

**COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF BLADENSBURG
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES - DRAFT
September 9, 2024 | 7:00 pm**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor James called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

OPENING PRAYER

Council Member McBryde gave the Opening Prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council Member Dixon led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor James requested a motion to approve the meeting agenda. CM Blount motioned, and CM McBryde seconded the motion. No questions or comments were presented, and the motion passed 5-0.

PRESENTATIONS

A. Swearing- In Items

Administration | Town Clerk, Regine Watson – Mayor James conducted the swearing-in of the new Town Clerk.

B. Police Department | Promotions and Acting Roles – Chief Collington and Mayor James conducted the following promotions:

- Sergeant Brandon Goins was promoted to Acting Lieutenant
- Police Officer First Class Asia Thornton was promoted to Acting Corporal
- Officer Paul Porter was promoted to Police Officer First Class
- Officer David Young was promoted to Police Officer First Class

C. Patriotic Committee Report | Renee Green | 210th Anniversary of the Battle of Bladensburg Event – Ms. Green mentioned that the Battle of Bladensburg Ceremony was a great success which was held on August 24, 2024. She thanked everyone involved and everyone who attended. She mentioned that the next event will be on Veterans Day at 11 AM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes | July 15, 2024

Mayor James requested a motion to approve the July 15, 2024, minutes; CM Brown moved this item, which CM Dixon seconded. The motion was passed 5-0.

B. Town Council Closed Session Summary | July 30, 2024

Mayor James requested a motion to approve the July 30, 2024, summary minutes; CM Brown moved this item, which CM Blount seconded. The motion was passed 5-0.

C. Town Council Closed Session Summary | August 12, 2024

Mayor James requested a motion to approve the August 12, 2024, summary minutes; CM Brown moved this item, which CM McBryde seconded. The motion was passed 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

James Beeharilal- Mr. Beeharilal approached the dais and voiced his concern regarding the sign that is blocking the view of the bus depot. He asked the Council and Administration to investigate having the sign removed because it is a safety hazard.

Jeanette Isaac – Ms. Isaac approached the dais and thanked the staff for all the hard work they did. Ms. Isaac then voiced her concern to the council about the lights in the streets. She would like the streetlights to be brighter and to incorporate blinking lights like the ones next to Bladensburg Elementary School.

FINANCIAL BUSINESS

- A. Approval of a Contract with Gordian in an amount not to exceed \$185,648.40** – Town Treasurer Tinelli provided details regarding this contract. The project would be for bridge repairs in the town. Mayor James requested a motion to approve; CM Blount moved this item, which CM Dixon seconded. The motion was passed 5-0.

- B. Approval of a Contract with GOVOLUTION for credit card services** - Town Treasurer Tinelli provided details regarding this contract. The contract would allow the Town to incorporate credit card and ACH payment processing services. Mayor James requested a motion to approve; CM McBryde moved this item, which CM Brown seconded. The motion was passed 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Ordinance 02-2025 | AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF BLADENSBURG TO AMEND CHAPTER 112 “VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC. ” BY ADOPTING §112-13, “TRAFFIC CONTROL SIGNAL MONITORING SYSTEMS” TO AUTHORIZE USE OF TRAFFIC CONTROL SIGNAL MONITORING SYSTEMS AT INTERSECTIONS TO ENFORCE COMPLIANCE** – Chief Collington provided a summary regarding this ordinance. The ordinance would increase pedestrian safety at crosswalks and stop signs. Mayor James requested a motion to approve; CM Dixon moved this item, which CM Blount seconded. The motion was passed 5-0.

- B. Resolution 03-2025 | A Resolution of the Town of Bladensburg, Maryland, Supporting Legislative Initiatives that Re-establish Local Land Use Authority-** Mayor James provided a quick summary of what was discussed at the work session. She explained the possible financial impact on the town and that other municipalities were advocating for the same legislation. Mayor James requested a motion to approve; CM Dixon moved this item, which CM McBryde seconded. The motion was passed 5-0.

- C. Review and Approval of Draft Legislative Priorities for Session 2025-** Mayor James mentioned that some of these priorities would look like the ones in the past. She further explained that it can take years for changes to occur before being pushed forward. Mayor James requested a motion to approve; CM Brown moved this item, which CM McBryde seconded. The motion was passed 5-0.

