



TOWN OF BLADENSBURG COUNCIL MEETING | NOVEMBER 18, 2024

November 18, 2024 at 7:00 PM

4229 Edmonston RD, Bladensburg, MD 20710

MINUTES

Attendance: Mayor James, CM Brown, CM Blount, CM McBryde, CM Dixon, TA Bailey Hedgepeth, TC Watson, Treasurer Tinelli, and Chief Collington.

1. Call to Order

Mayor James called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

2. Opening Prayer

CM McBryde gave the opening prayer.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Police Explorer Alta Mirano led the pledge of allegiance.

4. Approval of Agenda

Mayor James called for a motion to approve the agenda. CM Brown moved the motion; CM McBryde seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

5. Presentations

A. Bladensburg Police Department | New Officer Swearing-In.

Chief Collington and Mayor James led the swearing-in of the new officer Kayon Johnson.

Mayor James called for a motion for a 5-minute recess; CM Dixon moved the motion, and CM Blount seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

Mayor James called for a motion to move out of recess. CM Blount moved the motion, and CM McBryde seconded it. The motion passed 5-0.

B. Patriotic Committee Report | Veterans Day

Ms. Greene gave a brief update on the Veterans Day Ceremony. The next event will be the Pearl Harbor Celebration on December 7th at 11 a.m. The Memorial Day ceremony will be held on Monday, May 26, 2025, at 11 a.m.

6. Approval of Minutes

A. Town Council Meeting Minutes | October 14, 2024

Mayor James called for a motion to approve the October 14, 2024, council minutes. CM Brown moved the motion; CM Blount seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

B. Town Council Closed Session Summary | October 21, 2024

Mayor James called for a motion to approve the October 21, 2024, Closed Session minutes. CM Blount moved the motion; CM McBryde seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

C. Town Council Special Council Meeting Minutes | October 24, 2024

Mayor James called for a motion to approve October 24, 2024, Special Council meeting minutes. CM Blount moved the motion; CM Dixon seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

7. Public Comments

A. Ms. Mc Cutchen, a resident of the Town of Bladensburg, mentioned the Rachel Maddow Show and suggested that people watch it. She is glad to see the work of the Bladensburg team. She also mentioned that she supports the designation of November as Harriet Tubman Month.

B. Mr. Weiss, a resident of the Town of Bladensburg, expressed his concern with the streetlights on Tilden Rd that still have not been fixed by Pepco. He would like the Town to step in and assist with fixing them. The Town Administrator noted that she would email the PEPCO Representative to obtain a status.

8. Unfinished Business

A. Ordinance 04-2025 | An ordinance to enact the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget Process

Mayor James called for a motion to waive the full reading of the Ordinance. CM Dixon moved the motion; CM McBryde seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Town Clerk Watson read the ordinance and announced the budget dates and timeline. Mayor James called for a motion to adopt Ordinance 04-2025. CM Brown moved the motion; CM Dixon seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

9. Financial Business

A. Presentation | ARPA Recap

Treasurer Tinelli provided a brief ARPA recap and detailed a spending list and the remaining funds that have been obligated to projects and activities. He further explained the Town's plan to expend those funds before the end of 2024.

B. Budget Ordinance 05-2025 | A budget ordinance to amend the FY 2025 for the acceptance of the US Department of Justice COPS Grant funding.

Town Clerk Watson read the ordinance for the record. The ordinance accepted the U.S. Department of Justice COPS grant funding and amended the Town of Bladensburg's operating budget for the 2025 fiscal year.

Mayor James called for a motion to adopt Ordinance 05-2025. CM Dixon moved the motion, and CM Blount seconded it. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

C. Budget Ordinance 06-2025 | A budget ordinance to amend the FY 2025 for the acceptance of the Maryland Smart Energy Communities (MSEC) FY2024 Grant Program of \$100,000 (Total Grant \$400,000).

Town Clerk Watson read the ordinance for the record. The ordinance was an acceptance of the MD Smart Energy Community's FY 2024 grant program of up to \$100,000 and amending the operating budget of the Town of Bladensburg for the 2025 fiscal year.

Mayor James called for a motion to adopt Ordinance 06-2025. CM Blount moved the motion, and CM McBryde seconded it. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

D. Budget Ordinance 07-2025 | A budget ordinance to amend the FY 2025 for the acceptance of the 2022 State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program Award for \$22,500.

Town Clerk Watson read the ordinance for the record. The ordinance was the acceptance of the 2022 state, local cybersecurity grant program award for \$22,500 and amending the operating budget of the Town of Bladensburg for the 2025 fiscal year.

Mayor James called for a motion to adopt Ordinance 07-2025. CM Brown moved the motion, and CM Dixon seconded it. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

- E. Budget Ordinance 08-2025** | A budget ordinance to amend FY 2025 for the acceptance of the SFY25 Edward J. Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program Award for \$40,000.

Town Clerk Watson read the ordinance for the record. The ordinance amended the operating budget of the Town of Bladensburg, Maryland, for the 2025 fiscal year, July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, to accept the \$22,500 2022 State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program Award.

Mayor James called for a motion to adopt Ordinance 07-2025. CM McBryde moved the motion, and CM Blount seconded it. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

10. New Business

- A. Resolution 08-2025** | A Resolution of the Town of Bladensburg Acknowledging Harriet Tubman Appreciation Month, November 2024

Town Clerk Watson read the resolution for the record. The resolution acknowledged Harriet Tubman Appreciation Month in the Town of Bladensburg.

