

**EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT FOR CITY CLERK
CITY OF EDGEWATER, FLORIDA**

THIS AGREEMENT made and entered into this ___ day of December, 2025, by and between the CITY OF EDGEWATER, FLORIDA, a municipal corporation of the State of Florida (hereinafter “City”), and SARA GEIGER, (hereafter “City Clerk”).

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, Sara Geiger has demonstrated through professional and educational experience and performance the level of professional and administrative competency desired by the City in its City Clerk; and

WHEREAS, as provided by the City Charter, the City Council has the authority to employ the City Clerk; and

WHEREAS, the City is desirous of employing Sara Geiger as its City Clerk; and

WHEREAS, Sara Geiger has indicated willingness to accept the responsibilities and render specific performance to the City as City Clerk; and

WHEREAS, both parties feel it would be mutually beneficial to have a contract of employment between the City and the City Clerk setting forth agreements and understandings which (1) provide inducement for Sara Geiger to accept the job of City Clerk, (2) make possible full work productivity by assuring Sara Geiger’s morale and peace of mind, and (3) provide a just means for modifying Sara Geiger’s services at such time as the City may desire.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants and promises which the parties set forth below, the City and the City Clerk agree as follows:

1. EMPLOYMENT OF CITY CLERK. The City hereby employs Sara Geiger as City Clerk and Sara Geiger hereby accepts such employment upon terms and conditions hereinafter set forth.

2. TERM.

2.1 The term of this Agreement shall commence on December ____, 2025 and shall continue until such time the City Council or the City Clerk desires to terminate this Agreement.

2.2 The City Clerk shall serve at the pleasure of the City as provided in the City Charter and Code of Ordinances. Nothing in this Agreement shall prevent, limit or otherwise interfere with the right of the City to terminate the services of the City Clerk at any time.

2.3 Nothing in this Agreement shall prevent, limit or otherwise interfere with the right of the City Clerk to resign at any time from the position of City Clerk, subject only to the provisions herein.

3. DUTIES. The City Clerk shall perform those duties specified in Section 4.06 of the City Charter, City of Edgewater, Florida, as it may from time to time be amended, the City Job Description for City Clerk, and all other applicable laws and regulations, and such other legally permissible and proper duties as she may be directed to perform by the City Council. Section 4.06 is attached hereto and incorporated by reference as Exhibit "A." The City Job Description for City Clerk is attached hereto and incorporated by reference as Exhibit "B."

4. PERFORMANCE EVALUATION.

4.1 Annually, the City Council and City Clerk shall define such goals and performance objectives for the City Clerk which they determine necessary for the proper operation of the City and in the attainment of the City Council's policy objectives and shall further establish a relative priority among those various goals and objectives, said goals and objectives to be reduced in writing. These goals and objectives shall generally be attainable within the time limitations as specified and the annual operating and capital budgets and appropriations provided.

4.2 Annually, at the end of each fiscal year, the City Council shall evaluate the performance of the City Clerk for the previous fiscal year utilizing the current evaluation form in place for the City Clerk.

5. COMPENSATION. Effective December ___, 2025, the City Clerk shall receive annual compensation of Ninety-Three Thousand and no/100 Dollars (\$93,000.00) payable as employee checks are issued by the City. The City will make standard payroll deductions from each paycheck for federal income tax, Social Security and Medicare. The City Clerk may designate amounts out of her annual compensation to be paid by the City as deferred compensation, and such payments shall be deposited into the deferred compensation plan selected by the City Clerk and deducted accordingly from the annual compensation payments. The City Council shall not at any time during the term of this Agreement reduce the salary, compensation or other financial benefits of the City Clerk, except in the event, and to the degree, a reduction is made across-the-board for all employees of the City. The City Clerk shall be entitled to the same wage increases that are afforded to Directors.

6. BENEFITS.

6.1 The City Clerk shall be entitled Personal Time Off (PTO) based on her anniversary date and number of years of service with the City in accordance with the City's Personnel Policy and Procedures Manual.

6.2 Insurance. The City Clerk has been an employee of the City since August 16, 2015. As City Clerk she shall continue to receive the same health, dental, basic term life and long-term disability insurance she received prior to her appointment as City Clerk. The City reserves the right, in its discretion, to modify coverage and insurance providers as may be necessary and consistent with the benefits provided to its Directors/Deputy Directors.

6.3 Retirement. The City shall contribute an amount equal to 12% of the City Clerk's annual gross base salary to the 401(a) defined contribution plan.

6.4 License Fees, Membership Dues and Training Expenses. The City shall pay or reimburse the City Clerk for reasonable professional license fees, membership dues and training expenses directly associated with the City Clerk's job duties including the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC) dues, Florida Association of City Clerks (FACC) dues and other organizations approved by the City Council where such memberships would be beneficial to the City. The City shall also pay for fees associated with travel, per diem and associated fees related to annual conferences for IIMC and FACC. Such payment or reimbursement shall be limited to budgeted amounts and consistent with all City policies. Reimbursement under this section for any expense greater than \$2,500.00 shall require prior approval of the City Council. Such approval shall be considered as given if the expense is included in the annual operating budget of the City.

