TOWN OF BLADENSBURG COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING | NOVEMBER 9, 2026

November 09, 2026 at 5:30 PM

4229 Edmonston RD, Bladensburg, MD 20710

AGENDA

Public Access Virtual via live stream of the Town's Facebook and YouTube pages:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCofIhVTBeID3c9oH8GYSW0g

https://www.facebook.com/Bladensburgmd

1. **Call to Order – 1 min**
2. **Approval of Agenda – 1 min**
3. **Presentations**
   - **A.** Swearing-in of Adam Rubinstein **- 10 min**
   - **B.** Town events **– 30min**
4. **Approval of Minutes**
   - **A.** Approval of October 12, 2026 work session minutes - **1 min**
5. **Financial Business**
   - **A.** motion to direct for the town to enroll in the public FAMLI act **– 10 min**
   - **B.** ARPA Budget Amend **– 5min**
6. **New Business**
   - **A.** Motorola Resolution **– 10 min**
7.
   - **A.** Town administrator updates **– 10 min**
8. **Adjournment**

Town of Bladensburg Council Work Session

Meeting Minutes

October 12, 2026, 5:30 PM
4229 Edmonston RD, Bladensburg, MD 20710, US

1. Call to Order

Mayor James called the meeting to order at the Town of Bladensburg Council Work Session. A quorum was established.

Present: Mayor James; Council Member Trina Brown (Ward I); Council Member Marilyn Blount (Ward II); Council Member Carrol McBryde (Ward II); Council Member Kalisha Dixon (Ward I, arrived late during Item 3); Town Administrator Brian Wood; Treasurer Vito Tinelli; Lt. Richard Poole (Public Safety); Supervisor Purnell Hall (Public Works). Absent: None noted.

2. Approval of Agenda

> Motion to approve the agenda was made by Council Member Brown and seconded by Council Member Blount. The motion carried by voice vote with no nays or abstentions.

3. Presentations

a. Mentoring through Athletics

Town Administrator Wood introduced representatives of Mentoring Through Athletics (MTA) as a long-standing community partner whose relationship with the Port Towns the town may expand. Executive Director Giavante Hawkins described the organization as follows:

- It was founded in 2013 and has about 34 staff.
- It serves children ages 3 to 14 through flag football, soccer, basketball, cheerleading, volleyball, mixed martial arts, and chess.
- It operates in Prince George's and Anne Arundel Counties and Washington, DC, and served roughly 4,000 student athletes and their families in 2025.
- It hires local young people ages 16 to 24 as coaches and mentors.
- It runs summer camps and a Friday breakfast program. The breakfast program has been reduced to the 2nd and 4th Fridays and runs out of food each time.

Mr. Hawkins proposed that MTA programming be offered a la carte and pooled through a Port Towns collaborative, so that the four towns share resources. He proposed a kickoff holiday event with a futsal tournament on December 12 or 19, and noted a December 11 gift giveaway at two schools.

Council Members Brown, Blount, and Dixon asked about the organization's history, staffing, statistics, service areas, and breakfast funding. Council Member Brown offered to discuss breakfast program resources further. Mayor James noted that Bladensburg's six schools serve more than 6,000 students and that additional youth programs are needed. The proposal will be presented at the Port Towns quarterly meeting on October 26. The mayor stated there was interest in starting something this winter.

4. Approval of Minutes

a. Approval of Sept 14 2026 work session minutes

Corrections were identified by Mayor James and Council Member Dixon:

- Item g: correct the spelling to "Colmar Manor."
- Item m: change "Hampton" to "Hamlet Woods," in the heading and in the body.
- Adjournment: insert the missing adjournment time.
- New Business item a: correct the spelling of "Shepherd" in the resolution title.
- Parking ordinance: change "12 day of October" to "12th day of October."
- Page 5, Resolution 7-2027: reword the contract award title.
- Town administrator and clerk signature titles: correct.

It was confirmed that the civility pledge was noted on page 6 as added and deferred.

> Motion to approve the September 14, 2026 work session minutes, as corrected, was made by Council Member Brown and seconded by Council Member McBryde. The motion carried by voice vote with no nays.

5. Financial Business

a. Retention Grant Budget Amendment Ordinance 02-2027

Town Administrator Wood presented an emergency ordinance to recognize a $12,015 state retention grant for public safety. Treasurer Tinelli explained the following:

- The grant comes through the Maryland Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy Police Recruitment and Retention Program.
- It is a one-time bonus of roughly $500 or more per uniformed officer.
- The funds will be run through payroll and reimbursed by the state.
- The ordinance is before the council only because the amount exceeds the $10,000 purchasing threshold. A smaller grant of about $7,000 was received the prior year.

