

COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF BLADENSBURG
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES - DRAFT
July 15, 2024, 7:00 pm

CALL TO ORDER

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

OPENING PRAYER

Council Member Dixon gave the Opening Prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor James led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor James requested a motion to approve the meeting agenda. Council Member Dixon motioned, and Council Member McBryde seconded the motion. No questions or comments were presented, and the motion passed 5-0.

PRESENTATIONS

- **Swearing-in of New Police Officer-Chief Collington-** Chief Collington and Major James swore in Jerry McCauley as a new police officer.
- **Recognition-** Mayor James gave recognition to Ms. Ruby White, a cherished resident of the town who has been in Bladensburg for 15 years and is now moving to California, for gratitude for being a beloved, compassionate, and kind resident in Bladensburg.
- **Patriotic Committee | Renee Greene**—Ms. Greene shared that the fireworks celebration on July 5 was a huge success and that the 210th anniversary of the Battle of Bladensburg ceremony will be on Saturday, August 24, at 11:00 at the Battle of Bladensburg Memorial.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor James requested a motion to approve the June 10, 2024, minutes. Council member Brown moved, and Council Member McBryde seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

Major James requested a motion to approve the June 20, 2024, Closed Session Summary. Council member Dixon moved, and Council Member McBryde seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- **Bladensburg Volunteer Fire Department:** Mr. Gary Katz summarized the Fire Department’s call for the year's first six months. They responded to 2203 calls; he also mentioned the total work hours that are usually the minimum for each worker. As well as the length of time the ambulance is in use.

FINANCIAL BUSINESS

1. **Ordinance NO.01-2025 | Public Works Insurance Claim \$200,000.00 for expenses LGIT**

Town Administrator Bailey-Hedgepeth stated that this is an emergency ordinance due to a recent vehicle accident striking the Public Works department building. Pictures were shared to show where the damage was made from the outside view, mentioning that the building is currently condemned. Town Administrator Bailey-Hedgepeth asked the council to approve up to \$200,000, which would be reimbursed by the Town's insurer, LGIT, to cover the repairs needed and the rental of mobile units for office space and storage.

Mayor James called for a motion to adopt Ordinance 01-2025, moved by Council Member Dixon and seconded by Council Member Blount. There were no comments or questions, and the motion passed 5-0.

2. **Approval of a contract with LSWG for town audit services for three years with two one-year extensions:**

TA Bailey-Hedgepeth and Mr. Tinelli discussed the Request for Proposals (RFP) process 6-7, and the initial responses. However, of the prospective firms, only three firms sent responses, one response stating that they would not be able to take on clients with a June 30 Fiscal year. LSWG provided the lowest data for their base services of the two responses.

Mayor James called for a motion to authorize staff to proceed with a contract with LSWG for town audit services, moved by Council Member McBryde and seconded by Council Member Brown. There were no comments or questions, and the motion passed 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Resolution #01-2025 | A Resolution to support the Bladensburg Volunteer Fire Department**

Town of Bladensburg resolution of support for the Bladensburg Fire Department and other volunteer fire departments throughout Prince Georges County.

Mayor James called for a motion to approve resolution #01-2025, moved by Council Member Dixon and seconded by Council Member McBryde. There were no comments or questions. The motion passed 5-0.

2. **A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Aman Memorial Trust (Aman Trust) and the Town of Bladensburg (Town) regarding the Bostwick House Request for Proposal for Architectural and Engineering Services and payments to Architects.**

This is an MOU with Aman Trust for an agreement on project management assistance with Encore Sustainable Architects. The Town has worked collaboratively with Aman Trust on these projects, and the MOU will allow the Town to execute this project immediately.

Mayor James called for a motion to be approved, moved by Council Member Blount, and seconded by Council Member McBryde. There were no comments or questions. The motion passed 5-0.

3. Approval of a Contract with WMG Historic Restoration, LLC for Bostwick Historic Window Restoration in an amount not to exceed \$82,913.

This item will allow for the repair and glass of the windows in the front portion of the Bostwick House, and staff will explore an option to protect the glass by covering the lower-level windows with artwork to preserve it from vandalism, which occurred last fall.

Mayor James called for a motion to be approved, moved by Council Member Brown and seconded by Council Member McBryde. There were no comments or questions. The motion passed 5-0.

