

**TOWN OF BLADENSBURG
WORKSESSION MINUTES
JULY 14, 2014 5:30 P.M.**

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor James called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. with Council Members Brown, Hall and Mendoza present. Council Member Ficklin arrived at 5:40 p.m.
- II. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Council Member Hall moved to approve the June Worksession minutes as presented; Council Member Mendoza seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

III. **PRESENTATIONS**

The Singer Group: Evaluation System: Ms. Colleen Shannon gave an overview of the company and relayed that its concentration was in public sector systems. She has met and will continue to meet with staff persons and a focus committee as part of development of a new, user friendly system for the Town.

Beyond Nightclub: Mr. Raj, architect, and Ibay Dita, the owner, presented the schematics for the club that will be located in the former Crossroads property. The detailed site plan has been submitted to the Planning Board. There has been modification of the signage and certain architectural elements, focusing on "green" architecture. The hearing will be sometime in October.

Evergreen Cemetery: Mr. Hall plans landscape restoration for the cemetery starting September 8th. This phased project will begin with goats removing invasive plants (this will take 7-8 days), tree trimming and removal, and finally grass mowing.

IV. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Partial Release of Covenants: Bladensburg Commons: Mr. Ratnauer reported that this development will offer 100 affordable rental units on 58th Avenue. The land may have some covenants, so Mayor and

Council must grant a partial release of covenants for the project to move forward. Council Member Ficklin moved to approve the partial release of covenants; Council Member Hall seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Strategic Planning Update: Mr. Moss has been in contact with Jeanne Bilanin, Institute for Governmental Services, about oversight of this project, starting at the end of September. IGS has performed this service for a number of Maryland municipalities.

V. NEW BUSINESS

New Avaya Phone System: The Town's current phone system was installed in the mid-late 1990's and is seriously outdated, causing communication issues. A new system will be funded through the ATF fund, so a budget amendment is unnecessary for this purchase. Council Member Mendoza moved to go forward with the new system; Council Member Brown seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

VI. Adjournment: At 6:45 p.m., Council Member Mendoza moved to go into closed session to discuss contractual matters; Council Member Hall seconded the motion and the meeting was closed.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. McAuley, Town Clerk

**TOWN OF BLADENSBURG
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
July 14, 2014 7 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 Mendoza moved to approve the June 2014 Council Meetings as presented; Council Member Hall seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- V. **ANNOUNCEMENT OF CLOSED SESSION:** Mayor James announced that there was a Closed Session to discussion contractual negotiations immediately preceding tonight's Council Meeting. There was a Mayor and Council action to purchase trash toters for single family homes.
- VI. **APPOINTMENT OF RECREATION COUNCIL MEMBER:** Council Member Brown moved to approve Ms. Carlynthia Peck to the Rec Council; Council Member Mendoza seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- VII. **AUGUST RECESS:** Council Member Ficklin moved to recess from regular Council Meetings during August; Council Member Hall seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- VIII. **MAYOR & COUNCIL REPORTS** included:

Council Member Ficklin attended the MML conference and went to the sessions including Maryland Economic Outlook, Hot Button Legal Issues, Cabinet Secretaries Round Tables, Code Enforcement meeting, and the Inaugural Dinner. He expressed concern about the citizens' respect for the Town's elected officials. He thanked Mrs. Hoffman and her work with the Patriotic Committee.

Council Member Brown attended the MML conference and went to sessions on municipal budgets and the MOM Act. She announced an ongoing casting call for A Plus Kids. She talked about a proposed "Residents' Day". She re-emphasized giving the Town e mail addresses so citizens can be notified of issues, emergencies, events electronically.

Council Member Hall spoke about her participation in the Summer Youth Employment program.

Council Member Mendoza participated in the July 4th program. He announced that Bladensburg was awarded "Banner City" status at the MML conference. He thanked voters for turning out for the State's primary elections.

Mayor James thanked the Council and voters for turning out for the primaries. He reported that representatives for Beyond Nigh Club (old Crossroads site) made a presentation with schematics at the earlier worksession. He reviewed the previous General Assembly session were important issues included de-criminalization of marijauna and Health Care signup. He also reported that NLC is focusing on pedestrian safety in urban environments.

IX. STAFF REPORTS (copies available)

X. TOWN FINANCIAL BUSINESS

Approval for Purchase of New Avaya Phone System: Mayor James announced that this new system will be funded through ATF monies so a budget amendment is not necessary.

Town Community Grants: Treasurer recommended that \$833.33 each be awarded to the following organizations: "We Lead By Example, William Wirt Middle School PTSA, EndTime Harvest Ministries, Elizabeth Seton High School, Streetlights of Bethany, and Capital Scholars. Council Member Brown moved to approve the awards; Council Member Ficklin seconded and it passed unanimously.

Council Projects: Mayor James requested his \$500 be given to Ms. Peck's Power Performers program. Council Member Ficklin moved to approve; Council Member Hall seconded and it passed unanimously. Council Member Ficklin asked to use \$300 of his funds for the same organization. Council Member Mendoza moved to approve; Council Member Brown seconded and it passed unanimously.

NLC Conference, Austin: Mayor James asked for approval of \$920 for the conference in Austin, Texas. Registration is \$520 and \$400 would be needed for the flight and hotel. Council Member Mendoza moved to approve the funding; Council Member Hall seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

NLC Conference, Rochester: Council Member Brown requested \$950 for the conference in Rochester, NY. Council Member Ficklin moved to approve the expenditure; Council Member Hall seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

XI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Council Member Brown announced the Quarterly Community Forum would be held on July 26th at 10 a.m. and discussion would focus on parking and trash collection.

XII. NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 2-2014: Community Legacy: Following the reading by the Town Clerk, Council Member Hall moved to approve; Council Member Mendoza seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

XIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS: Mayor James entertained comments from the audience limited to two minutes for each individual.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT: At 9:00 p.m., Council Member Mendoza moved to adjourn; Council Member Hall seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. McAuley, Town Clerk