

Town of Edmonston
Town Council Regular Meeting
Tuesday, November 18, 2014

1. 7:00 P.M. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Council Member Pooley @ 7:10pm. In attendance: Council Members: Pooley, Johnson, Bennett-White, Layne-Bee, Town Attorney Sue Ford, Town Administrator Barnes, Police Chief Walker and Town Clerk Rodriguez

a. Pledge of Allegiance:

- i. The pledge was led by Council Member Pooley.

b. Approval of Agenda:

- i. Council Member Bee inquired about the definition of the Consent Agenda. Town Administrator Barnes explained that the Consent Agenda is used to approve non-controversial items that need to be approved. It can streamline the meeting. The items can be approved in one motion. Any item can be removed from the consent agenda and placed on the agenda for discussion and action.
- ii. A motion to approve the agenda was made by Council Member Bee, seconded by Council Member White. Vote: 4-0, Mayor Gant in favor. Agenda Approved.

2. Public Comments:

- a. There were no Public Comments.

3. Consent Agenda:

- a. The Town Council minutes from the regular meeting on October 14, 2014 were presented for consideration.
 - i. A motion to table the minutes until the January Meeting was made by Council Member White seconded by Council Member Bee. Vote: 4-0, Mayor Gant in favor. The approval of the October 14 Minutes was tabled until the January meeting. Motion approved.

4. Legislative Actions:

- a. There were no legislative actions.

5. Unfinished Business:

- a. The Port Town Volunteer award was presented to Elizabeth “Betsy” McCauley.
- b. Police Chief Stephen Walker gave an update on the energy grant for the hybrid vehicle. He informed the Council that he is still in the process of selecting a SUV that is viable for code enforcement use. He will be reaching out to the Maryland Department of Energy for some guidance on the grant and its limitations.

6. New Business:

- a. The FY14 annual audit was presented by Robert Diss, Senior Partner of Lindsey & Associates.
- b. Town Administrator Barnes presented the council with the monthly check register and the budget report for the month of October.
 - i. Council Member Bee inquired about what are the NSF checks in the report. Town Clerk Rodriguez explained that those are checks that have been returned by the bank. They are collected from the customer.
- c. Police Chief Stephen Walker presented a list of equipment and vehicles that the Council could declare as surplus and offer for sale.
 - i. Council Member Bee requested that the list be included in the Town’s Newsletter for residents to have the opportunity to bid on and purchase the items.
 - ii. A motion to approve the list of surplus vehicles and equipment and to place the items on govdeals.com for auction was made by Council Member Pooley, seconded by Council Member Johnson. Vote: 4-0, Mayor Gant in favor. Motion approved.
- d. Mayor Gant informed the Council about the Town being the recipient of an award from the Maryland Smart Energy Communities in recognition of our participation in the program. This award was given to the town during the most recent PGCMA meeting.
- e. The Town Attorney Susan Ford was excused from meeting.

7. Reports

- a. Council Report:
 - i. Ward 2
 - 1. Council Member Pooley:
 - a. There was a great turnout in attendance for the University of Maryland Panhellenic Society Day of service. Over 170 volunteers came to Edmonston to

assist in cleaning throughout the town, along the river, and building little libraries.

- b. The Eco City Farms Pumpkin Smashing event unfortunately did not have such a good turnout. There was no attendance. If the event occurs next year it will need to be promoted more.

2. Council Member Johnson:

- a. Mr. Johnson reported that he was able to lead a group during the day of service, cleaning up trash from along the river and along Decatur Street.
- b. Mr. Johnson recommended that a trash can be placed at the wooded area near the path from Kenilworth and Emerson and along Decatur Street near the bridge.

ii. Ward 1

1. Council Member White:

- a. Council Member White reported that she attended the Port Towns Legislative Dinner and thought it was informative and interesting.
- b. Council Member White indicated she had talked with Mr. Barnes about the Rec Center floor being replaced. He indicated Park and Planning had it planned in 2010, but it did not happen. She expressed concern that it be replaced in the very near future.

2. Council Member Bee:

- a. Council Member Bee reported on an incident Veteran's Day when a water leak occurred on Taylor Road. She was pleased with the WSSC response and the information they provided. She asked if the town had any protocol for when this type of emergency happens. Mr. Barnes indicated it is difficult to get information from WSSC, but the staff could work on a plan of action going forward. The Chief and Mr. Barnes are always available via cell phone. Mr. Barnes indicated we will look at the telephone answering system and look at using blast emails to residents to get information out.

- b. Police Report:
 - i. Chief Walker distributed the Police Department's October monthly report.
 - ii. He informed the Council that our officers participated with officers from other neighboring municipalities in a DUI Enforcement operation, which was funded by a grant from the Maryland State Highway Department.
 - iii. The Chief informed the Council that Officer Thompson has completed his probation period and will be promoted to the rank of Private First Class. He also reported that Police Clerk Suazo, had completed her probation period. Both employees will be receiving pay raises that were budgeted in the FY14 budget.

- c. Town Administrator Report:
 - i. The Town Administrator gave a report on the Recreation Center. The public works crew will be inspecting the facilities daily, ensuring that everything is in good condition. He reported that he is working on getting estimates for the replacement of the floor tiles.
 - ii. Council Member Johnson attended the State Highway Administration open house and was able to get a contact for working on cleaning along Kenilworth from Decatur to Fountain Park apartments.
 - iii. Mr. Barnes reported that on December 18, 2014, we will be having our Town Holiday party, at the Rec. Center. Santa Claus will be joining us and we will be having Karaoke as well.
 - 1. Council Member White mentioned that she noticed that some events that were advertised in the Newsletter came out after the event occurred. She would like for the newsletter to be delivered during the 1st week of the month.

- d. Mayor's Report:
 - i. Mayor Gant reported that she participated in the cleanup event with the students from the University of Maryland Panhellenic Societies. She stated that it was a great opportunity to participate with the students to clean up the town.
 - ii. The long awaited Kenilworth Avenue project has started. The State Highway will be installing sidewalks, bike lanes and curves in addition to new pavement to the area.

- iii. The Purple Metro Line is coming and there is lots of expectation for the area around Kenilworth and East-West Highway.
- iv. Mario (owner of Three Brothers Restaurant) is looking for an area to purchase and create a soccer field in town. This field will be provided and cared for by Three Brothers, and not by MNCPPC.
- v. The Mayor indicated that the Black History Month event be planned by a volunteer group.
- vi. The Mayor mentioned that she is grateful to have the administrative vehicle available for use for town events.
- vii. The Mayor said she enjoys our events that provide an opportunity to reach out to our residents. Events such as Edmonston day the Block party, National Night Out have all been well attended. She wants to continue to have our events and would like to go out and just say hi to residents. She suggested that the Council could maybe go around with some warm chocolate and sing Christmas carols.

8. Adjournment:

- i. A motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:30pm was made by Council Member Bee, seconded by Council Member Pooley. Vote: 4-0, Mayor Gant in favor. Motion approved.
- ii. Meeting adjourned.

Passed and approved this 20th day of January, 2015 by the Edmonston Town Council as the official minutes for the regular Town Council meeting conducted on 18 November, 2014.

Tracy Gant, Mayor

Michelle Rodriguez, Town Clerk