



# **TOWN OF BLADENSBURG COUNCIL MEETING | APRIL 14, 2025**

**April 14, 2025 at 7:15 PM**

**4229 Edmonston RD, Bladensburg, MD 20710**

## **MINUTES**

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**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 7:24 pm.

### **2. Opening Prayer**

Council Member Dixon led the prayer.

### **3. Pledge of Allegiance**

Council Member Brown led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **4. Approval of Agenda**

Mayor James called for a motion to approve the agenda. CM Brown moved the motion; CM McBryde seconded it. Minor corrections were made to the agenda. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

### **5. Presentations**

#### **A. Announcement of Open Meetings Act (OMA) | Violation and Oral Summary of the Opinion**

Mayor James read the full announcement regarding an Open Meetings Act (OMA) violation.

#### **B. Congressional Update April 2025 | Nicholas Robinson, Community Liaison - Congressman Glen Ivey**

Nicholas Robinson provided updates, including the relocation of the Congressman's office from Largo to New Carrollton. He discussed concerns related to Trump administration policies and stated that Congressman Ivey is working with the judicial branch and congressional colleagues to

address them. Resources are available at [ivey.house.gov](https://ivey.house.gov). He also mentioned that the portal for military service academy nominations will open in May.

### **C. Patriotic Committee | April 2025**

Susan McCutcheon provided updates on behalf of Renee Green.

- Memorial Day Ceremony: May 26 at 11 AM, Bladensburg Memorial Park.
- Pearl Harbor Memorial: Rededication during the Memorial Day Ceremony.
- Independence Day Celebration: July 2 at 6:00–9:30 PM (rain date: July 3).
- Peace Cross 100th Anniversary Celebration: July 12 at 11 AM.

## **6. Approval of Minutes**

### **A. Town Council Minutes | March 10, 2025**

Mayor James called for a motion to approve the minutes. CM Dixon moved the motion; CM McBryde seconded. The motion passed unanimously, 5–0.

## **7. Public Comments**

Ms. McCutcheon provided public comment opposing the Maglev train project and expressed disappointment with Governor Moore’s support during his Japan visit.

## **8. Financial Business**

### **A. FY 2026 Budget and April Financials | Update**

Town Administrator Bailey Hedgepeth and Treasurer Tinelli presented the FY2026 budget update, reporting that the initial \$1.5 million deficit has been reduced to approximately \$293,314 through a combination of cost-saving measures, including increased take-home vehicle deductions, the freezing of open staff positions, and a reduction in administrative hours. They also reviewed proposed tax rate options: maintaining the current rate of 74¢ for residential properties, 82¢ for commercial properties, and 85¢ for apartment properties. Key upcoming dates include the Final Budget Work Session on April 29, the Tax Rate Hearing on May 12, and the Final Budget Adoption on June 9.

## **9. New Business**

- A. ORDINANCE 11-2025 | AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF BLADENSBURG TO AMEND § 76-4 OF THE TOWN CODE: BUSINESS LICENSE AND PERMIT FEES AND ADDS AN ALARM REGISTRATION FEE.**

The Town Administrator Bailey Hedgepeth introduced the ordinance, the first fee update in seven years. The ordinance includes the addition of a CPI-based adjustment mechanism and introduces an alarm monitoring fee. Chief Collington and Supervisor Rinehart provided additional context. This was the first reading.

- B. ORDINANCE 12-2025 | AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF BLADENSBURG TO REPEAL AND REENACT CHAPTER 50, "PROPERTY MAINTENANCE" IN ITS ENTIRETY, TO REPEAL CHAPTER 68, "HOUSING STANDARDS" IN ITS ENTIRETY, AND TO ADOPT CHAPTER 49 "RENTAL HOUSING".**

The Town Administrator Bailey Hedgepeth, presented this update on property maintenance and housing standards, aligning with Prince George's County Code. Supervisor Rinehart explained that this establishes a rental housing licensing program with inspection requirements. The Town Clerk Watson read the ordinance into the record.

- C. ORDINANCE 13-2025 | AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF BLADENSBURG TO AMEND CHAPTER 112, "VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC". BY ADOPTING §112-14, "STOP SIGN MONITORING SYSTEMS IN SCHOOL ZONES" TO AUTHORIZE USE OF STOP SIGN MONITORING CAMERAS IN SCHOOL ZONES.**

Town Administrator Bailey Hedgepeth presented the ordinance, which authorized the use of stop sign monitoring cameras in school zones.

