

Town of Edmonston
Town Council Regular Council Meeting Minutes
Wednesday January 12, 2022 (Via Zoom 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 and Sarah Turberville, Town Administrator Rod Barnes, Town Clerk Averil Gray, Chief of Police Elliott Gibson Sr., and Town Attorney Suellen Ferguson
2. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Mayor and was followed by a moment of silence.
3. Public Comment was opened by the Mayor. A comment from resident Crystal Dixon/4906 Gallatin Street - came at a later point during the Police Department Report. She asked if speeding violators were ticketed and had actual costs to pay. Police Chief Gibson verified that was the case and noted monthly police reports include the amount of moving violations issued.
4. Old Business – There was none.
5. New Business
 - a. The consideration of approval of the following minutes:
 - i. Virtual Work Session Meeting minutes from December 6, 2021.
 - ii. Virtual Regular Council Meeting minutes from December 8, 2021.
 - iii. Virtual Closed Session Meeting minutes from December 8, 2021.

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

Vote: Ayes: Chester, McCauley, Johnson, Turberville

Nays: None

Motion Carried

- b. The review of how to vacate the street right-of-way at the end of 52nd Avenue and Crittenden Street was discussed. Town Attorney Ferguson provided Council information to assist in this case. If the area in question is held for public use, Maryland Park and Planning is petitioned about the new use. If the area to split is consensual amongst the affecting homeowners and not of public use, an agreement can be reached with any applicable fees paid by homeowners. Information will be provided to the homeowner interested in pursuing this action.
6. Police Department Report (Police and Code Enforcement) - Police Chief Gibson reported \$9,450 in revenue generated from Red Light Camera and \$1,870 from Traffic Impounds. Within Code compliance, 35 parking tickets were given and 20 inspections were completed. Chief Gibson indicated an incident involving a speeding vehicle crash and the Bladensburg Police Department which after hearing the crash arrived on scene and took an incident report. Damage to several trees occurred because of the crash.
7. Town Administrator Report (General Government and Public Works) – Rod Barnes noted the following: Quarterly Port Towns meeting is being held on

January 31st; Brand U Media survey results were that the Town does a good job communicating with residents but indicated areas for improvement. The next phase will center on the planning and implementation of ideas Brand U provides. On February 16th from 6:30 p.m. -8:30 p.m. a zoom listening session with the community will be held requesting citizen input about the Town's Economic Development Strategic Plan in partnership with the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission. The County Executive Office and Emergency Management has provided update on the Covid situation and is increasing vaccination sites and the accessibility to testing kits. Food distribution by Victory Grace continues and the Town's new food pantry is being used and needs donations of non-perishables from the community.

8. Council Dialogue

Council Member McCauley inquired about the status on past discussed initiatives dealing with traffic calming plan on Lafayette; enhancing visibility of stop sign at 52nd and Decatur and the potential of a speed camera on Kenilworth. She also indicated a homeless problem in the woods on Kenilworth starting to increase and that a reminder is needed for residents about shoveling snow. Chief Gibson replied that Lafayette traffic is a work in progress with a study and work the Town's engineer in development. Costs for a more visible stop sign run \$4,000 and will be checked into. Chief Gibson has taken steps toward the request with the County for a speeding camera on Kenilworth. Town Attorney Ferguson advised that a Town ordinance and resolution be in place prior to pursuing County approval of the speed camera. Council Member Turberville indicated that work done by WSSC caused a transformer fire that completely damaged furnaces to some residents on Emerson St. She asked if needed, would the Town provide a letter supporting their claim.

9. Mayor's Comments – Mayor Gant reiterated survey results from Brand U Media that the Town's doing well with communications to residents. However, efforts can be enhanced and if ranked we'd score a 7 out 10. Brand U will provide staff strategies and templates to help our efforts. A suggestion would be to limit events so there is more time to prepare and promote. Mayor Gant urged work resume to address the traffic issue and proposed the addition of a more visible stop sign at Decatur and 52nd become priorities. As Covid variants have grown, fortunately so has the accessibility of testing/vaccination/home test kits. The Town will be following guidelines provided by the County on protocols. Scott Hancock, the Maryland Municipal League Executive Director is retiring after serving in that role for nearly 30 years.

10. Council Member McCauley moved seconded by Council Member Chester to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:02 p.m. Vote: Ayes: Chester, McCauley, Johnson, Turberville
Nays: None
Motion Carried

Tracy R. Gant, Mayor

Averi Gray, Town Clerk