

Town of Edmonston
Town Council Regular Council Meeting Agenda
Wednesday April 13, 2022 (Via Zoom Teleconference)

1. Mayor Gant called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and teleconference attendees were Council Members Hilary Chester, Betsy McCauley, John Johnson, Administrator Rod Barnes, Town Clerk Averil Gray, Police Chief Elliott Gibson Sr., and Town Attorney Suellen Ferguson. Council Member Sarah Turberville was unable to attend.
2. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Gant and followed by a moment of silence
3. Public Comment – Resident Deena Dzidzienyo, 5505 47th Ave expressed concern with an area AirB&B in which a shooting took place over a year ago and suggests such use be prohibited in Edmonston.
Meagan Baco, Executive Director of Anacostia Trails Heritage Area (ATHA) joined to listen in on the meeting.
Alberto Zagado – Pepco employee who is offering services as a liaison for the community addressed the council. His contact information is 202-853-1871.
4. A Public Hearing introducing the proposed FY22-23 Annual Budget proceeded with Town Administrator Rod Barnes presenting, pointing to the reader's guide as a source for clarification. The Town is exploring new revenue sources for the upcoming fiscal year and inclusion of any Council changes made for the May meeting in time for vote on budget adoption. Mayor Gant opened for input or questions from the public. There were none. Mayor Gant thanked staff and Council for work on the budget.
5. Old Business – there was no old business to discuss.
6. New Business –
 - a. Minutes
 - i. March 9, 2022, Work Session Meeting Minutes
 - ii. March 9, 2022, Regular Council Meeting Minutes
 - iii. March 15, 2022, Works Session Meeting Minutes
 - iv. March 22, 2022, Work Session Meeting Minutes
 - v. March 22, 2022, Closed Session Meeting Minutes
 - vi. March 24, 2022, Work Session Meeting Minutes

Council Member McCauley moved, seconded by Council Member Johnson to approve minutes from all the above-referenced virtual meetings.

Vote: Ayes: Chester, McCauley, Johnson

Nays: None

Absent: Turberville

Motion Carried

- b. The introduction of ordinance 2022-OR-3 to appropriate and adopt the annual budget for fiscal year 2022-23.

Council Member McCauley moved, seconded by Council Member Johnson to approve the introduction to adopt the annual budget for fiscal year 2022-23.

Vote: Ayes: Chester, McCauley, Johnson

Nays: None

Absent: one

Motion Carried

- c. The consideration of purchasing a 2021 Chevrolet Pickup from Sport Chevrolet Co., Silver Spring, MD on the state contract for \$26,923 using ARPA funds. Town Administrator Barnes indicated the new truck has more cab room for seating and more appropriate for Town functions while the older truck more so for utility purposes.

Council Member McCauley moved, seconded by Council Member Chester to approve the purchase of a 2021 Chevrolet Pickup in the amount up to \$26,923 using ARPA funds.

Vote: Ayes: Chester, McCauley, Johnson

Nays: None

Absent: Turberville

Motion Carried

7. Police Department Report (Police and Code Enforcement) - Police Chief Gibson gave the March report indicating two auto thefts and one burglary for a total of three crimes in the town. March generated \$18,825 for red light camera violations and \$3,060 for vehicle impounds. A conversation ensued about parking violations in the industrial area on Buchanan and Ingraham. Mayor Gant and Council want stronger enforcement as the violations are too prevalent in these areas and businesses have not heeded warnings given. Added to the public safety issue, it has become problematic for the environment as well. Chief Gibson indicated the Police Department will do more and plans to meet with and send correspondence to area business about compliance issues and will boost enforcement. Council Member Chester suggested ticketing that increases in cost after each infraction. Council Member McCauley reported being confronted by two unleashed and unsupervised pit bull terriers on her property. Council Member McCauley questioned if Animal Control would permanently remove the dogs, especially as the County prohibits this breed as a public safety measure. Chief Gibson assured follow-up in this matter and provided tips if confronted by a dog running at large. Mayor Gant suggested to add tips to the upcoming newsletter.
8. Town Administrator Report (General Government and Public Works) – Rod Barnes reported the success of the 4/9 Arbor Day planting of 100 trees in town in which 125 volunteers of various ages participated; the giveaway of an additional 50 trees to residents that responded to the newsletter flyer inquiry; Spring Caravan through Town and pop-up art festival at Veteran’s Park in which 30 or so children attended. Upcoming is Earth Day clean-up on April 23rd from 10am – noon. Edmonston was featured in the Chesapeake Bay Trust magazine for its use of pervious concrete, an environmentally conscious remedy to concrete street repair. Town Clerk Averil Gray reported that during the Spring caravan, thirty-four residents answered surveys, providing input on how to use COVID Relief Funds and ranked initial ideas by Council. Assisting the community with flood mitigation measure ranked highest; establish Wi-Fi connectivity in the Recreation Center ranked second and expansion of Town Hall for more community service and activity use ranked third.

9. Council Dialogue

Council Member Johnson discussed the issue of trash that has accumulated into the creek area around 51st and Buchanan and areas around the Sunoco gas station along Kenilworth which previously brought to the attention of community compliance. Also, street repair on Decatur is needed where water main replacement work is occurring. Mr. Barnes will bring to the attention of WSSC for a more durable solution. Council Member McCauley agreed that increased trash in areas mentioned and other areas throughout the Town and Council Member Chester indicated water runoff which may indicate a drainage problem. Mr. Barnes noted that the County has recently cleaned the Town's drainage system but suggest we use some ARPA funds to enhance drain cleaning efforts.

Council Member Chester asked about initiating a council "walk & talks" along through Town along the trail once or twice a month. Mayor Gant and Council Member McCauley are in full agreement with the idea suggesting the Police Department "walk" the Town for more visible community policing. Council Member McCauley also suggests DPW join the walking efforts through Town to decrease trash accumulation. Town Attorney Ferguson advised Council to provide a record of any discussion of Town business during the walks.

10. Mayor's Comments – Mayor Gant noted being mindful that the public be privy to any Town business discussion during the Council "walk & talks" and thanked Council and staff for their input.

11. 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.

12. Council Member Johnson moved, seconded by Council Member Chester to adjourn the regular town council meeting at 8:21 p.m.

Vote: Ayes: Chester, McCauley, Johnson

Nays: None

Absent: Turberville

Motion Carried

Tracy R. Gant, Mayor

Averi Gray, Town Clerk