

TOWN OF EDMONSTON
WORK SESSION MINUTES
October 9, 2019

1. CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Gant called the meeting to order at 5:46 with Council Member Johnson, Bennett White, Layne, Turberville and Town Attorney Ferguson. Staff present were Town Administrator Rod Barnes, Town Clerk Averi Gray and Captain Billy Sullivan.
2. Administrator Barnes gave a report on Art Décor for Electrical Boxes in Town. He gave background information on Riverdale's partnership with the Hyattsville CDC and artist involved creating artwork in their town. It's proposed we follow similar process for this initiative in Edmonston and cost of which will be determined.
3. Mr. Barnes reported on the consideration to apply for the weatherization grant with Port Towns to be submitted to the Maryland Department of Energy Administration this year. Last year's grant request was denied so in efforts to make the application more competitive, Mr. Barnes and Cecille Cunningham from Bladensburg will meet with funders to discuss recommended changes. Shantay Dabney, who wrote the grant last year is doing so again this year. Council agreed moving forward with this initiative.

A legislature meeting with representatives from the 47th, 22nd and PGC County Council 5th district is proposed for either the Monday, October 28th or Wednesday October 30th from 6pm-8pm to discuss each Towns' Sustainable Maryland strategies and priorities at Bladensburg Town Hall. Council discussed availability and Mon October 28th was proposed as the date to meet.

Veteran's Day Pancake Breakfast fundraiser was proposed by event committee with proceeds going to support the JROTC at Bladensburg H.S. Program Director, Col. Peterson will work with the school administration on the process to move forward. The event will take place on Monday, November 11th at the Edmonston Recreation Center. Cost for the breakfast is \$5.00 but Veterans eat free.

It was noted that Council Member Bennett-White hosted a meeting at Town Hall with elected women officials of Prince George's County.

4. AGENDA REVIEW: The agenda for the October Town Council regular meeting was reviewed.

Mayor Gant indicated that Pamela Boozer-Strother, Prince George's County Board of Education Member from District 3 is introducing herself at

municipalities she represents and will come by the Town Council meeting tonight.

Mayor Gant mentioned the presentation of the Town's annual contribution to the Bladensburg Volunteer Fire Department in the amount of \$7,500 to Fire Chief Sumner.

Mayor Gant next discussed the request from residents in the 5100-5200 Blocks of Crittenden Street who want to implement permit parking beyond the Eco City Farm area and want to extend to the 52nd block. The required signatures from residents in the area have been obtained.

Old Business:

The Mayor asked Council if there were questions on the Town's approval of a Policy Resolution establishing a green street policy for Edmonston. Mr. Barnes gave an overview that the Town's involvement with this program which dates to 2009. Documenting the work done has become more important as we apply for grants through the State Department of Transportation. Our former intern researched and drafted the policy document. Moving forward we'll look at various aspects to include pedestrian traffic, lighting, public transportation permeable pavement as projects that help protect the environment.

The Mayor opened for discussion the consideration of an ordinance approving the Trust Act which is an item to be introduced in the Council meeting. Several other town ordinances were used as samples, but Hyattsville's ordinance provided the most guidance in drafting Edmonston's. She noted that Hyattsville refers to themselves a sanctuary city but suggests a reference to Edmonston as a welcoming town and not as sanctuary as it seemed more in line with what we want to achieve. Areas addressed in the ordinance include that the Town doesn't keep records tracking the immigration or citizenship status nor that it assists the federal government with civil retainers. As a result, no law is being broken because information doesn't exist on file. It would also state that Town resources can't be used to support civil Federal civil immigration enforcement. It would be clearly stated that we would assist in the suspected or known criminal violations which is the current practice in place. Council Member Turberville asked what registries the town has in place now for instance, voting and how does Hyattsville handle voting. Attorney Ferguson indicates there is no registry used in Edmonston. Hyattsville might use a supplemental voting list that permanent, but not legally documented residents might exist but it's use is expectedly limited for fear that information could be uncovered. She noted registries by law officers must follow federal requirements. Council Member Turberville suggested reporting remain in ordinance as we don't know what's coming from the Department of Homeland security. She also suggests clarification areas under general provisions. Attorney Ferguson will do so and began suggesting alternate language for these areas. Mayor Gant thinks the

proposed ordinance is a good start in distinguishing the civil versus criminal and helping residents feel secure within the community. She also feels the “welcoming” reference is inclusive of our immigrant population. It was reminded that this is an introduction and if there were no other points, Council was asked for approval and to which they agreed. Mr. Barnes indicated this proposed ordinance would be called 2019-OR-06.

New Business

Mayor Gant continued with the consideration of approving the minutes of the Work Session and Regular Council Meeting on September 11, 2019. No questions were raised.

