

## **Highlights of Edgewater City Council Meeting for March 5, 2018**

**FPL Lighting Agreement** - The City of Edgewater agreed to a 10 year contract with Florida Power & Lighting stipulating that FPL will replace current street lights with LED lights at no cost to the city. In return the city agreed to continue to contract with FPL for electric service for street lights.

The FPL representative reported that this involved changing 1059 street lights. The new lights will appear whiter than the current lights although they are equivalent in brightness. He also stated that the LED lights will save Edgewater about \$1000 in electrical costs in the first post-installment year.

**Farmer's Market Agreement** - The city council agreed to allow Ms. Paula Randant, operating as manager of Edgewater Farmers Market Inc., to run a weekly Farmers Market on city owned property located at 127 East Park Avenue. The management of the Farmers Market will provide insurance to absolve the city of liability. The Edgewater Farmers Market is currently scheduled for Thursday evenings although no start date was given.

**Citizen Complaint Regarding Utility Costs** - As part of an agenda item, a local resident was given time to relate his problems with Edgewater utilities. The resident said that over the past few years he has received utility bills showing water usage of 25,000 to 35,000 gallons per month, although his average usage was 6000-7000 gallons. The resident said there was no way these high readings could be correct. He hired two plumbers to verify that there are no leaks and the city sent their own inspector who also found no leaks. In response, the City Manager said the city has agreed to credit the resident for the abnormally high bills and has replaced the water meter in the resident's home. Since the new meter was installed, the resident has not encountered any additional problems.

The City Manager is not aware of any previous problems with a faulty meter causing high usage readings. The city is currently testing newer meters that will allow for hourly readings of water usage and will permit residents to download phone applications to get alerts if water usage exceeds certain limits. The City Manager was not able to give a date on when the new meters will be rolled out city-wide and mentioned replacing all current meters would cost over one million dollars.

**Citizen Complaints Regarding Building Inspectors** – Councilman Conroy reported receiving complaints that Edgewater building inspectors who come out for final

inspections, typically do not actually inspect the work. A resident in attendance mentioned a roofing inspector who never went up a ladder to view the completed work. The City Manager replied that the city can never find enough qualified inspectors to keep up with the workload. City inspectors frequently just verify that a licensed contractor has signed off on the required paper work.

**Ballot Item for Infrastructure Sales Tax** – The City Council voted to support Volusia County's plan to add a ballot item on the November elections to allow residents to vote on a ½ cent increase in county sales tax to be used for infrastructure projects. Several council members complained that the allotment schedule allows Volusia County to take half of the funds. They would prefer to see more of the money go to the cities. The City Manager stated it was estimated that 40% of the funds will come from visitors and that smaller cities like Edgewater will probably get more money out of the funds than they contribute. The City Council agreed to allow the ballot item in November.

**Planning & Zoning Board** - Edgewater resident Thomas Duane was named as a new appointment to the Planning Board and Paul Wright was reappointed.