

Town of Edmonston
Town Council Work Session Meeting Minutes
May 3, 2022, Via Teleconference

1. Mayor Gant called the meeting to order at 7:03 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. Council Member Turberville was unable to attend.
2. Review Agenda
 - a. Mayor Gant opened the meeting for discussion on the final approval of ordinance 2022-OR-03 to appropriate and adopt the annual budget for fiscal year 2022-23. Council had no further questions about the budget.
 - b. The consideration of the following minutes which Council indicated no changes needed.
 - i. April 5, 2022, Work Session Meeting Minutes
 - ii. April 13, 2022, Regular Council Meeting Minutes
 - c. The introduction of ordinance 2022-OR-04 to amend the annual budget for fiscal year 2021-22. Mr. Barnes indicated where changes exist in the current budget. There is minor change in the revenue but there is an increase to the Town's contract with Bates for trash removal and recycle services. The new amount will increase from \$88K to \$104K. Bids were sought from other companies to compete for the services, but none were received. Council agreed to move forward with the Bates bid.

Also added were ARPA funds awarded and savings towards the 100th anniversary event. Council Member Chester asked about costs for the social media campaign strategy. Mr. Barnes indicated those costs fall under contract services.
 - d. The Council discussed designating the Black Eyed-Susan as the Town of Edmonston Flower and the Willow Oak as the Town's official tree. The America in Bloom team suggests communities designate a flower and/or tree that is native to the area to unify and create pride.
 - e. The introduction of ordinance 2022-OR-05 an ordinance of the Mayor and Town Council to modify Chapter 418: Trees, adding the protection and monitoring of trees in the public right of way, and the establishment of a tree board for the Town of Edmonston.

Chesapeake Conservation Corp intern, Bethany Sims drafted the tree ordinance, and her concentration has been on the importance of trees in the community. She organized an Arbor Day event in which one hundred trees were planted. Additionally, Bethany Sims identified a company who completed an inventory of trees in the right-of-way spaces in Edmonston. There are 514 trees identified with location and condition information. Town Attorney Ferguson will provide needed modifications to the ordinance.

- f. The introduction of ordinance 2022-OR-06 an ordinance of the Mayor and Town Council of Edmonston to regulate the use of pesticides in the Town of Edmonston was discussed. Also drafted by Chesapeake Corp intern Bethany Sims, this ordinance will need further modifications as the Town cannot regulate pesticide use on public property but can create a policy resolution controlling pesticide use on public land.
 - g. The award of bid to Bates Trucking for a 3-year trash and recycling collection contract in the annual amount of \$104,451.60 was discussed. Council agreed to move forward with the Bates bid.
 - h. Discussion about Buchanan Street – Prince George’s County Department of Permits, Inspections and Enforcement (DPIE) Presentation – Council Member Chester recently participated in a presentation from DPIE. They indicated that their focus was about home inspections to include dealing with fraudulence and blighted commercial property. DPIE is sending agents to municipalities as an outreach push. Mayor Gant indicated at the mayors’ meeting with DPIE they discussed the permit process, permit inspection issues and assured the Council that they indicated their would-be involvement when agents from DPIE visit the Town. Council and staff asked how the Town can suspend, revoke, or tie the business license until compliance is met. Town Attorney Ferguson indicated that Prince Georges County zoning office must resolve some issues and depending on when U&O was issued, certain businesses might predate more recent policies. The Town can choose not to issue a permit if a business is not in compliance or are a nuisance safety hazard for the community. Council Member McCauley wants to initiate a lower speed limit to side streets to which Town Attorney Ferguson indicated a traffic engineering study is needed to support the change.
3. Council Member McCauley moved and seconded by Council Member Johnson to adjourn at 7:50 p.m. into closed session 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, and not return to the work session meeting.
- Vote: Ayes: Chester McCauley and Johnson
Nays: None
Absent: one
Motion carried.

Tracy R. Gant, Mayor

Averi Gray, Town Clerk