

**TOWN OF BLADENSBURG
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
June 4, 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, Dorsey, Ficklin and Mendoza present.
- II. **OPENING PRAYER:** Council Member Ficklin gave the opening prayer.
- III. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** was recited.
- IV. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES: May 14, 2018 Council Meeting:** Council Member Mendoza moved to approve the minutes as presented; Council Member Dorsey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- V. **RECOGNITION OF LT. JAMES FLYNN AND OFFICER BROWN:** Chief Stone recognized Officer Brown for his outstanding efforts in engaging residents through the COPS office. Officer Brown is responsible for an increase in community events and residents' participation since he has taken on this role. In October, Officer Brown was recognized with the Phyllis Campbell Newsome Public Policy Leadership Award for his commitment to the community.

Chief Stone recognized Lt. Flynn as he retires as a member of the Bladensburg Police Department since 1980. Lt. Flynn is a Prince George's County Police Association Hall of Fame award recipient with many career accolades for his service to Bladensburg and beyond (including a Secret Service detail). He will be remembered for the grant programs and funding he has brought to the Town to assist so many in the community. Delegates Fennell and Tarlau presented Lt. Flynn with a plaque of commendation from the Maryland General Assembly.
- VI. **"WHAT THE AMERICAN FLAG MEANS TO ME" ESSAY CONTEST:** Each of the contest winners read his or her essay and was presented a Certificate of Congratulations and gift certificate from the Town.
- VII. **PUBLIC COMMENTS (three minutes per speaker)** Mayor James entertained comments and concerns from the audience.
- VIII. **MAYOR & COUNCIL REPORTS:** The Mayor and Council gave updates on activities they participated in during the month of June 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

Council Member Dorsey
Mayor James

- IX. STAFF REPORTS:** Copies of written reports are available through the Town Clerk's office and on the Town Website.

Code Enforcement

Public Works

Public Safety

Finance

Marketing

Town Clerk

Town Administrator

- X. UNFINISHED BUSINESS (NONE SCHEDULED)**

- XI. FINANCIAL BUSINESS**

Ordinance 1-2018: To Adopt Budget & Set Real Property Tax: Second Reading and Vote to Approve: Following the second reading of the Ordinance by the Town Clerk, Council Member Ficklin moved to approve Ordinance 1-2018 approving the Fiscal Year 2019 Budget as presented and setting the real property tax rate at \$.74 per one hundred dollars assessed value; Council Member Bridgeman seconded the motion. Discussion: Council Member Bridgeman spoke in favor of lowering the real property tax rate to the constant yield rate. Council Member Ficklin stated that the Town's fund balance has increased over past years'. The Mayor commented the new budget is connected to the Town's Strategic Plan and the series of meetings on the budget were an important part of the process and will result in a positive impact to the Town.

Roll call vote to approve Ordinance 1-2018: Council Member Bridgeman-Aye, Council Member Ficklin-Aye, Council Member Mendoza-Aye, Council Member Dorsey-Aye, Mayor James-Aye. The motion passed unanimously.

Town Community Grants:

Council Member Ficklin moved to award a \$1500 grant award for **End Time Harvest Ministries**. The motion died for lack of a second.

Council Member Ficklin moved to award a \$1500 grant award to **We Lead by Example**; Council Member Mendoza seconded the motion. Council Members Dorsey, Ficklin, Mendoza and Mayor James voted Aye; Council Member Bridgeman voted Nay and the motion passed four to one.

Council Member Bridgeman moved to award a \$1500 grant to **From the Heart to the Hand Wholistic Center**; Council Member Dorsey seconded the motion. Council Members Bridgeman and Dorsey voted Aye; Council Members Ficklin and Mendoza and Mayor James voted Nay and the motion was defeated three to two.

Council Member Ficklin moved to award a \$1500 grant to **Rogers' Heights Elementary School Making a Difference in Bladensburg**; Council Member Bridgeman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mayor & Council Discretionary Funds:

Council Member Bridgeman requested \$250 for Barbara Givens for the **Guardian Angel Transforming Christian Counseling Services** program and \$250 for the Bladensburg Volunteer Fire Department.

Council Member Ficklin requested \$500 for End Time Harvest Ministries.

Council Member Dorsey requested \$200 for Port Towns' Elementary School, \$200 for the Bladensburg Volunteer Fire Department and \$100 for End Times Harvest Ministries.

Council Member Mendoza requested \$500 for the Elizabeth Seton Auditorium Capital Campaign.

Mayor James requested \$500 for We Lead by Example.

Each member of the Council will write letters to the organizations he or she are supporting.

Council Member Ficklin moved to approve disbursement of discretionary funds as requested; Council Member Mendoza seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

XII. NEW BUSINESS (NONE SCHEDULED)

XIII. ADJOURNMENT: At 8:20 p.m., Council Member Mendoza moved to adjourn; Council Member Dorsey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. McAuley, Town Clerk