

Town of Edmonston (Via Zoom)
Town Council Regular Council Meeting Agenda
Thursday November 12, 2020 7:00 P.M.

1. **Mayor Gant** called the virtual 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, Averi Gray, Police Chief Demetrious Harris and Town Attorney Suellen Ferguson.
2. **The Pledge of Allegiance** was led by the Mayor followed by a moment of silence.
3. **Public Comment** There were no comments from the public.
4. **Special Presentation** Mayor Gant gave special recognition to:
 - i. Victory Grace Center for Make A Difference Day as they have distributed food to the Edmonston community since June of this year and are continuing to do so. A video highlighting the Center's work was presented along with a certificate of appreciation which was read to Antoinette Burrows Director of Administration from Victory Grace.
 - ii. Mayor Gant celebrated staff contributions to the Town of Edmonston and put forth the consideration of a proclamation declaring November as Municipal Government Works month. Council Member McCauley moved, seconded by Council Member Johnson to approve declaring November as Municipal Government Works month.

Vote: Ayes: Chester, McCauley, Johnson, Turberville
Nays: None
Motion carried
 - iii. Presentation of the FY19-20 annual audit was provided by Karen Dojan and Nicole DeJarnette of Weyrich Cronin Sorra. It was indicated the audit process was overall difficult due to the pandemic. However, it was noted that Administrator Barnes efforts made the auditors work go smoothly and it was determined that no significant deficiencies were found.
5. **Public Hearings**
 - i. A Public Hearing for the consideration of Charter Resolution 02-2020 amending Article 1 Charter, Section 9 Appointments, power and duties of certain positions, Paragraph C allowing the Chief of Police to appoint police officers, code and police administrative personnel was opened by Mayor Gant. There were no comments from the public. Mayor Gant closed the

public hearing. Council Member McCauley moved, seconded by Council Member Johnson to approve charter resolution 02-2020 amending Article 1 Charter, Section 9 Appointments

Vote: Ayes: Chester, McCauley, Johnson, Turberville

Nays: None

Motion carried

- ii. A Public Hearing for charter resolution 03-2020 amending Article 1 Charter, Section 7 Election Procedures, registration of voters, Paragraph A. was opened by Mayor Gant. There were no comments from the public. Council Member McCauley moved, seconded by Council Member Chester to approve charter resolution 03-2020 amending Article 1 Charter, Section 7 Election Procedures, registration of voters, Paragraph A.

Vote: Ayes: Chester, McCauley, Johnson, Turberville

Nays: None

Motion carried

- iii. A Public Hearing for charter resolution 04-2020 amending Article 1, Charter, Section 6 Mayor Pro Temp was opened by Mayor Gant. There were no comments from the public. Mayor Gant closed the public hearing. Mayor Gant closed the public hearing. Council Member Johnson moved, seconded by Council Member Chester to approve

- iv. charter resolution 04-2020 amending Article 1 Charter, Section 6 Mayor Pro Temp.

Vote: Ayes: Chester, McCauley, Johnson, Turberville

Nays: None

Motion carried

6. Old Business There was none.

7. New Business

- i. The consideration of approval of the minutes from the October 14, 2020 work session and regular council meeting were presented. Council Member Turberville moved, seconded by Council Member McCauley to approve the Work Session Meeting minutes and the Regular Council Meeting minutes from the October 14, 2020 virtual council meetings.

Vote: Ayes: Chester, McCauley, Johnson, Turberville

Nays: None

Motion carried

- ii. The consideration of applying for a Chesapeake Bay Trust/Prince George's County Stormwater Management grant for rain gardens on Gallatin Street was presented. Council Member Chester moved, seconded by Council Member McCauley to approve applying for a Chesapeake Bay Trust/Prince George's County Stormwater Management grant.

Vote: Ayes: Chester, McCauley, Johnson, Turberville
Nays: None
Motion carried

- iii. The consideration of applying for a Chesapeake Bay Trust grant to serve as a host site for a Chesapeake Conservation Corp volunteer was presented. Council Member McCauley moved, seconded by Council Member Chester to approve applying for a Chesapeake Bay Trust grant for a volunteer conservation corp member.

Vote: Ayes: Chester, McCauley, Johnson, Turberville
Nays: None
Motion carried

- iv. The consideration of applying for a PY47 Prince George's County Community Development Block Grant for the repaving of Crittenden Street was presented. Council Member Chester moved, seconded by Council Member Johnson that we apply for a PY47 Prince George's Block Grant for the repaving of Crittenden Street.

Vote: Ayes: Chester, McCauley, Johnson, Turberville
Nays: None
Motion carried

- v. The introduction of Ordinance 2020-OR-09 Amending Chapter 41, Ethics, Code of updating policy to include the creation of an Ethics Commission. Council Member Turberville moved, seconded by Council Member McCauley to approve Ordinance 2020-OR-09 on first reading.

Vote: Ayes: Chester, McCauley, Johnson, Turberville
Nays: None
Motion carried

- vi. The consideration of a proposed agreement with Verra for red light camera services. Chief Harris is working with Town Attorney Ferguson to modify contract language. Council Member McCauley moved, seconded by Council Member Chester that we move forward with the agreement with Verra subject to final review of contract language by Town Attorney Ferguson.

Vote: Ayes: Chester, McCauley, Johnson, Turberville
Nays: None
Motion carried

- 8. Police Chief Report & Code Enforcement** Chief Harris reported on the success of Trunk or Treat, the Town's Halloween celebration. He also shared information on added restrictions due to increased cases of COVID-19. He reviewed the overall crime growth in the region as a result of the pandemic.

He complimented the good job the new Compliance Officer is doing and thanked Council Member McCauley for accompanying the CO around town. It was restated that the focus of compliance should be the mission of the position hence the change in job title from Code Enforcement to Compliance Officer. Council Member Turberville raised concerns about steps in the continuity of leadership with the Chief leaving and not knowing Lt. Heyward's plans as a result. Chief Harris indicated the Police Department would all be trained and operational to manage news systems such as the body camera stating he wants to ensure an organized transition with structures in place.

9. Town Administrator Report (General Government and Public Works)

The Town Administrator reported on the upcoming Turkey Basket give-away on November 23rd with food from SHARE and Victory Grace which will distribute on November 21st. The Town received a surprise food delivery of over 50 boxes of food that were distributed to residents. The last Edmonston Talks Facebook Virtual Town Hall is scheduled for November 18th and will focus on the pandemic's impact on the economy. Thus far the Edmonston Talks platform has reached over 500 viewers. December events were shared and include a Christmas caravan through Town, Tree Lighting and Adopt a Child which provides gifts to 40 plus children in Edmonston. Last mentioned was that a terminally ill 7-year-old and family will receive gifts and food from the Town and a special visit from Mayor Gant and DPW's Dave Lohr as Santa.

10. Council Dialogue There was no additional dialogue from Council.

11. Mayor's Comments Mayor Gant reported that Chief Harris is resigning from his post as Edmonston's Chief of Police. She noted her disappointment in his departure but understood his aspiration for opportunities of advancement. Mayor Gant and the Council thanked Chief Harris for his contributions to the Town and wished him well.

12. 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.

13. Adjournment At 8:52 a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Council Member Johnson and seconded by Council Member Turberville.

Vote: Ayes: Chester, McCauley, Johnson, Turberville

Nays: None

Motion carried

Mayor, Tracy R. Gant

Averi Gray, Town Clerk