



# **TOWN OF BLADENSBURG COUNCIL MEETING | OCTOBER 20, 2025**

October 20, 2025, at 7:00 PM

4229 Edmonston RD, Bladensburg, MD 20710

## **MINUTES**

---

**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>**

### **1. Call to Order**

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

### **2. Opening Prayer**

Council Member 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 with the following amendments: remove I. COUNCIL ACTION | Contract approval for a contract with Fleur de Lis L.L.C. for on-call Commercial Real Estate Advisory Services for signature and execution by Town Administrator and O. INFORMATION ONLY | Law Enforcement Officers Retirement Plan (LEOPS) Review | Update Council Member McBryde made the motion, and Council Member Dixon seconded it. The motion passed unanimously with a vote of 4–0.

### **5. Presentations**

#### **A. Comptroller of Maryland Brooke Lierman Office Presentation | Michael Baryd.**

Michael Baird highlighted a recent report showing the federal government directed about \$150 billion in assets to Maryland, supporting 229,000 federal jobs, with 54,000 in Prince George's

County and Federal job losses from January total 15,100, with projections of up to 25,000 lost by year-end if trends continue at a rate of 2,500 jobs per month, impacting local revenues and employment. Budget reconciliation provisions are expected to reduce Maryland's personal and corporate tax revenues by \$117.5 million in FY 2026 and \$71.4 million in FY 2027, informing state and local budget planning. He offered on a future date to provide additional updates on the fiscal conditions of the state of Maryland.

**B. Recognition of Staff | National Code Compliance and Code Enforcement Appreciation Month and Economic Development Week**

The Code Enforcement Team was recognized for its impactful work during National Code Enforcement Month, with a small but effective team praised for its community relations and enforcement efforts. Supervisor Shaun Rinehart and Kelly Osuji were both present and recognized by the Town Council.

**C. Patriotic Committee Report | October 2025**

**Renee Greene-** Renee Green provided her report and announced Veterans Day observance on November 11th at 11:00 AM. She requested a \$250 check for the American Legion lunch, which is open to all, and noted the upcoming 250th anniversary of the country in 2026, with multiple planned events

**D. Approval of Election Results | The Board of Supervisors of Election (BOSOE)**

Vice Chair Owen Clark of the BOSOE reported a smooth 2025 election cycle, with improved processes, yielding voter tallies such as 182 votes for Mayor Takisha D. James and the re-election of Council Members Trina Brown and Carrol McBryde. Council Members expressed gratitude for staff efforts during the election and ongoing community events, reaffirming their commitment to serving residents and appreciating resident participation.

Mayor James called for a motion to certify the election results for the 2025 election. Council Member Brown made the motion, and Council Member McBryde seconded it. The motion passed unanimously with a vote of 4–0.

**6. Approval of Minutes**

**A. Approval of Regular Council Meeting September 8, 2025**

Mayor James called for a motion to approve the Regular Council Meeting Minutes for September 8, 2025. Council Member McBryde made the motion, and Council Member Brown seconded it. The motion passed unanimously with a vote of 4–0.

## **7. Public Comments**

**Paula Ayers-** Expressed her concerns regarding ongoing safety concerns on 57th Avenue, including obstructed no-parking zones, school traffic congestion, and dangerous van driving on residential streets, and is urging police attention to possible speeding in the area.

**Susan McCutchen** - Ms. McCutchen emphasized the importance of vigilance on local and county issues, warning against opaque processes surrounding the data center project in New Carrollton and comparing it to past opposition efforts on the Maglev project, stressing the need for community awareness.

## **8. Unfinished Business**

### **A. ORDINANCE 07-2026 A and ORDINANCE 07-2026 B | SECOND READING - An Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the Town of Bladensburg to amend penalties, remedies, and fees to change or establish certain fines or fees; and generally, relate to automated traffic enforcement systems.**

Town Administrator Bailey Hedgepeth read Ordinance 07-2026A and 07-2026B into the record. These two ordinances amend the town code, one governing general fees collection and the second addressing fines collected from the motor vehicles section of the code. This is the second reading of the item. The Town Attorney modified these into two ordinances. This ordinance takes effect in 20 days.

Mayor James called for a motion to approve Ordinance 07-2026A, Council Member Dixon moved the motion, Council Member McBryde seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4-0.

Mayor James called for a motion to approve Ordinance 07-2026 B. Council Member Brown moved the motion, and Council Member Dixon seconded it. The motion passed unanimously 4-0.

## **9. New Business**

**A. RESOLUTION 05-2026 | A Resolution of the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Bladensburg, declaring October 2025 as National Code Compliance and Code Enforcement Appreciation Month**

Town Administrator Bailey-Hedgepeth shared this Resolution 05-2026 to celebrate our code enforcement team and the National Code Compliance Month. This item was part of the presentation section of the agenda.

