

DRAFT
Town of Edmonston
Town Council Regular Session Minutes

Wednesday May 8, 2019 7:00 P.M.

1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Gant @ 7:20 pm. In attendance: Council Members: Johnson, Bennett-White, Layne Bee, Turberville, Deputy Police Chief Billy Sullivan, Town Attorney Suellen Ferguson, Town Administrator Rod Barnes and Town Clerk Averil Gray

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

- a. The approval of the agenda was approved as presented.
Vote: Ayes: Johnson, Turberville, Layne-Bee and Bennett-White
Nays: None
Motion carried.

2. **Public Comment:** Robert Makana 4901 52nd Avenue addressed the Council concerning the traffic on 52nd Avenue in the 4900 and 5000 block. The Purple Line construction is tying up traffic on Kenilworth and drivers are using 52nd Avenue. Motorists have no regard for citizens or pedestrians and this also makes it difficult to get in and out of driveways. There have been other times where our cars were hit, and I was here before about that issue. Robert proposed that during rush hour between 3-7pm that 52nd Avenue, Monday through Friday during these hours be restricted to neighborhood traffic as done in areas such as Riverdale and Hyattsville.

3. Old Business:

- a. The approval of ordinance 2019-OR-02 establishing the FY19-20 annual budget and setting the tax levy on real property and business personal property. Council Member Turberville moved for the approval of ordinance 2019-OR-02 establishing the FY19-20 annual budget and setting the tax levy on real property and business personal property and Council Member Johnson seconded.
Vote: Ayes: Johnson, Bennett-White, Layne Bee and Turberville.
Nays: None.
Motion carried

- b. The award of bid for the repairs of Decatur Street between 51st Place and 51st Avenue to American Striping, in the amount of \$73,850.00, to include pothole patching on Buchanan, Crittenden and 46th Avenue in the amount of \$14,250.00 was presented. Council Member Turberville moved for the approval of repair work be awarded to American Striping and Council Member Johnson seconded.
Vote: Ayes: Johnson, Bennett-White, Layne Bee and Turberville.
Nays: None.
Motion carried

- c. The consideration of approval of award to TMG Construction in the amount of \$48,190.56 for the repair to the Public Works/Police Storage Building was presented.

Council Member Johnson moved that we award TMG Construction the bid with the condition that we see the plans and a demonstration of this work done before. Council Member Turberville seconded with the contingency that we get to see the plans as outlined by Council Member Johnson.

Vote: Ayes: Johnson, Bennett-White and Turberville.

Nays: None.

Abstains: Layne Bee

Motion carried

d. Consideration of Minutes for Work Session and Regular Sessions on April 10, 2019.

i. The approval of the minutes for the Work Session of April 10, 2019 was presented. Council Member Turberville moved to approve Work Session Minutes and Council Member Johnson seconded.

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

Nays: None.

Motion carried

ii. The approval of the minutes for the Regular Council Session of April 10, 2019 was presented. Council Member Bennett White moved to approve Work Session Minutes and Council Member Johnson seconded.

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

Nays: None.

Motion carried

4. New Business

a. The introduction of ordinance 2019-OR-03 amending the FY-18-19 annual budget. Administrator Barnes presented the budget amendments. Council Member Bennett-White asked what does the \$210K amount was and if it included the Decatur Street work, the 49th Avenue sidewalk improvement and the building. Mr. Barnes indicated that it did. Council Member Bennett-White moved to approve the introduction of ordinance 2019-OR-3 and Council Member Turberville seconded.

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

Nays: None.

Motion carried

b. The introduction of ordinance 2019-OR-04 establishing a commercial parking permit system. This came as result of a request by R&S Springs on Windom as employees were not able to find parking, so a temporary permit was provided. Attorney Ferguson created language for an ordinance that would allow for parking if the business was in Town. Council Member Johnson moved to approve the introduction of ordinance 2019-OR-04 and Council Member Turberville seconded.

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

Nays: None.

