

**TOWN OF BLADENSBURG  
WORKSESSION  
January 7, 2008**

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

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Tabled for January Council Meeting.

**III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**Approval of 2008 Calendar:** Persons should e mail updates to calendar to Town Clerk, including meetings, holidays, deadlines (newsletter). Calendar will be a continuously updated document. The Town Clerk will send the generic budget schedule to everyone for incorporation in the calendar.

**State Pension Plan:** Treasurer Torrence will perform expedited research on the additional payment requirement.

**IV. NEW BUSINESS:**

**Police Department Equipment Purchase:** Council Member George moved to approve the vehicle purchase as outlined in the January 3, 2008 memo from Chief Moss to Mayor James. Council Member Ficklin seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**COVAD to Verizon for Town Hall Internet Service:** Vote on this will take place at the Monday Council Meeting.

**V. CLARIFICATION OF STAFF REPORTS:**

Staff answered questions related to staff reports. Council Member Watson requested enhancements to information in the Public Works report. Council Member George will work with Mr. Carmena on this.

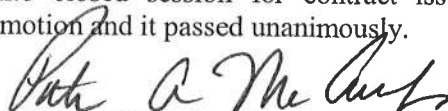
**VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Council Member George requested a Certificate of Appreciation for Manuel Gileman, Manager of WalMart for the Council Meeting.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further Public Business, at 6:45 p.m. Council Member George moved to adjourn into closed session for contract issues; Council Member Mendoza seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Patricia A. McAuley, Town Clerk

**TOWN OF BLADENSBURG  
COUNCIL MEETING  
January 14, 2008**

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor James called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with all Council Members present.
- II. **OPENING PRAYER FOLLOWED BY A MOMENT OF SILENCE IN MEMORY OF BLADENSBURG'S GOODWILL AMBASSADOR CHRIS NEEDHAM AND OUR STATE SSENTATOR GWENDOLYN T. BRITT:** Mayor James gave the prayer followed by a Moment of Silence.
- III. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** was recited.
- IV. **OATH OF OFFICE:** Mayor James gave the Oath of Office to the newly appointed Town Treasurer, Lauralucia Torrence.
- V. **CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION:** Chief Moss presented Certificates to Officers for outstanding performance in carrying out their duties for the Department.
- VI. **PRESENTATIONS:**


**Inter-County Connector:** Mr. Marvin Eason gave an update.

**Health Tech Institute:** Mr. Yemi Bamisaiye gave a brief description of the program.
- VII. **APPROVAL OF DECEMBER WORKSESSION AND COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:** Council Member Mendoza moved to approve both minutes as presented. Council Member George seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- VII. **MAYOR & COUNCIL REPORTS:** Mayor and Council reported on the previous month's activities and meetings, including announcement of the Holiday Decorations Contest winners from Council Member Watson and an upcoming press article on the Phoenix from Mayor James.
- VIII. **STAFF REPORTS:** Staff presented reports on the previous month's activities by Department. Complete reports are filed in the Town Office.
- IX. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**Vote on Switch in Internet Provide from COVAD to Verizon FIOS:**  
Council Member Mendoza moved to approve the switch; Council Member Watson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

- X. NEW BUSINESS:** There was no new business.
- XI. PUBLIC COMMENT:** The Mayor entertained comments from the audience.
- XII. ADJOURNMENT:** At 8:45 p.m., there being no further public business, Council Member George moved to go 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  
WORKSESSION  
February 4, 2008 5:30 p.m.**

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

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Council Member Watson moved to approve the January 2008 Worksession minutes as presented; Council Member George seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Snack Vending Machine:** Diane Griffin introduced Sophia Lopez, a vending machine contractor, who was interested in placing equipment in the municipal building. Council Members expressed concern about healthy snacks, placement, and any financial benefits to the Town. No decision was made.

**Cleaning Contract:** Ms. Diane Griffin expressed concerns about the cleanliness of the Town Hall, offices, restrooms and other public areas. The current contractor, Details, Unlimited, is not living up to expectations. Council Member Ficklin will develop a Request for Proposals and seek out bids for this service.

