

Town of Edmonston  
Town Council Regular Town Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday June 9, 2021, 7:00 p.m. (Via Zoom Teleconference)

1. Mayor Gant called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. and teleconference attendees were Hilary Chester, John Johnson and Betsy McCauley, Town Administrator Rod Barnes, Town Clerk Averil Gray, Police Chief Elliott Gibson Sr., and Town Attorney Suellen Ferguson. Council Member Sarah Turberville was unable to attend.
2. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Gant, followed by a moment of silence.
3. Public Comment was opened by Mayor Gant. There were no comments from the public.
4. Special Presentation
  - a. Pamela Boozer-Strother, District 3 Prince George's County School Board Member provided an update.
    - 30% of students had returned to hybrid education with on-site and at-home learning.
    - 12-year-olds and up are now eligible for vaccination.
    - A virtual Town Hall is scheduled with PGcps CEO Goldson about the Fall re-opening of schools.
    - New boundary initiatives are upcoming for Bladensburg and Northwestern High School in the 22/23 school year.
    - PGcps website will be enhanced.
    - A summer program will focus on learning loss experienced this past year.

Mayor Gant inquired about protocols for children unvaccinated who get sick to which Board Member Boozer-Strother indicated it was yet to be determined.

- b. A Juneteenth Proclamation was read by Mayor Gant which commemorates the emancipation of African Americans when Texas residents received notice about the end of slavery. Council Member McCauley moved seconded by Council Member Johnson to adopt the Proclamation.

Vote: Ayes: Chester, Johnson, McCauley

Nays: None

Motion carried.

5. Old Business

- a. The final consideration of ordinance 2021-OR-02 to appropriate and adopt the annual budget for fiscal year 2021-22 and establish the tax rate. Mayor Gant thanked the Council and staff for their input in the budgeting process. Council Member Chester moved seconded by Council Member McCauley to adopt the annual budget for fiscal year 2021-22.

Vote: Ayes: Chester, Johnson, McCauley  
Nays: None  
Motion carried.

- b. The final consideration of Ordinance 2021-OR-03 to amend the FY20-21 annual budget was presented by Mayor Gant. Council Member McCauley moved seconded by Council Member Johnson to adopt the amended FY 20-21 annual budget.

Vote: Ayes: Chester, Johnson, McCauley  
Nays: None  
Motion carried.

6.

- a. Mayor Gant presented the consideration of approval of the following minutes:

- i. Virtual Work Session Meeting minutes May 12, 2021.
- ii. Virtual Regular Council Meeting minutes May 12, 2021.

Council Member McCauley moved seconded by Council Member Chester to approve minutes from the above-referenced virtual meetings.

Vote: Ayes: Chester, Johnson, McCauley  
Nays: None  
Motion carried.

- b. Mayor Gant presented the consideration of contract of agreement with Ecosite, Inc. for the engineering services for the CBT 2021 Gallatin Street Rain Garden grant in the amount of \$42,203.00. Administrator Barnes added that Chesapeake Bay Trust awarded funding for sidewalk/rain-garden on Gallatin. The National Audubon Society is a partner with the Town on this grant. Council Member McCauley moved seconded by Council Member Chester to award engineering services to Ecosite, Inc.

Vote: Ayes: Chester, Johnson, McCauley  
Nays: None  
Motion carried.

7. Police Department Report (Police and Code Enforcement)

Chief Gibson shared the monthly statistical report for the month of May which included 1 auto theft, 3 thefts from auto and 148 moving violations. The Police Department has been vigilant in enforcement particularly at Lafayette and Hamilton Streets during rush hour. Chief Gibson also provided statistical reports of neighboring towns of Riverdale Park, Hyattsville, and Bladensburg to assess the crime trends in the area. Overall, these locales reported a decrease in property and violent crime. Chief Gibson shared a recreation building security protocol to use at the re-opening of the center. Code Compliance work included a 30-day vacate notice to the property owner at 4901 Buchanan Street where a stop work order is in place for operating without a business permit from the Town or a U&O from the County. The Police Department is starting an initiative to cite those with abandoned vehicles, boats, or trailers on Mondays. Chief Gibson invited Council to the swearing-in ceremony on June 24<sup>th</sup> for officer Peter Shepherd who will be training for his certification over the next 10-weeks. Mayor

Gant welcomed Officer Shepherd joining the Edmonston Police Department and noted improvements from the Department's initiatives.

8. Town Administrator Report (General Government and Public Works)  
Administrator Barnes reported receipt of a grant from Anacostia Trails Heritage Area, Inc. for work on an oral history as part of the Town's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in 2024. He also mentioned that Council Member Chester agreed to serve on the ATHA board. The upcoming graduation caravan on Friday, June 11<sup>th</sup> was noted where the Mayor and Town Council will visit the homes of college or high school graduates as well those promoted to middle or high school presenting a gift from the Town. 44 Business and 21 rental licenses are outstanding but expect most to renew by end of the month. On-site Town Council meetings will resume in September. Town Attorney Ferguson discussed the recreation center agreement that will add language to recognize the impact and implications of COVID and waive liability to the Town. The Mayor and Council also suggested providing CDC guidelines to renters and place signs in the recreation center.
9. Council Dialogue  
  
Council Member Chester indicated residents are still asking about vaccination sites nearby.  
Council Member Johnson and Council Member McCauley had no further comments.
10. Mayor's Comments – Mayor Gant complemented the Memorial Day program and thanked Administrator Barnes on the success of raising over \$2 million in grant funding for the Town of Edmonston.
11. Council Member Chester moved seconded by Council Member Johnson to adjourn the meeting at 8:13 p.m.  
Vote: Ayes: Chester, Johnson, McCauley  
Nays: None  
Motion carried.

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Mayor, Tracy R. Gant

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Averi Gray, Town Clerk