

COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF BLADENSBURG
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES - DRAFT
June 10, 2024, 7:00 pm

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor James called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

OPENING PRAYER

CM Dixon gave the Opening Prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor James led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor James requested a motion to approve the meeting agenda. Council Member Dixon motioned, and Council Member McBryde seconded the motion. No questions or comments were presented, and the motion passed 5-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor James requested a motion to approve the May 13, 2024 minutes. Council member Brown moved, and Council Member Dixon seconded. Minor typos were mentioned. The motion passed 5-0.

Mayor James requested a motion to approve the May 15, 2024 closed session minutes, Council member Brown moved, Council Member Dixon seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

Mayor James requested a motion to approve the May 20, 2024, closed session minutes; Council member Dixon moved, and Council Member Blount seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- **Susan McCutcheon** – Ms. McCutcheon mentioned the Maglev project is on pause, yet there seems to be action coming soon. She also attended the event on Saturday at Colmar Manor. She mentioned that the community grant is available to non-profits and that she lives on Spring Rd.

- **Mr. Marlon Cruz** – Mr. Cruz represents Council Member Ivy but was present at this meeting as a resident of Bladensburg. He mentioned the launch of his own social impact project this summer through the School of Public Policy at the University of Maryland. He wants to discuss this further with the Council members and the Mayor.

Mayor James called a motion to recess the council meeting to enter into the Constant Yield and Tax Rate Hearing. Council member Blount moved, seconded by Council Member McBryde. There were no comments or questions. The motion passed 5-0.

FINANCIAL BUSINESS

1. FY 2025 Constant Yield Hearing and Tax Rate Hearing

Town Administrator Bailey-Hedgepeth stated that no public comments were received regarding the constant yield or proposed Town tax rate. According to law, the ad was filed and printed twice in the Prince George's Post. It was also posted outside of the Town Hall, online, and attached to the agenda. TA Bailey-Hedgepeth read the Ordinance into the record for the second reading.

Mayor James called a motion to adjourn, which was moved by Council Member Dixon and seconded by Council Member Brown. There were no comments or questions, and the motion passed 5-0.

2. FY 2025 Budget Update:

TA Bailey-Hedgepeth summarized the town's accomplishments and the additional funds received. She also clarified the number of employees we currently have.

Town Treasurer Tinelli summarized the FY 25 budget, which is close to \$13 million, a 6% revenue increase over the current fiscal year. He also presented a 3-year comparison during the meeting.

Mayor James called for a motion to adopt the proposed FY 2025 Budget Ordinance #001-2025, Moved by CM McBryde and seconded by CM Dixon. No comments or questions. Passed 5-0.

3. Distribution of FY 2024 Council Discretionary Funds:

Mayor James asked the council for their decision on using discretionary funds, which are \$500 that each CM receives to help local organizations of their choosing.

- CM McBryde would like to donate her funds to the "Now" foundation.
- CM Blount would like to donate her funds to GATCCS, a domestic violence organization.
- CM Brown would like to donate her funds to MNCPPC to Bladensburg students to attend the summer theatre program.
- CM Dixon would like to donate her funds to Bladensburg Elementary School.
- Mayor James wants to donate her funds to "We Lead by Example, Incorporated."

Mayor James called for a motion to approve the FY 2024 Council discretionary funds distribution. Moved by CM Dixon, seconded by CM Brown. No comments or questions. Passed 5-0.

PRESENTATIONS

- **Patriotic Committee | Renee Greene** – Ms. Greene shared that Memorial Day and the luncheon with the American Legion were successful. She asked the Council to consider increasing the amount donated to the American Legion for this luncheon. She also mentioned the need to mow the grass at Peace Cross, a new flag, and fill the hole in that area that can cause someone to fall. She lastly gave a reminder for the fireworks Independence Day event and the Battle of Bladensburg anniversary event.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Resolution #13-2024

This resolution supports the town's application for the state and local cybersecurity program SLCGP. This grant supports the Town's information technology infrastructure.

Mayor James called for a motion to be approved for resolution #13-2024, moved by Council Member Blount and seconded by Council Member McBryde. There were no comments or questions. The motion passed 5-0.

2. Resolution #14-2024

This is a resolution and support for the town's applications for funding with Department of Community Economic Development grant programs. The Town will submit a grant application for a Commercial Façade Program in late June.

Mayor James called for a motion to be approved for resolution #14-2024, moved by Council Member Dixon and seconded by Council Member Brown. There were no comments or questions. The motion passed 5-0.

3. Approval of Services Contract with Gordian using the State of Maryland Bidding Exception

Support an agreement with Gordian, who was selected by the State of Maryland DGS as the project manager for building-related trades and improvements. This contract will allow us to get vetted contracts for these services.