Mayor James noted that civilian staff are not eligible. No objections were raised. Formal action is scheduled for the 7:00 PM council meeting.

b. Vehicles Budget Amendment Ordinance 03-2027

Town Administrator Wood and Treasurer Tinelli presented an amendment of approximately $118,000 for vehicles approved and ordered in the prior fiscal year. The vehicles were two pickup trucks and a Ford Explorer. Delivery and upfitting occurred in the current fiscal year, and the unspent funds could not be carried over. A new state-approved vendor with an all-in price including upfitting was used. A different upfitter will be used going forward.

In response to Council Member Brown, Mr. Tinelli stated the expenditure will be offset by increased projected revenue from the automated traffic enforcement programs (speed, red light, and the newly active stop sign cameras). Formal action is scheduled for 7:00 PM.

c. FAMLI discussion

Town Administrator Wood explained that the town must participate in the Maryland Family and Medical Leave Insurance program starting January 1. The town is not eligible to self-insure, because the threshold is 50 employees. Staff recommended the public option. The contribution rate is 0.9% of salary, about $50,000 annually, or about $25,000 for January through June of FY 2027, and it may be split between employer and employee.

Mayor James recommended Option A. The town would pay the full contribution for the remainder of FY 2027 and revisit the split during FY 2028 budget planning. Employees would be notified. She cited the cost-of-living pressures on staff and the lack of advance notice. Council Members Brown, Blount, and Dixon agreed. Council Member Dixon noted that the town is too small to fund a self-insured pool as larger municipalities do.

Supervisor Hall asked whether caps exist on leave use, given the small size of Public Works crews. Mayor James committed to following up with the Maryland Department of Labor. Formal action is scheduled for 7:00 PM.

6. New Business

a. Shepard Energy Resolution

Town Administrator Wood presented Resolution 13-2027, a sole-source contract for public facility energy assessments of Bladensburg and Edmonston town halls. This completes the final element of a grant received in FY 2025 on behalf of BCCE. Edmonston supports the contract. The contract consists of a $97,500 professional fee plus a milestone 2 amount not to exceed $57,500, for a total not to exceed $155,000.

Council Member Dixon asked that the signature block read "interim town administrator" and "interim clerk," which Mayor James confirmed reflects Mr. Wood's dual role. Council Members McBryde and Brown asked that the posting language be changed to future tense ("shall be posted"). Formal action is scheduled for 7:00 PM.

b. Amend the Town Code to add new streets and expand designated no-parking areas to ensure the stop sign cameras have a clear line of sight.

Town Administrator Wood explained that, based on the pilot phase, parked vehicles were interfering with the stop sign cameras. The amendment designates no-parking areas of 100 feet in either direction of the stop signs. Supervisor Hall confirmed that Public Works will mark the curbs in yellow. Lt. Poole had no additions.

Council Member Blount raised recurring parking violations near Emerson House and the stop sign at 58th and Emerson. Lt. Poole noted the concern for enforcement. Council Members discussed the burden of fines on seniors on fixed incomes. Mayor James clarified that the council acts as legislators and does not direct enforcement. Council Member Dixon asked that the date be corrected to "12th" and standardized as October 12, 2026, and the posting language was to be changed to "shall be posted." This was a first reading only, and second reading and a vote are expected in November.

c. MOU Discussion

Town Administrator Wood reported on the State Highway Administration (SHA) counter-MOU for 52nd Avenue and identified items to renegotiate:

- Frequency of joint efforts: the town proposed quarterly, and SHA proposed annually.
- SHA's expectation to review the town's monthly maintenance work and request additional cleanup.
- Insurance and liability, since the road remains a state road.
- One-sided termination terms.

Mayor James recommended sending the MOU to Senator Augustine for advocacy before responding to SHA, stating that the requests were unreasonable. Council Member Brown suggested the town could return the road to the state and assist only in emergencies. There was council consensus to send the MOU to the senator, then have the administration return to SHA with the town's counterarguments.

d. Town Hall Discussion

Due to time constraints, this item was not discussed. By consensus, it will be added to a separate virtual meeting in one to two weeks, together with legislative priorities.