- D. RESOLUTION 18-2025 | A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF BLADENSBURG APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF ELECTION FOR A TERM BEGINNING APRIL 14, 2025, AND ENDING FEBRUARY 28, 2027.**

The Town Clerk Watson recommended the appointment of five members to the Board. Council agreed to review and decide at the April 29 Special meeting.

- E. RESOLUTION 19-2025 | A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONALS WEEK, APRIL 20-26, 2025**

Town Administrator Bailey-Hedgepeth presented the resolution. Town Clerk Watson read an abbreviated version.

- F. RESOLUTION 20-2025 | A RESOLUTION OF RECOGNIZING NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATORS WEEK, APRIL 13-19, 2025.**

Town Administrator Bailey Hedgepeth presented the resolution. Town Clerk Watson read an abbreviated version.

- G. RESOLUTION 23-2025 | A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE MAYORS AND COUNCILS OF THE PORT TOWNS OF BLADENSBURG, COLMAR MANOR, COTTAGE CITY, AND EDMONSTON TO FORM A COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (CDC) AND ESTABLISH A GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE.**

Town Administrator Bailey-Hedgepeth presented the resolution to establish a CDC with the Port Towns. The Town of Bladensburg will contribute \$30,000–\$35,000 for FY2026. CM Brown called for a motion. CM Blount moved the motion; CM Dixon seconded. The motion passed unanimously, 4–0.

- H. CONTRACT APPROVAL | Approval of a Payment in lieu of taxes agreement (PILOT) with Osprey Development, LLC, as approved by the Town Attorney in its final form. (Development: Hamlet Woods II).**

*Item was postponed to the May 9, 2025 meeting.*

- I. CONTRACT APPROVAL | Authorization to enter into a Grant Agreement with the Prince George’s County Stormwater Stewardship Award Program (Chesapeake Bay Trust).**

The Town Administrator presented the contract for a \$30,000 grant from the Prince George’s County Stormwater Stewardship Program to develop rain garden designs at Mango Café, the Fire Department, and Spring Avenue. CM Brown called for a motion. CM Dixon moved the motion; CM McBryde seconded it. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

- J. CONTRACT APPROVAL | Approval for the Town Administrator to use grant funding to purchase six (6) license plate readers, related equipment, and warranties in an amount not to exceed \$50,536.09 from Motorola Solutions.**

Town Administrator Bailey Hedgepeth presented the \$30,000 grant contract to support rain garden designs at Mango Café, the Fire Department, and Spring Avenue. CM Brown called for a motion. CM Dixon moved; CM McBryde seconded. The motion passed unanimously, 4–0.

**K. Discretionary Funds FY 2025 | Town Council Awards - April 2025.**

*Item moved to the next Council meeting.*

**10. Staff Reports**

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

**A. Town Clerk Report | March 2025**

Town clerks report is available online.

- Ethics Commission Update - April 2025 - Information Only

**B. Town Treasurer Report | March 2025**

Town Treasurer's report is available online.

**C. Public Works Department Report | March 2025**

Public Works report is available online.

**D. Police Department Report | March 2025**

Public safety reports are available online.

- Chief Collington advised that the Eggstravaganza event is scheduled for Saturday April 19 from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

**E. Town Administrator Report | April 2025**

The Town Administrators' report is available online.

-America In Bloom Update | April 2025 - Information Only

-Town Hall Update | April 2025 - Information Only

- Bostwick House | April 2025 - Information Only

- No Mow April | April 2025 - Information Only

**11. Mayor and Council Reports**

**CM Trina Brown (Ward 1)** – Mentioned several upcoming events.

**CM Kalisha Dixon (Ward 1)** – Attended COG and PGCC meetings.

**CM Carrol McBryde (Ward 2)** – Attended COG and PGCC meetings.

**CM Marilyn Blount (Ward 2)** – Read a message for the seniors.

## **12. Adjournment**

CM Brown called for a motion to adjourn. CM Dixon moved the motion; CM Blount seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:39 PM.