The next item was the installation of speed bumps in the 5100 and 5200 blocks of Emerson Street and in the 4900 and 5000 blocks of 52nd Avenue at a cost of \$6,700 from American Striping. Mr. Barnes said that Council reviewed solutions and it was determined that the least disruptive would be to add speed bumps. Council Member Layne asked if three bids were received and what’s that usual process. Mr. Barnes indicated American Striping is the company that has does our street work. They were the low bidder in the Decatur Street project bid and specializes in street work. Large pavement companies are not interested in small jobs. However general practice is three-bid request is always sought. Council Member Bennett-White asked if we follow the over three thousand dollars bid requirement. Mr. Barnes indicated the ability to award without a bid is part of the Town’s policy and recommended in this case. Signage noting speed bumps ahead will be added. Mayor Gant noted the addition of speed bumps reassures Town residents that concerns are being addressed.

Mayor Gant moved next to the consideration of application for a Community Development Block Grant for the operation of a 4-week summer camp program due on October 25, 2019. Mr. Barnes noted the current grant is being closed out. Total grant funding being received is \$11,585 which paid for camp staff salaries and supplies. We received donations of \$877 for T-shirts and five field trips. The County provided school lunches and town costs were \$3,118. Overall the camp was well received, and surveys were positive. The focus was on leadership and the environment, including components also on gardening, reading, writing and physical fitness. Next year we’re amending the hours to 9am-4pm which should be a better fit for staff and planning efforts. Unless there are any objections, the Town is moving forward with its application. Council Member Johnson noted that the camp was better organized than in the first year. Council Member Layne asked if funding is guaranteed which Mr. Barnes indicated that the \$11,585 was.

Mayor Gant moved to the next item which is the consideration of applying for a Community Development Block Grant for the construction of sidewalks on Emerson Street, 51st Street, 51st Place, 52nd Place and 52nd Avenue. Mr. Barnes indicated that this is a concept idea for Council to consider. The community development block grant program only considers projects that meet the LMI (low

to moderate households) in access of 50% requirement. By the 2010 census the project on this side of the town meets that criteria so we can apply for any infrastructure type project. In the recent past we applied and received funding to pave Crittenden Street, but we rejected it because WSSC was due to replace the water main which meant the street would be torn up. We are trying to do more projects that incorporate sidewalks as there has been more interest from residents. The safe route to schools' grants project will include sidewalks on 52nd Avenue and Crittenden Street. This project is expected to conclude spring of 2020. Council Member Turberville asked if discussion with residents have occurred so residents don't perceive their property is being used for the sidewalks. Mr. Barnes indicated that there will be several meetings and that only the right-of-way is being used for sidewalks. When originally proposed residents were opposed but over time residents with families voiced having sidewalks would be safer and made sense. If there was adamant resistance to having sidewalk by residents we wouldn't move forward. We're doing an evaluation of Hamilton, Gallatin and Lafayette also. Mayor Gant asked if Council supported this and they agreed the Town should move forward.

Mayor Gant moved to the consideration of awarding contract to J.O.M. Painting for the Edmonston Beautiful grant projects. Funding is provided by the Community Legacy Grant and previously nine residents were selected last year and seven for this year's projects. We'll hear in November if we're successful in receiving the grant for next year. The grants are designed to support home projects for low-to moderate households and seniors. Council indicated their support for Edmonston Beautiful awarding to J.O.M. Painting.

Mayor Gant moved to the updating the Personnel Policy and Procedures Manual Section 2-1 General Employee Conduct (f) Hours of Work to clear up any confusion in the ordinance about paid lunch hour. The intent is for a 40-hour work week with an unpaid 30 minute or 1-hour lunch. This doesn't apply to police who would be working through a shift. Also, within the ordinance states staff should not use Town vehicles to get lunch. Council Member Layne suggested it be standardized designating it either as a 30 minutes hour or an hour. Council Member-Bennett-White thinks the designated lunch time should be 30 minutes. Mayor Gant agrees wording should be standard and clarified so that all are operating the same.

Mayor Gant moved to the evaluation for adding a street light in the middle of the block of the 5100 block of Emerson Street as requested by Lisa Williford, 5109 Emerson. Mr. Barnes pointed out that this is the same request as presented 3 years ago and it's a mid-block light request which is unusual. Mayor Gant suggested the Police Department reach out and offer suggestions on improving the lighting around her home as the first step to address this problem.

Mayor Gant moved to the next item consideration of agreement with the City of Hyattsville for the purchase of road salt for the FY19-20 season. The Town uses three sources for road salt including the State, Professional Landscape Maintenance and the City of Hyattsville.

The consideration of a letter of intent with the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development authorizing Local Government Infrastructure Bonds – 2019 Series and authorize the Mayor to sign is the final item on the agenda. This action has already been approved. This is the ongoing process of issuing the bonds. The potential interest rate would go from 4.55% with TD Bank to potentially 2.85% or below. The bond issue closes on November 21st.

5 .ADJOURNMENT: At 7:00 pm Mayor Gant adjourned the work session meeting.

Mayor Tracy R. Gant

Averi Gray, Town Clerk