

**EDGEWATER CITY COUNCIL
BUSINESS MEETING & WORK SESSION
MINUTES
November 14, 2023**

ITEM 1. BUSINESS MEETING CALL TO ORDER 6:30 pm

ITEM 2. Roll Call

City Clerk, Lenore Pedroza, called the roll.

Present: Mayor John Beltrone, Council Member Steve Conklin, Council Member Kali Janda, Council Member Reid-Vanas, Council Member Lilly Steir, and Council Member Hannah Gay Keao

Absent: Council Member Bill Berg

Also Present: City Manager, Dan Maples, Deputy City Manager/Community Development Director, Jocelyn Mills, Police Chief, Eric Sonstegard, Sustainability Coordinator, Paige Johnson, Community Services Director, Kit Lammers, Parks and Recreation Director, Amber Magee and City Attorney Carmen Beery

ITEM 3. Pledge of Allegiance

ITEM 4. Consent Agenda

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Minutes of October 24, 2023

Council Member Janda made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Seconded by Council Member Steirer and passed unanimously.

ITEM 5. Communications from the City Manager, Staff, and Boards and Commissions

Chief Sonstegard wanted to bring to Council's attention to the Narcan training class that was hosted by Edgewater PD in the Council Chambers. The Police Chief from the City of Evans came down to train 14 attendees which included employees and community members. PD made a commitment to get as much of that Narcan to hand out to employees and to community members. Thanked Council Member Gay Keao, who was the driving force in getting this training on schedule.

Deputy City Manager, Mills gave a brief update that they have had several migrants and asylum seekers that moved into Edgewater apartments over the past few months. Staff has met with some of the migrants, neighbors and property management for the apartments. What they found was there are several resources for new migrants but it is unclear on how to find them. Our staff is creating a resource guide, in both English and Spanish, to hand out with things like how to find the library, resources available to them, how to register their kids for school, how to start the asylum process, access to employment, access to food resources, etc.

ITEM 6. Presentations and Awards

None

ITEM 7. Public Comment (Non-Agenda Items)

Larry Welson, resident, expressed concern on the process Council followed at the last meeting regarding the City's consideration of an Ordinance that would impose water efficient landscaping requirements on new developments. The spirit of good governance dictates that making law that constrains the liberty of citizens should not be rushed. During the work session at the last meeting, long standing citizens, two current Council members and a former Council member had reservations about the Ordinance. Believes Mayor and Council rushed the approval of this Ordinance without further discussion or debate.

Mayor Beltrone stated that the discussion of the landscape ordinance started in January of 2023 at the Council Retreat, a work session in the spring where they took advisement from two community boards who also had several workshops over the course of the summer. Public engagements were held where the community offered feedback and was followed by an additional work session before voting on this Ordinance.

Former Wheat Ridge Council Member, Val Nosler Beck spoke on the importance of recognizing this is a public forum and is a place to share public comment and to make sure that not too much sunlight or air is given to hateful speech and rhetoric. It is a place where communities should come together and feel safe. She wanted to attend tonight to share that Wheat Ridge stands with Edgewater and condemning hateful speech and antisemitic racism. Thanked all of the staff and those who serve in public office.

ITEM 8. Resolution 2023-15

Council Members Reid Vanas and Steirer commented on the importance of the Mental Health Plan and how much they've learned by working with the Committee. Mental Health is something everyone needs to take care of.

Alex Hopkins, the Family Services Director at Jefferson County Public Health and also an Edgewater resident, is present tonight to congratulate and support the City on the Mental Health Plan. They have recently completed the 2023 Jefferson County Community Health Assessment that shows that our community has deep intersections with other areas of health and well-being, such as economic resilience and education. Public safety includes centering the well-being of those in crisis with compassion and dignity. They recommend the plan includes strategies that not only focus on preventing poor mental health, but also promote mental health, resilience and well-being and to ensure the plan receives the resources needed to put it into practice. She mentioned the many programs offered and several prevention focused programs.

Dr. Libbi Palmer thanked Council for allowing her to be part of the process and stated Edgewater should be proud of the work they've done to get to this point.

Council Member Reid Vanas made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-15, A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE CITY OF EDGEWATER MENTAL HEALTH PLAN, as presented. Seconded by Council Member Steirer and passed unanimously.

