

Town of Edmonston (Via Zoom)
Town Council Regular Council Meeting
Wednesday September 9, 2020 7:00 P.M.

1. **Mayor Gant** called the virtual meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. and teleconference attendees were: Council Members: Betsy McCauley, Hilary Chester and Sarah Turberville, Town Administrator Rod Barnes, Town Clerk, Averi Gray, Police Chief Demetrious Harris and Town Attorney Suellen Ferguson. Council Member Johnson joined the meeting at the start of the Police Report.
2. **A Special Presentation by Maryland State Comptroller Peter Franchot was conducted.** Due to Comptroller Franchot's time restraints, we began the meeting with a report on the fiscal state of Maryland. He reported that Maryland will close-out the fiscal year with a \$585 million fund balance. Groundwork toward post pandemic is beginning with innovative pilot projects that support economic reconstruction to stabilize and assist small businesses, the unemployed and lessen layoffs. He complimented Mayor Gant's work over the years and wants to support the Town's efforts and Chief Harris' goals for the Police Department.
3. **The Pledge of Allegiance** was led by Mayor Gant followed by a Moment of Silence.
4. **Public Comment** Resident Vicki Kautz expressed concern about the incident whereby a pair of shoes were stolen from her porch and what appeared to be drugs that were found in front of the house. Mayor Gant indicated it had been reported to the Police Department and Council Member Chester reached out as a ward liaison to assist.

Resident Janiere Pereira inquired about the homicides that occurred in August. Chief Harris indicated investigations are on-going and as such certain aspects cannot be released but he will keep the community informed as the investigations progress.

5. Old Business

6. New Business

The consideration of approval of the minutes from the July 15 work session and regular council meeting were presented. Council Member McCauley moved, seconded by Council Member Turberville to approve the Work Session Meeting minutes and the Regular Council Meeting minutes from July 15, 2020 virtual council meetings.

Vote: Ayes: Chester, McCauley, Turberville

Nays: None

Motion carried

- i. The consideration of approval of the minutes from the August 6 meeting were presented. Council Member Turberville moved, seconded by Council Member McCauley to approve Regular Council Meeting minutes from August 6, 2020 virtual meeting.
Vote: Ayes: Chester, McCauley, Turberville
Nays: None
Motion carried
- ii. The consideration of approval for the job description of the Community Compliance Inspector (formerly Code Officer) was presented. Council Member McCauley moved, seconded by Council Member Chester to approve the job description of the former Code Officer job to the Community Compliance Inspector.
Vote: Ayes: Chester, McCauley, Turberville
Nays: None
Motion carried
- iii. The consideration of award of bid for the purchase of streetlights for Crittenden to Wesco Energy Solutions in the amount of \$63,928.64. (CDBG Grant) was presented. Council Member Turberville moved, seconded by Council Member McCauley to approve awarding of bid for the purchase of streetlights for Crittenden to Wesco Energy Solutions.
Vote: Ayes: Chester, McCauley, Turberville
Nays: None
Motion carried
- iv. The consideration of purchase of green power at a proposed 5-year savings from Consternation Energy was presented. Council Member McCauley moved, seconded by Council Member Chester to approve the purchase of green power from Consternation Energy.
Vote: Ayes: Chester, McCauley, Turberville
Nays: None
Motion carried
- v. The consideration of the lease purchase of body worn camera equipment for the Police Department was presented. (LGIT Grant). Council Member McCauley moved, seconded by Council Member Chester to approve the lease purchase with concerns addressed as outlined in the work session meeting.
Vote: Ayes: Chester, McCauley, Turberville
Nays: None
Motion carried
- vi. The consideration of approval of the establishment of a Police Reserve Program for the Town of Edmonston was presented.

Council Member McCauley moved, seconded by Council Member Turberville to approve establishing a Police Reserve Program.

Vote: Ayes: Chester, McCauley, Turberville

Nays: None

Motion carried

- vii. The consideration of Resolution R-2020-04 authorizing an application to the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Department, Prince George's County Planning Department, Community Planning Division, Neighborhood Revitalization Section for technical planning services up to \$50,000 to assist with strategic planning at no cost to the Town was presented. Council Member Turberville moved, seconded by Council Member Chester to approve technical planning for the Town.

