

Civic Awareness Committee Report

Edgewater City Council Meeting - January 7, 2019

Special Election for District 2 Council Member

Councilwoman Amy Vogt, who was elected to a 4-year term in November 2016, announced she is moving out of state and resigned her position. The City is required to schedule a special election within the next 60-90 days to select a replacement. The qualifying process for applications will run from January 14th to January 16th. If there are more than two applicants, a Primary Election will be held on February 19th with a final Election scheduled for April 2nd. Lisa Lewis, the Volusia County Supervisor of Elections, was present at the meeting and explained that the short deadline for applications was necessary to provide sufficient time to print and mail ballots to residents eligible to vote by mail.

Resident Complaints Regarding Rental Inspections

A new rule that took effect in January requiring annual inspections for rental properties in Edgewater, generated a large number of resident complaints regarding the burden and potential cost of complying with the ordinance. Some residents were worried about being subject to fines of up to \$500 a day if they fail to correct deficiencies promptly. In response, the council adopted a moratorium on rental inspections and scheduled a workshop meeting on January 22 devoted to the issue.

Florida-Friendly Fertilizer Use

The Council passed a first vote on adopting regulations to implement “Florida-Friendly Fertilizer Use”. The regulations are modeled on suggestions from Volusia County and can help Edgewater qualify for grants. Among other things, this regulation would prohibit the use of fertilizers containing nitrogen or phosphorous within Edgewater during the period starting June 1st and ending September 30th of each year. A second vote will be taken at the February council meeting.

City Manager Position

The Council received several applications for *interim* City Manager and requested the Edgewater Police Department run background checks on applicants. The Council plans to appoint a 5-person Advisory Committee to guide the selection for a *permanent* City Manager, with each council member appointing one member. The Council delayed appointments for this committee until the vacancy for Council District 2 is filled.

Preliminary Plat Approval for Glenbrooke Development

The Council gave preliminary plat approval for a 60 acre, 200 unit, single family development on the southwest corner of SR 442 and Airpark Road, to be known as

Glenbrooke. The developer plans to construct a 6-foot high masonry wall along the SR 442 boundary and access roads on SR 442 and Air Park Road. A left-turn lane will be constructed for west bound traffic on SR 442 to turn into the development. Cars exiting the development onto SR442 will be required to make right turns only. Cars leaving the development and heading to I-95, will be advised to exit onto Air Park Road and make a left turn at the traffic light on SR 442. The developer hopes to break ground within the next 90 days if the necessary approvals are obtained. A second vote will be taken at the February Council meeting. Mayor Thomas voted against this request stating his objection to 50-foot lots, even though city zoning rules allow them.

RPUD Agreement for Volco Road Development

The Council gave initial approval for the City of Edgewater to enter into a 30-year Residential Planned Unit Development (RPUD) Agreement with a Miami based company named Edgewater Preserve LLC, to develop a 292 acre property on Volco Road. The agreement allows for maximum of 774 single family units. Long term plans include 8 phases, with Phase 1 consisting of 102 single family homes on 50-60 foot lots. Volco Road is owned by Volusia County, so the developer will work with the county and state to expand and improve Volco Road to handle additional traffic. The developer is prepared to pay for a traffic light on the intersection of Volco Road and Route 1.

Several residents expressed concerns regarding the impact on schools, traffic and the lagoon. Attorney Glenn Storch, representing the developer, assured the Council and residents that the agreement and phase-in plans included sufficient controls to monitor and address issues as they arise. Mr. Storch mentioned that the later phases might include larger lot sizes based on market conditions. The agreement also allows for townhouse developments and includes requirements for setting aside land for trails and playgrounds. Interim City Manager Brenda Dewees announced the city is evaluating and will likely increase impact fees developers will need to pay for new home building. A second vote on this agreement will be taken next month. The Council voted 3-1 to approve the agreement with the Mayor voting against it.