

## Council Meeting – January 11, 2021

The first Edgewater City Council meeting for 2021 was held January 11<sup>th</sup>.

As part of the citizen comments, a local plumber offered to install “temporary” water meters for residents to verify the accuracy of the city meters. The cost would be about \$350 and the meters would be left in place for 30 days.

During council reports, Councilwoman Gigi Bennington mentioned that several businesses had complained about problems dealing with the City Manager. Council members agreed to add an agenda item to the February council meeting to discuss this issue further. Mayor Thomas suggested running another workshop to discuss utility bills.

Among the consent agenda items approved, several were passed to allow local businesses additional time to come into compliance with Edgewater codes regarding commercial signs.

Without further discussion, the council gave final approval to second readings of the following items that were discussed in the December meeting:

- Changes to the General Pension Plan to accommodate IRS regulations regarding minimum distributions.
- Ordinances to annex and zone 3.4 acres of land adjacent to 3042 S. Ridgewood as commercial.
- Ordinances to rezone 2.2 acres of land south of 33<sup>rd</sup> & 34<sup>th</sup> Streets and east of India Palm Drive from Neighborhood Business to Multifamily Residential.

In a new agenda item, the council approved the first reading for a resolution to modify Edgewater’s trespassing ordinance. This ordinance was passed last year to address what Mayor Thomas described as “punks” taking over city parks. The ordinance allowed the Edgewater police to charge offenders as trespassers and prohibit them for using the park for a period of 1- 2 years. The original ordinance only allowed 10 days for residents to request a hearing before the City Magistrate to contest the trespass charge. The changes approved would remove the 10 day requirement for appeals and would allow the Edgewater Police Chief and City Manager to jointly rescind the trespass charge if they feel the violators have made amends.

The final discussion for the meeting involved going forward with appointing an Environmental Advisory Committee consisting of 7 members to work with city staff on environmental issues. The city has received 12 applicants for this board. The council authorized city staff personnel to interview applicants and forward recommendations to the council for their approval.