6.5 Cellular Phone. The City shall provide the City Clerk a monthly cell phone allowance in accordance with the Administrative Policies, 300.04 cell phone allowance.

7. INDEMNIFICATION. Subject to the provisions of insurance defense coverage, and consistent with federal, state and local law, the City shall defend, save harmless and indemnify the City Clerk acting within the scope of her employment, against any tort, professional liability claim or demand or other legal action, whether groundless or otherwise, arising out of an alleged act or omission occurring in the performance of the City Clerk's duties as City Clerk, or resulting from the exercise of judgment or discretion in connection with the performance of the duties or responsibilities, unless the act or omission involved willful or wanton conduct or where the City Clerk exceeds the scope of her authority or in the case of a conviction for any crime involving moral turpitude or a crime relating to official duties. The City shall provide the City Clerk's legal

defense, court costs and other reasonable costs and expenses of such legal proceedings, and any other liabilities incurred by, imposed upon, or suffered by the City Clerk, not limited to judgments or settlements in connection with or resulting from any claim or action, suit, or proceeding, whether actual or threatened, arising out of or in connection with the performance of the City Clerk's duties. Any settlement of any claim must be made with prior approval of the City in order for indemnification, as provided in this section, to be available to the City Clerk.

8. TERMINATION OF AGREEMENT.

8.1 The City has the inalienable right under law for employing and terminating a City Clerk.

8.2 The City Clerk acknowledges that there is no contractual or other right to occupy the position of City Clerk after termination.

8.3 This Agreement may be terminated by the City, and the City Clerk removed from her position, with or without cause, at any time during the term of this Agreement and without prior notice.

8.4 Termination of the City Clerk's employment shall occur when three or more members of the City Council vote to terminate the City Clerk's employment at a duly authorized public meeting.

8.5 The City shall not arbitrarily or capriciously seek termination of the City Clerk's employment.

8.6 Termination for Cause. The City Clerk may be terminated for cause. "Cause" for termination is defined as, and shall include, any of the following:

- Misfeasance, malfeasance and/or nonfeasance in performance of the City Clerk's duties and responsibilities.

- Conviction or a plea of guilty or no contest to a misdemeanor or felony crime, whether or not adjudication is withheld.
- Neglect of duty, including the inability or unwillingness to properly discharge the responsibilities of office.
- Violation of any substantive city policy, rule, or regulation, which would subject any other city employee to termination.
- Breach of fiduciary duty, including any act of fraud or theft against the interest of the City.
- The commission of any act which involves moral turpitude, or which causes the City disrepute.
- Breach of this agreement.
- Violation of the International Institute of Municipal Clerks Association Code of Ethics.
- Misconduct as defined in § 443.036(29), Florida Statutes.
- Removal of the City Clerk from office by the Governor of the State of Florida, pursuant to § 112.52, Florida Statutes, or other lawful removal from office by state or federal governments.
- Final adjudication by a court or state administrative tribunal that the City Clerk committed an act of malfeasance or misfeasance of office or a violation under Chapter 112, Florida Statutes.
- Any other act of similar nature of the same or greater seriousness.

If the City Clerk is terminated for cause, the City Clerk resigns, or the City Clerk otherwise ceases employment with the City, then the City is not obligated to pay severance pay under this Agreement. If the City Clerk is terminated for cause, which includes misconduct as defined in § 443.036(29), Florida Statutes, she shall be prohibited from receiving severance pay. Severance pay shall mean salary, benefits and perquisites, as defined under § 215.425(4)(d), Florida Statutes. If the City Council votes to terminate the City Clerk with cause, written notice of the charges by the City Council and its decision to terminate the City Clerk shall be delivered to the City Clerk,

and the City Clerk shall be given an opportunity for a formal, quasi-judicial hearing before the City Council within a reasonable period of time not to exceed 30 days from the publication of notice. The hearing shall provide an opportunity for the City Clerk to rebut any charge affecting her character or reputation, but the City Council's action therein is final and non-appealable. However, nothing in this section shall abrogate the City Clerk's right to enforce her rights under this Agreement in a civil court of competent jurisdiction. Upon termination for cause the City Clerk will be entitled to payment of the total balance of accrued PTO at her rate of pay on the date of termination. No further compensation will be paid by the City.

