



City of Edgewater

104 N. Riverside Drive
Edgewater, FL 32132

Meeting Minutes

City Council

Michael Ignasiak, Mayor
Christine Power, District 1
Gigi Bennington, District 2
Dan Blazi, District 3
Gary T. Conroy, District 4

Monday, October 5, 2015

6:00 PM

Council Chambers

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, INVOCATION

Present: 5 - Councilman Gary Conroy, Councilman Dan Blazi, Councilwoman Gigi Bennington, Councilwoman Christine Power, and Mayor Mike Ignasiak

Also Present: 3 - City Attorney Aaron Wolfe, City Clerk Bonnie Brown, and City Manager Tracey Barlow

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - None at this time

3. PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS/PLAQUES/CERTIFICATES/DONATIONS - None at this time

4. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Bill Lachenal, 3022 Victory Palm Drive, discussed: wild animals, and neighbors feeding them; being informed by animal control that residents are not allowed to trap and release animals elsewhere; raccoons sometimes coming at residents; and asked what his legal options are. City Manager Barlow replied: to continue to work with Code Enforcement and Animal Control; the first line of defense is to report neighbors who feed them; to hire a private trapper to trap the animals; you need a license to even transport wild animals; that the City no longer has a land owner that will allow them to release wild animals on their property, so the City cannot get a permit if they have nowhere to release animals; and suggested he work with Animal Control supervisor, Captain Jeff Lariscy.

Chuck Martin, 205 Cherry Wood Lane, discussed: ditches and sides of roads in Edgewater looking good, and that it really looks good in front of the cemetery on Ridgewood Avenue; the Oakland cemetery, Lake Butler in Union County, cemeteries, and inmates maintaining cemeteries in other areas; the City possibly looking into using inmates, or community service hours to clean up the Oakland cemetery; thanked Councilman Conroy for volunteering to sit in the dunk tank to benefit the Second Harvest Food Bank; and thanked the Council and City Manager for all they do for the City; and discussed some of the recent amenity improvements in Edgewater.

The Council and staff discussed: the Edgewater Police Department, community service hours, and having to work through the private organization, or the private land owner; using inmates for performing cemetery clean up; a recent newspaper article on the 75 cemeteries in Volusia County that have been abandoned and/or in disrepair, and the Volusia County Manager planning to use inmates to clean them up; maybe having a scout take on Oakland cemetery clean up as an Eagle Scout project; how involved the clean up of cemeteries actually is; and restoring a historic cemetery is done at a very slow and methodical pace, because it is akin to an archaeological dig.

Linda Gwozdz, 215 Schooner Avenue, thanked the Council for the beautiful sidewalks that were put in on Ridgewood Avenue. Councilman Conroy recognized Mrs. Gwozdz for volunteering at the hospice; her perpetual smile; always being a giving and loving person, who is always happy; stated that she does a lot of walking in the area; and, he thanked her for all she does in the community.

Nicholas Szegda, 106 Orange Avenue, discussed: the City's TracEZ system, sending in a request, and not being able to see what you had typed in; and asked if the program could be looked at.

5. APPROVAL OR CHANGES/MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA - None at this time.

6. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilwoman Power - None at this time.

Councilwoman Bennington - None at this time.

Councilman Blazi reported: participating in Governor Scott's initiative "Dads Take Your Kids to School Day", and stated that Edgewater Public School had 101 dads, step fathers, uncles, etc. participate; he attended the Rotary Club's Battle of the Badges BBQ; and also attended, but did not participate in the "Beer Olympics", a Wounded Warriors fund raiser, sponsored by the Rotary Club.

Councilman Conroy reported: working on the City garbage truck, and having a plan to eradicate all crime, put violators on the back of a garbage truck to do their community service, and they will never commit another crime for the rest of their life; he went out with the City's refuse crew, and did two streets, and he was done; and he commended the great, hard-working people in the refuse department. He went to the waste water treatment plant and received an amazing and informational explanation of the water treatment process, and the technology used to treat the water; he encouraged the other Council members to do the same; he stopped by and met with the City's engineer, Randy Coslow, who is a very busy guy, and Mr. Coslow walked him through some projects that he is working on; he thanked the crew at the barn for providing him with a water cooler cup so he could stay hydrated; and went to the animal shelter, where he saw some really cute little dogs, which do not last very long because the elderly people tend to adopt the little dogs.

