



Town of Blades  
OFFICE OF MAYOR & COUNCIL  
20 W Fourth Street  
Blades, Delaware 19973-4122  
(P) 302.629.7366 (F) 302.629.0199

***Town Council Meeting  
Hardin Hall  
7:00PM  
April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014***

Present: Mayor Michael J. Smith, Councilman Robert Atkinson, Councilman John Reiss, Councilman David Ruff; Town Administrator Vikki Prettyman

Absent: Councilman Earl Chaffinch, Sr., Councilman Russell Joseph

Meeting Opened at 7:00pm with the Lord's Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes from March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014 Town Council meeting and executive session; motion to accept in written form by Councilman Reiss; seconded by Councilman Atkinson; motion passed.

Police Report – not submitted by Chief Cooke

BEDCO – No minutes available at the time of this meeting... As soon as I receive them they will post on the website.

P&Z – No meeting in April

**Committee Reports:**

- Housing/Code – Code Report Submitted & Attached in the minutes.
- Water report - submitted by Brandon Slater; read by Commissioner Atkinson.
- Streets – Commissioner Joseph is Absent
- Parks & Cemetery – Cemetery clean up and Merry Go Round installed; signs ordered for the cemetery making everyone aware of the annual cemetery clean up instead of posting in newspapers annually.
- Police Report – No further information to report.
- Mayor's Report – No written report submitted.

**❖ New Business:**

- Administer the Oath of Office to Elected Officials
  - Oath administered to Robert Atkinson, John Reiss, and David Ruff
- Nominations for Vice-Mayor of Council
  - Motion to nominate Russell Joseph as Vice-Mayor made by Councilman Reiss; seconded by Councilman Ruff; motion passed.
- Commissioner Appointment by Mayor
  - Housing: John Reiss
  - Water: Robert Atkinson



Town of Blades  
OFFICE OF MAYOR & COUNCIL  
20 W Fourth Street  
Blades, Delaware 19973-4122  
(P) 302.629.7366 (F) 302.629.0199

- Streets: Russell Joseph
- Parks & Cemeteries: David Ruff
- Police: Earl Chaffinch Sr.
- Appointment of Town Solicitor
  - Tim Willard, Fuqua, Yori & Willard in Georgetown
  - Motion made by Councilman Ruff to continue with the appointment of Tim Willard as Town Solicitor; seconded by Councilman Atkinson; motion carried with one no vote by Councilman Reiss.
- Appointment of Tax Assessor
  - Larry Monihan will temporarily continue assessments
  - Motion made by Councilman Reiss to continue with Larry Monihan as the temporary tax assessor; seconded by Councilman Ruff; motion passed.
- Bids for cutting the cemetery
  - **Synopsis:** Bids will be opened for the lawn care cut & trim proposals
  - The town received two bids for cutting and trimming the grass at the cemetery on Market Street. Harris Preservation for \$305 per cut and Distinctive Landscaping for \$195 per cut. Both companies turned in their licenses and insurance certificate. Motion made by Councilman Ruff to accept the 3 year contract for \$195 per cut from Distinctive Landscaping; seconded by Councilman Reiss; motion carried.
- Archeology Bill for the waterline project
  - **Synopsis:** The assessment needs to be completed for our USDA grant/funding application. Lisa with USDA stated that this can be rolled into our grant/funding but the town must bear the expense up front. Ed Otter with Delaware Historic Preservation will conduct the archeo assessment. The Town Administrator has talked with Todd Lawson, County Administrator and Mike Vincent, County President regarding why the county changed their mind in paying for the assessment up front. Waiting to hear back from them.
  - This was not voted on. May bring to the table at a later date.
- Back-Up Well
  - The back up well permit has been placed on hold; we are awaiting direction.
  - Starr Kulikauski asked if they have denied the permit; the Mayor answered “No”.

❖ Good of the Community:

- Announcement that Blades Volunteer Fire Company won the Charmin Toilet paper contest for “Behinds on the Line”
- David reported that the house on Arch and High are dumping waste in the yard; they were found to be dumping waste by Jack Chaffinch’s house a few months back. John will discuss with Marcus.
- May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014 there will be a council workshop to discuss the back-up well situation.
- Bill Thomas, lives in Little Meadows, voiced his concerns regarding his treatment by the Police Chief; he talked to the Mayor in Walmart about his issues; Mr. Thomas stated that Cooke wasn’t doing his job; the new recruits shouldn’t be trained by the state police;



Town of Blades  
OFFICE OF MAYOR & COUNCIL  
20 W Fourth Street  
Blades, Delaware 19973-4122  
(P) 302.629.7366 (F) 302.629.0199

after the academy they should be trained by the Chief; He has also witnessed the Chief speeding in excess of 70MPH on Route 13; Mr. Thomas stated that the police officers schedules should not have them off at night; Mr. Thomas asked council to go into Executive Session and vote for a no confidence vote for the Chief; Mr. Thomas stated that the new recruit should be out on the street as soon as he graduates and not spend any time with the State; the academy was a boot camp when he went there; it isn't anymore; the recruit shouldn't ride with the state.

No further comments.

Motion by Councilman Reiss for an executive session at 7:35pm; motion passed; regular session meeting paused at 7:35pm.

Executive Session closed at 8:30pm  
Council session resumed at 8:30pm.

Mayor closed the meeting at 8:31pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Vikki Prettyman  
Town Administrator