

COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF BLADENSBURG
DRAFT COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
April 11, 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, Town Clerk Charnovich, and Town Administrator McGrory.

OPENING PRAYER

Mayor James asked Council Member McBryde to say the opening prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting participants said the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Council Member Blount, which was seconded by Council Member Route to approve the agenda. A LEOPS update would be added as item d under Unfinished Business. The motion passed 5-0.

APPEARANCES

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

March 14, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Town Clerk Charnovich read 1 public comment into the record from Valerie Pair-Biggs.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

State Legislative Updates (Capital Budget Funding for Town Projects)

- i. Bostwick House
- ii. Bladensburg Municipal Center

Town Administrator McGrory presented state legislative updates regarding both the Bostwick House and Bladensburg Municipal Center capital projects. It was determined to wait until Governor Hogan signed off on the legislation before engaging any project managers for the capital projects.

MML Summer Conference and changing June Council Meeting to June 6

A motion was made by Council Member Blount, which was seconded by Council Member Route to change the June Council Meetings from June 13, 2022 to June 6, 2022. The motion passed 5-0.

Walkable Watershed Grant Letter of Support

Town Administrator McGrory presented the details of the walkable watershed grant letter of support. Discussion took place; no motions were made.

LEOPS discussion

Town Administrator McGrory provided an update regarding the process to enter into LEOPS. Mr. McGrory stated that the State Retirement System is hoping for a decision by April 18, 2022. It was determined that a Special Meeting would possibly be scheduled in advance of April 18, 2022.

FINANCIAL BUSINESS

B. Budget Matters

- i. FY 2022 Merit Increases – Employees will get a retroactive merit pay increase.

Town Administrator McGrory indicated that eligible employees would be receiving retroactive merit pay increases for FY22.

- ii. **FY 2023 Budget Introduction**

Town Administrator McGrory discussed a proposed ARPA spending plan as part of the FY23 budget introduction. Discussion occurred surrounding the overall ARPA spending plan and what should be included. Town Administrator McGrory made a presentation on the complete FY23 proposed draft budget.

- iii. **FY 2023 Budget Session Calendar**

The budget workshop calendar was discussed to finalize dates for the sessions.

NEW BUSINESS

Local Government Insurance Trust – Board of Trustees Ballot

A motion was made by Council Member Route, which was seconded by Council Member Blount to approve the 4 candidates on the Board of Trustees ballot. The motion passed 5-0.

Resolution 01-2022 In Support of Self-Determination and Peace

Mayor James asked Town Clerk Charnovich to read the Resolution in Support of Self-Determination and Peace. A motion was made by Council Member Route to adopt the Resolution, which was seconded by Council Member Brown. The motion passed 5-0.

Mental Health Awareness Day Event

Council Member Route presented the details for the 2022 Mental Health Awareness Day. The budget of \$5000 for the event was discussed. A motion was made by Council Member Blount, which was seconded by Council Member Route to approve the Event with a budget of \$5000 for Town of Bladensburg Mental Health Awareness Day. The motion passed 4-1, with Mayor James voting against due to the budget amount. It was announced that the proposed Event date would be on May 14, 2022.

Port Towns Bus Purchase

Council Member Blount presented ideas related to the purchase of a bus that could be used for the Port Towns. Town Administrator McGrory explained details related to the bus that is being considered for purchase. Mayor James referenced alternative options such as Uber, Lyft, and transportation companies in the community. Discussion was held on a range of transportation options for seniors and others who need it. No motion was made at this time.

STAFF REPORTS (3 minutes each)

Treasurer; Public Safety; Town Clerk; Public Works; Town Administrator

Town Treasurer Tinelli deferred his monthly report.

Chief Collington provided the public safety report.

Town Clerk Charnovich had no formal report.

Town Administrator McGrory provided both the Town Administrator and Public Works reports. Mr. McGrory specifically made reference to setting the first date for the FY23 budget workshop and also the idea of setting a special meeting to discuss LEOPS.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS (3 minutes each)

Council Member Brown – Ward I

Council Member Brown provided her report.

Council Member McBryde – Ward II

Council Member McBryde provided her report.

Council Member Blount – Ward II

Council Member Blount provided her report.

Council Member Route – Ward I

Council Member Route provided her report.

Mayor James

Mayor James provided her report.

Mayor James called for a motion to approve the FY23 budget calendar. A motion was made by Council Member Brown, which was seconded by Council Member Route. The motion passed 5-0.

ADJOURNMENT

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