

Town of Edmonston
Town Council Regular Session Minutes
Wednesday January 15, 2020 7:00 P.M.

1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Gant @ 7:00 pm. In attendance:
Council Members: Bennett-White, Johnson and Turberville, Chief Demetrius Harris, Town Attorney Suellen Ferguson, Town Administrator Rod Barnes and Town Clerk Averil Gray. Excused Absence: Council Member Layne

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

3. The approval of the agenda was presented for approval.

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

4. Public Comment – There was no public comment.

5. Old Business

6. New Business

- i. The consideration of approval of the following minutes:
Council Member Bennett-White motioned to approve and Council Member Johnson seconded closed session minutes from the November 13 work session.

Vote: Ayes: Bennett-White, Johnson and Turberville
Nays: None
Motion carried

- ii. Council Member Johnson motioned and Council Member Bennett-White seconded to approve minutes from the regular Council meeting held on December 11.

Vote: Ayes: Bennett-White, Johnson and Turberville
Nays: None
Motion carried

- iii. The consideration of approval of the job description for the Administrative Manager position (formerly Police Clerk). Chief Harris and Mr. Barnes gave background on this updated position and salary range that would require additional functions and duties for the Police department and provide more support to General Government with processes and community events. Council

Member Turberville moved to approve new position and salary range and Council Member Johnson seconded.

Vote: Ayes: Bennett-White, Johnson and Turberville

Nays: None

Motion carried

- iv. The introduction of Ordinance 2020-OR-01 amending Chapter 34 (Elections) of the Edmonston Town Code was presented for consideration. Council Member Bennett White moved to introduce, and Council Member Johnson seconded to approve Ordinance 2020-OR-01 on introduction.

Vote: Ayes: Bennett-White, Johnson and Turberville

Nays: None

Motion carried

7. Police Chief Report (Police and Code Enforcement)

Chief Harris provided in house stats; discussed upcoming meeting with his team about Police Department goals, and shared information about the launch of using a digital system for background process. As the Code Officer position has moved under Chief Harris, he went on call with her to observe field work in the community.

8. Council Dialogue

Council Member Bennett-White inquired about the new recycling ordinance and businesses responsibility to fulfill and the enforcement measures in place. Chief Harris responded that notices will be sent to businesses ensuring all are aware of the new law that went into effect on 7/1/20.

Council Member Turberville asked about the December financial report on rental inspections and vacant property fees in reaching financial goals set for the FY. Mr. Barnes indicated the Town bills-out in March and a major fee of \$20K to Fountain Park is billed then also. The financials in April will reflect the payments. He also shared that we are slightly ahead of pace in red-light fines and forfeitures.

Council Member Johnson discussed the need for another Town clean-up and more lasting solutions to the littering problem on one side of Elizabeth Landing and behind the Sunoco gas station. He did report that Sunoco has begun handing out trash bags to those who congregate at the Sunoco station. Mr. Barnes indicated there is funding being sought for additional big belly trash/recycle bins to place on Kenilworth Avenue.

Mayor Gant discussed the need to increase the volunteer pool perhaps UMD students and to stress education in the community on the importance of a Town clean-up. Mr. Barnes suggested a clean-up day in conjunction with Dumpster Day.

Mayor Gant spoke about the PGCMA legislative dinner where officials from Prince George's County and the State addressed the group about initiatives in place such as the Kerwin Commission plan that would push for more education funding into Prince Georges County. This much sought-after plan would add components that have been dropped from County school funding for example expanded counseling and increased salary for teachers.

Mayor Gant also indicated that the Town could expect requests for construction of cell towers as the onset of G-5 technology increases. However, the Town's new cell tower ordinance as provided by Town Attorney Ferguson gives Edmonston the framework in managing where utility companies can locate new towers.

Additionally, Mayor Gant discussed the Highway Revenue Funding which the state provides to municipalities for road maintenance. This funding had been reduced under the O'Malley leadership but PGCMA is pushing for more equity of funding to decrease the burden to Town budgets for road maintenance.

Mayor Gant shared an open forum in which representatives from Bates Trash and Recycling Company and Town officials and residents can discuss concerns about the unsatisfactory service currently received. Mr. Barnes indicated Edmonston is in the first year of a three-year contract but due to problems with changed procedures and lack of notice, he is evaluating if the Town DPW can take on services such as yard waste and bulk pick-up.

9. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 7:30p.m. by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Turberville.

Vote: Ayes: Bennett-White, Johnson and Turberville
Nays: None
Motion carried

Mayor, Tracy Gant

Averi Gray, Town Clerk