



City of Edgewater

104 N. Riverside Drive
Edgewater, FL 32132

Meeting Minutes City Council

Monday, May 4, 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 6pm.

2. APPROVAL OR CHANGES/MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA

Mayor Depew noted that with Council approval, the order of Presentations would be modified. Item 4d (Safe Boating Week), Item 4f (Fair Housing Month), and the Garden Club presentation would be moved up, followed by the City of Edgewater Volunteer Disaster Response Program and the Stormwater Master Plan presentation.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Regular Meeting - February 2nd, 2026
Regular Meeting - April 6th, 2026

A motion was made by Councilwoman Dolbow, second by Councilman Rainbird, to approve the regular meeting of February 2, 2026 and regular meeting of April 6, 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. Feral Hogs - Understanding the Challenge

Police Chief Geiger discussed recent feral hog activity, especially in the Florida Shores area. He explained the history of feral hogs in the U.S. and noted that it is not a problem unique to Edgewater but that the City had previously engaged trappers to address the issue.

He advised homeowners and businesses to remove outdoor food sources like insects in freshly mowed yards and acorns, and to keep trash near the house instead of the curb. He emphasized reporting hog activity, either via damage or rooting, to the City. Contact options include his email (cgeiger@cityofedgewater.org), the Animal Control Officer's email (dodell@cityofedgewater.org), and the non-emergency line. The City received a report of hog activity in the airport corridor over the weekend; FWC's trapper was notified and scheduled to visit on Thursday.

Chief Geiger explained that the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission handles wildlife management until issues arise in residential areas, then the City takes over coordination with trappers. The trapping can take from one day to a month. For hunting questions, Chief Geiger noted that Florida permits hunting on private property, but advised consulting an attorney. It's a misdemeanor to relocate feral hogs; hence, they must be humanely dispatched, with the meat often donated to shelters and churches.

Mayor Depew inquired about the reporting process and the City's use of contracted services for trapping feral hogs. Chief Geiger explained that residents can flag down a police officer, email the department, or call the non-emergency number, and an animal control officer along with a police lieutenant will evaluate the situation prior to engaging a trapper. He encouraged residents to consult with a private attorney for legal advice regarding shooting the hogs on their own property but noted he wouldn't discourage someone for protecting their property.

b. City of Edgewater Volunteer Disaster Response Program Implementation

Chief Geiger presented the Emergency Volunteer Program, initiated following Council consensus post-hurricane season. He highlighted disorganized volunteer efforts during Hurricanes Ian and Nicole, with tasks being duplicated. The new program, inspired by police and fire structures, will be managed by the Police Department to bring needed organization to volunteer efforts.

The program will be announced soon. Applicants must be 18+, able to travel, and willing to serve, with a 15-day application period. Accepted volunteers will attend an orientation at City Hall about expectations and storm procedures, receiving uniforms and safety vests.

Volunteers will be activated during a state of emergency, assisting with sandbag stations, water distribution, and phone lines, allowing staff to focus on essential duties. They will pause 24 hours before storms to be with families and will resume once safe, handling tasks like shelter support, road safety, and food distribution. Chief Geiger encouraged residents to contact police@cityofedgewater.org to get involved.

Mayor Depew expressed strong support for the initiative, noting he had previously discussed it at the Council level due to past events. He thanked staff for following through.

c. Butterfly Gardening Certification Committee with the New Smyrna Beach Garden Club - Presentation of Monarch Butterfly Boxes to the City.

JoAnn Anderson, President of the New Smyrna Beach Garden Club, stated that the organization is active in New Smyrna Beach, Port Orange, and Edgewater. She introduced the Butterfly Garden Certification Committee and highlighted Edgewater joining a nationwide effort to protect monarch butterfly populations in 2024 by planting milkweed and nectar plants, identifying it as the most recent amongst 22 Monarch Cities in Florida.

Garden Club member Dave detailed the monarch population's decline from over one billion in 1997 to 78 million in 2017, citing milkweed loss due to herbicides, urban development, climate change, and

Mexican deforestation. The Club has worked with the City since 2023, participating in events, helping with a butterfly garden at the Environmental Services office, and a certified garden at Hawks Park using 100% native milkweed, receiving thanks from the staff for conservation efforts.

Ms. Anderson presented Mayor Depew with a custom poplar wood milkweed planter created by Garden Club members, expressing gratitude for the City's support.

d. Proclamation - National Safe Boating Week

Mayor Depew presented the proclamation to a representative of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary; the representative noted that Edgewater falls within their area of responsibility and the Auxiliary works with several neighborhoods on vessel inspections and education programs.

