

Town of Edmonston
Town Council Regular Council Meeting Minutes
November 9, 2022, Via Teleconference

1. Mayor Gant called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. and teleconference attendees were Council Members Hilary Chester, Betsy McCauley, John Johnson, Sarah Turberville, Town Administrator Rod Barnes, Town Clerk Averil Gray, Acting Police Chief Eric Beale, and Town Attorney Suellen Ferguson.
2. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Gant followed by a moment of silence.
3. Mayor Gant opened the meeting for public comment. Resident Rosa Lopez – 4903 Gallatin – asked about the priorities of sidewalk construction and expressed concern about children walking down Lafayette with no sidewalks and competing with the traffic from the industrial areas. Administrator Barnes noted a pedestrian/bike study prioritized where to add sidewalks to Town. The Town has limited Capitol funds available thereby relies heavily on grant funding to construct sidewalks. The Town is adding sidewalks on Gallatin Street this Spring. In addition, the Town submitted a proposal for funding potential that would add sidewalks on Lafayette from Gallatin to Taylor Road.
4. Special Presentation of the FY21-22 Annual Audit, Robert Diss of Lindsey & Associates. Overall, the report gave a “clean opinion” of the financial shape of the Town with an equity increase. There were no concerns found in retrieving information, or about the Town’s internal controls for the audit. Mr. Diss noted that ARPA spending exceeds \$750K in one year will trigger a single audit in the future of all grant funds.
5. Old Business
 - a. The final consideration of ordinance 2022-OR-06 amending the personnel manual to clarify that the employee lunch break is not paid. (Introduced at the October 12, 2022, Regular Council Session). Council Member McCauley moved, seconded by Council Member Johnson to approve the amended language clarifying employee lunch as unpaid.
Vote: Ayes: McCauley, Chester, Johnson, Turberville
Nays: None
Motion carried
6. New Business
 - a. Minutes
 - i. October 12, 2022, Work Session Meeting Minutes
 - ii. October 12, 2022, Regular Session Meeting Minutes
 - iii. October 29, 2022, Work Session Meeting MinutesCouncil Member McCauley moved, seconded by Council Member Johnson to approve all minutes from the October as presented.
Vote: Ayes: McCauley, Chester, Johnson, Turberville
Nays: None
Motion carried

- b. The final review and approval of language for the Stormwater Management Best Practices Grant Program for flood mitigation assistance to residents will be sent to the Town Attorney for review and changes and presented at the December 14th Council meeting for final consideration and approval.
 - c. The introduction of ordinance 22-OR-07 granting a renewal of the cable franchise to Comcast of Maryland, LLC agreement and authorizing a franchise agreement. Town Attorney Suellen Ferguson presented summary information about the renewed agreement which will be in place for the next 10 years and includes Comcast supporting INET through the length of the franchising contract which maintains most features from the current agreement. Council Member McCauley moved, seconded by Council Member Chester to approve the introduction of ordinance 22-OR-07 for the renewed cable franchise agreement with Comcast of Maryland LLC.
Vote: Ayes: McCauley, Chester, Johnson, Turberville
Nays: None
Motion carried
 - d. The consideration of award of sidewalk construction bid for Emerson, 51st Street, and 52nd Avenue was presented for consideration. Council Member Chester asked how the “bump-out” design around the utility poles affect parking. Administrator Barnes suggested that she review plans at Town Hall to see what areas would be most affected. Council Member Turberville motioned, seconded by Council Member Chester to approve award of the sidewalk construction bid as presented.
Vote: Ayes: Chester, Johnson, Turberville
Absent: Council Member McCauley
Nays: None
Motion carried
 - e. The consideration of a request for designation of one handicap parking space located in front of 5117 Crittenden was presented. Council Member McCauley moved, seconded by Council Member Chester to designate a handicap parking space at 5117 Crittenden.
Vote: Ayes: McCauley, Chester, Johnson, Turberville
Nays: None
Motion carried
7. Police Department Report (Police and Code Enforcement) – Acting Police Chief Beale reported of seven crimes, two burglaries, one auto theft and four thefts from auto. Revenue generated from red light camera totaled \$16,800 and \$1,955 from impounds. Under code compliance, there were thirty-six infractions reported including ten violation follow-ups. The police department has new software called “frontline” to track and manage auto related complaints and offers citizens the opportunity to file complaints on the Town website.
8. Town Administrator Report (General Government and Public Works) – Administrator Barnes commented on the success of Trunk or Treat and Veterans

Appreciation/Casino Night. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) awarded \$279K to the Town in partnership with ECO City Farms and Compost Crew for a door-to-door composting initiative which will roll-out within next 18 months. Turkey Basket distribution will occur Friday, and the Holiday Caravan/Tree Lighting is Dec 3rd.

9. Council Dialogue

Council Member Chester had no comments

Council Member Johnson noted the success of Veteran's Day Casino Night and Fountain Park for donating candy to Trunk or Treat.

Council Member McCauley also noted the success of Trunk or Treat.

Council Member Turberville complemented the new bus stop and sign.

10. Mayor's Comments – The Mayor thanked the staff for the efforts for the fall events. The mayor reported she attended the November 17th joint PGCMA with Montgomery County to discuss Pepco's new initiative on acquiring streetlights and rent stabilization. She attended a meeting with school and community leaders at Roger Heights to discuss programs and plans. She and Acting Chief Beale attended the LGIT annual meeting.

11. Adjournment

At 8:16 p.m., Council Member McCauley moved, seconded by Council Member Johnson to adjourn the meeting.

Vote: Ayes: McCauley, Chester, Johnson, Turberville

Nays: None

Motion carried

Tracy R. Gant, Mayor

Averi Gray, Town Clerk