

Town of Edmonston
Town Council Work Session Meeting Minutes
November 9, 2022, Via Teleconference (ZOOM)

1. Mayor Gant called the meeting to order at 5:21 p.m. and teleconference attendees were Council Members Hilary Chester, Betsy McCauley, John Johnson, Sarah Turberville, Town Administrator Rod Barnes, Town Clerk Averil Gray, and Acting Police Chief Eric Beale. Council Member Hilary Chester was absent.
2. Council reviewed the agenda.
 - a. Old Business
 - i. Mayor Gant indicated that during the Council meeting, a vote for final consideration of ordinance 2022-OR-06 amending the personnel manual to clarify that the employee lunch break is required but not paid will be considered.(Introduced at the October 12, 2022, Regular Council Session).
 - b. New Business
 - i. No edits were suggested for the following meeting minutes:
October 12, 2022, Work Session Meeting Minutes
October 12, 2022, Regular Session Meeting Minutes
October 29, 2022, Work Session Meeting Minutes
 - ii. Review and approval of the Stormwater Management Best Practices Grant Program for flood mitigation assistance to residents.
Mayor Gant was pleased to report that the Town is offering a flood mitigation grant program to residents at \$2,500 per household and opened for further Council discussion. The total ARPA funds set aside for this project is \$250,000. Administrator Barnes estimated that one hundred homeowners from the community would apply based on the number of reports from those affected by the Towns' most recent floodings. He read the draft of grant agreement noting examples of acceptable home improvement work covered, including the cost of flood insurance and requirements of applicants and contractors. The grant will provide reimbursement for measures to mitigate flooding, requiring pre-approval of work and receipts verifying completion of work. Grantees

are on a “first come first served” basis until depletion of funds and the program could be operational within weeks of Council confirmation.

Council proposed the following recommendations for inclusion in the flood mitigation grant program agreement:

Mayor Gant suggested the agreement include Code Compliance inspection of work prior to and after completion with measures added to prevent fraudulence by contractors. She also wants to ensure that the inclusion of flood insurance is truly a beneficial option for home renters if chosen.

Council Member Johnson added that agreement language includes that a contractor is licensed, bonded, and provide costs estimates prior to work.

Council Member Turberville suggested applications extend to homeowners with rental properties in Town and that the budget allocation increase to \$300K, allowing requests to expand to \$4K with a \$1,500 match by applicants. This increase would cover work more extensive than what the standard grant amount includes. She also suggested the Town Attorney tweak language in the grant program agreement for the purpose of clarification.

Council Member McCauley suggested homeowner and renter of the same household be able to apply to the maximum per residence. Also, a residence application for the extended amount must be for a single project \$5,500 or above. Proof of payment via cancelled checks and credit card statement and suggests the agreement should also include several areas for applicants to initial to reinforce understanding of terms.

Council agreed the grant program cover flood mitigation projects completed between July and December 2022 upon review of work and receipts of cost. The agreement will stipulate that applicants cannot be recipients of funding for flood mitigation assistance from past federal, state, or local government sources. The final draft of the agreement will be ready to present at the December

meeting so that implementation can occur starting January 2023.

While Council prefers current staff manage the project, they agree that outside assistance can be sought if needed. General Government and the Police Department is confident in its ability to manage the program and has built in twenty days upon receipt of an application for processing.

iii. 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. The INET communities have successfully negotiated a franchise agreement renewal with Comcast of Maryland. The town attorney, Suellen Ferguson will present the information to the Council.

iv. The consideration of award of sidewalk construction bid for Emerson, 51st Street, 51st Place, 52nd Avenue (CDBG Grant) Administrator Barnes noted adjustment to the original plan based on the increased costs from \$117K to \$169K which Highway User Revenue (HUR) funds will cover the remainder. In order to stay within the budget, sidewalks on 51st place and on Emerson between 52nd and 52nd Place will be eliminated.

At 6:35, Mayor Gant called to adjourn the meeting. Council Member McCauley motioned for the adjournment of the meeting seconded by Council Member Turberville.

Mayor, Tracy R. Gant

Averi Gray, Town Clerk