

**TOWN OF BLADENSBURG
WORKSESSION MINUTES
May 13, 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:** April 8, 2019 Worksession minutes: Council Member Lundy moved to approve the April Worksession minutes as presented; Council Member Dorsey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

III. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Proposed FY 2020 Budget: Treasurer Tinelli gave a final overview of the Proposed FY 20 Budget prior to the introduction of the Budget Adoption Ordinance at the Council Meeting. The only significant change since the last review was to include an Automated Enforcement Program (speed cameras) under Public Safety revenues and expenses.

Automated Enforcement Program: Captain Collington reported the Police Department recommends implementing a “speed camera” program as a safety initiative, not a revenue producing mechanism and to ensure the safety of students walking to and from school and for seniors walking to metro stops and other locations throughout the Town. State law mandates speed cameras can only be located in school zones. Seven schools are located in Bladensburg with a student population of 6500.

The County uses several vendors for its program and staff has been comparing the various options. The cameras will be mobile to allow the Town to monitor speed in locations where there is a higher incident of speeding cars. The Department is proposing three cameras. Captain Collington explained the process used for issuing of speed citations. He also explained the program is set up so there is no financial risk to the Town. He recommends using the firm Conduit as having the best options for the Town.

Chief Stone said tonight’s discussion was for budgetary purposes, to include designation of school zones and drafting of an ordinance to allow for the use of speed camera’s, before the program is implemented.

VI. **NEW BUSINESS**

Update to Town Harassment Policy: Ms. Sandlin explained after the harassment training one year ago by LGIT, it was determined the Town’s current policy was weak and needed revision. LGIT provide sample policies from other municipalities for the Town’s review. Ms. Sandlin presented one of these policies she feels would

best address the Town's profile and needs. Council Member Lundy moved to retract the current policy and replace it with the one presented; Council Member Mendoza seconded the motion and it passed four to one, with Mayor James and Council Members Dorsey, Lundy and Mendoza in favor; Council Member Bridgeman opposed.

Voting Machines/Election Services: Ms. McAuley recommended the Town move forward with leasing voting machines and related software for the upcoming October elections. The vote counting process after recent elections was labor intensive. She reached out to a contractor used by Prince George's County and many other Maryland municipalities for a proposal. Training for Supervisors is included and election results will be immediate.

In answer to a Council Member's comments, she explained absentee ballots cannot be mailed in without a voter's name and address on a voter's oath form to ensure the absentee ballot is registered to the voter on the ballot.

Beautification Awards: The Town is implementing a new "More Beautiful" Bladensburg beautification Award program, with judging to take place in late June. The awards program will recognize single family and

Amended Campaign Finance Emergency Ordinance (3-2019): Following the last general election, a couple of candidates, who did not win, failed to file a Post Election Finance report. This amendment ensures all persons who file to run in a Town election must comply with all previous election filing requirements prior to their candidacy being approved. This amendment is a part of a continuous effort toward increased transparency in Town procedures.

National Police Week Designation: Chief Stone explained this designation was started in 1962 by President John F. Kennedy. He has asked Mayor James and the Town Council to proclaim this recognition during the Council Meeting. There are a variety of events commemorating police service throughout the Country during this time. Council Bridgeman moved to declare Police Week in Bladensburg from May 12 through May 17th; Council Member Dorsey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS: A Certificate of Congratulations will be prepared for a resident or Parkview who is celebrating her 99th birthday.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT: At 6:25 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