

**COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF BLADENSBURG
WORK SESSION MINUTES
March 13, 2023 @ 5:30PM
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.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Council Member Brown to approve the agenda, which was seconded by Council Member Route. Mayor James asked to add a Patriotic Committee Update at the end of the work session if there was time. The motion passed 5-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Town Clerk Charnovich indicated that there were no work session minutes for consideration at this meeting.

APPEARANCES

**Tony Perez, President and CEO, LA Perez Consulting LLC: Maryland General Assembly
Legislative Session Update**

Mr. Perez and other team members provided an update on the 2023 legislative session in Annapolis.

Kevin Strauss, VP of Regional Sales with GoGov, a mobile app ticketing system

Mr. Strauss made a presentation regarding a mobile application ticketing system that will better help with task management and keeping in contact with the community.

OLD BUSINESS

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

Mayor James read a statement regarding a proposed Warm Nights Shelter at 5412 Annapolis Road. The statement is appended to these minutes.

Next Steps on the Town's Master Plan

i. Jarryd Hawkins, Senior Associate with High Street Strategies LLC

Mr. Hawkins made a presentation regarding development in Bladensburg and the role High Street Strategies can play in development related topics. This would include next steps in implementing the Town's Master Plan.

Bladensburg Project Priority Worksheet

Mayor James presented this item related to an ongoing project worksheet that the Town Council and Town staff will continue to monitor to help with prioritizing projects. Three top priorities that were discussed were a New Town Hall, Bostwick House, and New Bladensburg Trade School. Annexation was discussed as a priority, business development, and the Law Enforcement Officers Pension System. Continuing to spend American Rescue Plan Act dollars was also identified as a priority, including business and non-profit assistance.

NEW BUSINESS

Legislative Updates and Letters of support/testimony:

Mayor James summarized each of the below legislative items that the Town is tracking, and when necessary, providing testimony or a letter of support.

CB 007-2023 - Rent Stabilization Act of 2023

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

Mayor James indicated that this item was on the regular meeting agenda to consider approval of a letter of support that will be due on March 14, 2023.

SB 813 / HB 892 - Comprehensive Flood Management Grant Program – Environmental Justice Funding

SB 229/ HB 1130 - Vehicle Laws – Noise Abatement Monitoring Systems – Authorization, Use, and Penalties

SB 114 - Real Property Tax Rate Increases – Notice Requirements

Growing Green with Pride Event in April 2023

Mayor James summarized this item and the plans associated with Earth Day weekend 2023 planning.

Security Camera Grant Program

Council Member Route provided an update on the Security Camera Rebate Program and inquired with Town Clerk Charnovich about the status of its implementation. Town Clerk Charnovich provided an update.

Police Department Cars Purchase

This item was tabled until the regular meeting.

Police Department Electric Bikes Purchase

This item was tabled until the regular meeting.

Wanda Gorham, from Delegate Fennell's office, provided an update on various topics.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Council Member Blount to adjourn the work session, 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