**Recreation Council:** There are questions about the procedures for selecting a Chairperson, conducting business and allocation of Recreation Council funds. Mayor James directed the Recreation Council to have a Board in place. Council Member Watson moved to approve \$10,000 guideline for the Recreation Council developing a budget for FY09. Council Member Ficklin seconded the motion. The motion was tabled. Prior to the next Recreation Council Meeting, there will be a taskforce appointed to formulate guidelines, including the Treasurer, Code Enforcement Director, and Council Member Mendoza.

**Choices for Success:** Jacqueline Sibert presented the current program that focuses on the middle school students. The program needs written support and more. Choices will be working with Rogers Heights Elementary School and Wm Wirt Middle School.

**Credit Card Policy:** Council Member George moved to approve the policy as drafted by Town Treasurer Torrence; Council Member Watson seconded the motion. Discussion: A number of amendments were agreed upon. Council Member George withdrew his current motion and moved to approve the policy with the agreed upon changes. Council Member Watson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Evergreen Cemetery:** The Committee is comprised of Council Members Watson

and Mendoza, Tim McNamara, Pat McAuley, and citizen John Carlson. Most members spent time in January at the site, surveying the existing problems and planning a triage for rectifying them. Tires should be removed, brush cleared, fence repaired. Information on the Title is needed from the Town Attorney. Council Member George moved to approve \$3400 to replace the Gate. Council Member Watson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Grant Application:** Town Treasurer Torrence has developed a grant application for organizations that wish to have the Town give funding support. Council Member George moved to approve the application as presented; Council Member Mendoza seconded the motion and it passed unanimously

**Budget Enhancements:** Town Treasurer Torrence asked all Department Heads to prepare a "wish list" for Department needs for FY09.

**PTCDC Representation:** CM Ficklin expressed concern that no Town Official is on the Port Towns Community Development Corporation is on the Board. Council Member Ficklin will take on that responsibility.

**Grant Agreement with Redevelopment Authority:** Council Member George moved to approve the draft agreement as presented. Council Member Mendoza seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. (Note: The Annapolis Road Gateway Committee is moving forward on schematics for presentation before the Redevelopment Board for approval.)

#### **IV. NEW BUSINESS**

**Cinco de Mayo:** Council Member George moved to support Council Member Mendoza moving forward in plans for a Town Celebration. Council Member Ficklin seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**V. CLARIFICATION OF STAFF REPORTS:** Staff field questions on their individual reports.

**VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Announcements were made of upcoming events.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT FOR CLOSED SESSION:** There being no further public business, Council Member George moved to go into closed session for contract discussion; Council Member Mendoza seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

  
Respectfully submitted, Pat McAuley, Town Clerk

**COUNCIL MEETING**  
**February 11, 2008 7:00 p.m.**

- 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 Ficklin gave the opening Prayer.
- III. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** was recited.
- IV. **ANNOUNCEMENT OF CLOSED SESSION FOLLOWING FEBRUARY WORKSESSION:** Mayor James announced a closed session to discuss contract issues.
- V. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Council Member Ficklin moved to approve the January Council Meeting minutes as presented; Council Member Watson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- VI. **MAYOR & COUNCIL REPORTS:** Mayor and Council reported on previous month's activities including a Moment of Silence for the victims of the Kirkwood, Missouri City Hall shootings. Council reminded the citizens about the upcoming Black History Month Celebration and the upcoming Town Budget Process.
- VII. **STAFF REPORTS:** Town Management Staff presented reports of last month's activities by Department. Complete reports are available at the Town Office.
- VIII. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
  - Introduction of Resolution 1-2008: Annexation of Newton Green Property:** Town Clerk McAuley gave a summarized version of the Resolution.
  - Vote on Agreement with Redevelopment Authority on Infrastructure Improvements on 57<sup>th</sup> Avenue:** Council Member Mendoza moved to move approve the agreement; Council Member Watson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- IX. **NEW BUSINESS**

Council Member Ficklin moved to approve the Mayor's request for \$500 from his discretionary funds for the Wm Wirt Middle School Choir. Council Member George Seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Council Member George moved to approve Mrs. Barnes as a member of the Recreation Council; Council Member Mendoza seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**X. PUBLIC COMMENT:** There was considerable discussion and concern about the Prince George's County School policy that would allow for a Certificate of Completion in lieu of Graduation from High School

**XI. ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business, at 8:15 Council Member Mendoza moved to adjourn; Council Member George seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Patricia A. McAuley, Town Clerk.

