TOWN OF BLADENSBURG
WORKSESSION
January 2, 2007

I. **PRESENTATION BY FEDERAL CAPITAL PARTNERS SCHEDULED TO PURCHASE PARK PLACE TOWERS:** Federal Capital Partners is scheduled to purchase this property at the end of January and renovate the apartments. The Donaldson Group is now managing the property. Roofs and elevators will be replaced and there will extensive cosmetic improvements and improvements to the parking areas and landscaping. There will be extensive security programs. The budget for this project is $12-15 million dollars. There is an interest in having a police substation on the property. The firm would like help with street lighting and other improvements to make the development pedestrian friendly.

II. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor James called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with Council Members Ficklin, George and Watson present. Council Member Mendoza was excused.

III. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Annexation of Newton Green Senior Housing: Larry Taub, legal representative for the Ingerman Group, presented a letter requesting annexation. They are asking for a waiver of the County's Public Safety Surcharge and asking for the Town's support on this issue. Council Member George moved to support the waiver of the surcharge in exchange for annexation into the Town. Council Member Watson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A letter in support of this will be sent to Councilmember Harrington.

MOU with County for Bridge Repairs: Mayor and Council directed the Town Administrator to ask the County for a reschedule payment over two years. .

IV. **ADJOURNMENT:** At 7:15 p.m., there being no further public business, Council Member Ficklin moved to go into closed session to discussion contract negotiations; Council Member George seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. McAuley, Town Clerk

TOWN OF BLADENSBURG
COUNCIL MEETING
January 8, 2007

I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor James called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with Council Members George and Mendoza present. Council Members Ficklin and Watson arrived soon thereafter.

II. **OPENING PRAYER:** Council Member George gave the opening prayer.

III. **THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** was recited.

IV. **UPDATE ON PRINCE GEORGE'S HOSPITAL:** President O'Brien gave an update on issues of concern on the current status of the hospital.

V. **ANNOUNCEMENT OF CLOSED SESSION:** The Mayor and Council had a closed session after the January 2nd Worksession to discuss personnel, contract and legal issues. No actions were taken.

VI. **CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION:** Town Administrator Sarumi thanked departing Director of Public Works Goff for his service to the Town and he was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation.

The Mayor and Town Administrator presented Certificates of Appreciation to the Risk Management Team who has worked to decrease loss incidents and lower liability risks.

VII. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Council Member Mendoza moved to approve the December Council Meeting minutes as presented. Council Member George seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Council Member Watson moved to approve the December Worksession minutes as presented. Council Member George seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

VIII. **MAYOR & COUNCIL REPORTS:** **Council Member George** reported on the Port Town's Legislative Meeting. **Council Member Watson** reminded all of Family Day at the Community Center on January 12. She announced winners of the Christmas House Decoration Contest. A seniors' lunch is being planned for April. **Council Member Mendoza** said transportation issues are on the legislative horizon. **Mayor James** will announce important legislation in the newsletter for citizen support. The FY08 budget process is starting and he encouraged citizen input.

IX. **STAFF REPORTS:** Staff gave updates on the past month's departmental activities. Chief Moss asked for the public's assistance to solve some recent crimes. Ms. Sarumi will be the acting Director of Public Works as of January 12th.

X. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** There was no unfinished business.

XI. **NEW BUSINESS:** There was no new business.

XII. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** The Mayor entertained comments from the audience.

XIII. **ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business, at 9:00 p.m., Council Member Mendoza moved to adjourn; Council Member George seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat McAuley, Town Clerk

TOWN OF BLADENSBURG
WORKSESSION
FEBRUARY 5, 2007

I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Pro Tem George called the meeting to order at 5:40 pm with Council Members Ficklin and Mendoza present.

II. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Council Member Mendoza moved to approve the January Worksession minutes as presented. Council Member Ficklin seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

III. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Monitoring of Town Sponsored Events: Council Member Ficklin presented a form that would be a follow-up to monies distributed to certain organizations. Council Member Mendoza moved to approve the form with the inclusion of number of Bladensburg citizens participating. Council Member Ficklin seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

FY 06 Audit: Diane Mock, Town Auditor with Bridgett Mock & Associates, reviewed the audit report for FY07. At this point in the meeting, Mayor James arrived. There was discussion on how the Town should show grants such as Community Legacy in the Budget. Ms. Mock also brought the report on internal control over financial reporting and compliance and other matters. Three areas of internal control recommended are: an accounting policies and procedures manual, pay increases should agree to pay scale, and a process for new vendor approval (W9, business license, physical address). Council Member Watson arrived at this point in the meeting.

Retirement Policy: The Mayor relayed a conversation with Ms. Metasky. He entertained comments from employees. Sgt Flynn presented errors he perceived in the financial information given to the Council. He suggested an emergency retirement committee be appointed. The Town Administrator rebutted the comments on inaccuracies in the financial study. The Council needs to make a decision in February in order to join the system in July 2007. Council Member Mendoza moved to form the committee with a member from each Department, including all levels of employees. Council Member George seconded the motion. Discussion: Council Member Watson wanted a deadline for the committee's recommendations in nine working days. The motion passed unanimously. The Mayor and Council will appoint the committee and make the announcement. Mendoza agreed to revisions to the Motion. Council Member Watson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Verizon Agreement: Mayor James moved to approve the agreement as presented. Council Member George seconded the motion. Discussion: Some

of the Language was clarified by Mr. McNamara. The motion was tabled until Monday.