**B. RESOLUTION 06-2026 | A Resolution of Support for Economic Development Week – October 20 – 24, 2025**

Town Administrator Bailey-Hedgepeth shared that this is a Resolution 06- 2026 to support Economic Development Week and why it is essential. This item was part of the presentation section of the agenda.

**C. ORDINANCE 08-2026 | AN ORDINANCE TO ENACT THE FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027 BUDGET PROCESS AND CODIFY THE TOWN COUNCIL AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS.**

Town Treasure Tinelli read the summary for Ordinance 08-2026, which was introduced to codify the FY 2027 budget planning process, establishing public participation and clear timelines, with second reading scheduled for November 10, 2025.

**D. ORDINANCE 09-2026 | FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET AMENDMENT FOR POLICE DEPARTMENT VEHICLE UPFITTING EXPENSES FOR \$77,545.**

Acting Chief Frishkorn spoke regarding Budget Ordinance 09-2026, which is a budget amendment for funds that were allocated in the FY 2025 budget and were not expended. The budget amendment will enable the transfer of those funds into the FY 2026 budget for the outfitting of some vehicles that the council approved in the last budget cycle. Mr. Tinelli read the abbreviated version.

Mayor James called for a motion to approve the Ordinance. Council member McBryde made the motion, and Council Member Brown seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4-0

**E. ORDINANCE 10-2026 | FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET AMENDMENT RELATED TO MNCPPC FY 2026 PROJECT CHARGE PROGRAM FOR COMMUNITY PROGRAMMING EXPENSES FOR \$50,000.**

Town Administrator Bailey-Hedgepeth explained that the town was awarded \$50,000 from Maryland National Capital Park and Planning (Parks Department) for project funds this year. The funds are for services that the town would contract out and then would receive reimbursement for.

Town Administrator Bailey-Hedgepeth read the abbreviated version.

Mayor James called for a motion to approve Ordinance 10-2026. Council Member Dixon moved the motion, and Council Member McBryde seconded it. The motion passed unanimously 4-0.

**F. RESOLUTION 03-2026 | A Resolution of Support for Watershed Assistance Grant Program with the Chesapeake Bay Trust for up to \$100,000 for the design of Watershed restoration projects in the Town of Bladensburg**

Town Administrator Bailey-Hedgepeth shared that Resolution 03-2026 authorizes the Town Administrator to apply for Chesapeake Bay Trust (CPT) funds for the Watershed Assistance grant program in an amount not to exceed \$100,000.

Mayor James called for a motion to approve Resolution 03-2026. Council Member Dixon moved the motion, and Council Member McBryde seconded it. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0

**G. RESOLUTION 04-2026 | CDBG PY 52 Resolution of Council support for the application for funds.**

Town Administrator Bailey-Hedgepeth read the resolution into the record. The Town Clerk shared that this is a Resolution that allows the town to apply for roadway funds and or other infrastructure projects.

Mayor James called for a motion to approve Resolution 04-2026. Council Member Brown moved the motion, and Council Member McBryde seconded it. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

**H. COUNCIL ACTION | Approval of funding request for Ambulance Staffing Stipend | Bladensburg Fire Department – FY 2026**

This item was heard at the work session, and action will be moved to the November 10,2025, meeting.

- I. COUNCIL ACTION | Contract approval for a contract with Fleur de Lis L.L.C. for on-call Commercial Real Estate Advisory Services for signature and execution by Town Administrator.**

This item was heard at the work session, and action will be moved to the November 10,2025, meeting.

- J. COUNCIL ACTION | Approval for a Contract with JH Consulting Inc for Economic Development Consulting Services**

Town administrator Bailey-Hedgepeth requested council approval for a contract with JH Consulting. She provided an overview, pointing out the differences between the other proposals and the services offered.

Mayor James called for a motion to approve the contract for services with JH Consulting for economic development services. Council Member Dixon moved the motion, and Council Member McBryde seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4-0

- K. COUNCIL ACTION | Approval for the Town Administrator to fully execute a contract with Axon Enterprises, Inc. for Taser 10 units, services, recharge cartridges, and other related equipment. The ratification and approval of a 5-year contract in an amount not to exceed \$141,178.14. [FY 2026 cost - \$24,948.38]**

Acting Chief Frishkorn shared details on this item. Currently, all police officers have Taser 7 models and will be moving to Taser 10 models.

Mayor James called for a motion to approve the five-year contract in an amount not to exceed \$141,178.14. Council Member McBryde moved the motion, and Council Member Brown seconded it. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0

- L. COUNCIL ACTION | Approval for a Service Agreement with the BOW Collective for a total amount not to exceed \$10,000.**

Town Administrator Bailey-Hedgepeth requested council approval for this agreement and explained that the BOW Collective is a group of women entrepreneurs who provide

educational services. They will be offering classes to Bladensburg residents, both online and in person at the library, in December 2025.

