

**TOWN OF BLADENSBURG  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
September 14, 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 Brown moved to approve the July 2015 Council meeting minutes as presented; Council Member Hall seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

V. **PUBLIC COMMENTS (two minutes per speaker)** included

Ms. Melendez announced the Candidates Forum on September 28.

Mr. Kinkle asked the Council not to approve the Tasers purchase.

Ms. Laney also spoke against Tasers and need to Code Enforcement at 54<sup>th</sup> and Varnum.

Mr. Carlson did not want the Travel Policy weakened. He wanted longer time for individual public comment and comment during the worksessions.

Mr. Weitz had concerns with the Fiscal Accountability Policy.

Ms. James expressed concerns about negative public comments.

VI. **MAYOR & COUNCIL REPORTS**

**Council Member Mendoza** attended the 47<sup>th</sup> District picnic and the Rogers Heights Elementary School Resources event.

**Council Member Brown** reminded people to attend the September 26<sup>th</sup> Community Forum.

**Council Member Ficklin** had been working on building relationships with the State's Cabinet Secretaries.

**Council Member Hall** attended events at the senior buildings, the Mexican festival, and District 47 picnic.

**Mayor James** talked about the Strategic Planning project, new playground project, crime reduction and other positive accomplishments the Town has been making.

**VII. STAFF REPORTS are available on the Website, electronically or at the Clerk's Office**

**VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**IX. FINANCIAL BUSINESS**

**Ordinance 7-12015: Budget Amendment: Taser Purchase:** Council Member Brown moved to approve the Emergency Ordinance as presented; Council Member Ficklin seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Purchase New Code Vehicle:** The purchase is already in the Town's FY2016 Budget. There are no grant funds available for this purchase; this was investigated. Council Member Hall moved to approve the Purchase; Council Member Mendoza seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Pay Adjustment for Town Staff:** This adjustment is in the FY 2016 Town Budget. Council expressed that the adjustment should include the Administrative Staff and not be limited to Police Department personnel. The Public Works Dept. had already received an adjustment. Council Member Ficklin moved to approve a 3% increase for Police and Administrative Staff, retroactive to July 1, 2015; Council Member Hall seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**X. NEW BUSINESS**

**Ordinance 6-2015 - Amendments to Ethics Ordinance:** The Town Clerk performed the first reading.

**Council Projects:** It was moved and approved unanimously to fund the following projects: for Council Member Ficklin: \$25 each for all eight schools in Bladensburg; for Council Member Mendoza: \$100 for Rogers Heights E.S.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business, at 8:30 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