

**EDGEWATER CITY COUNCIL
BUSINESS MEETING & WORK SESSION
MINUTES
May 7, 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 Joie Iten, Council Member, John Thomsen, Council Member, Lilly Steirer, Council Member, Kali Janda, and Council Member, Mercedes Valdez.

Absent: Council Member, Hannah Gay Keao and Council Member Bill Berg

Also Present: City Manager, Dan Maples, Deputy City Manager/Community Development Director, Jocelyn Mills, Finance Director, Ariany Young, Police Chief, Eric Sonstegard, and City Attorney, Carmen Beery (attended virtually).

ITEM 3. Pledge of Allegiance

ITEM 4. Consent Agenda

1. Agenda
2. Minutes – April 16, 2024

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

ITEM 5. Public Comment

None

ITEM 6. Communications from the City Manager, and Staff

Chief Sonstegard wanted to bring Council's attention to two things going on. Tomorrow, May 8, 2024, Edgewater PD is partnering with the Edgewater Collective, Jeffco Public Schools and Edgewater Elementary on "Move to School Day" encouraging youngsters to walk or ride their bikes together in groups to school. It is a great opportunity for everyone to get together and come to school and practice

in a safe manner. Beginning at 7:30 tomorrow morning, one group is meeting on 26th Ave. and the other is meeting at Walker Branch Park. PD will have officers escorting them to the school. Also spoke on the PD e-bikes purchased for bike patrol. Now that the weather is getting better, they are taking the e-bikes out into the community. They were present at the community garage sales and the feedback they have received was very positive. The community likes to see officers on bikes. There is less of a barrier than driving a car. So you should be seeing officers out on bikes this summer.

Deputy City Manager/Community Development Director, Jocelyn Mills, mentioned that Thursday, May 9th is the next 55 plus social club at 2:00 pm at the Edgewater Beer Garden. This is the second month hosting this event. It is a casual gathering for conversation and connection. Heard positive feedback from the last event. Invited anyone over 55 to attend. The second event is Saturday, May 11th. Ring in Sprint at Walker Branch, from 10:00 am – noon. It does include a pancake breakfast, so hopefully everyone can attend.

ITEM 7. Communication from Boards, Commissions and Membership Organizations

Mayor Conklin mentioned that he recently appointed two new board members. He represented Metro Mayors at an event dealing with middle housing. Several Mayors, members of the construction/development community, members of the housing community. Working at planning a workshop in July that we'll get more information on soon. DRCOG did not meet last week and will meet later in the month. They had a successful retreat and a lot of talk on many of the issues facing the area. As the legislative session is wrapping up, Metro Mayors and other groups are very active in terms of trying to keep up with the bills.

ITEM 8. Presentations

1. Judge Cahn Recognition

Mayor Conklin read a statement of Judge Cahn's background and history with Edgewater Municipal Court. He also presented Judge Cahn with a gift from the City for his committed time and service to the Edgewater community.

Judge Cahn stated it has been an honor to be the Judge for the last 12 years and has been tremendous to watch the City grow. In the old building, he had help from a part-time employee who was responsible for everything except the court. What has evolved in our Court is we now

have a professional Court Administrator, and thanks the City for backing up the court and given them the resources that they needed to have a successful court operation. When people come to our court, they know they are dealing with a professional, Robert, the Court Administrator. They know that they are dealing with a Police Department that is a successful Police Department. It has all evolved a great deal. Commander Burghahn comes to court to watch the proceedings and engages with that. We always have officers here to provide security and support. We have felt very supported by the Administrative Staff but also by the Council and the people that have come before you. It has made it easy to come and do my job. He is sad to leave Edgewater but is really excited about his opportunity and what lies ahead.

2. Mayor Conklin presented a Mental Health Month Proclamation
3. 2021 Audit Presentation

Finance Director, Ariany Young informed Council that the 2021 Audit was completed and introduced Lyman Hamblin to present his findings of the Audit. Lyman said they are all working hard on getting caught up on the past audits. Ariany Young and George Sparks have made such a difference in audit preparations, there is no longer a need to outsource financial help with the audit anymore. It is all done internally which is great.

Mayor Conklin asked why we are seeing the 2021 audit and what caused us to be behind. City Manager Maples stated that since the pandemic, the City has been a year if not two years behind on the audits, not to mention the turnover in the Finance Department. It has been a slow process, but we are close to being caught up. Ariany, now, has a great team and has done a phenomenal job with the audits. They will be jumping right into the 2022 and 2023 audits in hopes to have them completed this year.

ITEM 9. Ordinance 2024-04

Council Member Item made a motion to approve the Second Reading of Ordinance 2024-04, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 2-3-230 OF THE EDGEWATER MUNICIPAL CODE TO ELIMINATE THE REQUIREMENT THAT THE CITY EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION PLAN SPECIFY THE NUMBER OF PART-TIME EMPLOYEE POSITIONS, as presented. Seconded by Council Member Valdez and passed unanimously.

