



# TOWN OF BLADENSBURG COUNCIL MEETING | FEBRUARY 9, 2026

February 09, 2026 at 7:00 PM

4229 Edmonston RD, Bladensburg, MD 20710

## MINUTES

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### 1. Call to Order

Mayor James called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM

### 2. Opening Prayer

CM Dixon led the opening prayer.

### 3. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor James led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### 4. Approval of Agenda

Mayor James called for a motion to approve the agenda.

Council Member Brown made a motion to approve the agenda, which Council Member Dixon seconded. The motion passed unanimously with a vote of 5–0.

### 5. Presentations

#### A. Police Swearing in | Officer Andrew Lowery

Acting Chief Frishkorn led the swearing in of Officer Lowery, and Mayor James led the Oath of Office.

#### B. Patriotic Committee | Renee Green

Ms. Renee Green shared information regarding the Black History Month event that will be held at the Bladensburg community center on Feb 21, 2026. She also mentioned the Bostwick House documentary that she is working on and the Memorial Day ceremony event, which will be held Monday, May 25, 2026. More details to come.

### 6. Approval of Minutes

#### A. Town Council Meeting Minutes | January 12, 2026

Mayor James called for a motion to approve the minutes from the January 12, 2026, Council Session. Council Member Dixon made a motion to approve the minutes, which Council Member Blount seconded. The motion passed unanimously with a vote of 5–0.

## **7. Public Comments**

Susan McCutcheon- Ms. McCutcheon gave kudos to residents on her block for helping each other out and clearing the snow in a timely manner. She also requested a copy of the letter of opposition for the data center. Lastly, she mentioned New Carrollton will have a community meeting on Saturday.

## **8. Financial Business**

### **A. Information Memo | Update on FY 2025 Audit – February 2026**

Mr. Tinelli advised the mayor and council that the audit draft is near completion, with final ARPA expenditure testing wrapping up, and there is an auditor presentation scheduled for the March 9, 2026 Meeting

### **B. Information Memo | FY 2026 Budget Update and FY 2027 Budget Update | February 2026**

Mr. Tinelli shared that the FY27 budget process has begun internally, with line-by-line reviews of the public safety and public works budgets, aiming to deliver a full draft by March. He also mentioned property assessments will be released by February 13, 2026, expected to show increases, positively impacting revenue projections, and that over \$136,000 in new police grant funds have been received this fiscal year, offsetting overtime and equipment costs.

Expenses remain within budget, with compensation slightly over due to health insurance and pension cost increases, but operating expenses trend below budget. Town Treasurer Tinelli expressed cautious optimism amid economic indicators and potential fiscal headwinds, but affirmed that the town is better positioned than last year due to conservative management.

## **9. New Business**

**A. BUDGET ORDINANCE 13 -2026 | Approval and authorization for the Administrator to purchase snow removal equipment to come from Highway User Funds proceeds in an amount not to exceed \$127,201.60 from Rippeon Equipment.**

Mr. Hall explained the need for the equipment purchase and how it would improve the Town's ability to handle certain situations easier. He also emphasized these purchases were planned before recent storms, reflecting strategic foresight rather than reactive spending.

Town Administrator Bailey-Hedgepeth read the Ordinance.

Mayor James called for a motion to approve the Ordinance. Council Member Dixon made a motion to approve, which Council Member Blount seconded. The motion passed unanimously with a vote of 5–0.

- B. BUDGET ORDINANCE 14-2026** | SFY26 BEACON Grant Budget adjustment to accept funding in the amount of \$78,360 to support a collaborative, community-based youth boxing and mentoring program

Town Administrator Bailey-Hedgepeth shared the details regarding Ordinance 14-2026, which would allow the town to enter into a partnership with the Salvation Army for the youth boxing and mentoring program.

The Town Administrator read the Ordinance for the record. Mayor James called for a motion to approve the Ordinance. Council Member Blount made a motion to approve, which Council Member Dixon seconded. The motion passed unanimously with a vote of 5–0.

- C. BUDGET ORDINANCE 15-2026** | FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET AMENDMENT FOR EMERGENCY PURCHASE AND REPAIRS TO THE ROOFTOP HEATING AND AIR CONDITIONING UNIT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$ 35,000.

Town Administrator Bailey-Hedgepeth shared the details of Ordinance 14-2026, which would allow the town to repair the rooftop heating and air conditioning unit.

The Town Administrator read the Ordinance for the record. Mayor James called for a motion to approve the Ordinance. Council Member Blount made a motion to approve, which Council Member McBryde seconded. The motion passed unanimously with a vote of 5–0.

- D. RESOLUTION 08-2026** | A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Town of Bladensburg authorizing the town administrator to execute a contract revision with MissionSquare retirement to amend the town's 457 deferred compensation plan and provide enhanced distribution options for plan participants

Town Administrator Bailey-Hedgepeth shared the details regarding Ordinance 14-2026 which allows the Town to amend our mission square policy and the 457 plan (Employee-only Contributions). This will give employees greater flexibility to take loans and other actions that help them accelerate their retirement savings (e.g., additional contributions for members 60-63).

The Town Administrator read the Resolution for the record. Mayor James called for a motion to approve the Resolution. Council Member Dixon made a motion to approve, which Council Member McBryde seconded. The motion passed unanimously with a vote of 5–0.

