



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
December 14th, 2015

Public Hearing: Community Development Block Grant presented by Brad Whaley

Opened the hearing at 7pm. Public hearing is necessary in order to apply for the public funding. The guidelines are money can be used for housing rehabs, heating, plumbing, for low to moderate income homeowners who occupy the home. Six Blades homeowners are currently on the list. More names will strengthen the application and increase probability of funding. The town can ask for funding for demolition projects. Any demo work request must come with a letter of support from the town.

Council Meeting:

Present: Mayor Bob Atkinson, Vice-Mayor Russell Joseph, Councilman Lee Benningfield, Councilman John Reiss, Councilman BJ Hardin, Councilman David Ruff; Town Administrator Vikki Prettyman

Meeting Opened at 7:15pm with the Lord's Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes from November 9th, 2015 Town Council Meeting and Executive Session minutes; motion to accept in written form by Councilman Reiss; seconded by Councilman Hardin; motion passed.

Police Report – submitted by Chief Cooke; read by Commissioner Benningfield.

BEDCO – No report available at the time of this meeting.

P&Z – No meeting in November.

❖ **Committee Reports:**

- Housing/Code – Report submitted by Marcus Trammell, read by Commissioner Reiss.
- Water report - submitted by Brandon Slater; read by Commissioner Hardin.
- Streets - No written report. Commissioner Joseph stated that all patches have been completed. Commissioner Joseph doesn't want the water department to cut into his roads again, he stated in jest. He instructed the maintenance department to clean out the ditches between W Third and W Fourth Streets, he addressed a complaint for a driveway/road issues at W Fourth and E Seventh Streets, community service workers have been a huge help this past month getting this done, Christmas lights look great and kudos to Brandon Slater and Frank O'Day. Commissioner Joseph wishes to thank the council for the support they have shown him and Mrs. Kitty during her stroke and recovery.
- Parks & Cemetery – Commissioner Ruff stated the headstone at the cemetery has been fixed and Jaimie Justis will be back with the sealant. It has to be warm out for it to adhere. Several tree limbs need to be addressed and he has talked with Commissioner Joseph. The fire station



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would like to donate their existing flag pole to the town for the cemetery. We are one of the only cemeteries to not have a flag pole. Some parking issues he would like to address: Second and Market too close to the intersection, Sixth and Market too close to the fire hydrant. The fire hydrant on Johnson is still out of commission (why?; t/a will address). Received an email from Hailey Passwaters about putting in a skate park; further research.

- Police Report – No further information.
- Mayor's Report – Mayor Atkinson's report in writing.

❖ New Business:

- CDBG Resolutions
 - Resolution R12 2015.12.14 motion to accept by Councilman Ruff; seconded by Councilman Benningfield; motion passed.
 - Resolution R13 2015.12.14 motion to accept by Councilman Reiss; seconded by Councilman Hardin; motion passed.
- 2016 Budget Resolution
 - R11 2015.12.14 motion to accept by Councilman Reiss; seconded by Councilman Hardin; motion passed.
- New Construction Building Fee Reduction Resolution R10
 - R10 430A 2015.12.14 motion to accept by Councilman Reiss; seconded by Councilman Hardin; motion passed.
- New Rates for the Cemetery (By Law Changes)
 - Motion to accept increase of fees to Grave Opening from \$150.00 to \$200.00 and Cremation from \$75.00 to \$100.00 by Councilman Benningfield; seconded by Councilman Ruff; motion passed.
 - Interment by vault: increase from \$150.00 to \$200.00
 - Interment by cremation: increase from \$75.00 to \$100.00
- Opening Bids for parcels for sale
 - 132-1.11-55 and 132-1.11-50 (old Jorge properties)
 - Motion by Councilman Reiss to accept the only bid received of \$18,000.00 from Elena Vasquez; seconded by Councilman Benningfield; voting as listed: Councilman Reiss Yea, Councilman Benningfield Yea, Councilman Joseph Yea, Councilman Hardin Abstained, Councilman Ruff Abstained; motion passed.
- Colonial East property appraisal:
 - Current assessment is \$3,108,100.00
 - Appraisal with recommended assessment \$2,315,000.00
 - Recommended by our town solicitor and independent land assessor to approve the appraisal from Carmean Appraisal Group.
 - Reduces the property taxes on this property by \$5,551.70
 - Already adjusted the property tax budget to reflect this reduction in taxes, new houses being built in town and the newly annexed parcels have off-set this impact.
 - Motion to accept the appraisal and reassessment as listed above by Councilman Benningfield, seconded by Councilman Hardin; motion passed. One no vote by Councilman Reiss.



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- Christmas Light Contest: Judging on the 20th of December after 5pm. Winners will be announced on the 23rd.
 - Joe McCabe: Recognition for the Kids Christmas Bazaar this year!
 - Certificate of Appreciation.
 - Promotion of the Blades Slogan Contest: Flyers will made and promotion on social media and with the Chamber of Commerce.
 - Will discuss further at the workshop
 - Christmas Eve, Thursday, December 24th consideration of closing town hall. The county is closed for the day.
 - Motion to close Christmas Eve by Councilman Joseph; seconded by Councilman Benningfield; motion passed.
 - Repair to the flooring and door at Hardin Hall. Quote came in from Frank Cusmano for \$2300; motion to present to BEDCO for consideration by Councilman Joseph; seconded by Councilman Ruff; motion carried.
 - Commendations to Brandon Slater and Frank O'Day for the Christmas Lights!
- ❖ Good of the Community
- Happy Birthday to Councilman Benningfield
 - Starr Kulikauski wanted to know if the council will be considering getting rid of the Hummer; Commissioner Benningfield stated that there are no plans at this time to do that. That was given to the town and we do have to keep it for a set amount of time before we are able to sell it. She wanted to know the uses for the Hummer. Benningfield replied it has been used in extreme weather events for transportation. It is nice to have in the case of an emergency.
 - Question regarding the semi parked on Concord Road; it is out of town limits.
 - The camera at the park is working but jammed so it is not able to record the bathroom area of the park; it is stuck facing the basketball area.
 - Ron Dejewski questioned the cost of the police department, what their budget is and how the patrol the town with efficiency and if it's more cost effective to bring the state police in. He wishes the council has a serious conversation about this with a cost vs cost/coverage vs. coverage analysis. Council will have a workshop to discuss further.
 - Question regarding the new location for the fire siren. It is being moved because of the electric location for the new fire station. It is being moved one city block.

Council is calling for a workshop; scheduled for January 5th, 2016 at 7pm. Agenda is Slogan Contest, Police Coverage question, and an Executive Session for Personnel Reasons.

Motion to move into executive session at 9:05pm by Councilman Reiss, seconded by Councilman Benningfield; motion carried.

Mayor reopened regular session at 9:25pm. Mayor closed the meeting at 9:25pm.



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Respectfully Submitted,

Vikki Prettyman
Town Administrator



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December 14th, 2015
Executive Session

Opened E/S at 9:07pm

Discussion of the New Year's Eve schedule 8am to 6pm. This must change.

Discussion of the police department personnel and their schedules.

Closed the E/S at 9:25pm.