Drug Testing Policy: The attorney will review for Monday's agenda.

Confidentiality Statement: This statement will be part of the employee manual. This will be signed

Mardi Gras Parade: Council Member Watson moved to approve $1500 for the Mardi Gras subject to their obtaining approval of permits, $2000 for the Port Towns Boys & Girls' Club, and $500 for the girl scouts. Unanimous

Non Profit for Social Services: Council Member Watson has asked the Town Attorney to look into a separate legal entity for handling social services needs in Town.

IV. CLARIFICATION OF STAFF REPORTS:

There was some discussion on the condition of Mr. Pak's property and who is responsible for upkeep of the adjacent area.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

There were reminders of upcoming events.

VI. ADJOURNMENT: There being no further public business, at 8:30 p.m., Council Member Mendoza moved to go into closed session to discussion contract negotiations. Council Member Watson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat McAuley, Town Clerk

TOWN OF BLADENSBURG
COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 12, 2007

I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor James called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with Council Members Ficklin, George, Mendoza and Watson present.

II. **OPENING PRAYER:** Council Member George gave the opening prayer.

III. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Council Member Mendoza led the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. **VERIZON FRANCHISE AGREEMENT:** Council Member Ficklin Moved to approve Emergency Ordinance 1-2007 granting a cable franchise to Verizon Maryland and authorizing a franchise agreement. Council Member Mendoza seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Council Member Ficklin moved to approve the agreement between the Town and Verizon Maryland Inc. as presented. Council Member Watson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

V. **WORDS ON BLACK HISTORY MONTH:** Chris Needham spoke on the importance of celebrating the history of the African American experience.

VI. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Council Member Watson moved to approve the January Council Meeting minutes as presented.

VII. **ANNOUNCEMENT OF CLOSED SESSION:** Mayor James announced a closed session after the February Worksession for contract negotiations. No actions were taken.

VIII. **MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION:** Council Member Ficklin presented Certificates of Appreciation, on behalf of the Pastoral/Lay Council, to those who contributed to the program at Emerson House.

IX. **PROCLAMATION FOR MRS. PAM LUCKETT:** Mayor James presented Mrs. Luckett with a Proclamation honoring her contributions in the Town and Community.

X. **MAYOR & COUNCIL REPORTS:** **Council Member George** reminded citizens to help our seniors during winter storms, clean up trash in their neighborhood, and take advantage of job opportunities at the new Walmart. **Council Member Watson** asked that Ms. Shirley Witherspoon be appointed to the Recreation Council. Council Member George moved to approve the appointment; Council Member Ficklin seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Thirty children who are residents of Bladensburg will be given

free memberships at the Bladensburg Community Center. **Council Member Ficklin** attended a multitude of meeting in his role as Council Member. He is coordinating a career fair for youths. He thanked a variety of people for their efforts in the community. **Council Member Mendoza** has spent time cleaning up trash around the Town. **Mayor James** talked about the Town's recent achievements in moving projects forward. He encouraged citizen input in the FY08 Budget.

XI. STAFF REPORTS: Staff gave updates on the previous month's activities. Copies of full reports are available in the Town Office.

XII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Further Recreation Council Appointments: Ms. Watson introduced Ms. Barnes and Ms. Riff and asked for their appointments to the Recreation Council. Council Member George moved to appoint the ladies. Council Member Mendoza seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Recreation Council Funding: Council Member Watson moved to approve $1500 for the Mardi Gras Parade, $200 for the Girl Scouts, and $500 for the Boys and Girls Club and to re-appropriate funds from 4th of July and Christmas events, into Community events. The motion was seconded by Council Member Ficklin and passed unanimously.

Confidentiality Statement: Council Member Mendoza moved to approve the document as presented by the Town Attorney. Council Member Watson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

XIII. PUBLIC COMMENT: The Mayor entertained comments from the Council.

IX: ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, at 8:45 p.m., Council Member Watson moved to adjourn, seconded by Council Member Mendoza and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat McAuley, Town Clerk

TOWN OF BLADENSBURG
WORKSESSION
March 5, 2007

I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Pro Tem George called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. with Council Member Ficklin and Council Member Mendoza present. Mayor James and Council Member Watson arrived soon thereafter.

II. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Council Member Ficklin moved to approve the February 2007 Worksession minutes as presented. Council Member Mendoza seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

III. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Disposal of Public Property: Council Member Watson moved to direct the Town Clerk, with the Staff Management Team, to develop an ordinance and supporting procedure to dispose of Town property. Seconded by Council Member George and passed unanimously.

Basketball Program at Bladensburg Community Center: Steve Ellis, Program Director, requested sponsorship for the program. Mr. Ellis was directed to go through the Recreation Council procedure for funding requests.

