

Town of Edmonston
Town Council Regular Session Minutes
Wednesday, July 13, 2016, 7:00 P.M.

1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Gant @ 7:12 pm. In attendance: Council Members: Johnson, Layne-Bee, Bennett-White, Town Attorney Suellen Ferguson, Police Chief Stephen Walker and Town Administrator Rod Barnes. Council Member Pooley was excused.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Gant.

The approval of the agenda was presented for consideration. Council Member Johnson moved, seconded by Council Member Pooley to approve the agenda as presented.

Vote: Ayes: Johnson, Layne-Bee, Bennett-White
Nay: None
Motion carried.

2. Public Comment:

- a. Derrick Chappel of Alley Cat Towing spoke to the Council and thanked them for the job Officer Patrick Thompson did in handling the victim of a shooting at Berliner Speciality on Buchanan. He said the Edmonston police arrived fast and reacted well in two situations he has been involved with in Edmonston.

3. Presentations:

4. Unfinished Business:

- a. The introduction of Charter Resolution 16-CR-01 to amend Article 1, Section 9, "Appointments; powers and duties of officers" of the Town Charter to clarify appointment and supervision procedures for Town Employees and the duties of the Police Department, to include the Town Administrator position in the section and to delete the treasurer position was presented for consideration. Council Member Bennett-White asked if the Police Chief and Town Administrator would be supervised by the Council? Mayor Gant indicated that the Mayor or their designee is the immediate supervisor. Both positions serve at the will of the Town Council.
 - i. Council Member Layne-Bee moved, seconded by Council Member Bennett-White to approve charter ordinance 16-CR-01 amending Article 1, Section 9 of the Town Charter as presented.

Vote: Ayes: Johnson, Layne-Bee, Bennett-White, and Gant
Nay: None
Motion carried.
- b. The introduction of Ordinance 2016-OR-02 amending Chapter 3, Article 1, Administration, Personnel Administration and Town Administrator to clarify certain provisions and supervision responsibilities, provide for a personnel manual and delete unnecessary provisions was presented for consideration. The ordinance will become effective 50 days after approval.
 - i. Council Member Bennett-White, seconded by Council Member Layne-Bee to approve ordinance 2016-OR-02 amending Chapter 3, Article 1 of the Town Code with an effective date of 50 days after approval.

Vote: Ayes: Johnson, Layne-Bee, Bennett-White, and Gant
Nay: None
Motion carried.

5. New Business:

- a. The Town Council minutes from the regular meeting on June 8, 2016 meeting and the special meeting held on June 20, 2016 were presented for consideration. Council Member Layne-Bee indicated there was one correction that should be made to the June 20, 2016 Special Meeting minutes: Council Member Bennett-White arrived late and did not vote on the first action item.
 - i. Council Member Bennett-White moved, seconded by Council Member Johnson to approve the minutes of the Town Council regular meeting on April 13, 2016.

Vote: Ayes: Johnson, Pooley, Bennett-White, and Gant.
Nay: None
Motion carried.
- b. The consideration of acceptance of the June check register was presented. Council Member Layne-Bee requested a break out of the expenditures for the Recreation Center floor and painting.
 - i. Council Member Johnson moved to accept the June check register, seconded by Council Member Layne-Bee.

Vote: Ayes: Johnson, Layne-Bee, Bennett-White, and Gant.
Nay: None
Motion carried.
- c. The consideration of Policy Resolution 2016-06 in support of the application to the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development for the submission of an application seeking financing for a Community Legacy project in the Town of Edmonston in the amount of \$40,000 to demolish homes located at 5203 46th Avenue and 4606 Hamilton Street. (Grant Deadline was 7/15/2016). Mayor Gant indicated that the staff was not ready to apply for the grant at this time. They will continue working with the property owners to demolish the structures on their own. The Town may apply to a future grant for this action. There was no action required by the Town Council.
- d. The consideration of Policy Resolution 2016-07 in support of the application to the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development for the submission of an application seeking financing for a Community Legacy project in the Town of Edmonston in the amount of \$100,000 to provide grants for façade improvements to businesses in Edmonston. (Grant Deadline was 7/15/2016). Mayor Gant indicated that the staff was not ready to apply for the grant at this time. The Town may apply to a future grant for this action. There was no action required by the Town Council.
- e. The consideration of authorization to purchase a new Police Cruiser and enter into a lease with the Ford Motor Credit Corporation for the purchase. The purchase would be made from the State of Maryland contract and was budgeted for in the FY16-17 budget.
 - i. Council Member Layne-Bee moved to approve the purchase of the Police Cruiser from the State of Maryland bid through a lease with the Ford Motor Credit Corporation., seconded by Council Member Johnson.

Vote: Ayes: Johnson, Layne-Bee, Bennett-White, and Gant.
Nay: None

Motion carried.

- f. There was a brief discussion about converting the tennis court at the 47th Avenue Park to a Futsal Court and approve applying for a Maryland Department of Natural Resources Community Parks and Playground Program grant to pay for the cost. (Grant Deadline is 8/17/16). Town Administrator Rod Barnes indicated that the M-NCPPC is upgrading the Park playground equipment and would like the Town to take a look at the tennis court. It could be converted to a Futsal Court. The Town could apply for a NRC grant. Feedback will be obtained from residents near the Park and from others prior to submittal.

6. Police Report: Chief Walker distributed the monthly Code and Police Reports.

In light of recent national events involving police officers and blacks, the Chief distributed a letter to the Community discussing working together to overcome issues. He also provided a help list on what to do if you are stopped by the Police. Mayor Gant and the Council were supportive with the actions.

There was a discussion about holding the National Night Out Against Crime in Edmonston versus as a Port Towns event. The Mayor and Council supported the idea of holding it separately this year. The National Night Out Against Crime for Edmonston will be Tuesday evening August 2nd at the Recreation Center park.

7. Council Dialogue:

- a. Council Member Johnson said the electric GEM Public Works Utility cart was very useful.
- b. Council Member Layne-Bee asked if the flag could be lowered to half-staff in honor of the police officers killed in the line of duty.
- c. Council Member Bennett-White asked about the status of the food vendor at the laundromat on Kenilworth Avenue. Chief Walker indicated that the vendor was legal with all of the necessary licenses.
- d. Mayor Gant thanked Zachary Irby, Quentin Irby and Christopher Jarboe for attending the meeting. The young people are working to form a youth group in Edmonston.

8. Adjournment:

- a. A motion to adjourn the regular meeting was made at 8:32 p.m. by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Bennett-White.

Vote: Ayes: Johnson, Layne-Bee, Bennett-White, and Gant.

Nay: None

Motion carried, meeting adjourned.

Passed and approved this 14th day of September, 2016 by the Edmonston Town Council as the official minutes for the regular Town Council meeting conducted on July 13, 2016.

Tracy R. Gant, Mayor

Rod Barnes, Town Administrator