

Town of Edmonston  
Town Council Work Session Meeting Minutes  
June 8, 2022, Via Teleconference

1. Mayor Gant called the meeting to order at 5:38 p.m. and teleconference attendees were Council Members Hilary Chester, Betsy McCauley, John Johnson, Sarah Turberville, Town Administrator Rod Barnes, and Town Clerk Averil Gray. Police Chief Gibson was absent.
2. Review Agenda
  - a. Mayor Gant opened the meeting for discussion on the final approval of ordinance 2022-OR-04 amending the annual budget for fiscal year 2021-22. Council had no further questions and are prepared to approve.
  - b. The final consideration of Ordinance 2022-OR-04 amending the Town's tree ordinance and creating a tree board. Council Member Chester asked if maintenance of dead or unsafe trees could be incorporated into the ordinance. Adjusting the code dealing with property maintenance was suggested to address this issue. Council had no further comments and is prepared to approve.
  - c. The final consideration of Ordinance 2022-OR-02 to authorize a speed monitoring system in Edmonston. Given the absence of Chief Gibson there were no further discussions, however Council remained prepared to approve with adjustments to the contract.
3. New Business
  - a. Minutes
    - i. May 3, 2022, Work Session Meeting Minutes
    - ii. May 3, 2022, Closed Session Meeting Minutes
    - iii. May 11, 2022, Regular Council Meeting MinutesCouncil reviewed minutes and indicated no changes were needed.
  - b. The consideration of award of bid for the installation of 10 rain gardens on Gallatin Street in the amount of \$47,923. (PGC Stormwater Grant) was discussed. Town Administrator Barnes reported that costs were half the amount anticipated. He noted that he received compliments from the owner of Martin Industries who at first had not been a fan of rain gardens.
  - c. The consideration of approving Pandemic Hazard Duty Pay for employees. Town Administrator Barnes reviewed how other Towns implemented a one-time payment from the Cares Act funding to staff for work above and beyond duties during the height of the pandemic to keep the Town functioning. He found that Towns were providing between \$2.00 - \$2.50 more per hour covering a period during the pandemic and some beyond, however Mr. Barnes suggested the pro-rated compensation January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020, through February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021, a 14-month period that covers the time from the last payment to when the County lifted its ban. Council Member Chester expressed the "extra" work

achieved during the pandemic kept the Town functioning. Council agreed to the payment amount and were prepared to approve compensation.

d. Proclamation celebrating June 19, 2022, as Juneteenth.

e. Proclamation celebrating June as Pride Month.

Mayor Gant expressed these two proclamations honor and bring about awareness to the community. Council Member Turberville expressed that the proclamations were well-crafted and long overdue. Council Member McCauley suggested the proclamations be made permanent.

#### 4. Other Business

a. Approval of final design of bus stop at 52<sup>nd</sup> and Decatur  
Town Administrator Barnes shared the new bus stop design which received approval by Council. He also shared a branding strategy design of the letter “E” representing the Town and its environmentally minded traits.

b. Introduction of Marketing Intern, Asha Cole.  
Asha Cole joined the meeting introducing herself as a graduate student at Bowie State University studying marketing. She brings experience, sound ideas, and enthusiasm to this part-time position. Council welcomed her to the Town.

Mayor Gant and Council discussed an event idea that would focus on pets such as a parade, “pet blessing” and/or a vaccination/training clinic. Council Member McCauley indicated a resident has concerns on the proposed location of the sidewalk on 52<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. Mayor Gant shared the offer of free training/classes on mental health for Council.

#### 5. Closed Session

#### 6. Adjournment

Mayor Gant adjourned the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

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Tracy R. Gant, Mayor

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Averi Gray, Town Clerk