

**Town of Bladensburg  
Council Meeting Minutes  
March 9, 2020 @ 7:00PM**

- I. **CALL TO ORDER-** Mayor James called meeting to order 7:19PM
- II. **OPENING PRAYER-** The opening prayer was recited by Council Member Lundy.
- III. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE- Recited**
- IV. **APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 2020 MINUTES-**  
Council Member Lundy made a motion to approve the February minutes and it was seconded by Council Member Blount. The motion passed unanimously.

**V. APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF TYRONE COLLINGTON**

Mayor James asked for a motion to appoint Acting Chief Collington to the position of Chief of Police for the Bladensburg Police Department. Council Member Route made a motion to approve the appointment of Acting Chief Collington and it was seconded by Council Member Blount. The motion passed unanimously.

Town Administrator Sandlin stated Chief Collington will be a great asset to the Town and has some great ideas. Additionally, she commented that he is well respected in the department, citing the wonderful things shared about him from officers in the department.

Mayor James asked for a motion to amend the agenda to accommodate Ms. Renee Green and Chief Sumner to provide updates on the Peace Cross and the Bladensburg Fire Department. Council Member Route made a motion to approve the amendments to the agenda and it was seconded by Council Member Lundy. The motion passed unanimously.

**Update from Chief Sumner**

Chief Sumner provided an update on the program regarding county services as well as the department's discussion to merge with Riverdale Heights Volunteer Fire Department to combine resources. Chief Sumner also requested consideration for assistance with the purchase of new vehicles as the Council finalizes the FY21 budget.

**Update from Renee Green**

Ms. Green provided an update on the Peace Cross stating a request was made at the Bond Hearing on March 7<sup>th</sup> for \$160,000 towards its restoration. She further stated Senator Augustine said he will match the grant. Ms. Green also stated the February 15<sup>th</sup> documentary on the Peace Cross went over well at the Colmar Manor Townhall, as well as mentioned the "What does the flag mean to me" competition, where she will work with Ms. Griffin to leverage participation from local students.

**VI. 2020 DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE MOSQUITO SPRAYING PROGRAM**

Office Rhinehart provided an update on the Dept. of Agriculture spraying stating the cost will be \$1400 and residents will be notified in advance of spraying. Council Member Mendoza made a a motion to approve the 2020 spraying program. The motion was seconded by Council Member Route. The motion passed unanimously.

**VII. SENIOR PICNIC –**

Council Member Blount provided an update on the Older Americans Month event to engage all seniors in the community. She stated the event will take place at the David Harrington Park. Ms. Blount requested \$2000 to assist with the costs incurred from the event.

Council Member Mendoza made a motion to approve \$2,000 for the Bladensburg Senior Picnic. The motion was seconded by Council Member Route. The motion passed unanimously.

**VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS (3 MINUTES PER SPEAKER)**

**IX. MAYOR & COUNCIL REPORTS**

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

**X. STAFF REPORTS**

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

**XI. FINANCIAL BUSINESS-**

Treasurer Tinelli provided an update on the following:

1. FY21 Budget Calendar
2. Budget Amendments
3. Introduction of Budget Amendment Ordinance (1<sup>st</sup> Read)
4. Council Member Route made a motion to add the Bladensburg High School trip to Harvard under financial business. Council Member Blount seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor James stated Bladensburg High School is requesting \$2000 for a STEM trip to attend Harvard University for five students and a chaperone. Mayor James also stated one of the students live in Bladensburg, while four of the students did not live in Bladensburg but attend Bladensburg High School. She further communicated line item 6225 regarding Community Grants still has a remaining \$2000 that could be repurposed for this request.

Council Member Mendoza proposed \$1000 for one (1) student and a chaperone. Council Member Route stated students who are non-residents should contact their respective Towns regarding further assistance.

Council Member Mendoza made a motion to approve a \$1,000 contribution for the Bladensburg High School STEM trip to Harvard University for one (1) student and chaperone. The motion was seconded by Council Member Route. The motion was approved and passed unanimously.

**XII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business.

**XIII. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Discussion on Corona Virus

Town Administrator Sandlin stated the County is working on a communications plan to push out information to Municipalities, if a resident is tested positive for the virus. The National League of Cities put out recommendations to the Municipalities about the pandemic. Ms. Route stated she does not want to minimize risks regarding the elderly population and asked residents to take all necessary precautions by staying home and self-quarantining for the health and safety of the community, if they feel sick.

**XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:33PM, Council Member Mendoza motioned to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Route seconded the motion. The motion was approved and passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Cecile K. Cunningham

Interim Town Clerk