

Town of Edmonston  
Town Council Work Meeting Minutes  
October 12, 2022, Via Teleconference (ZOOM)

1. Mayor Gant called the meeting to order at 5:14 p.m. and teleconference attendees were Council Members Hilary Chester, Betsy McCauley, John Johnson, Town Administrator Rod Barnes, Town Clerk Averil Gray, Acting Police Chief Eric Beale, and Town Attorney Suellen Ferguson. Council Member Turberville was absent.

2. Review Agenda: Review Agenda:

No edits were suggested for the following meeting minutes.

a. Minutes

- i. September 14, 2022, Work Session Meeting Minutes
- ii. September 14, 2022, Regular Session Meeting Minutes
- iii. September 14, 2022, Closed Council Meeting Minutes

b. Acting Chief Beale proposed the promotion of Police Officer Paris Van Buren to Corporal and the promotion of Police Officer Louis Ortiz to Police Officer Private First Class and increasing pay by 5%. Mayor Gant indicated police retention as a topic at MML fall conference and considers promotions to be a good idea. Council was agreeable to the change.

c. The consideration of approval with Altumint, Inc. to install two speed cameras on Kenilworth Avenue was reviewed and discussed. Town Attorney Ferguson enhanced the contract draft to make provisions more robust and to ensure no detriment impact to the Town nor burden to Altumint. Michael Phelan of Altumint reported from their company's study, approximately 600 speeding violations occurred over two-days. This number will drop some once drivers are aware of the camera location. These changes include reviews at three and six months to adjust costs per camera if needed. Overall Altumint costs for maintenance, processing/customer service is approximately \$12/violation. Council and staff are concerned at the per month camera rental of \$21,875 and will ask for a lower cost. The Town will not incur debit if underage occurs at the end of the contract term. It was noted that MD law requires a two-week notice prior to enacting camera use.

d. The rejection of a bid of \$227,500 from E & R Services for the Crittenden Street resurfacing. The grant budget is \$91,120. The project will be revised and rebid if rejected. Town Administrator Barnes is revising the specifications and will send proposal out

for bids for resurfacing Crittenden once WSSC work is complete.

- e. Review and approval of the Stormwater Management Best Practices Grant Program for flood mitigation assistance to residents. Administrator Barnes has incorporated Council suggestions to include water proofing, hiring of licensed contractors, requiring pictures of completed work. Council Member McCauley is satisfied with changes made and receipts from residents of work completed. Council Member Chester wants to ensure enough details on documentation to manage residents' expectations. Council member Johnson suggests identifying contractors to oversee work. Council Member McCauley wants residents to decide on contractors and suggests that code compliance can check on work. Likewise, Council Member Chester does not want contractor restrictions and asked if areas of work are code restricted. Town Administrator Barnes noted that no work items listed require permits. Mayor Gant suggests that we list a couple of potential contractors on standby if residents need assistance and she stressed the need for a reimbursement cap of approximately \$2K. Council Member McCauley agreed and that we implement the program on a first come first served and was agreeable to the \$2K amount. Town Administrator Barnes indicated that if \$250K from ARPA funds were set aside for the program 125 residents could receive \$2K. As an additional source of support, Council Member Chester asked if the County stormwater program could be suggested as an option for residents during evaluation of plans.
- f. The consideration of approval of purchasing lights and garland for the 40 light poles on Decatur Street from Mosca Design at a cost of \$17,280. (ARPA Funds). Administrator Barnes noted the one-time purchase of products are from a well-known company whose quality products are durable. Council Members McCauley and Johnson noted the decoration would enhance the festive look of Decatur during the holidays.
- g. The consideration of approval to purchase a new BOSS snowplow from Trailer and Tractor, Edmonston in the amount of \$7,585.00. (ARPA Funds). It was noted that five years have past since the purchase of a plow.
- h. The consideration of approval to Bartlett Tree Services for the following work on the tree inventory: \$5,520 to perform deep root fertilization on 48 trees; \$11,220 to sever the vines at the

base of 68 trees and treat; \$2,850 to perform scale treatments on 37 trees; \$19,065 for buried root collar/root invigorations for 123 trees; \$430 for bleeding canker treatment on 1 tree; \$8,500 for maintenance pruning of 33 trees; \$7,000 for the removal of 8 trees; and \$12,500 development pruning for 31 trees for a total cost of \$67,065. (ARPA Funds). Town Administrator Barnes noted work would begin a second phase of tree service to the Town.

- i. The introduction of ordinance 2022-OR-06 amending the personnel manual to clarify that the employee lunch break is not paid. There was a slight change in language proposed to remedy the issue.
  - j. There was a discussion of conducting the Town Council meeting in hybrid mode. It would mean providing in person at Town Hall and providing access via zoom for residents. Town Administrator Barnes noted considerations to accommodate the plan including the use of earbuds/headphones when Council is on-site in Town Hall. Council Member McCauley suggested starting in January.
3. Other Business reported by Town Administrator Barnes included
- k. America In Bloom results that Edmonston received:
    - i. Best Community Garden
    - ii. Environmental Criteria Award 1<sup>st</sup> out of 37 communities nationwide
    - iii. Ed Hooker, Edmonston Community Champion Recognized
    - iv. Overall Rating 7 out of 10 Stars
  - l. Town Administrator Barnes also noted an ARPA update is due. Mayor Gant congratulated Mr. Barnes on his eight years of service to the Town. She noted the fall MML conference had a good mix of sessions and the hiring of a new MML executive director, the title of which will change to CEO.
4. At 6:44, Mayor Gant adjourned the meeting.

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Mayor, Tracy R. Gant

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Averi Gray, Town Clerk