



City of Edgewater

104 N. Riverside Drive
Edgewater, FL 32132

Meeting Minutes City Council

Monday, April 6, 2026

6:00 PM

Council Chambers

We respectfully request that all electronic devices are set for no audible notification.

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

Mayor Depew called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

2. APPROVAL OR CHANGES/MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA

Mayor Depew announced that Mr. Davenport from the Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND) would be presenting a check to Council and requested that item 4b be moved to the last presentation item.

City Manager Mahoney confirmed that there were no other changes.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Regular Meeting - March 23, 2026

A motion was made by Councilwoman Dolbow, second by Councilwoman Gillis, to approve the minutes, meeting of March 23, 2026. The MOTION was APPROVED by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Mayor DePew, Councilwoman Gillis, Councilman Thomas, Councilwoman Dolbow and Councilman Rainbird

4. PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS/PLAQUES/CERTIFICATES/DONATIONS

a. Edgewater Public School - "Bring the Noise" STOMP Team Performance

The Edgewater Public School STOMP team showcased their performance for the Council. Post-performance, teacher Ms. Reed mentioned the need for funds for their May 22nd Universal Studios trip. They are accepting community donations, with contributions directed through the school's Facebook page or Councilwoman Gillis.

c. Earth Day Proclamation

Mayor Depew read and proclaimed April 26, 2026 as Earth Day in the City of Edgewater, encouraging residents to participate in environmental awareness programs and activities.

d. Presentation Volusia County Coastal Director, Jessica Fentress

Mr. Davenport presented a check to Council.

Jessica Fentress, Volusia County Coastal Director, highlighted Volusia County's beach recovery initiatives post-Hurricanes Ian and Nicole with \$82 million secured for restoration. Key insights included 95-98% of tourists visit beaches, generating 31% of sales tax revenue, equating to approximately \$28,000 per homesteaded property. Current efforts include North and South Beach restoration using 550,000 cubic yards of sand, while future plans target dredging inlet shoals and locating offshore sand sources. Beach tourism remains the county's largest employment sector.

Mayor Depew proposed a "Buddy Davenport Day" on April 21st for his local contributions.

b. Presentation by James Moore Certified Public Accountants and Consultants on the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2025

James Moore CPA presented the City's financial report, highlighting its continued excellence by meeting Government Finance Officers Association standards. The audit received the highest rating, noting a significant deficiency concerning the Public Works loan recording. Additional federal audits for \$1 million+ CDBG funds found no issues. The financial condition was "inconclusive," placing the city in the mid-range of its peers.

Governmental activities grew by \$2.2 million due to \$1.7 million in property tax hikes and \$1 million in investment income. Business activities increased charges by 9.9%, aligning with planned utility rate hikes. Overall investment income was \$2.5 million. The city holds strong fund balance policies, with reserves surpassing the 32% minimum for operating needs.

5. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Mahoney provided several updates:

Vision Implementation Committee: Consensus was reached to create a staff-led committee to implement the City's vision plan, guiding CRA spending with community engagement involving stakeholders, business owners, and citizens.

City Hall Deed Restriction: City Manager Mahoney proposed tabling the deed restriction discussion until the Charter Review Committee's amendment comes before Council in June; consensus was given by Council.

Staff Programs: Enhancements to the citizen business recognition program by Economic Development Director, John Scott, and an emergency volunteer utilization program being developed by the police department.

Weather Advisory: With 4-7 inches of rain forecasted, crews will pump Duck Lake and monitor stormwater systems.

City Manager Mahoney recognized Kevin Auger from Parks and Recreation as February 2026 Team

Member of the Month for his City Hall remodel project work, saving tens of thousands of dollars through expertise and dedication. He was also commended for his strong teamwork and leadership.

6. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Michael Hayes, 820 W Park Avenue, representing Edgewater-New Smyrna Beach Elks Lodge 1557, presented Councilwoman Dolbow with the Citizen of the Year recognition for her military service, City Council work, animal shelter volunteerism, and food pantry contributions.

Cynthia Black, Umbrella Tree, asked for a moment of silence for Roy Johnson, former two-time mayor and vice mayor of Holly Hill who passed away on March 23rd.

Kim Long, 3312 Mango Tree Drive, discussed support for the Charter Review Committee's work on various Ordinances, emphasizing preference for charter amendments, which are more difficult to overturn. She urged protection of the City Hall property deed and encouraged the Council to approve future charter amendments.

Tonia Test, introduced herself as new to the area, expressing interest in community organizing and noting that she had applied for the city clerk position.

