

**Town of Bladensburg
Worksession Minutes
January 14, 2013**

- I. **Call to Order:** Mayor James called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m., with Council Members Brown Ficklin, George and Mendoza present.
- II. **Approval of Minutes:** Council Member George moved to approve the December 2012 Worksession minutes as presented; Council Member Brown seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- III. **Unfinished Business:**

Town Grant Presentation: Dr. Thomas spoke about how the grant award had helped enable his anti-bullying campaign program. Council Member Mendoza moved to approve releasing the funds; Council Member Brown seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Elected Officials' Compensation: Mayor James introduced the plan for an increase in the compensation for the Mayor and Council. He felt this should be related to the actual costs of maintaining residency in the Town as required by the Charter. Council Member George stated that the compensation related to the hours put in by the Council was very minimal. Council Members Brown and Ficklin agreed. Council Member Mendoza reminded the rest of the elected body that each person knew what the compensation was when they ran for office and the Town pays more to the Council than Cheverly. Mayor James wanted the citizens to weigh in on this and suggested a public hearing on the issue.

Town Charter Update:

Mayor's Term Length: This needs to be done through a Charter Change. MML Staff reports that State municipalities are evenly divided between two and four year terms.

Mayor and Council Duties and Responsibilities: Mayor James concurred with the Town Clerk's recommendation that these be put in the form of a policy as the Charter should not go into this type of detail. A policy makes duties easier to amend. There will be a continuation of this discussion.

Mayor and Council Ethics Ordinance: There was a reminder that forms are due in on January 31, 2013. There was also a reminder that an Ethics Commission must be appointed and Mayor James reported that he already has some ideas on potential candidates.

Town of Bladensburg Scholarship: Mayor James proposed instituting such a program and suggests that each Council Member "donate" part of his or her professional development allocation to this (\$1000.). Council Member George moved to approve the scholarship program. Discussion: Mayor James continues to work on a detailed draft plan for the program and will present it at an upcoming meeting, so the motion was tabled.

IV. **NEW BUSINESS:**

The Town does not have control over zoning so an appropriately zoned business can come into a location without needing Town approval. Zoning is under Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission. The Mayor asked for better communication about new businesses coming into Bladensburg.

V. **ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business, at 6:55 p.m., Council Member Mendoza moved to adjourn; Council Member George seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,


Patricia McAuley, Town Clerk

**TOWN OF BLADENSBURG
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 14, 2013**

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor James called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m., with Council Members Brown, Ficklin, George and Mendoza present.
- II. **OPENING PRAYER:** Council Member Ficklin gave the opening prayer.
- III. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** was recited.
- IV. **CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION:** Mayor James gave accolades to Mrs. Dowe, long time Secretary at Bladensburg Elementary School who is transferring to Barack Obama Elementary School. This was followed by remarks from the Council, her colleagues and citizens whose lives she has touched.
- V. **RECOGNITION OF SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY EFFORTS:** Bladensburg's Green Team and other individuals supporting the Town's sustainable goals were thanked for their on-going efforts to achieve this designation.
- VI. **MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS: (Brief)**

Council Member George thanked all for support during the loss of his mother.
Council Member Mendoza wished all a Happy New Year.
Council Member Ficklin invited all to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration.
Council Member Brown wished all a Happy New Year.
Mayor James spoke about support for the BHS ROTC, announced that the Town will be starting the FY 14 Budget preparations, and the February Worksession and Council Meeting dates are changed to February 4, 2013.
- VII. **STAFF REPORTS:** Oral reports were omitted due to the length of the agenda. Copies are available in the Town Clerk's Office.
- VIII. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Approval of CDBG PY38 Grant Agreement: Council Member Brown moved to approve the Mayor signing the agreement; Council Member Ficklin seconded the motion and it passed with Mayor James, Council Members Brown, Ficklin and Mendoza in approval; Council Member George not present in the Council Room.

Approval of Maryland Historical Trust 2013 Grant Application: Council Member Brown moved to approve support for the application; Council Member Mendoza seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- IX. **New Business:**

Bag "Tax" Bill: Council expressed concern that people of food stamps and other assistance would not be able to afford the .05 surcharge. Council Member Brown suggested, if the Bill passed, to have a means of providing bags for those people who would have a hardship with the new law. A citizen wondered if certain people could be exempt from the tax. Other meeting participants spoke on stewardship of the environment. Further discussion was tabled until the Mayor and Council can read and review the legislation.

