

**COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF BLADENSBURG
DRAFT COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
March 13, 2023 7:00pm
This meeting was held entirely virtual (Zoom)**

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, Treasurer Tinelli, and Town Clerk Charnovich.

OPENING PRAYER

Mayor James proclaimed the opening prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council Member Brown led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

APPEARANCES

There were no appearances.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

January 9, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes

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

February 13, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Town Clerk Charnovich read 2 public comments into the record from Jessica Carroll and Steve Weitz.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Follow up on the Council Statement Regarding the Proposed Warm Nights Shelter

Mayor James summarized this item. The full Council statement is appended to these minutes.

Legislative Letters of Support

CB-024-2023 – Prince George’s County Rental Assistance Act of 2023

Mayor James summarized this item that was approved in the work session. This particular letter is due on March 14, 2023.

(HBO892) (SB0813) - Environment - Comprehensive Flood Management Grant Program - Funding for Overburdened Communities

Mayor James indicated that Perez Consulting would provide the Town with deadlines regarding other State Bills of interest that were discussed in the work session.

Board of Supervisor of Elections Appointments

Town Clerk Charnovich provided an update on the elections process and the call for members to serve on the Board of Supervisors of Elections. Mr. Charnovich indicated that at this point there were 3 individuals interested, but more time is needed to obtain more individuals to serve on the Board of Elections.

Mayor James asked Ms. Renee Green to provide a Patriotic Committee Update. Ms. Green mentioned that Memorial Day is on May 29 and that Flag Day is on Wednesday, June 14.

FINANCIAL BUSINESS

Constant Tax Yield Presentation

Town Treasurer Tinelli gave a presentation on the Constant Tax Yield.

FY 24 Budget Workshop Session Dates

The budget workshop dates for 2023 were discussed in conjunction with the Work Session and Council Meeting date, which was discussed to move to April 13, 2023.

FY 24 Town of Bladensburg budget priorities

Town Treasurer Tinelli asked for input from the Town Council on budget priorities for

the FY24 budget. Priorities that were discussed included consultants to take on large projects, an annexation consultant, and an increase in the community events budget. Longer term ideas were also discussed such as maintaining the Bostwick House, the planning for a new Municipal Center, and a Human Resources Consultant. Police Department vehicles were discussed for the new budget as well.

Speed Camera Revenue Update

Chief Collington and Treasurer Tinelli presented an update on speed camera revenue that has been received to date. Chief Collington outlined what the speed camera funds can be spent for.

Police Department Cars Purchase

Chief Collington presented this item that included purchasing 2 vehicles, 1 Chevy Tahoe and 1 Hybrid SUV.

Police Department Electric Bikes Purchase

Chief Collington presented this item that included purchasing 4 electric bicycles.

Police Department Mobile App Ticketing System

Chief Collington presented this item. A representative from the vendor GoGov was also in attendance at the Council work session to present this mobile app concept.

Emergency Budget Ordinance number 5 of 2023

Town Clerk Charnovich read Ordinance 5 of 2023 into the record. A motion was made by Council Member Brown, which was seconded by Council Member Route to adopt the Ordinance. The motion passed 5-0. A copy of this Ordinance is appended to these minutes.

NEW BUSINESS

Bladensburg Redevelopment Consultant

Mayor James explained this item that the Town would be contracting with High Street Strategies until the end of this fiscal year for development consulting. Interim Town Administrator would be signing the Agreement due to the dollar value of the contract.

Women's History Month Proclamation

Town Clerk Charnovich read the Women's History Month Proclamation into the

record. The final Proclamation is appended to these minutes.

April 2023 Council Meeting Date

A motion was made by Council Member Brown, which was seconded by Council Member Route to move the April 10, 2023 Council Meeting to April 13, 2023. The motion passed 5-0.

STAFF REPORTS (3 minutes each)

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

Town Treasurer Tinelli provided his monthly report.

Chief Collington presented both the Code Enforcement and Public Safety Reports.

Town Clerk and Interim Town Administrator Charnovich provided his monthly report.

Town Clerk and Interim Town Administrator Charnovich presented Public Works Supervisor Hall's report.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS (3 minutes each)

Council Member Blount – Ward 2

Council Member Blount presented her report.

Council Member Route – Ward 1

Council Member Route presented her report.

