

Town of Edmonston
Town Council Work Session Meeting Minutes
March 15, 2022, Via Teleconference

1. Mayor Gant called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m. and teleconference attendees were Council Members Hilary Chester, Betsy McCauley, John Johnson, Sarah Turberville, Town Administrator Rod Barnes, Town Clerk Averil Gray and Police Chief Elliott Gibson Sr. Council Member Chester was unable to attend.
2. The Town Council began the review of the proposed FY22-23 Annual Budget. The following topics were presented by the Town Administrator:
 - a. Year End Review – The recap will be placed on the Town’s access channel.
 - b. Revenues – The assumption is the tax base amount will remain the same as the previous year. Expenses for staff will include increased salary and wage cost to implement a 3% cost of living raise July 1. The budget includes merit pay up to 1.5% and the seniority pay program. There is little growth in the overall revenues other than we are seeing increased revenue in parking tickets and vehicle releases.
 - c. The Debt Service remains the same for the Town. The debt is paying for the improvements to Decatur Street with a maturity date of April 1, 2029
 - d. The Town continues to pursue numerous grants. The grant revenue for FY22-23 includes \$655,743. This represents the Safe Routes To School grant, CDBG grants for sidewalks and Crittenden paving, CBT grant for rain gardens on Gallatin, Edmonston Beautiful and the DNR Walking Trail.
 - e. The Capital expenditures include the debt service for the police cruisers and other small items as identified by the departments.
 - f. The Town received ARPA Funds in the amount of \$734,018 in the current fiscal year and will receive the same amount in July, 2022.

Discussion ensued about revenues. Council Member Turberville suggested creating a separate account for donations. There was also discussion about the revenue generated from the Red-Light cameras. Staff transition due to the departure of the Administrative Manager in the police department may have led to lower-than-average amounts typically received. Closer attention will be paid to this issue. Mr. Barnes reported a “sanitizing” charge for the Recreation Center rental will be added to fees with re-opening scheduled for April 1st. Discussion on the use of ARPA Recovery Funds per meetings Mr. Barnes has with county/statewide agencies, use of funding has broadened. Council Member Turberville suggested to consider areas identified within the strategic plans such as stormwater mitigation issues, other hardships as caused by the pandemic with direct payments to residents and/or businesses. She also suggested signage and Rec Center upgrade to make the space more dynamic. Council Member McCauley expressed concern about direct payments and businesses should seek support first from the federal/state/county levels but does supports efforts toward flood mitigation such as reimbursement to residents for sump pump, gutters but not as a direct payment. Mr. Barnes shared that an upgrade to the

Recreation Center creating a Wi-Fi-café; adding sidewalks and lighting to high traffic areas such as to the 47th Avenue Park would be acceptable uses of funding. Mayor Gant suggested we adopt William Wirt Middle School and assist with some of their efforts barring any funding issues in doing so.

3. At 8:30 p.m., Mayor Gant adjourned the meeting.

Tracy R. Gant, Mayor

Averi Gray, Town Clerk