

CITY OF EDGEWOOD
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
June 16, 2025
6:30 PM

CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Link called the meeting of the Edgewood City Council to order at 6:30 pm. The following council members were present: Ben Barlage, Joe Messmer, W. Jamie Ruehl, Jeff Schreiver, Bridget Grady Spears, and Rob Thelen. Also, in attendance were City Administrator Brian Dehner, City Clerk Belinda Nitschke, and City Attorney Frank Wichmann. Other staff members present: Police Chief James “Jimmy” Kreinest, Asst. Fire Chief Jim Schaefer, and General Services Director Rick Lunnemann. Council member Scott Spille was absent.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CITIZENS DESIRING RECOGNITION ON LEGISLATIVE MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA – None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Approved

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – June 2, 2025 Council Meeting Minutes – Mr. Thelen made a **motion** to approve the June 2, 2025 minutes as written; second by Mr. Messmer. Mr. Ruehl abstained. **Motion passed: 5 ayes – 1 abstention.**

REPORT/PRESENTATIONS – Judge Knochelmann gave an update for Kenton County - Judge Knochelmann expressed his appreciation for the great leadership at the City of Edgewood. Judge Knochelmann stated that Kenton County Dispatch was consolidated and continues to be invested in. Dispatch received 13,300 calls in 2024 and so far, 6,400 for 2025 from the City of Edgewood. This system also includes regional radio access and CAD functions. Judge Knochelmann stated that the dream for the future is to have an integrated and unified CAD system with Boone and Campbell counties for cost savings and public safety. Judge Knochelmann stated that the Kenton County Detention Center with Jailer Marc Fields continues to do a great job and his team manages the jail population of about 600. Judge Knochelmann stated the city has a top-notch police department but that the county led by Spike Jones is available to support if needed for accident reconstruction, crime scene investigation, cybercrimes unit against children and for backup. Judge Knochelmann stated that the Kenton County Department of Emergency Management, headed by Steve Hensley has been available to help with landslides, floods, and other emergencies and there for high level support and help with attaining state and federal dollars. Judge Knochelmann stated that Edgewood participates in the county road striping program bid by the county which saves tax payers dollars. Judge Knochelmann stated that the county is there to support the public works department with salt, if needed and the county provides the animal control services to the city. Judge Knochelmann provided information on the redevelopment plans and site readiness initiatives the county is working on, totaling approximately \$18 million and other projects that the county is bringing to the region, such as the new park at the Golf Courses of Kenton County.

PDS Z21 Presentation by Megan Bessey – Ms. Bessey presented the Z21 zoning ordinance that PDS and the city have been working on for the past two years. Ms. Bessey stated that the process to update the zoning ordinance was divided into three phases. Phase 1 – audit of zoning ordinances, Phase 2 was the development of the blueprint and Phase 3 is the implementation of the code. Ms. Bessey stated that the goal was to simplify the code, make it more business friendly, avoid pitfalls, reduce the number of nonconformities, simplify multiple districts, and protect the unique character of the city. Ms. Bessey presented what was new in the zoning ordinance. The Z21 plan reduces the zoning districts from 18 to 12. Ms. Bessey stated that the next steps are refinement by the city, authorize application to planning commission, public hearing and recommendation at planning commission and final adoption by the city. Mr. Ruehl asked if there was a deadline that the ordinance needed to be adopted. Mr. Dehner stated that there is no deadline to adopt. Mr. Schreiver stated that the extra 6 acres in Presidents Park needs to be included and council agreed that Victory Park should be included in the institutional zone. Mr. Thelen asked a question about accessory buildings and Mr. Dehner stated that he would research it and provide information back to the council.

Mayor Link stated the Shred Event was this past Saturday and was a success. The first concert of the season was last Tuesday with Doghouse and it was standing room only with about 500 - 600 attendees. Mayor Link thanked Lucas Elam, the police, and public works for their hard work on the concerts. The Clay Way Bailey Bridge will be closing

on Wednesday, June 18th for 13 days for construction and repairs. The Northern Kentucky Legislative Representatives will be meeting on Wednesday, June 18th at the Madison Event Center if anyone wishes to attend. At our Memorial Day Ceremony Lewis Goodridge presented tanks & trains, these will be at a WWII exhibit on Lawrenceburg Road in Harrison, OH on Saturday July 5th. The City of Florence is also hosting an exhibition from Mr. Goodridge on November 11th and December 5th. The Mayor's Group meeting was cancelled this week and the Municipal Government League will be meeting on August 1st at the Thomas More stadium in Florence.

Staff Reports – CAO, City Clerk, Fire, General Services, Police, and Recreation – Mr. Schreiver asked Rick Lunnemann about street sign updating. Mr. Lunnemann stated that public works is breaking down the city by snow routes and replacing signs. They have completed the Winding Trails area, replacing the posts but not the street signs. Street signs will be replaced as needed due to expense and the bottom scroll will be eliminated.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS – The July 7th Council Meeting is cancelled due to the July 4th holiday weekend.

Aerial Truck #160 repairs were discussed by council. Assistant Chief Jim Schaefer explained how the aerial truck was damaged after testing the aerial ladder the officer side door swung open while the driver was backing up and damaged it. Assistant Chief Jim Schaefer stated that Aerial Truck #160 is currently out of commission due to the accident. Mr. Schreiver made a **motion** to approve repairs to Aerial Truck #160 by Summit Fire Apparatus to remove the door, examine damage, replace the door hinge, repair door warp, replace lettering & graphics, and repaint the door jamb and front panel. The cost for the repairs will be \$8,895.00 – labor, \$2,865.00 for material for a total of \$11,850.00. It should be noted that given our status with Spartan and our extensive fabricating skills, that Summit Fire Apparatus can restore the structural integrity of the cab back to original status in a timely manner; second by Mr. Thelen. Mr. Messmer abstained. **Motion passed: 5 ayes – 1 abstention.**

ORDINANCES, MUNICIPAL ORDERS, AND RESOLUTIONS – Ordinance 2025-06-04 – Budget for FY 2025–2026. 2nd reading – Mr. Wichmann read the following: **AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF EDGEWOOD, IN KENTON COUNTY, KENTUCKY, ADOPTING A BUDGET AND PERSONNEL PAY PLAN BRACKETS FOR THE CITY OF EDGEWOOD FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING ON JULY 1, 2025.** Mr. Thelen made a **motion** to adopt Ordinance 2025-06-04; second by Mr. Barlage. **Motion passed: 6 ayes – 0 nays.**

Mayor Link thanked the staff for all the time and effort in putting the budget together and council for their work and approving it.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Tuesday Night Summer Concert Series continues in Presidents Park at 7:pm with Marsha Brady tomorrow night and Not Johnny on June 24th.
- Saturday, June 28th - Join us for Rock Painting Class at noon and/or Sun & Moon Night with CAS at 7:00 pm in Presidents Park must pre-register for both events.
- Join us at Erlanger Putt-Putt on Sunday July 20th from 5:30 – 7:30 for two free games of putt-putt. Proof of residency is required.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Barlage made a **motion** to adjourn at 7:41 p.m.; second by Mr. Thelen. **Motion passed: 6 ayes – 0 nays.**

Attest:



Belinda Nitschke, City Clerk



Mayor John D. Link

Date passed:

7/21/25