

**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 Bill Berg, Council Member Joie Iten, Council Member, Lilly Steirer, Council Member, Kali Janda, and Council Member, Mercedes Valdez.

Absent: Council Member John Thomsen,

Also Present: City Manager, Dan Maples, Deputy City Manager/Community Development Director, Jocelyn Mills, Sustainability Coordinator, Shaima Shahbaz, Community Services Director, Kit Lammers, Parks and Recreation Director, Amber Magee, 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 – May 7, 2024

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

ITEM 5. Public Comment

None

ITEM 6. Communications from the City Manager, and Staff

Deputy City Manager/Community Development Director, Jocelyn Mills, introduced the City's new Sustainability Coordinator, Shaima Shahbaz. Shaima has a master's degree in urban planning from CU Denver, as well as a lot of professional background projects and program management focused around sustainability.

Edgewater received a DRCOG grant to host an Urban Land Use Institute technical advisory panel. That event will be next Wednesday and Thursday. This will be a group of experts from ULI and they will provide us with some guidance and high level suggestions for the future of 2401 Sheridan Blvd., as well as the entire Sheridan Blvd. corridor.

Community Services Director, Kit Lammers gave a brief update on the progress of the 25th Ave. Streetscape project. There has been a bit of a delay due to the weather but overall they have been making a lot of progress. A lot of the pavers have been installed and should be complete this week. Also have a lot of drainage improvements that are going in. Hoping to get to paving the road next week.

Parks and Recreation Director, Amber Magee gave a brief update on the Citizen's Park project. They are on track to be finished with the North side of the facility at the end of this month. It will be usable for youth baseball and softball rentals by the beginning of June. They will be having a grand reopening of the park on June 15th from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm. to include reopening of the field, memorial tree plantings for Arbor Day, and food and games.

ITEM 7. Communication from Boards, Commissions and Membership Organizations

Mayor Conklin mentioned that he will serve another year as past Chair for DRCOG, meaning Edgewater will have a representative on the DRCOG board for a sixth year. DRCOG had a legislative recap. Metro Mayors Caucus will meet the first week of June. Wheat Ridge hosted the Jefferson County Mayor's luncheon. Wanted to mention this Thursday is one year since community member Al Schuppert passed away. Jefferson High School will pay tribute to Al Schuppert, in the shop area of the High School. Al was a Jefferson High graduate, went on to become a mechanic for the US Postal Service and was a wonderful member of the community.

ITEM 8. Presentations

1. Pride Proclamation

Council Member Janda and Mayor Conklin read the Pride Proclamation, dedicating the month of June as Pride month in the City of Edgewater. Many members of Edgewater Pride were present, and some spoke of the importance of the inclusion of all community members and shared their feelings of acceptance living in Edgewater and recognized Edgewater as a "safe place".

2. Jeffco Love My Air Program

Jim Rada, Jefferson County Environmental Health Services Division Director and Madison Pitts, Jefferson County Environmental Health Supervisor and Project Manager of the Love My Air Program, gave a presentation on the Jefferson County Love My Air Program. This program is framed around four pillars, or what they refer to as the four “E’s”. First is an expansion of the Denver Love My Air program, second is Engagement of community partners and community members, third is education of community members about air pollution and how it’s monitored and last is the empowerment of community members and organizations to use the information produced in this program.

ITEM 9. Resolution 2024-08

Council Member Steirer made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-08, A RESOLUTION APPOINTING GINA HICKMAN AS THE INTERIM PRESIDING MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE AND APPROVING THE ASSOCIATED JUDICIAL SERVICES AGREEMENT, as presented. Seconded by Council Member Gay Keao and passed unanimously.

ITEM 10. General Business

1. Planning and Zoning Rules of Procedure
2. Board of Adjustment and Appeals Rules of Procedure

Council Member Iten made a motion to table both items and refer the Rules of Procedure back to each board with a request that they consider the issue of virtual attendance. Seconded by Council Member Gay Keao and passed unanimously.

ITEM 11. Public Comment

None

ITEM 12. Mayor and Council Comments

Council Member Berg thanked neighbors for their moving testimonials in regard to the Pride Proclamation.

Council Member Iten mentioned that the construction crew on 25th Ave. continued to work in the rain. The area looks amazing. Thanked Kit for his hard work on that project. Citizen’s Park looks great. So proud of Edgewater for the Pride Proclamation. Thanked everyone involved with the Love My Air presentation.