**TOWN OF BLADENSBURG  
WORKSESSION AGENDA  
March 3, 2008 5:30 p.m.**

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

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Approval of the February Worksession minutes was tabled until the March Council Meeting.

**III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**Uses for Three Captains Site:** The Management staff has visited the site and is in the process of preparing a report for review of Mayor and Council.

**Budget Deliberation Schedule:** Council Member George moved to approve the Budget Schedule as presented by the management staff; Council Member Ficklin seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Direction for Recreation Council:** The Recreation Council will be directed to plan four recreational/community activities for the entire Town. Two will take place in Ward I and two will take place in Ward II. Additionally, non profit entities interested in receiving Town funds must complete the appropriate grant application and submit this to the Town Treasurer by March 30<sup>th</sup>.

**57<sup>th</sup> Avenue Infrastructure & Streetscape Improvements:** The Town Engineer has asked for direction on the handicap ramps on the west side of 57<sup>th</sup> Ave. as part of the street paving project (PY33-CDBG). Council concurred that the design should include sidewalk ramps that will incorporate into the new streetscape design and the Town Engineer will be so directed.

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

**V. CLARIFICATION OF STAFF REPORTS:** Staff fielded inquiries related to their individual Department Reports.

**VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Announcements were made of upcoming events and news of general interest.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT FOR CLOSED SESSION: Contract Negotiations:** There being no further public business, at 7:00 pm, Council Member Mendoza moved to go into closed session; Council Member George seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

  
Respectfully submitted, Pat McAuley, Town Clerk



**TOWN OF BLADENSBURG  
COUNCIL MEETING  
March 10, 2008**

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor James called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with Council Members Ficklin, George, and Mendoza present. Council Member Watson arrived soon thereafter.
- II. **OPENING PRAYER:** Council Member George gave the Opening Prayer.
- III. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** was recited.
- IV. **RECOGNITION OF CHRISTOPHER NEEDHAM'S LIFELONG CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE TOWN:** The Mayor presented Mr. Needham's family with a Proclamation and Award, expressing the Town's gratitude for his lifelong commitment to the community. The Council added their heartfelt words on Chris Needham.
- V. **RECOGNITION OF CORPORAL STONE:** Council Member Watson presented Corporal Stone with a Governor's Award for his volunteerism with the Anacostia Trail Heritage Area special events and projects.
- VI. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Council Member George moved to approve the February 2008 Worksession minutes as presented; Council Member Mendoza seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Council Member Ficklin moved to approve the February Council Meeting minutes as presented; Council Member George seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- VII. **ANNOUNCEMENT OF CLOSED SESSION:** Mayor James announced a closed session on February 29 to discuss personnel issues.
- VIII. **MAYOR & COUNCIL REPORTS:** Reports included: Council Member George attended the signing of Bostwick MOU between University of Maryland Preservation Program and the Town. He encouraged citizens to attend candidate forums for the District 5 Councilmember position. Council Member Mendoza thanked Ms. Griffin and McAuley, and all others who helped with Black History Month. He asked for volunteers to help with Cinco de Mayo. Council Member Ficklin spoke on goals for the Town. Council Member Watson reported on the NLC Conference, read a poem she had written about Chris Needham and talked about opportunities for health care information in the community. The Mayor concluded by explaining the newly adopted process for non profits to request grant funding from the Town.
- IX. **STAFF REPORTS:** Reports included – Public Works report on bulk trash pick ups, Finance reporting on the upcoming FY09 Budget process, Town Clerk reporting on the MOU signing with University of Maryland, Acting

Town Administrator spoke on the Team Management approach the Town is undertaking to make our outstanding service to the community even more exemplary and, as Police Chief, on incidents of interest to the community. The Town Attorney reported on efforts being made by the School Board to counsel students that were victims of the bus accident. Copies of complete reports are available in the Town Office.

