

Town of Edmonston  
Town Council Regular Council Meeting Agenda  
Wednesday February 9, 2022 (Via Zoom Teleconference)

1. Mayor Gant called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. and teleconference attendees were Council Members Hilary Chester, Betsy McCauley, John Johnson, Sarah Turberville, Town Administrator Rod Barnes, Town Clerk Averil Gray, Police Chief Elliott Gibson Sr., and Town Attorney Suellen Ferguson
2. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Gant and followed by a moment of silence with respect paid to the loss of three Prince Georgian officials – Ward, Arrington, and Sims.
3. Public Comment – Alberto Zegado, introduced himself as a Pepco employee offering services as a liaison for the community. His contact information is 202-853-1871. Shary Armstead introduced herself as a real estate agent offering services as liaison with Prince Georges County Real Estate Association. Her contact information is sharyarmstead.realtor@gmail.com.
4. Old Business – there was none
5. New Business

- a. The consideration of the minutes from the virtual January 4 Town Council Work Session.
- b. The consideration of the minutes from the virtual January 12 Town Council Work Session

Council Member Johnson 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

- c. The introduction of proposed ordinance 2022-OR-01 allowing beehives in residential neighborhoods. Mr. Barnes indicated Town Attorney Ferguson reviewed and updated language to meet County and State requirements which already allows for beehives. Ordinance regulations specify how the bees are housed and owner requirements.

Council Member McCauley moved, seconded by Council Member Chester to approve the introduction of ordinance 2022-OR-01 allowing beehives in residential neighborhoods.

Vote: Ayes: Chester, McCauley, Johnson, Turberville

Nays: None

Motion Carried

- d. The consideration to change the job description for the Admin Manager to Administrative Assistant II. Chief Gibson noted the

change in title needed as the current title does not accurately represent the function of the job.

Council Member Turberville moved, seconded by Council Member McCauley to approve the change of the job description for the Admin Manager to Administrative Assistant II.

Vote: Ayes: Chester, McCauley, Johnson, Turberville

Nays: None

Motion Carried

- e. The consideration of approval of a Tree Inventory in public rights-of-way at a cost of \$5,746.00. Mr. Barnes noted efforts to enlist volunteers to conduct a tree inventory unsuccessful but Public Works has provided a list of the number of trees in the Town's right-of-way. Bartlett Tree Experts submitted an estimate to complete an inventory and survey of the condition of trees, tagging and providing a location map, and maintenance recommendations. Council Member Chester asked in work covers some private properties. Mr. Barnes noted that the work covers public right-of-way areas.

Council Member Chester moved, seconded by Council Member Johnson to the Tree Inventory in public right-of-way at a cost of \$5,746.

Vote: Ayes: Chester, McCauley, Johnson, Turberville

Nays: None

Motion Carried

- f. The consideration of approval for the purchase of and installation of a digital sign at the Sunoco Market, (Kenilworth & Decatur) with Kerley Signs in the amount of \$22,075.00. (Recovery Funds). Council Member Turberville asked if the Town logo/colors will be added to digital sign. Mr. Barnes indicated it would and noted a concept drawing of what the messaging would look like will be shared with Council.

Council Member McCauley moved, seconded by Council Member Johnson to approve the purchase and installation of a digital sign at the Kenilworth & Decatur Sunoco Market.

Vote: Ayes: Chester, McCauley, Johnson, Turberville

Nays: None

Motion Carried

- g. The consideration of approval of a 5-year lease purchase agreement in the amount of \$49,474.85 with First Government Lease for the purchase of a 2021 Ford Police Interceptor Utility AWD Cruiser from the Virginia Sheriffs' Association's Vehicle Procurement Program, including all necessary equipment. Chief Gibson proposed the purchase of a new police car moving out of regular service the Dodge Challenger marked vehicle with over 135,000 miles on it. The Council discussed the method of payment as a lease or using Recovery Funds which Mr. Barnes noted in the work session such purchases met the expanded guideline requirements. Council Member Chester asked if added protections for a lease versus an outright purchase. Mr. Barnes noted no interest fees to the Town would be the advantage. Council Member McCauley moved, seconded by Council Member Johnson to approve the purchase of a 2021 Ford Police Ford Police Interceptor Utility

AWD Cruiser from the Virginia Sheriffs' Association's Vehicle Procurement Program by using Recovery Act funding.

Vote: Ayes: Chester, McCauley, Johnson, Turberville

Nays: None

Motion Carried

6. Police Department Report (Police and Code Enforcement) - Police Chief Gibson reported that there were four auto thefts and two thefts from autos in January. Flyers were passed out by the police department to businesses theft prevention tips. Chief Gibson also noted police enforcement will be enhanced due to frequent running of stop signs and they are: 52<sup>nd</sup> & Decatur, 51<sup>st</sup> & Decatur, and Lafayette & Taylor. Upcoming is "Coffee with a Cop" police department event at the Sunoco Market at Decatur & Kenilworth on Thursday, February 10<sup>th</sup> from 9-11am.  
Council Member McCauley asked about the status of the part-time code enforcement officer and inquired if the use of noise meters could begin by April 1<sup>st</sup>. Chief Gibson reported the receipt of many applicants and the top five will be notified next week to schedule interviews. He also anticipates the purchase of noise meters along with training to occur within the next thirty days.
7. Town Administrator Report (General Government and Public Works) – Rod Barnes reported that information about the upcoming economic development has gone out to the community encouraging participation. The Black History Month zoom event is progressing toward its February 24<sup>th</sup> airing. The Town's social media strategy plan is currently in the strategy phase. Group text messaging has been added to the Town's promotional capabilities. March events center around the annual budgeting and on April 9<sup>th</sup> the Town will celebrate Arbor Day with a tree giveaway/planting. That afternoon we will have a Caravan through the community celebrating Spring and giveaway goodie bags and seedlings to residents.  
Council Member Chester reminded Council of her offer to help with the listening session for Spanish speakers during the upcoming Economic Development Strategy session if needed.
8. Council Dialogue  
Council Member Johnson commented that the Town could use more trash pick-up.  
Council Member Turberville commented that some homes for sale are advertising as multi-unit with kitchens and wants to ensure code requirements are being met.  
Town Attorney Ferguson mentioned programs that encourage homeownership and can include provisions about renting but noted adherence to zoning laws with difficulty to enforce.
9. Mayor's Comments  
Mayor Gant reported an incident at William Wirt Middle School in which pellet/BB gun was found and applauded school principal Dr. Simile communications which focused on consequences, and the physical and mental health of the student body and staff.

At 8:26 p.m., Mayor Gant requested a motion to adjourn the meeting and move into a Closed Session, not returning to the Regular Council Meeting 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. The Chief of Police and the Town Administrator were asked to join the meeting.

Vote: Ayes: Chester, McCauley, Johnson, Turberville

Nays: None

Motion Carried

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Tracy R. Gant, Mayor

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Averi Gray, Town Clerk