



TOWN OF BLADENSBURG COUNCIL MEETING | DECEMBER 8, 2025

December 08, 2025 at 7:00 PM

4229 Edmonston RD, Bladensburg, MD 20710

MINUTES

1. Call to Order – 1 min

Mayor James called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM

2. Opening Prayer – 2 min

Mayor James led the opening prayer.

3. Pledge of Allegiance – 1 min

Mayor James led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Approval of Agenda – 1 min

Mayor James called for a motion to approve the agenda.

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

5. Presentations

A. Employee Recognition | 10 Year Anniversaries (3 Minutes)

The Mayor and Council, along with the town administrator, recognized two Public Works employees, Eric Watson and Ronald Walston, who each received a Golden Star Award for 10 years of service. Purnell Hall provided remarks about the service of these two employees. Additionally, Vito Tinelli, the Town Treasurer, was recognized for his 10 years of service. The Town Administrator noted the service of all the employees and their value to the organization.

B. Patriotic Committee Report | Renee Green (3 Minutes)

Ms. Renee Greene highlighted the successful Veterans Day ceremony despite challenging weather conditions, noting the need for a speaker for future events.

6. Approval of Minutes

A. Town Council Meeting Minutes | November 10, 2025 (2 Minutes)

Mayor James called for a motion to approve the minutes from the November 10, 2025, Work Session. Council Member Brown made a motion to approve the minutes, which Council Member Blount seconded. The motion passed unanimously with a vote of 5–0.

7. Public Comments

Susan McCutchen gave a shoutout to all of the Town’s wonderful staff. She also encouraged any resident who needs something to reach out to the town and make their request.

8. Unfinished Business

9. New Business

A. Emergency Ordinance 11-2026 | Approval of a budget adjustment and authorization for the Administrator to purchase a 2025 Chevrolet Truck and Plow to come from Highway User Funds proceeds in an amount not to exceed \$63,283 (3 Minutes)

Town administrator Bailey-Hedgpeth read the Ordinance description and gave a brief synopsis of this Emergency Ordinance, as it was discussed in detail during the 5:30 PM meeting.

Mayor James called for a motion to approve the Ordinance. Council Member Blount made a motion to approve, which Council Member McBryde seconded. The motion passed unanimously with a vote of 5–0.

B. Resolution 08-2026 | Resolution of Council support for the application for funds for the FY 2026 Residential Energy Equity Grant Program with the Port Towns. (3 Minutes)

Town Administrator Bailey-Hedgpeth read the introduction of the resolution and gave a quick summary for the record.

Mayor James called for a motion to approve the Ordinance. Council Member Blount made a motion to approve, which Council Member McBryde seconded. The motion passed unanimously with a vote of 5–0.

C. Information Memo | Anacostia Trails Heritage Area (ATHA) Update | December 2025 (5 Minutes)

Mayor James shared that Meagan Baco's presentation was held at the end of the work session and informed online viewers that the package is also available. In summary, Meagan Baco updated the council on the ongoing efforts of the Anacostia Trails Heritage Area and discussed some upcoming events affiliated with the Maryland 250 Project.

D. Information Memo | Rules of Procedure Virtual Attendance and Consent Agenda | December 2025 (5 Minutes)

Mayor James mentioned this was discussed during the work session and will be considered by the council. The Town Administrator provided further details on virtual attendance and the benefits of the consent agenda. Staff will send an update to Council to gather input on the item.

E. Information Memo | Law Enforcement Officers Retirement Plan (LEOPS) Review | Update December 2025 (5 Minutes)

Town Administrator Bailey-Hedgepeth spoke regarding LEOPS, what it would entail for the Town to get this retirement benefit for the officers, and the Town Treasurer's financial input was also discussed. The Town will gather more information and provide it to the council at next month's meeting.

F. Resolution 09-2026 | A RESOLUTION APPOINTING COUNCIL MEMBERS AND STAFF TO THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (COG) TO THE COG BOARDS AND POLICY COMMITTEES FOR THE 2026 CALENDAR YEAR. (5 Minutes)

Mayor James mentioned this was discussed during the 5:30 pm meeting. Based on the 2025 appointments, they have made a calendar. The Town Administrator read the Resolution.

Mayor James shared that the Human Services Policy Committee currently has Council Member Blount as the primary and Council Member Dixon as the alternate. For CPC, Mayor James is listed as primary, and for alternate, Town Administrator and Ray Jefferies. For Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Council Member Brown, primary, and Council Member Dixon alternate, Farm committee council member McBryde, primary, and Council Member Blount alternate.

Mayor James called for a motion to approve the Resolution. Council Member Brown made a motion to approve, which Council Member Dixon seconded. The motion passed unanimously with a vote of 5–0.

10. Staff Reports (3 minutes each)

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

A. Public Safety Report | November 2025

Acting Chief Frishkorn provided an update highlighting the Crime Statistics: Violent crimes are down 21.1% and property crimes are down 11.3%. They are focusing on community engagement and public safety initiatives.

Code enforcement gave reminders to residents about prohibitions on burning leaves and sticks and promoted the use of town brush/leaf pickup services.

B. Treasurer Report | November 2025

Mr. Tinelli will continue working on the audit process with anticipated completion by the end of December. He will also provide detailed LEOPS information, including portability and service credit transfer, for council follow-up.

C. Public Works Report | December 2025

Mr. Hall mentioned the task of completing the sidewalk improvements on Tausig Road within 21 days, ensuring all equipment is maintained and prepared for winter operations, and that he will schedule the skid steer operator training certification by December 18, 2025. The MOSH required this training and will provide the staff with a refresher and certification on these skills.

D. Town Administrator Report | December 2025

The Town Administrator provided her written report, which is available online.

11. Mayor and Council Reports (3 minutes each)

Council Member Dixon, Ward 1, expressed her heartfelt gratitude to residents for your trust, to dedicated staff, to the police department, and to the Public Works Department. She attended the PGCME meeting and the National Legal City Conference. She also sat on the CDC webinar and participated at the Thanksgiving distribution and the Veterans Day ceremony.

Council Member Brown, Ward 1 thanked the town and residents. Also thanked the residents for voting and for her reelection. She also wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Council Member McBryde, Ward 2 wished everyone happy holidays. She thanked all of the Bladensburg staff for their hard work. She also attended the Veterans Day ceremony and the Thanksgiving distribution.

Council Member Blount, Ward 2 thanked the council and staff for all their support. She attended the Vogue entrepreneurship program. She also invited seniors to the Senior Gala on Thursday at 11 am.

Mayor James provided her written report. She attended the Royalty Institute gala. She also attended the National League of Cities City Summit in Salt Lake City. She also offered legislative updates. She also submitted a written report, which is online.

12. Adjournment

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