

**EDGEWATER CITY COUNCIL  
BUSINESS MEETING & WORK SESSION  
MINUTES  
March 19, 2024**

**ITEM 1. BUSINESS MEETING CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Conklin called the Business Meeting to order at 6:30pm

**ITEM 2. Roll Call**

Present: Mayor, Steve Conklin, Council Member, John Thomsen, Council Member, Lilly Stierer, Council Member, Kali Janda, Council Member, Hannah Gay Keao, and Council Member, Mercedes Valdez.

Absent: Council Member Bill Berg, and Council Member Joie Iten

Also Present: City Manager, Dan Maples, Deputy City Manager/Community Development Director, Jocelyn Mills, Parks and Recreation Director, Amber Magee, Police Chief, Eric Sonstegard, and City Attorney, Carmen Beery.

**ITEM 3. Pledge of Allegiance**

**ITEM 4. Consent Agenda**

1. Agenda
2. Minutes – March 5, 2024

Council Member Gay Keao made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Seconded by Council Member Valdez and passed unanimously.

**ITEM 5. Public Comment**

Allison Rowe, resident – expressed her frustration with the Management at Edge26 apartment complex and provided Council with details of issues she is facing with the management there.

Larry Welshon, resident – Thanked Council for responding to his recent email regarding Home Rule. Appreciates the responses. Would like Council to consider density and the housing crisis that is looming and the City being protected by the 20<sup>th</sup> Amendment of the State Constitution. At what point will there be enough housing? If the Denver area keeps growing, the need will not stop. This coupled with the cost of housing, at what point, as Edgewater, do we say enough. We can do no more without sacrificing our small community's way of life and tradition, of

local control of governing, especially as it relates to land use issues. Asked that Council to reflect on the unique circumstances of being less than one square mile and being the fourth most densely populated City in the state of Colorado, how much more can we sacrifice? Other cities with more land could do more in the cause of increasing density with less impact on their citizens and the local control of land use questions. It would be disappointing if the transit corridors along 20<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> became urban canyons like we see south of 13<sup>th</sup> on Wadsworth. Should we allow ADUs in the City or should we be forced by the State to have ADUs? This will only invite investors to come in and take over the single-family homes and convert them into duplexes. The cost of renting and buying will go up and they will be no way around that. Pleaded with Council, as Edgewater's representatives, continue to do what they can to stop the state's usurpation of the City's right to Home Rule.

**ITEM 6. Communications from the City Manager, and Staff**

Jocelyn Mills, Deputy City Manager/Community Development Director, let Council know that Ms. Rowe has been working with Joseph, our Neighborhood Compliance Coordinator with the issues at Edge26. It is correct that the City does not oversee mold issues, it is through the Health Department. What we can do is provide other resources that may be available to her to help remediate some of those issues.

Amber Magee, Parks and Recreation Director –

Dan Maples, City Manager – mentioned the deep cleaning that took place last week and thanked Amber and the Parks and Rec. staff for cleaning every corner of the building. Their hard work really shows. The building looks great. Gave an update on the 25<sup>th</sup> Ave. project. Contractors continue to work on the sidewalks along 25<sup>th</sup> Ave. They are currently waiting for Xcel to move some gas and electrical lines before they can start work on the storm sewer. Even with the snow, they are making great progress. They have been in contact with all the businesses, keeping them up to date on the progress.

**ITEM 7. Communication from Boards, Commissions and Membership Organizations**

Mayor Conklin gave updates on DRCOG, CML, Metro Mayors Caucus and National League of Cities. DRCOG meets tomorrow and will continue the effort of looking at legislation that is coming before the State Legislature and potentially taking action on those things. Metro Mayors Caucus is meeting this week for the same purpose. Read an email sent by CML asking for sign-on from elected officials supporting issues surrounding housing. He just returned from the National Congressional Cities Conference in Washington DC. One hundred and twenty five representatives of Colorado municipalities were present including most of the Mayors in Jefferson County. They had the opportunity to meet with Colorado representatives and Senators. Speakers included President Biden, Secretary of Transportation, and Secretary of Education.

**ITEM 8. Presentations and Awards**

1. Restorative Justice Program

Jenna Gottlieb with Restorative Justice gave a brief presentation of the pilot Restorative Jeffco program. Hannah, Lilly and Mercedes asked follow up questions and clarification. Council Members asked questions of Jenna and Chief to help clarify the program.