**X. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**The Public Hearing for the Annexation of the Newton Green Property will be held on April 14, 2008, 6:30-7:00 p.m.**

**Adoption of Budget Schedule for FY09:** Council Member Mendoza moved to approve the Budget Schedule as presented by Management Staff; Council Member Watson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**XI. NEW BUSINESS:** There was no New Business.

**XII. PUBLIC COMMENT:** Comments included thanks from the Needham Family and concern about the bright lights at Seton High School.

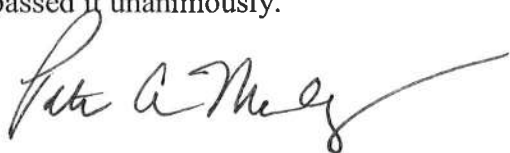
**XIII. ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further public business, at 8:20 p.m. Council Member George moved to adjourn into closed session for contract negotiations; Council Member Ficklin seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Patricia A. McAuley, Town Clerk

**TOWN OF BLADENSBURG  
WORKSESSION MINUTES  
April 7, 2008 5:30 p.m.**

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor James called to order at 5:30 p.m. with Council Members Ficklin, George, Mendoza and Watson present. Staff present were Chief Moss, Tim McNamara, Cia Torrence, Diane Griffin (Pat McAuley was excused), Rodney Sims, Joe Carmena, and Town Attorney Dan LaPlaca.
- II. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Council Member Watson moved to approve the March Worksession Minutes as presented; Council Member George seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- III. **EVERGREEN CEMETERY UPDATE: John Carlson:** The University of Maryland archeology students have expressed interest in taking on this project. The archeologists did not want Public Works do disturb anything in the cemetery without any guidance from the students. Mayor James complimented Mr. Carlson for his interest in helping the Town.
- IV. **PRESENTATION OF TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S FY09 BUDGET: Acting Town Administrator Moss:** The FY09 draft budget was presented by Acting Administrator Moss for Mayor and Council's review. Ms. Torrence fielded questions from the Council.
- V. **CDC UPDATE: Kevin Williams:** Mr. Williams gave a power point presentation on the proposed Port Towns' Sector Plan. The 23 & 24 of April is the ULI grant workshop.
- VI. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** Will be discussed at next meeting.
- VII. **NEW BUSINESS:** There was no new business.
- VIII. **CLARIFICATION OF STAFF REPORTS:** Staff fielded their inquiries related to their individual Department Reports.
- IX. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Announcements were made up upcoming events and news of general interest including Women's Day Event this weekend.
- X. **ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further public business, at 7:00 pm, Council Member Watson moved to close, Council Member George seconded the motion and passed it unanimously.



**TOWN OF BLADENSBURG  
COUNCIL MEETING  
APRIL 14, 2008**

- 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 Ficklin gave the opening prayer.
- III. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** was recited.
- IV. **RESOLUTION 1-2008: ANNEXATION OF NEWTON GREEN SENIOR HOUSING:** Council Member Watson moved to approve the Resolution as presented. Council Member Mendoza seconded the motion and passed unanimously.
- V. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Council Member Ficklin moved to approve the March 2008 Council Meeting and April 2008 Worksession minutes as presented. Council Member George seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- VI. **CERTIFICATES OF ACHIEVEMENT:** Mayor and Council recognized the academic achievements of five Town seniors. Council Member Watson made the presentation to Geraldine Timberlake, Council Member Mendoza to Mary Winder, Council Member Ficklin to Josephine Green, Council Member George to Barbara J. Givens, and Mayor James to Clara Lindsely. Ms. Givens spoke about the people who have supported their efforts. Ms. Heather Illiff, District 2 School Board Representative announced a Prince George's County Public School Open House on April 22 from 9:30 to 2 p.m.
- VII. **MAYOR & COUNCIL REPORTS:** Reports included: Council Member George attended an event with the Governor concerning "Capital for a Day" in the Port Towns, participated in Teen CERTS training. Ms. Watson attended the Easter Luncheon at Parkview at Bladensburg, the Women's History Luncheon, ATHA meeting, Bladen Wood Association. She is serving on the War of 1812 Bicentennial Commemoration. Council Member Ficklin attended the Port Towns' CDC meeting. He complimented the Staff on the FY09 Budget presentation. Council Member Mendoza attended a conference with the Dominican Republic President in New York, representing elected officials of Dominican descent. On May 4<sup>th</sup>, there will be a Cinco de Mayo celebration at the Town Green. Mayor James thanked Parkview for hosting the Mayor's Breakfast. He elaborated on the Capital for a Day. The CSX Bridge will be named in honor of Senator Gwendolyn Britt. Mayor James has been appointed Deputy Director for Community Relations for Prince George's County.

