

**TOWN OF EDMONSTION  
WORK SESSION MINUTES  
JUNE 12, 2019**

1. CALL TO ORDER; Mayor Gant called the meeting to order at 5:50 pm with Council Member Johnson, Layne Bee, Turberville and Council Member Bennett-White. The staff present were Town Administrator Rod Barnes, Town Clerk Averil Gray, Captain Billy Sullivan and Town Attorney Suellen Ferguson

2. Captain Sullivan introduced Andre Dent as a candidate for the Edmonston Police Department. Mayor and Council Members asked about his background, training and experience which includes a 10-month training at Anne Police Arundel Academy and jobs in security and as an armed security guard. He has not served as a police officer and if hired would be a rookie.

3. AGENDA REVIEW: The agenda for the June 12<sup>th</sup> Town Council regular meeting was reviewed and approved.

Old Business

i. The consideration of ordinance 2019-OR-03 amending the FY18-19 annual budget. Discussion centered on whether the budget included the \$78K repair work to Decatur Street which it does and starts Monday June 17<sup>th</sup> with signage about detours in place.

ii. The consideration of ordinance 2019-OR-04 establishing a commercial parking permit system. Administrator Barnes explained this issue was prompted by the lack of parking on Windom Road for the businesses and their customers. The signage should correct the problem.

a. New Business

i. Approval of the following minutes:

1. Work Session, May 8, 2019
2. Regular Council Meeting, May 8, 2019

Council Member Layne Bee had submitted corrections for the Work Session minutes prior to the meeting. They were incorporated into the minutes presented for approval. Council Member Turberville requested further discussion on including a verbatim conversation between the Council members about the proposed election charter change with the minutes from the May 8 Town Council meeting. Mayor Gant suggested curtailing conversation about both minutes until the Regular Town Council meeting.

ii. The setting of a Public Hearing for consideration of the introduction of a Charter Resolution amending the Elections section of the Charter for Wednesday, July 10 at 7 p.m. Town Hall. Notices to residents to be sent via mail, email and social media at least 21 days prior to hearing and copies of draft Charter Resolution will be made available upon request.

iii. The consideration of Resolution #R2019-03 supporting the Town's Community Legacy grant applications to the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development. (Edmonston Beautiful and Commercial Façade Improvement Program)

Administrator Barnes indicated the Town's applying for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year for the Edmonston Beautiful program grant in the amount of \$50K. Also applying for a façade improvement grant in the amount of \$85K for the businesses on Kenilworth Avenue and Decatur Street which includes signage, painting and awnings. Timeframe of award is late fall at the earliest or next spring at the latest.

iv. The award of bid for engineering and design services for SHA Safe Routes to School Sidewalk project in the Amount of \$30,034.07 to Brightwater, Inc. Environmental Consulting.

Brightwater Inc is consulting with Town engineer on this project which is a sidewalk from Town Hall to Crittenden Street and on to the park as our Safe Routes to School. Two bidders applied, and the awarded bid will go through State approval process. Overall grant award is 220,447 which covers the \$30K and of this amount. However, there is a match of in kind in the amount of \$41,227 required.

v. The introduction of Ordinance 2019-OR-05 modifying the Town's fence requirement, disallowing electric fences in certain areas. The electric fence ordinance is in final draft with Attorney Ferguson and within it includes language that disallows these fences if adjacent to residential areas that abuts against houses like on 46<sup>th</sup> and Buchanan. However, if no houses are nearby, per county regulations an electric fence could be allowed. The two electric fences in Edmonston both must be removed due height restrictions issued per the county. Council Member Johnson pointed to a third possible electric fence at the Wagner Roofing Company that needs investigation.

vi. The approval of the proposal from Ecosite, Inc. in the amount of \$30,000 to develop construction plans, details and bid documents for the proposed Ingraham Street Chesapeake Bay Trust grant. Our Town engineer is managing the design and construction of this rain gardens and street/sidewalk improvements project which covers areas from Ingraham between Lafayette and 46<sup>th</sup> residential and commercial areas.

4. Discussion about the Town's compliance with the Charter and/or the Code. Council Member Bennett-White expressed concern that the Town was not in compliance with the Charter and/or the Code. She indicated there were two areas of concern. The first one involved a discussion about the Code Enforcement Officer position being a part of the Police Department and supervised by the Police Chief per the Town Charter. Mayor Gant indicated a change in the supervision of the position came about due to personnel issues brought to her attention and as also requested by the Code Officer. The solution was to have the position managed by Town Administrator Barnes. Per the Charter, the position is still listed under Police Department and remains so unless a change is sought by Council. However, there are situations the Code Officer encounters whereby the Town Administrator is better suited to manage than the Police Department and vice versa. Therefore, split supervision between the two departments is recommended. The second are was the appointment of standing committees required per

ordinance. Council Member Layne Bee supported the appointment of committees also. Mayor Gant will investigate appointing committees going forward. However, she believes additional oversight by committee may be more than what is really needed.

5. Discussion about Council Member Johnson serving as on-site manager of the Recreation Center was held. Rec Center issues have increased with loud music, appropriate use and preparedness of center. Council Members Layne Bee and Bennett-White saw the request as a conflict of interest. Council Member Turberville provided that if narrow and specified guidelines are given and he's available at obscure hours that OT to regular staff declined. Council asked if OT could be arranged for regular events. Mayor Gant added if Town were to proceed, his availability would provide control over the site and specific guidelines on duties would be provided in a letter of agreement for services as a contractor. But, as there is not agreement on this matter it will be addressed again at another time.

6. A letter from local industrial property owner, George Martin sent the Town was discussed. He was concerned about removing the Bradford Pear trees on 46<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Mr. Barnes indicated that Pepco is removing trees from the Public Right-of-way as they are in the way of power lines. Pepco will replace with trees and plantings that are native to this area that do not grow tall enough to interfere with the power lines. Also, the Town is constructing rain gardens in this area and will be removing some trees and replacing with the appropriate species.

#### 7. Event Committee Report

Popsicles will be given out to school children on the last day of school June 14, at various school bus stops.

A Decatur Street bridge cookout is planned on July 6<sup>th</sup> to watch the Bladensburg Fireworks featuring 93.9 WKYS on-air personality DJ Harlem.

8. ADJOURNMENT: At 7:05 pm, there being no further business, Mayor Gant adjourned the work session meeting.

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Averi Gray, Town Clerk

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Tracy R. Gant, Mayor