

Town of Edmonston
Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes
Wednesday November 13, 2019 7:00 P.M.

1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Gant at 7:04 pm. In attendance: Council Member Johnson, Bennett-White, Layne and Turberville, Town Attorney, Suellen Ferguson, Town Administrator Rod Barnes, Town Clerk Averil Gray and Captain Billy Sullivan

2. The Pledge of Allegiance/Moment of Silence in remembrance of Veteran's Day was held.

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

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

Nays: None

Motion carried

4. Public Comment:

Mr. Bobby Kerns, 4801 Gallatin St asked about the dates for the election process. It was suggested that he visit Town Hall during business hours to get election information.

5. Special Presentations

Members of the dance group Danza de Tecuanes de Riverdale presented Mayor Gant and the Council with a certificate of "thanks" for the Town's support. This non-profit is celebrating their 20th anniversary educating children about Mexican culture and dance.

Mayor Gant and Council members presented Col. Robert Peterson, Bladensburg High School JROTC Director a check in the amount of \$835.00 which represents the proceeds from Edmonston's first annual Veteran's Day Pancake breakfast fundraiser.

6. Public Hearing

7. Old Business

- a. The consideration of final approval for Ordinance 2019-OR-06, considered as the "Welcoming Town". A brief overview was given on the history of the ordinance. Council Member Turberville communicated two minor wording changes to be added. Mayor Gant expressed that the "Welcoming Town Act" ordinance is

intended to make all members of the community feel safe and secure.

With the inclusion of amended wording, Councilmember Turberville moved and Council Member Johnson seconded for the final approval of ordinance OR-2019-06 "Welcoming Town Act".

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

- b. Councilmember Bennett-White moved and Council Member Layne seconded the approval of a public hearing on December 11th during the regular Town Council meeting in considering the final approval of designating the 5100-5200 blocks of Crittenden Street as permit parking only.

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

- c. Mayor Gant briefly clarified the policy about employee lunchtimes. The Town does not pay for lunch time. Therefore, hours of work need to adjust allowing for a standard 30 minute or with supervisor approval a longer lunch period.

Council Member Layne moved, and Council Member Johnson seconded the final approval of Ordinance 2019-OR-07 updating the Personnel Policy and Procedures Manual Section 2-1 General Employee Conduct (f) Hours of work.

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

8. New Business

- i. The consideration of approval of the following minutes was presented: Councilmember Turberville moved and Council Member Johnson seconded to approve the following minutes.

1. Work Session, October 9, 2019
2. Regular Council Meeting, October 9, 2019
Vote: Ayes: Johnson, Turberville, Layne and Bennett-White
Nays: None

Motion carried

- ii. Mayor Gant presented candidate Demetrious Harris as the considered selection for Police Chief of Edmonston upon successful completion of final physical and psychological background check and contract. Council Member Turberville moved and Council Member Johnson seconded to approve the contract of employment of Demetrious Harris as Police Chief subject to results of the background check and completion of contract with recommended changes.

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

- iii. A new business in Edmonston called the Edmonston Collective, a weekend marketplace showcasing the work of artisans and craftspeople requires parking set-aside of at least 10 spaces for vendors and shoppers per Prince Georges County Use & Occupancy policy on Lafayette Place.

Council Member Johnson moved and Council Member Turberville seconded the approval of designating 10 parking spaces on Lafayette Place for the Edmonston Collective marketplace.

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

- iv. Karen Dojan, Weyrich, Cronin & Sorra, the Town's auditors gave a report of the Town's annual FY18-19 annual audit. Results showed no significant problem or need for modification in accordance with general accounting procedures. Town Council and management's continued review and supervision of accounting information is the best means to prevent and detect errors or irregularities. The Town of Edmonston continues to work diligently to reduce expenditures in all departments and seeks to obtain new sources of revenue. Two areas that have increased significantly are rental fees collected for the use of the Edmonston Recreation Center and the Town's interest account. Another area of growth has been through grants

which the Town continuously applies for and has a reasonable degree of assurance of obtaining.

9. Police Report (Captain Sullivan)

Captain Sullivan referred to the monthly report and indicated the Town's activity is at an even status at the same time last year. He indicated he is reviewing applications for potential officer candidates. Captain Sullivan thanked the Mayor and Council for their support and welcomed the arrival of a new Police Chief to Edmonston.

Code Report (Town Administrator Barnes).

Town Administrator Rod Barnes referred to the October code report which primarily updated work on residential homes. The new ownership transfer has occurred and the fence on and Buchanan is being replaced by end of November. Council Member Johnson asked about the status of the roof repair on Decatur and the demolition of 4606 Hamilton. Mr. Barnes indicated the owner of 5005 Decatur is working with insurance company to find the appropriate materials needed to replace the roof. The 4606 Hamilton address had asbestos removed and lead paint is scheduled for removal soon. After that an application to permit to tear down will be submitted.

Mr. Barnes expressed gratitude to the events committee and staff for help with the successful and well attended Casino Night 2 and Veterans Day Pancake Breakfast fundraiser. Rod also noted visits to Town businesses by Mayor Gant, Captain Sullivan and himself handing out baked pumpkin and banana bread loafs and sparkling apple cider to local businesses for "Make a Difference Day". The Town Clerk and Ed Hooker baked the bread.

10. Council Dialogue

Council Member Layne was happy to report improvements on the façade at the church on Kenilworth Avenue with the removal of boards from windows. Also noted large buck deer in her front yard and suggested residents securing trash as a deterrent.

Council Member Bennett-White expressed excitement about the success of the Bladensburg High School JROTC Pancake breakfast fundraiser and seeing the amount of youth involved. She commended the Town for the \$835 donation.

Council Member Turberville expressed appreciation for the installation of speed bumps and has received comments from neighbors on Emerson, especially some with small children, on the positive impact it's had on their street.

Council Member Johnson enjoyed cooking for the Pancake breakfast and represented Edmonston at the Peace Cross gathering for Veteran's Day.

Mayor Gant expressed her gratitude to Council Member Johnson for being available to cook for the Town events. She also thanked staff for all that's needed to bring about these events from the planning, coordination to the promotion to garner as much participation as possible from the community. Also noted the installation of rain gardens on 46th street which might not be attractive at the onset but are beneficial method to reduce flooding and act as filters and become more appealing over time. Should there be any negative comments about the rain gardens, Mayor Gant suggested Council explain the purpose behind the rain gardens to help inform residents. The PGCMA meeting was held and we hosted 27 municipalities within the County and our delegation, County Council and State Senator Pinsky attended. Many topics were discussed including the Kerwin Commission which can bring many resources to the County's school children to include potential assistance with mental health issues. Mayor Gant will be addressing students and staff at Elizabeth Seton High School which is a first for the Town. Council Members were acknowledged for their support in Town events and the upcoming Turkey Basket Giveaway which has a November 15th deadline and the volunteer reception and Holiday Tree Lighting on December 7th were mentioned.

11. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 8:23 pm by Council Member Johnson and Council Member Layne seconded.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried and the meeting adjourned.

Tracy R. Gant, Mayor

Averi Gray, Town Clerk