Vote: Ayes: Chester, McCauley, Turberville

Nays: None

Motion carried

- viii. The consideration of an agreement with the Hyattsville Community Development Corporation to install art wraps on 7 electrical boxes located in Edmonston at a cost of \$18,200 (Potential Maryland Arts Commission Grant) was presented. Council Member Chester moved, seconded by Council Member Turberville to approve Hyattsville Development Corporation to install art wraps on 7 electrical boxes in Edmonston.

Vote: Ayes: Chester, McCauley, Turberville

Nays: None

Motion carried

- ix. The introduction of an ordinance 2020-OR-07 repealing Chapter 10, Administration, Article 1 Committees of the Edmonston Town Code was presented. Council Member McCauley moved, seconded by Council Member Turberville to approve repealing Chapter 1, Administration Article 1 Committees.

Vote: Ayes: Chester, McCauley, Turberville

Nays: None

Motion carried

- x. The introduction of a charter resolution amending Article 1 Charter, Section 9 Appointments, power and duties of certain positions, Paragraph C allowing the Chief of Police to appoint police officers, code and police administrative personnel was presented. Council Member Turberville moved, seconded by Council Member Chester to approve amending Article 1 Charter, Section 9 appointments.

Vote: Ayes: Chester, McCauley, Turberville

Nays: None

Motion carried

- xi. The introduction of a charter resolution amending Article 1 Charter, Section 7 Election Procedures, registration of voters, Paragraph A

was presented. Council Member Chester moved, seconded by Council Member McCauley to approve amending Article 1 Charter, Section 7 Election Procedures, registration of voters, Paragraph A.

Vote: Ayes: Chester, McCauley, Turberville

Nays: None

Motion carried

- xii. The introduction of a charter resolution amending Article 1, Charter, Section 6 Mayor Pro-Tem was presented. Council Member Turberville moved, seconded by Council Member Chester to approve of a charter resolution amending Article 1, Charter, Section 6 Mayor Pro-Tem.

Vote: Ayes: Chester, McCauley, Turberville

Nays: None

Motion carried

i.

- xiii. The introduction of an ordinance amending the Edmonston Town Code, Part 1 Administrative Legislation, Chapter 41, Article 41-2 Conflict of Interest was presented. Council Member Turberville asked who decides on the violation and suggested a 3rd party be designated to oversee. A review of similar policies in other Towns will be used as a guide. Council Member McCauley moved, seconded by Council Member Chester to approve amending Article 41-2 Conflict of Interest.

Vote: Ayes: Chester, McCauley, Turberville

Nays: None

Motion carried

7. Police Chief Report (Police and Code Enforcement)

Chief Harris reported on the investigation of the July and August homicides indicating these were unfortunate isolated events. He reported on the increase to impound and red-light citations and the recovery of stolen cars. He noted an increase in domestic violence and other crimes since the pandemic. He is eager to begin the reserve program to help with coverage. Council Member Chester asked about the Advisory committee and Chief Harris noted much interest has been expressed by residents and the first meeting via ZOOM is planned for the end of September.

8. Town Administrator Report (General Government and Public Works)

Mr. Barnes reported on the 3-day Unity Rally events with a kick-off on 9/29 on the Decatur Street Bridge with a "Hands Across the Bridge" following social distancing guidelines. On 10/3 we will meet at the 47th Street Park with exercise demonstrations and lastly on 10/10 the police will lead a Domestic Violence walk from the Decatur Street bridge to Town Hall where the building will be lit with purple lights in observance of the occasion. We will have speakers sharing information on cyber bullying, distance learning and there will be a musical hosts from radio station WKYS-93.9. He also noted the upcoming E-Talks Facebook Live events. September's focus is health with County Health Director Dr. Ernest Carter, Emergency Management Director,

Ronald Gill, Dr. Hill-Daniel, Georgetown-Washington Hospital and Director of the Fort Lincoln Medical Center. The next two in October and November will focus on economics/business and heroes/volunteerism during the pandemic. The Friday food program has ended but Victory Grace Church is increasing their food giveaway to every Saturday.

9. Council Dialogue

There was no dialogue from the Council or Mayor Gant who was experiencing technical issues.

10. 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.

11. Adjournment At 9:04 p.m. a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Council Member Turberville and seconded by Council Member Chester.

Vote: Ayes: Chester, McCauley, Turberville

Nays: None

Motion carried

Mayor Tracy R. Gant

Averi Gray, Town Clerk