- E. RESOLUTION 09-2026** | A resolution of the mayor and council of the town of Bladensburg supporting an application to the FY 2027 Maryland Heritage Areas program for the Bostwick House outdoor activation and site planning grant

Town Administrator Bailey Hedgepeth shared Resolution 09-2026, a resolution for the Maryland Heritage Grant, for which a letter of intent to apply for funds has been submitted, and the grant will support the activation endeavors for the Bostwick House.

The Town Administrator read the Resolution for the record. Mayor James called for a motion to approve the Resolution. Council Member Brown made a motion to approve, which Council Member Dixon seconded. The motion passed unanimously with a vote of 5–0.

- F. RESOLUTION 10-2026** | A Resolution of Support for the Town of Bladensburg’s Application to the Green Streets, Green Jobs, Green Towns (G3) Grant Program

Town Administrator Bailey Hedgepeth shared Resolution 10-2026, a resolution of Support for the Green Streets, Green Jobs, and Green Towns grant program. The Town seeks funding to build improvements that were given planning grants. One includes submitting a grant for 57<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

The Town Administrator read the Resolution for the record. Mayor James called for a motion to approve the Resolution. Council Member Blount made a motion to approve, which Council Member McBryde seconded. The motion passed unanimously with a vote of 5–0.

- G. COUNCIL ACTION** | Law Enforcement Officers Retirement Plan (LEOPS) Review | Update February 2026

Mayor James shared the recap of what was spoken about during the work session regarding LEOPS. The Council decided not to take action on the current proposal and took no vote.

- H. COUNCIL ACTION** | Approval and authorization for the Administrator enter into an agreement with the Mercer Group in an amount not to exceed \$20,400.

Mayor James did a recap of the previous presentation during the work session meeting, which involved the plan to engage Mercer Group to find an interim administrator to assist with the Town Administrator role for a fee of \$20,400.

Mayor James called for a motion to approve the agreement. Council Member Blount made a motion to approve, which Council Member Dixon seconded. The motion passed unanimously with a vote of 5–0.

- I. COUNCIL ACTION** | Approval and authorization for the Administrator to purchase street signs  
Town Administrator Bailey-Hedgepeth and Public Works Supervisor Mr. Hall presented the council with 3 estimates for new street signs and poles.

The council indicated that they preferred the packing that included new poles and more decorative sign holders. This purchase will enhance town beautification and safety within budget constraints. The funding will come from the Highway User Funds.

Mayor James called for a motion to approve the purchase of new signage poles and other related equipment. Council Member Blount made a motion to approve, which Council Member Dixon seconded. The motion passed unanimously with a vote of 5–0.

- J. INFORMATION MEMO** | Data Center Update | February 2026

The Council took no action on this item, since the matter is currently pending at the County level.

- K. INFORMATION MEMO** | Rules of Procedure Virtual Attendance and Consent Agenda – February 2026

Town Administrator Bailey-Hedgepeth proposed updates to the council's rules of procedure to incorporate virtual attendance policies and to establish a consent agenda for routine items to streamline meetings and increase transparency. Virtual attendance would require members to remain visible on camera, except in emergency situations such as building closures or health

restrictions. Consent agenda items include routine contract renewals and resolutions, which can be removed for discussion if desired by council members

**L. INFORMATION MEMO | Change to Section 403 of the Town Charter**

Mayor James announced the council not being interested in making this an action item as of yet.

**M. INFORMATION MEMO | Bostwick House Update –February 2026**

Mayor James mentioned this item during the work session and encouraged residents to watch that meeting for this portion of information.

**10. Staff Reports**

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

**A. Town Treasurer Report | January 2026**

Mr. Tinelli has his report available online and has included a printed copy in the packet. He provided a brief summary of his report regarding the January 2026 financials.

**B. Public Works Department Report | January 2026**

Mr. Hall provided his report regarding the recent snow to the Mayor and Council, and the Council thanked his team for their hard work. He also provided a written report for the record.

**C. Police Department Report | January 2026**

Acting Chief Frishkorn spoke about coordinating Police Department recruitment efforts, including dispatcher vacancies and new officers, as well as planning and conducting DUI refresher training for officers. He also provided a written report for the record.

**D. Code Enforcement Report | January 2026**

Acting Chief Frishkorn provided a report for Code Supervisor Rinehart, and he spoke about the violations issued by the code department. He also reminded residents of cleaning the sidewalk after it snows.

**E. Town Administrator Report | January 2026**

The Town Administrator provided her report to the mayor and council, which included the COG report. She also attached additional reports for information

## **11. Mayor and Council Reports**

Council Member Trina Brown – Ward 1 – CM Brown thanked the Public Works Department and the town staff for the recent snow event and the subsequent pipe burst in Quincy.

Council Member Kalisha Dixon – Ward 1 – CM Dixon thanked the Public Works department for all of their hard work during the snowstorm. She attended the PGCMA and COG meeting. She also attended the CBC and CRF meetings.

Council Member Carrol McBryde – Ward 2 – CM McBryde did not have a report.

Council Member Marilyn Blount – Ward 2 - CM Blount did not have a report; she thanked everyone for their wonderful work that they are doing.

Mayor Takisha James – Mayor provided a written combined December and January report. The December portion included notes from the state of municipalities prepared by MML. She also included the presentation on city fiscal conditions as well as the PGCMA legislative priorities.

## **12. Adjournment**

Mayor James called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Blount moved to adjourn, and Council Member Dixon seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (5-0), and the meeting was adjourned at 8:32 PM.