Mayor James called for a motion to approve Resolution 08-2025; CM Blount moved the motion, and CM McBryde seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

- B. Resolution 09-2025** | A Resolution Recognizing Municipal Government Works Month for November 2024

Town Clerk Watson read the resolution for the record. The resolution recognized that November is Maryland Municipal Government Works month. This supports the MML initiative to recognize all municipal employees.

Mayor James called for a motion to approve Resolution 09-2025; CM Dixon moved the motion, and CM Blount seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

- C. Contract Approval |** Approval of a contract with ECOSITE LLC to develop engineering and project documents for Prince George's County Stormwater Grants managed by Chesapeake Bay Trust

Town Administrator Bailey-Hedgepeth briefly described the contract. The contract would allow ECOSITE LLC to assist the town in obtaining grants from the Chesapeake Bay Trust and provide engineering services and plans to the Town for green related project for a period of three years.

Mayor James called for a motion to approve the contract; CM Dixon moved it, and CM Blount seconded it. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

- D. Contract Approval |** Council ratification of an addendum of the contract with Modaxo for Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE) due to a change of ownership for the remainder of the term.

Town Administrator Bailey-Hedgepeth provided a summary of the contract with Modaxo, which is an amendment to the current contract. This contract extension is until December 31, 2025. Modaxo purchased the previous contractor, Conduit in 2023, and they have been providing services to the Town without a new contract document. This was passed with the final approval of the Town Attorney for the Town Administrator or the Mayor's signature.

Mayor James called for a motion to approve the contract. CM Brown moved the motion, and CM Blount seconded it. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

- E. Contract Approval |** Approval of a contract with NEW HOLLAND AUTO GROUP or other vendors (using State Contract Bidding Exception) to purchase four (4) replacement vehicles for the Police Department in an amount not to exceed \$187,878.00

Chief Collington provided a brief description of this contract. The contract allows the town to purchase police vehicles from the vendor using the state contract. A portion of the cost will be covered by remaining ARPA funds, and the rest from the general fund and insurance proceeds.

Mayor James called for a motion to approve the contract. CM Dixon moved the motion, and CM Brown seconded it. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

11. Staff Reports (3 minutes each)

Treasurer; Public Safety and Code Enforcement; Town Clerk; Public Works; Town Administrator

A. **Treasurer Monthly Report** | November 2024

Treasurer Tinelli provided a written report that gave a quick snapshot of our financial situation, including a summary of revenues and a summary of the departments.

B. **Public Safety Monthly Report** | November 2024

Chief Collington did not make a verbal since they submitted a written report.,

C. **Code Enforcement Monthly Report** | November 2024

Supervisor Reinhart was not present; Chief Collington read the Code Enforcement Report into the record.

D. **Town Clerk Monthly Report** | November 2024

Town Clerk Watson mentioned that the Clerk's department is currently working on a records retention schedule that hasn't been worked on for a long time. She also mentioned the Board of Supervisors of Elections is finalizing the judge's manual.

E. **Public Works Monthly Report** | November 2024

Supervisor Hall was not present. Town Administrator Bailey-Hedgepeth read the Public Works report into the record.

F. **Town Administrator Monthly Report** | November 2024

Town Administrator Bailey-Hedgepeth mentioned that her written report was submitted, and she also provided written updates for the Bostwick House and information on the flood mitigation project.

12. Mayor and Council Reports

A. Mayor and Council Reports

Council Member Dixon – Ward 1- CM Dixon mentioned that she attended two conferences, the National League of City Conference and the Maryland Municipal League. She also mentioned she attended the PGCMA Meeting and Veterans Day Ceremony. She gave a shout-out to Prince George's County Fire Department and Prince George's County Ambulance Department.

Council Member Brown – Ward 1- CM Brown gave staff another round of applause. She mentioned that she attended Bladensburg Day, and it was a huge success. She also attended the MML conference and the meeting with the legislators.

Council Member McBryde – Ward 2- CM McBryde mentioned that she attended the Halloween event, a food giveaway with the Church of Bethesda. She also attended MML training and NLC training.

Council Member Blount—Ward 2- CM Blount reminded residents that the Senior Gala is December 12th from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. She encouraged residents to visit a senior building or nursing home to give someone else a helping hand.

Mayor James- Mayor James mentioned Bladensburg day and said it was an overall remarkable event. She also attended the Legislative Open House on October 11th. She mentioned that she attended a meeting with Prince George's County Fire Chief Tiffany Green. She also participated in the Growing Green with Pride event on October 19, where they removed trees and planted new ones to beautify Bladensburg. She explained to the residents that there are two bills that are coming up to the Prince George's County Council, the first is a bill regarding re-entry employment. The other is the CB097 2024, which is a bill concerning landlord-tenant regulations and prohibition of rent gouging that recently passed and has been enacted. She also provided a copy of her written report. Lastly, she mentioned that on Thanksgiving morning at 7 am, there will be a Turkey Trot at the Waterfront Park.

13. Adjournment

Mayor James called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. CM Blount moved the motion, and CM Dixon seconded it. The motion passed unanimously 5-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.