

Town of Edmonston
Town Council Work Session Meeting Minutes
March 7, 2023, Via Teleconference (ZOOM)

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 Averi Gray, and Acting Police Chief Eric Beale.
2. The Council reviewed the FY23-24 Proposed Annual Budget – Town Administrator Rod Barnes presented an overview of the proposed budget.
 - Salary increases (COLA) at 3.5 and up to 1.5% merit pay and contribution from the annual budget of \$5K to End Time Harvest Ministries youth program.
 - Grant money received this year is \$1,137,528 and sidewalk construction is one project from this funding which begins in Spring.
 - The Pennoni 46th Avenue traffic study will be completed in April.
 - The Police Department suggested purchasing a storage trailer to hold often used supplies for events or emergencies using ARPA funding. Council Member McCauley noted a storage trailer would provide efficiency and Mayor Gant added the purchase would ease getting supplies around the community. Council Member Chester questions the value of such a purchase.
 - Council Member Turberville suggests broader ARPA spending such as revamping the Recreation Center; façade revamp to Tanglewood Avenue and Buchanan Street businesses; consideration of purchasing a property to lease for in-town family sport/game entertainment center. She questions the effect on the Town’s revenue with the loss of certain automotive businesses and asked if the Town’s attorney could suggest restrictions that can be used for non-compliant businesses. Administrator Barnes reminded the Council, the Rec Center is owned by M-NCPPC. The Town is working on renewing the lease.
 - Council Member McCauley suggested we continue the suggestion of using ARPA funds to renovate Town Hall to extend its use for the benefit of the community.
 - Council Member Chester asked about the status of Washington Gas property on Tanglewood and whether it might attract or repel other businesses. Administrator Barnes is unaware of the status of Forklift and Washington Gas.
 - Council Member McCauley encourages added enforcement of business license receipt based on agreed to parking allotment

and hours of operation. Administrator Barnes suggests license also be tied to County DPIE health and safety regulations. Mayor Gant suggests areas within the industrial zone designated for more environmentally conscious businesses.

- Administrator Barnes noted the need for new revenues as we experience loss in fines and flagging however, the new red-light camera, an increase in highway revenue aid and amusement tax will help. He suggests a look at increasing real estate tax as a possible solution.

3. Review Agenda. There were no questions concerning the following agenda items.

a. Minutes

- i. February 8, 2023, Work Session Meeting Minutes
- ii. February 8, 2023, Closed Session Meeting Minutes Session 1 and Session 2.
- iii. February 8, 2023, Regular Session Meeting Minutes

There were no suggestions for a change of the minutes from the February meetings.

b. The re-consideration and introduction of ordinance 23-OR-01 amending the town's Code of ordinances, Chapter 285 concerning Property Maintenance addressing exterior paint peeling, chipped and/or discolored paint.

c. The final consideration of ordinance 23-OR-03 amending the Town's Code of Ordinance, Chapter amending Chapter 34, Elections, deleting voter registration by the election officers or the Town Clerk.

4. Upcoming Events – Administrator Barnes shared information on upcoming events. Dumpster Day is on 3/25 and Council Turberville suggested adding electronics as acceptable items and also asked how compost piloting is being handled. Administrator Barnes indicated the compost campaign will be door-to-door and information about the grant received from an initiative with Eco City Farms, will be added to the budget. Mayor Gant added that the Town will need education about the value of composting.

5. Adjournment –Mayor Gant adjourned the meeting at 8:51 pm.

Mayor, Tracy Gant

Town Clerk, Averi Gray