

**TOWN OF BLADENSBURG
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 12, 2018 7:00 P.M.**

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor James called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with Council Members Bridgeman, Ficklin, and Mendoza present. Council Member Hall was excused.
- II. **OPENING PRAYER:** Council Member Ficklin gave the opening prayer.
- III. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** was recited.
- IV. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The approval February 2018 Council Meeting minutes' were tabled until the April Council Meeting.
- V. **PRESENTATIONS:**
 - a. **CONSTANT YIELD PRESENTATION:** Treasurer Tinelli gave an overview of the FY 19 real estate taxes projection that requires the Town to have a public hearing in order to keep its tax rate higher than the constant yield rate. The constant yield rate is the tax rate that gives the Town the same revenues for real property taxes as those from the previous year. Changes in assessment values determine increased (or decreased) revenues by keeping the Town's current rate. The Constant Yield Hearing, as required by State Law, will be held on May 14, 2018. A published notice 7-21 days prior to the Hearing is mandated.
 - b. **HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY:** Michael Lyles, Esq. Executive Director, who was on a municipal tour, gave an overview of the Commission's purpose including investigating community complaints and antihuman trafficking efforts. The Commission also provides free legal services for individuals detained for deportation and provides training about human trafficking for law enforcement. For further information see endhumantraffickingpgc.org hoteltrainingprogram.
- VI. **PUBLIC COMMENTS (three minutes per speaker)** Mayor James entertained comments and concerns from the audience.
- VII. **MAYOR & COUNCIL REPORTS:** The Mayor and Council gave updates on activities they participated in during the month February 2018. A copy of the Mayor's written report is available through the Town Clerk's office and on the Town website

**Council Member Ficklin
Council Member Bridgeman**

**Council Member Mendoza
Mayor James**

- VIII. **STAFF REPORTS:** Staff gave updates on activities and projects of interest during the month of February 2018. Copies of written reports are available through the Town Clerk's office and on the Town Website.

**Public Works
Public Safety
Code Enforcement
Finance
Marketing
Town Clerk
Town Administrator**

IX. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

MAGLEV COUNCIL POSITION: At the earlier Worksession, Mayor James distributed a draft letter, asking for the Council's input by the upcoming Friday. The Town's position is to oppose any MAGLEV route through Bladensburg.

X. **FINANCIAL BUSINESS**

- a. **Approval of the FY18 Audit Proposal** – Treasurer Tinelli will have a follow up conversation with Bob Diss, Lindsey and Associates, prior to approval.
- b. **Town Grants Funding for FY19** – Town Administrator Sandlin stated that her recommendations will be part of the FY 2019 budget process.

XI. **NEW BUSINESS**

NONE

- XII. **ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business, at 8:15 p.m., Council Member Mendoza moved to adjourn; Council Member Bridgeman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,


Patricia A. McAuley, Town Clerk

**TOWN OF BLADENSBURG
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 12, 2018 7:00 P.M.**

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor James called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with Council Members Bridgeman, Ficklin, and Mendoza present. Council Member Hall was excused.
- II. **OPENING PRAYER:** Council Member Ficklin gave the opening prayer.
- III. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** was recited.
- IV. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES: January 2018 Council Meeting:** Council Member Ficklin moved to approve the minutes as presented; Council Member Mendoza seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- V. **CLOSED SESSION:** Mayor James announced there was a Closed Session of Mayor and Council on February 8th to discuss a personnel issue.
- VI. **TAX REFORM PRESENTATION:** Treasurer Tinelli gave an overview of the new Federal tax legislation and its immediate and long term impact on the citizens and businesses in the Town.
- VII. **PUBLIC COMMENTS (three minutes per speaker):** Mayor James entertained comments and concerns from the audience.
- VIII. **MAYOR and COUNCIL REPORTS:** The Mayor and Council gave updates on activities they participated in during the month of January 2018. A copy of the Mayor's written report is available through the Town Clerk's office and on the Town website.

**Council Member Ficklin
Council Member Bridgeman
Council Member Mendoza
Mayor James**

- IX. **STAFF REPORTS:** Staff gave updates on activities and projects of interest during the month of January 2018. Copies of written reports are available through the Town Clerk's office and on the Town Website.

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- X. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

MAGLEV: Mayor James gave an update on the MAGLEV community meeting that took place of January 27, 2018. Mayor James, during this event, questions were submitted on notecards to avoid replication and maximize the allotted time. Questions that were not answered were compiled by the Town Administrator and forwarded to the project developers for their response.

There was a discussion about the project as part of the agenda during the Council worksession. Discussion focused on the impacts the proposed MAGLEV train would have on the Bladensburg community. Mayor James stated she opposes the project but recognizes we do have to make some concessions. Council Member Bridgeman recommended putting the Town in a position to negotiate.

Council Member Mendoza made a motion for the Mayor and Council to draft a position letter to Governor Hogan and Congressman Brown opposing the MAGLEV train coming thru the Town; the motion seconded by Council Member Ficklin. Discussion: taking a hard line against the project can be used as a negotiating tack. The motion passed unanimously.

XI. FINANCIAL BUSINESS

Approval of the Fiscal Year 2017 Audit: Council Member Ficklin moved to approve the FY 17 Financial Audit as presented; Council Member Bridgeman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Approval of CDBG PY 43 Agreement with PGCDHCD: Council Member Bridgeman moved to approve the agreement for Sidewalk Improvements on Tilden Road; Council Member Mendoza seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Approval of Recycling Agreement with Prince George's County: Council Member Ficklin moved to approve the renegotiated agreement with the County; Council Member Bridgeman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

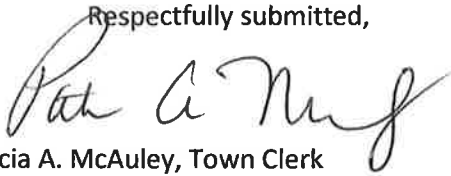
XII. NEW BUSINESS

Municipal Highway User Funds: Mayor James explained the legislation being considered during the current General Assembly that would ensure municipalities their fair share of funds for maintaining their roads and other infrastructure.

Small Cell Technology Legislation: Mayor James explained the legislation being considered during the current General Assembly. As currently written it would allow private property owners to contract with providers of this technology to install their hardware on properties such as private homes. Major concerns with this are the lack of consideration of neighboring property owners as well as the opportunity for vendors to take advantage of property owners.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT: At 8:45, there being no further business, it was moved, seconded and passed unanimously to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pat A. McAuley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Patricia A. McAuley, Town Clerk

Council Actions:

Council approved the January 2018 Council Meeting minutes.

Council approved sending a letter to the Governor and Congressman Brown opposing the MAGLEV project.

Council approved the FY 2017 Audit

Council approved the PY 43 CDBG Agreement with Prince George's County

Council approved the Recycling Agreement with Prince George's County