Mayor James called for a motion to be approved, moved by Council Member Blount and seconded by Council Member McBryde. There were no comments or questions. The motion passed 5-0.

4. Approval of Proposed Town Council Meeting Schedule for July and August 2024

Town staff proposed moving the Monday, July 8, 2024, meeting to Monday, July 15, 2024, and canceling the August 2024 Town Council meeting. The next Town Council meeting will be on Monday, September 9, 2024.

Mayor James called for a motion to be approved, which was moved by Council Member Blount and seconded by Council Member Brown. There were no comments or questions. The motion passed 5-0.

5. Approval of Contract with Lighting Maintenance Incorporated for 57th Avenue Lighting Project using DCHD and Highway User Funds

This item is the approval of a contract with Lighting Maintenance, Inc., for an amount not to exceed \$92,827.47. The project will install ten (10) light poles on 57th Avenue, which will expend \$150,000 of DCHD funds awarded in 2021.

Mayor James called for a motion to be approved, moved by Council Member McBryde and seconded by Council Member Brown. There were no comments or questions. The motion passed 5-0.

6. Approval for a Contract to complete Sidewalk work with Alcoa Concrete & Masonry, an amount not to exceed \$70,096.00, using CBDG Funds from PY 48A

Approval of utilizing CDBG funds from PY 48 not to exceed \$70,096 for sidewalk replacement and addition in Ward 2 near Bladensburg High School.

Mayor James called for a motion to be approved, moved by Council Member Blount and seconded by Council Member McBryde. There were no comments or questions. The motion passed 5-0.

7. America In Bloom (INFORMATION ONLY)

No action was taken on this matter, and a memo was provided by staff.

8. Annual Community Grant Process (INFORMATION ONLY)

No action was taken on this matter, and a memo was provided by staff.

STAFF REPORTS

Treasurer: Town Treasurer Tinelli provided a financial report to review the current budget, received revenues, transfers, and expenditures.

Public Safety—Deputy Chief Dickerson had no updates at this time.

Code Enforcement: Code Enforcement Officer Reinhardt thanked the Chief, Mayor, and council for their assistance with removing the storage behind Bladensburg Elementary School and reminded the residents that a noise ordinance is in effect 24 hours a day.

Public Works: Supervisor Hall mentioned that 50 trees would be planted soon, and six new trash cans were placed. Also, they have finished up the last two crosswalks, led them, and installed them on Newton Street.

Town Administrator: Town Administrator Bailey Hedgepeth submitted a written report. She also thanked Ray Jefferies, the administrative team, Mr. Hall and public works, Chief Collington, Shein Reinhart, Chief Sumner, Aman Trust, Don Leinbaugh, Council, Anacostia Watershed Society, BPD, and Officer Tanksley for all of their help and support during America in Bloom.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Council Member McBryde—Ward 2 - CM McBryde attended the police awards gala at the winery, the Bladensburg Citizens Academy, boat rides with the American and Bloom committee, and the Memorial Day service.

Council Member Brown—Ward 1 - CM Brown attended the Memorial Day recognition ceremonies, PGCMA budget meetings, and the movie in the park. On May 29, 2024, a mental wellness day was held at the Publick Playhouse, she thanked the staff for the very hard work that they put into helping to organize and coordinate the event.

Council Member Blount –Ward 2– CM Blount shared that if you're a business located in Bladensburg, nonprofit, or entrepreneurship if you want to let us know in the community what you're doing or let the town know “what you're doing,” they can form a group and start reaching out to the youth and the community about their organizations. She also mentioned being very excited about the Boys and Girls Club activities that will be occurring in Bladensburg soon.

Council Member Dixon—Ward 1 - CM Dixon sat in on a CFR webinar where they talked about the avian flu breakout and preventing and trying to prevent the next pandemic. She also attended the MML lunch and learn webinar and sat on a CDC municipal webinar. She also attended the CBC webinar to talk about water, the workforce, and preparation for the Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week. She attended the PGCMA meeting, which was on Zoom, and the Memorial Day ceremony. She participated in the Bostwick House tour with the American boom team. She also stopped by Community Day at Brown’s Church as a council member. She attended the Port Town Sector plan and community workshop and attended a Zoom meeting regarding Prince George's village community.

Mayor James—Mayor James mentioned that they had the elections for PGCMA in May, and CM Brown was elected to serve on the board. She also attended meetings regarding the Bladensburg Boys and Girls Club, the Mental Health Day event, and the Movie in the Park.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor James called for a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was moved by Council Member Dixon; Council Member Brown seconded. The motion passed 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:14 pm