Request for Contribution to Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial: Tabled until this item can be discussed with Mrs. White by Telephone..

PEPCO: Mr. Baker, Community Relations, updated the Mayor and Council and staff on how to communicate street light issues to the utility company.

Drug Testing Policy: The draft document is being reviewed by an attorney with expertise in this area and comments/input will be available next week.

Annexation: The Town attorney will survey other municipalities to see what fee charges are as part of annexation procedures; Doris will send letter to the owners of Newton Green and also request survey done at owners at expense.

Shepherd Street Repairs Bids: Low bid was NZI, for $42,600. Council Member Mendoza moved to increase the line item, under Public Works, Capital Street Improvements from $0 to $42,600. Council Member George seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. The Town Clerk will prepared a budget amendment ordinance for the Council Meeting.

MOU: Bridges: The final draft from the Town Attorney needs to be forwarded as an electronic version.

Police MOU with the Town of Edmonston: Chief Moss gave an overview of the agreement. There was considerable discussion on the benefits versus the drawbacks of such an agreement. It was suggested that a trial period may be considered and the need for legal review of the document. The discussion was then tabled.

Confidentiality statement: There were a number of concerns about the wording of the document that was approved at the February Council meeting, as this was a different document than the one that had been under review at previous worksessions. There had been an assumption during its approval that it was the same document. Changes were given to the Town Attorney for incorporation into the statement.

NEW BUSINESS:

Council projects: The Mayor requested that $2500 in funds be reinstated into this line-item. The Town Clerk will draft the Ordinance to enable this for introduction at the March Council Meeting.

Ordinance to Prohibit Cars on Lawns: This will be discussed at the April Worksession.

IV. **CLARIFICATION OF STAFF REPORTS:** Staff answered specific questions concerning monthly reports.

V. **ANNOUNCMENTS:** Announcements were given of upcoming events and items of interest.

VI. **ADJOURNMENT INTO CLOSED SESSION:** There being no further public business, at 8:30 p.m., Council Member Mendoza moved to adjourn into closed session to discuss personnel issues; Council Member Watson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. McAuley, Town Clerk

TOWN OF BLADENSBURG
COUNCIL MEETING
March 12, 2007

I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor James called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with Council Members Ficklin, George, Mendoza and Watson present.

II. **OPENING PRAYER:** Council Member George gave the Opening Prayer.

III. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Pledge was recited.

IV. **RECOGNITION OF HOLIDAY DECORATIONS WINNERS:** Council Member Watson announced the winners and their awards of one hundred dollars.

V. **MAYOR & COUNCIL REPORTS:** Mayor and Council briefed the audience on the previous months activities, programs and meetings they were involved in.

VI. **STAFF REPORTS:** Staff gave updates by Department on the previous month's activities.

VII. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Ordinance 2-2007: Budget Amendment for Council Projects and Shepherd Street Improvements: Town Clerk McAuley gave the first reading of the Ordinance. The second reading and vote on adoption is scheduled for the April 9th Council Meeting.

VIII. **NEW BUSINESS:**

State Retirement System: Council Member George moved to approve the State Retirement System for the civilian employees and LEOPS for the sworn police officers. Council Member Mendoza seconded the motion. Discussion: There was considerable discussion concerning the affordability of the plans and statements from a number of police officers present. The motion was tabled.

IX. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** The Mayor entertained comments from the audience.

X. **ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business, at 8:40 p.m., Council Member George moved to adjourn; Council Member Mendoza seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. McAuley, Town Clerk

TOWN OF BLADENSBURG
WORKSESSION
April 2, 2007

I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor James called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m. with Council Members Ficklin, George and Mendoza present.

II. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Council Member George moved to approve the minutes as presented. Council Member Mendoza seconded the motion. Discussion: Council Member Ficklin asked that the minutes be amended to reflect that minutes of Port Towns Community Development Corporation Board Meetings and other organizations such as the Recreation Council and Apartment Managers' Association be distributed in the Worksession packets or at the Worksession. The motion was so amended and passed unanimously.

III. **BUDGET PREPARATION:** Town Administrator Sarumi presented highlights of her draft budget. She outlined the objectives for FY 08 and a timeline for projects.

IV. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Annexation Fee for Newton Green Developers: The Town Attorney surveyed Laurel, Greenbelt and Bowie on their fees. The Town Administrator recommended that the Town establish a fee of $5000 for this project. Council member Watson moved to establish an annexation fee of $5000 for multifamily dwelling properties. Council Member George seconded the motion. Discussion: Council Member Ficklin asked about commercial business property. There may be different costs associated with this type of annexation. Council Member Ficklin moved to amend the motion to state that the fee would be $5000 for Newton Green and that in the future each case would be addressed based on the Town's incurred costs. Council Member George seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

State Retirement Plan: Council Member Ficklin moved to remove from the table the motion to adopt the ACPS plan for civilians, LEOPS for sworn officers. Council Member seconded the motion for discussion purposes. Discussion: The Mayor expressed concern that that he was not comfortable approving LEOPS at this point. Council asked that there be a survey of all employees to see what benefits they may be willing to forego to lessen the burden of the Town's financial Buy In. The motion was tabled until the results of the survey

Drug Testing Policy: The Town Attorney distributed a draft policy for review.

