



**CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**Special Meeting Tuesday, May 1, 2020**  
**(Virtual Meeting – ZOOM)**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Council President Horn called the Edgewood City Council special meeting to Order at 1:30 p.m. Council President Horn asked for a moment of silence, followed by leading everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL & DETERMINATION OF QUORUM**

City Clerk Meeks announced a quorum, with the Mayor and all Council Members present.

**Attendees**

John Dowless, Mayor  
Richard Alan Horn, Council President  
Ben Pierce, Council President Pro-Tem  
Chris Rader, Council Member  
Lee Chotas, Council Member  
Susan Lomas, Council Member

**Staff**

Bea L. Meeks, City Clerk  
Deputy City Clerk Sandy Riffle  
John Freeburg, Police Chief  
PD Chief of Staff Shannon Patterson  
Drew Smith, City Attorney  
Virginia Renteria, Code Enforcement Officer  
Scott Zane, IT Manager

**NEW BUSINESS**

**RESOLUTION 2020-02** - A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EDGEWOOD, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING THE EXISTING STATE OF EMERGENCY RELATED TO COVID-19 AND THE STATE'S ACTIONS TO BEGIN THE PROCESS OF REOPENING BUSINESSES, AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ISSUE EXECUTIVE ORDERS IMPLEMENTING TEMPORARY WAIVERS TO CERTAIN REGULATIONS IN ORDER TO PROMOTE LOCAL BUSINESSES AND THE STATE'S "SAFE, SMART, STEP-BY-STEP PLAN FOR FLORIDA'S RECOVERY, AND PROVIDING FOR CONFLICT AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

City Attorney Smith said the State will begin phase one of reopening the state on Monday, May 4, 2020. He announced the businesses that can reopen in phase one, and the regulations that will be in place. City Attorney Smith said that the businesses that are allowed to reopen cannot exceed twenty-five percent

capacity of their occupancy load. He said that because the City of Edgewood does not have a lot of outdoor eating space for restaurants, Mayor Dowless asked the City Attorney how the City can help the businesses in Edgewood. He explained that by approving Resolution 2020-02, the Mayor is given authorization to waive those provisions of the zoning code Chapter 134, that would otherwise allow a restaurant from opening outside. City Attorney Smith explained the Executive Order and the authorization that it gives Mayor Dowless should new information come from the State; the City will be able to respond rapidly.

Council Member Chotas said he thinks this is a good idea and likes that there is language that makes the Resolution go away if there is any change decreed by the State. He suggested that in Section 3, change 30 days to 90 days. Also, in Section 4, where it reads "If the State Emergency State of Emergency is declared...", an "Emergency" needs to be eliminated. Council Member Pierce agreed with changing 30 days to 90 days. City Attorney Smith said he removed the second "Emergency" and added "the State of Emergency". Council Member Rader said he agrees with the Resolution; however, it is temporary and not permanent and asked the Mayor to emphasize this to the business owners.

City Attorney Smith read Resolution 2020-02 in title only. City Attorney Smith said to follow-up on Council Member Rader's point, he said he and the Chief discussed this, and that the best enforcement measure is peer pressure. He said the better people adhere to the State regulation, the better restaurants comply and the quicker things will open.

There were no public comments.

*Council Member Chotas made the Motion to approve Resolution 2020-02, as amended; Second by Council Member Rader.*

*The Motion was approved by the following roll call vote (5/0):*

<i>Council Member Lomas</i>	-	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Council Member Pierce</i>	-	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Council President Horn</i>	-	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Council Member Chotas</i>	-	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Council Member Rader</i>	-	<i>Yes</i>

In response to Council Member Chotas asking what is the plan to get the word out, Mayor Dowless said that a survey was sent out with the help of Deputy City Clerk Riffle. He said a follow-up email will now be sent out to all those who responded to the survey. Additionally, Mayor Dowless said he was interviewed by Channel 9 news yesterday, and Channel 6 news is interviewing him today.

Mayor Dowless referred to Chief Freeburg regarding COVID testing. Chief Freeburg reported that the City obtained rapid COVID-19 tests from the City of Apopka. Chief Freeburg said that the City teamed up with Select Medical, who administered tests to a majority of City employees; all voluntarily, not required. He said all tests were negative. Chief Freeburg said that there are enough tests that as the City progress through the phases, there will be retesting.

#### **1. City of Edgewood Executive Order 20-01**

City Attorney Smith asked for comments; there were none.

*Council President Horn made the Motion to Ratify Executive Order 20-1; Second by Council Member Lomas.*

Council Member Rader addressed Paragraph (3) in the Order regarding removing tents each day. He said he sees this to be problematic, and explained why. City Attorney Smith said Mayor Dowless made the same comment. City Attorney Smith said his concern is wind or microbursts that causes the tent to "go down Orange Avenue". He said he will go in the direction that Council wants to go. Brief discussion regarding anchoring of the tents and Florida Building Code requirements ensued. City Attorney Smith said that the City is not involved with what the lease allows. He said he will add a provision so that tenants know that they have to abide by their lease.

Council Members agreed with the City Attorney making the following amendments:

Paragraph 3 - Seating areas established pursuant to this Order and any temporary shades or tents shall be removed from parking areas and properly stored when the business closes each day **unless such tents or shades have received a permit from Orange County Building & Safety.**

Paragraph 4 – Nothing in this Order shall waive any State requirements, including any requirements relating to the preparation of food and the sale or service of alcoholic beverages. **In addition, nothing in this Order shall relieve any property owner of obligations or restrictions under any lease agreement.**

Mayor Dowless said he will be sending this information to Mayor Demings and request that the County to expedite permitting.

There were no public comments.

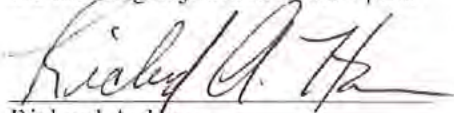
*Council President Horn amended his Motion; the amendment was accepted by Council Member Lomas.*

*The Motion to Ratify was approved by the following roll call vote (5/0):*

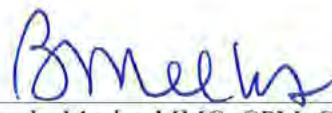
<i>Council Member Rader</i>	-	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Council Member Chotas</i>	-	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Council President Horn</i>	-	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Council Member Pierce</i>	-	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Council Member Lomas</i>	-	<i>Yes</i>

#### ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business, on the Motion of Council Member Pierce; Second by Council Member Rader, the meeting adjourned at 1:59 p.m.



Richard A. Horn  
Council President



Bea L. Meeks, MMC, CPM, CBTO  
City Clerk

*Approved in the May 19, 2020 City Council Meeting.*