ITEM 10. General Business

None

ITEM 11. Public Comment

Larry Welshon, Edgewater Citizen, thanked the Mayor for looking out for Edgewater and the interests of Edgewater. This legislative session, the State usurped local control in the form of the attacks on Home Rule cities. He appreciates the Mayor's time and effort in doing that and staying focused on Edgewater.

ITEM 12. Mayor and Council Comments

Council Member Janda appreciates the time Judge Cahn devoted to Edgewater. Looking forward to hear about ideas on the future of Court in tonight's work session. Thanked everyone who signed up to pick up litter for Earth Day. Mentioned the Pride Kickoff Party is May 18th at the 40 West Arts Hub in the parking lot at Casa Bonita, from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Reminded everyone that the Pride Parade is June 1st. It is her 1 year anniversary of being appointed to Council. Thanked everyone for a great year. She is still learning and growing a lot and is excited for the next couple of years. One person who was instrumental in starting off her City Council experience was the City Clerk, Lenore Pedroza, and it happens to be National City Clerk Appreciation Week. Wanted to give a big shout out to Lenore for her amazing work.

Council Member Valdez thanked staff, especially the Police Department. She did get to see some of the officers out on the bikes this weekend, and said it was neat to see. Congratulated Judge Cahn and thanked him for serving Edgewater. She will be attending the Pancakes at the park this weekend.

Council Member Steirer really appreciates Judge Cahn's work and the visioning he shared not too long ago. Is hopeful that as they transition into a new judge, that they can keep some of those ideas moving forward. Always grateful to have mental health awareness at the forefront of their attention. Mental health is equally important to physical health. Not only for those in a disordered state, but it is also everyone needing to make sure we are taking care of mental health. Excited for a Mental Health Coordinator. Very excited to hear about the e-bikes. Looking forward to the Ring in Spring event. Jocelyn Mills stated, Arbor Day is June 15th and there will be tree planting dedications at Citizen's Park and also opening day for youth baseball.

Council Member Thomsen thanked Judge Kahn for being present tonight. Hopes that Court continues in the spirit he has nurtured. Great to see good news on the audit, looking forward to catching up on that, and thanked Mr. Hamblin for being online tonight. As a cyclist, it is great to see PD sharing the infrastructure from the same perspective, not just in cars.

Council Member Iten congratulated Council Member Janda on her one-year anniversary. Thanked Judge Cahn and Lyman for the audit. It is cool to see how much the City has grown. Thanked Lenore and everyone that has worked towards the growth in the City. Is also excited about the e-bikes patrolling the community.

Mayor Conklin addressed Council Member Janda on her one-year anniversary. Stated the body made a really smart decision appointing her to Council and then months later being elected in. He is thrilled to have her on Council and serving as Mayor Pro Tem. City Clerk Appreciation Week, month, year, decade. Wanted to pay attention to and acknowledge the Clerk. Thanked everyone who participated in the Community Garage Sale, loves that event. Bike to Work Day is June 26, 2024, a DRCOG program. The theme this year is Pedal, Smile, Repeat. There will be an Edgewater Bike to Work station, location TBD. If you plan to ride, please sign up for that and if there are businesses or groups that want to get involved, there is the an opportunity for that too. Mentioned the legislation has 30 hours and 15 minutes to go. The understanding that he has is that 1313, the transit-oriented corridor, did pass. He understood the bill to eliminate a City's right to have occupancy limits on residences, passed and has been signed by the Governor. The ADU bill was passed, the parking bill was passed, which eliminates the ability of a Municipality to have parking regulations. Even some of the things beyond the land use stuff, there were things that took away local decision making. That is going to be challenging for the City and the community. Some things may be a great idea, but the act of that coming from the State and not having the local Municipality able to make those decisions is challenging. He did testify several times on behalf of himself as Mayor, specifically about what Edgewater was about. Talked about the city being less than 7/10th of a square mile and is one of the densest communities in the State. Thanked Mr. Welshon for his acknowledgment of his and mayors across the region tried to talk about what local decision-making means. Wanted to mention Arvada's Mayor Simpson suffered a family loss, she lost her mother and he wanted to send out best wishes to her in that situation. Last week was the 23rd annual recognition ceremony for the Arvada, Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for youth. Although Edgewater is not listed in the event, a lot of the list of recognized students were from Jefferson Jr/Sr. High School. A number of students received \$2000 scholarships to Red Rocks Community College and is renewable for a second semester. Thanked Council Member Janda for mentioning the kick off for Pride on May 18, 2024 and the upcoming Parade on June 1st. He and City Manager Maples is working on something that will show the City's support of that event.

ITEM 13. Discussion of Upcoming Agendas

ITEM 14. BUSINESS MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Conklin adjourned the Business Meeting at 7:31 pm

ITEM 15. WORK SESSION CALL TO ORDER 7:41 pm

ITEM 16. General Business 7:41 pm

1. Judge Transition Discussion – 7:41 pm
2. Charter-required Code review – discussion of process 8:28 pm

ITEM 17. Mayor and Council Comments

ITEM 18. WORK SESSION ADJOURNMENT 8:43 pm