Disposal of Public Property: The Town Clerk distributed a draft ordinance for review for the May Worksession.

Vehicles Parking on Unpaved Property: The first reading of the ordinance will to be scheduled for the April Council Meeting.

V. **NEW BUSINESS:**

Purchase of Two Police Vehicles: The Police Department requested approval to purchase two police vehicles during FY07 using Federal Forfeiture Funds. This is separate from the Town's General Fund and monies must be used following restrictive guidelines. Council Member George moved to approve the purchase of two vehicles. Council Member Mendoza seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Regina Williams Scholarship Fund: Council Member Ficklin asked that the Town contribute to this fund. The Council requested further information.

Contribution Toward the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial in Washington, D.C.: Tabled.

VI. **CDC UPDATE:** Executive Director Barrow gave an update on the Port Towns Community Development Corporation's activities.

VII. **CLARIFICATION OF STAFF REPORTS:** Staff answered questions on individual Department reports.

VIII. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Announcements included the re-opening of Crossroads after the closure by the County Executive.

IX. **ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business, Council Member Mendoza moved to adjourn. Council Member George seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat McAuley, Town Clerk

TOWN OF BLADENSBURG
COUNCIL MEETING
April 9, 2007

I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor James called the meeting order at 7:00 p.m. with Council Member Ficklin, George, Mendoza and Watson present.

II. **OPENING PRAYER:** Council Member Ficklin gave the Opening Prayer.

III. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Council Member Watson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Council Member Mendoza moved to approve the minutes as presented; Council Member George seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

V. **ANNOUNCEMENT OF CLOSED SESSION:** Mayor James announced a closed session after the last meeting to discuss personnel issues. No actions were taken.

VI. **CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION & APPRECIATION:** Mayor James gave Raymond Rawlins, departing Town Treasurer, a Certificate acknowledging his three years of service.

VII. **MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS:** Mayor and Council gave updates on the previous month's activities.

VIII. **STAFF REPORTS:** The Management Team gave updates of the previous month's activities by Department.

IX. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Approval of Recreation Council Members: Council Member George moved to approve Matilda MacNeil and Chris Needham to the Recreation Council Board. Council Member Mendoza seconded the motion and it passed Unanimously.

Second Reading and Vote on Ordinance 2-2007: Budget Amendment (improvements to a portion of Shepherd Street): The Town Clerk performed the second reading. Council Member Ficklin moved to approve Ordinance 2-2007 as presented and read. Council Member George seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

First Reading of Ordinance 3-2007: Parking on Unpaved Surfaces: The Town Clerk performed the first reading.

Memorandum of Understand between the Bladensburg Police Department and the Edmonston Police Department: Council Member George moved to enter into an MOU with Edmonston Police for a sixty (60) trial period. Council Member Watson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

X. NEW BUSINESS:

Vote on Council approval to expend Federal Asset Sharing funds for the purpose of equipping new police vehicles authorized by Council Action on April 2, 2007: Council Member George moved to approve the expenditure as presented. Council Member Ficklin seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

XI. COMMENTS: The Mayor entertained comments from the audience.

XII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS CONTINUED:

State Pension Plan: Council Member Watson moved to untable Council Member George's motion for the Town to adopt ACPS for civilian employees and LEOPS for sworn police officers. Council Member Mendoza seconded the motion. Discussion: Council concurred that there would be a public hearing on the Retirement Plan. The Mayor called for a vote: Council Members Ficklin and Watson opposed, Council Members Mendoza and George in favor and the Mayor opposed. The motion was defeated three to two.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT: There being no further public business, at 8:55 p.m. Council Member George moved to go into closed session for personnel issues. Council Member Mendoza seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia McAuley, Town Clerk

TOWN OF BLADENSBURG
WORKSESSION
May 7, 2007

I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor James called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m. with Council Members Ficklin, George, Mendoza and Watson present.

II. **JOHN CARLSON, CITIZEN OF TAYLOR STREET:** Mr. Carlson enumerated a number of concerns he had as a citizen with Town government operations. The Mayor and Council will continue a dialogue with Mr. Carlson.

III. **PLAYGROUND PROPOSALS:** Representatives from Gametime, Bosco and Playworld gave presentations based on a Request for Proposals for the 52nd Street Park that will be funded in part from a Natural Resources Park and Playground grant.

IV. **BUS SHELTERS:** Representatives from Signal Outdoor Advertising presented a proposal for partnering with the Town to install bus shelters that display advertising. The Town Administrator, Attorney and Staff will work on details of a potential agreement.

V. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Council Member Mendoza moved to approve the April Worksession minutes as presented. Council Member George seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

VI. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

FY08 BUDGET: Following the recent budget sessions and the Town's decision to join the State pension program, the Town Administrator presented the new draft budget.

Resolution 1-2007: To Approve Participation in the State Retirement System: The Town Administrator will clarify a number of points that may need to be added to the resolution before a vote at the May Council Meeting.