Mayor Ignasiak reported: to piggyback on Councilman Conroy's report, the City of Edgewater has one of the best garbage pick-up services in the County, bar none; attended the Battle of the Badges, which was a Wounded Warrior fund raiser event this year, it was a good barbecue, and a true family event; and that he did not participate in the Beer Olympics either, due to not being able to assemble a team in time.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Councilwoman Power, second by Councilwoman Bennington, to approve the consent agenda. The MOTION was APPROVED by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Mayor Ignasiak, Councilwoman Power, Councilwoman Bennington, Councilman Blazi and Councilman Conroy

- a. [AR-2015-108](#)
[4](#) Authorization for the City Manager to execute contracts with Cloer and Sons Inc. and Samsula Waste Inc. for Green Waste Disposal.
- b. [AR-2015-121](#)
[5](#) Requesting authorization for the City Manager to execute a contract for the Construction of a Water Main under I-95 with DBE Management Services, Inc., dba DBE Utility Services. (ITB 15-ES-010)
- c. [AR-2015-123](#)
[2](#) East Thomas Street Septic Tank Elimination and Stormwater Improvements Engineering Services

8. PUBLIC HEARINGS, ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS - None at this time

9. BOARD APPOINTMENTS - None at this time

10. OTHER BUSINESS

- a. AR-2015-1216 Tentative Events Schedule Funding

City Manager Barlow made a staff presentation, and discussed: a summary of Edgewater events that he distributed to Council at their last meeting, which is a list of known planned events for the new fiscal year; since special events fall under the Finance Director John McKinney's umbrella, he will have the finance director walk Council through each event, and their associated costs; Council does not have to make any decisions tonight, just think about some of the costs associated with the events; and that going forward, he and staff will need Council direction on making the part-time events coordinator position more of a full-time job, to coordinate events that will occur after March 2016.

Mr. McKinney gave a staff presentation, and discussed: events the City held last year; the purpose of holding City events; encouraging the one-stop shop philosophy to coordinate and conduct events; who promotes City events; types of marketing the City uses, such as social media, banners, and billboards; costs of running events and bringing in over \$24,000 in sponsorships to offset costs; number of events planned, and added events; City sponsored, and City co-sponsored events; running events, the costs factors of using the part-time event coordinator, and overtime; adding events making it harder to fund, but staff still getting it done; the importance of establishing agreements with co-sponsors; coordination of promotional material; coordination of event themes; making sure events fit the community purpose; and the number of events increasing from 8 events in six months, up to 15 events.

Council and staff discussed: whether or not Ms. Bubenheim wants to work finance or event planning; estimated out of pocket City expenses; event sponsorship, and renting out City facilities to private entities; events starting out as a co-sponsorship event, then evolving into a City event that has a cost to conduct; making sure private events are not interpreted to be City events; whether the event coordinator position would be a hourly or salaried position; the efficiencies of having a full-time event coordinator on staff; costs associated with adding events, family events being what makes the City of Edgewater, and events bringing the community together as a family; needing a full-time focal point that is not trying to do three (3) different jobs; whether or not the City is at the point where they need a full-time event coordinator, the mid-year budget review, and needing sponsorship funds for

events like the July 4th fireworks celebration; coming back to Council in early 2016 to review the need for a full-time event coordinator; the private sector offsetting the costs of the City hosting co-sponsored events; benefits to the City of conducting events.

After discussion, the Council concurred: for staff to come back in March 2016 to review the need to fund a full-time events coordinator with the City Council; and for the City Manager to prepare a draft co-sponsorship agreement for Council review.

- b. [AR-2015-123](#) Discussion regarding Employee Service Recognition Policy
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City Manager Barlow made a staff presentation.

Councilwoman Bennington discussed: the time allowed for employees to attend a retirement party, and what happens if no one shows up; liking the changes made to the draft policy; and not being sure why the City needs to have the policy, since the police and fire rescue departments already have policies.

Councilman Blazi stated he liked the changes made to the draft policy; and discussed the policy providing equity and consistent recognition for all employees.

Councilman Conroy stated he liked the option that if the employee decides not to have a retirement recognition party, the City can opt in lieu of that, to make a donation to their favorite charity.

