to avoid the intersection. He offered to show Mr. Chapkis the study and the proposed solutions.

Councilmember Rader said the intersection is failing and that it will continue to get worse, and the reality is that there will be more trips through the intersection. Mayor Dowless added that the intersection is already failing.

Councilmember Chotas noted that the widening of Holden Avenue is the County's decision.

BOARDS & COMMITTEES

Special Exception 2021-SE-01 was pulled from the agenda because the applicant terminated the application.

STAFF REPORTS

City Attorney Smith

No report

Police Chief Freeburg

1. January 2022 Report

- Chief Freeburg said that the Police Department completed their mock assessment for accreditation, and they are ready for the onsite accreditation.
- The Federal Government changed how crimes are reported, and they now have *The Annual Crime Report*, which is compiled by sending reports to them via the State of Florida. The City's current report system does not have what is needed. A new report writing system will cost about \$20,000 plus \$25,000 for data migration. The Police Department received a \$26,000 grant from FDLE, including approximately \$40,000 of free licensing. This is an approximate savings of approximately \$10,000.
- The Police Department and City Hall are pleased with the new NOVO system which helps track assets and equipment with their maintenance and depreciation schedules.
- He spoke with The Balmoral Group about accessing ARPA money.

In response to Councilmember Chotas, Chief Freeburg confirmed there are restrictions on using ARPA funds. The money can be used for budget shortfalls such as salaries and stormwater improvements. While the restrictions have lessened, it is still very restrictive.

Interim City Clerk Riffle

No report

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Dowless

1. He is moving some tasks temporarily from City Hall to the Police Department during the City Clerk's transition period. Interim City Clerk Riffle is still training Administrative Assistant Brett Sollazzo and interviewing people for a part-time administrative position. In addition, there is a lot of redevelopment coming in.

2. He is organizing an ad-hoc committee for ARPA funding. The committee now includes Mayor Dowless, engineers, a resident, Chief Freeburg, and the City consultants. Councilmember Rader said if there are no contractual issues, using CPH and getting a concept should be reimbursable. Mayor Dowless said he wants to get the committee together soon.
3. Orange County asked the City to submit the transportation sales tax but Mayor Dowless wants the County to work with us on the realignment or it will not do any good for the City.
4. On March 1, 2022 from 6 to 7 pm, Orange County will host a meeting on the Orange Avenue realignment at Oak Ridge High School. Mayor Dowless said this is a big opportunity for Edgewood to attend, and he strongly encouraged Council to go to the meeting.

Council President Horn

Council President Horn said that he liked the new electronic agenda format with hyperlinks.

Councilmember Chotas

No report

Councilmember Pierce

No report

Councilmember Rader

No report

Councilmember Lomas

No report

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Rader made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 pm. The motion was seconded by Council President Horn.

Richard A. Horn
Council President

Sandra Riffle
Interim City Clerk

Approved in the _____ Council meeting.