Drug Testing Policy: To be placed on the May Council Meeting agenda

Draft Disposal of Public Property Ordinance: First Reading is scheduled for the May Council Meeting.

Sexual Harassment Policy: Tabled until the June Worksession.

VII. **NEW BUSINESS:**

Senior Picnic on June 2nd: Council Member Watson announced plans for a Senior Picnic coordinated by Mrs. Witherspoon, Senior Representative on the Recreation Council. Mayor and Council asked Mr. McNamara to coordinate the logistics for the location. (The picnic was subsequently cancelled.)

Council Projects: Council Member Ficklin moved to appropriate his funds as follows: $100 for Port Towns Youth Council, $100 for Krewe of Ambition and $50 for Man Power. Council Member Mendoza seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

VIII. CLARIFICATION OF STAFF REPORTS:

Staff answered question specific to Departmental Reports.

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Council Member Watson gave information on the Prince George's Elected Women's Scholarship Fund.

X. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, a 8:30 p.m., there was a motion to adjourn, followed by a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A.McAuley, Town Clerk

TOWN OF BLADENSBURG
COUNCIL MEETING
May 14, 2007

I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor James called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. with Council Members Ficklin, George, Mendoza and Watson present.

II. **OPENING PRAYER:** Council Member Ficklin gave the opening prayer.

III. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Council Member Mendoza led the Pledge.

IV. **SWEARING IN OF OFFICER HAWKINS:** Chief Moss introduced Officer Hawkins and gave a synopsis of his credentials. Mayor James performed the ceremonial swearing in.

V. **INTRODUCTION OF MATT SCHECKLES:** Town Administrator Sarumi introduced the newest member of the Public Works Department.

VI. **PUBLIC HEARING ON THE CONSTANT YIELD TAX RATE:** The Town Clerk conducted the hearing in accordance with State Law.

VII. **PUBLIC HEARING ON THE FY08 BUDGET:** Mayor James conducted the budget hearing as required by the Town Charter.

VIII. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Council Member Watson moved to approve the April Council Meeting minutes as presented. Council Member Ficklin seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

IX. **MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS:** Mayor and Council gave updates on their previous month's activities including meetings, events and projects they are involved in.

X. **STAFF REPORTS:** Staff gave reports by Department on the previous month's activities.

XI. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Resolution 1-2007: Alternate Contributory Pension Selection: Council Member Watson moved to approve Resolution 1-2007 as presented; Council Member George seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Second Reading and Vote for Ordinance 3-2007: Parking on Unpaved Surfaces: The Clerk performed the Second Reading; Council Member Mendoza moved to approve the Ordinance as presented; Council Member Ficklin seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

First Reading of Ordinance 4-2007: Disposal of Public Property: The Town Clerk performed the First Reading

First Reading of Ordinance 5-2007: FY 08 Budget and Real Property Tax Rate: The Town Clerk performed the First Reading.

Vote to Approve the New Pay Scale: Council Member George moved to approve the new pay scale for certain classifications of employees; Council Member Mendoza seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Drug Testing Policy: Tabled.

Sexual Harassment Policy: Tabled.

XII. NEW BUSINESS:

Vote to Approve Changes for Rosina Baldi Neighborhood Playground: Council Member Mendoza moved to approve MNCPPC proposal to remove the tennis courts that are in disrepair and install at Fudsal Court (hard surface soccer type sport); Council Member George seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

XIII. PUBLIC COMMENT: The Mayor entertained comments from the citizens.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT: There being no further public business, at 8:50 p.m., Council Member George moved to go into closed session to for personnel issues; Council Member Watson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. McAuley, Town Clerk

TOWN OF BLADENSBURG
WORKSESSION
June 4, 2007

I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Pro Tem George called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. with Council Members Ficklin, Mendoza, and Watson present. Mayor James arrived during Unfinished Business.

II. **MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. MEMORIAL: Mrs. White:** Tabled.

III. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Council Member Mendoza moved to approve the May Worksession minutes as presented. Council Member Watson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

IV. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Agreement with Signal Bus Shelters: Mr. LaPlaca has given the marked up agreement back to the Signal attorney for his review.

52 Street Playground: Council Member George moved to approve West Recreation's proposal using Gametime equipment. Council Member Mendoza seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Code Enforcement Vehicle Purchase: Asset Forfeiture: This is one of several corrections to the budget spreadsheets. One vehicle will be purchased FY07 out of Asset Forfeiture, not the General Fund. Council Member George moved to approve purchase of the vehicle; Council Member Mendoza seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Annexation of Newton Green: Next Steps: Mr. LaPlaca and Ms. McAuley will develop a timeline according to State Statutes. Ms. McAuley will check on the $5000 annexation fee due from the developer.

FY08 Budget Recap: There was considerable discussion concerning the Recreation Council Budget with the Mayor and Council Member George wanting detailed itemization of all Rec Council sponsored events. Council Member Watson supported some general funds left for community events that may come up during the year. Mayor and

Council concurred that these funds would be given a new general ledger account number.

