



# **TOWN OF BLADENSBURG WORK SESSION | OCTOBER 20, 2025**

October 20, 2025 at 5:30 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>

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### **1. Call to Order**

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

### **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 3–0.

Mayor James noted that Council Member Dixon was en route, and Council Member Blount was excused from both meetings.

### **2. Approval of Minutes**

#### **A. Approval of Work Session Minutes – September 8, 2025**

Mayor James called for a motion to approve the minutes from the September 8, 2025, Work Session. Council Member Brown made a motion to approve the minutes, which Council Member McBryde seconded. The motion passed unanimously with a vote of 3–0.

### **3. Unfinished Business**

#### **A. ORDINANCE 07-2026 A and ORDINANCE 07-2026 B | SECOND READING - An Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the Town of Bladensburg to amend penalties, remedies, and fees**

**to change or establish certain fines or fees; and generally relating to automated traffic enforcement systems.**

Town Administrator Bailey-Hedgepeth provided a brief overview of Ordinances 07-2026A and 07-2026B. These ordinances modify the Town Code, one addressing general fees and the other relating to motor vehicle fees. This meeting represented the second reading of both ordinances.

#### **4. Financial Business**

#### **5. New Business**

##### **A. Review of the Final Legislative Priorities Report for Session 2026**

Mr. Brown from LA Perez and Associates presented the final Legislative Priorities Report, noting that it positions Bladensburg prominently with legislators and supports timely engagement on key issues.

Mayor James expressed concern about a late-filed annexation bill, warning that it could harm regional economic development. The legislative team will monitor the bill closely and engage state delegates to offer alternative perspectives before November.

##### **B. ORDINANCE 08-2026 | AN ORDINANCE TO ENACT THE FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027 BUDGET PROCESS**

Treasurer Tinelli explained that Ordinance 08-2026 codifies the annual FY 2027 budget process and schedule, including key dates and procedural requirements.

##### **C. ORDINANCE 09-2026 | FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET AMENDMENT FOR POLICE DEPARTMENT VEHICLE UPFITTING EXPENSES FOR \$77,545.**

Mayor James explained that Ordinance 09-2026 amends the FY 2026 budget to reallocate unspent FY 2025 funds for the outfitting of police vehicles previously approved. The ordinance will be considered for a vote during the 7:00 PM meeting.

##### **D. ORDINANCE 10-2026 | FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET AMENDMENT RELATED TO MNCPPC FY 2026 PROJECT CHARGE PROGRAM FOR COMMUNITY PROGRAMMING EXPENSES FOR \$50,000.**

Town Administrator Bailey-Hedgepeth reported that the Town received \$50,000 from the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission for community programming expenses. The funds will be used to contract services, after which the Town will be reimbursed. This is not a grant but a reimbursement process for contract services.

- E. **RESOLUTION 03-2026 | A Resolution of Support for Watershed Assistance Grant Program with the Chesapeake Bay Trust for up to \$100,000 for the design of Watershed restoration projects in the Town of Bladensburg.**

Town Administrator Bailey-Hedgepeth explained that this resolution supports the Town's application to the Chesapeake Bay Trust for up to \$100,000 in design funding for watershed restoration projects.

- F. **RESOLUTION 04-2026 | CDBG PY 52 Resolution of Council support for the application for funds.**

Town Administrator Bailey-Hedgepeth stated that this resolution authorizes the Town to resubmit project plans developed over the past three years for approximately \$300,000 in road improvement funds. The Town has been successful in recent rounds of funding and hopes that this submission will secure additional infrastructure funds for the Town.

- G. **RESOLUTION 05-2026 | A Resolution of the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Bladensburg, declaring October 2025 as National Code Compliance and Code Enforcement Appreciation Month**

Town Administrator Bailey-Hedgepeth presented this resolution recognizing October 2025 as National Code Compliance and Code Enforcement Appreciation Month, celebrating the Town's Code Enforcement Team.

- H. **RESOLUTION 06-2026 | A Resolution of Support for Economic Development Week – October 20 – 24, 2025**

Town Administrator Bailey-Hedgepeth introduced this resolution supporting Maryland Economic Development Week, emphasizing its importance to local growth and community partnerships.

