

Town of Edmonston
Town Council Work Session Meeting
Tuesday November 2, 2021, 7:00 P.M. (Via Zoom Teleconference)

1. Mayor Gant called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and teleconference attendees were Council Members, Hilary Chester, Betsy McCauley, John Johnson, Town Administrator Rod Barnes, Town Clerk Averil Gray, and Police Chief Elliott Gibson Sr. Council Member Sarah Turberville was absent.
2. The agenda for the November 10 meeting was presented for review.
 - a. There was no discussion of edits for the approval of the following minutes:
 - i. Virtual Work Session Meeting minutes from October 5, 2021.
 - ii. Virtual Regular Council Meeting minutes from October 13, 2021.
 - b. A Public Hearing will be held during the regular Town Council Meeting to receive comment on the receipt of petition from the residents in the 4800 block of 51st Avenue for implementing restricted parking. A discussion ensued on how parking stickers will be issued to residents once a vote is taken on the petition. Each occupant must go to Town Hall and present proof of residency with a driver license and registration to receive the parking sticker and every household will receive 2 visitor parking passes. Likewise, a note will be given to each 51st Avenue resident outlining the permitting process and date to which parking restriction starts.
 - c. The consideration of amending the FY21-22 annual budget to provide funds for the hiring of a part time Community Compliance Officer was discussed. Town Administrator Rod Barnes and Police Chief Gibson reviewed this year's budget and adjusted to allow for the hiring of a part time Code Officer at \$13,800 for 6 months. Chief Gibson expressed assurance that Eric Beale is performing the full-time duty of the Code Compliance Officer while back filling for police. Council Member McCauley sees Beale's hiring to the police force as a win-win situation. Chester indicated Beale's increased police work created a gap for the Town. Council Member Turberville previously emailed support for the part time hire until the end of the fiscal year then revisit. Mayor Gant wants to ensure that the level of enforcement is maintained with increased coverage from a part time hire.
 - d. The consideration of waiver for the construction of a 6-foot wood fence in the back yard at 5111 Decatur was discussed. The homeowner has worked with Prince George's County DPIE to meet requirements and more recently with the Town to request a waiver from Council on the height requisite. Town Administrator Rod Barnes noted the community hasn't always been aware of a permit need for fencing nor has enforcement been upheld. Mayor Gant believes it is a fair consideration if Council and Chief Gibson supports the request. Council Members

McCauley and Chester believes a waiver should be granted if its maintained and doesn't block the view to drivers.

3. Consideration of moving the December work session from November 30 at 7:00 p.m. to Monday, December 6th at 7:00 p.m. for a presentation by the University of Baltimore, consultant for the Economic Development Strategic Plan was presented. Council Members Chester, Johnson, McCauley, and Mayor Gant agreed to the changed work session meeting date.
4. A discussion on the review and update of the Town's Strategic Plan was led by Mayor Gant and the following areas were emphasized and need formulating.
 - The use of RECOVERY Act emergency fund beyond consideration of the Recreation Center upgrade to incorporate a WIFI Café which might include an After School program as one example.
 - Continue efforts to reduce blighted areas and broaden economic development in Town; enhance social media; upgrade signage
 - Seek connections to further engage the Town's Hispanic community
 - Increase community engagement with police and enhance opportunities to connect with resident at differing hours during the day and on weekends and for example, form an Explorers Club.
 - Where needed, implement noise ordinance, and modify truck traffic patterns around Lafayette Street.
 - On a lesser note, continue to explore branding of Port Town Eco-friendly communities and potential of annexation.

Town Administrator Rod Barnes shared that the study being conducted by the University of Baltimore business plan should provide recommendations to consider. Chief Gibson is formulating ideas to further engage the community and will work with the Town engineer on traffic re-routing on Lafayette.

Mayor Gant shared her lobbying efforts at a Prince Georges Council hearing to thwart the redistricting of Edmonston from District 2 to District 5. Council Members continued a discussion on preventing redistricting to occurring.

5. Mayor Gant adjourned the meeting at 8:57 p.m.

Tracy R. Gant, Mayor

Averi Gray, Town Clerk