

**TOWN OF BLADENSBURG
WORKSESSION MINUTES
December 14, 2015 5:30 p.m.**

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor James called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. with Council Members Bridgeman, Ficklin, Hall and Mendoza present.
- II. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Council Member Mendoza moved to approve the November 2015 Worksession minutes as presented; Council Member Hall seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- III. **WM. WIRT MIDDLE SCHOOL: TOWN GRANT:** Allocated funds were used toward enhancing the music program at the school. Council Member Mendoza moved to approve disbursement of the funds; Council Member Hall seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- IV. **EDMONSTON ROAD UPDATE: SHA:** Rick Rossberg from State Highway Administration reported that the project will contain traffic calming, bike routes and utility upgrades. The 2 ½ year project also involves relocating utility poles and concrete work can be achieved during the winter months on warmer days. Problems with the initial survey work have delayed construction.
- V. **AMAN TRUST: BOSTWICK:** The Trust has sold the Market Master's House and proposed using the profits to provide a match for a Maryland Heritage Area Grant for a planning study for the future of Bostwick. The Trust asked the Town to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding to create a partnership for this purpose. Council Member Mendoza moved to direct Town Staff to work with the members of the Trust to develop this document; Council Member Ficklin seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- VI. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** There was no Unfinished Business.
- VII. **NEW BUSINESS**

Absentee Ballot Applications for 2017 Election: Council Member Bridge asked that the Town's application be updated to reflect the next municipal election so as to encourage more voting. Mayor James stated that such modifications are premature and would serve no purpose at such an early date. He may ask the Ethic Commission its thoughts on this issue. Mayor James called for a vote on the question. Council Member Hall moved to amend the Absentee Ballot application to reflect the 2017 Town Election; Council Member Mendoza seconded the motion and the vote was as follows: Council Member Hall: Nay, Council Ficklin: Nay; Council Bridgeman: Aye, Council Member Mendoza: Aye, Mayor James: Nay. The motion was defeated 4-1.

EZ Mart Issues: Council Member Hall reported that there are continued concerns with the store not labeling product prices, blocking ingress/egress, and charging seniors fees for certain transactions. Council Member Ficklin volunteering to contact Secretary Gill to see what actions the Town can take to correct these negative business practices.

Communications Position: Mayor James proposed creating a new position for Communications Coordinator that would be part time and would commence in FY 2017. This person would be responsible for the Town's social media presence. He or she would maintain the website, e blasts, newsletters (paper or electronic). This person would NOT be the Town's spokesperson to the press.

MOU Bike Trails: ATHA presented an MOU supporting Bike Trails linking all the municipalities under its umbrella. The Town supports this idea and will vote on approval after ATHA Director Marcavitch makes his presentation at one of the January Meetings.

IX. ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, at 6:35 Council Mendoza moved to adjourn; Council Member Hall seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia A. McAuley, Town Clerk