V. NEW BUSINESS:

Council Member George moved to approve $250 of his discretionary funds for National Night Out prizes. Council Member Mendoza seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

VI. CLARIFICATION OF STAFF REPORTS:

Staff answered inquiries related to departmental reports.

VII. ADJOURNMENT INTO CLOSED SESSION: There being no further public business, at 8:30 p.m. Council Member Watson moved to adjourn into closed session for personnel issues. Council Member George seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Council Member Ficklin excused himself from the closed session.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat McAuley, Town Clerk

TOWN OF BLADENSBURG
WORKSESSION MINUTES
July 2, 2007

I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Pro Tem Watson called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. with Council Members Ficklin, George and Mendoza present. Mayor James arrived later in the meeting.

II. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Council Member Mendoza moved to approve the June Worksession minutes as presented. Council Member George seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

III. **CERTS UPDATE:** Diane Johnson, member of the Bladensburg CERTS Team, gave an update on training and outfitting of the van and trailer. Council Member George moved to approve the outfitting of the Code Enforcement van for use by Neighborhood Watch and CERTS. The Town would continue to be property of the Town. Council Member Mendoza seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

IV. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Retroactive Approval for Council Projects: Badges-Council Member Mendoza: The Town Attorney ruled that retroactive approval was allowed. Council Member George moved to approve $500 for Mayor and Council Badges from Council Member Mendoza's Council Projects funds. Council Member Ficklin seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Quarterly Reports for Community Groups Receiving Town Funds: Council Member Ficklin will combine two draft forms for presentation at the September Worksession.

Status of 401 and 457 Accounts: Ms. McAuley is arranging for our account manager to meet with employees on their individual accounts.

Town Green Tot Lot: The Mayor has had requests to improve this pay lot and the Town will pursue grant financing for this.

MOU with Douglas Corporation: Approval was tabled until the document could be further reviewed by Mayor and Council and staff.

V. **NEW BUSINESS**

Marketing Brochure: Council Member Ficklin presented a brochure that he developed as a class project. He hopes that it may be considered to promote the Town and its history.

VI. **CLARIFICATION OF STAFF REPORTS:** Council received clarification on individual reports.

VII. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** There were announcements of upcoming events and meetings of interest.

VIII. **ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business, at 7:30 p.m., Council Member Mendoza moved to adjourn; Council Member Watson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully,

Pat McAuley, Town Clerk

TOWN OF BLADENSBURG
COUNCIL MEETING
July 9, 2007

I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor James called the meeting to order with Council Members Ficklin, George, Mendoza and Watson present.

II. **OPENING PRAYER:** Council Member George gave the opening prayer.

III. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Council Member Mendoza led the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Council Member Mendoza moved to approve the June 11th Council Meeting Minutes as presented. Council Member Watson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

V. **REV. LEAR, PASTOR OF DECATUR HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH,** was introduced to the community. His church is located directly across from the Town Hall.

VI. **MAYOR & COUNCIL REPORTS:** The Mayor and Council gave updates on the previous month's activities, including a summary of the Maryland Municipal Convention, attended by the elected officials and some of the management staff, by Council Member Watson.

VII. **STAFF REPORTS:** Staff gave departmental updates and copies are available in the Town Administrative office.

VIII. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Resolution to change the Town of Bladensburg Personnel Manual Section IIIB. 2., 3., 6., to Reflect changes to the Town's Retirement System and other Employee Benefits: Council Member Watson moved to approve the Resolution as presented; Council Member George seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Bus Shelter Agreement with Signal Corporation: Council Member George moved to approve the agreement as negotiated by the Town

Attorney and the Attorney for Signal Corporation. Council Member Watson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

IX. NEW BUSINESS:

Motion to Recess in August: Council Member Watson moved to recess from regular Council Meetings in August; Council Member George seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Summer Playgrounds: Council Member George vowed to ensure that the Town would have playground programs in schools next summer.

Recreation Council Funding: Council Member Watson moved to retroactively appropriate $500 from the Recreation Council FY07 budget for the Resources Center. Council Member Ficklin seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

X. PUBLIC COMMENT: The Mayor entertained comments from the audience. Comments included safe passage for school children and concern that the area around Evergreen Cemetery is becoming a dumping ground.

XI. ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, at 8:30 p.m., Council Member Mendoza moved to adjourn; Council Member George seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat McAuley, Town Clerk

TOWN OF BLADENSBURG
WORKSESSION
September 6, 2007

I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor James called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with Council Members George, Mendoza and Watson presented. Council Member Ficklin was excused.

II. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Council Member Watson moved to approve the July Worksession minutes as presented; Council Member Mendoza seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

III. **FUTURE PLANS FOR QUINCY MANOR & MONROE GARDENS:** Art Linde, developer, announced plans to turn the properties into 430 townhomes and 120 condos, to be priced between $375,000-500,000. These properties are located adjacent to the Town boundary.

IV. **JOHN CARLSON,** a resident of Bladensburg presented a document giving his assessment of ways to improve Town government operations

V. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Emergency Ordinance to Amend Budget for FY2007 Bridge Repairs: This will be voted on at the September Council Meeting. The County did not allow for payment over two years.

