

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

1. Mayor Gant called the meeting to order at 5:45 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
2. Police Officer candidate Waine Harris was introduced to the Mayor and Town Council Members. A discussion followed with questions and answers on the candidate's experience, work philosophy and reasoning for coming to Edmonston.
3. Review Agenda:
 - a. No edits were suggested for the following meeting minutes
 - i. July 8, 2022, Work Session Meeting Minutes
 - ii. July 8, 2022, Regular Session Meeting Minutes
 - iii. August 29, 2022, Closed Council Meeting Minutes
 - b. The consideration of approval for the restoration of the second mural depicting the History of Edmonston to Collins & Son in the amount of \$14,275 was presented for discussion. Administrator Barnes noted the picture has suffered years of water damage and the amount covers restoration, new framing, and installation. Council agreed to proceed. The restored picture will be placed in a more protected area.
 - 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. The vehicle's total cost to the town would be \$17,500 (ARPA funds) The grant is providing \$3,750. Mayor Gant noted this four-seater's primary use would be for town events, touring through the community thereby eliminating a need to rent golf-carts. Council agreed to proceed.
 - 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. (This would be paid with ARPA funds.) Council Members asked for the full scope of the study. Administrator Barnes reported the project grew from a request by Council Member Turberville to review parking in the industrial park for today and the future. The study will look at existing parking and what parking will be needed for the future based on the new zoning changes that have occurred in through the new PGC zoning code. Council agreed to proceed.

- 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. Council agreed to proceed.

4. Other Business:

A discussion ensued on ARPA allocation of funding for flood mitigation and other initiatives. Administrator Barnes indicated an estimate of \$800K to renovate Town Hall leaving \$375K of uncommitted ARPA funds. From this undesignated amount, \$200K was a targeted figure for resident assistance in flood mitigation issues breaking down to \$2K per resident in aid. Mayor Gant noted that residents will need various levels of aid depending on maintenance and upgrades, but that a shared responsibility to assist residents' flood mitigation efforts is the considered approach. Council Member Turberville suggested a larger allocation in assistance to \$3K or \$4K per resident and asks that the next work session include the sequencing of ARPA fund use. Council Member Chester wants further discussion on detail for the Town Hall renovation and the allowable expenses to residents for flood mitigation. Council Member McCauley indicated a cap per resident is needed on the amount of assistance the Town can provide reminding that the program is meant to support not rectify long-standing issues. She also noted that a Town Hall renovation offers a place for citizens to gather and meet other than the Recreation Center. Administrator Barnes will share a draft of a grant program for Council to review which will be modeled after Riverdale, Glenarden, and the County rain check programs in place. He also reminded Council they have received a preliminary drawing for the Town Hall renovation to review and that funding can be sought elsewhere for the project. He asked Council to be mindful of the timeline for ARPA fund allocation which is about a year away.

Report on Flood Mitigation Efforts – Mayor Gant reported that County Council Member Jolene Ivey coordinated a meeting with the Prince George's County Department of Public Works concerning recent flooding issues in Riverdale, Bladensburg, and Edmonston. Representatives from the 3 communities, along with county officials and County Council Member Glaros attended the meeting. Director Thompson, from the County of Department of Public Works met about the functioning of the area pumping stations. According to Director Thompson the Edmonston pumping station is working properly although the bar screen cleaner appeared not to function manually at the July rainfall occurrence. It was acknowledged that the storm drain capacity was not built for the exceptional rainfall recently experienced. Council Member Chester advocated a push toward impactful ways to mitigating risks and seeking feedback from neighboring Riverdale. Council Member McCauley advocates for flood insurance. Administrator Barnes noted that County

DPTW is conducting a flood risk assessment to investigate solutions most of which are long-term involving partnerships with federal and state to seek funds for capital improvements. Mayor Gant indicated that a brief of the meeting was included in the monthly newsletter and tips for flood mitigation were provided.

5. At 6:57, Mayor Gant adjourned the meeting.

Mayor, Tracy R. Gant

Averi Gray, Town Clerk