4. Approval of a Contract with Pronto Paving for Parking Lot Asphalt Replacement at 4217 Edmonston Road—Annex Lot in an amount not to exceed \$12,800.00:

This is a contract with Pronto Paving for the Public Safety Annex. Two bids were received, and both were very close in price. This was the lowest responsive and responsible bidder in an amount not exceeding \$12,800. The PW Supervisor Hall recommended the vendor for asphalt replacement.

Mayor James called for a motion to be approved, which was moved by Council Member Blount and seconded by Council Member Brown. There were no comments or questions. The motion passed 5-0.

5. Approval of a Contract with RedSpeed for a Red-Light Camera Program

Chief Collington provided an overview of the contract. He noted that the Town found that their proposal met its needs and that the pricing structure was favorable to the town.

Mayor James called for a motion to be approved, moved by Council Member Dixon and seconded by Council Member Brown. There were no comments or questions. The motion passed 5-0.

6. Approval and Award of the Community Grant for FY 2024

Staff recommended a grant for We by Example and Eco City Farm for \$2,000.00 each. A total of three applications were submitted. The third applicant provided the Royalty Institute, which proposed offering a mentoring program at the Bladensburg Recreation. Town staff requested some additional information on their programming and services. This item will be brought back to the Council at the September Meeting. The Council inquired about the length of the application process and the community outreach.

Mayor James called for a motion to be approved, moved by Council Member Dixon and seconded by Council Member Blount. There were no comments or questions. The motion passed 5-0.

7. Legislative Update

The Council accepted the previous report made by LA Perez Consulting during the work session.

STAFF REPORTS

Treasurer: Town Treasurer Tinelli mentioned that the book must remain open for the next 45-60 days because of open revenues. Therefore, a closeout report was not submitted. He also attended MML from Sunday to Wednesday, and right after that, the MD government finance office association held their conference from Wednesday to Friday, which he also attended.

Public Safety: Chief Collington submitted a comprehensive crime stat report for January-June and discussed the details in that report. This report also includes updates on community activities and actions taken by the Police Department.

Code Enforcement: Code Enforcement Officer Reinhardt spoke about their busy time frame with business license renewals. He also attended MML. He also wanted to ask residents to check on their neighbors, especially the elderly, with the heat that we have had recently.

Town Administrator: Town Administrator Bailey Hedgepeth provided an overview of the Public Works report and Mr. Hall and his team's accomplishments during June. She said she appreciates his team's hard work on beautification projects. TA Bailey-Hedgepeth submitted her report electronically, which was posted on the Town website.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Council Member Brown—Ward 1 - CM Brown attended the 100th Anniversary Edmonston Day parade (June 2, 2024), Juneteenth, MML food giveaway, Newton Green Residents meeting, and the Port Towns Quarterly meeting. She also mentioned that Ward 1 community meetings, including public safety updates, will resume starting in September.

Council Member Dixon—Ward 1 - CM Dixon congratulated Shaun for his service of 20 years. She also mentioned that she met with Mayor James regarding the Boys' and Girls' Club regarding youth sports, which the Town is trying to offer to Bladensburg's Youth. She attended the Port Town Sector plan meeting and American in Bloom at Bostwick House. She also attended the Prince George's County Fire Department meeting, the MML conference, and the District 47 Third annual health fair. She briefly met with board member Shayla Adams, Stratford, regarding Bladensburg Elementary School. She also met with resident Marlon Cruz, who is trying to work on a project regarding Latino Civic Engagement. Lastly, she mentioned that there will be a Domestic Awareness event in October.

Council Member McBryde—Ward 2 - CM McBryde Thanked Sean for all his services. She attended a COG online meeting, where Mayor James was the speaker. She sponsored a volunteer appreciation event for the residents at Parkview. She attended the Bladensburg Fireworks, Juneteenth, and Green Team and participated in a prayer breakfast that Elder Rouse held for the seniors.

Council Member Blount –Ward 2– CM Blount said that seniors in Ward 1 can contact Ray to get event information so no one is left out about what is going on.

Mayor James—Mayor James attended the Port Towns sector plan workshop and community event. She also attended the MML leadership lunch in early June. She also joined Miss Margaret Hubbard on the WCOG Farm Committee about urban farming. She also mentioned that she celebrated the 50th High School Reunion with the class of 1974 for Bladensburg High School. She gave a shout-out to Mr. Colt or Doctor Clifton Colt, one of the event's main organizers. Mayor James also thanked Coach Jones from Bladensburg High School, who permitted the town to take the alumni through the school.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor James called for a motion to adjourn the meeting, which Council Member Dixon moved; Council Member McBryde seconded. The motion passed 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:14 pm