**VIII. STAFF REPORTS:** Staff gave reports by Department. Complete reports are available at the Town Office.

**IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Council Member Mendoza read a Proclamation, on behalf of the Mayor and Council, in remembrance of the Armenian Genocide at the beginning of the Twentieth Century. All concurred with the Proclamation.

**X. NEW BUSINESS**

**Closed Session:** Council Member Watson moved to go into closed session to discussion contract issues after the open meeting; Council Member George seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.


**XI. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

A resident of Parkway Condominiums expressed deep concerns about continued fire outbreaks in one unit. This is a grave danger to the entire building. Acting Town Administrator Moss will investigate her concerns.

**XII. ADJOURNMENT:**

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

Respectfully submitted,

  
Pat McAuley, Town Clerk

**TOWN OF BLADENSBURG  
WORKSESSION  
MAY , 2008**

- I. CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Pro Tem Ficklin called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. with Council Members George, Mendoza and Watson present. Staff present were Chief Moss, Tim McNamara, Cia Torrence, Rodney Sims and Pat McAuley. Mayor James arrived shortly thereafter.
- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Council Member Mendoza moved to approve April Council Meeting minutes as presented. Council Member George seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- III. PHOENIX APARTMENTS UPDATE:** Attorney Larry Taub announced that Federal Capital Partners is ready to submit a detailed site plan to the County that will add 22 apartments to the lower levels, previously retail space. They will be requesting a letter of support for the detailed site plan as presented.
- IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**Archeological Study for Bostwick:** The University of Maryland was submitted a proposal for this work. Council directed that Ms. McAuley move forward on a contract for this proposal.

**Budget Recap:** Council Member Ficklin asked for a fund request deadline waiver for Choices for Success, who did not get it application for grant funding to the Treasurer by the deadline. The Mayor explained that the Council has decided to not deter from the process, as it opens up arguments for other groups who did not meet the closing date.

The Mayor suggested taking \$1000 each from the PTCDC and Port Town's Day, and putting it toward Bladensburg's Community Day.

Port Town's Bus GL account should now be \$18,000. A copy of the MOU with Colmar will be reviewed. Alternative transportation options will be investigated. We are asking for ridership logs to determine if Town residents' usage matches with the reports generated.

Mayor James will send dates for future meetings that may be scheduled for any budget updates.

- V. NEW BUSINESS:**

**Town Center Project: Updates** – There is a need to look at a range of consultants with proven track records and to develop a strong contract. It was

suggested that there be more use of the PTCDC. The Leadership team will develop and presents recommendation for this process.

**VI. CLARIFICATION OF STAFF REPORTS:**

Thanks went to Rodney Sims for his leadership role in Public Works.

The ownership of the dioramas is still in question. The Town will continue to insure the exhibits.

There have been no further requests or actions related to Aman Trust's grant applications for Market Square.

**VII. CALENDAR UPDATES:** The Town Clerk requested all dates be forwarded for the master calendar.

**VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

ATHA has taken on the Route One Banner project and the Town will receive 22 banners for Alternate Route one.