The representative encouraged anyone interested in boating education to contact them by searching "Coast Guard Auxiliary" online. Mayor Depew thanked the Auxiliary for all of their work.

e. Proclamation - Buddy Davenport Day

Mayor Depew declared that Buddy Davenport Day was among his favorite proclamations. He highlighted Mr. Davenport's prominent role and spirited service on the Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND) Board, where he serves as Chair and is notably the first Volusia County chairperson in its 100-year history. The proclamation praised Mr. Davenport's leadership in legislative committees and his interventions in beach nourishment, dredging projects, and collaborative initiatives with county officials and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, fostering \$6.9M in grants with \$16.3M construction value for disaster relief and waterways.

f. Proclamation - Fair Housing Month

Mayor Depew presented the proclamation to a representative from the New Smyrna Beach Board of Realtors.

g. Comprehensive Stormwater Master Plan

City Manager Mahoney introduced the item, noting that Chief Engineer Matt Creel could not be present; a brief video was shown in which Mr. Creel provided an overview of the Stormwater Master Plan.

City Manager Mahoney then described the plan as the City's largest stormwater infrastructure initiative. He emphasized its strategic importance for securing grants and government appropriations. Although called a "plan," it's more of a long-term engineering assessment evaluating future flooding risks and potential solutions. Not all proposed projects will be executed, nor have any been pre-approved.

City Manager Mahoney addressed community concerns by affirming that there are no plans for involuntary home acquisitions. He clarified that Phase 1, expected to last 10 years, does not include home acquisitions. Although Phase 2 mentions possible property acquisitions like easements or

rights-of-way, these projects aren't mandatory and will depend on future Council decisions.

Phase 1 involves a \$152,000,000 investment across nine (9) projects. The City has completed one project, with another under construction and two (2) in design. City Manager Mahoney noted the Volco Road improvement project is developer-funded and a federal request has been submitted for the Reuse Pond Pump Station design. Completion of Phase 1 is expected to significantly reduce flooding, especially during short rainstorms that are common in the rainy season.

Mayor Depew felt this was a huge missing piece of the puzzle and that it would help when seeking future funding opportunities. He thanked City Manager Mahoney and all staff involved in producing the study.

Councilman Rainbird asked if the City had received clearance to clear the sandbar in the 18th Street Canal; City Manager Mahoney confirmed that they had and advised that it would be addressed in his report.

5. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Mahoney provided the following updates:

Charter Review Committee - The Charter Review Committee has concluded its work and provided recommendations for the upcoming ballot items. Approximately 13 or 14 recommended amendments will be brought before the Council at the June meeting for decisions on which items to advance.

18th Street Canal Dredging - The Consent Agenda features a proposal to leverage the City of Tampa's maintenance contract for the dredging of the 18th Street Canal. Pending approval, construction should commence in the next month. The estimated project cost ranges from \$800,000 to \$1,000,000, with a State appropriation available to fund canal armoring as part of the cost share.

Veterans Park Ribbon Cutting - A ribbon cutting ceremony for Veterans Park is set for May 6th at 3:00 PM. City Manager Mahoney acknowledged Parks Director Jason O'Keefe and his staff for their excellent coordination on both the Menard May and Veterans Park pier projects.

City Manager Mahoney recognized Heather Larkin, Permit Technician in the Building Department, as the City of Edgewater's Team Member of the Month. He read her nomination aloud, praising her exemplary customer service, reliability and accuracy in ensuring building documents comply with the Florida Building Code, her team collaboration between building inspectors, planners, and the public, and her problem-solving initiative. He stated that she embodies the spirit of the One Edgewater team culture.

6. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Janet Shira, 148 Williams Street, informed the Council that the 4401 South Ridgewood Avenue rezoning was denied in March but a Volusia Forever grant application for conservation was halted as the seller showed no interest due to existing contract offers. Despite this setback, she remains

hopeful for a conservation outcome and thanked the Council for denying the rezoning.

Tracy Barlow, realtor (address not provided), in response to Ms. Shira, explained that he received communication from a Volusia County representative about the Volusia Forever grant program. He shared the detailed and convoluted process with the estate's representatives, clarifying it was the estate's decision not to pursue the grant. Mr. Barlow confirmed the property has a contract and a backup, and has told Mr. Telfer that Volusia Forever can submit a letter of intent or purchase offer for consideration.

Art Slack, 3031 Umbrella Tree Drive, questioned the solar-powered canal monitoring cameras, stating that footage is sent to Germany for monitoring. He doubted the reliability of this method, suggesting a local alert system with visual indicators and a siren for immediate alerts. He also inquired about the costs and effectiveness compared to local options. Mayor DePue assured him the city would address these concerns.

