



TOWN OF BLADENSBURG COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING | FEBRUARY 9, 2026

February 09, 2026 at 5:30 PM

4229 Edmonston RD, Bladensburg, MD 20710

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Mayor James called the meeting to order at 5:32 PM.

2. Approval of Agenda

Mayor James called for a motion to approve the agenda.

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

3. Approval of Minutes

A. Town Council Work Session Meeting Minutes | January 12, 2026

Mayor James called for a motion to approve the minutes from the January 12, 2026 Work Session. Council Member Brown made a motion to approve the minutes, which Council Member Dixon seconded. The motion passed unanimously, 5–0.

4. Financial Business

A. Information Memo | FY 2026 Budget Update and FY 2027 Budget Update | February 2026 Minutes)

Treasurer Tinelli shared a presentation showing where the town is in the budget and what is next to prepare for the FY 27 budget. Revenues were discussed in detail, and a recommendation regarding colas and merits for employees was made.

B. Information Memo | Update on FY 2025 Audit – February 2026

Treasurer Tinelli will have a draft for the audit ready for the council in the March meeting. He noted that he had been working on this matter diligently with the Auditor.

5. New Business

A. **COUNCIL ACTION** | Law Enforcement Officers Retirement Plan (LEOPS) Review | Update February 2026 (15 Minutes)

The council weighed the benefits and financial challenges of switching police officers to LEOPS, concluding it is not currently affordable despite clear operational advantages.

Acting Chief Frishkorn highlighted reduced overtime costs, lower workers' compensation claims, and improved officer wellness with younger retirements.

Council consensus was to delay LEOPS adoption, citing insufficient time to secure sustainable funding and incomplete legal clarity, with plans to revisit the option in future budget cycles.

B. **COUNCIL ACTION** | Approval and authorization for the Administrator to purchase street signs

Town Administrator Bailey-Hedgepeth and Public Works Supervisor Mr. Hall presented the council with 3 estimates for new street signs and poles.

The council indicated that they preferred the packing that included new poles and more decorative sign holders. This purchase will enhance town beautification and safety within budget constraints. The funding will come from the Highway User Funds.

C. **INFORMATION MEMO** | Data Center Update | February 2026

Mayor James asked the council to support with a letter of opposition to the data center project.

D. **INFORMATION MEMO** | Bostwick House Update –February 2026

Town Administrator Bailey-Hedgepeth introduced Mr. Sower and Mr. Parker and presented a presentation to the mayor and council. A clear, phased plan is now in place to activate and preserve Bostwick House, focusing on community engagement and fundraising to support long-term restoration. Activation will proceed in phases, starting with cleaning and activating the grounds to build community awareness and momentum. Financial needs are significant, with an estimated minimum of \$5 million required for full project realization

E. **COUNCIL ACTION** | Approval and authorization for the Administrator enter into an agreement with the Mercer Group in an amount not to exceed \$20,400.

Mayor James spoke about the plan to engage Mercer Group to find an interim administrator to assist with the Town Administrator role once our current Town Administrator leaves for her next endeavor. She noted that the Town sought other firms, but the Mercer Group was the only firm to respond to their inquiries. This will be voted on at the 7 pm meeting.

- F. **RESOLUTION 08-2026** | A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Town of Bladensburg authorizing the town administrator to execute a contract revision with MissionSquare retirement to amend the town's 457 deferred compensation plan and provide enhanced distribution options for plan participants

Town Administrator Bailey Hedgepeth shared Resolution 08-2026, which allows the Town to amend our mission square policy and the 457 plan (Employee-only Contributions). This will give employees greater flexibility to take loans and other actions that help them accelerate their retirement savings (e.g., additional contributions for members 60-63).

- G. **RESOLUTION 09-2026** | A resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Town of Bladensburg supporting an application to the FY 2027 Maryland Heritage Areas program for the Bostwick House outdoor activation and site planning grant

Town Administrator Bailey Hedgepeth shared Resolution 09-2026, a resolution for the Maryland Heritage Grant, for which a letter of intent to apply for funds has been submitted, and the grant will support the activation endeavors for the Bostwick House.

- H. **RESOLUTION 10-2026** | A Resolution of Support for the Town of Bladensburg's Application to the Green Streets, Green Jobs, Green Towns (G3) Grant Program

Town Administrator Bailey Hedgepeth shared Resolution 10-2026, a resolution of Support for the Green Streets, Green Jobs, and Green Towns grant program. The Town seeks funding to build improvements that were given planning grants. One includes submitting a grant for 57th Avenue.

- I. **BUDGET ORDINANCE 13 -2026** | Approval and authorization for the Administrator to purchase a Snow Removal equipment to come from Highway User Funds proceeds in an amount not to exceed \$127,201.60 from Rippeon Equipment.

The Council did not have a chance to discuss this matter at the work session, and it will be heard at the 7 PM meeting.

- J. BUDGET ORDINANCE 14-2026** | SFY26 BEACON Grant Budget adjustment to accept funding in the amount of \$78,360 to support a collaborative, community-based youth boxing and mentoring program.

The Council did not have a chance to discuss this matter at the work session, and it will be heard at the 7 PM meeting.

- K. BUDGET ORDINANCE 15-2026** | FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET AMENDMENT FOR EMERGENCY PURCHASE AND REPAIRS TO THE ROOFTOP HEATING AND AIR CONDITIONING UNIT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$ 35,000.

The Council did not have a chance to discuss this matter at the work session, and it will be heard at the 7 PM meeting.

- L. INFORMATION MEMO** | Rules of Procedure Virtual Attendance and Consent Agenda – February 2026

The Council did not have a chance to discuss this matter at the work session, and it will be heard at the 7 PM meeting.

- M. INFORMATION MEMO** | Change to Section 403 of the Town Charter

This item was provided to the Council for information only and to give the Council information on the process for Charter Changes. The Council needed more time to review and process this matter.

- N. INFORMATION MEMO** | Washington Metropolitan Council of Governments (COG) Update | February 2026

The Council did not have a chance to discuss this matter at the work session, and this is an information-only memo to update the Council on the recent action at COG.

6. Adjournment

Mayor James called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Dixon moved to adjourn, and Council Member Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (5-0), and the meeting was adjourned at 6:55 PM.