ITEM 9. Ordinance 2023-13

Council Member Steirer made a motion to approve the First Reading of Ordinance 2023-13 , AN ORDINANCE SETTING THE COMPENSATION OF THE AUDITOR IN CONNECTION WITH THE AUDIT OF THE CITY'S FINANCIAL RECORDS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021, as presented. Seconded by Council Member Janda and passed unanimously.

ITEM 10. Ordinance 2023-12 – PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Beltrone opened the public hearing at 6:58 pm

City Attorney Beery outlined the requested changes from 1st Reading.

Mayor Beltrone closed the public hearing at 7:05 pm

Council Member Steirer made a motion to approve the Second Reading of Ordinance 2023-12, AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING A NEW ARTICLE 34 OF CHAPTER 16 OF THE EDGEWATER MUNICIPAL CODE TO IMPOSE WATER EFFICIENT LANDSCAPING REQUIREMENTS ON NEW DEVELOPMENT AND

CERTAIN REDEVELOPMENT PROJECTS; AND AMENDING CODE SECTION 16-1-50 TO PROVIDE DEFINITIONS RELATED THERETO; CODE SECTIONS 7-1-10, 7-8-10 AND 7-8-30 TO PROVIDE FOR ADMINISTRATIVE ENFORCEMENT OF THE SAME; AND CODE SECTIONS 11-4-40 AND 11-4-50(A) TO AMEND THE LISTS OF PERMITTED AND PROHIBITED TREE SPECIES WITHIN THE CITY, as presented. Seconded by Council Member Reid Vanas and passed unanimously.

ITEM 11. General Business

1. 2020 Audit Presentation – Limon Hamlin gave an overview of the 2020 Audit.

Council Member Reid Vanas made a motion to approve the 2020 Audit as presented. Seconded by Council Member Gay Keao and passed unanimously.

2. Declaring Council Vacancy

Council Member Gay Keao made a motion find and declare that a vacancy exists on the City Council as a result of Councilor Donevan's stated intent to resign from Council as of the conclusion of the October 24, 2023, regular Council meeting. Seconded by Council Member Reid Vanas and passed unanimously.

3. PD Remodel Contract

Council Member Janda made a motion to approve the contract to remodel the Police Department offices to accommodate staff needs, as presented. Seconded by Council Member Reid Vanas and passed unanimously.

4. Raw Tools Grant Request

Larry Welson, resident, encouraged Council vote against this request and to keep the money here in the community.

Council Member Gay Keao made a motion to approve the \$3,000 Grant request from RAWtools, for the purpose of supporting a Guns to Gardens Safe Surrender event, as presented. Seconded by Council Member Janda and passed unanimously.

ITEM 12. Public Comment

None

ITEM 13. Mayor and Council Comments

Council Member Conklin mentioned he chaired the Regional Transportation Committee this morning and will chair the Denver Regional Council of Governments tomorrow. Both groups heard/will hear two interesting presentations. One on the 2022 roadway traffic congestion in the Denver Region report, looking at traffic trends. One interesting aspect is the traffic is spread out more throughout the day. There is a large increase in the use of scooters, etc. RTD numbers are way down, having never recovered from the pandemic. Also talked about the 2023 active mode crash report, focusing on bicycle, pedestrian, and scooter modes of transportation injuries. Pedestrian accidents victims are 57% men. Thanked Mayor Beltrone for including him in the Metro Mayor's Caucus, Legislative call where they discussed transportation issues, mass transit, and land use spills that may be coming forward. Is fortunate to be the Mayor elect and is looking forward to that process. Thanked the Edgewater voters who made the effort to vote. Congratulated Mercedes and John and the others that were on the ballot that will be joining Council. Asked for input on the selection of Mayor Pro-Tem and the seating arrangements for Council members. Talked about trying to do some conversations with the Edgewater citizens on issues heard while campaigning and will work with new Council members on those issues.