Black History Month: Council Member Brown invited all to the Town's Celebration.

75th Anniversary of Decatur Baptist Church: Pastor Lear invited all to join in this event.

- X. **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,


Patricia A. McAuley, Town Clerk

**TOWN OF BLADENSBURG
WORKSESSION MINUTES
February 4, 2013 5:30p.m.**

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

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Council Member Brown moved to approve the January 2013 Worksession minutes as presented; Council Member George seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

COG: Mr. Paul DesJardin and Mr. Chuck Beers gave a presentation on the "Region Forward" program. Mayor and Council felt that they would like to revisit potential participation in this program after reviewing results in other COG member governments.

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NPS Signage for Bostwick: MOU: Council Member Ficklin moved to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Town, National Park Service, and ATHA; Council Brown seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

ETHM & Town Collaboration: Mayor James presented an overview of the goals for the proposed partnership. Council Member George moved that Bladensburg would set the guidelines and timeline for moving forward with the collaboration; Council Member Ficklin seconded the motion. Discussion: Council Member expressed concerns that the Town "was not here yet" to agree to this partnership. Mayor James explained that was one purpose of the motion, to address these concerns. The motion passed unanimously with a roll call vote.

Employee Evaluation System Update: Following considerable discussion about development of a new package with new timelines, keeping personalities out of evaluations, and the need for consistent training, and more of an automated system, Council Member Ficklin moved to return to the previous evaluation system from the calendar to the fiscal year; Council Member Mendoza seconded the motion. The motion was amended to add that this will be followed by with research into a new system for the future. Management Team will bring examples of other systems.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

New 7-11s in Town: Mayor and Council expressed concern that there are two 7-11 businesses coming to Bladensburg and they were not aware of this. One will be in the old Murray's store, and the other will be in the old Blockbusters.

Solid Waste Transfer Station at Kenilworth and Lawrence: The Mayor of Cheverly has requested that the Town take a stand against this proposed usage. The location is not in a municipality but is close to the Anacostia River. There will be a meeting set up to better understand the implications of this facility.

EndTime Harvest Ministries and Bladensburg Collaboration: Council Member Brown suggested moving forward with the goal of establishing this in the upcoming year with the understanding that the Mayor and Council have more information on the partnership proposal. Council Member Brown moved to have a separate meeting with Rev. Addison to further explore the proposal; seconded by Council Member George and passed unanimously.

County Bag Bill: The Mayor reported that the Town has been asked to support the bill. There would be a .05 charge for each non recycling bag given out a certain retail establishments like grocery stores. This will have to go before the Maryland General Assembly for approval. Discussion will continue at the Council Meeting to follow.

- V. **Adjournment:** There being no further Worksession business, at 7:00 p.m., 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
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 4, 2013 7:00 P.M.**

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor James called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. with Council Members Brown, 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 George moved to approve the February Council Meeting minutes as presented; Council Member Mendoza seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- V. **PROCLAMATION: ADIRONDACK TREE SERVICE** was thanked for its service following the June 2012 microburst and named the Official Bostwick Tree Service.
- VI. **PROCLAMATION: DOMINICAN HERITAGE MONTH:** Mayor James gave the Proclamation celebrating the Country's History.
- VII. **BLADENSBURG ROTC** was recognized for Adopt A Highway for 57th Avenue.
- VIII. **MNCPPC PRESENTATION: MS. WILLIAMS-JENNINGS, PLANNING DEPARTMENT** gave an overview of the updating of the long range General Plan and the Vision for the County.
- IX. **MAYOR & COUNCIL REPORTS**
Council Member Brown reported on the upcoming Black History Month event and the Prince George's Elected Women's Scholarship Program.
Council Member George spoke about the Council of Governments and his participation in one of its committees.
Council Member Mendoza attended the District 47 Reception in Annapolis.
Council Member Ficklin spoke about "Living the Dream".
Mayor James met with Senator Ramirez and Delegate Ivey. He spoke about the renovations at Parkview, the start up of FY 2014 Town Budget process, and the passing of Dan Jackson, a valued member of the community.
- X. **STAFF REPORTS (Available at the Town Clerk's Office)**
Public Works
Public Safety
Code Enforcement
Finance
Town Clerk

Town Administrator

XI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Black History Month Funding: Council Member Mendoza moved to move \$3500 from the Recreation Council to help fund the Black History Month Celebration on February 23rd; Council Member George seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