Mark Mello, 639 Coral Trace Boulevard, presented a proposal to modify the Coral Trace reservoir system to better control flooding.

Jennifer Fox, Francis Drive, spoke on behalf of the Jane Sheldon Chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution, proposing a partnership to renovate the old flow well and create a water feature with a historical plaque for their 100th anniversary project.

Bob Chew, 208 Virginia Street, inquired about Edgewater's support for Volusia Forever, Mayor Depew confirmed the City had already provided a letter of support.

Robert DeBeau, 232 N Ridgewood Avenue, asked about transparency regarding a pending police department lawsuit and how any potential settlement would be funded. City Manager Mahoney confirmed the matter was covered and being handled by the insurance.

Chuck Martin, 205 Cherrywood Lane, expressed support for keeping the City Hall deed and requested an update on the 18th Street Canal project. He also advocated for additional flood mitigation measures including pumps at Clubhouse Lake.

Ken Cartisano, 3312 Mango Tree Drive, advocated for returning the City Hall property deed to citizens and criticized plans for large-scale development partnerships.

Noble Livingston, 2705 Queen Palm Drive, complimented waste management services and suggested having children paint fire hydrants similar to what's done in downtown New Smyrna Beach.

Brian White, New Smyrna Beach resident and County Council District 3 Candidate, discussed his appeal regarding the Deering Park North development permit and emphasized the need for transparency in water management decisions.

Bob Chew, 208 Virginia Street, requested work be done on the 18th street canal to restore the historical channel and prevent further damage to his property.

7. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilwoman Gillis attended the State of Schools event, meetings with Congressman Mills' staff, FAITH Assembly discussions on affordable housing, various regional committee meetings, multiple Friends of the Library scholarship committee meetings where they are working towards awarding \$25,000 to local seniors, she had enjoyed the Easter Eggstravaganza and commended the Parks and Recreation staff. She addressed concerns about negative campaigning and encouraged focus on substantive issues rather than personal attacks. She also promoted continued fundraising for the Edgewater Public STOMP team.

Councilman Thomas discussed how elected officials' goals often get interrupted by unexpected events. He emphasized that while the vision remains important, emergency situations require immediate attention and resources.

Councilwoman Dolbow thanked city staff for their responsive work addressing residents' concerns and praised the Easter Egg Extravaganza event. She encouraged residents to visit the new pier at Menard May Park.

Councilman Rainbird discussed attending the 50th anniversary League of Cities dinner and learning Edgewater would host the next event, raising questions about adequate facilities. He reflected on the City's growth and loss of "small town feel" while emphasizing progress on flooding mitigation with the 18th Street Canal permit finally being approved. He also addressed concerns about e-bike safety, particularly children riding recklessly in parks and parking lots, urging parents to teach proper safety practices.

Mayor Depew reported attending various community events including the Kiwanis Strike it Rich fundraiser, Edgewater Public Media Centers grand opening, FAITH meeting on affordable housing, and supporting Upward Trend Academy's new playground project.

8. CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Councilwoman Dolbow, second by Councilman Rainbird, to approve the Consent Agenda. The MOTION was APPROVED by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Mayor DePew, Councilwoman Gillis, Councilman Thomas, Councilwoman Dolbow and Councilman Rainbird

- a.** Authorization to Dispose of Asset and Non-Asset items in accordance with FS Chapter 274 and FDEP DEMP Grant requirements.

- b. Lift Station Rehabilitation #9 and #38
- c. Addendum #2 to extend the Janitorial Services Agreement with Precision Building Services
- d. First Amendment to the Agreement Between the City of Edgewater, Core & Main, and Sensus USA, Inc. for Software and Spectrum Lease Services

9. PUBLIC HEARINGS, ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

- a. 2nd Reading - Ordinance No. 2026-O-03: Increasing the Annual Salary for the Mayor and City Council Members

City Manager Mahoney confirmed this was the second reading with staff recommending approval.

Mayor Depew opened the public hearing.

Kim Long, 3312 Mango Tree Drive, spoke in support of the raise.

Doug Frederick, spoke in support of the raise.

Jeff Brower, De Leon Springs, spoke in support of the raise.

Janet Shira, 148 Williams Street, spoke in support of the raise.

Greg Gimbert, 255 Euclid Avenue, Daytona Beach, spoke in support of the raise.

Jim Lovegreen, 182 Jones Fish Camp Road, spoke in support of the raise.

