

Civic Awareness Committee Report

Code Enforcement Update – Yearly Rental Inspections

In September, the City Council voted to update Chapter 11 of the Edgewater City Ordinances to add a requirement that all rental properties within Edgewater be inspected on a yearly bases by a Code Enforcement Officer.

The new rule takes effect in January 2019 but residents will still be able to rent out properties while waiting for the Code Enforcement inspection.

A copy of the inspection checklist that Code Enforcement will be following appears on the City of Edgewater website and also on the Civic Awareness page on the E/L website (under the MANAGEMENT menu).

The inspection checklist consists primarily of basic sanitary and safety steps that most responsible owners would take anyway. The current cost for the first inspection is \$75, subsequent yearly inspections will be \$65.

This change was made to address a resident concern regarding short-term rentals in Edgewater (such as AirBnB). The mayor said Florida cities are not allowed to prevent short-term rentals nor can they have ordinances that specifically target short-term rentals. This code enforcement update will allow the city to at least verify the basic safety of rental properties.

Consultant Recommendations for Solid Waste Disposal

Back in March, several Landing residents attended an Edgewater City Council meeting to voice support for the city staff who pick up our garbage and to oppose a suggestion that the city outsource solid waste pick up to a private business.

At the conclusion of that meeting, council members all agreed to continue with the existing collection process using city employees but voted to authorize a consultant study to make recommendations on how to make the process more efficient.

The consultant report was presented at an August council meeting. The primary recommendation was to switch to larger collection trucks with automated pickup devices. Currently the city uses smaller trucks that need to transfer their collections to a larger vehicle before completing their routes. The larger garbage trucks will remove the need for maintaining a city transfer station which is a costly project.

As part of the implementation, the city will distribute new garbage pails to all residences which will be fitted for automated pickup. The garbage containers come in three sizes: 95 gallons, 65 gallons and 35 gallons. The consultant suggested the city may want to use the 95-gallon containers and reduce the pickup frequency from twice a week to only once a week. Full implementation of the recommendations will take over a year and further council discussions are planned.

Edgewater Council Elections

Three council seats are up for reelection in November.

Current mayor Mike Ignasiak is running for a second term against former mayor Mike Thomas who termed out in 2014.

In District 1, incumbent Councilwoman Christine Power is running for reelection against Mr. Rocky Dorci.

In District 3, current Councilwoman Megan O'Keefe is running unopposed for a 4-year term. Mrs. O'Keefe was appointed in August to complete Dan Blazi's term.

Utility Rates Increased

Effective October 1st, new utility rates are in effect. Water / sewer charges were increased about 9% and solid waste pick up rate was increased 6%.