XII. NEW BUSINESS

Mayor and Council Discretionary Funds: Council Member Mendoza requested \$150 for a Flag and its accessories and \$50 for Keeping Prince George's County Beautiful; Mayor James requested \$100 each for Bladensburg Elementary School's Spirit and Environmental Clubs; Council Member Brown requested \$250 for Bladensburg High School's ROTC. Council Member George moved to approve the requests; Council Member Brown seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

XIII. PUBLIC COMMENT: Comments from the audience included a request for more Police presence at Newton Green, a push for laws capping rents for seniors, and more senior activities at the Community Center.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, at 8:55 p.m., Council Member George seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Patricia McAuley, Town Clerk

**TOWN OF BLADENSBURG
WORKSESSION MINUTES
March 11, 2013 5:30p.m.**

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

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Council Member Ficklin moved to approve the February Worksession Minutes as presented; Council Member Brown seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Recreation Council and Pastoral Lay Council: Mayor James stated that as a follow-up to a previous Council meeting, the Town needs resolutions to establish the Recreation Council and Pastoral Council as separate entities from the Town Government. Council Member Ficklin reported that the Pastoral Lay Council may decide on a name change and may be disaffiliated with the Town. The Mayor asked for Council to e mail him thoughts so that appropriate resolutions can be instituted.

Safe Routes to School and Transportation Alternative Programs: Town Administrator Moss reported a successful meeting with our State Delegation and Maryland State Highway Administration concerning the dangerous pedestrian routes along Quincy Street/48th Avenue. Mayor and Council need to review the report, concur with the findings and send it to the Delegation for its support. We are not under the current round of funding. The report will be forwarded before the end of March.

Visitors' Center Usage Report: Mayor and Council envision a tenant that will bring the Town revenue while supporting the community through a program such as one supporting our youth. The Neighborhood Design Center has done preliminary drawings for the space; an RFP will be advertised, with the Town looking at the market rate, SF, for the area.

Proposed Prince George's Regional Hospital Location: The Mayor reported that the County is looking at four alternative locations. There will be a shuttle bus system to ensure those using public transportation have access to the proposed facility. The County asks the Town to weigh in on a preferred location decision.

Support for DOE Grant Challenge: This is a COG initiative and they are asking for a letter of support. There may be grant opportunities down the road for the Town. Council Member Brown moved to send a letter of support; Council Member George seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Star Spangled Grant Application for African American History Month, 2014: Council Member George moved to pursue funding for the Town's Black History Month in 2014, related to the role of African Americans in this area during the War of 1812; Council Member Ficklin seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

V. CLARIFICATION OF STAFF REPORTS: Questions were directed to Department Heads.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS: There were announcements of upcoming events.

VII. ADJOURNMENT: There being no further Worksession business, at 6:50 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
COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA
MARCH 11, 2013 7:00 P.M.**

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor James called the meeting to order with Council Members Brown, Ficklin and George present. Council Member Mendoza was excused.
- II. **OPENING PRAYER:** Council Member George gave the opening prayer.
- III. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** was recited.
- IV. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Council Member Brown moved to approve the February Council Meeting minutes as presented; Council Member George seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- V. **ATHA UPDATE:** Aaron Marcavitch, Director gave an update on the Battle of Bladensburg Commemoration plans that included a walking tour, streetscape improvements, special events including a parade. ATHA has been granted \$125,000 for special events from the Star Spangled Commission.
- VI. **MAYOR & COUNCIL REPORTS** included:
 - Council Member Ficklin participated in the Rogers Heights Science Bowl and the 47th District Meeting.
 - Council Member Brown reminded all about the critical need for smoke detectors and gave information about free ones available through the Fire Departments.
 - Council Member George reported that the monthly Clean-up program will start in March.
 - Mayor James talked about the four potential hospital locations, the Black History Month event, and the upcoming Town Budget process for PY 14.
- VII. **STAFF REPORTS:** Staff gave updated by Department.
 - Public Works
 - Public Safety
 - Code Enforcement
 - Finance
 - Town Clerk
 - Town Administrator
- VIII. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
 - Vote to Move Forward with Charter Amendment to Change Mayor's Term from Two to Four Years:** Council Member George moved to proceed with the process to make the Charter Amendment; Council Member Ficklin seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

