

**COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF BLADENSBURG**  
**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**May 13, 2024, 7:00 pm**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor James called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

**OPENING PRAYER**

CM McBryde 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 Blount motioned, and Council Member McBryde seconded the motion. No questions or comments were presented, and the motion passed 5-0.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Council Member Brown moved to approve the April 8, 2024, minutes, which Council Member Blount seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

**PRESENTATIONS**

**Resolution 11-2024**

TA Bailey-Hedgepeth read the resolution, A resolution for the Town of Bladensburg celebrating National Police Week, May 12 through May 18, 2024, expressing gratitude to the Bladensburg Police Department.

Moved by Council Member Blount, seconded by Council Member Brown. No questions or comments were presented, and the motion passed 5-0.

Mayor James and the Town Council presented a recognition plaque received by Deputy Chief Dickerson.

**Resolution 12-2024**

TA Bailey Hedgepeth read the resolution, Resolution for the Town of Bladensburg, recognizing Public Works Week from May 19, 2024, through May 25, 2024.

Moved by Council Member Brown, seconded by Council Member Blount. No questions or comments were presented, and the motion passed 5-0.

Mayor James and the Town Council presented a recognition plaque to the staff of Public Works. Mr. Purnell Hall gave words of thanks and introduced the Public Works staff that attended the meeting.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- **Lois Kinkle** – Is a resident of Tilden Road in Bladensburg. She attended a session run by a newly minted organization called the Prince George's County Village Connection, which establishes groups in different communities around our county known as “villages.” She mentioned how Bladensburg is a town, but we might consider having what they propose to, which is to create a village where they are locally formed grassroots organizations where neighbors help neighbors age in the community they know and love.

This village would match what a community needs and what its volunteers can provide. This typically includes social and educational activities, local transportation, support with some home and yard tasks, and support in identifying services and resources. There are five existing villages already in Prince George's County. She is one person who would need the village. Therefore, she is reaching out to other people who may feel the same way and informing the council of this idea and how this idea can become a reality.

- **Renee Green** – Ms. Greene gave appreciating words to the Public Works team. She gave reminders for the following upcoming events.
  - Memorial Day is Monday, May 27, and the ceremony will be at 11:00 am at the memorial park.
  - The Bladensburg Fireworks Independence Day celebration is on Friday, July 5, from 6 pm to 9:30 pm.
  - The 210th anniversary of the Battle of Bladensburg ceremony will be on Saturday, August 26, at 11:00 am at the Battle of Bladensburg Memorial.

## **FINANCIAL BUSINESS**

### **1. FY 2025 Budget Update:**

Treasurer Tinelli presented his update on the Town’s budget, which included ARPA funds, Council budget items, changes to the budget, and revenue items. No formal action was taken on this item. A Special Budget Session is scheduled for May 20, 2024.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. Approval of Sample Agreement and Application Process for 5G small Cell Towers with Crown Castle:**

TA Bailey-Hedgepeth summarized the approval of the sample agreement application process, so formal applications can be received from companies; one has been received by Crown Castle. This has been approved and recommended by the town attorney available at the earlier session.

Moved by Council Member McBryde; Council Member Blount seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

### **2. Approval of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU): Flooding Mitigation Pilot Program with Prince Georges County DPWT:**

This MOU implements a pilot program to assist with flooding mitigation in the Town along Edmonston Channel and Quincy Run. The MOU will use \$500,000 of ARP Funds that were allocated by the Council as part of the FY 2024 Budget.

Moved by Council Member Blount; Council Member McBryde seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

### **3. Updates on Bostick House and Technical Assistance Panel (Information Only):**

Town Administrator Bailey-Hedgepeth Bostwick shared an update on April 18, and 19th; TAP Process conducted by the ULI team was at the Bostwick House. She provided an overview of the technical assistance process. The ULI team was joined by several community and governmental stakeholders, residents, and volunteers. This process focused on the Bostwick House site and its impacts on the surrounding areas to determine an economic viability and reuse strategy for the site.

No formal action was taken on this report.

