

**TOWN OF BLADENSBURG
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
June 2, 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:** Pastor Lear 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. **"WHAT THE FLAG MEANS TO ME":** Contest winners read their essays and were presented with Certificates of Congratulation followed by photos.
- VI. **REPORT FROM BLADENSBURG ACTION COMMITTEE CHAIR MELENDEZ:** Ms. Melendez gave an overview of this new organization open to all citizens of the Town. Their mission is to promote transparency in Town government, to lobby for strategic planning and to discourage deficit spending.
- VII. **MAYOR & COUNCIL REPORTS** included:

Council Member Brown spoke on the great Memorial Day event and praised the large turnout at tonight's meeting.

Council Member Hall thanked the students for their essays and the audience for their interest in coming to the meeting.

Council Member Mendoza participated in the Memorial Day event and Peace Cross Rally. He spoke about the grant writing abilities of a number of staff members.

Council Member Ficklin informed the audience about the "If I were Mayor Contest".

Mayor James congratulated Bladensburg High School graduates. He clarified a number of issues that had been brought up earlier by some residents: that Strategic Planning would need to incorporate a facilitator; that hiring a Public Works and/or Code Enforcement Director was not mandated in the Charter and would increase the budget; he supports the abilities of the staff in those departments; he assured the citizens that Public Works has the necessary equipment to perform its functions; and he promised that there is no money in the FY 2015 Budget for a new car for the Mayor. The proposed Bus program was started by a request from Newton Green's Manager along with a petition from its residents concerned about the lack of transportation service in that area.
- VIII. **STAFF REPORTS (Deferred: copies available)**

IX. TOWN FINANCIAL BUSINESS

Emergency Ordinance 5-2014: Budget Amendment: Council Member Ficklin moved to approve the Ordinance as presented by the Town Clerk; Council Member Hall seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Vote on Ordinance 4-2014: FY 2015 Budget and Tax Rate: After the second reading by the Town Clerk, Council Member Brown moved to approve Ordinance 4-2014; Council Member Ficklin seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Rental Car for MML Conference: There was a decision made at the earlier Worksession not to pursue this.

Council Projects: There was no Mayor or Council request for any disbursements of these monies.

X. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: There was no unfinished business.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 1-2014: Support of Shelter Group Project: Council Member Ficklin moved to approve the Resolution and presented; Council Member Hall seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

XII. PUBLIC COMMENTS included questions about timeliness of posting meetings, Town memberships in a variety of organizations and use of Town credit cards.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, at 8:40 p.m., Council Member Brown moved to adjourn; Council Member Mendoza seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. McAuley, Town Clerk

Town of Bladensburg
4229 Edmonston Road
Bladensburg, Maryland

Resolution 2-2014: A Resolution to Support the Municipal Collaboration's FY 2015 Community Legacy Application

A Resolution of the Town of Bladensburg to approve the designation of a Municipal Collaboration application and receipt of financing for the Community Legacy Projects further described in the Community Legacy Application, to be financed either directly by the Department of Housing and Community Development (the "Department") of the State of Maryland or through other departments or agencies of the State of Maryland.

WHEREAS, The Municipal Collaboration consists of the Towns/Cities of Bladensburg, Bowie, Brentwood, Berwyn Heights, Capitol Heights, Cheverly, Colmar Manor, Cottage City, Edmonston, Forest Heights, Glenarden, Landover Hills, Morningside, Mount Rainer, North Brentwood, Riverdale Park, Seat Pleasant, and University Park;

WHEREAS, The Municipal Collaboration has formed to successfully pursue and obtain grants funding that is used to reinvest in communities such as the Maryland Energy Administration, MEA Empower Clean Energy Communities Grant program (\$815,000.00) and obtained over \$1 million dollars, in U.S. Department of Energy funding, (EECBG) through Prince George's County, Maryland, installing solar retrofits on nine municipal complexes with result of all monies used and no findings on any audit;

WHEREAS, The Municipal Collaboration recognizes that there is a significant need for reinvestment and revitalization of the communities in the Municipal Collaboration; and,

