

**TOWN OF BLADENSBURG  
WORKSESSION MINUTES  
January 24, 2019 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, Lundy and Mendoza present.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: December 10, 2018 Worksession minutes:** Council Member Mendoza moved to approve the minutes as presented; Council Member Dorsey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Electronic Communications Policy:** Mayor James stated the proposed Electronic Communications policy included Mayor and Council as they are considered Town “employees” and receive Town benefits such as health insurance and State Retirement. Council Member Lundy moved to approve the Electronic Communications policy as amended; Council Member Dorsey seconded the motion. The motion passed with Council Member Lundy, Council Member Dorsey and Mayor James in favor; Council Member Mendoza and Council Member Bridgeman opposed.

**IV. NEW BUSINESS**

**Log Gun Purchase:** Chief Stone explained the purchase of long guns will better equip police officers to respond quickly in emergencies. He asked the Council approve the purchase of eight long guns, to include ammunition, training and personal protection. Funding for this purchase will come from seized assets funds and not out of the Town’s general fund budget. In response to a comment about some officers already owning this equipment, Chief Stone stated there is a liability for officers using their personal long guns while on duty. There is no guaranty of maintenance and modifications on privately owned weapons. There is also the risk of having guns seized for a crime investigation. Another critical issue is having uniformity of equipment so all officers are familiar with the same gun model in an emergency. A vote for approval will take place at the Council Meeting.

**CDBG PY 44: Spring Road-Agreement with County:** Town Clerk McAuley asked for Council approval of the grant agreement between the Town and Prince George’s County Department of Housing and Community Development. The award totals \$135,000 for Street Improvements on Spring Road. This document is the standard contract between the two entities outlining the proposed work and the Federal requirements required for reimbursement of the funds. This will be voted on during the Council Meeting.

**Amendment to Town’s Ethics Ordinance:** From time to time, the Maryland

General Assembly passes changes to the State Ethics Laws and some of these changes are required to be incorporated into the Ethics Ordinances of counties, cities, towns and other specified entities within Maryland. Town Attorney Ferguson incorporated recent changes into the Town's current Ethic Ordinance. There will be a first reading during the Council Meeting and a vote for approval during the February Council Meeting. It was noted these updates are State mandated to be put into the Town's Ordinance. The approved ordinance will be sent to the State Department of Legislative Services for final review and approval.

**Fireworks 2019:** Treasurer Tinelli reported he contacted Image Engineering, the firm hired for last year's event, and they agreed to the same pricing as 2018 with a twenty minutes display (last year's was fifteen minutes). This cost comes out the line item "Community Events". The agreement will be the same as last year's with only date changes. Location is the Bladensburg Waterfront Park on July 6<sup>th</sup> with a rain date of July 7<sup>th</sup>. A vote for contract approval is on the Council Meeting agenda.

**Port Towns' Day 2019:** Mayor James inquired on whether the Town should participate in this year's event. Comments included "what do we get out of it?" and "bring back Bladensburg Day". Mayor James reasoned Port Towns' Day does bring people to our Town and there is a lot of positive energy. Town Administrator Sandlin added the cost to the Town is approximately \$24,000 in contributions and staff time. It was noted the County and State elected officials like to see this example of municipal partnerships and there is a value in the Port Towns' collaboration. Mayor James recommended we owe the others a year's notice before pulling out of the event. The future of Port Towns' Day will be on the agenda for the Port Towns' Quarterly meeting in February. Council Member Lundy moved to participate in Port Towns' Day 2019; Council Member Bridgeman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Federal Shutdown: Impact on Town Residents:** Mayor James suggested supporting our residents who are Federal workers by sponsoring a "politics free" pot luck dinner to help during this financially difficult time. This idea will be revisited if the government is not reopened soon.

**VII. ADJOURN WORKSESSION FOR PUBLIC HEARING CHARTER (6:30).**  
At 5:55 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