Council Member Janda thanked Staff for their presentations, Chief for informing them of the Narcan training. Excited about all the growing opportunities around the Mental Health Plan. Thanked everyone involved in that for their hard work. Thanked Jocelyn for her work on the migrant resource guide. Appreciates the effort in making people feel welcome and comfortable and safe in Edgewater. Quoted her daughter after overhearing them play with their legos. She pulled the "bad guy" aside and said "Be nice, and think about Mother Earth". That just means so much! Also thanked the voters and congratulated everyone on the ballot. She is honored to continue on with Council.

Council Member Reid Vanas stated they have a lot to be proud of as a community for the work and ongoing efforts that they will be doing with the Mental Health plan. Thanked Alex for joining this evenings meeting. Looking forward to the regional partnership in the future. Thanked Paige for all the hard work she put into the Landscaping Ordinance. Expressed his appreciation to Val from Wheat Ridge for her comments tonight. It is important the we are being thoughtful to our neighbors and Val's comments were very thoughtful and we are sending love and support back to the Wheat Ridge community. He has encountered some challenging things related to traffic this past month and wants to put a plug in for ongoing efforts in the next phase of the traffic calming process.

Council Member Steirer thanked Jocelyn for her work on the migrant information packets. She will be sending her some information on culturally appropriate food

for migrants as well, that she could incorporate in her packets. Also wanted Val and Wheat Ridge to know that we are all standing in solidarity with them and appreciated Val showing her support to Edgewater. Is proud to see the Civic Center solar program come to fruition. Is excited to share the news with resident Kate Armstrong. Is proud of the way the landscaping code has been thoughtfully processed through multiple boards, and meetings. Appreciates the pivots made to make it clearer to the community that it is affecting developments. Gave a huge shout out to Paige Lindsay Rogers for all of their efforts. It is an honor to be part of the Mental Health Plan

Council Member Gay Keao attended the Narcan training and thanked Chief Sonstegard for opening up our space and sharing it with the Chief from Evans. Excited that was brought into our community. Narcan is available over the counter for anyone who wants to have it available to them. Has a lot of gratitude for the support and work that went into all of the items on the agenda tonight. Would like to continue work on the community grant process. Hopes to see that evolve with more parameters there. Appreciates and supports Council Member Steirer's efforts to keep leaves out of landfills and out of plastic trash bags.

Mayor Beltrone thanked all Council Members for their thoughtful comments tonight. Expressed his appreciation for the Solar ribbon cutting this evening. It is great to honor this milestone as a community and all the work that went into that. Thanked Cory, Lilly, Kevin, Chief and Dr. Palmer for all the work they put into the Mental Health Plan. That is something that was never talked about in the community, but after the pandemic, there is such a focus on Mental Health and how it impacts families and the community. Feels the Landscaping Ordinance passed tonight was forward thinking and very important. It impact our issues with water in the West. It is scary to think that in another 20 years, there is going to be a million more people along the Front Range and in 2060, potentially 60% less snowpack. The events at the Wheat Ridge City Council meeting last night, he is definitely sanding in solidarity with Val and the Wheat Ridge community, against the hate speech that was presented at that meeting. Also wanted to recognize the ongoing efforts of staff to combat that within our meetings. The procedural changes tonight were meant to protect freedom of speech and also discourage coward's coming and blindly giving comments on our platform. Gave a shout out to the benches and trash cans that were installed at bus stops along 20th Ave. They make a big difference to those who do not own a car and rely on transit transportation. Expressed his appreciation to Council for approving the RAW tools Grant. Feels these dollars will be heavily leveraged and prove to be a good financial investment for the City in years to come. Congratulations to everyone who participated in the 2023 elections. From 2021 to 2023, there was a 4% increase in voter turnout in Jefferson County.

ITEM 14. Discussion of Upcoming Agendas

Mayor Beltrone asked that Council move Item 14, to after the Workshop.

ITEM 15. BUSINESS MEETING ADJOURNMENT 7:58 pm

The principal purpose of a Workshop is to consider and discuss, but not take formal action concerning, matters that may come before the Council for formal action thereafter.

ITEM 16. WORK SESSION CALL TO ORDER 8:10 pm

ITEM 17. Public Comment 8:10 pm

ITEM 18. General Business 8:10 pm

1. 2024 Budget

ITEM 19. Mayor and Council Comments

ITEM 20. WORK SESSION ADJOURNMENT 10:23 pm