

**CITY OF EDGEWOOD
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

February 3, 2025

6:30 PM

CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Link called the meeting of the Edgewood City Council to order at 6:30pm. The following council members were present: Ben Barlage, Joe Messmer, W. Jamie Ruehl, Jeff Schreiber, Bridget Grady Spears, Scott Spille and Rob Thelen. Also, in attendance were City Administrator Brian Dehner, City Clerk Belinda Nitschke, and City Attorney Kim Wichmann Quinn. Other staff members present: Fire Chief Tom Dickman and Police Chief James “Jimmy” Kreinest.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CITIZENS DESIRING RECOGNITION ON LEGISLATIVE MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA – Susan McDonald, Livewell NKY – Ms. McDonald presented to council the LiveWell initiative and their proposal for a smoke-free environment. The program goals are to increase physical activity, increase healthy eating and create smoke-free environments. Ms. McDonald explained the dangers of secondhand smoke and their smoke-free initiatives. Ms. McDonald asked that their group and partners be able to present at a future meeting regarding their smoke-free initiatives and benefits. Mayor Link stated that the city would encourage it and council agreed to look into an ordinance.

Kurt Hanscom, 232 N. Colony – Mr. Hanscom stated that he previously sent an e-mail asking council to look into the Enterprise Fleet leasing program implemented by the city. Mr. Hanscom stated that he spoke with Mr. Sparrow and that money in the budget left over from projects goes back into the general fund. He expressed concern on how that money would be spent. Mayor Link corrected Mr. Hanscom and stated that the extra money goes back into the general fund but council would vote on any further expenditures if used for another project. Mayor Link stated that the Enterprise Fleet leasing program is a substantial savings to the city and provides new vehicles and trucks for the city. Mayor Link corrected Mr. Hanscom’s assertion that the program was not discussed by council when in fact a representative from Enterprise Fleet presented to council on August 5th. Dr. Spille explained what a sunset provision is and how it would work in the budgeting process.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Approved

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – December 16, 2024 Council Meeting Minutes – Dr. Spille made a **motion** to approve the December 16, 2024 minutes as written; second by Mr. Thelen. Mr. Ruehl and Mrs. Spears abstained. **Motion passed: 5 ayes – 2 abstentions.**

Cub Scouts from Troop 779 attended the council meeting: August Ruehl, Amon Hoffer, Bobbie, Brayden, Levi Kavala, Cayden, Griffin Chaber, Josephine Chaber with St. Pius, also in attendance Reed Heuker with Boy Scout Troop 226.

REPORT/PRESENTATIONS – 23/24 Audit Presentation – Jim Sparrow with Rankin, Rankin & Company – Mr. Sparrow presented the audit findings. Mr. Sparrow stated that the auditor's opinion is the financial statements are presented fairly and this is an unqualified report which means there are no qualifications or exceptions in the report. Mr. Sparrow stated the ending cash balance for the city was \$1.99 million and the ending investment balance was \$4.29 million. Mr. Sparrow stated the summary of the net position comparing 2023 vs. 2024 current assets decreased by \$1.6 million but capital assets increased by \$2.5 million. Mr. Sparrow noted that the city’s pension liability had decreased. Mr. Sparrow stated that the city had a net position at the end of 2024 of \$22.8 million a \$3 million increase from 2023. Mr. Sparrow stated the general fund budget highlights actual revenues were \$13.7 million. Mr. Sparrow stated the reconciliation of the balance sheet started with \$6.3 million and ended with a net position of \$22.8 million. Mr. Sparrow stated that the total revenues for the year were \$13.7 million, expenditures of \$14.7 million with a decrease of \$1.2 million with an end of year balance of \$6.3 million. Council discussed the increases in payroll tax and the impact Kroger will have next fiscal year with the anticipated opening of the new store this June. Mr. Schreiber made a **motion** to accept the FY 23/24 Audit as presented; second by Mr. Messmer. **Motion passed: 7 ayes – 0 nays.**