7. Updates

a. Community Garden Location

Town Administrator Wood reported that the original site is no longer viable. A historic preservation application was submitted for a garden at the town-owned Bostwick House site, designed to minimize ground disturbance. A response is expected by early November. If approved, the application would proceed to the National Capital Park and Planning Commission, which historically follows the first approval. Mayor James explained that a town-owned site avoids repeating the school-site issue.

b. Composting

Town Administrator Wood reported that social media and canvassing have not yet produced additional participation. The 45 to 60 day window runs to mid-November. Mayor James offered to door-knock using the existing flyer, which will be distributed electronically and in print.

8. Adjournment

> Motion to adjourn was made by Council Member Dixon and seconded by Council Member Blount. The motion carried by voice vote with no nays or abstentions. The meeting adjourned at 6:57pm.

The work session adjourned in advance of the 7:00 PM regular council meeting.

TOWN OF BLADENSBURG
4229 Edmonston Road
Bladensburg, Maryland 20710

MOTION NO. 2 – 2027

A MOTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF BLADENSBURG DIRECTING THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR TO ELECT AND DECLARE THE TOWN'S PARTICIPATION IN THE STATE OF MARYLAND FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE INSURANCE (FAMLI) STATE PLAN

Introduced by: Mayor James

Date: November 9, 2026

WHEREAS, the Time to Care Act of 2022 established the Maryland Family and Medical Leave Insurance (FAMLI) program, administered by the Maryland Department of Labor, FAMLI Division, to provide eligible Maryland workers with partial wage replacement during qualifying periods of family and medical leave; and

WHEREAS, all Maryland employers with at least one employee, including municipal governments, are required to register with the FAMLI Division and to participate in either the State Plan or an approved private plan; and

WHEREAS, payroll contributions under the FAMLI program begin on January 1, 2027, at a rate of 0.9% of covered wages, and benefits become available to eligible employees no later than January 3, 2028; and

WHEREAS, employers seeking to pursue a private plan must submit a Declaration of Intent to the FAMLI Division no later than November 15, 2026, and employers that do not submit a Declaration of Intent participate in the State Plan; and

WHEREAS, Town staff evaluated both options and, by Decision Point Memorandum to the Mayor and Town Council, recommended participation in the State Plan as the option offering the lowest administrative burden, a predictable State-set contribution rate, and no requirement for the Town to administer claims or hold contributions in escrow; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council has reviewed the staff recommendation and finds that participation in the State Plan is in the best interest of the Town and its employees.

NOW, THEREFORE, I move that the Town Council of the Town of Bladensburg direct the Town Administrator to:

1. Elect and declare the Town's participation in the Maryland FAMLI State Plan, effective January 1, 2027, and refrain from submitting a Declaration of Intent to pursue a private plan;

2. Complete and maintain the Town's employer registration with the Maryland Department of Labor, FAMLI Division, including designation of the Town's authorized officer;

3. Take all administrative actions necessary to comply with the FAMLI program, including payroll configuration, quarterly wage reporting and contribution remittance, and all required employee notices; and

4. Return to the Town Council with a resolution appropriating funds for the Town's FAMLI contributions for the period of January 1, 2027 through June 30, 2027.

BE IT FURTHER MOVED that this Motion shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

ADOPTED by the Town Council of the Town of Bladensburg this 9th day of November, 2026.

ATTEST: **TOWN OF BLADENSBURG**

_____ _____

Brian Wood, Acting Town Clerk Takisha James, Mayor

Approved as to Administration: _____

Brian Wood, Interim Town Administrator

TOWN OF BLADENSBURG
4229 Edmonston Road
Bladensburg, Maryland

ORDINANCE NO. 05-2027: FISCAL YEAR 2027 BUDGET AMENDMENT

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE OPERATING BUDGET OF THE TOWN OF BLADENSBURG, MARYLAND FOR THE 2027 FISCAL YEAR (JULY 1, 2026 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2027).

