

**COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF BLADENSBURG  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES -DRAFT  
October 9, 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, Treasurer Tinelli, Town Clerk Charnovich, and Town Administrator Michelle Bailey-Hedgepeth.

**OPENING PRAYER**

**Pastor Cornelius Rouse, The Word of God Community Church  
Bladensburg, MD**

Mayor James asked Elder Rouse to say the opening prayer and have a moment of silence due to the two shootings at HBCU's at Morgan State and Bowie State.

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

**APPEARANCES**

**Hispanic Heritage Month**

Mayor James acknowledged that September 15- October 15 is Hispanic Heritage Month and that Elozia Guzman for her outstanding event that was held at David Harrington Park on September 9, 2023, where the Mexican Ambassador and consulate staff visited the Town.

**Swearing in of Police Department Personnel**

- Officer Darryl Tompkins
- Officer Alex Hur
- Acting Sgt Cedric Tanksley
- Acting Sgt Dwayne Humphries
- Police Cadet Hellen Fuentes
- Dispatcher Mya Watts
- Special Presentation to Dispatcher N'IyJah Pickering

**Reporting Results of the Town of Bladensburg Election of October 2, 2023: Pat Williams, Chair, Board of Supervisors of Elections**

The Board of Election Supervisors (BOES) presented the October 2, 2023 results. They also presented information on the revised count from October 9, 2023, and the actions that led to the BOSE decision. The Chair Williams asked for Council approval of the report as presented.

Motion Council Member Brown, second Council Member Blount to approve the results. There was discussion on the motion, and Mayor James stated that the votes counted on October 9, 2023, did not conform with the Town’s Ordinance since they were received after the deadline on October 3, 2023, and there was no way to know if the ballots were delivered before the deadline and are therefore invalid. CM Brown also stated that the votes were invalid and did not conform with Town policy and law. A vote on the motion was taken, and the motion failed 0-4.

Motion Council Member Brown and second Council Member McBryde to approve the results reported on the evening of October 2, 2023. The motion passed 4-0.

The Council thanked the BOES for their service to the Community and asked that the Staff and BOSE work on issues to improve the election process. The Council directed staff to update the procedures and the information given to candidates. The BOSE and the Town staff have been directed to meet and develop new policies and recommendations for the Town Council to review promptly so that changes can be made before the 2025 election.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**September 11, 2023, Council Meeting Minutes**

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

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

At the meeting, various public comments were presented in person, and a list of the public commenters is below:

Linda Thomas  
Dave Bangura  
Steve Weitz

Jocelyn Route  
Garine Laney  
Abdoul Diakite

Susan McCutchen  
John Carlson  
Walter James

Those that were not read into the record are appended to the final minutes, with any personal information redacted, if needed.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business.

## **FINANCIAL BUSINESS**

### **Ordinance 3-2024 Budget Amendment in the Amount of \$75,000 to the Police Department budget**

Item Summary: A request from the Town Administrator to purchase capital items (such as furnishings) for the Police Department in an amount not to exceed \$45,000 using Speed Camera Funds and augment the Police contractual services line item by \$30,000. (Total: \$75,000)

Motion Council Member Brown, second Council Member Blount to approve Ordinance 3-2024. The motion passed 4-0.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Contract Approval 4-2024 – Municipal Grant Services Contract**

Items Summary: A request to allow the Town Administrator to execute a contract with Municipal Grant Services for Police Department Grant and Project Management for Annexation services. This is a monthly contract that has been budgeted with the Police Department and is a two-year agreement.

Motion Council Member Blount, seconded by Council Member McBryde to allow the Town Administrator to execute a contract with Municipal Grant Services for grant and project management services. The motion passed 4-0.

### **Contract Approval 5-2024 – Time to Care Collaborative**

Item Summary: A request to allow the Town Administrator to execute a contract to join the Time to Care Act Insurance Collaborative, which is a joint partnership with MML and local agencies for insurance that will cover the cost of a new state-imposed mandate that begins in 2025.

Motion Council Member Blount, seconded by Council Member McBryde, to allow the Town Administrator to execute a contract to join the Time to Care Act Insurance Collaborative. The motion passed 4-0.

### **Contract Approval 6-2024 – Agreement with State Highway**

Item Summary: A request to allow the Town Administrator to renew and execute an agreement with a three-year State Highway Administration for Roadway Salt. This agreement is a backup to the Town's annual salt purchases.

Motion Council Member Blount, seconded by Council Member Brown, to allow the Town Administrator to renew and execute an agreement with the Maryland State Highway Administration for roadway salt. The motion passed 4-0.

## **Contract Approval 7-2024 – Agreement with the City of Hyattsville**

Item Summary: A request to allow the Town Administrator to execute a one-year agreement with the City of Hyattsville for Roadway Salt. This is a one-year agreement and is another backup for the Town if there is a snow emergency.

Motion by Council Member Blount, seconded by Council Member Brown, to allow the Town Administrator to execute a 1-year agreement with the City of Hyattsville for roadway salt. The motion passed 4-0.

Motion Council Member Brown to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Council Member McBryde. The motion passed 4-0.

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

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

Staff reports were foregone in the interest of time. Written reports were provided by the Town Administrator, Treasurer, and Public Works.

### **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 did not present a report.

#### **Mayor James**

Mayor James presented items from her written report.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

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