

Town of Edmonston
Town Council Regular Council Meeting Minutes
October 12, 2022, Via Teleconference (ZOOM)

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, Sarah Turberville, Town Administrator Rod Barnes, Town Clerk Averil Gray, Acting Police Chief Eric Beale, and Town Attorney Suellen Ferguson.
2. Mayor Gant led the Pledge of Allegiance/Moment of Silence, and it was followed by a moment of silence.
3. Mayor Gant opened Public Comment. There were no comments from the public.
4. There was no Old Business to discuss.
5. New Business
 - a. Minutes
 - i. September 14, 2022, Work Session Meeting Minutes
 - ii. September 14, 2022, Regular Session Meeting Minutes
 - iii. September 14, 2022, Closed Council Meeting MinutesCouncil Member Chester moved, seconded by Council Member McCauley to approve the September 14th Work Session, Regular Session, and the Closed Council meeting minutes.
Vote: Ayes: Chester, Johnson, McCauley, Turberville
Nays: None
Motion Carried.
 - b. The promotion of Police Officer Paris Van Buren to Corporal and the promotion of Police Officer Louis Ortiz to Police Officer Private First Class. Acting Chief noted the promotions are warranted and encourage staff retention. Mayor Gant and Council noted the Police Departments' work and support of the promotions.
 - c. The consideration of approval with Altumint, Inc. to install two speed cameras on Kenilworth Avenue. Town Attorney provided a description of this 3-year contract with Altumint for 2-speed cameras and the monthly fee per camera and provision include a review to make adjustment at 3 and 6 months. Council Member Turberville expressed concern about the payment structure, costs, and staff resources. Town Attorney Ferguson is still negotiating for a lower cost per month. Council Member McCauley and Mayor Gant noted the benefit of increased public safety are most important with expected Town revenue secondary. However, Council expects further negotiation to lower fees before proceeding. Town Administrator Barnes added the contract terms do not expose the Town to losses.
Council Member McCauley moved, seconded by Council Member Chester to approve of Altumint installing two cameras provided lower rate negotiation of monthly fees established within the contract.

Vote: Ayes: Chester, Johnson, McCauley
Nays: Tuberville
Motion Carried.

- d. The rejection of a bid of \$227,500 from E & R Services for the Crittenden Street resurfacing. The grant budget is \$91,120. The project will be revised and rebid if rejected.
Council Member McCauley moved, seconded by Council Member Johnson to approve rejecting the bid by E & R Services.
Vote: Ayes: Chester, Johnson, McCauley, Tuberville
Nays: None
Motion Carried.
- e. Review and approval of the Stormwater Management Best Practices Grant Program for flood mitigation assistance to residents. Council Member McCauley moved, seconded by Council Member Chester, to postpone the finalization of the program until the November meeting to allow for further discussion of the terms. Mayor Gant noted the level of funding still needs to be determined.
- f. The consideration of approval of purchasing lights and garland for the 40 light poles on Decatur Street from Mosca Design at a cost of \$17,280. (ARPA Funds).
Council Member McCauley moved, seconded by Council Member Johnson, to approve the purchase of lights and garland from Mosca Design.
Vote: Ayes: Johnson, McCauley, (Mayor Gant provided the tiebreaking vote)
Nays: Chester, Tuberville
Motion Carried.
- g. The consideration of approval to purchase a new BOSS snowplow from Trailer and Tractor, Edmonston in the amount of \$7,585.00. (ARPA Funds)
Council Member Johnson moved, seconded by Council Member McCauley to approve the purchase of the snowplow for Trailer and Tractor.
Vote: Ayes: Chester, Johnson, McCauley
Nays: Tuberville
Motion Carried
- h. The consideration of approval to Bartlett Tree Services for the following work on the tree inventory: \$5,520 to perform deep root fertilization on 48 trees; \$11,220 to sever the vines at the base of 68 trees and treat; \$2,850 to perform scale treatments on 37 trees; \$19,065 for buried root collar/root invigorations for 123 trees; \$430 for bleeding canker treatment on 1 tree; \$8,500 for maintenance pruning of 33 trees; \$7,000 for the removal of 8 trees; and \$12,500 development pruning for 31 trees for a total cost of \$67,065. (ARPA Funds)
Council Member Tuberville expressed concern that the Stormwater grant initiative should take priority and her vote against other ARPA is based on

the sequencing of spending and not the merit of other proposed expenditures. Council indicated full commitment to the Stormwater grant program. Council Member McCauley and Mayor Gant noted other ARPA expenditures agreed upon add value, address issues and will be a wise use of funding.

Council Member McCauley moved, seconded by Council Member Johnson to approve additional Bartlett Tree Service tree inventory work.

Vote: Ayes: Chester, Johnson, McCauley

Nays: Tuberville

Motion Carried

- i. The introduction of ordinance 2022-OR-06 amending the personnel manual to clarify that the employee lunch break is not paid. Council Member Johnson moved, seconded by Council Member McCauley to approve change in the wording in the personnel manual about employee lunch break.

Vote: Ayes: Chester, Johnson, McCauley

Nays:

Abstain: Tuberville

a. Motion Carried

6. Police Department Report (Police and Code Enforcement) – Acting Police Chief Beale gave the September crime and code activity report for September. He reported one felony assault and one theft from an auto, and in code compliance, there were eight municipal fractions, one business and rental inspection and eight violation follow-ups. He also reported a cruiser is being wrapped in purple in support of Domestic Violence Awareness month along with hand out of resource information.

7. Town Administrator Report (General Government and Public Works) – Rod Barnes reminded Council on the upcoming Economic Workshop on October 25th, Trunk or Treat Oct 28th and Casino Night/Veteran Day celebration on Nov 4th, and Turkey basket giveaway.

8. Council Dialogue

Council Member Chester reported on the MML fall conference and an upcoming MD Department of Environment meeting on October 18th.

Council Member Tuberville suggested a special meeting to discuss funding for the Stormwater Grant program.

Council Member McCauley expressed confidence that in the next regular work session in November, Council can finalize plans for Stormwater Grant program without scheduling an additional meeting. She congratulated the staff on the success of the Town Unity Rally.

Council Member Johnson noted the Unity Rally and the Latino Resource Festival had good attendance but noted concern that the recreation field area needs attention to fill holes.

9. Mayor's Comments – Mayor Gant noted MML Executive Director Scott Hancock retiring, and Teresa Kuhns is the replacement in the position now called CEO. Mayor Gant commented that the Unity Rally was a good and engaging event. and was happy to see the extent of collaboration of staff General Government at these events. Mayor Gant attended the funeral of David Harrington who was a leader in County politics. Mayor Gant gave condolences to Council Member Turberville for her mother who recently passed away.
10. Closed Session - 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.
11. At 8:19 pm Council Member Johnson moved, seconded by Council Member McCauley that Council adjourn the meeting.
Vote: Ayes: Chester, Johnson, McCauley, Turberville
Nays: None
Motion Carried.

Mayor, Tracy R. Gant

Averi Gray, Town Clerk