Mayor Link stated the KLC City Day/City Night will be held on February 26th. Mayor Link stated in the newsletter that there will be no roundabouts in Edgewood but there will be one in Ft. Mitchell and two in Ft. Wright. Mayor Link thanked Public Works for their hard work on snow removal, they did a great job. Jimmy Johns is going into the Colonial Cottage location in Erlanger. There will be a new dog park in Erlanger. Mayor Link stated that Duke Energy has completed their gas repairs and will now work in Taylor Mill. The Chamber of Commerce will be taking a bus to Frankfurt on February 19th if anyone would like to join them. Mayor Link announced that Mr. Dehner had been appointed to serve on the NLC Public Safety, Crime Prevention and Federal Advocacy committee. The next Mayor’s Group meeting will be held on Saturday, February 15th at the Independence Senior Center. In other news Sergeant Jarod Buchanan will graduate from the FBI National Academy and Clayton Dunaway will graduate from the Police Academy both on March 13th.

Staff Reports – CAO, City Clerk, General Services, Police and Recreation – Dr. Spille asked if the engineers will be showing the Charter Oak and Tupman design. Mr. Dehner stated that the engineers should be attending the March 3rd meeting. Dr. Spille asked for an update on Dudley Phase III and IV. Mr. Dehner stated that today he received the final application and specifications from the

engineers and will be meeting next week for a final time with the State and then will be sent for final review in Frankfort. Dr. Spille asked for a timeline. Mr. Dehner stated that they will most likely start on the Dixie Highway portion of the project possibly this summer. Mr. Messmer asked about Sperti Drive. Mr. Dehner stated that they did not put the acquisition of right-of-way in the budget for the project, they are looking at the left switchover at Madison Pike as an H design and looking at the state taking over a bridge to Gateway Community College that is currently owned by the City of Fort Wright. Dr. Spille wanted to thank Chief Dickman and Chief Kreinest for their professional courtesy and quick response to the Abbotsbury incident. Storm water project timelines were discussed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS – The February 17th council meeting is cancelled due to the Presidents’ Day Federal holiday as per City Ordinance.

ORDINANCES, MUNICIPAL ORDERS, AND RESOLUTIONS – Ordinance 2024-12-06 – Budget Amendment – 2nd reading. Mr. Wichmann read the following: **AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF EDGEWOOD, IN KENTON COUNTY, KENTUCKY AMENDING THE BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2024 AND ENDING ON JUNE 30, 2025 THAT WAS ADOPTED BY EDGEWOOD ORDINANCE NO. 2024-06-04.** Mr. Schreiber made a **motion** to adopt Ordinance 2024-12-06; second by Mr. Barlage. Mr. Ruehl and Mrs. Spears abstained. **Motion passed: 5 ayes – 2 abstentions.**

Municipal Order 2025-01 – Approval of Board Appointment. Mr. Schreiber made a **motion** to adopt Municipal Order 2025-01; second by Dr. Spille. **Motion passed: 7 ayes – 0 nays.**

Municipal Order 2025-02 – Surplus Vehicles. Mr. Schreiber made a **motion** to adopt Municipal Order 2025-02; second by Mr. Messmer. **Motion passed: 7 ayes – 0 nays.**

Resolution 2025-01 – Opposition to Centralized Collection of Occupational Taxes. Mr. Schreiber made a **motion** to adopt Resolution 2025-01; second by Mr. Thelen. **Motion passed: 7 ayes – 0 nays.**

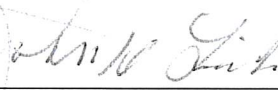
ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Qi Gong Classes will be held at Liberty Hall on Wednesdays in February 10-11:AM, pre-registration is required.
- Wine Tasting at the White House on February 6th at 6:PM – event is full
- Edgewood Family Day at Strike & Spare is February 17th from 10:am- 9: pm. A limited number of vouchers are available for pick up at the city building.
- Annual Mystery Dinner, “The Karaoke Killers” is March 1st, space is limited, this event does sell out.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Barlage made a **motion** to adjourn at 7:53 p.m.; second by Mr. Ruehl. **Motion passed: 7 ayes – 0 nays.**

Attest: 
Belinda Nitschke, City Clerk



Mayor John D. Link

Date passed: 3/3/25