Doug Frederick, 504 Sea Anchor Circle, raised issues about the stormwater management in Edgewater Landing, disputing a City Official's claim of no risk and citing a 59-page document of home damage from stormwater as evidence. On April 13, 2026, another City Official allegedly refused to review evidence, calling it the HOA's responsibility, but Mr. Frederick argued that City workers had maintained those areas. He sent a certified letter to various authorities for resolution.

Craig Stevenson, 512 Sea Anchor Circle, inquired about the City's responsibility for the stormwater drainage in Edgewater Landing, questioning when the City relinquished it, the reasons why, and who is currently responsible. He pointed out residents are billed \$14.58 per household monthly, totaling over \$75,000 annually, and questioned what services are being provided for this fee and if reimbursement is due.

Mayor Depew directed Mr. Stevenson to contact the City Manager, the Public Works Director and his Council representative.

City Manager Mahoney agreed to meet with Mr. Stevenson after the meeting to clear up any miscommunication regarding Edgewater Landings. He explained that although the HOA is responsible for common areas, the City still handles infrastructure maintenance in the public right-of-way, and he offered his business card to arrange a side meeting for further clarification.

Noble Livingston, 2705 Queen Palm Drive, announced that the Rolling Vietnam Veterans Wall would be arriving in Edgewater on May 8th, with celebrations at Amvets Post No.2 on May 9th. He also discussed the possibility of the painting of City hydrants with community submitted designs; Mayor Depew received consensus from Council to direct the City Manager to look into the matter further.

7. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilman Thomas asked the audience to recognize Ms. Betty Hollis, who had turned 91 years old that week and was in attendance. He noted that she still attends Council meetings and requested a

round of applause in her honor.

Councilwoman Dolbow began by acknowledging and thanking the efforts for the upcoming Amvets celebration. She encouraged residents to visit the Amvets Post 2 Facebook page for the full schedule and noted the wall would be lit 24/7 while at its post.

Councilwoman Dolbow discussed the City's noise Ordinance, highlighting that several small businesses want to offer outdoor entertainment. She noted some businesses are close to residential areas but believed a balance could be achieved, citing New Smyrna Beach and Port Orange as examples where outdoor activities co-exist with nearby neighborhoods. She asked City Manager Mahoney to investigate how other Cities manage outdoor entertainment Ordinances.

City Manager Mahoney stated that staff is researching the topic. One option could be to revise the special activity permit process to allow outdoor music permits for six months to a year with specific hours. He noted Edgewater's ordinance is similar to New Smyrna Beach and Port Orange ordinances but acknowledged the differences might be due to residential proximity or fewer complaints in those areas. He will provide an update at the next meeting and suggested staff could recommend noise-mitigating options, like fences or walls.

Councilman Rainbird discussed the Earth Day event at Hawk's Park and thanked staff for their efforts. He mentioned a letter he sent to Tim Telfer of Volusia Forever supporting their effort to purchase 4401 S Ridgewood Avenue. He highlighted Mr. Telfers efficiency and shared that the City Manager was copied on the letter. They had received a prompt response indicating the realtor would be contacted immediately.

Councilwoman Gillis wished Ms. Betty a happy birthday as well. Similar to Councilwoman Dolbow, she had received complaints from residents about difficulties obtaining permits for children's events - specifically because they had not filed 90 days in advance. She questioned whether that timeline is appropriate for small, informal events like petting zoos and bounce houses, and asked for consensus to direct the City Manager to review the permit timelines. Consensus was given.

Councilwoman Gillis stated she would support Volusia Forever or any conservation program acquiring the 4401 South Ridgewood Avenue property. She also reported having toured another subject property on Old County Road.

She highlighted various community activities she attended: the STOMP team funding success at Edgewater Public School, candidate forums, the Earth Day tree giveaway at Hawks Park (thanking Parks staff including Jason, Chris, Kevin, JJ, Danielle, and Tyna), school events, City Clerk interviews, Buddy Davenport Day on April 21st, the Volusia-Flagler TPO meeting, Habitat for Humanity's Earth Day tree planting and home dedication, Gary Snyder's birthday at Amvets, the Bike Show Mafia Coffee Company's opening, Flavors of the Heart Advent Health Fundraiser at The Magnolia, Edgewater Union Church's 114th birthday (noting it's Edgewater's oldest church), and Oak Hill Sports Club's final ceremony, which is re-branding as Indian River Lagoon Athletics with a

first all-star team. She expressed gratitude to local business sponsors and joy at baseball returning.

