

**TOWN OF BLADENSBURG  
WORKSESSION MINUTES  
September 17, 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, Dorsey and Mendoza present. Council Member Ficklin was excused.

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

**III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**58<sup>th</sup> Avenue Improvements:** Wei Wu, Town Engineer, presented his expert opinion on the reasons for continued damage/deterioration to the road bed.

He explained the street was designed as a secondary road, however, because of the number of multifamily dwellings and schools, there is high density traffic coming into the community. Metro buses and school buses cause damage when braking at speed bumps, bus stops and turning into school driveways. The majority of the damage is primarily on the eastbound lane.

Mr. Wu estimated to upgrade the entire street will cost approximately \$400,000. Due to the high costs, he recommended making the improvements as a three phased project.

He recommended phase I as patching damaged areas with a new sub base of 6-8” and replacing badly damaged curbs and gutters. This would cost approximately \$110,000. Patching alone would cost \$70,000.

The additional phases would include overlays and storm water remediation with some underdrains emptying into current storm water inlets.

Council Member Dorsey moved to approve moving forward with Phase I, as recommended by the Town Engineer to include: patching, improving the sub-base and repairing damaged curbs and gutters at a cost of \$110,000. Council Member Bridgeman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Council Member Mendoza was concerned his street, a County road, was overdue for repairs. This will be on the Council Meeting agenda to follow.

**Green Team:** Town Administrator Sandlin reported the Green Team is being reconstituted to be more project focused and to meet the requirements of being a certified Sustainable Community. The updated Team members are Jim Foster, AWS, Jeremy Weiss, Bladensburg Community Center and Jonathan Santana,

Town resident.

**Charter Revisions:** The Mayor and Town Administrator have been reviewing the Town Charter and the Mayor will present recommended changes to strengthen the Charter. A worksession to discuss these proposed changes was set for October 13, 2018 from 9:00-10:30 a.m.

**Lap Top Policy:** Mayor James expressed support for adoption of this amended policy to ensure everyone using Town computers is clear on appropriate use of this Town equipment. She asked for the motion to amend the current policy to include her recommended changes. No Council Member presented a motion.

#### IV. NEW BUSINESS

**Bostwick Buttress Bracing Contract:** Town Clerk McAuley received two proposals from contractors, based on drawings by Peter Neubauer, Structural Engineer. A third contractor failed to bid. Ms. McAuley recommended the Council approve Koppers Fabricators, low bid at \$28,890.00. The second bid from Ladders & Things was \$62,000.

Council Member Bridgeman moved to approve the proposal from Koppers Fabricators; Council Member Dorsey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**University of Maryland Phase 2, Annapolis Road Redevelopment:** Town Administrator Sandlin announced Phase 2 (\$10,000) was approved as part of the FY 2019 budget process. The graduate students participating in this studio project have already completed a site visit. As with the first phase, there will be a community meeting where residents will have an opportunity for input with questions, suggestions and concerns.

**Bostwick MOU with Aman Trust:** Town Clerk McAuley reported the current MOU has lapsed and there will be an updated draft presented at a future meeting for Council's review. This memorandum discusses the Aman Trust partnering with the Town to apply for grants and seek other funding to support the restoration of the site and re-use of the property.

**Home Safety Zone Program:** Chief Stone explained the Bladensburg Police Department is offering a free home security check program to all Town residents, living in homes, townhomes and apartments. This program will benefit residents by helping to ensure their homes are secured. Residents to contact the Police Department to request a trained officer come to their home to provide recommendations on safety and anti-crime prevention steps they can take on their property.

**Appointment of Joseph Harris as a Supervisor of Elections:** Ms. McAuley

announced that the Town has two less Supervisors of Elections and recommended Mr. Joseph Harris be appointed to this position. A comfortable number of Supervisors allows for scheduling shifts on a Town Election Day and takes into account the potential for illnesses or emergencies.

**Port Towns' Legislative Agenda for 2019:** Mayor James discussed the fact the Port Towns' Legislative Dinner has been suffering from poor attendance in recent years and may not be the best format for putting forth the Town's agenda to our State and County legislators.

Mayor James suggested the Town's legislative priorities for 2019 should be 1. More zoning authority, 2. Change in Constant Yield Advertising mandates, and 3. Maryland Energy Administration grants program processes.

She recommended partnering with the other Port Towns schedule face to face meetings with both incoming and outgoing officials, with a definitive agenda to discuss the Port Towns' legislative priorities, dinner. Although the legislative dinners hosted by the Port Towns has showcased our continued collaboration, they have not provided an opportunity for dialogue during these events or resulted in any meaningful actions.

Council Member Bridgeman supported the dinner; he felt it was an opportunity for newly elected officials to become oriented to the needs of our community.

Mayor James asked for a motion to support a Legislative Dinner for 2019. There was no motion forthcoming from the Council.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT:** At 6:50 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