



TOWN COUNCIL MEETING | JULY 14, 2025

July 14, 2025, at 7:15 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 7:15 pm.

2. Opening Prayer

Council Member McBryde 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 McBryde made the motion, and Council Member Brown seconded it. The motion passed unanimously with a vote of 4–0.

5. Presentations

A. Patriotic Committee | Renee Green

Town Clerk Watson provided an update on the Peace Cross 100th Anniversary Celebration, noting an attendance of approximately 40–45 people despite the hot weather. She also reported that the Independence Day Celebration was a significant success, with attendance nearly doubling compared to previous years. Town Clerk Watson recognized Mr. Jeffries for his outstanding efforts in planning and coordinating both events.

6. Approval of Minutes

A. Approval of Regular Council Meeting June 9, 2025

Mayor James called for a motion to approve the minutes from the June 9th Town Council meeting.

Council Member McBryde moved to approve the minutes, and Council Member Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with a vote of 4–0.

B. Approval of Special Town Council Meeting June 9, 2025

Mayor James called for a motion to approve the minutes of the June 9th Special Council Meeting. Council Member Blount moved to approve the minutes, and Council Member McBryde seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with a vote of 4–0.

7. Public Comments

Ms. McCutchen announced a rally scheduled for July 17th at 5:00 p.m. to commemorate the Fifth Anniversary of the passing of Congressman John Lewis, in conjunction with the National Day of Service. She also discussed the MAGLEV train project, noting expectations related to the Environmental Impact Statement. Additionally, Ms. McCutchen expressed her appreciation for the town's forward-looking initiatives, including its America in Bloom designation and ongoing annexation efforts.

8. Financial Business

9. New Business

- A. Ordinance 01-2026** | A budget ordinance to amend the FY 2026 for the acceptance of the Chesapeake Bay Trust's Green Streets, Green Jobs, Green Towns (G3) Program (Award #26132) for \$35,000

Town Administrator Bailey-Hedgepeth provided an overview of Ordinance 01-2026, which supports the Green Jobs/Streets Project.

Mayor James called for a motion to approve the ordinance. Council Member Blount moved to approve, and Council Member Brown seconded the motion. The ordinance was approved unanimously with a vote of 4–0.

- B. Ordinance 02-2026** | A budget ordinance to amend the FY 2026 for the acceptance of the FY25 Community Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment Grant Program Grant No. 2025-04-518S5 in an amount not to exceed: \$50,000

Town Administrator Bailey-Hedgepeth provided an overview of Ordinance 02-2026, authorizing the acceptance of funds from the FY25 Community Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment Grant Program, Grant No. 2025-04-518S5, in an amount not to exceed \$50,000.

Mayor James called for a motion to approve the ordinance. Council Member McBryde moved to approve, and Council Member Brown seconded the motion. The ordinance was approved unanimously with a vote of 4–0.

- C. Emergency Ordinance 03-2026** | Approval of a budget adjustment and ratification of the Administrator's purchase of a Commercial Paint Sprayer for curb maintenance to come from Highway User Funds proceeds in an amount not to exceed \$10,500.

Town Administrator Bailey-Hedgepeth provided an overview of Ordinance 03-2026, authorizing the acceptance of funds for the purchase of a commercial paint sprayer. Following the presentation, the Town Clerk read the ordinance aloud.

Mayor James called for a motion to approve the ordinance. Council Member Blount moved to approve, and Council Member McBryde seconded the motion. The ordinance was approved unanimously with a vote of 4–0.

- D. Ordinance 04-2026** | A budget ordinance to amend the FY 2026 for the acceptance of the US Department of Justice Bladensburg Warrant Reduction Program for \$30,000.

Town Administrator Bailey-Hedgepeth provided an overview of Ordinance 04-2026, authorizing a budget adjustment for the Justice Warrant Reduction Program. Deputy Chief Dickerson gave a brief overview of the program. Following the presentation, Town Clerk Watson read the ordinance aloud.

Mayor James called for a motion to approve the ordinance. Council Member Blount moved to approve, and Council Member Brown seconded the motion. The ordinance was approved unanimously with a vote of 4–0.

- E. Resolution 01-2026** | A Resolution authorizing staff to seek technical assistance from the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DCHD) for potential financing and development of a new Town Hall Facility.

Town Administrator Bailey-Hedgepeth provided an overview of Resolution 01-2026, requesting permission to seek assistance from the state for the Town Hall Project. Following the presentation, Town Clerk Watson read the resolution aloud.

Mayor James then called for a motion to approve the resolution. Council Member McBryde moved to approve, and Council Member Blount seconded the motion. The resolution was approved unanimously with a vote of 4–0.

