

Town of Edmonston
Town Council Regular Session Minutes
Wednesday, March 13, 2019 7:00 p.m.

1. Call to order:

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Gant @ 7:10 p.m. In attendance: Council Members: Johnson, Bennett-White, Layne-Bee, Turberville, Deputy Police Chief Billy Sullivan, Administrator, Rod Barnes, Town Attorney, Suellen Ferguson and Averil Gray, Town Clerk.

The Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence was led by Mayor Gant.

2. Approval of Agenda:

Council Member Johnson moved, and Council Member Turberville to approve the agenda as presented.

Votes: Ayes Johnson, Bennet-White, Layne-Bee and Tuberville

Nays: None

Motion carried.

3. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

4. Special Presentation

Sixth graders Heizer Alfaro and Mirian Limachi from Roger's Heights Elementary made special presentation to the Council about their science project titled "Don't be a Pain in the Drain, which provided information on the problem of and disposal method for FOG (Fats Oils and Grease). Their Science teacher, Mr. PitPit and student family members attended as well. Presentation will be given to the community during Dumpster Day on April 27, 2019.

Bladensburg High School Seniors Sandra Reyes, Yulizs Perea and Zozie Mendez gave a presentation to the Council about their Capstone project, as part of the School of Biomedical Academy, to organize a 5K run fundraiser in support of the non-profit "Together we Rise" which helps those in foster care. The seniors want sponsorship and coordination support in their efforts. As this event might not occur before this group graduates, the project will pass onto rising seniors who may approach the Town for support of this the 2019-2020 school year.

5. Old Business

In consideration of Ordinance OR-2019-01, Town Attorney Suellen Ferguson commented that the regulation provides a basic set of rules to locate small cell phone towers near commercial strips and away from residences.

Council Member Tuberville moved, seconded by Council Member Layne-Bee to approve of Ordinance OR-2019-01

Vote: Ayes: Bennett-White, Johnson, Layne-Bee, Turberville
Nays: None
Motion carried.

6. New Business

a. The consideration of the Town Council minutes from the Regular Council Meeting on February 13, 2019 was presented. Council Member Layne-Bee moved and seconded by Council Member Johnson to approve.

Vote: Ayes: Bennett-White, Johnson, Layne-Bee, Turberville
Nays: None
Motion carried.

b. The consideration of the Town Council minutes from the Work Session Council Meeting from February 26, 2019 was presented. Council Member Bennett-White moved and seconded by Council Member Johnson to approve.

Vote: Ayes: Bennett-White, Johnson, Layne-Bee, Turberville
Nays: None
Motion carried.

c. Minutes from the Special Town Council Session Meeting on February 26, 2019 was presented for approval. Council Member Tuberville moved and seconded by Council Member Johnson to approve.

Vote: Ayes: Bennett-White, Johnson, Layne-Bee, Turberville
Nays: None
Motion carried.

d. With corrections to the Town Council Work Session Meeting from March 7, 2019 Work Session regarding the grant request amount from Harvest Time Ministries of \$4,000 and the consideration for Town Hall expansion a part of a strategic development “plan” and not a “study” was presented. Council Member Tuberville moved and seconded by Council Member Johnson to approve.

Vote: Ayes: Bennett-White, Johnson, Layne-Bee, Turberville
Nays: None
Motion carried.

- e. Awarding the bid for sanitation services to Bates Trucking was presented for approval. Council Member Layne-Bee moved and seconded by Council Member Bennett-White to approve.

Vote: Ayes: Bennett-White, Johnson, Layne-Bee, Turberville

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Motion carried.

- f. Awarding the annual mosquito contract with the Maryland Department of Agriculture was presented for approval. Council Member Johnson moved and seconded by Council Member Bennett-White to approve.

Vote: Ayes: Bennett-White, Johnson, Layne-Bee, Turberville

Nays: None

Motion carried.

- g. The consideration of permit parking designation of Windom Street was discussed, and Town Attorney Ferguson commented that under current law an ordinance is needed to add commercial parking. Suggested interim solutions were to designate spaces temporarily restricting times with signage.

- 7. **Police Report:** Deputy Chief Sullivan provided his report to the Council and informed that 3 candidates are under review for open officer positions. He expects the entire process to take 4 to 6 weeks. Town Administrator Barnes distributed the monthly Code Report.

Council Dialogue:

Council Member Turberville suggested that in discussing the police report context be provided on the statistic observations.

Council Member Layne-Bee queried if Decatur street improvement project was set for this year and Town Administrator confirmed it was. The project would require an amendment to this year's budget. Discussion also ensued about grant awarded projects for the 46th Avenue sidewalk project regarding curb and gutter construction along with rain gardens at 51st and Crittenden.

Council Member Tuberville queried about the cost could be paid outright for a new copier instead of as a monthly installment. The Town Administrator indicated could be done by a budget amendment to this year's budget. He will provide information to the Council.

Council Member Layne Bee queried about yearly computer repair costs of \$5K and Council Member Turberville suggested that this item be identified in the budget as IT Support instead of computer repair. Town Administrator explained the cost as a retainer for IT support visits that without could mean costlier per visit fees.

The Council discussed increasing Town taxes incrementally or at one time and Town Attorney commented that due to the constant yield in the state's taxes the rate would remain the same.

A discussion about Councilmember Johnson serving in a part time position to provide on-site management of the Recreation Center events and if his hiring presented any legal challenges. Town Attorney Ferguson thought there would be no restrictions in employing a council member but indicated said person be removed from the approval process.

Council Member Bennett-White indicated she and Council Member Layne-Bee are planning an event for Mother's Day.

Mayor Gant made comments that a potential MOU with PG County police should be explored to provide coverage when the Town is short staffed.

8. A motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:45 was made by Council Member Johnson and seconded by Council Member Tuberville.

Vote: Ayes: Bennett-White, Johnson, Layne-Bee, Tuberville

Nays: No

Motion carried.

Mayor Tracy R. Gant

Averi Gray, Town Clerk