



OBSERVER CORPS REPORT

Edgewater City Council

Reported by Linda Mojer

January 3 & February 20, 2026

Agendas & Playback Links: <https://www.cityofedgewater.org/bc/page/agendas-minutes>

The Edgewater City Council convenes a routine meeting on the first Monday of each month at 6:00pm, with added special sessions as needed throughout the year. Current Council is comprised of Mayor Diezel Depew and four district representatives: #1 Charlotte Hope Gillis, #2 Mike Thomas, #3 Deb Dolbow, #4 Eric Rainbird.

Preview Summary

Once the City had viewed and shared its Stormwater Master Plan at a special meeting on December 1, 2025, at 4:00, developers were on that same day's regular meeting agenda hours later to initiate site approvals for Deering Park Center. Despite some voiced concerns about stormwater, no further delays were justified or permitted under SB784, and Council was obliged to advance the final phased site plans. Initial construction plans for Active Adult single-family and townhomes were advanced as submitted.

Also in December, preliminary meetings of the City Charter Review Committee were held to set task expectations and a timeline. Public meetings were scheduled over several months into the new year, leading up to Council consideration of ballot questions to be put before voters in the Fall election cycle.

January 5, 2026: Standard process matters and comments were recorded for ordinances and resolutions for stormwater use agreements, water quality, environmental grants, support for widening Mission Road and eliminating fees for Business Tax Receipts. The final agenda item was a critical review and discussion of proposals for Legal Services, ending with a split vote to retain new representation from Sabatini Law Firm. With the move, Council has turned over the entire executive management team in just over a year.

February 3, 2026: Most of the City's business focused on infrastructure maintenance for wastewater treatment and stormwater projects. Multiple board appointments were discussed and finalized for several terms each with Planning & Zoning and Economic Development. The City Manager suggested retaining a governmental affairs and lobbying firm, immediately without bid, to seek state and federal grant funding to support pressing stormwater needs. The City reached a settlement agreement on litigation, reported by new City Attorney Gavin Rollins.

https://deeringpark.com/Site_Plan.php

<https://cityofedgewater.org/ed/page/planned-developments>



Summary 2025

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The City of Edgewater capped 2025 with added milestones and management upheaval. In response to severe flooding during Hurricane Milton, the City had both adopted a strict building moratorium and fired its City Manager at the end of the 2024 hurricane season.

The moratorium had been structured to align with completion of the City's Stormwater Management Plan, and interim administrators had attempted to uphold the local flood protections against challenges brought by the state's SB180 legislation.

The City had joined a coalition of organizations and municipalities to advocate for home rule and later rejected the state's demand to overturn its moratorium in a split vote. In the same special session, Council was coerced to adopt the state's companion SB784 legislation, which delegates review authority AWAY from city governments and TO unelected "administrative officials" for all plat approvals. The law further erodes home rule statewide and limits citizen input throughout the process of guiding future growth.

By the end of the year, the City had opted to promote from within to name former Police Chief Joe Mahoney (then acting interim) as its permanent City Manager. Council had also released its sitting City Clerk and hired internally to name Sara Geiger to the position, then also chose to bring the City Attorney's contract up for review and bid.

<https://www.news-journalonline.com/story/news/local/volusia/2025/01/07/development-moratorium-in-edgewater-is-in-effect-for-a-year/77489284007/>

<https://www.newsdaytonabeach.com/stories/edgewater-city-council-votes-to-defy-state-ban-on-building-moratoriums,126415>

<https://www.flsenate.gov/Committees/billsummaries/2025/html/784>