Ken Cartisano, 3312 Mango Tree Drive, spoke in support of the raise,

Mayor Depew closed the public hearing.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Dolbow, second by Councilman Rainbird, to approve Ordinance No. 2026-O-03, increase the annual salary for the Mayor and City Council members. The MOTION was APPROVED by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Mayor DePew, Councilwoman Gillis, Councilman Thomas, Councilwoman Dolbow and Councilman Rainbird

- b. 1st Reading - Ordinance No. 2026-O-04: Potable Reuse Charter Amendment (Limitation on Reclaimed Blackwater Use)

Jeff Lariscy, Interim Public Works Director, presented the staff report, explaining that the City serves 11,000 utility customers and currently uses 92% of reclaimed water for irrigation, with the remainder unfortunately being discharged into the Indian River. He noted that the planned wetland

park in Deering Park would eliminate routine discharge into the river. However, the department must plan for future flexibility and maintain eligibility for grant funding. Staff recommended an ordinance rather than charter amendment to maintain future Council control.

Mayor Depew opened the public hearing.

Jeff Brower, De Leon Springs, strongly advocated for a permanent charter amendment ban rather than an Ordinance that could be changed by future politicians.

Greg Gimbert, gave his support for the charter amendment approach to protect residents from neighboring communities' decisions to inject treated wastewater into the aquifer.

Councilwoman Gillis expressed concerns for future water quality and supported a ban on both potable reuse and aquifer injections.

Mayor Depew supported letting residents vote on the issue.

Councilman Rainbird raised concerns about potential impacts on grant funding and water rates, noting that the City has adequate water supply through Deering Park.

Councilwoman Dolbow wanted more cost analysis and education before making permanent restrictions.

City Attorney Sabatini clarified that charter amendments can be modified outside the 5-year cycle through a special referendum. They don't have to wait for the next Charter Review Committee, they can change it during the next election cycle.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Gillis, second by Councilman Rainbird, to approve the 1st reading of Ordinance No. 2026-O-04 - banning potable reuse charter amendment limitation reclaimed blackwater use, but also to include the amendment that also lists aquaphor injection. The MOTION was APPROVED by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Mayor DePew, Councilwoman Gillis, Councilman Thomas, Councilwoman Dolbow and Councilman Rainbird

- c. 1st Reading - Ordinance No. 2026-O-05: Prohibition on Direct Potable Reuse of Reclaimed Blackwater**

Following consensus that both approaches should be pursued, the Council moved forward with the Ordinance version as well.

Greg Gimbert, thanked Council for pursuing both options.

Cynthia Black, Umbrella Tree Drive, reminded Council that the City sometimes runs short of reclaimed water.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Gillis, second by Councilman Rainbird, to approve 9c. 1st Reading - Ordinance No. 2026-O-5 prohibition on direct potable reuse of reclaimed blackwater, to include that I want it to be ordered that it also bans aquaphor injection. The MOTION was APPROVED by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Mayor DePew, Councilwoman Gillis, Councilman Thomas, Councilwoman Dolbow and Councilman Rainbird

d. Resolution 2026-R-12: ADA Plan

City Manager Mahoney explained that this Resolution updates compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, adopting handicap accessibility evaluation and transition plans. All city-owned properties were evaluated and found to be ADA compliant with no changes needed.

Mayor Depew opened and closed the public hearing.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Dolbow, second by Councilwoman Gillis, to approve Resolution No. 2026-R-12 ADA Plan. The MOTION was APPROVED by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Mayor DePew, Councilwoman Gillis, Councilman Thomas, Councilwoman Dolbow and Councilman Rainbird

e. Resolution 2026-R-14: Support of the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council's grant application to develop the Southeast Volusia Space Overlay Area Infrastructure Gap Analysis Plan.

John Scott, Economic Development Director, presented the regional partnership between New Smyrna, Edgewater, and Oak Hill to study properties suitable for space industry companies. The study would identify resilient sites with minimal community impact and develop infrastructure plans and funding sources. The city's contribution would be \$11,004 in matching funds, with the Regional Planning Council providing approximately \$296,000.

Mayor Depew opened the public hearing.

Councilwoman Dolbow expressed her excitement over the opportunities this would bring to the City.

Mayor Depew closed the public hearing.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Dolbow, second by Councilman Rainbird, to approve Resolution No. 2026-R-14. The MOTION was APPROVED by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Mayor DePew, Councilwoman Gillis, Councilman Thomas, Councilwoman Dolbow and Councilman Rainbird

10. BOARD APPOINTMENTS

None at this time.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

- a. SD-2406: Request for a RPUD Amendment, Preliminary Plat, and Construction Plan Approval for the Crestwood Subdivision located on U.S Highway 1 across from Terra Mar Village.

