

COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF BLADENSBURG
SPECIAL WORK SESSION MINUTES - DRAFT
April 29, 2024 - 5:30 PM

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Takisha James called the meeting to order at

Council Members McBryde, Brown, Blount, and Dixon were also present, as were Code Supervisor Rinehart, Chief Collington, Treasurer Tinelli, and Town Administrator Michelle Bailey-Hedgepeth.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Takisha James called for the approval of the agenda. Moved by CM Brown, seconded by CM Dixon.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Takisha James called to table the budget minutes of April 23, 2024. Motion passed 5-0

SPECIAL MEETING TOPICS:

FY2025 Budget Workshop – Session 2

- TA Michelle Hedgepeth gave a brief overview of the budget presentation and an outline for the evening presentation.
- Treasurer Tinelli gave an overview of what was discussed in the first session and the upcoming topics. He also clarified the structure of the budget presentation, followed by a review of details regarding various Administrative departmental budgets, highlighting key expenses like consulting costs, audit costs, and office supplies.
- Concerns arose about overtime expenses in the Clerk's budget, professional development budgets, and transportation services' cost-effectiveness, considering policy changes and service radius expansions within operational limitations of the Port Towns Transportation Service.
- Treasurer Tinelli also outlined the public safety budget details, covering staffing allocations across law enforcement, communications personnel, and code enforcement teams. The discussion transitioned from ARPA funds to sustainable financial sources for future viability in operational areas. The need to enhance IT support for public safety vehicles and equipment was emphasized, with considerations for moving towards full-time IT support to prevent downtime efficiently.
- Furthermore, detailed conversations took place on replacing older vehicles in the fleet due to rising maintenance costs. Proposals included establishing a Vehicle Equipment

Replacement Fund (VERF) for long-term fleet management and exploring leasing vs. purchasing options for cost-effective vehicle acquisition. The Council reviewed budget items like insurance, vehicle replacements, grants management, and ShotSpotter licensing costs incurred, with a focus on potential revenue enhancements and using unassigned funds for public safety vehicle replacements.

- The council deliberated on revenue enhancements and constant yield tax adjustments, postponing further discussions due to time constraints. Plans were made for potential advertising based on legislation guidelines if necessary.
- The meeting concluded with considerations for staff professional growth, memorial decorations upgrades, and ensuring adequate tuition reimbursement opportunities, highlighting the importance of sustainable financial planning and operational efficiency in preparing the budget for FY 2025.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor James asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Council member Blount moved, and Council member McBryde seconded. The motion passed 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 7:32 PM.