

**TOWN OF BLADENSBURG
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
May 9, 2016 7:00 P.M.**

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor James called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with Council Members Bridgeman, Hall and Mendoza present. Council Member Ficklin was excused
- II. **OPENING PRAYER:** Mayor James gave the opening prayer.
- III. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** was recited
- IV. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Council Member Bridgeman moved to approve the April Council meeting minutes as presented; Council Member Hall seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: Council Member Hall-Aye, Council Member Bridgeman-Aye, Council Member Mendoza-Aye, Mayor James-Aye. The motion passed unanimously.

The Mayor announced a Closed Session to discuss legal issues on May 7, 2016.

- V. **CONSTANT YIELD TAX HEARING:** Council Member Bridgeman moved to recess the Council Meeting to begin the Hearing; Council Member Hall seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Treasurer Tinelli reviewed the advertisement as mandated by the State. The Town expects to not lower its tax rate to the Constant Yield rate in order to generate an additional \$156,528 funding for Real Property Tax revenues.

- VI. **CRIME STATISTICS PRESENTATION:** Chief Owens gave a PowerPoint report on the actual crime statistics in the Town to counter misinformation that has been put out to the community by individuals. In actuality, the Town has made great strides in reducing crime.

- VII. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Ms. McCutcheon spoke about ensuring that all students in Town have an opportunity to apply for any proposed Town scholarships.

Mr. Weiss appreciated the Town's budget sessions. He hoped the Town would purchase a streetsweeper and lower the Mayor & Council professional development budget.

Ms. Melendez gave the first B5 monthly review report. General meetings are twice a month. The group coordinated a Hamlet Woods cleanup event.

VIII. MAYOR & COUNCIL REPORTS

Council Member Hall participated in the Hamlet Woods cleanup, Cinco de Mayo, and Bike Path Committee meeting.

Council Member Mendoza participated in Earth Day with the Cub Scouts and Cinco de Mayo. He explained some of the bases for granting liquor licenses.

Council Member Bridgeman spoke about his thoughts on municipal modernization

Mayor James thanked everyone who participated in the Budget meetings.

He attended a collaborative meeting with local Mayors, the property owner and representatives from Walmart. A community forum was held on the proposed improvements to the store, and the Town Administrator attended the latest hearing before the Planning Board. The Planning Board voted for approval.

He thanked B5 for the Hamlet Woods cleanup event and thanked Council Member Mendoza for Cinco de Mayo event.

IX. STAFF REPORTS (available on the Website or at the Town Clerk's Office)

X. UNFINISHED BUSINESS (none scheduled)

XI. FINANCIAL BUSINESS:

Business License Fees Amended: Code Enforcement Officer Rinehart has proposed a streamlined business License fee schedule that follows a classified system (5 classes) that is also based on square footage. Council Member Hall moved to approve the schedule as presented; Council Member Mendoza seconded the motion. Vote: Council Member Hall-Aye, Council Member Bridgeman-Nay, Council Member Mendoza-Aye, Mayor James-Aye. The motion passed 3 to 1.

XII. NEW BUSINESS

First Reading of Ordinance 1-2016: Adoption of 2017 Budget and Setting the Real Property Tax Rate Town Clerk McAuley performed the first reading.

Resolution 1-2016: Green Team: Council Member Hall moved to approve this Resolution supporting Sustainable Maryland and establishing a Bladensburg Green Team; Council Member Mendoza seconded the motion. Vote: Council Member Hall-Aye, Council Member Bridgeman-Aye, Council Member Mendoza-Aye, Mayor James-Aye. The motion passed unanimously.

Town Administrator Sandlin appointed the following persons to the Green Team:

Jim Foster, AWS, Kimberly Know, Port Towns Community Health Partnership, Stanley Mosely, Town Manager Cottage City, Rodney Barnes, Town Administrator for Edmonston, Alison Miller, Municipal Collaboration Assistant Project Manager, Pat Williams, resident, Tameka Roman, Autumn Woods Apartments. Council Member Hall moved to approve the appointments; Council Member Mendoza seconded the motion. Vote: Council Member Hall-Aye, Council Member Bridgeman-Aye, Council Member Mendoza-Aye, Mayor James-Aye. The motion passed unanimously.

Amendment to Personnel Policy (Section VI – Compensation Practices addressing overtime pay): Council Member Mendoza moved to approve the Amendment as presented; Council Member Bridgeman seconded the motion. Vote: Council Member Hall-Aye, Council Member Bridgeman-Aye, Council Member Mendoza-Aye, Mayor James-Aye. The motion passed unanimously.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT: At 8:45 p.m., there being no further business, Council Member Mendoza moved to adjourn; Council Member Bridgeman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. McAuley, Town Clerk