Motion carried

c. The consideration of award of bid to TAS Corp. for the demolition of an unsafe structure located at 4606 Hamilton in the amount of \$24,680 subject to permit application and asbestos/lead paint inspection. Administrator Barnes outlined that this building has been condemned for 5 years and the owner is working cooperatively with the Town and is fully aware that he absorbs the costs for this process. Attorney Ferguson has created a contract with the property owner whereby the repayment of costs is in a lump sum or in a tax lien. Some of the prep work with the utility

companies has been completed. Council Member Layne-Bee moved to approve awarded TAS Corp. for the demolition work and Council Member Johnson seconded.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried

5. Police Report

Captain Sullivan passed out crime statistics report and then outlined progress in the hiring of new officers. Out of 6 candidates there are two he is pursuing; one is out of academy. He has contacted the President of the PG Retiree Association and the MD Park Police Association and awaiting response from these organizations. He is continuing to work with the County, Mr. Ryan with College Park, Town Administrator Barnes and the Mayor to seek the potential hiring of part-time officers from PGC. An MOU draft has been written and sent to Attorney Ferguson for review. The Captain reported on Town events the Police Dept. has been involved with. He has nominated Sgt. Young for Police Officer of the Year and PFC Officer Torres for her Community Services with the Chief Association of PG County. Questions were asked about the experience level of candidates. Two of the candidates had experience but were cut loose because they were picked up by another agency. Another candidate has an arm injury and it's uncertain when he'll return to work. Council Member Layne Bee inquired if a rookie was hired could that person be held to a three-year mandatory contract. Attorney Ferguson indicated to have certain amount of money due back to Town depending on when the individual leaves but can't require that someone work for you. The damages must be reasonable to what the loss is to the Town but noted it's not supposed to be punitive. Vacation can't be factored in but time and money for training can be. Attorney Ferguson offered to provide more research on this situation. Mayor Gant considers the Police Department benefit package is one of the better ones in the area particularly the healthcare and by adding retirement to the plan she believes the reason officers leave is for larger and better opportunity.

6. Council Dialogue

Council Member Layne Bee asked about the status of the vacant car lot on Kenilworth and that a building on 4900 Tanglewood is vacant as well. Administrator Barnes indicated the business closed but a new one is coming and will contact the owner for more information about both locations. Queried about the electric fence and it was now disallowed, and an ordinance is being written to ban in the Town. The code officer will provide notice of 30 days to remove.

Council Member Johnson remarked on the clean-ups in Town which included area around Fountain Park and Elizabeth's Landing and around Sunoco, but the area at Sunoco is now littered again and the area behind the fence needs attention. Unfortunately, the County doesn't claim that space and it is not Edmonston's property either. A suggestion was made to use signage of fines or a repair or replacement of the fence.

Council Member Bennett-White asked if Town received more trash cans and about the Big Belly cans. It was indicated that the Town has 3 Big Belly's cans on Decatur. Administrator Barnes indicated that Bates delivered 10 for new residents and to replace broken ones. Also ordering new recycle bins and reviewing the size options before doing so. The recycling bins are provided by the Town. Also, Council Member Bennett-White received a complaint from a resident about trash being thrown in his yard. Administrator Barnes has discussed the situation with the resident and encouraged that Town Hall be contacted if this occurs again so there won't be notices sent out about it. Will ask the code office and Public Works to help resolve.

Code report was passed out for review. The annual inspection at Fountain Park will be coordinated with the Fire Department, thus being less intrusive for the residents. License renewals and notices are underway.

Mayor Gant introduced the Mayor essay contest to the environmental club on what would you do to improve the environment with the winner serving as junior Mayor and the runner's up as Junior Council. The group was involved in a clean-up using their findings of tires as planting gardens at the school. Our intern Andrew has been successful with the club and is introducing a club for the high school level at Bladensburg meeting once a week and in the Spring working again with William Wirt. The Mayor commented on Andrew's success and the environmental team's good work and enthusiasm about the club and the contest. Also commented on the success of Casino Night and looks forward to the plans for another.

The Town Clerk remarked about the upcoming 47th Avenue Park re-opening and ribbon cutting on May 11th.

7. Adjournment:

- a. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 8:35 p.m. by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Layne Bee

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

Nays: None

Motion carried, meeting adjourned.

Tracy R. Gant, Mayor

Averi Gray, Town Clerk