### **4. America in Bloom – Overview (Information Only):**

Town Administrator Bailey-Hedgepeth Bostwick shared the process for the America In Bloom certification process. She thanked Mr. Rod Barnes, the manager for Edmonston, for getting her involved in the America in Bloom organization and network of communities. Ms. Bailey Hedgepeth thanked Mr. Purnell Hall and his team for their assistance with this process. America in Bloom professionals will evaluate our town over two days, June 2 through 4<sup>th</sup>, which includes tours of the Town's facilities, local businesses, community resources, and other sights.

No formal action was taken on this report.

## **STAFF REPORTS**

**Treasurer:** Town Treasurer Tinelli noted that an update and report were included in the packet and posted online, and a copy was also provided to the mayor and council.

**Public Safety—**Deputy Chief Dickerson mentioned that this week, they are recognizing National Police Week. It's an annual event that recognizes the contributions and sacrifices of law enforcement all across the country. Chief Collington attended an event at the White House for police leaders. On Wednesday, May 15, they will be going to Washington, DC, for the National Peace Officers Memorial Service, where they'll be recognizing all of the officers who made the ultimate sacrifice.

**Code Enforcement:** Code Enforcement Officer Rinehardt wanted to wish all the mothers a happy belated Mother's Day and give thanks to the Public Works team.

**Public Works:** Supervisor Hall mentioned beautifying the Town. About 18 LED flashing lights, stop signs, and pedestrian signs have been installed throughout the community.

**Town Administrator:** Town Administrator Bailey Hedgepeth submitted a written report. She also thanked the police department for all their work, Chief Collington for his leadership, and the Public Works Department.

## MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

**Council Member Brown—Ward 1** - CM Brown thanked the town staff, public works, and police department. She attended various town events, including the public safety meeting. She also mentioned Mental Health Awareness Month. The Town of Bladensburg will be sponsoring a free film screening and panel discussion on Wednesday, May 29, from 05:30 p.m. to 07:30 p.m. at the Public Playhouse.

**Council Member McBryde – Ward 2** - CM McBryde did not provide a report.

**Council Member Blount—Ward 2** - CM Blount mentioned the village program and asked if anyone was interested in participating in it or learning more about it. She said more information would be shared soon. She encouraged residents to help seniors in any way possible.

**Council Member Dixon—Ward 1**— CM Dixon thanked the police department. She also attended coffee with a cop, the Emerson house meeting, the public safety meeting, and a press conference for Mrs. Royster. She also joined the state and local official's webinar. A meeting was held with Mayor James and Mr. Bynum regarding the Boys and Girls Club, which they're trying to get started on for the summer.

She also attended the Bostwick House panel roundtable discussion, the Elizabeth Seaton Seton High School Young Woman entrepreneurial program with CM McBryde, the Bladensburg visioning discussion, and the bike rodeo.

She also listened in on the town or budget session, council chair Jolene Ivey's fiscal year 25 budget listening session, where they spoke about the county budget and the impact of the state budget. She visited some residents on 56th Avenue to get to know the residents a little more. She also checked in with some of our local businesses, the barbershop and salon. She sat on the CFR webinar, where they spoke on energy and trade priorities. CM Brown, Dixon, and McBryde also had a tour with the chief of Bladensburg Elementary School.

**Mayor James** – Mayor James attended the PGCMA meeting virtually and asked that we support council member Brown in her bid for the board. She also mentioned some of the things that are being tracked in terms of legislation through PGCMA, for example, the term to impose juvenile curfews and the school pedestrian safety workgroup being organized. She also mentioned the late-night business bill safety plan, CB 016-2024, which says businesses must have a safety plan if they have a nightclub or night establishment. Another bill that has been being tracked is the CB 08-2024, commonly known as the Rent Stabilization Act, and the CB 028-2024, the cigar lounge bill. The Mayor also wanted to thank the business owners who came to the meeting on April 30<sup>th</sup>.

## ADJOURNMENT

Mayor James asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting, Moved by Council Member Brown; Council Member Blount seconded. The motion passed 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM