



# TOWN OF BLADENSBURG WORK SESSION | JUNE 9, 2025

June 09, 2025, at 5:30 PM

4229 Edmonston RD, Bladensburg, MD 20710

## MINUTES

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Public Access Virtual via live stream of the Town's Facebook and YouTube pages:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoflhVTBeID3c9oH8GYSW0g>

<https://www.facebook.com/Bladensburgmd>

Present: Mayor James, CM Blount, CM Browm, CM McBryde

### 1. Call to Order

Mayor James called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

### 2. Approval of Agenda

Mayor James called for a motion to approve the agenda. Council Member Brown moved to approve the agenda, and Council Member McBryde seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with a vote of 5–0.

### 3. Approval of Minutes

#### A. Town of Bladensburg Budget Review Session Meeting Minutes | May 9, 2025

Mayor James called for a motion to approve the minutes from the May 9th Budget Session.

Council Member McBryde moved to approve the minutes, and Council Member Blount seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with a vote of 5–0.

#### B. Town of Bladensburg Work Session Minutes | May 12, 2025

Mayor James called for a motion to approve the minutes from the May 19th Budget Work Session.

Council Member Brown moved to approve the minutes, and Council Member McBryde seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with a vote of 5–0.

### 4. Financial Business

**A. BUDGET ORDINANCE NO: 01 – 2026 | AN ORDINANCE TO LEVY THE REAL PROPERTY AND PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX RATES AND APPROPRIATE AND ADOPT THE OPERATING BUDGET OF THE MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL OF BLADENSBURG, MARYLAND, FOR THE 2026 FISCAL YEAR OF JULY 1, 2025, THROUGH JUNE 30, 2026. SECOND READING**

Town Administrator Bailey Hedgepeth presented the FY26 budget, which has involved ten meetings since February and significantly reduced the initial \$1.5 million deficit. Key budget changes include an increase in the commercial and industrial property tax rate from \$0.76 to \$0.85. Additional revenue adjustments were made through changes to personal property taxes, business license fees, and insurance deductions. Cable franchise fees decreased by \$20,000 compared to the previous year. Staff also identified cost savings, including reductions in workers' compensation costs and the use of MEA grant funding.

**5. Unfinished Business**

**6. New Business**

**A. COMMUNITY PRESENTATION | Introducing the Bladensburg Community Garden: A Project of ECO City Farms.**

Town Administrator Bailey Hedgepeth shared details regarding Eco City Farms FY 2025 Green Equity Grant from Maryland DNR. The Project will develop 10,000 sq ft community garden at Port Towns Elementary School. The Garden will include 8-10 large plots for experienced gardeners and 5-6 smaller plots for beginners. The Town will collaborate with Eco City Farms on community engagement and plot allocation.

**B. RESOLUTION 30-2025 | A Resolution of support for the Town of Bladensburg and port towns' application to the National Capital Strategic Economic Development Fund (NED) for business assistance through a Façade Improvement Grant program.**

Town Administrator Bailey Hedgepeth shared details regarding Resolution 30-2025, which authorizes the Town to apply for grant funding from the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD). The Town is targeting two funding sources: the Strategic Economic Development Fund and Community Legacy Funds.

- C. RESOLUTION 31-2025** | A Resolution authorizing the declaration of items surplus and the disposition of these items by the Police Department.

Town Administrator Bailey Hedgepeth shared details regarding Resolution 31-2025, which declares certain items as surplus. The Town is working with Ms. Watson to utilize GovDeals, an online auction platform. While the initial focus was on surplus vehicles, the effort is now expanding to include other items.

- D. CONTRACT APPROVAL** | Approval for a Contract with Calvert Ready Mix, an amount not to exceed \$65,115.80 for Sidewalk and Curb Repairs using CDBG PY 50 Funds on Taussig Road.

Town Clerk Watson shared details regarding the sidewalk contract process, noting that the Town received nine submissions. The Town intends to move forward with Calvert Ready Mix for the project.

- E. CONTRACT APPROVAL** | Approval of a contract for repairs to Bostwick House with Colossal Contractors, Inc.- Wash House Stabilization, using MNCPPC Historic Preservation funds.

Town Administrator Bailey Hedgepeth shared details regarding the Bostwick House Wash House stabilization contract, which was awarded to Colossal Contractors in the amount of \$49,500.

- F. CONTRACT APPROVAL** | Approval to enter an agreement for Phase 2 of the 57th Avenue Lighting Project using CDBG PY 49 R Funds, Lighting Maintenance, Inc., in the amount of \$107,950.91.

Town Administrator Bailey Hedgepeth shared details regarding Phase Two street lighting project contract awarded for \$107,950.91. The Project would add six new streetlights along 57th Avenue.

- G. CONTRACT APPROVAL** | Approval to enter into an agreement for Green Mechanics Benefit LLC to construct two green bus shelters using Maryland Energy Administration Funds for up to \$60,000.

Town Administrator Bailey Hedgepeth shared details regarding an agreement with Green Mechanics Benefit LLC for the installation of two green bus shelters. The shelters will feature green roofs, solar panels, and phone charging capabilities. They will be located at the corner of Annapolis Road and Edmonston Road, and in front of Town Hall.

**H. AWARD OF FUNDS** | Council approval of FY 2025 Community grants for \$2,000 to non-profit organizations serving Bladensburg residents.

Town Administrator Bailey Hedgepeth shared that six community organizations were each awarded \$2,000, totaling \$12,000. The recipients are CARECEN, Eco City Farms, GHEP (diaper program), Good Intentions, This Goes Boom, and We Lead by Example.

**I. Discretionary Funds FY 2025** | Town Council Awards – June 2025

The Council discussed the allocation of discretionary funds. Confirmed allocations are: Mayor to We Lead by Example, Council Member Blount to Chloe's Room, and Council Member McBryde to Now Foundation. Council Member Brown will confirm their selection by the 7:15 meeting. Council Member Dixon was unable to attend the meeting due to a flight delay.

## **7. Adjournment**

Mayor James called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Council Member McBryde moved to adjourn, and Council Member Blount seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 6:03 pm.