

Town of Edmonston
Town Council Work Session Meeting Minutes
February 1, 2022, Via Teleconference

1. Mayor Gant called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. and teleconference attendees were Council Members Hilary Chester, Betsy McCauley, John Johnson, Sarah Turberville, Town Administrator Rod Barnes, Town Clerk Averil Gray and Police Chief Elliott Gibson Sr.
2. The Mayor and Council reviewed the Town Council Meeting Agenda for the February 9, 2022, Regular Town Council Meeting.
 - a. Council reviewed Minutes from the virtual January 4 Town Council Work Session with no edit suggestions.
 - b. Council reviewed Minutes from the virtual January 12 Town Council Work Session with no edit suggestions.
 - c. The review of a proposed ordinance allowing beehives in residential neighborhoods was discussed. Mr. Barnes read the stipulations and safeguards within this Green Team and Sustainable Maryland initiative. Mr. Barnes noted certification requirement and the County/State conducts inspection of the beehives. The Town Code Office will also inspect prior to permit licensing. Limits on the number of beehives is addressed within the ordinance. Mayor Gant noted the ordinance will be introduced at the Regular Town Council meeting and then voted on whether to proceed.
 - d. Council discussed a change to the job description title from Administrative Manager to Administrative Assistant II. Police Chief Gibson suggested the title change as there was nothing in the job description that included managerial functions or duties. The salary range also reduced to starting between \$43-47K depending on experience. Chief Gibson recommended denoting levels for the position allowing growth opportunity from one level to another. Council agreed to take formal action at the next Regular Town Council meeting.
 - e. The review of the purchase of a new 2022 Police Cruiser (Budgeted for the FY21-22 Annual Budget) was discussed. Chief Gibson proposed the purchase of a new police cruiser, moving out of regular service the Dodge Challenger marked vehicle with over 135,000 miles on it. Council Member Turberville inquired about the 5-year plan in the purchase of police cars and could the ARPA Funds cover the cost of a car. Chief Gibson noted that an annual purchase of a vehicle would not be unusual given the wear and tear from a full staffed Police Department of seven sworn officers. Council Member Chester asked if hybrid options were possible to which Chief Gibson indicated not at this time with the features the police department requires such as heavy-duty suspension. Mr. Barnes noted typically the Town would lease purchase a police cruiser every three years and noted the modifications for use of the Recovery Funds

according to the new Federal guidelines allows for the purchase of Police equipment, along with periodic storm water drain system cleaning, an addition to Town Hall, the Recreation Center, Electronic Display signs, matching funds of some State Block grant funds and reimbursement for air purification systems. Mr. Barnes indicated that some Towns are even hiring a manager temporarily to sort through and identify funding uses.

3. The council reviewed the proposed FY22-23 Budget Calendar and Mr. Barnes will propose several dates that will be set at the regular Council meeting. Council Member Turberville asked that Council consider the March 9th meeting be a combined Work Session and Regular Council Meeting to which Council agreed.
4. The Council discussed the consideration of the completion of a Tree Inventory by Bartlett Tree Service. Mr. Barnes reported a listing done by Public Works of 338 trees counted in the Town's right of ways. Each tree would be identified, tagged and inventoried. Bethany Sims, the Town's Chesapeake Bay Trust intern has submitted a proposal for the awarding of fifty trees to the Town to be given out to residents at an Arbor Day morning event on Saturday April 9th. The Town's Spring caravan through the community will follow that afternoon.
5. The Work Session meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Tracy R. Gant, Mayor

Averi Gray, Town Clerk