

Town of Edmonston
Town Council Regular Council Meeting Minutes
Wednesday October 13, 2021 (Via Zoom Teleconference)

1. Mayor Gant called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. and teleconference attendees were Council Members, Hilary Chester, Betsy McCauley, John Johnson, Sarah Turberville, Town Administrator Rod Barnes, Town Clerk Averil Gray, Police Chief Elliott Gibson Sr. and Bethany Sims, Chesapeake Conservation Corp Member.
2. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the mayor and it was followed by a moment of silence.
3. Public Comment was opened by the mayor. Maria Toledo at 5010 Kenilworth Avenue proposed and offered to lead an expansion of the Towns' food distribution efforts with a pantry box filled with non-perishable food items. Instructions will be provided in English and Spanish on what to take and contribute Spanish and the suggested size and location of the food pantry was discussed. Mayor Gant and the Council expressed interest and plan to move forward the food pantry idea.
4. Old Business – There was none.
5. New Business
 - a. The consideration of approval of the following minutes:
 - i. Virtual Work Session Meeting minutes from August 31, 2021.
 - ii. Virtual Regular Council Meeting minutes from September 8, 2021.Council Member McCauley moved, seconded by Council Member Johnson to approve minutes from the above-referenced virtual meetings.
Vote: Ayes: Chester, McCauley, Johnson, Turberville
Nays: None.
Motion Carried.
 - b. The receipt of a petition for restricted parking in the 4800 block of 51st Avenue (80% of the residents on the block must be in favor) was received. The next step required is to set a public hearing for November 10, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. to receive public input on the petition request. Council Member Chester moved, seconded by Council Member McCauley to approve Resolution 20921-R-02 setting a public hearing to receive input on restricted parking on 51st Avenue.
Vote: Ayes: Chester, McCauley, Johnson, Turberville
Nays: None.
Motion Carried.
 - c. A proclamation for declaring November 1, 2021, as Extra Mile Day was presented for consideration.
Council Member Turberville moved, seconded by Council Member Chester to approve the proclamation declaring November 1, 2021, as Extra Mile Day.
Vote: Ayes: Chester, McCauley, Johnson, Turberville

Nays: None.

Motion Carried.

- d. .The consideration of Resolution 2021-R-01 of support to the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development for the Town's 2022 Edmonston Beautiful grant application. Administrator Barnes indicated that this is Town's 4th time applying for this grant.

Council Member McCauley moved, seconded by Council Member Turberville to approve support of the grant application.

Vote: Ayes: Chester, McCauley, Johnson, Turberville

Nays: None.

Motion Carried.

- e. The consideration of setting a date for End Time Harvest Ministries to conduct virtual webinar for Edmonston residents explaining the rain check rebate program was presented for discussion. A 30-minute presentation is proposed by Rev. Gayle Addison in early November with Q&A following. The event will be scheduled in November.

6. Police Department Report (Police and Code Enforcement) - Police Chief Gibson indicated there were 4 crimes reported in October: 2 autos stolen from repair shops and 2 thefts from autos including a theft from a car at the Go Kart track parking lot. Under code, inspections continue, and a fence build was stopped due to height violations. Sergeant Young is handling code issues while Eric Beale is in training. The Police Dept. has increased impounding due to a surplus of cars parked long periods on 51st Place. The Police Department encourages residents to report parking problems they encounter. Chief Gibson reminded Council about the Domestic Violence Assembly on 10/14. Resident Maria Toledo offered translation help for the event which Chief Gibson graciously accepted.
7. Town Administrator Report (General Government and Public Works) – Rod Barnes shared that resident Glenn Lawrence celebrated his 91st birthday last Saturday. Operations Art interactive mini art gallery opening took place at Veterans Park 10/9. Art display will change periodically. Dumpster Day is Saturday 10/16 and Mr. Johnson has agreed to supervise the event. The Town is partnering with Victory Grace Church on Turkey basket giveaways. The Town Green Team will meet next Wednesday with Maggie Pooley as the coordinator and Bethany Sims/Chesapeake Corp Member will introduce her draft of a pesticide policy plan. Bethany will also participate in Trunk or Treat creating a display about spiders and the Oct 30th tree planting event as part of the County's Growing Green with Pride along with Defensores de la Cuenca. The staff is working with the Police Department on which street lines need repainting at some intersections around the Town. The social media campaign is underway with printed surveys included with newsletters and emails with links to it as well. This work will continue over the next six months.
8. Council Dialogue
Council Member Turberville suggested collecting contact information when residents get parking permits but make it known to expect communication from the Town. She also asked if artwork can be added to areas of fencing on the Buchanan Street empty lot.

Council Member Chester suggested an option to accept Town communication as contact information is gathered.

Council Member McCauley suggested the Town invest in an air filtration system for Town Hall as a precautionary measure. She also shared information on the status of the rebuild of 4803 52nd Avenue which has inspection issues and roof work, and other areas must be redone.

Mayor Gant asked Chief Gibson to be certain due diligence is occurring as the condition of this house and the shed in the yard might reveal code issues.

Council Member Johnson reiterated the continuing problem at the crosswalk at Decatur and Kenilworth. He also asked about the return to on-site council meetings. Council Members McCauley, Chester and Turberville do not think the time is right yet for on-site meetings as wearing masks and social distancing would be difficult and not knowing if an attendee is vaccinated. For now, zoom meetings is felt to be safer.

Mayor Gant suggest ensuring Dumpster Day is for the Edmonston community only and suggests checking for residency if needed.

9. Council Member McCauley moved, seconded by Council Member Johnson to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 p.m.
Vote: Ayes: Chester, McCauley, Johnson, Turberville
Nays: None.
Motion Carried.

Mayor, Tracy R. Gant

Averi Gray, Town Clerk