

Town of Edmonston
Town Council Regular Council Meeting
Wednesday July 14, 2021, 7:00 P.M. (Via Zoom Teleconference)

1. Mayor Gant called the meeting to order at 7:16 p.m. and teleconference attendees were Council Members, Hilary Chester, Betsy McCauley, John Johnson, Sarah Turberville, Town Administrator Rod Barnes, Town Clerk Averil Gray, Police Chief Elliott Gibson Sr., Town Attorney Suellen Ferguson
2. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Mayor and it was followed by a moment of silence.
3. Public Comment was opened by the Mayor. There were no comments from the public.
4. Old Business. There was none.

5. New Business

a. The consideration of approval of the following minutes.

- i. Virtual Closed Session Meeting minutes from June 9, 2021
- ii. Virtual Work Session Meeting minutes from June 9, 2021.
- iii. Virtual Regular Council Meeting minutes from June 9, 2021.

Council Member McCauley moved, seconded by Council Member Chester to approve the following minutes.

Vote: Ayes: Chester, McCauley, Johnson, Turberville

Nays: None

Motion Carried

b. Council reviewed the consideration of an amendment to the Town of Edmonston Personnel Policy and Procedures Manual Chapter 8, Section 8-4 Paid Holidays to add the following two holidays:

- i. June 19 (Juneteenth) as a paid holiday
- ii. Christmas Eve

Council Member McCauley moved, seconded by Council Member Turberville to amend the Personnel Policy adding June 19 (Juneteenth) and Christmas Eve as paid holidays.

Vote: Ayes: Chester, McCauley, Johnson, Turberville

Nays: None

Motion Carried

c. The consideration of amendment to the Chief of Police contract to create a term of the contract to submit a request of exemption from the participation in the Maryland State Retirement Program.

Council Member McCauley moved, seconded by Council Member Chester to amend the Chief of Police contract as presented.

Vote: Ayes: Chester, McCauley, Johnson, Turberville

Nays: None

Motion Carried

d. Council Member McCauley moved, seconded by Council Member Chester to amend the agenda removing item 2D, the consideration of an agreement with Tiffany Green for social media services.

Vote: Ayes: Chester, McCauley, Johnson, Turberville

Nays: None

Motion Carried

6. Police Department Report – Chief Gibson shared the monthly statistical report for the month of July. The total reporting of crimes committed were 7 and included 1 burglary, 3 auto thefts and 3 thefts from an auto. Total revenue generated from red light violations and traffic impounds was \$9,370.00. Chief Gibson reported continuing Code issues with 4901 Buchanan business operating unlicensed; parking on grass areas and junk vehicles. He proposed a moratorium on new Auto service type businesses. Town Attorney Ferguson reminded that the County, not the Town controls the zoning. Administrator Barnes suggested the Town withhold providing a Town license until U&O from the County is received. Council Members Chester and McCauley asked about the possibility of permit parking and the requirement to include handicap parking. Mayor Gant added that the County may not be keeping up with addressing these type of issues the Town faces and complimented the work by the Police Department.
7. Administrator Barnes reminded Council that it was discussed to reopen Town Hall for Council Meeting in September. Two interns from End Time Harvest Ministries are working on archiving and translation of documents into Spanish. Lindsay Gray is continuing work on the Town's oral history project interviewing residents, business owners as part of the 100th anniversary celebration. Bethany Sims from the Chesapeake Bay Conservation Corp will begin a year stint with the Town starting Aug 18th. She is interested in policy and development. We are working with Code to obtain the 13K outstanding fees due from businesses and/or for renters licensing. The Economic Strategic Plan being completed by the University of Baltimore kicks off in August with a tour of Edmonston. Mr. Barnes reminded Council of the upcoming Council Strategic Planning Retreat July 17-18.
8. Council Dialogue
Council Member Turberville looks forward to the upcoming Strategic Planning retreat.
Council Member Chester is excited about the Strategic Planning meeting. She also attended her first ATHA meeting and attracting people to sites both in person and virtually was discussed.
Council Member McCauley also looks forward to the upcoming Strategic Planning retreat.
Council Member Johnson had no further comments.
9. Mayor's Comments
Mayor Gant reported that the Port Towns are planning an expungement workshop August 8th whereby a portion of fees to cover costs to expunge will be provided and a Port Town Clean-Up Day is proposed the same weekend. MML conference was successful, well attended and had good speakers and she was able to attend many useful sessions and workshops. It was noted that mask

protocols were followed about ½ the time by participants. Mayor Gant is excited about the upcoming Strategic Planning meeting.

10. Adjournment – At 8:12 pm a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Council Member Chester and seconded by Council Member Turberville.
Vote: Ayes: Chester, McCauley, Johnson, Turberville
Nays: None
Motion Carried

Mayor, Tracy R. Gant

Averi Gray, Town Clerk