Councilwoman Gillis highlighted My Angels Attic, a nonprofit on South Riverside Drive serving seniors, run by "Miss Debbie" at 2146 South Riverside Drive, Suites 9-11. The organization accepts donations and plans to open a thrift store with senior outreach events. She also congratulated Brian Ginz on his retirement after 28 years with the City, calling him "a treasure to the community."

Mayor Depew highlighted the Rotary Club golf tournament at Venetian Bay Golf Club (noting the club meets Thursdays at 6 PM near the Development Services office), his participation at the Upward Trend Foundation's Shark Tank event where students pitched business ideas, a meeting with a West Volusia County Councilmember to discuss Countywide issues, and attendance at a DeSantis press conference to discuss a new interstate interchange aimed at alleviating traffic on I-95. He joined colleagues in wishing Ms. Betty Hollis a happy 91st birthday, noting that Senator Rick Scott and local congressmen had also called her. He wished Gary Snyder a happy birthday as well.

Mayor Depew closed with a business spotlight, directing residents to a new antique and gift shop that recently opened at 931 South Ridgewood Avenue, Unit B7, located in the shopping center across from Frosty King. He described the family owners as welcoming and encouraged residents to visit.

8. CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Councilwoman Gillis, second by Councilwoman Dolbow, 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.** Aqua Park Swimming pools fill assistance
- b.** Vacuum Truck Rental
- c.** Piggyback on a contract between Seminole County and Bound Tree Medical LLC for the purchase of EMS supplies
- d.** Purchase and replacement of two submersible wastewater pumps for Lift Station 40
- e.** 18th Street Canal Dredging

9. PUBLIC HEARINGS, ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

- a.** 2nd Reading - Ordinance No. 2026-O-04: Potable Reuse Charter Amendment (Limitation on Reclaimed Blackwater Use)

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

Mayor Depew opened the public hearing.

Jeff Brower, De Leon Springs, expressed support for the Ordinance and noted that the measure had failed at the County level. He felt this was the most important issue in Volusia County and urged for another unanimous vote for approval.

Greg Gimbert, Daytona Beach, noted significant changes since the first reading, including that two gubernatorial candidates had both publicly stated this type of water injection would not occur on their watch, which he attributed partly to the actions taken by Edgewater. He thanked the Council for their heroic actions that were already paying off.

Mayor Depew closed the public hearing and opened Council comments.

Councilman Thomas applauded Edgewater's progress in water quality, highlighting that the city has only 84 remaining septic tanks and has commenced a wetland water recharge project to stop 840,000 gallons of diffused water from entering the lagoon daily. He contrasted this with Deltona's complete reliance on septic systems and Titusville's need to buy water from Farnton due to saltwater intrusion, using these examples to underscore the importance of protecting water sources.

Councilwoman Gillis indicated that she was prepared to make a motion.

Councilman Rainbird shared concerns, acknowledging the ecological and public health risks of water supply injection but opposed irreversible Charter amendments due to potential issues like higher utility rates, funding loss, and compliance challenges. He suggested a more flexible moratorium while trusting in the Council's capability to decide wisely. Councilman Thomas emphasized a "step by step" approach, with Mayor Depew agreeing that such topics should be put to a public vote while understanding these concerns.

Councilwoman Dolbow echoed many of the same concerns from the previous meeting, adding that she would like to have additional speakers present both the pros and cons of the measure in upcoming months before the November ballot, so that voters go to the polls fully informed. She stressed the importance of transparency and said she has been reaching out to individuals in various positions to gather more information. Councilman Thomas noted there is still much to be discussed regarding future water supply alternatives such as desalination.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Gillis, second by Councilman Rainbird, to approve the second reading of Ordinance no. 2026-O-04: Potable Reuse Charter Amendment but to be clear that it includes the underground well injection Charter. The MOTION was APPROVED by the following vote:

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

- b.** 2nd Reading - Ordinance No. 2026-O-05: Prohibition on Direct Potable Reuse of Reclaimed Blackwater

There was no staff report as this was a second reading.

Mayor Depew opened the public hearing.

Craig Stevenson, 512 Sea Anchor Circle, asked for clarification on where the City's black water (treated reclaimed water) is currently going and whether this Ordinance specifically prohibits it from being injected into the ground. Mayor Depew confirmed that the majority of the reclaimed water is currently used for irrigation.

Mayor Depew closed the public hearing.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Gillis, second by Councilman Rainbird, to approve the second reading of Ordinance No. 2026-O-05: Prohibition on Direct Potable Reuse of Reclaimed Blackwater to include the underground well injection Ordinance. The MOTION was APPROVED by the following vote:

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

c. Resolution 2026-R-13; May Amended Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026

Bridgette Vaissiere, Finance Director, provided a staff report and recommendation.