Emergency Ordinance 1-2013: Budget Amendments: Council Member George moved to approve the Ordinance as presented by the Town Clerk; Council Member Brown seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Approval of Bostwick South Chimney Restoration Bid: Council Member George moved to approve the bid as submitted by the Wayne Group; Council Member Ficklin seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Grant Disbursement: Mr. Jenkins gave a brief presentation on the fund use for the Port Towns' Boys and Girls Club. Council Member George moved to disburse the funds; Council Member Ficklin seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

X. PUBLIC COMMENTS: The Mayor entertained comments from the audience.

XI. ADJOURNMENT: At 8:30 p.m., Council Member George moved to adjourn; Council Member Brown seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,


Patricia A. McAuley, Town Clerk

**TOWN OF BLADENSBURG
WORKSESSION MINUTES
April 8, 2013 5:30 p.m.**

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor James called the meeting to order with Council Members Brown, Ficklin, George and Mendoza present.
- II. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Council Member George moved to approve the March 2013 Worksession Minutes as presented; Council Member Brown seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- III. **PRESENTATION:** **Carlyncia Peck, Artistic Entertainment** gave an overview of her company, a full service entertainment firm, that provides performing arts outreach in the community.
- IV. **FY 2014 PROPOSED BUDGET:** The Town Administrator and Town Treasurer gave a PowerPoint overview of the proposed FY14 Town Budget with projected revenues and expenses along with priority goals and objectives as directed by the Mayor and Council.
- V. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Ethics Commission: Names for the Ethics Commission will be presented at the May Worksession. Resumes' of potential Commissioners should be forwarded to the Mayor.

Port Towns' Day: A meeting of some the Port Towns' Mayors concluded that the PTCDC should be focused on economic development and not a one-day festival. Bladensburg and Colmar Manor are on board for the Towns to take over the event. They want to hear from the other two Towns. All Towns should financially support this endeavor. Mayor James expressed concern that Port Town Day costs had been inflated by the PTCDC. He will request an accounting of actual expenses.

Mayor and Council Compensation: Mayor James reported that the Council has had ongoing discussions about a compensation increase for some time and are looking forward to the community's input at a public meeting.

Summer Youth Employment Program: Town Administrator Moss will have a timeline prepared for the hiring process. Again this year, Dana Duncan will be coordinating the process.

Proposed Use for the Visitors' Center Space: Mr. Moss reported that an RFP went out for the space. We have one interested party: Lizet Tax Service wishes to lease half the space. They would like an answer by April 15th. Council will

discuss and get back to Mr. Moss.

Bladensburg Library: There will be an upcoming meeting with Councilmember Harrison about the possible temporary location of the library and the library priorities for the surrounding municipalities.

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

Ms. Blakely asked for suggestions on how to stock the Newton Green Library. It was suggested to contact the Rotary Club.

Ms. Langley asked if there had been any reconsideration of the once a week trash pickup. Town Management reported that the current program was working well and saving the Town money.

Ms. Peck inquired about Town sign standards and the overall appearance of the commercial areas. Some blighted buildings in the area are perceived to be in Town but are in an unincorporated area.

VII. ADJOURNMENT: There being no further Worksession business, at 6:55 p.m., 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
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 8, 2013 7:00 P.M.**

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor James called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with Council Members Brown, 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 Mendoza moved to approve the March 2013 Council Meeting minutes as presented; Council Member George seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- V. **MAYOR & COUNCIL REPORTS** included:
 - Council Member Mendoza announced upcoming Earth Day and Cinco de Mayo celebrations.
 - Council Member Ficklin attended the District 47th weekly meeting in Annapolis.
 - Council Member Brown reinforced the County Fire Department's smoke detector give-away.
 - Council Member George needed volunteers for the monthly Town cleanup event.
 - Mayor James reported on the Council's budget deliberations, Mayor's Day of Recognition at Rogers Heights ES, the STEM event in Houston, Bladensburg Library Temporary move, and opportunities to join the 4 H event near Camp David.
- VI. **STAFF REPORTS:** Monthly reports are available in the Town Clerk's office.
 - Public Works
 - Public Safety
 - Code Enforcement
 - Finance
 - Town Clerk
 - Town Administrator
- VII. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
 - Resolution 1-2013: Charter Amendment to Change Mayor's Term from Two to Four Years:** After the reading by the Town Clerk, Council Member Mendoza moved to approve Resolution 1-2013; Council Member George seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- VIII. **NEW BUSINESS:** There was no new business.
- IX. **PUBIC COMMENTS:** The Mayor entertained comments from the audience.

- X. **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,


Patricia A. McAuley, Town Clerk