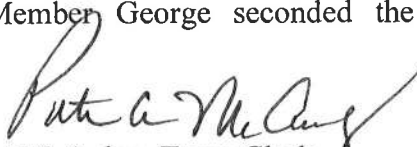
Bladensburg Volunteer Fire Department is looking for substantial funding and will be meeting with the Mayor and Chief Moss on this in the near future.

The Bladensburg Police Department with support from other area jurisdictions apprehended a dangerous armed robber who was holding up students on the way to school. There will be a ceremony recognizing their efforts at the May Council Meeting.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT FOR CLOSED SESSION:**

There being no further public business, at 7:00 p.m., Council Member Mendoza moved to go into closed session to discuss personnel and contractual issues. Council Member George seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Pat McAuley, Town Clerk

**TOWN OF BLADENSBURG  
WORKSESSION  
MAY , 2008**

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The Mayor suggested taking \$1000 each from the PTCDC and Port Town's Day, and putting it toward Bladensburg's Community Day.

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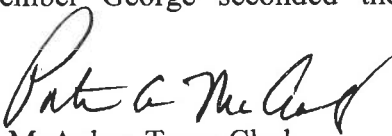
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**IX. ADJOURNMENT FOR CLOSED SESSION:**

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Respectfully submitted,

  
Pat McAuley, Town Clerk

**TOWN OF BLADENSBURG  
COUNCIL MEETING  
MAY 12, 2008**

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor James called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with Council Members Ficklin, George, and Mendoza present. Council Member Watson was excused.
- II. **OPENING PRAYER:** Council Member Mendoza gave the opening prayer.
- III. **THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** was recited.
- IV. **PORT TOWNS' SECTOR PLAN AMENDMENT:** Janine O'Connor, MNCPC, encouraged all to attend the six day charrette in mid June.
- V. **CERTIFICATES OF RECOGNITION:** Chief Moss presented certificates to Police Officers from Bladensburg and Mt. Rainier, and Department staff for outstanding work to apprehend an assailant who attempted five armed robberies against students going to Bladensburg High School.

Chief Moss presented a Certificate of Recognition to Lance Corporal Rashid who rescued a woman from a car accident, where the vehicle was in a precarious position.

- VI. **CONSTANT YIELD TAX HEARING:** Treasurer Torrence gave an explanation of the Constant Yield Tax and the necessity of the hearing to comply with State Law.
- VII. **FY 09 BUDGET INTRODUCTION:** Treasurer Torrence gave a summary of the proposed financially responsible budget.
- VIII. **MAYOR & COUNCIL REPORTS:** Council Member George spoke on public safety and the heroism of our police; Council Member Ficklin recognized past employees for their achievements; Council Member Mendoza thanked all those who participated in Cinco De Mayo; and Mayor James thanked all who have participated in community events, reminded all to vote in the special Congressional election and spoke briefly on the budget.

Council Member George requested that from his Council Project allotment, \$100 each would go to Pastoral/Lay Council, Choices for Success, Krewe of Ambition, Parkview, and Emerson House. Council Member Ficklin moved to approve the request; Council Member Mendoza seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

- IX. **STAFF REPORTS:** Staff gave updates on the previous month's activities by department. Complete reports are available at the Town Office.

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

XI. **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Council Projects:** Council Member George moved to approve Council Member Ficklin's request for \$125 for Pastoral Lay Council and \$125 for Choices for Success; Council Member Mendoza seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**First Reading of Ordinance 1-2008: Adoption of the FY09 Budget and Setting the FY09 Real Property Tax Rate:** The Town Clerk performed the first reading.

XII. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

A citizen complained about excessive noise from loud parties and vehicles. The Town will revisit amplified music at its own community events.

A citizen was concerned about rent increases at Parkview. Acting Town Administrator Moss will research this issue.

Residents reported a large pothole on 57<sup>th</sup> Ave. near the streambed south of the high school. Staff will check this portion of the street. This road area is scheduled for repaving early this summer.

XIII. **ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further public business, at 8:40 p.m. Council Member Mendoza moved to go into closed session to discuss a contract; Council Member George seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Patricia A. McAuley, Town Clerk