

**TOWN OF BLADENSBURG
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
May 11, 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:** Council Member Ficklin gave the opening prayer.
- III. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** was recited.
- IV. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** Council Member Ficklin moved to approve the April Council Meeting minutes as presented; Council Member Hall seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- V. **CONSTANT YIELD TAX RATE HEARING:** Mr. Jackson, financial contractor, read the advertisement, and gave a general explanation of the Constant Yield. The Town intends to keep its tax rate and not go to the Constant Yield rate.
- VI. **MAYOR & COUNCIL REPORT**

Mayor James announced that starting in July the Mayor & Council reports would be combined into one and each official will have a rotating opportunity to give an oral update at the Council Meeting.

Council Member Brown attended an IGS class on advanced financing with Council Member Mendoza as part of the Academy of Excellence upper level program.

Council Member Ficklin reported on the previous month's events he attended.

Council Member Mendoza thanked all who supported the Cinco de Mayo event.

Council Member Hall continues to volunteer at the Community Outreach office.
- VII. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS (none)**
- VIII. **FINANCIAL BUSINESS**

4-2015: FY 2015 Budget Amendments (Emergency): Council Member Brown moved to approve the ordinance as presented; Council Member Hall seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

5-2015: Budget Adoption and Tax Rate: First Reading: The Town Clerk performed the first meeting.

IX. NEW BUSINESS (none)

X. PUBLIC COMMENTS: PY 16 Proposed Budget included-

Ms. Melendez expressed concerns about the perception of drawing down on the Town's reserves, long term liabilities, and the start of the Strategic Plan process.

Mrs. Kinkel opposed deficit spending.

Mr. Kinkel wanted the Town to limit spending.

Ms. Laney asked for budget justifications, consideration of cuts, and understanding if there is a need for more community transportation.

Mr. Carlson asked how to increase revenues. He criticized Town cell phones for officials, and asked the Town to do away with credit cards.

The Mayor answered that the Town does not issue phones to officials and that credit cards are needed to do certain Town business.

XI. ADJOURNMENT: At 7:35 p.m., Council Member Brown moved to adjourn; Council Hall seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.