

Town of Edmonston  
Town Council Work Session Meeting Agenda  
Wednesday October 5, 2021, 7:00 P.M. (Via Zoom Teleconference)

1. Mayor Gant called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and teleconference attendees were Council Members, Hilary Chester, Betsy McCauley, John Johnson, Sarah Turberville, Town Administrator Rod Barnes, Town Clerk Averl Gray, and Police Chief Elliott Gibson Sr.
  
1. The agenda for the October 13 meeting was presented for review.
  - a. There was no discussion of edits for the approval of the following minutes:
    - i. Virtual Work Session Meeting minutes from August 31, 2021.
    - ii. Virtual Regular Council Meeting minutes from September 8, 2021.
  
  - b. The setting of a public hearing for November 10 at 7:00 p.m. to consider a petition for restricted parking in the 4800 block of 51<sup>st</sup> Avenue. Town Administrator Barnes explained residents' request due to parking spill over from businesses on Buchanan. As of today's meeting, 8 residents are on board representing 72% and one more resident will have to sign up as well to reach the 80% needed to proceed. Ms. Ingrid Ali who is leading the charge will be notified of next steps to move forward.
  
  - c. The consideration of a proclamation for declaring November 1, 2021, as Extra Mile Day. On this day, the Town will recognize residents or businesses that have made exceptional contributions to the community.
  
  - d. The consideration of a resolution of support to the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development for the Town's 2022 Edmonston Beautiful grant application. A pledge of support is needed from the Town to proceed with the grant application submitted. This is the 5<sup>th</sup> year the Town's applied, and 26 homes have been assisted with 7 homes currently on the waiting list. Criteria for applying and promotion of its availability were then discussed. Applicants must own and reside in the home; be 55 years or older and there must be a need for the work. Notice of the program is by newsletter and word of mouth.
  
  - e. The consideration of adding a P/T Code Compliance Officer to the FY21-22 budget was presented by Chief Gibson. The Chief discussed a plan to add this parttime position to the current year's budget to assist in code enforcement. Chief Gibson proposes coverage 7 days a week thereby providing more effective and efficient oversight. Council Member Turberville asked if the position is for a short term or long term and Council Member Chester suggested a temporary contractual arrangement hiring on an as needed basis. Council Member McCauley noted code enforcement is key and that both a full time and parttime hires might be needed. Chief Gibson is open to range of applicants from students to retirees but wants the parttime hire to be on a permanent basis. He will

review this years' budget to determine available funding for the position and offered to evaluate over 12 months to see if a permanent hire is warranted. Administrator Barnes will work with Chief Gibson in reviewing budget projections. Mayor Gant noted the positive reaction in code enforcement with businesses since Eric Beale was hired. While supportive of Eric Beale's promotion to police officer, Mayor Gant does not want momentum in code enforcement hindered.

2. Discussion of Fall Events

Administrator Barnes complemented efforts on the 9/11 Gun Awareness & Fitness Rally and the Hispanic Heritage Family Festival. He noted the County's "Growing Green" event whereby Edmonston will be involved with planting 20 trees October 30<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Gant noted State Attorney's stance against Domestic Violence and asked for Council and staff support for the "Our Streets Our Future" rally on September 30<sup>th</sup> at the Bladensburg Waterfront Park.

3. Mayor Gant adjourned the meeting at 8:13 p.m.

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Tracy R. Gant, Mayor

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Averi Gray, Town Clerk