

**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 be 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,

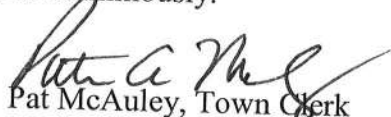
  
Patricia A. McAuley, Town Clerk

**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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup>.

- 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:**

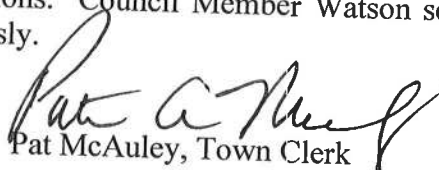
There was some discussion on the condition of Mr. Pak's property and who is responsible for upkeep of the adjacent area.

**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. Lockett 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.

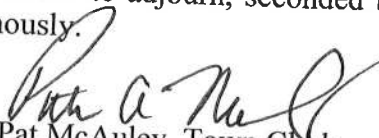
**Recreation Council Funding:** Council Member Watson moved to approve \$1500 for the Mardi Gras Parade, \$200 for the Girl Scouts, and \$500 for the Boys and Girls Club and to re-appropriate funds from 4<sup>th</sup> of July and Christmas events, into Community events. The motion was seconded by Council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

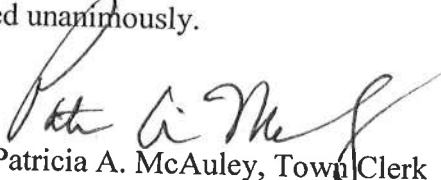
**TOWN OF BLADENSBURG  
COUNCIL MEETING  
March 12, 2007**

- 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 9<sup>th</sup> 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