A motion was made by Councilman Conroy, second by Councilman Blazi, to approve the Employee Service Recognition Policy. The MOTION was APPROVED by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Mayor Ignasiak, Councilwoman Power, Councilwoman Bennington, Councilman Blazi and Councilman Conroy

- c. [AR-2015-124](#) Kennedy Park Handicap Parking
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City Manager Barlow made a staff presentation, and discussed: evaluating the parking spaces at Kennedy Park; the map handouts provided to Council; total number of regular parking spaces; total number of handicap parking spaces; the costs to convert all the regular parking spaces to handicap spaces would be approximately \$663.00; and upon his last evaluation, the handicap parking spots are usually empty, and the regular parking spots are overflowing, with people parking in the trailer only parking spots because the regular parking spots are all full. While Mr. Corder was at the park measuring the parking spaces, some people approached him, and voiced their displeasure with the idea; there are only so many spots for the non-handicapped at the park; and that staff stands ready to do whatever the Council decides.

Councilman Conroy stated: people who are not handicapped can walk to the park; he appreciated the City Managers due diligence on adding additional handicap parking spaces; and he wanted to know what the rest of Councils thoughts were on the idea.

Council and staff discussed: it being a fine point as to what type of spaces are needed, because use is dependent on the time of year; if there was any way to add more parking spaces; difficulties, and stipulations to adding more parking spaces; currently exceeding ADA compliance at the park in regards to handicap parking spaces; the ADA requiring the City to have two handicap parking spaces for trailers; whether or not the City had received many complaints about not having enough handicap spaces; whether or not everyone that has a handicap sticker actually is handicapped; determining the number of handicap spaces that are needed being more difficult than it seemed, and it really depending on the time of day, and whether it is a weekday or weekend; it being a balancing act of needed regular, and handicap parking spaces; adding one more handicap space and seeing how much the handicap spaces are, or are not used; people also being able to use Menard-May park; what is required to add one more handicap parking space; where the additional handicap parking space would be; the boat ramp limiting how far north the handicap spaces can be extended; calculating storm water requirements and adding additional parking spaces; adding more parking spaces by using permeable parking space material instead of concrete spaces; wheelchairs and the park being at zero slope; the need for additional parking spaces at the park; contacting the engineer to see how much more permeable material can be added to the park; and bringing the issue up again at the November 2015 Council meeting.

After discussion, the Council concurred to have the City Manager contact Quentin Hampton to see how much more permeable material can be added to the park; and to bring the issue up again at the next Council meeting.

This Other Business Item was received and filed.

11. OFFICER REPORTS

a. City Clerk

City Clerk Bonnie Brown reported: the Whistle Stop Park Improvements Workshop is scheduled for Monday, October 26, 2015, starting at 6:00 p.m.; the Charter Review Committee is going to have their first meeting on Monday, October 12, 2015, starting at 6:30 p.m.; she distributed her official resignation to Council members, and stated she would start her new position as the Senior Planner for the City of Edgewater on November 5, 2015; and thanked the Council for the last eight years serving as their City Clerk.

City Manager Barlow recommended detailing Paralegal Robin Matusick to be the Interim City Clerk to get the City through the holiday period; and at the conclusion of the holidays he will come back to Council to discuss a replacement plan.

The Council and staff discussed: the current Deputy City Clerk not desiring the City Clerk position due to time constraints and conflicts; whether or not the paralegal would be able to do both jobs; possibly farming out some of the paralegal duties, if need be; the Deputy City Clerk being able to pick up some of the City Clerk duties; and the former City Clerk being available to assist the Interim City Clerk.

After discussion, the Council concurred to detail Paralegal Robin Matusick to do both the duties of paralegal, and City Clerk.

b. City Attorney

City Attorney Aaron Wolfe reported: the City's insurance company would like Council's approval to settle the litigation of Andrew Morgan verses the City of Edgewater, for the sum of \$200,000 in order to save the costs of defending the case; he is asking for either a motion to approve, or to disapprove that settlement; and that all fines would be paid by the insurance company, with no capital outlay by the City.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Power, second by Councilwoman Bennington, to pay the settlement amount of \$200,000. The MOTION was APPROVED by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Mayor Ignasiak, Councilwoman Power, Councilwoman Bennington, Councilman Blazi and Councilman Conroy

c. City Manager

City Manager Tracey Barlow reported: the stop sign at Willow and 22nd Street went into affect today, October 5, 2015; the original plan for 22nd Street was to put in four way stops for a period of time, and then to come back and remove it, and then replicate what 26th Street looked like in as far as which ones were four way and which ones were two way stop signs; prior to doing that, Environmental Services Director Brenda Dewees shared the residents requests to leave all of them on 22nd Street as a four way stop; and he asked Council for their direction.

Council and staff discussed: leaving the stop signs up, as the public has requested; the original intent was to create another East/West route, to alleviate some of the traffic on 26th Street, getting away from the overall intent of the original road project, and sticking to the original plan; and people being able to stop at the intersection if they want.

