



TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL BUDGET AND WORK SESSION MEETING #1 | MARCH 2, 2026

March 02, 2026 at 5:30 PM

4229 Edmonston RD, Bladensburg, MD 20710

MINUTES

1. Call to Order –

Mayor James called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.

2. Approval of Agenda –

Mayor James called for a motion to approve the agenda.

Council Member McBryde made a motion to approve the agenda, which Council Member Brown seconded. The motion passed unanimously with a vote of 5–0.

3. New Business

A. FY 2025 Audit | Update and Review

Treasurer Tinelli introduced Eva Webb from LSWG to present the FY 2025 audit. The audit presentation revealed that the town received a clean, unmodified opinion with total assets of \$8.3 million and net position of \$3.4 million. However, the town faced significant financial challenges, including a \$2.6 million net loss in FY 2025 primarily due to shortfalls from \$1.5M in automated traffic enforcement revenue, additional pension liabilities, and non-receipts of expenses associated with the bond bills. The unrestricted net position dropped to just \$19,000, and fund the balance decreased from \$6.7 million to \$3.4 million over the year. A major concern was the pension liability, which increased \$1.4M to a total of \$4.2 million with annual contributions expected to reach the mid-to-high hundreds of thousands, representing over 14% of payroll next fiscal year.

B. FY 2027 Budget Update | Mayor and Council and Events

Treasurer Tinelli discussed the FY 2027 budget with emphasis on the Mayor and Council department budget. Compensation is expected to increase 9% from increases in pension costs and health insurance expenses. The council approved keeping business development and travel budgets flat, and reduced employee recognition from \$15,000 to \$10,000 in order

to fund compensation increases. The Mayor and Council discretionary funds have been allocated \$500 per member for a total of \$2,500. This amount has not changed in over 15 years so this was increased to \$1,000 per member to have a more meaningful impact. We will continue to allocate \$30,000 to the fire department with an additional \$20,000 for an apprentice program funded through Speed Camera Program under the Public Safety budget. The council also discussed scholarships and community grants, recommending increasing the scholarships from \$10,000 to \$12,000 and food assistance from \$10,000 to \$15,000. Community events budget was increased from \$60,000 to \$65,000.

C. Strategic Plan 2016-2021 | Closeout 2026

Town Administrator Bailey-Hedgepeth and Treasurer Tinelli went over the Strategic Plan Closeout and Next Steps. The council reviewed the closeout of the 2016-2021 strategic plan, which documented accomplishments in economic development, public safety, infrastructure, and partnerships, with a recommendation to adopt the closure on March 9 and begin planning the next strategic plan through 2035 with community engagement.

4. 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 motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:09pm.