VI. **NEW BUSINESS:**

Police Department Promotions: Chief announced that two officers will be promoted to First Class at the September Council Meeting

Town Hall Cleaning: Ms. McAuley reported that the staff was working on estimates to get a major cleaning of the entire building. Mayor and Council concurred that this needed to be accomplished.

Evergreen Cemetery Cleanup: Council Member Mendoza announced his proposal to get a group in to clean up the site and restore the gravesites. There was discussion that this project must be done with sensitivity to the historic nature of cemetery. Council Member Watson announced that ATHA was taking Evergreen on as a project. The Town will have a contractor get rid of the brush and poison ivy.

VII. CLARIFICATION OF STAFF REPORTS:

Staff answered individual inquiries about departmental reports.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further public business, at 8:00 p.m. Council Member Watson moved to go into closed session to discuss personnel issues; Council Member Mendoza seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. McAuley, Town Clerk

TOWN OF BLADENSBURG
COUNCIL MEETING
September 10, 2007

I. CALL TO ORDER: Mayor James called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with Council Members Ficklin, George, Mendoza and Watson present.

II. OPENING PRAYER: Council Member George gave the opening prayer.

III. OATH OF OFFICE: Mayor James swore in Bryan Alston, as new Town Administrator.

IV. CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION: Chief Moss presented Sgt. Davis with a Certificate for his efforts toward making Bladensburg's National Night Out the best in the County.

V. SPANISH HERITAGE MONTH: The Town Clerk read the September 15-October 15th designation.

VI. POLICE PROMOTIONS: Chief Moss announced the promotions of Officers Hall and Corsey to Officer First Class.

VII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Council Member George moved to approve the July Council Meeting minutes as presented. Council Member Watson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

VIII. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS: Mayor and Council gave updates and meetings and projects they were involved in the previous two months.

IX. STAFF REPORTS: Staff gave updates by Department. Copies are available in the Town Offices.

X. PRESENTATION OF APPRECIATION TO THE DONALDSON GROUP: Chief Moss presented Dana Coleman, Property Manager with a certificate thanking the company for its support of the Police Department, including Neighborhood Watch and National Night Out.

XI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Emergency Ordinance 5-2007: to amend the operating budget of the Mayor and Council for FY 07 for Bridge Repair Appropriation: Town Clerk McAuley read the Ordinance; Council Mendoza moved to approve; Council Member Watson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

XII. NEW BUSINESS:

Election Judge: Council Member George moved to approve Chris Needham; Council Member Mendoza seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Vote to Approve Disposal of Certain Property as Listed: Council Member Ficklin moved to approve the disposal of the property as listed; Council Member Watson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

XIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS: Comments from the audience included concerns over Town business signs only in Spanish, dog issues and speeding problems.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT: At 8:45 p.m., there being no further business, Council Member George moved to adjourn; Council Member Mendoza seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat McAuley, Town Clerk

TOWN OF BLADENSBURG
COUNCIL MEETING
October 8, 2007

I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor James called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with Council Members Ficklin, George, Mendoza and Watson present.

II. **OPENING PRAYER:** Council Member George gave the Opening Prayer

III. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

IV. **SWEARING IN OF POLICE OFFICER ALLSION DUGAS:** Mayor James gave the Oath of Office to Officer Dugas.

V. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Council Member Ficklin moved to approve the September Council Meeting minutes as presented; Council Member George seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

VI. **ANNOUNCEMENT OF CLOSED SESSION:** Mayor James announced a closed session for personnel issues and contract negotiations.

VII. **MAYOR & COUNCIL REPORTS**: Mayor and Council gave updates on last month's meetings and activities. Highlights included promotion of Gorgeous Prince George's Day, call in for Thanksgiving Baskets and thanks to Mango Café for volunteering its site for a Thanksgiving Dinner for those in need.

VIII. **STAFF REPORTS:** Staff gave updates by Department. Full reports are available in the Town Clerk's Office.

IX. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** There was no Unfinished Business.

X. **NEW BUSINESS:**

Scheduling of November Council Meeting: Due to the Veterans' Day holiday and revised Council Meeting date and time will be announced on the cable TV bulletin board.

XI. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** The Mayor entertained comments from the audience.

XII. **ADJOURNMENT FOR CLOSED SESSION:** There being no further public business, at 8:25 p.m., Council Member Mendoza moved to adjourn into closed session for personnel issues; Council Member George seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. McAuley

TOWN OF BLADENSBURG
WORKSESSION
November 5, 2007

I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor James called the meeting to order with Council Members Ficklin, George, and Mendoza present. Council Member Watson was excused.

II. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Council Member Ficklin moved to approve the October minutes as presented. Council Member George seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

III. **APPOINTMENT OF MAYOR AS ACTING TOWN ADMINISTRATOR:** Council Member George moved to approve the appointment; Council Member Mendoza seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

IV. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Project List: The document was reviewed and updated.

FY08 Budget Adjustments: Ms. McAuley announced that the adopted budget needs to be reviewed because there are shortfalls in the legal and office supplies fund accounts.

