

Town of Edmonston
Town Council Regular Council Meeting Minutes
September 14, 2022, Via Teleconference (ZOOM)

1. Mayor Gant called the meeting to order at 7:13 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 Acting Police Chief Eric Beale. Town Attorney Suellen Ferguson was absent.
2. Mayor Gant led the Pledge of Allegiance, and it was followed by a moment of silence.
3. Public Comment was opened by Mayor Gant. There were no comments from the public.
4. New Business
 - a. Minutes
 - i. July 8, 2022, Work Session Meeting Minutes
 - ii. July 8, 2022, Regular Session Meeting Minutes
Council Member Johnson moved, seconded by Council Member Turberville to approve the July 8th Work and Regular Session meeting minutes.
Vote: Ayes: Chester, Johnson, McCauley, Turberville
Nays: None
Motion Carried
 - iii. August 29, 2022, Closed Council Meeting Minutes
Council Member McCauley moved, seconded by Council Member Chester to approve the August 29th closed session meeting minutes.
Vote: Ayes: Chester, Johnson, McCauley, Turberville
Nays: None
Motion Carried
 - b. The consideration of approval for the restoration of the 2nd mural depicting the History of Edmonston to Collins & Son in the amount of \$14,275 was presented for consideration.
Council Member McCauley moved, seconded by Council Member Johnson to approve the restoration costs.
Vote: Ayes: Chester, Johnson, McCauley, Turberville
Nays: None
Motion Carried

- c. The consideration of the purchase of a passenger GEM vehicle with Maryland Department of Energy grant funds in the amount of \$21,250 was presented for consideration. The vehicle's total cost to the town would be \$17,500 (ARPA funds) The grant is providing \$3,750.

Council Member McCauley moved, seconded by Council Member Johnson to approve the purchase of a GEM passenger vehicle as presented.

Vote: Ayes: Chester, Johnson, McCauley, Turberville

Nays: None

Motion Carried

- d. The consideration of an engineering proposal from Pennoni for a parking and zoning study of 46th Avenue, Ingraham, and Lafayette in the amount of \$11,544 was presented for consideration. (This would be paid with ARPA funds.)

Council Member McCauley moved, seconded by Council Member Johnson to approve the proposal for a parking and zoning study to Pennoni in the amount requested.

Vote: Ayes: Chester, Johnson, McCauley, Turberville

Nays: None

Motion Carried

- e. The consideration of replacement and repair of the wood fence around the Town Hall North Parking Lot at a cost of \$12,320 to J.O.M. Painting LLC was presented for consideration.

Council Member Johnson moved, seconded by Council Member Chester to approve the fence repair at Town Hall as presented.

Vote: Ayes: Chester, Johnson, McCauley, Turberville

Nays: None

Motion Carried

- 5. Police Department Report (Police and Code Enforcement) – Acting Police Chief Beale provided a report for the month of August which included 3 auto related crimes, 26 parking and 153 moving violations, 53 traffic and 187 calls for service. Revenue from red light camera totaled \$7,575 and \$1,615 from impounds. Code activity included 15 municipal infractions, 18 warning letters given, 14 business inspections and 15 violation follow-ups. Council asked about the status on the speed camera contract. Acting Chief Beale reported the contract language is being worked out with Suellen and Altumint. There was concern about being upside down on revenue if the camera did not generate enough revenue to pay the cost of the contract. Administrator Barnes reported that Town Attorney Ferguson built language in the contract that deals with net losses if expected revenue is not met. Mayor Gant suggested a meeting with the company, Council and Town Attorney.

6. Town Administrator Report (General Government and Public Works) – Rod Barnes reported on the first of 5 meetings with Pepco and municipalities in which cities were asked to consider the purchasing of streetlights for their communities. He also reported on upcoming events and noted the success of the September 8th Salsa making/dance event. He asked if a separate Work Session is needed and if so, suggested Wednesday, October 5th starting at 5:30. Council agreed to proceed.
7. Council Dialogue

Council Member McCauley reported that Salsa event was overall fun for the community and the Police Department was engaged. She also complimented Public Works for the work in painting the Town Hall parking lot.

Council Member Chester reported an archaeological expedition on African American history through the University of Maryland is being conducted in the areas and wants to incorporate the Town as it relates to Adam Plummer. She remains optimistic about the Council “Walk & Talk” and proposes a different time for the next one.

Council Member Johnson suggests meeting at the Recreation Center for the next Council “Walk & Talk”. He suggests the Police Department check for homeless that might be living under the bridge.

Council Member Turberville is glad that there is a grant opportunity toward a bridge accessing Hyattsville and will lend her assistance in this effort.
8. Mayor’s Comments – Mayor Gant noted the walk offered a chance to chat with community members they came across even if none joined the walk. She thanked Acting Chief Beale for stepping up to fulfil the new temporary role. Mayor Gant reported attending a productive meeting with representatives from County Council Members Ivey, Glaros, Riverdale, Bladensburg, Edmonston and Director Thompson, from the County of Department of Public Works. Director Thompson reported that area pumping stations are functioning and operating properly. He suggested a flood risk assessment with the understanding that partnerships with the State is needed for long-term upgrades to the current system. His office will continue to work on short-term maintenance approaches such as more frequent cleaning of drain system. Creating a video explaining how the pumping stations work would be a helpful learning tool for residents. Mayor Gant shared information about the Unity Rally and encouraged the Council to join the Unity Rally September 24 and to invite others to attend.
9. Closed Session/Adjournment

Mayor Gant asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting, and to enter into a Closed-Session meeting. The Council would not return to the Regular Council Meeting. At 8:03 a motion was made by Council Member McCauley and seconded by Council Member Chester to end the Regular Town Council Meeting and enter a closed-session meeting to discuss personnel issues of non-elected officials.

Vote: Ayes: Chester, McCauley, Johnson, Turberville

Nays: None

Motion Carried

Mayor, Tracy R. Gant

Averi Gray, Town Clerk