

Town of Edmonston
Town Council Regular Council Meeting Minutes
July 13, 2022, Via Teleconference

1. Mayor Gant called the meeting to order at 7:05 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, and Town Attorney Suellen Ferguson.
2. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Gant followed by a moment of silence.
3. Public Comment – Resident Sophia Layne -4908 Taylor Road relayed damage to property because of the July 3rd rain event. She expressed concern on the working conditions of the pumping station believing an upgrade and that accountability is needed.
Resident Felicia Myers- 4800 Decatur St. experienced a foot & half of flooding in her home and the continued flood damage has been devastating. Her losses from the 2020 rain event amounted to 60-70K. She too expressed needs to upgrade the pumping station as well as accountability.
Resident Kenny Amaya – 4908 49th Ave. relayed damage to his home and vehicle.
Resident Emil and Kelly King experienced 28K in damages from t 2020 rain event and estimated \$3,500 from the July 3rd rain event. He expressed his opinion that he needed to adapt and use his basement space in a different manner due to the frequent flooding. He suggested to review a map of properties damaged to help assess what plan of action to take.
Resident Selita Bennett White – 4705 Hamilton St asked if a study had been done and what were the results.

The County has reviewed and expressed that the pumping station is in working order. No further study has been done.

Town Administrator Barnes indicated some residents contacted WSSC to assess the water damage from the 2020 rainfall and the corrections were covered by the company.

Council Member Turberville expressed a multi-faceted approach to mitigate flooding. Resources from FEMA and obtaining grants to assist affected communities should be considered.

Mayor Gant agreed that resources to assess and adapt homes lower spaces for improved functionality is needed. Ideas such as utilizing sump pumps, battery back systems and relocating of electric boxes are suggestions to explore. She has been in contact with County Council, County Executive, and offices of State legislatures to request a meeting to discuss the flood issues Edmonston is experiencing.

4. Old Business – There was no old business to discuss.
5. New Business

- i. June 8, 2022, Work Session Meeting Minutes
- ii. June 8, 2022, Closed Session Meeting Minutes
- iii. June 8, 2022, Regular Council Meeting Minutes

Council Member McCauley moved to approve all minutes from the June 8, 2022, meeting seconded by Council Member Johnson.

Vote: Ayes: McCauley, Chester, Johnson, Turberville

Nays: None

Motion carried

- b. The consideration of a proposal from Pennoni for a traffic study of the 46th Avenue Industrial Park including Lafayette Place and Taylor Road; use of controlled access installations to limit/deter truck traffic in residential neighborhood; restricting truck traffic/parking on specified streets; 46th & Decatur St. intersection improvements; and pedestrian access to the Hyattsville Art District at a cost of \$75,054.00. (ARPA Funds) was presented for consideration.

Council Member McCauley moved seconded by Council Member Johnson to approve Pennoni to provide a traffic study at a cost of \$75,054.00. (ARPA Funds).

Vote: Ayes: McCauley, Chester, Johnson, Turberville

Nays: None

Motion carried

- c. The consideration of resolutions 2022-R-01 and 2022-R-02 supporting the Town's grant application to the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development for continuing the "Edmonston Beautiful" program for seniors and low-to-moderate income residents and the renewal of a façade improvement program for local businesses was presented. Council expressed wanting to continue with this program.

Council Member McCauley moved seconded by Council Member Chester to approve supporting the Town's grant applications to the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development for continuing the "Edmonston Beautiful" program

Vote: Ayes: McCauley, Chester, Johnson, Turberville

Nays: None

Motion carried

- d. The consideration of approval for the Town Attorney to request a State of Maryland Attorney General Opinion on whether the payment process request by Altumint for the speed camera to be installed on Kenilworth Avenue meets the requirements of state law.

Council Member McCauley moved seconded by Council Member Johnson to approve the Town Attorney to request the State Attorney General opinion on the payment process requested by Altumint.

Vote: Ayes: McCauley, Chester, Johnson, Turberville

Nays: None

Motion carried

6. Police Department Report (Police and Code Enforcement)

Chief Gibson reported 1 burglary, 6 auto thefts for the month of June. Red light cameras generated \$13,575 in revenue and \$2,380 from impounds. Code issued 78 business permits and 2 rental licenses for this fiscal year. Council Member McCauley asked if stop work orders were issued to those businesses not in compliance for non-payment. Chief Gibson assured that this action will take place.

7. Town Administrator Barnes had nothing to report.
8. Council Dialog –
Council Member Johnson reported illegal parking at the lot next to Forklift should be checked by the Police Department.

Council Member Chester reported that the food pantry is constantly used and other sources to supply it are needed.

Council Member McCauley had no additional comments.

Council Member Turberville had no additional comments.

9. Mayor's Comments: Mayor Gant had no additional comments, thanked the Council and asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

At 8:16 p.m., Council Member Johnson moved that the Council adjourn the meeting, seconded by Council Member Chester.

Vote: Ayes: McCauley, Chester, Johnson, Turberville

Nays: None

Motion carried

Tracy R. Gant, Mayor

Averi Gray, Town Clerk