Council Member Brown – Ward 1

Council Member Brown presented her report.

Council Member McBryde – Ward 2

Council Member McBryde presented her report.

Mayor James

Mayor James presented her report.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Council Member Blount, which was seconded by Council Member Route. The motion passed 5-0.

Statement from Mayor James and the Town Council Regarding Community Concerns About a Potential Warm Nights Shelter in Bladensburg

In the last few weeks, information has been circulated online and in the media about the possibility of a Warm Nights Shelter being proposed in the Town of Bladensburg.

Recently, Town of Bladensburg elected and appointed leaders participated in two meetings with Prince George's County officials, including one meeting with County Executive Alsobrooks and her team as well as Prince George's County District 5 County Council Member Jolene Ivey.

This week, Town officials met with County Executive Alsobrooks and key members of her staff to present the Town's Master Plan for redevelopment of the Annapolis Road corridor and progress toward those plans. After hearing the Town's presentation and details regarding our progress toward those plans, County Executive Alsobrooks agreed to support the Town of Bladensburg's plans as well as explore the possibility of a mixed-use development at the site that would address the need for affordable housing and retail space.

We would like to thank County Executive Alsobrooks and all other Prince George's County officials who were involved for their time to meet and work collaboratively to determine a solution that meets the needs of Bladensburg residents and our fellow Prince Georgians.

In partnership with Prince George's County, we are looking forward to continuing with the Town of Bladensburg's Master Plan for redevelopment along the Annapolis Road corridor. We would like residents to stay engaged with the Town of Bladensburg as we work to redevelop our community with the goal of being the best place to live, learn, work and play!

Mayor James and Town Council of the Town of Bladensburg

TOWN OF BLADENSBURG
4229 Edmonston Road
Bladensburg, Maryland

EMERGENCY ORDINANCE NO. 05-2023: FISCAL YEAR 2023 BUDGET AMENDMENT

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE OPERATING BUDGET OF THE TOWN OF BLADENSBURG, MARYLAND FOR THE 2023 FISCAL YEAR (JULY 1, 2022 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2023).

WHEREAS, the Town Administrator of the Town of Bladensburg has made a recommendation to the Mayor and Town Council to amend the FY 2023 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 Budget Amendment Ordinance at the March 13, 2023 Town Council meeting.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED AND ORDAINED by the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Bladensburg that the following amendments are made to the general operating budget for Fiscal Year 2023:

1. Allocate \$52,382 of the Speed Camera Funds for the capital purchase of a 2023 Chevrolet Police Tahoe and \$15,000 for the install of equipment and graphics for a total of \$67,382.
2. Allocate \$44,395 of the Speed Camera Funds for the capital purchase of a 2023 Ford Explorer Police Interceptor and \$15,000 for the install of equipment and graphics for a total of \$59,395.
3. Allocate \$23,293 of the Speed Camera Funds for the capital purchase of four (4) police electric bikes outfitted with equipment.
4. Allocate \$7,500 of the Speed Camera Funds for the software purchase of CivicPlus Citizen Request Management Software.

Total Speed Camera funds to be used for Public Safety purchases: **\$157,570**

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 23rd day of March, 2023.

ATTEST:

By Order of the Mayor and Town Council



Richard Charnovich, Town Clerk



Takisha James, Mayor

First Reading:	March 13, 2023
Second Reading:	March 13, 2023
Adopted:	March 13, 2023
Effective:	March 23, 2023



Proclamation

WHEREAS, the Town of Bladensburg, Maryland recognizes March as Women's History Month; and

WHEREAS, Bladensburg celebrates the first African-American all-women council in the Town's 281-year history and will continue celebrating Women's history with the Bladensburg Police Department's first annual Women's Rose Awards; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Bladensburg congratulates the extraordinary achievements of women of every race, class, and ethnic background and will promote Bladensburg trailblazing women of the past and present.

NOW THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF BLADENSBURG, MARYLAND, does hereby proclaim the month of March as Women's History Month in the Town of Bladensburg. ***FURTHER***, we encourage all Town residents to join us by participating in Women's History Month festivities.

Takisha D. James
Mayor

Trina Brown
Council Member
Ward 1

Jocelyn Route
Council Member
Ward 1

Marylin Blount
Council Member
Ward 2

Carrol McBryde
Council Member
Ward 2

March 1, 2023



