

**TOWN OF BLADENSBURG
WORKSESSION MINUTES
March 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 Ficklin and Mendoza present. Council Member Ficklin moved to excuse Council Member Beverly Hall; Council Member Mendoza seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Council Member Ficklin moved to not excuse Council Member Bridgeman; the motion died for lack of a second. Council Bridgeman arrived at 5:42 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The approval of the February 2018 Worksession minutes' was tabled until the April Worksession.

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

MAGLEV Council Position Draft Letter: Mayor Kisha James distributed a draft letter opposing the MAGLEV train route through Bladensburg. She asked for feedback on the letter by the end of the week. The letter will be sent to Congressman Anthony Brown and Governor Hogan.

Peace Cross Update: Mayor Kisha James reported that the full Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals will not hear the case. The case is expected to be appealed to the Supreme Court. Ms. Sandlin will reach out to the Town Attorney and the MNCPPC legal counsel to determine if the Town can take any position related to this litigation.

Feral Cat Problem Update: Code Enforcement Supervisor Shaun Rinehart reported that Code Enforcement personnel were able to catch eight cats. He said the best course of action appears to be a "catch and neuter" plan to control the escalating feral population. A lot of the problem stems from the continued feeding of the animals by private property owners. He will look into the possibility of an ordinance be developed to help address the issue.

House Bill 807/Senate Bill 516 Update regarding Highway User Revenues: Town Administrator Debi Sandlin gave an update on this legislation that would reinstate full funding to the State's municipalities. The bill locks in these funds for five years.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Street Improvement Priority Plan: Public Works Supervisor Purnell Hall reported that he and Mr. Rinehart had inspected Town roads to identify and determine where the priority for street improvements needs to be over the next few years. They determined 57th and 58th Avenues road failures caused by frequent use by Metro buses and school buses.

53rd St Blind Spot: Chief Stone addressed concerns about the sight difficulties for vehicles making left turns onto Annapolis Road from 53rd Street from the south. Chief Stone recommended not taking any remedial actions at this time, as changes to turning access would create additional traffic issues. He also reported that an enforcement camera placed by the Town on Annapolis Road would need permission from the State.

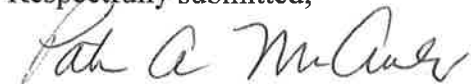
Public Safety Open House – Town Administrator Debi Sandlin announced the plans for a Public Safety Open House on May 19th at Harrington Park. This will be an opportunity for Town Staff, in partnership with the Bladensburg Volunteer Fire Department, to engage the community. There will be a strong marketing campaign for this event and it was suggested that there be Spanish speakers at each station to encourage participation of the Latino community.

Town Grants Discussion for FY19 – Town Administrator Debi Sandlin reviewed last year's revised Town grant program and recommended that the Council approve awarding individual grants from \$1,000 up to \$1500 and raising the overall budget line item from \$3000 to \$8000. Council will take this under advisement during budget deliberations.

FY18 Audit Proposal – Treasurer Vito Tinelli received the proposal from Lindsey & Associates for the Fiscal Year 2018 Town Audit. There were issues with the last audit, including Lindsey & Associate staffing issues. Mr. Tinelli explained that the firm rotates its field staff so different persons are performing the audit tasks. The decision to renew its contract was based on: bringing in a new set of eyes versus not having to re-education new auditors. Council wanted to ensure that the firm, not the Treasurer, would be doing the majority of the audit research. Mr. Tinelli reported this firm does the majority of the audits for Maryland municipalities, and has a great understanding on all current and changing regulations. Council concurred that Lindsey & Associates should be put on notice concerning past issues that caused delays and to inform them this will not be acceptable in the future. Council requested that Mr. Tinelli speak to Mr. Diss from the firm about these concerns before the proposal is accepted.

- V. **ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further Worksession business, at 6:44 Council Member Mendoza moved to adjourn; Council Member Ficklin seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,


Patricia A. McAuley, Town Clerk