8.7 Termination without Cause. If the City Clerk is terminated by the City without cause, for reasons outside Paragraph 8.6, during the term of this Agreement, the City shall pay to the City Clerk a sum equal to sixteen (16) weeks of severance pay at her current rate of pay on the date of termination. The City shall also provide health and dental insurance, at the same benefit rate and cost to the City Clerk as was afforded at the date of termination, which health and dental coverage shall expire at the end of the month following the expiration of the sixteen (16) weeks of severance pay. The City Clerk shall also be entitled to payment of the total balance of accrued PTO at her rate of pay on the date of termination. All severance pay and other benefits payable under this paragraph shall be payable over a sixteen (16) week period and not as a lump sum payment. No further compensation will be paid by the City for termination of the City Clerk without cause.

If the City, its citizens, or the legislature acts to amend any provisions of the Edgewater City Charter pertaining to the role, powers, duties, authority, or responsibilities of the City Clerk's position that substantially changes the form of government then the City Clerk shall

have the right to declare that such amendments to the City Charter constitute termination without cause.

If the City reduces the City Clerk's Base Salary, compensation or any other substantial benefit of the City Clerk, unless it is applied in no greater percentage than the average reduction in pay or benefits of all Directors, such action shall constitute a breach of this Agreement and will be regarded as a termination of the City Clerk without cause.

8.8 If the City Clerk becomes disabled or is otherwise unable to perform her duties because of sickness, accident, injury, mental incapacity or health for a period of time in excess of twelve (12) weeks of FMLA leave, the City shall have the option to terminate this Agreement for cause. In such an event, the City Clerk shall be compensated for any accrued benefits per City policy.

9. VOLUNTARY RESIGNATION. This Agreement may be terminated by the City Clerk upon thirty (30) days notification to the City, unless the City Council, in its sole discretion, elects to shorten the minimum notice set forth in this paragraph. If termination as City Clerk is due to a voluntary resignation submitted by the City Clerk, she shall receive the total balance of accrued PTO. No further compensation will be provided to the City Clerk after the thirty (30) day notification period has expired.

10. OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT. The City Clerk recognizes and understands that the position of City Clerk shall require her full-time attention and, accordingly, agrees to devote all time necessary to fully discharge her duties. The City Clerk shall refrain from accepting any engagement which would interfere in any way with the faithful performance of her services to the City. However, nothing in this Agreement will be construed so as to prevent the City Clerk from accepting honoraria or consulting fees from educational institutions, units of local government or

state agencies for lecture, articles, instructional material, and consultation in the area of local government which shall not be in conflict with the City Clerk's responsibilities with the City.

11. BONDING. The City shall bear the full cost of any fidelity or other bonds required of the City Clerk under the City Charter or any law or ordinance.

12. GENERAL PROVISIONS.

12.1 Severability. If, during the term of this Agreement, it is found that a specific clause or condition of this Agreement is illegal in federal or state law, the remainder of the Agreement not affected by such a ruling shall remain in force.

12.2 This Agreement shall be construed in accordance with, and governed by the laws of the State of Florida. Venue for any cause of action shall be in Volusia County, Florida.

12.3 The parties agree that in the event they cannot resolve a dispute hereunder, they shall mutually participate in a mediation process, to be conducted by a Florida Circuit Court mediator, mutually selected and paid for by the City, prior to any lawsuit being filed.

12.4 This Agreement constitutes the entire Agreement between the parties pertaining to the subject matter hereof, and is the final, complete and exclusive expression of the terms and conditions of their Agreement. Any and all prior agreements, representations, negotiations and understandings made by the parties, oral and written, express or implied, are hereby superseded and merged herein.

12.5 Any amendment, modifications, or variations from the terms of this Agreement shall be in writing, shall be effective only upon approval of such amendment, modification, or variation by the City Council, and shall not operate as a termination of this Agreement.

12.6 Any covenant or provision contained herein which does not comply with the laws of the State of Florida in existence from time to time during the term of this Agreement shall be deemed amended to comply with such laws.

13. NOTICES. Notice pursuant to this Agreement shall be given by deposit in the custody of the United States Postal Service, postage prepaid, addressed as follows:

If to City:
Mayor
City of Edgewater
Post Office Box 100
Edgewater, FL 32132-0100

If to City Clerk:
Sara Geiger



With copy to:
City Manager
City of Edgewater
Post Office Box 100
Edgewater, FL 32132-0100

Alternatively, notice required pursuant to this Agreement may be personally served in the same manner as is applicable to civil judicial practice. Notice shall be deemed given as of the date of personal service or as of the date of deposit of such written notice in the course of transmission in the United States Postal Service.

14. MODIFICATION OR WAIVER. Except as otherwise provided herein, this Agreement may not be modified or waived unless in writing and duly executed by all parties to this Agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have made and entered into this Agreement on the dates listed below:

ATTEST:

CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF EDGEWATER, FLORIDA

Monique Toupin, Interim City Clerk

By: _____
Diezel Depew, Mayor

Dated: _____

WITNESSES:

CITY CLERK:

Sara Geiger

Dated: _____