WHEREAS, the Town Administrator of the Town of Bladensburg has made a recommendation to the Mayor and Town Council to amend the FY 2027 Budget to reallocate funds as part of this Fiscal Year; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Bladensburg have determined that it is in the best interest of the Town to pass this as a Budget Amendment Ordinance at the November 9, 2026, Town Council meeting.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED AND ORDAINED by the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Bladensburg that the following amendment is made to the general operating budget for Fiscal Year 2027 for the purpose of closing out the ARPA funds for purchases and allocations **prior to December 31, 2026,** for the following:

1. Increase Long Term Capital Projects Expense by **$500,000.00** for the Town's share in the Prince George's County Flood Project; and

2. Increase Federal Revenues by **$500,000.00**, which releases the balance of ARPA Funds held as Deferred Revenues.

Overall Budget Impact: $500,000.00 (expense fully offset by the release of ARPA Deferred Revenues; net impact to fund balance $0.00)

AND BE FURTHER ENACTED AND ORDAINED that upon passage, this Ordinance shall be authenticated by the signature of the Mayor and Town Clerk and shall be recorded in a book kept for that purpose. In addition, this Ordinance shall be published by posting a certified copy of it in the Town Hall for ten (10) days following its adoption pursuant to Article II, Section 209 of the Charter of Town of Bladensburg, Maryland, and will be effective the 9th day of November 2026.

ATTEST: By Order of the Mayor and Town Council

_____ _____

Brian Wood, Acting Town Clerk Takisha James, Mayor

First Reading: November 9, 2026
Adopted: November 9, 2026
Effective: November 9, 2026

TOWN OF BLADENSBURG

4229 Edmonston Road
Bladensburg, Maryland

Introduced: _____
Adopted: _____

PROPOSED | RESOLUTION NO: 15– 2027

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE SERVICE AGREEMENT NO. USC000006766 WITH MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS, INC. FOR RECURRING MAINTENANCE AND CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION SERVICES FOR THE BLADENSBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED $45,165.91 FOR THE TERM FEBRUARY 1, 2027 THROUGH JANUARY 31, 2028.

WHEREAS, the Bladensburg Police Department relies on Motorola Solutions, Inc. ("Motorola") equipment and systems in the performance of its public safety functions, and the continued maintenance and support of that equipment is necessary to the safe and effective operation of the Department; and

WHEREAS, Motorola has presented to the Town Service Agreement Contract No. USC000006766, dated October 30, 2026 (the "Agreement"), under which Motorola will provide recurring Local Infrastructure Repair services and Contract Administration Service to the Bladensburg Police Department, as more particularly described in the Agreement and the applicable Statements of Work; and

WHEREAS, the Agreement provides for a term commencing February 1, 2027 and ending January 31, 2028, at an annual cost of Forty-Five Thousand One Hundred Sixty-Five Dollars and Ninety-One Cents ($45,165.91), consisting of $32,638.58 for Local Infrastructure Repair and $12,527.33 for Contract Administration Service, payable annually and invoiced in advance; and

WHEREAS, the Agreement incorporates Motorola's Service Terms and Conditions (Revised July 2, 2025), which, among other things, provide for automatic annual renewal unless either party gives written notice of non-renewal at least thirty (30) days before the anniversary of the start date, permit price adjustments at renewal, and impose an early termination fee; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Town Council find that the continued maintenance of the Police Department's Motorola equipment and systems serves the public health, safety, and welfare of the residents of the Town, and that it is in the best interest of the Town to authorize execution of the Agreement, subject to the conditions set forth in this Resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Bladensburg that the Town Administrator is hereby authorized to execute, on behalf of the Town, Service Agreement Contract No. USC000006766 with Motorola Solutions, Inc. for

recurring Local Infrastructure Repair and Contract Administration Service for the Bladensburg Police Department, for the term February 1, 2027 through January 31, 2028, in an amount not to exceed Forty-Five Thousand One Hundred Sixty-Five Dollars and Ninety-One Cents ($45,165.91); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that execution of the Agreement is conditioned upon review and approval as to form by the Town Attorney, and the Town Administrator is authorized to negotiate and accept such non-material modifications to the Agreement as the Town Attorney may recommend, provided that no modification increases the total cost to the Town above the amount authorized herein; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the cost of the Agreement shall be paid from [FUNDING SOURCE / BUDGET LINE TO BE CONFIRMED], and that the Town's financial obligations under the Agreement in any fiscal year are subject to the appropriation of funds for that purpose by the Mayor and Town Council; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution authorizes the Agreement for the initial term stated herein only, and any renewal, extension, or price adjustment of the Agreement beyond that term shall require further approval of the Mayor and Town Council, and the Town Administrator is directed to calendar and, if no further approval has been given, deliver timely written notice of non-renewal to Motorola in accordance with the Agreement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

ADOPTED by the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Bladensburg, Maryland, at a regular meeting on _____, and thereafter this Resolution was prominently posted in the Town Hall and available for inspection by the public.

By Order of the Mayor and Town Council

Attest:

_____ _____

Brian Wood, Interim Town Administrator Takisha James, Mayor