Ms. Vaissiere detailed the key components of the amendment:

Fire Station 55 incurred lightning strike damage; \$47,902 in insurance proceeds were received to complete repairs.

A grant was received for a bucket truck for Parks and Recreation in the amount of \$186,892

A Lowe's Community Impact Grant of \$200,000 has been applied for to fund Hawks Park Pickleball restroom facilities.

\$150,000 is the maximum City match for the Incertec Grant approved at the January 5, 2026 Council meeting.

\$82,500 for a federal lobbyist as approved at the February 2, 2026 Council meeting.

\$35,830 was revised for an open purchase order at year-end not included in the carry-forward amendment.

Boat Ramp Grant Match for \$200,000 in general fund reserves and \$684,400 in recreation impact fees to advance grant applications for the southern boat ramp, subject to further amendment as grant information becomes available.

The Veterans Park Pier Project was shifted to the current year to take advantage of mobilization costs, with the vendor approved at the March 2, 2026 Council meeting.

Funding for Rotary Park and Hawks Park Soccer Complex restroom was allocated to accommodate current-year construction.

The Parktown Road Improvement Development Agreement purchase order carry-forward of \$78,483, funded by road impact fees, was revised.

The Police Department identified impact fees for radio purchases (\$64,857), a trailer upgrade (\$49,001), and a boat upgrade (\$101,391) with 50/50 funding for impact fees and a FIND grant.

Water and sewer operating and capital funds are decreasing by \$205,005 reallocating completed prior-year project funds to operating lines for a vacuum truck rental, an F-550 truck for field operations, and a water and sewer impact fee update.

Stormwater funds are increasing for a 5-6 yard dump truck funded by an FDEP grant (\$125,736) and for the design cost of the 27th Street Channel to E9 Canal project (\$135,000), offset by the elimination of a vac truck rental now that the City has an in-house unit.

Mayor Depew opened the public hearing.

Janet Shira, 148 Williams Street, inquired about the Recreation Impact Fee Fund (Fund 118) as it seemed to be missing in the budget, directly transitioning from Fund 117 to Fund 119. She wanted to know the current balance and commitments of that fund since she was exploring potential matching city funds for the Volusia Forever grant application.

Mayor Depew closed the public hearing.

Ms. Vaissiere stated that she did not have the Recreation impact fee balance available offhand but offered to send the information to those who requested it.

There were no further Council comments.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Dolbow, second by Councilman Rainbird, to approve Resolution No. 2026-R-13: May Amended Budget for Fiscal Year 25-26. 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-15 - FIND Application Funding Resolution

City Manager Mahoney presented the Resolution; the City is seeking funding for a new public boat ramp facility with four ramps, eight lanes, floating docks, a boat prep and wash area, kayak launch, construction launch site, and a police docking facility. Infrastructure upgrades include 80 trailer parking spaces, roadways, utility connections, and more. He stated the project's Phase 2 cost is about \$5,450,000, largely to be grant-funded.

Mayor Depew opened and closed the public hearing.

Mayor Depew expressed appreciation for the collaborative effort behind the Resolution, thanking Buddy Davenport, Police Chief Geiger, Parks and Recreation Director Jason O'Keefe, Development Services Director Ryan Solstice and City Manager Mahoney for all of their hard work.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Dolbow, second by Councilwoman Gillis, to approve Resolution No. 2026-R-15: FIND Application Funding Resolution. 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-16 FDOT Highway MOA Maintenance Contract #AT415
Financial Project No.:244621-1-78-03

City Manager Mahoney presented the Resolution, detailing that Edgewater's contract with FDOT for maintaining US 1 and State Road 442 began in 2005. The current agreement spans three years, with FDOT paying \$21,885.25 quarterly, totaling \$87,541.00 annually. This marks an \$11,000 quarterly increase from the previous contract. He requested a motion to approve the resolution and authorize executing the agreement.

Mayor Depew opened and closed the public hearing.