Council Member Steirer remembered in the middle of a pandemic, Edgewater had their very first pride parade. She can remember her family getting on their bikes and riding in the parade. She

loves seeing the evolution of where the Pride Parade has come and is going. Being the first year for a Pride Month proclamation, she is thrilled that Edgewater is at this stage and can't wait to see the evolution as it continues to grow. Thanked Shaima for attending tonight and for coordinating the Love My Air meetings. Congratulated Judge Hickman, excited to have her on board.

Council Member Janda also congratulated Judge Hickman, is excited to have her on board and looks forward to working with her in the future. Thanked staff for their updates. It was nice to meet Shaima tonight. Stated she is so proud and honored to be present tonight and for being included in the reading of the Pride Proclamation. She feels so lucky to be able to be herself in this community and raise her family here. Thanked the Edgewater Pride group for doing the Pride Parade the past five years.

Council Member Gay Keao stated the origins of Pride in this community are so beautiful and so exemplary of what so many community members love so much about Edgewater. Knowing that she can raise her daughter in a community that is embracing whoever she decides to be and whoever she is in her heart, is huge. Her family participated in the Pride Parade last year and said she was happy to participate as a community member, so proud as a Council Member, but as a mother, it was everything. Thanked Council Member Janda for everything she has done to build so much in this community that is already so special and so loved by so many people. Welcomed Judge Hickman in her new role of Interim Presiding Municipal Judge. Gave belated comments from the last meeting. Appreciation to Council Member Janda on her one year anniversary. She is super proud to have her a part of Council. Gave appreciation to City Clerk, Lenore Pedroza, stated she is a national treasure. They do not see so much of the work that the Clerk does, but she is appreciated, always. Had so much fun at the Ring in Spring event and heard many wonderful things about that event, some being that it was not religiously connected. Expressed her appreciation to Ariany and the Finance staff for getting the City caught up so quickly on the audits.

Council Member Valdez mentioned a resident who reached out to Council and wanted to know if they would be address the issues published in a local newsletter. She wanted to let that resident know that she has been talking with the City Manager and is doing research on the issues and that they are being heard but there is a lot going on behind the scenes to get answers. She mentioned the Colorado Peace Officer Standards and Training website to research any officer in the State if anyone has concerns about an Edgewater officer. She feels the City has been going in the right direction. Welcomed Judge Hickman and Shaima, the Sustainability Coordinator.

Mayor Conklin also spoke on the anonymous post on Nextdoor that made a lot of claims against the City of Edgewater and its staff. It is difficult to know who to respond to when they post anonymously. There are a lot of unseen efforts being worked through, trying to figure out how to have good conversations on hot topics. Mentioned he had four separate conversations,

related to safety, that can all be tied together. One was someone who was spooked because somebody was on their porch looking under the door mat, milk box, believed to be looking for a key to the house. For the sake of safety, please be cautious on where you put that spare key. Another conversation was with someone who had a wonderful conversation with Edgewater Police Department regarding someone lurking around their house and opening their screen door. They call JeffCo, stated the call was a nonemergency call and shortly after, an Officer showed up. This homeowner felt listened to, responded to and safer because of EPD. As he was having lunch at a local restaurant, someone was asking questions about Edgewater. The gentleman lives in Edgewater for 15 years, loved his house on Lamar St. loved the community but moved away about five years ago. This was his first time back and had wonderful memories of living in Edgewater. Last week, Jeffco Economic Development Authority met and there was a representative from Xcel Energy there who talked a bit about what happened during the last windstorm, where they turned off power in various areas. He did say this may be the new model that Xcel will use in cases where there is extreme wind expected and danger of fires and offer a 72 hour notice when power is going to be shut off.

ITEM 13. Discussion of Upcoming Agendas

ITEM 14. BUSINESS MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Conklin adjourned the Business Meeting at 7:55 pm

ITEM 15. WORK SESSION CALL TO ORDER 8:03 pm

ITEM 16. General Business 8:04 pm

1. School Traffic Presentation 8:04 pm
2. Revenue Discussion 8:52 pm
3. 2022 Appropriations 9:45 pm

ITEM 17. Mayor and Council Comments 9:56 pm

ITEM 18. WORK SESSION ADJOURNMENT 9:57 pm