- D. Approval of Council Meeting Date Change | November 2024** – Mayor James shared the request to move the council meeting to Nov 18, 2024, instead of November 11, 2024, due to the Federally observed Holiday. Mayor James requested a motion to approve; CM Dixon moved this item, which CM McBryde seconded. The motion was passed 5-0.

- E. Approval and Award of the Community Grant for FY 2024 | Royalty Institute** – Mayor James shared that additional information of Royalty Institute was received to approve the grant. Mayor James requested a motion to approve; CM Brown moved this item, which CM Blount seconded. The motion was passed 5-0.
- F. Approval of a Contract with The Neighborhood Design Center for professional services not exceeding \$73,550 to support the successful development of the Bladensburg Town Hall Project.** - Mayor James shared the details on the proposal for the town hall project. Mayor James requested a motion to approve; CM McBryde moved this item, which CM Blount seconded. The motion was passed 5-0.
- G. Approval of a Contract with EGG Construction for Bostwick House Repairs in an amount not to exceed \$142,575** – Town Treasurer Tinelli shared the overview of the required repairs and costs breakdown for Bostwick House. Mayor James requested a motion to approve; CM Dixon moved this item, which CM McBryde seconded. The motion was passed 5-0.
- H. Approval for a Contract with Brudis & Associates for Town Engineering Services-** Town Clerk Watson shared the process that was held to select an engineering consultant for the town. The town recommended for approval a contract with Brudis & Associates. Mayor James requested a motion to approve; CM Dixon moved this item, which CM Brown seconded. The motion was passed 5-0.

STAFF REPORTS

Treasurer: Town Treasurer Tinelli shared that he attended the MACO summer conference. He also shared that the audit for 2024 has been started. He also shared that he started the certify public manager program and welcomed the new town clerk.

Public Safety: Chief Collington thanked his staff. He then provided the crime stats and the number of calls responded to in the month of August. He also mentioned that the police explorers graduated on August 1st. He then went on to share that on August 2nd, they held the Ice Cream with a Cop event; on August 6th, it was National Night Out; and on August 24th, they held their Back to School Jam.

Code Enforcement: Code Enforcement Supervisor Rinehart shared that they had 19 bulk trash citations issues, 1 GoGov App complaint, they also assisted the Town of Capital Heights with training for their new code officers. He also advised that he received his CPR recertification and mentioned that with the bulk trash citations the mattresses need to be covered when put out for pickup.

Town Clerk: Town Clerk Watson shared that she attended her first Board of Supervisor of Elections meeting. She is working with the Town Administrator to organize the clerk's department. She is also working with shore scan to be able to have everything online. She also thanked everyone for welcoming her.

Public works: Public Works Supervisor Hall mentioned that the project on 57th Ave for ADA compliant ramps has been completed. He also shared that they have painted the yellow curbs in the town. They also helped with events in the town.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Council Member Brown—Ward 1 – CM Brown congratulated the police officers for their promotions and thanked Price Benowitz for donating 150 backpacks with supplies. She also attended the public safety meeting and shared that on Saturday, September 28th at 10am they will be holding a community meeting.

Council Member McBryde—Ward 2 – CM McBryde attended the Eco City Farms Open House. She also visited Port Towns Elementary School on their first day of school. She attended the Bladensburg feasibility study and encouraged residents to come and share their opinions. She also attended the COG meeting.

Council Member Blount –Ward 2– CM Blount thanked public works for their services. She mentioned that she was able to ride in the police car at the Cottage City parade. She shared that the senior gathering will be on September 10th and encouraged all the seniors to attend.

Council Member Dixon—Ward 1 – CM Dixon met with Dr. Humpries at International High School to see the statistics of how many students who lived in Bladensburg attended the school. She also attended the Bladensburg Back to School event, the CBCC webinar, the National Night Out, and the North Brentwood Leadership meeting. She thanked code enforcement and the town administrator for their continuous help. Lastly, she shared that we would be holding a panel discussion in October on Domestic Violence.

Mayor James— Mayor James attended the Prince Georges Community College event (President Biden and Vice President Harris) . She also thanked the police department for the community meeting and taking their time to address concerns. She also mentioned they had the neighborhood watch and referred to her already submitted report for other events she attended.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor James called for a motion to adjourn the meeting, which Council Member Dixon moved and Council Member McBryde seconded. The motion passed 5-0, and the meeting adjourned at 8:39 p.m.