Mayor James called for a motion to approve the service agreement with the BOW Collective. Council Member Brown moved the motion, and Council Member McBryde seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4-0

**M. COUNCIL ACTION | Police Department Staffing Approvals and updates for COPS Grant Funding**

Town Administrator Bailey-Hedgepeth shared the process of updating the current staffing for the COPS grant, which requires formal council approval. The Town Administrator recommended that the council take the following actions on the record.

- **Deletion and Freezing of the Deputy Chief (Major) Position** – Remove and freeze this position from the staffing pattern due to budget constraints for FY 2026–FY 2028.
- **Freezing of Vacant Positions** – Maintain the freeze on one (1) Police Officer and one (1) Sergeant position that were vacated in Q1 FY 2026.
- **Addition of Five (5) Police Officer Positions (COPS Grant-Funded)** – Add five new Police Officer positions supported by the COPS Grant, as approved by Council in FY 2025, to the staffing pattern for the Town of Bladensburg. These positions are federally funded at approximately 38% through the Department of Justice and will be filled incrementally over fiscal years 2026-2028. The Town Council will approve these changes through the annual budget process or budget adjustments as funds are available.

She further requested that the council formally adopt the organizational chart that was submitted with this item.

Mayor James called for a motion to accept the staff recommendation. Council Member Dixon moved the motion, and Council Member McBryde seconded it. The motion passed unanimously 4-0

**N. COUNCIL ACTION | Approval to Continue Health Insurance Coverage with CareFirst and Broker Services with NFP**

Town Treasure Tinelli explained that the town released an RFP for Health Insurance broker services and sought health insurance quotes for the upcoming year. The Town received a proposal back from our current broker. Staff recommend renewing the contract with the current health insurance and broker services for five years.

Mayor James called for a motion to approve. Council Member Brown moved the motion, and Council Member Dixon seconded it. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0

**O. INFORMATION ONLY | Law Enforcement Officers Retirement Plan (LEOPS) Review | Update October 2025.**

This item was discussed at the work session, and an action or update will be moved to the November 10, 2025, meeting.

**10. Staff Reports (3 minutes each)**

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

**A. Town Treasurer | September 2025** - Town Treasurer Tinelli stated he attended the Maryland Government Finance Officers' quarterly conference, which included the current fiscal outlook. Mr. Tinelli will complete the audit submission by December 31, 2025.

**B. Public Safety and Code Enforcement | September 2025** - Acting Chief Frishkorn gave an update regarding the fatal accident that occurred over the weekend and thanked staff for their hard work during this difficult time. He also mentioned public safety events such as Trunk or Treat, Veterans Day, and Pearl Harbor commemorations.

Code enforcement supervisor Shaun provided an update on activities. He will monitor and enforce the removal of illegal signage on utility poles and enforce the election sign removals after the 30 day period.

**C. Town Clerk | September 2025** - Town Clerk Watson report is available online, and she gave thanks to Ray for all of his help during the election process.

**D. Public Works | September 2025** - Public works has repaired many maintenance items at the Bostwick House that were damaged due to "critter activity". The Town Administrator noted that the department has purchased and installed new blue trash cans, which have been placed throughout the Town.



**E. Town Administrator | September 2025** – Noted that her report is available online and yielded her time.

#### **11. Mayor and Council Reports (3 minutes each)**

**Council Member Trina Brown – Ward 1-** Thanked everyone for their support during the election. She attended several community and neighborhood events, including the Domestic Awareness event held in October, along with the Unity on the Bridge event in Edmondson held in September.

**Council Member Kalisha Dixon – Ward 1-** Congratulated everyone on being re-elected. She attended the COG meeting, the CFR state and local official webinar, the MML Fall conference, the PGCMA meeting, and also noted that she attended the Unity on the Bridge event in the town of Edmondson.

**Council Member Carrol McBryde – Ward 2-** Thanked everyone for being re-elected. She also attended various community meetings, including participating in the Bladensburg day parade, and she also attended the MML Fall conference.

**Mayor Takisha James-** She joined members of the council for the County Executive's Visit to District 47 hosted by Senator Augustine in September. She also attended the MML board retreat and the MML fall conference. She plans to follow up on the flood restoration project and has requested that staff provide an update in November. Lastly, as stated in the press conference today, “our hearts are just so heavy for the family impacted by the accident that occurred on Saturday night, October 18th.”

#### **12. Adjournment**

Mayor James called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Dixon moved to adjourn, and Council Member McBryde seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.