

Town of Edmonston
Mayor and Town Council Legislative Session
Wednesday, April 9, 2014

Minutes

Meeting was called to order by Mayor Kerns at 7:15 pm.

In attendance:

Mayor Robert Kerns, Council Members: Farrish, Pooley, White, Chief of Police Stephen Walker, Town Attorney Suellen Ferguson, and Town Clerk Michelle Rodriguez

Excused: CM Bee

Mayor Kerns led the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag.

Motion made by CM Farrish, second by CM Pooley. Agenda approved.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Kerns reports:

- Attended the PGCMA meeting along with all of council and Chief Walker. This meeting was very informative, lots of good information was given on the basics of municipal government.
- The 201/ Kenilworth Avenue project is in the works. It is currently being worked on in Riverdale Park. Some improvements will involve the installation of sidewalks and bike lanes. We should expect them to be closer to the town by late spring, early summer.
- The CSX quiet zone meeting was canceled and is to be rescheduled.
- The additional trash/ recycling containers have been installed on Decatur St. as requested in the March meeting. *during our*
- Our new HVAC system has been installed at no cost to the town. The total cost of the project was \$38,000 of which the Town spent nothing. The funds were from a grant that we received from the Maryland Department of Energy.
- We are going to start working on request for proposals for the landscaping and maintenance of our green areas throughout the town with special attention to be given to Decatur Street as well as the Town hall.
- Community Forklift will be hosting an event this upcoming Saturday, where they will be interviewing customers that have been able to use them in home projects.
- A new Prince George's County law is coming into effect. This law states that the county will no longer accept leaves if they are not placed in paper bags. Plastic bags will no longer be accepted by the department.
- Our Code Enforcement Officer has resigned. Chief Walker is in the process of setting up a job advertisement that will be posted on the Maryland Municipal League Website.

- Earth Clean Up day was celebrated in various locations throughout the area; unfortunately I was not able to attend.
- Our sign at the intersection of Decatur Street and Kenilworth Avenue needs to have the messages changed every two weeks. Would like the assistance of the Edmonston Green team in creating one liner's to put on the sign.

Council Report:

CM White:

- Attended Earth Clean Up day in Town. She was very surprised to see the amount of trash, in particular water bottles and plastic bags that were collected from the river bank. Inquired if this was the first time the event was held in Edmonston, and would like to see much more publicity go out for next year's event.
 - CM Pooley informs her that the event has been going on for several years. AWS (Anacostia Water Shed) has been doing it in many locations along the Anacostia River. This year's event was the first time that Edmonston had a designated clean up area.

CM Farrish:

- Informs that she was contacted by Marissa from HEAL (Healthy Living Active Living) to attend a complete street workshop at the MML Convention; she encourages the town to participate, as well as complete the process of being a registered HEAL Town.
- Inquires why hasn't the position of Town Administrator been posted on the Maryland Municipal League website.
 - Mayor Kerns informs her that her question involves a personnel matter and will be discussed during a closed session.

CM Pooley:

Green Team report:

- During the last meeting the members discussed methods in which they can reach out to the Hispanic community. They would like to see more participation of residents.
- The team was able to have a table at ^{an} the event at community forklift. They were seeking to get more people registered as well as signing up participants for the tree planting program.
- The team has coordinated a happy hour event at Franklin's Restaurant where they will have information on solar panels initiative as well as a discussion with personnel from University Park. The event will be held on Sunday, April 13, 2014.
- Informs that she has coordinated a meeting with PG Parks to discuss and review the sites for the fruit tree planting.

Police/ Code Report

- Chief informs that Mr. Randy Kuenzli has tendered his resignation to the position as Code Enforcement Officer for the Town. He was with the town for several years and did a great job. Although he will be missed, we have posted the position on the MML website, as stated by the Mayor. All resumes received will be evaluated.

- Our officers have been participating along with other departments in a traffic safety enforcement program. They are ensuring that all occupants are using seatbelts and child safety seats. This event will continue on different days throughout the Port Towns area.
- Chief Walker explains police/code reports.

Public Comments:

- ❖ Mr. John Mullikin- 5008 52nd Avenue
 - Mentions that he has noticed several colored markings on the street and curb. Would like to know what they are and what do they mean?
 - Inquires if the town would be doing a forum where residents can meet and speak to all the candidates that are running in the town election.
 - Mayor Kerns informs that the marking could be from WSSC or the gas company. On occasions the utilities may survey the area for possible upgrades/monitoring of the lines.
 - A forum will not be held, but everyone is welcome to attend the council meetings and speak to council members after meeting.

Action Items for Legislative Meeting

1. Motion to approve authority to install stop signs on Decatur Street and 48th avenue. Motion to approve made by CM Farrish and second by CM White. Motion passed, Mayor Kerns in favor
2. Motion to approve election judges for municipal election to be held on May 5, 2014. Chief Judge will be Ms Donna Marie Jackson, assisted by Judges Mr. Edward Page, and Ms. Angela Boward. Motion to approve made by CM Farrish and second by CM Pooley. Motion passed, Mayor Kerns in favor

Unfinished Business:

- Speed humps on Tanglewood Drive, near Community Forklift.
After an analysis was done of the area Chief Walker recommends for the petition made by Ms. Nancy Myers (Community Forklift) be taken into consideration as a safety measure to protect pedestrians.
 - ❖ Motion to approve installation of 2 speed humps on Tanglewood drive, near Community Forklift as a safety measure made by CM White and second by CM Pooley. Motion passed, Mayor Kerns in favor

New Business:

- Surplus items:
The Town over the years has acquired several items that have since been determined non usable due to advances in technology or excessive use. Once the items are deemed surplus, we can proceed with the sale of items. Once items are deemed surplus they will be listed on the .govdeals website for sale. Items on list are:
 - Old police cars with excessive mileage.
 - Old camera equipment

- ❖ Motion to approve with establishment of surplus policy and then subsequent surplus of items presented to council at a later date. Motion made by CM Pooley and second by CM White. Motion passed, Mayor Kerns in favor

CM Farrish informs that she is in favor of selling surplus items and would like the process to be documented and distributed to council.

- Health Care Benefits:

The Town has the intent to provide the best services for our employees at a cost that is reasonable to both us an employer as well as to the employees. Staff has inquired about the purchasing of our health care from the State of Maryland. Chief Walker and Clerk Rodriguez have been working on the task of exploring the possibility of the town enrolling in the state health care benefit package. The cost will be less to the town, and provide our employees with more choices to providers. Upon approval the Town will be enrolled in the new plan effective June 2014.

- ❖ Motion to approve Maryland State as our healthcare supplier made by CM White and second by CM Pooley. Motion passed, Mayor Kerns in favor

- Budget Ordinance:

As required by law, the town has presented the budget ordinance for fiscal year 2014- 2015. The town staff presented a proposed budget, without the need of raising taxes. It is scheduled to be discussed during a public hearing that will be on May 7, 2014.

- ❖ Introduction of Ordinance 2014 OR 01 Budget for fiscal year 20014-2015 made by CM Farrish and second by CM White. Motion introduced.

Motion to adjourn public meeting and enter closed meeting to discuss personal matters made by CM Pooley, second by CM Farrish @ 8:45pm. Motion Approved, Mayor Kerns in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Revised on 7.14.2014