

Town of Edmonston (Via Zoom)
Town Council Work Session Minutes November 12, 2020
Via ZOOM Teleconference

1. Mayor Gant called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m. with Council Members Chester, McCauley, Johnson and Turberville. Staff present were Town Administrator Rod Barnes, Town Clerk Averil Gray, Police Chief Demetrious Harris, and Town Attorney Suellen Ferguson
2. The Mayor and Council Member reviewed the Town Council Meeting Agenda.
 - A. Mayor Gant indicated Special Presentations will be given at the Regular Town Council meeting for the following:
 - i. Recognizing Victory Grace Center for Make A Difference Day.
 - ii. The consideration of a proclamation declaring November as Municipal Government Works and recognizing the Town's staff for their years of service.
 - iii. Presentation of the FY19-20 annual audit by Karen Dojan and Nicole DeJarnette of Weyrich Cronin Sorra
 - B. Public Hearings was next discussed by the Council.
 - i. A Public Hearing for the consideration of a charter resolution 02-2020 amending Article 1 Charter, Section 9 Appointments, power and duties of certain positions, Paragraph C allowing the Chief of Police to appoint police officers, code and police administrative personnel. Council introduced this in September and is up for a final vote in the regular Town Council meeting.
 - ii. A Public Hearing for charter resolution 03-2020 amending Article 1 Charter, Section 7 Election Procedures, registration of voters, Paragraph A. Council adjusted wording on procedure, and this is up for a final vote in the regular Town Council meeting.
 - iii. A Public Hearing for charter resolution 04-2020 amending Article 1, Charter, Section 6 Mayor Pro Temp. Council making wording changes to exclude the appointment of a Mayor Pro-Temp but to assign a Council Member in the Mayor's absence is up for final vote in the regular Town Council meeting.
 - C. New Business discussed included the review of the following minutes with no edits suggested for either:
 1. Work Session Meeting minutes from October 14, 2020.
 2. Regular Council Meeting minutes from October 14, 2020 virtual council meeting.

- b. The Council reviewed the consideration of applying for a Chesapeake Bay Trust/Prince George's County Stormwater Management grant in the amount of for rain gardens on Gallatin Street. Town Administrator Barnes noted it was the first time the Town has partnered with Chesapeake Bay Trust and the Audubon Society which will provide outreach efforts to the community in both English and Spanish. It was agreed to move forward for a vote in the regular Town Council Meeting.
 - c. The Council reviewed the consideration of applying for a Chesapeake Bay Trust grant to serve as a host site for a Chesapeake Conservation Corp volunteer. If successful, this intern will work on projects establishing an afterschool Environmental program at Bladensburg High School and an environmental virtual summer camp for the Town. Payment of \$20K is provided for the year. It was agreed to move forward for a vote in the regular Town Council Meeting.
 - d. The Council reviewed the consideration of applying for a PY47 Prince George's County Community Development Block Grant for the repaving of Crittenden Street. Council Member Chester asked if the grant could include area at 51st and Crittenden which sustained damage due to the September flood. It was agreed to move forward for a vote in the regular Town Council Meeting with this addition.
 - e. The Council discussed the introduction of Ordinance 2020-OR-09 Amending Chapter 41, Ethics, Code of updating policy to include the creation of an Ethics Commission. Council Member Chester and Turberville asked about the number of appointees suggested and the selection process. Mayor Gant commented that the commission will be formed from members of each ward. The final vote will take place at the December regular Town Council meeting.
 - f. The Council reviewed the consideration of an agreement with Verra for red light camera services switching to a new system. The Town Attorney indicated that she needed to provide contract changes. It was agreed to move forward for a vote in the regular Town Council Meeting subject to Town Attorney revision.
- D.** The Police Chief and Code Enforcement Report was provided. Chief Harris' report focused on the COVID-19 update from the State and County and restriction changes as a result from increased cases. Monthly statistics were shared with Council and initial goal for code enforcement was discussed. The Code Compliance Officer is receiving training from DPIE and Bladensburg and building relationships with the community. Council Member Turberville stressed focus to be on compliance and not revenue brought about from enforcement

measures. Council Member McCauley has and will continue to accompany the CCO in visits throughout Town. Mayor Gant emphasized the importance of training to be successful in the CCO position.

- E. The Town Administrator provided information about the upcoming Turkey Basket give-away on November 23rd with food from SHARE and Victory Grace which will distribute on November 21st. The Town received a surprise food delivery of over 50 boxes of food that were distributed to residents. The last Edmonston Talks Facebook Virtual Town Hall is scheduled for November 18th and will focus on the pandemic's impact on the economy. Thus far the Edmonston Talks platform has reached over 500 viewers. December events were shared and include a Christmas caravan through Town, Tree Lighting, and the Adopt a Child program providing gifts to 40 plus children. Last mentioned was that a terminally ill 7-year-old and family will receive gifts and food from the Town. Mayor Gant and DPW's Dave Lohr as Santa will pay them a visit next week.
- F. There was no further dialog from the Council
- G. Mayor Gant commented on a coat drive to be held at the Edmonston Recreation Center over the weekend in honor of the young man (Dante) slain late summer at his home. She asked for volunteers to assist in this effort and the weekly Victory Grace food distribution. Council Members McCauley and Chester agreed to assist.
- H. The work session meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Mayor, Tracy R. Gant

Averi Gray, Town Clerk