

Town of Edmonston  
Work Session Minutes July 15, 2020  
Via Teleconference Zoom

1. Call to Order – Mayor Gant called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. with Council Members Johnson, Turberville and newly elected Council Members Hilary Chester and Betsy McCauley. Staff present were Town Administrator Rod Barnes, Town Clerk Averil Gray, Police Chief Demetrious Harris and Town Attorney Sue Ellen Ferguson.
  
2. Mayor Gant and the sitting Council welcomed newly elected Council Members Hilary Chester and Betsy McCauley. Mayor Gant detailed the flow of the work session as providing the opportunity to address and discuss agenda items to be later voted upon in the Regular Town Council meeting. Mayor Gant also stressed any staff issues be brought to the attention of the department head. Mayor Gant wants Council to meet about the Towns’ strategic planning goals. A mutually agreed upon date in August or September will be determined. Council Member Turberville suggested to include a professional facilitator to guide the process which the Mayor suggests Council initially meet prior to including others.
  
3. Agenda Review: There was discussion on the Council process to review the Town Council Meeting Agenda. Mayor Gant indicated an agenda item is presented and discussed then a motion is requested, then seconded and each Council Member is asked for their vote on the matters. In terms of staff matters, Mayor Gant however stressed any issues should be brought to the attention of the department head.
  - i. Old Business  
Council agreed to the consideration of a resolution of support for the “Black Lives Matters”.
  
  - ii. New Business  
Council agreed to the consideration of approval of the Regular Council Meeting minutes from June 10, 2020 council meeting with the newly elected members abstaining from the vote. It was asked to bring up questions on the minutes ahead of meetings so edits can be added.

The consideration of a hazardous duty pay schedule for the Town employees and the COVID 19 grant funds from Prince George’s County. Chief Harris noted the receipt of funds from County Government to compensate police and other essential workers on site during the pandemic. Council Member Turberville asked if the work schedules of

those being considered for hazard pay were modified. The Police department schedule did not change however Mr. Barnes shared that Public Works schedule had been modified. Council Member McCauley asked if Public Works received standard 40-hour week payment or had it been modified as well. Mr. Barnes indicated Public Works had been fully compensated even when modified schedules were in place. As a result, Council Members Turberville and McCauley expressed Public Works did not warrant hazard pay after already receiving full compensation while working a modified schedule.

iii. Other Business

Conversation continued about the County grant awarded in the amount of \$91K based of Town population and size. Mr. Barnes indicated funding would be received as a reimbursement for specific projects completed by December 15, 2020 and meeting criteria related to the pandemic. Council Member Chester asked about funding disbursement and what has been approved. Mr. Barnes shared information about the items considered and agreed upon by the County for funding reimbursement and include the following: Hazard pay for police and essential workers; funding to assist businesses that closed due to the pandemic; replacing the on-site Camp experience, with a series of four Distant Learning videos being produced on Farming, the Water Cycle, Anacostia River Trail, and the Archimedes Screw including Pandemic information for youth; and funding is being used to produce a series of five informational Town Hall Virtual Facebook Live Events concentrating on the impact of the pandemic on Policing, Education, Health, Business that feature panelists providing expertise on their respective subject area. The last Virtual Town Hall will celebrate essential employees from the Town as a salute to those who are part of this workforce.

Council Member Chester asked how businesses are being identified and Council Member Turberville asked if relief for businesses could be increased as well as provisions to assist individuals in need be considered. Mr. Barnes has reached out to many businesses in Town and is aware of their circumstances. The Town can advertise funding assistance available and the criteria to be met. However, those businesses who have received funding via the CARES Act, are not eligible and the impact has to be a result of closure not business revenue loss. Further discussion needed to address funding amounts and criteria to assist businesses and/or individuals.

iv. Mayor Gant adjourned the work session meeting at 7:05 p.m..

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Mayor, Tracy R. Gant

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Averi Gray, Town Clerk