

**TOWN OF BLADENSBURG
WORKSESSION MINUTES
December 11, 2017 5:30 p.m.**

- I. CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor James called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. with Council Members Ficklin, Hall, and Mendoza present.

The Town Clerk reported that Council Member Bridgeman called and stated he would not be attending the Worksession due to a medical appointment. Council Member Hall moved to excuse Council Member Bridgeman's absence from the Worksession; Council Member Ficklin seconded the motion.

Discussion: Council Member Ficklin asked if there was an attendance record for the Mayor and Council meetings. Attendance is incorporated into all Town meeting minutes. This record will be provided by the Town Clerk for the January Worksession and Council Meeting.

Roll Call Vote: Council Member Hall-Nay; Council Member Mendoza-Aye; Council Member Ficklin-Aye, Mayor James-Nay. The motion died for lack of a majority vote.

Mayor James asked for a motion to not excuse Council Member Bridgeman from the Worksession. There was no motion.

- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: November 2017 Worksession:** There was no action taken.

- III. TOWN MEETING RULES & PROCEDURES:** Mayor James reaffirmed that the Town leaders need to provide a respectful environment in the Town Offices and at all Town meetings and events. She stated as Mayor, it is her job to ensure that the adopted Rules & Procedures for Council Meetings is adhered to and she will be diligent in following these policies.

- IV. GENERAL CODE PUBLISHER:** Michael Peters, Project Manager for General Code Publishers, gave an overview of options for the Town to consider in moving forward with updated the Town's General Codes.

He explained that to "codify" is to arrange and systemize laws in an easy to use, numbered, stylized system. A municipal Code fulfills a community obligation, supports enforcement and prepares for the future.

The Town can commission General Code Publishers to 1) organize its Code or 2) the Town can include review and revision to correct conflict and inconsistencies.

The Town's current Code is outdated by at least twenty years. General Code

Publishers can identify and fix conflicts within the Code, suggest fines and fees, and suggest modernization of laws.

At this point in time, General Code Publishers does not have the capacity to translate into other languages.

Mr. Peter gave an estimate of 12-14 months for Option 1), to organize the Town's current Codes or two years to Option 2) recodify with review and revisions.

Follow-ups to the Code (sent by the Town to General Code) are called "supplements" and are incorporated with an 8-10 week timeline.

Payments to the firm are made at the completion of milestones. It usually takes 4-5 months for a municipality to review the draft Code submitted by General Code.

Following receipt of ordinance documents and any other information needed from the Town, General Code Publishers will present a proposal(s) to revise the Town Code for the Mayor & Council's review.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Recycling Contract: Town Administrator Sandlin reported that she had a conversation with the Town Attorney about the agreement. The Attorney had some concerns about the contract, specifically, the County's ability to terminate the agreement at any time but the Town does not have an termination option and would be responsible for payment of the balance of the agreement if the Town was to terminate the agreement prior to end date. Ms. Sandlin stated that the Town could use its proposed amended contract as a negotiating tool with the County. Indemnity in the contract needs to be clear. The contract provides for a \$47.79 solid waste service charge for each household which is included in owners' real property bills. The final agreement should be approved by vote of the Council.

Council Member Mendoza moved to allow the Town to negotiate with the County on the agreement terms using the amended contract as drafted by the Town Attorney; Council Member Hall seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Council Member Hall-Aye, Council Member Mendoza-Aye, Council Member Ficklin-Aye, Mayor James-Aye. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

University of Maryland Real Estate Development 450 Master Plan Continuation Update: Town Administrator Sandlin confirmed that the graduate students' team will do at presentation on its analysis of the 450 Master Plan from Edmonston Road to the Annapolis/Landover Roads' split at the January

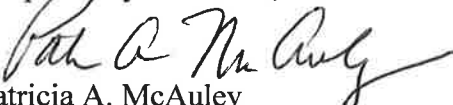
Worksession. The funds for this project were provided under “contractual services” in the Town Administrator’s Department budget. The University of Maryland Real Estate program needs an immediate request by the Town to perform a continuation of the study from the Annapolis/Landover Roads’ split to 58th Avenue. Ms. Sandlin informed the Mayor and Council that if they wish to have the University of Maryland Real Estate program complete its analysis of the 450 corridor from the Annapolis Road split to 58th Avenue, the Town will need to commit to an additional \$10,000 by December 10th. Ms. Sandlin recommended that the Mayor and Council hold off on any decision, even if it means delaying such a study, until they have an opportunity to see the plan presented by the current student team.

Metropolitan Council of Government Committee Appointments: Mayor James made the following Council and Staff appointments to COG committees:

Region Forward Coalition – Debi Sandlin, Town Administrator
Human Services Policy Committee – Tracy Stone, Chief of Police
Climate Energy and Environment Policy – Kisha James, Mayor
Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee – Shaun Rinehart, Code Enforcement Supervisor

VII. ADJOURNMENT: At 6:40 p.m., Council Member Hall moved to adjourn; Council Member Mendoza seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,


Patricia A. McAuley
Town Clerk

Council Actions:

Motion to excuse Council Member Bridgeman from the Worksession died for lack of a majority vote.

Council approved, by majority vote, to allow the Town to negotiate the recycling contract with the County using the proposed amendments to the agreement incorporated by the Town Attorney.