

**TOWN OF BLADENSBURG
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
September 17, 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 and Mendoza present. Council Member Ficklin was excused.
- II. **OPENING PRAYER:** Council Member Dorsey gave the opening prayer.
- III. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** was recited.
- IV. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES: July 9, 2018 Council Meeting, August 7, 2018 Special Meeting:** Council Member Mendoza moved to approve the 7/9/18 Council Meeting minutes as presented; Council Member Dorsey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Council Member Dorsey moved to approve the 8/7/18 Special Meeting minutes as presented; Council Member Mendoza seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- V. **POLICE DEPARTMENT LIP SYNC PRESENTATION:** The Police Department decided it was up to the task of taking on this nationwide law enforcement challenge as a way to engage the community and the world with the Bladensburg Police. The Lip Sync video was shown on the Council Room's television screen for all to enjoy. The video has now been seen by over two thousand viewers on the internet. Officer Calloway was given Kudos as the producer.
- VI. **PUBLIC WORKS RECOGNITION:** Mayor James recognized our Public Works Department for their outstanding service in assisting with the distribution of surplus State and Federal goods donated to our schools. They performed these deliveries with a true community spirit in supporting our students.
- VII. **RECOGNITION OF JENNIFER DODSON'S THIRTY YEARS OF SERVICE:** Treasurer Vito Tinelli recognized Financial Assistant Jennifer Dodson for her thirty years of service to the Town first in the Public Works Department and currently in the Finance Office. Her dedication to the Town has been a great example of what makes our community special.
- VIII. **AMENDMENT TO AGENDA:** The Council concurred with the Mayor's request for an amendment that would add "Approval of Street Improvements for 58th Avenue" under Financial Business.

- IX. DELEGATE FENNEL: INTRODUCTION OF NEW MUNICIPAL LIASION:** Delegate Fennell introduced Billy Brown, who will be the District 47 A municipalities' connection for her office.
- X. FAREWELL WORDS:** Former Council Member Marion Hoffman announced she is moving out of Bladensburg to live in a retirement community and spoke about her time on the Council, the changes she has witnessed over the decades, and the strength of community that continues in Bladensburg.
- XI. TONY RUFFIN. GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS MANAGER, PEPCO** addressed the meeting and reported he attended several meetings with the Mayor and Town Administrator about local issues related to the utility company. PEPCO has been doing aggressive tree trimming in Town to ensure less chance of power outages. PEPCO is also currently surveying areas needing improved street lighting and will be updated street lights to be more energy efficient.
- XII. HOME SAFETY ZONE PROGRAM:** Chief Stone presented an overview of this new Police Department program. He explained the program is designed to offer a fee home security check to all Town residents, including single family homes, town homes and apartments. The purpose of the program is to help ensure residents' homes are properly secured and to reduce their chances of becoming a "crime of opportunity". The audits will be conducted by a trained Bladensburg Police Officer. Window decals will be given to those completing the program.
- XIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS (three minutes per speaker)**
- XIV. MAYOR & COUNCIL REPORTS:** Reports were tabled due to time constraints.
Council Member Mendoza
Council Member Dorsey
Council Member Ficklin
Council Member Bridgeman
Mayor James
- XV. STAFF REPORTS:** Reports are available on the Town's website and through the Clerk's office.
Code Enforcement
Public Works
Public Safety
Finance
Town Clerk
Town Administrator
- XVI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS (NONE SCHEDULED)**

XVII. FINANCIAL BUSINESS

Approval of Bostwick Contract for Bracing and Shoring Buttress: Council Member Bridgeman moved to approve Koppers' Fabricators as the contractor for the Bostwick Buttress bracing and shoring; Council Member Dorsey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

58th Avenue Road Improvements: Council Member Bridgeman moved to solicit Requests for Proposals for road patching and curb and gutter repairs with estimated costs at \$110,000; Council Member Dorsey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

XVIII. NEW BUSINESS

Appointment of Joseph Harris, Supervisor of Elections: Council Member Mendoza moved to approve the nomination of Joseph Harris as a Supervisor of Elections; Council Member Dorsey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

XIX. ANNOUNCEMENT OF CLOSED SESSION AND SUBSEQUENT COUNCIL ACTION:

Mayor James announced during a Closed Session, July 12, 2018, Mayor and Council took a personnel action. She cited Council Member Bridgeman's unprofessional behavior at the June Maryland Municipal League conference, where he gave inappropriate and false statements about Town officials and Town practices to groups of conference attendees. The Council decided he had behaved unethically at this conference, demeaning the Town, and would hereby be censored, unable to attend conferences or events at the Town's expense, and would not have use of Town vehicles, effective immediately.

XX. ADJOURNMENT: At 8:39 p.m., Council Member Dorsey moved to adjourn; Council Member Mendoza seconded the motion and it passed three (3) to one (1), Council Member Bridgeman being the dissenting vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. McAuley
Town Clerk