Councilwoman Dolbow expressed satisfaction with the increase, noting that even with the improvement the compensation likely still does not fully cover the city's cost to maintain the corridor, but acknowledged it as a meaningful step in the right direction. She thanked those who had worked on it.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Dolbow, second by Councilman Rainbird, to approve Resolution No. 2026-R-16. The MOTION was APPROVED by the following vote:

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

- f. Resolution No. 2026-R-17 - FDOT SunTrail Phase 54 Grant Agreement
(Superseding Resolution No. 2021-R-11)

City Manager Mahoney introduced the Resolution, noting the prior approval on May 3, 2021, of Resolution No. 2021-R-11 for a state-funded FDOT grant to design a SunTrail segment from Roberts Road to Dale Street. He explained that the project has since been expanded in collaboration with FDOT and regional partners, now stretching from State Road 442 north to the Florida Shores neighborhood and west along West Park Avenue to Dale Street. The revised agreement boosts FDOT funding from \$2,350,000 to \$6,360,000 due to the expanded scope. Consequently, a new resolution is needed to override previous approval, and staff sought authorization for the City Manager to execute this updated grant agreement.

Mayor Depew opened and closed the public hearing.

Councilwoman Dolbow was happy to see this move forward as it was paid for by grants.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Dolbow, second by Councilman Rainbird, to approve Public Hearing No. 2026-R-17- FDOT SunTrail Phase 54 Grant Agreement (Superseding Resolution No. 2021-R-11). 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. City Clerk Interview Discussion and Selection

City Manager Mahoney advised the Council that they had the opportunity to interview three candidates for the City Clerk position on April 21, 2026. He stated his belief that all three candidates — Celine Kidwell, Cassandra Killgore, and Sarah Jacobsen — were qualified for the position. He requested that the Council select an individual and make a motion to authorize him to negotiate an employment agreement with the selected candidate.

Mayor Depew opened the public hearing.

Cassandra Killgore, 819 S Cedar Avenue, Orange City, addressed the Council and thanked them for their continued consideration throughout the process. She reiterated her desire to provide the stability that the Clerk's office needs and that she would be honored to serve the City of Edgewater.

Councilman Rainbird thanked Interim City Clerk Toupin and HR Director Julie Christine for their work in coordinating the interview process.

Councilwoman Gillis expressed appreciation for Monique Toupin's ongoing contributions.

Mayor Depew felt all three (3) candidates were wonderful and straightforward in their interviews. He did indicate a preference for Sarah Jacobsen but felt they couldn't go wrong no matter who they chose.

Councilman Rainbird reflected on the qualities of each candidate. He noted that Cassandra Killgore's career had been spent entirely in Florida, giving her familiarity with Florida law, county law, and local law — a quality he described as a standout compared to candidates from other states. He also appreciated her consistent attendance at Council meetings. He shared that Ms. Jacobsen had a very positive presence but he did prefer Cassandra based on her Florida-based experience.

Councilwoman Gillis stated that her top two (2) candidates were Sarah Jacobsen and Cassandra Killgore, noting that both interviewed strongly.

Councilwoman Dolbow praised all the candidates as fully qualified and thanked Ms. Killgore for returning for a second interview. She expressed that longevity in the role was a primary consideration, identifying her top two (2) choices as Sarah Jacobsen and Celine Kidwell. Regarding Celine Kidwell, she noted Kidwell's seven-plus years in city clerk roles, including being a Deputy Clerk. Cassandra Killgore brought nearly three years of experience as a deputy city clerk and experience with the Fifth District Court of Appeals in Daytona Beach. Sarah Jacobsen has notable city clerk experience and a robust additional background. Her primary concern was each candidate's ability to work with the Council's varied personalities.

Councilman Thomas praised Celine Kidwell, highlighting her Florida background, residency in Pinellas County, and hurricane and FEMA experience. He recalled her sharing her toughest clerk's office experience—managing FEMA funding post-hurricane—and thought this would greatly benefit the City Manager in State dealings. While acknowledging all candidates as highly qualified, Thomas found Kidwell's specific FEMA experience particularly impactful.

City Manager Mahoney was asked by Councilman Rainbird to rank the candidates he interviewed for the City Clerk position. He confirmed all three candidates were experienced and capable but expressed a preference for Sarah Jacobsen. He highlighted her confidence and ability to manage multiple roles, suggesting she could bring additional responsibilities to the clerk's office.

Councilman Thomas expressed concern about Jacobsen's salary expectations, as she desired the top of the pay scale. City Manager Mahoney clarified that the advertised maximum was about \$100,000, while the previous City Clerk earned \$93,000. He mentioned an ongoing compensation study that might indicate the pay level is below market rate.

Mayor Depew suggested hiring Sarah Jacobsen for \$93,000 annually, allowing renegotiation if needed. Ms. Jacobsen had mentioned a 30-day notice period, aiming to start around mid-June 2026.

Councilman Rainbird inquired about a residency requirement for the new City Clerk. City Manager Mahoney confirmed the requirement via Charter but mentioned a possible exemption could be negotiated in the employment contract, to be reviewed by the Council at the next meeting.