After discussion, the Council directed the City Manager to stick with the original plan.

Mr. Barlow discussed: the property on Travelers Palm, and the bank not being willing to approve a waiver, or authorization to allow the City to demolish the house; however, the bank did indicate they may entertain the idea of removing any interest they have on the property by dropping the mortgage; this would allow the City to do a foreclosure on the property, and then the City could bulldoze it at that time; the City is making progress; he talked to Mrs. Hayman across the street from the property, who stated she is happy with the progress the City is making; and he stated Code has talked to all three neighbors of the East Palm Way property, and they all seem to be satisfied.

He reported that last week the City' Chair for the Cultural - Recreation board was incarcerated on attempted murder charges; the By-laws for any of the City boards specifies that the Council does not have to have a reason to relieve someone from a board; and asked if Council wanted him to bring applications forward for their review on the November Council meeting.

Councilman Conroy stated: concerning the Travelers Palm property: to consider making it a police department sub-station where the officers could sit and do their paperwork; and stated that the citizens would probably like having their presence in the neighborhood.

Mr. Barlow also discussed: the interlocal Service Boundary Agreement, and the City handing out four annexation applications so far in just a week; having completed five different annexation cost comparison calculations for people who are considering annexing into the City; a staff member reported having a conversation with a whole group that may be interested in annexing into the City; and indicated Council may see a lot of request for annexation coming forward for various reasons.

He also stated he would be on vacation from October 12, 2015 through October 25th; and Finance Director John McKinney would be the Acting City Manager in his absence.

12. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Chuck Martin, 205 Cherrywood Lane discussed: frequently using the Rail-Trail bicycle path; that the new bicycle sign blocks a bicyclists view at Park Avenue and Old Mission Road, which causes bicyclists to pull out too far on the highway to see if there is any on-coming traffic; stated the trail is really nice, with a lot of people using it, and the word is getting out about the trail; and thanked Council for the wonderful job they are doing.

Bill Lachenal, 3022 Victory Palm Drive stated the bike path is phenomenal; he has lost over 20 pounds while walking the trail; and asked if there is any way that one of the streets in Florida Shores that goes from 30th street out to SR 442 could have a sidewalk; and residents would like a sidewalk so they can make the journey all the way around.

Council and staff discussed: the City's Master pedestrian/bicycle facility plan; top priority would probably be on Hibiscus Drive; needing to obtain property right of way in Florida Shores; the TPO and various grants; and the City extending what is already in place on Mango to 27th Street.

Councilman Conroy stated: he coordinated a lot of bike helmets for the the Rail-Trail ribbon cutting event; he may need City staff assistance with fitting and handing out bike helmets; and that he will load his truck up with as many helmets as he can at the next TPO meeting. Mr. Barlow replied that he would work with bike clubs to try and get volunteers.

Nicholas Szegda, 106 Orange Avenue, discussed: special events at Hawks park, and safety; and suggested using some type of traffic control device for risk mitigation. Mr. Barlow replied that the City is waiting on the Traffic Consultants to finish their study; part of their scope of work is to come back to the City with mitigation recommendations; and stated the City will get a copy of the consultants recommendations to FDOT.

Mr. Szegda also discussed adding cross walks at cross streets, and leaving existing curbs on one side of the street, and aesthetics; and Mr. Barlow replied that due to storm water run-off there are no other plans by FDOT to do curb and guttering due to cost of the project, acquisition of property and not being able to send the run-off into the Indian River. Mr. Szegda discussed the SKYWARN program; and thanked the City for hosting the SKYWARN meeting.

Delores Miller, 201 S. Ridgewood Avenue discussed the City's part-time events coordinator, Amy Bubenheim; stated she is very personable; and thinks it would be great for the City to bring her on full-time. She also discussed traffic crosswalks, and the city installing LED strobe light warning systems that individuals can activate by pressing a button.

Council and staff discussed: individuals not stopping for people who are in a crosswalk; a LED strobe light system that Texas is using; LED warning lights being a good TPO topic; using a LED warning light system would require FDOT approval; New Smyrna Beach's crosswalk warning light systems; and suggesting to the County, a LED crosswalk warning light pilot program be installed at Old Mission Road and the Rail-Trail crossing.

13. ADJOURN

There being no further business to discuss, Mayor Ignasiak adjourned the meeting at 7:48 p.m.

Minutes submitted by:

Mitch Honaker, Deputy City Clerk

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Bonnie Brown, City Clerk

Mike Ignasiak, Mayor