Ryan Solstice, Development Services Director, stated the subdivision was initially approved as Worthington Creek with 288 units on 159 acres. The new proposal lowers this to 254 units. Throughout an 18-month review, staff suggested several amendments:

Converting private roads to public roads to promote connectivity.

Installing three (3) traffic speed tables maintained by the HOA.

Converting 6-foot walking paths to 5-foot paths to reduce impervious surface.

Adding a 530-foot littoral shelf with minimum 2,310 littoral plants adjacent to preserved wetland.

The public road conversion would cost taxpayers for maintenance but generate an estimated \$750,000-\$1,000,000 annually in revenue. Staff believes public roads are crucial for triggering traffic lights and improving safety in the area.

Mayor Depew opened the public hearing.

J. Christie Wilson III, 601 North Fern Creek Avenue, Orlando, attorney for applicant, confirmed their agreement with staff recommendations.

Councilwoman Gillis stressed that the development had been approved decades earlier and highlighted that the amendment reduced the approved number of units, which was beneficial despite the challenges of assuming road maintenance responsibilities.

Councilwoman Dolbow supported the amendment as it provided more open space and a lower overall number of units compared to the original plan.

Councilman Rainbird appreciated Mr. Solstice and the Development Services Departments' approach to negotiating improvements and concessions.

Mayor Depew echoed sentiments about the amendment leading to a reduction in units as a favorable outcome, emphasizing the improved public safety.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Dolbow, second by Councilman Rainbird, to approve SD-2406 - SD-2406 request for RPUD amendment, preliminary plat, and construction plan approval for the Crestwood Subdivision located at U.S Highway 1 across from Terra Mar Village. The MOTION was APPROVED by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Mayor DePew, Councilwoman Gillis, Councilman Thomas, Councilwoman Dolbow and Councilman Rainbird

- b. SP-2417: Request for minor site plan approval for the Deering Park North Amenity Center.

Ryan Solstice, Development Services Director, presented the request for a 6,840 square foot amenity center on 3.81 acres in Deering Park North. The facility includes a 3,838 square foot clubhouse, 1,307 square foot cabana, canoe/kayak launch, mail kiosk, pool, and lazy river. The applicant exceeded code requirements by providing 90 parking spaces instead of the required 30, plus 20 golf cart spaces.

Mayor Depew opened the public hearing.

Councilwoman Gillis found it encouraging that the development includes amenities for the residents instead of more houses.

Councilman Thomas stated his preference for approving developments that provide community amenities.

Councilwoman Dolbow praised the applicants efforts to significantly exceed code requirements, specifically regarding parking.

Councilman Rainbird felt it was a positive move and appreciated the proactive effort to offer more parking than necessary.

Mayor Depew appreciated the way the new facility brings a lot of positives to the community.

Mayor Depew closed the public hearing.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Dolbow, second by Councilman Rainbird, to approve the request for minor site plan approval for the Deering Park North Amenity Center. The MOTION was APPROVED by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Mayor DePew, Councilwoman Gillis, Councilman Thomas, Councilwoman Dolbow and Councilman Rainbird

12. OFFICER REPORTS

- a. City Clerk

Interim City Clerk Toupin had nothing to report but apologized for formatting issues.

- b. City Attorney

City Attorney Sabatini announced that the legislative session had concluded and a special session was upcoming. He planned to provide a comprehensive update on passed legislation in the coming months.

13. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Kim Long, 3312 Mango Tree Drive, questioned whether the Council could implement policies requiring development permits to expire after a certain period if construction doesn't begin, similar to practices in other states. She also advocated for bicycle safety education programs for children using e-bikes, noting safety concerns while supporting their recreational use.

14. ADJOURN

There being no further business to discuss, Mayor Depew adjourned the meeting at 9:11 PM.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by:

*Monique Toupin
Interim City Clerk*

Pursuant to Chapter 286, F.S., if an individual decides to appeal any decision made with respect to any matter considered at a meeting or hearing, that individual will need a record of the proceedings and will need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made. The City does not prepare or provide such record.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons needing assistance to participate in any of these proceedings should contact the City Clerks Office, 104 N. Riverside Drive, Edgewater, Florida, telephone number 386-424-2400 x 1102, 5 days prior to the meeting date. If you are hearing or voice impaired, contact the relay operator at 1-800-955-8771.