

Town of Edmonston
Town Council Work Session Meeting Minutes
March 22, 2022, Via Teleconference

1. Mayor Gant called the meeting to order at 6:47 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.
2. Mayor Gant asked Town Administrator Barnes to continue the presentation of the FY22-23 Annual Budget with a review of the General Government and Public Works Department budget. Mr. Barnes noted that work comp insurance for the staff has stabilized or is lowering. The reason the insurance cost had risen was due the experience of the Police Department, particularly one employee.

Mayor Gant has requested we seek proposals for legal representation. Other areas in the budget include seeking a summer marketing intern and each semester to implement initiatives while getting school credit and payment for this part-time position. Council Member Turberville suggested this endeavor could serve as pilot fellowship program that could continue for the future.

Mayor Gant indicated that State representative Alonzo Washington has \$300k in funding and is seeking “shovel ready” projects to support. Mayor Gant proposed street lighting and building sidewalks as projects.

Composting is another initiative in development and Eco City has expressed interest in participating. Composting initiatives will be a point added to the bids for trash removal. In addition, a survey will be sent to residents to seek interest in composting.

Council Member Turberville asked how the Towns are managing the ARPA funds and suggests some funding to raise cost of living percentages to staff as an offset for the increased inflation the country is experiencing. Mayor Gant stressed the importance to proceed equitably if Council moves forward. Mr. Barnes shared that many municipalities have hired a grants manager to oversee ARPA funding. The public listening meeting to discuss ARPA funding is Tuesday, April 5th at 6:30 p.m. A discussion of the police department budget will take place that evening as well.

3. Adjournment. Council Member McCauley moved, seconded by Council Member Johnson to adjourn the work session meeting at 7:51 p.m. and move to a closed session.

Vote: Ayes: Chester McCauley, Johnson, Turberville

Nays: None

Motion carried.

1. At 7:52 p.m. Council Member Turberville moved, seconded by Council Member Chester to move into a closed session meeting to discuss to discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; or any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals and/or to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter, not to return to regular session.

personnel

Vote: Ayes: Chester McCauley, Johnson, Turberville

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Tracy R. Gant, Mayor

Averi Gray, Town Clerk