A motion was made by Mayor DePew, second by Councilwoman Dolbow, to hire Ms. Sarah Jacobsen for \$93,000 a year as City Clerk. The MOTION was APPROVED by the following vote:

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

b. 27th Street Channel to E9 Canal Preliminary Design - Professional Engineering Services

City Manager Mahoney explained that the City's Stormwater Master Plan aims to boost drainage by linking the 27th Street channel to the E9 Canal, extending to the Silver Palm Canal, improving conveyance while preserving the E9 Canal's existing discharge. The preliminary design phase is set

for five (5) months to establish final design, permitting, and construction groundwork. The cost is \$135,001. Staff requested approval for a task order with Mead & Hunt for professional engineering services totaling this amount and to authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement.

Mayor Depew opened and closed the public hearing.

Councilwoman Dolbow noted that survey work was already underway and that she had a positive conversation with one of the surveyors near her home who had expressed confidence in completing the work on schedule.

Mayor Depew also expressed enthusiasm for the project and hoped that it would alleviate some of the flooding.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Dolbow, second by Councilman Rainbird, to approve the 27th Street Channel to E9 Canal Preliminary Design - Professional Engineering Services in the amount of \$135,001. The MOTION was APPROVED by the following vote:

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

- c. AR-2026-0118: Request to remove a historical specimen tree, live oak, with a DBH of 56 inches for the property at 200 West Park Avenue.

Ryan Solstice, Development Services Director, discussed the request to remove a historic tree — a live oak with a 56-inch DBH — at 200 West Park Avenue for new warehouse construction. Per Article 5, Section 21-55 of the Land Development Code, removal of such trees requires City Council approval. The applicant must replace it with 22 new trees or provide a monetary payment instead. Mr. Solstice mentioned staff preferred the monetary option to support city landscaping projects, citing a fee resolution amounting to \$61,575.66 at \$25 per square inch, allowing the council discretion to adjust this fee.

Mayor Depew noted for the record that he had met with the applicant's attorney, Joey Posey, prior to the meeting.

Joey Posey, 420 S Nova Road, attorney for the applicant, provided a presentation on behalf of the property owner. He explained the property covers about 1.25 acres with three buildable parcels, the northernmost containing a historic tree that makes it largely unbuildable. The land is zoned as heavy industrial, allowing by right activities including heavy manufacturing, boat building, general manufacturing, and services like truck freight and towing.

He explained the property covers about 1.25 acres with three buildable parcels, the northernmost containing a historic tree that makes it largely unbuildable. The land is zoned as heavy industrial, allowing by right activities including heavy manufacturing, boat building, general manufacturing, and services like truck freight and towing.

Mr. Posey explained that the property owner runs a family business from Pompano, established in

1948. The business employs about 70 people and has built over 100 high-end custom luxury vessels, including Jimmy Buffett's last boat. They're fully booked until 2033. The Edgewater location was chosen due to its skilled maritime workforce and proximity to a marine manufacturing hub.

Mr. Posey outlined plans for a new facility employing 15 workers with wages ranging from \$40,000 to \$50,000 annually. These wages are considered high for boat builders, owing to the detailed work on boats priced between \$16,000,000 to \$17,000,000 each. He illustrated how the proposed building design fits into the aesthetic goals for Park Avenue's corridor. Current property value assessments generate about \$3,600 in annual tax revenue for the city; however, post-construction evaluations, including \$3,000,000 in new builds and \$750,000 in land buys, would yield nearly \$25,000 yearly in tax revenue, excluding equipment or impact fees.

Mr. Posey summarized the case for approval, citing infill redevelopment on a heavy industrial parcel, above-average wages, low infrastructure impact, ad valorem revenue growth, and the legacy character of the business. He noted that the Kelly Group, serving as contractor, and the project's landscape architect were also present to address any site-specific questions.

Mayor Depew opened and closed the public hearing.

Councilwoman Dolbow expressed strong support for the project and emphasizing the benefit of bringing another custom boat manufacturer to Edgewater. She noted that the tax benefits were particularly significant given that the equipment tax alone with exceed the real estate tax contribution.

Mayor Depew reluctantly supported cutting the historic tree, citing the arborist's report indicating it would die regardless of the development. He emphasized that the \$61,000 payment could help plant new trees elsewhere. He also pointed out that under SB-180, the owner could bypass council approval with an affordable housing application.

Councilman Rainbird concurred, noting the ever-present risk of SB-180 and stated his support for the project. After a personal visit to the tree, he observed its poor condition, with substantial Spanish moss and precariously low branches.

