

**TOWN OF BLADENSBURG
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
June 8, 2015 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, Hall and Mendoza present.
- II. **OPENING PRAYER:** Mayor James gave the opening prayer.
- III. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** was recited.
- IV. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Council Member Mendoza moved to approve the May Council Meeting minutes as presented; Council Member Hall seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- V. **STUDENT ESSAY PARTICIPANTS: What the Flag Means to Me and If I were Mayor:** Students read their pieces and were given Certificates.
- VI. **MAYOR & COUNCIL REPORTS** included:
Council Member Brown gave a review of the Public Information Act requests that the Town Clerk has received this past year.
Council Member Ficklin has been a member of the MML Communications Committee. He attended the Plummer Day celebration.
Council Member Mendoza spoke about the newly expanded La Chaquita restaurant and the Liquor License process the owners went through.
Council Member Hall attended Delegate Finnell's event, the EndTime Harvest Ministries graduation dinner, and is involved in Empowerment's summer program.
Mayor James focused on the FY16 Budget. He spoke about the survey participation and results, the reductions, savings in the new refuse contract. He also commended the B5 committee for taking on blight and other issues in this new program.
- VII. **STAFF REPORTS** are available on the Website, electronically or at the Clerk's Office
- VIII. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
- IX. **FINANCIAL BUSINESS**

Ordinance 5-2015: To Adopt the FY 2016 and set the Real Property Tax Rate – Second Reading and Vote to Adopt: Following the second reading by the Town Clerk, Council Member Brown moved to approve Ordinance 5-2015; Council Member Hall seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Announcement of Approval of Scholarship Funding for Endtime Harvest Ministries Graduates: Mayor James announced that the Council, at a Special Meeting on May

22, 2015, approved \$1000 scholarships for each of three Bladensburg High School students who participated in this program.

Vote on Funding for Port Towns Community Development Corporation: President Nancy Myer reported that the funds would be used as part of the Port Towns Eco District sustainability plans, including connectivity, mixed use development, façade improvements. A researcher will be hired to map every business and determine available properties. No vote on funding was taken at this time.

X. NEW BUSINESS

Council Projects: It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved to fund the following groups:

Council Member Mendoza: \$100 We Lead by Example;

Council Member Hall: \$100 We Lead by Example, \$100 Endtime Harvest Ministries scholarship fund;

Council Member Brown: \$250 We Lead by Example

Council Member Ficklin: \$100 Empower artistic program

XI. PUBLIC COMMENTS: There was opportunity for public comment.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. McAuley, Town Clerk