- I. **COUNCIL ACTION | Approval of funding request for Ambulance Staffing Stipend | Bladensburg Fire Department – FY 2026**

Chief Sumner explained that there are two different proposals for the stipend. The first proposal would provide compensation for two individuals at a rate of \$15 per hour, totaling approximately \$1,200 per week, \$4,800 per month, or \$62,400 per year. The second proposal would compensate two individuals at a rate of \$20 per hour, totaling approximately \$1,600 per week, \$6,400 per month, or \$83,200 per year. The Council decided to bring this item back for further discussion at the next Council meeting in November.

The Town Administrator will follow up on this matter to provide additional information and data. The Town Administrator also mentioned that taking action on this item will enable the Town to claim tax differential funds for residents, which could result in a lower tax rate due to the Town's contribution to the Fire Department meeting a certain threshold amount.

**J. COUNCIL ACTION | Approval of Certification of October 6, 2025, Town Election Results**

Town Clerk Watson presented the certified results from the October 6, 2025, Town Election for Council review and approval.

**K. COUNCIL ACTION | Contract approval for a contract with Fleur de Lis L.L.C. for on-call Commercial Real Estate Advisory Services for signature and execution by Town Administrator.**

Town Administrator Bailey-Hedgepeth requested approval to execute a contract with Fleur de Lis LLC for on-call Commercial Real Estate Advisory Services, to be used on an as-needed basis. After reviewing the contract, the Council decided to table this item until the next Council meeting for further review and consideration, due to the information provided in the packet, which was an older contract with changed terms.

**L. COUNCIL ACTION | Approval for a Contract with JH Consulting Inc for Economic Development Consulting Services**

Town Administrator Bailey-Hedgepeth outlined the benefits of renewing a contract with JH Consulting Inc. for Economic Development Consulting Services. She noted that the work done by Jarryd Hawkins, particularly his contributions to current and previous Economic Development projects for the Town.

**M. COUNCIL ACTION | Approval for the Town Administrator to fully execute a contract with Axon Enterprises, Inc. for Taser 10 units, services, recharge cartridges, and other related**

**equipment. The ratification and approval of a 5-year contract in an amount not to exceed \$141,178.14. [FY 2026 cost - \$24,948.38]**

Acting Chief Frishkorn discussed the proposed five-year contract with Axon Enterprises, Inc. for Taser 10 units, cartridges, and related equipment, in an amount not to exceed \$141,178.14. The FY 2026 cost will total \$24,948.38. This upgrade replaces the department's current Taser models. He provided background information the new Tasers and requirements.

**N. COUNCIL ACTION | Approval for a Service Agreement with the BOW Collective for a total amount not to exceed \$10,000.**

Town Administrator Bailey-Hedgepeth explained that the BOW Collective, a group of women entrepreneurs, will offer training programs for Bladensburg residents, both online and in-person, at the local library in November and December. The total amount shall not exceed \$10,000.

**O. COUNCIL ACTION | Police Department Staffing Approvals and updates for COPS Grant Funding**

Town Administrator Bailey-Hedgepeth outlined the preparation steps for COPS Grant staffing actions, which will be presented for formal approval at the next Council meeting. This item modifies staffing and the organizational which are required for the grantor to show the financial changes that were made by the Town Council in the FY 2026 Budget.

**P. COUNCIL ACTION | Approval to Continue Health Insurance Coverage with CareFirst and Broker Services with NFP**

Town Treasurer Tinelli presented details for renewing health insurance coverage with CareFirst and continuing broker services with NFP, recommending approval for a five year contract.

**Q. INFORMATION ONLY | America in Bloom | October 2025 Update**

An update was provided by the Town Administrator, and a copy of the final report was given as part of the agenda packet.

**R. INFORMATION ONLY | Washington Metropolitan Council of Governments (COG) Update | October 2025**

Town Administrator Bailey-Hedgepeth noted that the COG evaluation report was included in the packet and stated that she will provide ongoing updates as the Town progresses into the new year.

**S. INFORMATION ONLY | Law Enforcement Officers Retirement Plan (LEOPS) Review | Update October 2025**

Town Administrator Bailey-Hedgepeth reported that the Town has submitted its LEOPS participation application, which was accepted. The Town awaits cost estimates and will bring the item back to Council in November or December for further discussion.

**6. Adjournment**

Mayor James called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Council Member McBryde moved to adjourn, and Council Member Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:54 PM.