

**COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF BLADENSBURG
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
September 11, 2023, 7:00 pm**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor James called the meeting to order. Those in attendance were Mayor James and Council Members Blount, Brown, and McBryde. Also in attendance were Chief Collington, Code Enforcement Officer Rinehart, Treasurer Tinelli, Town Clerk Charnovich, and Town Administrator Michelle Bailey-Hedgepeth.

OPENING PRAYER

**Sr. Pastor B. N. Wade Sr., The Body of Christ Christian Church
Town of Bladensburg – Code Enforcement Officer**

Mayor James asked Pastor Wade to say the opening prayer and have a moment of silence in remembrance of the events of September 11, 2001.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Those in attendance stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made to approve the agenda by Council Member Brown, which was seconded by Council Member Blount. The motion passed 4-0.

APPEARANCES

There were no appearances.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

July 10, 2023, Town Council Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Council Member Blount to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Council Member McBryde. The motion passed 4-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Town Clerk Charnovich stated he received 3 public comments. Public comment 1 was from Steve Weitz, public comment 2 was from Carletta Lundy, and public comment 3 was from Jocelyn Route.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

FINANCIAL BUSINESS

Request for reallocation of funding and make a one-time donation to Bladensburg's Volunteer Fire Department to purchase a vehicle.

Town Administrator Bailey-Hedgepeth presented this item and asked Chief Sumner to make a presentation related to the request. Chief Sumner made a presentation regarding the vehicle request. A motion was made by Council Member Blount, which was seconded by Council Member McBryde, to authorize the Town Administrator to up-front the \$30,000 to the Bladensburg fire department that is normally paid quarterly to them, to donate \$15,000 to the fire department to purchase the jaws of life piece of equipment and items installed in the new vehicle related to public safety. The motion passed 4-0.

Request for reallocating funding from the ARPA Business Program to fund a Town Beautification Team that will concentrate on the Commercial Corridor.

Town Administrator Bailey-Hedgepeth made a presentation regarding this program. A motion was made by Council Member Blount to re-allocate ARPA Business funding in the amount of \$250,000 to establish a Town Beautification Program, which was seconded by Council Member McBryde. The motion passed 4-0.

Request to designate Speed Camera proceeds to fund a Special Assignment Team for the Police Department in the amount not to exceed \$510,000 in FY 2024.

Chief Collington made a presentation regarding the establishment of a new Special Assignment Team within the Police Department. A motion was made by Council Member Blount, which was seconded by Council Member McBryde, to authorize Town staff to spend up to \$510,000 for the establishment of a Special Assignment Team. The motion passed 4-0.

Request to designate Speed Camera proceeds to fund the purchase of equipment not to exceed \$175,000 for surveillance towers and other mobile accessories.

Chief Collington made a presentation regarding this item. A motion was made by Council Member Brown, which was seconded by Council Member McBryde, to authorize Town staff to fund the purchase of surveillance towers and other mobile accessories at a cost not to exceed \$175,000 out of speed camera funding. The motion passed 4-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval to allow the Town Administrator to execute a one-year contract Amendment with Charles P. Johnson and Associates (CPJ) for on-call Engineering Services.

Town Administrator Bailey-Hedgepeth presented this item. A motion was made by Council Member Brown, which was seconded by Council Member McBryde. The motion passed 4-0.

Approval to allow the Town Administrator to execute a contract with High Street Strategies for Economic Development Consulting Services.

Town Administrator Bailey-Hedgepeth presented this item. A motion was made by Council Member Blount, which was seconded by Council Member McBryde, to authorize the Town Administrator to execute a contract with High Street Strategies for Economic Development Consulting Services. The motion passed 4-0.

Approval to allow the Town Administrator to execute a contract with Monarch Butterfly for on-call Grant Writing Services.

Town Administrator Bailey-Hedgepeth presented this item. A motion was made by Council Member Blount, which was seconded by Council Member McBryde, to authorize the Town Administrator to execute a contract with Monarch Butterfly for on-call grant writing services. The motion passed 4-0.

Approval of the Town of Bladensburg's Legislative Agenda for 2023-2024

A motion was made by Council Member Brown, which was seconded by Council Member Blount, to approve the Town of Bladensburg's Legislative Agenda for 2023-2024. This included additional items related to tenant rights and condo association boards, budget items for bond bill requests, and to look further into what more can be done regarding small cell tower regulation. The motion passed 4-0.

STAFF REPORTS (3 minutes each)

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

Staff reports were forewent in the interest of time.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS (3 minutes each)

Council Member Brown – Ward 1

Council Member Brown did not present a report.

Council Member McBryde – Ward 2

Council Member McBryde did not present a report.

Council Member Blount – Ward 2

Council Member Blount presented her report and asked everyone to attend the Senior Event on the Town Hall grounds on September 12, 2023.

Mayor James

Mayor James presented her report.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Council Member Blount, which was seconded by Council Member McBryde. The motion passed 4-0.