WHEREAS, the Municipal Collaboration proposes to (i) designate areas within the boundaries of the Municipal Collaboration, approved by DHCD in Sustainable Communities applications and mapping, as a Community Legacy Area and to (ii) develop Community Legacy Projects in the Area(s), the purpose of which will be to contribute to the reinvestment and revitalization in the Area(s); and,

WHEREAS, the Department, either through Community Legacy or through other programs of the Department, or in cooperation with other State departments or agencies, may provide some or all of the financing for the Projects (the "Project Financing") in order to assist in making it financially feasible; and

WHEREAS, the Area is located within a priority funding area under Section 5-7B-02 of the Smart Growth Act and the Project will conform to the local zoning code; and

WHEREAS, the applicable law and regulations require approval of the Community Legacy Area designation, the Project, and the Project financing by the Town of Bladensburg as lead agency for the Municipal Collaboration and, where appropriate, by the chief elected executive official of the local subdivision;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Town of Bladensburg hereby endorses the designation of the Community Legacy Area and the Projects in the Area; and, HEREBY approves the request in the form of a grant, loan, or other financial vehicle; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Mayor James, is hereby requested to endorse this Resolution, thereby indicating his approval thereof; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT copies of this Resolution are sent to the Secretary of the Department of Housing and Community Development of the State of Maryland for consideration by the Community Legacy Board.

READ AND PASSED THIS fourteenth day of July 2014.

BY ORDER of the Mayor and Council, I hereby certify that Resolution Number 2 – 2014 is true and correct and duly adopted by the Mayor and Council of the Town of Bladensburg.

ATTEST/WITNESS

Town of Bladensburg

By: _____

Name: **Walter Lee James Jr.** _____

Title: **Mayor** _____

Approved by: **Mayor and Council** _____

**TOWN OF BLADENSBURG
WORKSESSION
JUNE 2, 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, Ficklin, Hall and Mendoza present.
- II. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Hall moved to approve the May Worksession minutes as presented; Council Member Mendoza seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- III. **INTRODUCTION OF PORT TOWNS SUMMER INTERN:** Mr. Moss introduced the graduate student intern assigned to the Port Towns by Maryland Municipal League. She will be working on policy implementation, including health and wellness and sustainability.
- IV. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Proposed FY 15 Budget: Mr. Jackson reported that adjustments included projections for Property Taxes, up \$25,000, fund balances to reflect grant expenses and revenues for a number of grants including MEA/Community Legacy \$600,000 reimbursable funding. Other changes included a \$9000 reduction in Professional Development for the Mayor and Council.

Eco-District Update: Mr. Moss had the opportunity to attend a conference on this timely urban planning concept. A number of other representatives from the County and surrounding community were also in attendance. This training was about Green Business attraction, pedestrian friendly routes, sustainably, in other words, a variety of concepts complementing each other to complete the whole. Our success will depend on partnering with the County and the Port Towns. A number of teams applied for the conference. Our Team was one of the small number chosen to attend. Advancing an Eco-District for our community would include community conversations in the form of Charrettes.

V. NEW BUSINESS

Town Residents' Transportation to Battle of Bladensburg event on August 23: Ms. McAuley, in discussion with residents, proposed that the Town organize a shuttle bus to transport attendees to the August 23rd festival. Ms. McAuley will research transportation options.

Elected Officials' Transportation to MML Convention: It was determined by the Council, that due to the inability to coordinate attendees' able to travel at the same time, the plan for one rental vehicle to transport a Town participants will be abandoned.

Funding for Port Towns' Community Development Corporation: Mr. Moss suggested a round number of \$12,000 for matching grants (it needs \$50,000 to amass \$150,000), including work on the Eco District and rebuilding the organization. All the Port Towns would be asked to support with funding. The Mayor asked for an outline from the PTCDC on what that money would be used for.

Resolution 1-2014: Supporting Shelter Group Project (Bladensburg Commons) This will be voted on at the Town Council Meeting to follow.

VI. CLARIFICATION OF STAFF REPORTS: No Clarifications were necessary.

VII. ADJOURNMENT: There being no further Worksession business, at 6:30 p.m., Council Member Brown moved to go into closed session to discuss a legal issue, Council Member Mendoza seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. McAuley, Town Clerk