

Town of Edmonston
Town Council Work Session Meeting Minutes
March 9, 2022 Via Teleconference

1. Mayor Gant called the meeting to order at 6:06 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. Chief Gibson introduced the Police Department's new hires Derria Faison, and candidate for Administrative Assistant II and Ana Romero, candidate for p/t Code who unfortunately experienced technical issues and was unable to join the meeting.
3. Council reviewed the Agenda for the March 9, 2022, Regular Town Council Meeting.
 - i. Old Business
 1. Final consideration of ordinance 2022-OR-01 allowing beehives in residential neighborhoods. There was no further discussion about the ordinance.
 - ii. New Business
 1. There were no comments or suggestions for changes to the Minutes from the following February Town Council Meetings:
 - a. Minutes from the virtual February 1 Town Council Work Session.
 - b. Minutes from the virtual February 9 Town Council Regular Session.
 - c. Minutes from the virtual February 9 Town Council Closed Session.
 2. The introduction of ordinance 2022-OR-02 to establish a speed monitoring system. Chief Gibson outlined the process and proposed location of a speed monitoring system on Kenilworth Avenue. The potential vendor/Opto Traffic will conduct a study to determine the amount of traffic that passes through that area. Council Members Turberville and Chester wants to ensure objectivity from a vendor leading the study and that the endeavor lends itself to make revenue particularly over a small stretch of roadway. Town Administrator indicated such contracts run for 3 years, include equipment fees but prohibits by law vendor fees associated with the ticket fee.
 3. The consideration of mosquito spraying by the Maryland Department of Agriculture beginning May 25, 2022, through September 30, 2022. Council Member Chester suggested considerations on spraying hours with the introduction of beehive. Town Administrator Barnes indicated this state program administered through the County does spraying at night but proposed that the Town's Chesapeake Bay Trust intern

could research future alternatives. Mayor Gant suggested enhanced communication with residents about the spraying and providing more environmentally friendly options where possible.

4. Discussion about changing COVID protocols for Town Hall and Recreation Center ensued with County mandates lifted. Town Administrator suggested posting suggested health protocol signs and an added fee for enhanced cleaning as precaution due to the pandemic. Council suggested to consider this as a “sanitizing fee” and added to the rental contract. Also mentioned including language that covers the possibilities of sudden changes or cancellations due to changes in the health conditions at the county or state level. Council Member Johnson asked when on-site Council meetings will resume. Council Member McCauley is satisfied with the virtual meeting as is and Council Member Turberville brought up concerns of on-site meetings and returning home to children that too young for vaccination. Council Member Chester will go with what the majority prefers noting she does not have the same health concerns as others do. Mayor Gant indicated the decision would be up to Council which prefers virtual meetings for now.
5. A discussion followed about a date to share and enlist input from residents on the ARPA Recovery Fund Community Input Sessions. Mayor Gant and Council stressed the importance of providing information on the funding provided to the Town and potential uses as mandated by the state and federal agencies. Council also wants to ensure residents can provide input about the use of funding. Council Member Turberville and Chester suggested a survey to residents to help guide the decision-making process prior to the public hearing. A date of March 29th during the scheduled budget work session was proposed for the public hearing on ARPA funding.
6. Mayor Gant adjourned the work session meeting at 7:06 p.m.

Tracy R. Gant, Mayor

Averi Gray, Town Clerk