

**COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF BLADENSBURG  
DRAFT COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
November 14, 2022 7:00pm**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor James called the meeting to order. Those in attendance were Mayor James and Council Members Blount, Brown, McBryde, and Route. Also in attendance were Chief Collington, Town Treasurer Tinelli, Code Enforcement Officer Rinehart, Fire Chief Sumner, Public Works Supervisor Hall, and Town Clerk Charnovich.

**OPENING PRAYER**

Mayor James recognized the tragic events of a 13-year-old in Prince George's County who was killed by gun violence and students at the University of Virginia lost their lives over the weekend. Council Member McBryde said the opening prayer, which was followed by a moment of silence.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor James asked Council Member Route to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

A motion was made by Council Member Brown which was seconded by Council Member McBryde. The motion passed 5-0.

**APPEARANCES**

**Chief Sumner: Bladensburg Volunteer Fire Department celebrating 100 years**

Mayor James, the Town Council, and Town staff recognized Chief Sumner and the Bladensburg Volunteer Fire Department for 100 years of dedicated service to the community.

**Ray Jefferies, Marketing Specialist: Town Seal and Logo presentation**

This item was tabled to a future meeting.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**October 3, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes**

A motion was made by Council Member Route to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Council Member Brown. The motion passed 5-0.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Charnovich read two public comments into the record, one from Brendan Hagenbuch and one from Steve Weitz.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **57<sup>th</sup> Avenue Paving and Lighting Project**

Public Works Supervisor Mr. Purnell Hall reported on the planning for this project.

### **Rent Stabilization**

Mayor James and the Town Council explained that the Town government is still researching and monitoring options as it relates to rent stabilization and will continue to work with State and County leaders on this topic.

## **FINANCIAL BUSINESS**

### **ARPA Funding Update**

Mr. Charnovich and Mr. Tinelli provided an update on ARPA spending. A focus of the discussion was on the residential rental assistance program and overall housing assistance program. Business assistance was also discussed related to ARPA funding and the overall budget.

A motion was made to allocate funding to the Bostwick House buttress and archaeology project in the amount of \$116,548.00 by Council Member Blount, which was seconded by Council Member McBryde. The motion passed 5-0, and an Ordinance would be placed on the December 2022 Council Meeting Agenda.

### **Ordinance Adoption: ARPA Budget Amendment**

A motion was made by Council Member Route to adopt the ARPA Budget Amendment Ordinance, which was seconded by Council Member Blount. The motion passed 5-0.

### **Annual Leave Carryover Policy**

Mr. Tinelli presented this item. The annual leave policy says that 360 hours can be carried over, which was amended to 440 hours due to the pandemic and vacancies. The 440 hours policy sunsets on December 31, 2022. It was requested that the Directors work on a Leave Development Plan to bring to the December Council Meeting.

### **Resolution related to Ambulance Transfer to Fire Department**

Mr. Tinelli presented this item. The Town Attorney provided a Resolution to the Town Council for consideration. This item was tabled until the December Council Meeting so the Town Council had the opportunity to review in greater detail.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Replacement Police Vehicle Purchase**

Chief Collington presented this item. On October 10, 2022, a police car was severely damaged in an incident where a suspect was trying to escape in a vehicle. Chief Collington indicated that the total cost of a 2023 vehicle is \$44,395 dollars, plus \$20,000 to outfit the car. With the insurance reimbursement, the total cost of the new vehicle is \$49,320.00. A motion was made by Council Member Blount which was seconded by Council Member McBryde. Council Member Route asked if the Town could investigate purchasing a hybrid police vehicle. Council Member Blount withdrew the motion, which was seconded by Council Member McBryde to withdraw the motion. It was recommended that Chief Collington try to obtain a cost for a hybrid vehicle off the Maryland State contract. A motion was made by Council Member Route, which was seconded by Council Member Blount, to purchase a new hybrid police vehicle at a cost not to exceed \$70,000 to include outfitting. The motion passed 5-0.

### **Police Cameras in Cars to pair with Body Cams**

Chief Collington presented this item related to installing cameras in police cars that will pair with the body cameras that the officers wear. A motion was made by Council Member Blount which was seconded by Council Member Route to purchase cameras in police cars that will pair with body cameras. The first payment for this will be in November of 2023, and the funding would be used from speed camera revenue. The motion passed 5-0.

### **Police Mobile Camera Trailers**

Chief Collington presented this item and indicated that the Town would partner with the developer for Autumn Woods on the purchase of this mobile surveillance camera from Mobile Pro Systems. The cost to the Town of Bladensburg will be half of \$58,000. A motion was made by Council Member Blount, which was seconded by Council Member Route to approve the purchase. The \$29,439 would be placed into an Ordinance budget amendment to transfer from the Town Administrator compensation item and move it to public safety capital outlay. An emergency budget amendment would be presented at the December Council Meeting. Chief Collington indicated that this technology would tremendously help with public safety. Mr. Charnovich explained that this item could be handled similarly to the Bostwick House motion from earlier in the meeting. The motion passed 5-0.

### **Lobbyist Services Proposals**

A motion was made by Council Member Brown, which was seconded by Council Member Route to approve the proposal of LA Perez Consulting for lobbying services for 12 months. The motion passed 5-0.

### **Ordinance Introduction: Comcast Cable Franchise Agreement**

Mr. Charnovich read the first reading of the proposed Ordinance into the record. The second reading of the Ordinance and scheduled adoption will be at the December 12, 2022 Council Meeting.

### **Municipal Government Works Month**

Mayor James explained the MML initiative Municipal Government Works Month that highlights the services that local governments provide.

### **STAFF REPORTS (3 minutes each)**

**Treasurer; Public Safety & Code Enforcement; Town Clerk & Interim Town Administrator; Public Works**

Treasurer Tinelli presented the Treasurer's Report.

Chief Collington provided the Public Safety Report.

Code Enforcement Supervisor Rinehart provided the Code Enforcement Report.

Town Clerk and Interim Town Administrator Charnovich stated that his written report was submitted.

Public Works Supervisor Hall submitted a written report and presented highlights of his written report.

### **MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS (3 minutes each)**

#### **Council Member Blount – Ward II**

Council Member Blount presented her report.

#### **Council Member Route – Ward I**

Council Member Route forewent her report in the interest of time.

#### **Council Member Brown – Ward I**

Council Member Brown forewent her report in the interest of time.

**Council Member McBryde – Ward II**

Council Member McBryde forewent her report in the interest of time.

**Mayor James**

Mayor James presented her report.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Council Member Route, which was seconded by Council Member Blount to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved 5-0.

