

**TOWN OF EDMONSTION
WORK SESSION MINUTES
May 8, 2019**

- I. CALL TO ORDER; Mayor Gant called the meeting to order at 5:55 pm with Council Member Johnson, Bennett-White, Turberville. Absent: Council Member Layne Bee. The staff present were Town Administrator Rod Barnes, Town Clerk Averil Gray and Deputy Police Chief Billy Sullivan.
- II. AGENDA REVIEW: The agenda for the May 8 Town Council regular meeting was reviewed and approved.
- III. Mayor Gant indicated the first item for discussion was the approval of the annual budget and asked Administrator Barnes about any adjustments before the approval process. Rod indicated that the only changes including correcting the computer service contract to read Computer Support. A discussion ensued about the FY19-20 setting of tax levies on personal and property taxes with the 1.50 per \$100 assessment and using a constant yield rate. The discussion continued with a review of this year's revenue. It is expected to meet target projections in personal and property taxes; licenses are out to all 130 Town businesses; parking tickets and red-light camera fines are up; and interest earnings on reserve funds have almost doubled. Recreation Center bookings are strong and requests beyond weekend availability are increasing. It's expected to have about 1.8 million in revenue to which expenditures will be adjusted to provide for a balanced budget. There will not be a transfer to reserves as we pay for the added cost of repairing the public works building, the Decatur Street repair; and the sidewalk replacement project on 49th Avenue. It was asked why the increase in ticket fines which was thought to be the result of drivers being unaware of the camera's presence. It was mentioned that a 2nd red light camera is proposed at Buchanan if power source issues can be resolved. Police Department was queried on the problems of speeding problems on Kenilworth Avenue and methods to apprehend those motorists. It was indicated that Edmonston Police would involve a chase only in the case of a major felony to avoid endangerment to motorists and pedestrians. It was asked if a speed camera was a possibility for Edmonston and answered that only if a school is nearby. It was asked if any part of the \$400K grant awards went towards vital government functioning and it is not. While some of the grant awards were anticipated to be further along and spread out more evenly throughout the year and the majority of grants were for weatherization, park improvement and Edmonston Beautiful.
- IV. Mayor Gant moved to the bid award for the repairs of Decatur Street between 51st Place and 51st Avenue to American Stripping in the amount of \$73,850.00 and for pothole patching on Buchanan, Crittenden and 46th Avenue in the amount of \$14,250.00. This was the lowest bid provided from the two received. Seven companies were contacted and notices went in local County newspapers for three weeks. The repair process is newer creating modular permeable payment blocks that are pre-prepared and put into place. A question arose about the previous bid amount

- of \$33,000. The Town Engineer anticipated a lower amount but was satisfied with the bid received. It's expected that repair work will complete in three phases with the first on this side of the bridge and the 2nd and 3rd to be repair work on Taylor to 48th and then 48th to 46th. Further clarification to the process and examples of similar work in Baltimore was noted. Also noted was that a three-year approach to repair work is proposed with receipt of bids for each added phase.
- V. An ordinance for parking permits allowing for commercial business employees to obtain parking permits is being worked on by Attorney Ferguson. The Town won an appeal of zoning to disallow electronic fences in Edmonston at which the Code officer notified the fence builder company. Attorney Ferguson will begin work on an ordinance for no electric fencing in Edmonston. The Council discussed the improper use of the fence by the owner.
- VI. The next discussion focused on the demolition bid for 4606 Hamilton by TAS. The Owner is expected to pay the costs and Suellen is creating an agreement between the Town and home owner which includes a clause about repayment and if not received that costs taken out upon the sale of property. The inspection is yet to be arranged but the timeframe is over the summer months and the entire process should take only three days.
- VII. TMG Construction work proposal or the replacement of the building was discussed next with estimates to do the latter was indicated to be from \$275K to \$375 with utility water and possibly restroom. The "slab jacking" process was revisited and it entails inserting a foam-like material under the foundation to elevate the floor. It's expected to last from 10-30 years. It was indicated that this year's reserve of \$100K could cover the TMG Construction estimate of \$48K and could be broken down into two phases whereby the soil stabilization at \$27K is done then assess the water problem before laying the floor layer. While this approach allows room for review of the remedy but it could lead to other issues such insect infestation due to slab manipulation. It was stressed that action be taken as the building contains evidence and police records that need proper storage as well equipment and work space for Public Works. Discussion continued on the process covering the funding of the project; cost breakdown; why just the one bid and guarantees to the work being done. Costs would be covered in the current fiscal year. It is a state contract that we are piggybacking on, thus only one bid is provided. While there is a warranty of work no guarantee can be provided. French drainage was discussed again which the contractor would approach after the completion of the work and a review on how well it is working. The consensus is to bring the Town Engineer into the process and investigate further incorporating the drainage work as well. In all it was agreed that a \$48,000 cost was a better approach than one at \$400K but further discussion is to follow.
- VIII. The last item discussed was a draft of the Charter Resolution updating the election process for the Town. Items revised in the document includes – line up of how

candidates listed on ballot; language related to voter registration not to occur with the clerk's office and clarification on what happens in tie votes. This resolution is a lengthy process and requires a 21 day notice to the public for a public hearing to be held. Councilmember Bennett-White inquired if language was included for an at-large candidate option to residents to make the process fairer as Ward 1 has other candidates running whereby Ward 2 does not.

(See verbatim transcript attached)

- IX. ADJOURNMENT: At 7:00 pm, there being no further business, Mayor Gant adjourned the work session meeting.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'TRACY R. GANT', written in a cursive style.

Averi Gray, Town Clerk

Tracy R. Gant, Mayor

