

**TOWN OF BLADENSBURG
WORKSESSION MINUTES
February 12, 2018 5:30 p.m.**

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

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: January 2018 Worksession minutes: Council Member Ficklin moved to approve the January 2018 minutes as presented; Council Member Bridgeman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

MAGLEV Update: Mayor James thanked all those who attended and participated in the MAGLEV meeting held on January 27 2018 at the Bladensburg Community Center. Representatives from Baltimore Washington Rapid Rail and the train developer, were at the meeting to answer questions from the community audience.

Mayor James did not feel that the project representatives presented a compelling case for the MAGLEV rail system. Their pitch was geared toward economic development opportunities. Council expressed concerns about exorbitant ticket prices, damage to historic buildings in Town, no transit center close to Town, and no obvious benefit to our community.

Mayor James felt that the presenters did not do their homework. There was no area data presented. Council Bridgeman's opinion was that despite the Town's objections, the technology is coming and it is in the Town's best interest to be part of guiding the project and shaping the outcome using common sense to obtain achievable leverage.

Mayor James suggested the Town take official position on the proposed project and expects further discussion. The Town Administrator recommended taking a position soon and sending a position letter to the Governor.

2018 Town Holiday Schedule: Mayor James presented a list of Federal holidays, as per the Office of Personnel Management website. She recommended giving the Staff the Friday after Thanksgiving as a holiday in lieu of Columbus Day.

Council Member Mendoza moved to rename Columbus Day as Indigenous Peoples' Day. The motion died for lack of a second.

Council Member Ficklin moved to give Staff a holiday on the Friday after

Thanksgiving. This would take the place of the Federal Columbus Day holiday that the Town does not recognize. The motion was seconded by Council Member Mendoza and passed unanimously.

General Code Publishers Update: Mr. Rinehart reported that the proposed fee is all inclusive with some additional benefits. The Town can begin the Code revision this fiscal year with a 25% payment of the total costs. Mayor James was in favor of starting now.

Recycling Agreement with Prince George's County: The County agreed to all the changes made by the Town Attorney and approval of the agreement will be voted on at the Council Meeting to follow.

Municipal Highway User Revenues (proposed legislation-Maryland General Assembly): Past history shows that this legislation never manages to make it out of committee. This year the Legislators seem to understand the benefits for this legislation and they seem to be looking out for municipalities' needs on a bipartisan level. The next committee hearing on this has been rescheduled for March 7th.

Small Cell Wireless Technology (proposed legislation-Maryland General Assembly): At this time, there is not the infrastructure to support this technology and the transmittal range is low. The Town will consider a drafting an ordinance to control the expansion of hardware on private property so as not to affect the quality of life on our neighborhoods.

IV. NEW BUSINESS


Budget Calendar for Fiscal Year 2019: Treasurer Tinelli presented his proposed budget calendar for the Council's consideration. The Mayor and Council concurred that the schedule, as proposed, would work for everyone. The Mayor asked to be advised of any initiatives that need to be included in the proposed budget.

CDBG Agreement for PY 43: The Town Clerk reported that this was the standard agreement with the County's Department of Housing and Community Development and its approval will be voted on the Council Meeting to follow.

Patriotic Committee: Town Committee/Board Policy: There was a discussion about the Patriotic Committee's Chairmanship that is in conflict with the adopted policy approved by the Council. Current rules state the committee memberships are made up of residents or property owners. Membership should be open by application by those who qualify. Council opinions included volunteer opportunities for veterans, the need to engage more members of the community, and consideration for the efforts and interest by Ms. Rene' Green to Chair the Patriotic Committee.

V. **ADJOURNMENT:** At 6:50 p.m., Council Member Ficklin moved to adjourn; Council Member Mendoza seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,


Patricia A. McAuley, Town Clerk