Evergreen Cemetery: Cost estimates for wall repairs are being secured.

V. **NEW BUSINESS**

Police MOU with Colmar Manor: The possibility of an MOU between the two police departments is being entertained.

Marketing Plan: Council Member Ficklin requested that this be on the Project List and December Agenda.

December Meeting Schedule: Council Member George moved to schedule both the Worksession and Council Meeting for the first Monday in December. Council Member Mendoza seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

VI. **CLARIFICATION OF STAFF REPORTS:**

Staff entertained questions on departmental reports.

VII. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

There were reminders of upcoming events and meetings.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, at 7:00 p.m., Council Member Mendoza moved to adjourn; Council Member George seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat McAuley, Town Clerk

TOWN OF BLADENSBURG
COUNCIL MEETING
November ~~8~~, 2007
12 pm

I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor James called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with Council Members Ficklin, George and Mendoza present.

II. **OPENING PRAYER:** Council Member George gave the opening prayer.

III. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** was recited.

IV. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Council Member Ficklin moved to approve the October Council Meeting minutes as recited; Council Member George seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

V. **ANNOUNCEMENT OF CLOSED SESSION:** Mayor James announced that the Council had a closed session the previous week where a personnel action was taken.

VI. **PROCLAMATION FOR ELSIE MORRISON:** The Mayor gave a proclamation honoring the public service of Town Clerk Morrison who recently passed away.

VII. **MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS:** Mayor and Council summarized their previous month's activities in their role as public servants. People were encouraged to give the names of Town citizens in need of support during the holidays to the Town Office.

VIII. **STAFF REPORTS:** The Management Team gave reports by Department. Complete reports are available in the Town Office.

IX. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** none

X. **NEW BUSINESS:**

Resolution 5:2007 Celebrating COG's 50th Anniversary: Read by Town Clerk McAuley: Council Member George moved to adopt the resolution as read; Council Member Ficklin seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

XI. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** The Mayor entertained comments from the audience.

XII. **ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business, at 8:00 p.m. Council Member Mendoza moved to adjourn; Council Member Ficklin seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat McAuley, Town Clerk

TOWN OF BLADENSBURG
WORKSESSION
December 3, 2007

I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor James called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. with Council Members George and Mendoza present. Council Members Watson and Ficklin arrive immediately thereafter.

II. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Council Member George moved to approve the November Worksession minutes as presented; Council Member Mendoza seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

III. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Sexual Harassment: The draft policy was reviewed and amendments were suggested to the Town Attorney for possible incorporation prior to adoption. Further input will be forwarded to the Town Attorney.

Financial Form for Community Groups: Council Member Ficklin and Watson will collaborate on a form for adoption.

Mayor Pro Tem: Council Member Ficklin suggests more dialogue on this role.

Marketing Plan: Council Member Ficklin asked for Council feedback on moving forward with a plan.

MOU with Colmar Manor Police Department: Council Member Watson moved in favor of moving forward with a Pilot MOU with the Colmar Manor Police Department. Council Member George seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

IV. **NEW BUSINESS:**

Council Support of Schools: Tabled.

Police Equipment Purchase: Council Member George moved to spend assets from the forfeiture funds to secure equipment for the new police cars. Council Member Mendoza seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

V. **CLARIFICATION OF STAFF REPORTS:**

Staff answered questions on individual reports.

VI. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Announcements were made of upcoming events.

VII. ADOURNMENT FOR CLOSED SESSION:

At 6:50 Council Member Watson moved to go into closed session for personnel issues. Council Member Mendoza seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. McAuley, Town Clerk

TOWN OF BLADENSBURG
COUNCIL MEETING
December 3, 2007

I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor James called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with Council Members Ficklin, George, Mendoza and Watson present.

II. **OPENING PRAYER:** Council Member George gave the opening prayer.

III. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

IV. **CERTIFICATION OF APPRECIATION:** Diane Johnson received this award for her service to CERTS.

V. **ANNOUNCEMENT OF CLOSED SESSION:** Mayor James announced a closed session for personnel issues where no actions were taken.

VI. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Council Member Mendoza moved to approve the November Council Meeting minutes as presented; Council Member George seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

VII. **MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS:** Council gave updates on the previous months activities and meetings attended. Reports included updates on the National League of Cities Conference in New Orleans attended by Mayor James and Council Member Ficklin, and jobs available through the new National Harbor as reported by Council Member George.

VIII. **STAFF REPORTS:** Staff gave up updates on the previous months activities by department.

IX. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** There was no unfinished business.

X. **NEW BUSINESS:**

Council Member Ficklin asked that from his Council Project funds: $200 be allotted to the Pastoral Lay Council and $50 to Talented Young People Moving On. Council Member Watson moved to approve the allocation of funds; Council Member Mendoza seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

XI. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Ms. Pittman announced the Holiday Party at the Community Center. Council Member George moved to allocate $700 in Recreation Council funds for the event; Council Member Watson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

XII. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, at 8:20 p.m. it was moved and seconded and voted unanimously to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat McAuley, Town Clerk