2. Comprehensive Plan Update – Contractor, MIG staff was present to give an overview and update of the project and what the next steps will be.

**ITEM 9. General Business**

1. HARP Rules of Procedure

Council Member Janda made a motion to approve the revised HARP Rules of Procedure as amended, removing GoTo Meeting app and replacing it with “virtually”. Seconded by Council Member Steirer and passed unanimously.

**ITEM 10. Public Comment**

Karen Hing, resident – spoke in regard to local autonomy when it comes to the City’s land use. She encourages Council to please sign the CML letter of support and to fight aggressively to make sure that Edgewater controls how Edgewater develops.

Larry Welshon, resident spoke on the questionnaire questions and the way the questions were presented. They were pointed toward an outcome, as opposed to just gathering general information. For example, a the question “What is lacking for community support services in Edgewater, ie., Mental Health or addition assistance, financial system and diversity, equity, inclusion programs, et cetera”. A better question would have been are you satisfied with the current level of community support. That will allow people in the community to consider if they need additional support. Also wanted to say, again, we want to keep development control here in the City.

**ITEM 11. Mayor and Council Comments**

Council Member Steirer – Thanked Allison for sharing her story tonight and is hopeful the City is able to support and assist her at Edge26. Also thanked Jocelyn for her attention to Allison Rowe and the issues she is having at Edge26. Thanked Amber for the improvements in the Civic Center and for the e-mail regarding fees. Excited about the progress of the Comprehensive Plan and our partnership with

Restorative Jeffco and can't wait to see where it goes. Also appreciative for the work that's going on with the Comp. Plan.

Council Member Thomsen – Appreciates the work on the revised public comment process and those who signed up to speak tonight.

Council Member Janda – Happy Spring! Tomorrow is her sister's birthday, so if you see someone who like Council Member Janda, please wish her a happy birthday. Thanked everyone for their updates tonight. She always leaves the meetings feeling so informed and ready to talk to the community members about these topics. Told a feel-good story of a good Samaritan researching trying to find her contact information to return a lost wallet.

Council Member Gay Keao – Also has a lot of appreciation for staff. For one, how efficient the new public comment process worked. Knows the Mayor put a lot of work into that as well. Thanked Jocelyn for following up with Allison with the issues she is dealing with at Edge26. Thanked Chief and Amber for being proactive serving both our community but also our ability to survive as a City through the Restorative Jeffco and the fee structure. Would also like to see Rules of Procedure posted on the City's website. She appreciates what is in the CML letter but the one thing that ties her up in that letter is the profound use of the word citizens. When they talk about land use, our citizens voted them in, but they are not the only ones who are going to be affected by this. That is just something is super important to her as they continue to engage in this conversation.

Council Member Valdez – Wanted to acknowledge Allison's concerns at Edge26. Thanked Jocelyn for following up with her. Also wanted to thank Mr. Welshon for his email. It has encouraged her to do more research on her own on Home Rule and Land usage and has been following the Senate and House. Mentioned that she did read the CML letter and included her signature in support of that. Is excited about the Restorative Justice pilot program, and stated a lot of kids are going to benefit from it.

Mayor Conklin – Has been reading the State Constitution as it relates to Home Rule and other things. Some of the things in there are from the 1800's. It is a fascinating document. One of the interesting things they are talking a lot more about it being incentive based. But when they say things like they will take away the highway trust fund if we don't do that they say, it is not an incentive. Mentioned the Public Comment clock, and thanked City Clerk for the work put into that public comment process. It went very well. Also thanked City Staff as well. Mentioned going to the NLC and talking to people, Council Member and Mayors from around the Country is great for norming, getting a feel for where we stand on things. He is incredibly proud of Edgewater's Council and of things they've been able to do and continue to do for the community. Thanked Carmen for her guidance about free speech issues and the public comment process.

**ITEM 12. Discussion of Upcoming Agendas**

**ITEM 13. BUSINESS MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Conklin adjourned the business meeting at 8:20 pm

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**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 14. WORK SESSION CALL TO ORDER 8:26pm**

**ITEM 15. Public Comment 8:26pm**

**ITEM 16. General Business 8:26pm**

1. Patio Permits

**ITEM 17. Mayor and Council Comments 8:54pm**

**ITEM 18. WORK SESSION ADJOURNMENT 8:55pm**