Councilwoman Gillis remarked that after inspecting the tree, she was initially worried about its condition but was relieved it wasn't the oak in the right-of-way. Local homeowners and businesses support the project due to anticipated stormwater improvements, which influenced her decision. She also noted that she had spoken with the project engineers and asked whether there was any alternative configuration that could preserve the tree. She relayed that the engineers had walked her through multiple scenarios and concluded there was no workable solution that would both preserve the tree and meet the city's stormwater standards.

Councilman Thomas, though hesitant about removing a tree, supported the business venture due to Edgewater's reputation as a boat-building hub with companies like Boston Whaler and Edgewater

Boats.

The Council reached agreement that the payment in lieu of tree replacement, in the amount of \$61,575.66, was preferable to the 22-tree replacement requirement.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Dolbow, second by Councilman Rainbird, to approve AR-2026-0118: Request to remove a historical species Tree, Live Oak with a DBH of 56 inches for the property at 200 W Park Avenue for \$61,000 and some change. The MOTION was APPROVED by the following vote:

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

d. Discussion: Backyard Chickens

City Manager Mahoney noted discussions with Councilmembers about introducing a backyard chicken Ordinance. He mentioned a 2024 workshop where a draft Ordinance was discussed but never proceeded. He asked for Council input on whether staff should draft an Ordinance, specifically seeking input on provisions or restrictions from the prior workshop.

Councilman Rainbird felt that rooster shouldn't be permitted as they can be loud at unpredictable times. Councilwoman Dolbow agreed, noting that hatchlings cannot be reliably sexed until they begin to mature, leaving residents uncertain about what to do if a rooster presents itself.

Mayor Depew recalled the 2024 workshop, noting the County Ordinance served as a model. He expressed comfort with advancing that framework for further discussion, while acknowledging that changes could be incorporated into any Ordinance draft prior to final approval.

Councilwoman Gillis expressed preference for advancing the County Ordinance over the 2024 workshop's modified version, as she found it better suited and more well-written for the area. City Manager Mahoney confirmed that he required Council consensus to proceed with drafting and bringing the item back.

The Council gave consensus to direct staff to proceed with preparing a backyard chicken Ordinance modeled on the County Ordinance for future consideration.

12. OFFICER REPORTS

a. City Clerk

Interim City Clerk Toupin advised that the upcoming Volusia League of Cities dinner is scheduled for Thursday, May 28th, and requested that Council members who had not yet submitted their RSVPs do so at their earliest convenience.

b. City Attorney

City Attorney Sabatini reported that the recent legislative session saw more bills affecting local

government than ever before. Staff is compiling these into a PowerPoint, but paused due to a state budget meeting that may introduce more bills. The goal is to present all new legislation in one future council meeting.

City Attorney Sabatini updated on the SB 180 litigation, noting a productive call with Jamie Cole, lead counsel for the case. An affidavit is being prepared with the city's expert land planner to document financial impacts from complying with SB 180. This financial documentation is crucial to the litigation strategy. He remarked on gaining confidence after reviewing the numbers detailing the City's impact.

13. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Chuck Martin, 305 Cherrywood Lane, reported that he had been monitoring the progress and had raised concerns about potential flooding related to new infrastructure on Palmetto Avenue and Knapp Street. He suggested adding protective elements to prevent debris clogs and mentioned exploring a pump solution for Lime Tree Lake. He thanked City Manager Mahoney for his efforts on the current project and at Duck Lake.

Cindy Black, Umbrella Tree Drive, spoke in opposition to the discussion regarding backyard chickens, citing health and environmental concerns based on her personal experiences. She felt that while supporters of backyard chickens are vocal, a larger silent opposition exists but feels ignored. Mayor Depew appreciated Ms. Black's comments but respectfully disagreed on her characterization.

Corrie Sapp, 2630 Travelers Palm Drive, a local realtor, reported seeing 36 political signs on a single block, many grouped together in violation of the one-sign-per-property rule. She said the signs create confusion for home buyers and raised safety concerns along SR 442 and Travelers Palm Drive, where signs may obstruct drivers' views. She also stated that signs reading "Stop the Flooding" project a negative image that could affect property values and home sales.

Councilman Thomas requested that a presentation be scheduled for a future Council meeting regarding the status of the new boat ramp project, including the design progress, grant funding received and expanded, and a conceptual overview of the future facility. Mayor Depew confirmed that the request would be relayed to Parks and Recreation Director Jason O'Keefe.

14. ADJOURN

There being no further business to discuss, Mayor Depew adjourned the meeting at 8:32pm.

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.