

**CITY OF EDGEWOOD
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
October 20, 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 Schreiber, 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: Fire Chief, Tom Dickman, Police Chief, James “Jimmy” Kreinest, 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 – Mr. Dehner asked to add as item #20 a Resolution for the FEMA grant application. Mr. Schreiber asked to add Rob Himes, PDS to provide guidance on dead trees on properties and will be added after Josh Wice’s introduction.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – October 6, 2025 Council Meeting Minutes – Mr. Ruehl made a motion to approve the October 6, 2025, minutes as written; second by Mr. Thelen. **Motion passed: 6 ayes – 0 nays.**

REPORT/PRESENTATIONS – PDS Executive Director, Josh Wice – Mr. Wice stated that he has been the executive director for about two months and is making the rounds introducing himself to each community. Mr. Wice stated that he started working for PDS four years ago. Mr. Wice grew up in Edgewood. Mr. Wice previously worked in city government in economic development and city administration. PDS focuses on planning and zoning, as well as, building inspections, LINK GIS mapping, community development, and code enforcement.

Rob Himes, PDS – Mr. Himes introduced himself as the Code Administrator with PDS that supervises the zoning administrators and code enforcement officers. Mr. Himes answered Mr. Schreiber’s question regarding dead trees stating that they receive frequent questions about dead trees and unless a “dangerous” tree hangs over public right-of-way and poses a threat to public ways or persons, most ordinances will not address them. Mr. Himes stated that most times a dead tree or suspected diseased tree are a civil issue between homeowners. Mr. Himes stated that the advice he received from the county attorney is to serve notice via a certified letter to the neighbor stating that you are concerned the tree will fall and when you receive back the green card that is notice. If the tree falls then provide this information to your insurance that you gave the neighbor notice. Mr. Himes stated he does not want this to be construed as legal advice as he is not an attorney. Mr. Dehner reiterated that just because you sent notice does not guarantee your claim either as there are “acts of God” clauses in your insurance.

Mayor’s Report – Mayor Link was unable to attend the Mayor’s Group meeting and asked Mr. Wice to give a summary since he attended the meeting. Mr. Wice stated Senator McDaniels was in attendance along with KLC Gracie Kelly. Senator McDaniels received the Kentucky Friends of Cities award. Mr. Wice stated that scooters were again discussed at the meeting. Mayor Hehman had an update from the KLC convention in Owensboro that this issue is on KLC’s radar. Mayor Link thanked Lucas Elam and everyone who helped for all of the planning, set up and prep for the Spooky Sunday event that was cancelled on Sunday due to the weather. Mayor Link stated that the 300 good bags will be distributed between the departments to give out on Halloween night. Mayor Link stated that TBNK is starting a segment called “City Talk” the first talk will be held on November 4th with the Steve Hensley, Kenton County Emergency Management and Mayor Dave Hatter, City of Ft. Wright to discuss the new bridge and roundabouts in Ft. Wright. Mr. Schreiber stated it will be available on their website, Facebook and YouTube.

Staff Reports – CAO, City Clerk, Fire, General Services, Police & Recreation – Mr. Ruehl asked for an update on Palmer Construction and Dudley Road and if the anticipated bid date is still March 15, 2026? Mr. Dehner stated he has viewed all of the deed descriptions needed for the right of way and is hoping the historic preservation and environmental reports will be completed by January 2026. Once all of the Dudley Road project is complete the final cost of the project will be approximately 16 million dollars and 60% of it was paid from federal funds. The city has received a grant of \$400,000 to resurface Thomas More Parkway and a grant to help with the Horsebranch Road project. Mr. Dehner stated that Mr. Jim Sparrow with Rankin and Rankin passed away and they are no longer doing audits. The city had to go out to bid for a new auditor, with the help of Chamberlin Owen & Co, Inc. the city has negotiated a contract for \$15,000 with Bramel & Ackley, PSC to perform the audit and signed a three-year contract. Mr. Ruehl asked Chief Kreinest about Sergeant Burch leaving the city in his report. Chief Kreinest stated that he reports on events that have happened in the previous month and although his departure was mentioned it was only now reported in this month’s report. Mr. Ruehl stated that he is going to be the squeaky wheel and stated that Sergeant Burch left for higher pay as an officer. Mr. Dehner stated that he and the chief are currently working on the pay for contract officers and comparing to other cities and the numbers were not far off. They are researching and compiling information in order to compare to other comparable cities. Mr. Schreiber asked Chief Kreinest if there have been any issues at the new Kroger at the north entrance with the right-in and right-out entrance. Mr. Schreiber was wondering if there had been an uptick of accidents or any other issues that we need to be made aware of. Chief Kreinest stated that he was not

aware of any but he did mention the call volume is what they expected. However, for accidents there has been nothing reported for that intersection. Chief Kreinest understands the design of the entrance is supposed to be right-in and right-out but there is no signage at the entrance. Mr. Dehner stated that Kroger is responsible for that signage. Chief Dickman stated that there have been a few accidents in the area and a few issues that are normal business responses. However, none of the calls have been out of the norm nor have there been more than any other business in the area for calls of service.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS – Resolution FEMA – Designation of Applicant's Agent - to designate Brian Dehner as the applicant's agent for the Locust Hollow Lane Landslide Grant. Mr. Dehner stated that the city has been approved for the project and we are in the process of road repair and mitigation stabilizing. The total project cost is \$900,000 and is 100% reimbursable. Mr. Schreiver made a motion to adopt Resolution FEMA – Designation of Applicant's Agent; second by Mr. Thelen. **Motion passed: 6 ayes – 0 nays.**

ORDINANCES, MUNICIPAL ORDERS, AND RESOLUTIONS – Ordinance 2025-03-01 – Closing Tupman Lane – 2nd reading. Mr. Wichmann read the following: **AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF EDGEWOOD, IN KENTON COUNTY, KENTUCKY, CLOSING TUPMAN LANE AS DESCRIBED HEREIN TO PUBLIC USE.** Summary – The ordinance closes Tupman Lane to public use. Mr. Messmer made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2025-03-01; second by Mr. Thelen. **Motion passed: 6 ayes – 0 nays.**

Municipal Order 2025-08 – Amendment to Personnel Policies. Summary – revising Travel Per-Diem and Credit Card Policy. Mr. Schreiver made a motion to adopt Municipal Order 2025-08; second by Mr. Thelen. **Motion passed: 6 ayes – 0 nays.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Fall Chair Yoga starts October 22nd at 11:am at Liberty Hall. This event is free, please pre-register.
- Trick or Treat in Edgewood is Friday, October 31st from 6-8: pm.
- Letters to Santa can be dropped of in Santa's mailbox at the city building November 17th through December 5th.
- Property tax notices were mailed out and are due December 31st or take advantage of the 2% discount, if paid by November 30th.

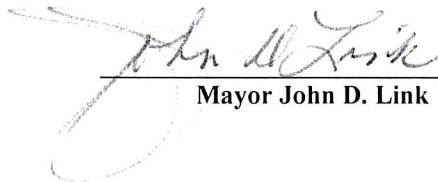
ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Barlage made a motion to adjourn at 7:18 p.m.; second by Mr. Thelen. **Motion passed: 6 ayes – 0 nays.**

Attest:



Belinda Nitschke, City Clerk



Mayor John D. Link

Date passed:

11/17/25