



TOWN OF BLADENSBURG COUNCIL MEETING | DECEMBER 9, 2024

December 09, 2024, at 7:00 PM

4229 Edmonston RD, Bladensburg, MD 20710

MINUTES

Attendance: Mayor James, CM Brown, CM Blount, CM McBryde, CM Dixon, TA Bailey Hedgepeth, TC Watson, Treasurer Tinelli, Chief Collington, PW Supervisor Hall and CE Supervisor Rinehart.

1. Call to Order

Mayor James called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

Mayor James called for a motion to approve the agenda. CM Brown moved the motion; CM Blount seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

Mayor James announced that the Public Hearing had been rescheduled for another date. Town Administrator Bailey Hedgepeth added that the initial date published was incorrect, and the Hearing would be held on Thursday, December 19, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. Mayor James stated that items 3A and 4A had been moved to the December 19, 2024 Public Hearing.

7. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor James led the pledge of allegiance.

8. Opening Prayer

Council Member Dixon led the prayer.

9. Presentations

Patriotic Committee | December 2024

Patriotic Committee Coordinator Renee Green stated The Pearl Harbor Ceremony was held last Saturday, December 7, 2024, at 11:00 am. She also mentioned that Ethan Mendoza is working on his Eagle Scout project of restoring the Pearl Harbor Memorial. She added the next event will be

on Memorial Day on Monday, May 26, 2025, at 11:00 am. They will begin planning the 100th anniversary of the Peace Cross soon.

10. Approval of Minutes

Town Council Minutes | November 18, 2024

Mayor James called for a motion to approve the November 18, 2024, Minutes. CM Dixon moved the motion; CM McBryde seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

11. Public Comments

Ms. McCutchen expressed ongoing opposition to the Maglev Project, highlighting community concerns and gathering news related to its development. She also shared her concern regarding trees being planted at the Save a Lot shopping center.

12. Financial Business

A. ORDINANCE NO. 04-2025 | AN ORDINANCE TO ENACT THE FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026 BUDGET PROCESS AND CODIFY THE TOWN COUNCIL AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

Mayor James called for a motion for Town Clerk Watson to read the abbreviated portion of the Ordinance, CM Brown moved the motion, CM McBryde seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

Town Clerk Watson read the abbreviated version of the Ordinance.

Mayor James called for a motion to pass the Ordinance. CM Brown moved the motion, and CM Blount seconded it. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

13. New Business

A. ORDINANCE NO. 09-2025 | AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF BLADENSBURG ESTABLISHING A FRAMEWORK FOR THE PROPER CARE, MAINTENANCE, AND MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC TREES WITHIN THE TOWN OF BLADENSBURG.

Mayor James called for a motion for Town Clerk Watson to read the abbreviated version of the Ordinance. CM Brown moved the motion; CM McBryde seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

Town Clerk Watson read the abbreviated version of the Ordinance.

Mayor James called for a motion to pass the Ordinance. CM Dixon moved the motion, and CM McBryde seconded it. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

B. Resolution 10-2025 | A Resolution to Adopt the Tree City USA Principles and Tree Care Standards in the Town of Bladensburg

Town Administrator Bailey-Hedgepeth and Public Works Supervisor Hall shared details regarding the benefits and opportunities that the Public Works Department would attain by adopting this resolution. Town Clerk Watson read the Resolution into the record.

Mayor James called for a motion to pass the Resolution. CM Blount moved the motion, and CM McBryde seconded it. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

C. Resolution 11-2025 | A Resolution of Support for the Clean Energy for Local Governments (CELG) FY25 Application for Medium and Heavy-Duty Zero-Emission Vehicles

Town Administrator Bailey-Hedgepeth explained the resolution to the Council. Replacing the Port Towns bus would provide reliable and sustainable transportation for seniors and disabled residents. This would also involve collaborating with neighboring Port Towns. Town Clerk Watson read the resolution in the record.

Mayor James called for a motion to approve the Resolution. CM Brown moved the motion, and CM Blount seconded it. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

D. Resolution 12-2025 | A RESOLUTION APPOINTING COUNCIL MEMBERS AND STAFF TO THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (COG) TO THE COG BOARDS AND POLICY COMMITTEES FOR THE 2025 CALENDAR YEAR.

Town Administrator Bailey-Hedgepeth explained the committees up for renewal, the appointed members, and their alternates. Town Clerk Watson read the resolution.

Mayor James called for a motion to approve the Resolution. CM Dixon moved the motion, and CM McBryde seconded it. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

14. Staff Reports

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

A. Town Treasurer Report | December 2024

Town Treasurer Tinelli shared an update on the revenues and expenses for the year and mentioned that the audit is still being processed. He also mentioned he attended several conferences.

B. Police Department Report | December 2024

Chief Collington mentioned that this month they received over 800 calls. He added that his report could be found online. He also shared various recent events.

Code Enforcement Supervisor Rinehart explained to all the residents the importance of having a fire alarm and fire extinguisher in the home. He also thanked Chief Collington, the Mayor, and staff for their support and mentioned attending several meetings this past month.

Chief Sumner approached the Council and shared the current staffing adjustments that are being implemented in the Fire Department due to County budget cuts and reductions in services.

C. Town Clerk Report | December 2024

Town Clerk Watson forgone her report; she mentioned it could be found online.

D. Public Works Department Report | December 2024

Public Works Supervisor Hall shared that they have collected 18-20 tons of leaves since mid-November. He also shared an update on the 57th Ave lighting project, which is also underway. He further noted that the bridge work is also moving along and will be completed shortly. He also thanked the staff who worked on Veterans Day.

E. Town Administrator Report | December 2024

Town Administrator Bailey-Hedgepeth thanked Ms. Watson for assisting with both holiday food distributions in November and December. She thanked her for collaborating with various community partners to install the Community Cupboard behind Town Hall on December 3, 2024. She also mentioned that the Bostwick House project continues to move forward. She also submitted a written report that is available on the Town's website.

15. Mayor and Council Reports (3 minutes each)

Council Member Trina Brown – Ward 1- CM Brown thanked the staff for their hard work and dedication over the last few weeks. She also mentioned the meetings, events, and conferences that she attended. She wished everyone Happy Holidays.

Council Member Kalisha Dixon—Ward 1- CM Dixon thanked staff and wished everyone Happy Holidays. She mentioned attending many events and meetings this month.

Council Member Carrol McBryde—Ward 2- CM McBryde noted that she also attended many events this month. She thanked the Police Department and code enforcement for their assistance and wished everyone a safe Holiday.

Council Member Marilyn Blount—Ward 2- CM Blount thanked the town staff for everything they do. She also suggested that residents check on our senior residents during the Holidays.

Mayor Takisha James—Mayor James mentioned that she attended the MML Conference and the Veterans Day Ceremony. She also mentioned attending a volunteer hearing regarding the Fire Department. She thanked staff for a fantastic year and the council and residents for their support. The mayor also submitted a full report, which is available on the Town's website.

16. Adjournment

Mayor James called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. CM Dixon moved the motion, and CM Blount seconded it. The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 p.m.