- F. Contract Approval |** Approval of an agreement with Osprey Development, LLC, as approved by the Town Attorney in its final form. (Development: Hamlet Woods II)

Town Administrator Bailey-Hedgepeth provided an overview of the contract with Osprey Development for the Hamlet Woods project.

Mayor James called for a motion to approve the contract. Council Member Blount moved to approve, and Council Member McBryde seconded the motion. The contract was approved unanimously with a vote of 4–0.

- G. Contract Approval |** Approval of a software agreement with Martus Software for Budgeting Software in an amount not to exceed \$11,240.00

Town Treasurer Tinelli provided an overview of the software agreement with Martus Software for budgeting purposes.

Mayor James called for a motion to approve the agreement. Council Member Blount moved to approve, and Council Member Brown seconded the motion. The agreement was approved unanimously with a vote of 4–0.

- H. State and Local Legislative Update |** Legislative Summary Report from LA Perez Consulting for Session 2025 and Discussion on Legislative Priorities for FY 2026

Town Administrator Bailey Hedgepeth provided a brief overview of the presentation given by LA Perez Consulting during the Work Session meeting. It was noted that 303,075 bills were introduced, with 805 passed and 25 vetoed. The focus areas included public safety, housing, veteran services, and infrastructure. Additionally, town legislative priorities for FY26 are being drafted, which include Maglev opposition, annexation, economic development, and public safety initiatives.

- I. Sponsorship of Events |** July 2025 Update and Report (Information Only)

Town Clerk Watson presented the Sponsorship Program brochure, which outlines a partnership opportunity with businesses to support event funding and programming expansion.

J. America in Bloom Update | July 2025 (Information Only)

Town Administrator Bailey Hedgepeth shared details regarding the upcoming visit of America in Bloom judges on July 17th and 18th for the town's assessment. The visit will include tours of Waterfront Park Cruise, Eco City Farms, Bostwick House, and an economic development tour. Coordination has taken place with neighboring Port towns, Colmar Manor and Edmondson, who also participate in the program. Additionally, the Town became Tree City certified this year, reflecting significant improvements in signage and green areas.

K. United States 250th Anniversary Update | July 2025 (Information Only)

Town Administrator Bailey Hedgepeth shared details regarding the planning underway for the Town's 250th anniversary celebration in July 2026, including a \$500 state grant received for educational programming. Mayor James provided an update on the development of the Citizen Civics Academy curriculum, which is in progress as a 4- to 6-week course designed to educate the community about local government.

L. Council Action | Approval of August 2025 Council Recess – Cancellation of Town Meetings on August 11, 2025

Mayor James called for a motion to approve the August recess. Council Member Brown moved to approve, and Council Member McBryde seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with a vote of 4–0.

10. Staff Reports

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

A. Town Treasurer- The fiscal year is in the process of closing, with a 60-day timeline for submitting vendor invoices and finalizing state revenue by August 31. Additionally, he attended the MML conference and assisted with the Bladensburg booth.

B. Public Safety and Code Enforcement- Deputy Chief Dickerson shared details about the upcoming events. The Junior Police Academy is scheduled for July 28–31 and will be held as a four-day summer camp featuring law enforcement-related programming. National Night Out is scheduled for August 5 at Harrington Park and will include food, vendors, and opportunities for community engagement.

Mr. Rinehart shared that the Town will host the CEZOA Conference on July 18.

C. Town Clerk – She shared information about the Reimagine Recreation community events scheduled for the 15th and 22nd. She also attended the MML Conference. The remainder of her report is available online.

D. Public Works - Report is available online.

E. Town Administrator - Report is available online.

11. Mayor and Council Reports

Council Member Trina Brown – Ward 1- She reported that the Fourth of July event was a success. The quarterly community meeting is scheduled for this upcoming Saturday. She also attended the MML Conference and concluded by sharing historical facts about the Peace Cross.

Council Member Carrol McBryde – Ward 2 - She attended the Peace Cross ceremony, the Citizens Academy graduation, and the MML Conference.

Council Member Marilyn Blount – Ward 2- She attended the MML Conference and noted that the senior gathering is planned for September, with the date to be announced at a later time.

Mayor Takisha James - shared that she attended the Prince George's County Gateway Development Authority meeting, which focused on the Port Towns Arts District Comprehensive Plan. She also highlighted the MML Conference keynote address by Tim Shriver, who emphasized the importance of dignity and treating people with respect across political differences.

12. Adjournment

Mayor James called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Blount moved to adjourn, and Council Member McBryde seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m.