

**Town of Bladensburg
Council Meeting Minutes
February 10, 2020@ 7:00PM**

- I. **CALL TO ORDER-** Mayor James called the meeting to order at 7:01PM with Council Members, Blount, Lundy and Mendoza present.
- II. **OPENING PRAYER-** Council Member Lundy prayed.
- III. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE-** was recited
- IV. **APPROVAL OF JANUARY 2020 MINUTES-** Mayor James motioned for approval of the January minutes as presented. Council Member Mendoza moved to approve the minutes; Council Member Blount seconded and passed unanimously.
- V. **APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 2019 MINUTES-** Mayor James motioned to approve the October 2019 minutes as presented. Council Member Lundy moved to approve the motion; Council Member Mendoza seconded, and it was approved. Council Member Blount abstained from voting on the October 2019 minutes, as she was not on Council.

Mayor James motioned to excuse Council Member Route from the meeting due to family obligation. Council Member Lundy moved to approve the motion; Council Member Mendoza seconded, and it passed unanimously.

- VI. **RECOGNITION OF EXPLORERS-** Acting Chief Collington acknowledged accomplishments of Police Explorers, thanking Corporal Brown, Tanksley and Ms. Brooks for their contribution. Acting Chief Colling stated the Police Explorers were formally recognized in a pinning ceremony on January 25th, stating they represent the Town of Bladensburg well. Captain Stephanie Diaz was recognized as Explorer of the Year. Acting Chief thanked parents, Town staff, Mayor and Council for believing in the Bladensburg Police Department to bridge the gap between its Officers and youth
- VII. **INTRODUCTION OF NEW DISTRICT 4 SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER-BRYAN SWAN-** Mayor James introduced Mr. Brian Swan, new Prince George's School Board Member to share some remarks regarding his vision and where he wants to take District 4. Mr. Swan stated he is committed to Prince George's School System, of which he is a product. He invited all to attend Legislative Night on February 24th in Annapolis to show support for the current Commission. He introduced his liaison Ms. Barton who stayed for the remainder of the meeting to answer additional questions.
- VIII. **BLADENSBURG FIRE DEPARTMENT UPDATE & INTRODUCTION OF DEPUTY CHIEF BRIAN FRANKEL-** Chief Dave provided updates regarding Bladensburg Fire Department; stating if staffing becomes an issue he will reach out to County for support. Mr. Sumner stated renovations of Annex are underway; and more than 20 applicants applied for the

Junior Program. Mr. Sumner introduced Deputy Chief Brian Frankel to provide an update from the County.

- IX. PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT UPDATE-** Deputy Chief Brian Frankel stated he was excited to share remarks and was elated about the appointment of the new Prince George’s County Fire and EMS Chief, Tiffany Green, first woman to hold the position and ninth Black woman in the history of the U.S. Mr. Frankel praised the Bladensburg Fire Department for the work they bring to the County. He stated the County utilizes analytics program to gauge and evaluate response capability; with expected response time of 5 minutes, or 5 minutes and 20 seconds if there is a fire. Mr. Frankel reassured all when decisions are made; technology is used to determine how resources are distributed. He encouraged everyone to ensure they have working smoke detectors in homes and public facilities, as well as an evacuation plan.

Mayor James thanked Deputy Chief Frankel for attending the meeting; stating the Town is working with Chief Sumner to educate residents in multifamily facilities in Bladensburg.

- X. 2019 ACCOMPLISHMENTS- TOWN ADMINISTRATOR, DEBI SANDLIN**
Ms. Sandlin provided a snapshot of the Town’s accomplishments; highlighting department contributions in 2019.

XI. PUBLIC COMMENTS (3 MINUTES PER SPEAKER)

XII. MAYOR & COUNCIL REPORTS

- Council Member Mendoza
- Council Member Route
- Council Member Lundy
- Council Member Blount
- Mayor James

XIII. STAFF REPORTS

- Code Enforcement
- Public Works
- Public Safety
- Finance
- Town Clerk
- Town Administrator

XIV. FINANCIAL BUSINESS

- 1. Mid-Year Financial Update-** Ms. Sandlin provided a mid-year financial update in the absence of Treasurer Tinelli; stating he will provide a more thorough update at the March Council Meeting.

2. Tax Differential- Ms. Sandlin provide an update of the tax differential on behalf of Treasurer Tinelli; stating Town provides services that are duplicated at the County level and Mr. Tinelli submits documentation to County to decrease tax rate to residents. Ms. Sandlin stated Mr. Tinelli will provide additional information at the March Council Meeting.

XV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

XVI. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business. Town Clerk Cunningham provided a brief update on the upcoming Bladensburg Day, slated for May 16th, calling for volunteers to serve on the parade committee.

Mayor James encouraged everyone to carry out the legacy of Dr. King in how we can make world better, by reciting her favorite quote by Dr. King, *“Not everybody can be famous. But everybody can be great, because greatness is determined by service.”*

XVII. ADJOURNMENT- Mayor James asked for a motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:18PM. Council Member Mendoza approved the motion; it was seconded by Council Member Blount and passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted By:
Cecile K. Cunningham
Interim Town Clerk