



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
BVFC, East Fifth Street, Blades, DE
7:00PM
August 14, 2023

Present: Mayor Robert Atkinson, Vice-Mayor Pierre Gaither, Sr., Councilman William Stang, Councilwoman Nancy McAdams, Councilman Donald Trice, Councilman Garold Miller, Police Chief Martin Willey, Police Administrative Assistant Loretta Lynch, Administrative Assistant Crystal Gregor and Town Administrator Lisa Marks.

Mayor Robert Atkinson officially opened the meeting at 7:00 pm.

Opening Prayer by Councilman Pierre Gaither, Sr. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

Minutes from the July 10, 2023, Town Council Meeting: Motion to accept in written form by Councilman Garold Miller; Seconded by Vice-Mayor Pierre Gaither, Sr. Motion passed, Vice-Mayor Pierre Gaither, Sr., – Yes, Councilman William Stang – Yes, Councilwoman Nancy McAdams – Yes, Councilman Donald Trice – Yes, Councilman Garold Miller – Yes. Carried

Police Report – Submitted and read by Councilman Donald Trice. Monthly statistics

BEDCO – No report at the time of this meeting.

P&Z – Submitted by Vice-Mayor Pierre Gaither, Sr. – Plans for Hardin Hall were approved. Meeting adjourned at 7:12pm.

❖ **Committee Reports:**

- **Housing/Code** – Report submitted by Code Enforcement Officer, Marcus Trammell and read by Vice-Mayor Pierre Gaither, Sr. Monthly statistics
- **Water report** - Reports submitted by Public Works Supervisor Frank O'Day and read by Councilman William Stang. In order to clear up misconceptions and confusion by residents, Councilman Stang gave a demonstration of the new meters and the old ones that are being replaced.
- **Streets** – Report submitted and read by Councilman Garold Miller. Weather permitting, Blades 2023 Street Paving Project is scheduled for this month.
- **Parks & Cemeteries** – Report submitted and read by Councilwoman Nancy McAdams. Due to complaints of recent park rentals, Ordinance 276 – An ordinance establishing rules and regulations for the use of Town of Blades Park and providing penalties for violation thereof, along with Resolution 2023.02.23 R2 Blades Park Pavilion Rental Fees will be included in the application



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process and signed off on with the contract. Hunter Creek Homes has submitted the Hardin Hall plans to the Fire Marshall for review. Once all permits are approved the Town will be having a ground breaking ceremony, date to be announced.

- Police – Report submitted and read by Councilman Donald Trice. Councilman Trice thanked everyone that helped with and attended Blades Night Out, announced the receipt of bond funds from Danny Short and Bryant Richardson to remodel Blades Police Department and Blades Town Hall, vehicle cameras will be installed later this week, would like to hire a fourth officer next year with grant funding and the purchase of a 2023 Dodge Durango later this month after council approval.
- Mayor's Report – Report submitted and read by Mayor Robert Atkinson. Mayor Atkinson gave a brief report of his numerous meetings during the month of July.
- Town Administrator Report – Report submitted and read by Town Administrator Lisa Marks. Ms. Marks reported July door hanger and shutoffs for past due accounts, notaries are available at Town Hall during business hours, Weaver Real Estate Appraisal continues to appraise homes that have been recently built, and Lank, Johnson & Tull, CPAs have completed the town's 2022 Audit. The report was concluded by thanking town staff, a resident volunteer and sponsors for a wonder job of planning and distributing bookbags and school supplies to local children.

❖ New Business:

- Town of Blades RTT Grant – RTT funds in the amount of 138,276 will be used in entirety to help fund the RT13 Water Main Crossing Project. The County's Grant will be matched by ARPA funds of 38,276. – Informative announcement.
- The Comp Plan Draft review by PLUS will be August 23, 2023. – Informative announcement.
- Police Vehicle Purchase: Motion to approve the purchase of a 2023 Dodge Durango made by Councilman Donald Trice; Seconded by Councilwoman Nancy McAdams. Motion passed, Vice-Mayor Pierre Gaither, Sr., – No, Councilman William Stang – No, Councilman Donald Trice – Yes, Councilman Garold Miller – Yes, Councilwoman Nancy McAdams – Yes. Carried

❖ Old Business:

- Third Reading Ordinance 437 - Cross Connection Control Ordinance – Read by Councilman William Stang: Motion to approve Ordinance 437 - Cross Connection Control Ordinance made by Councilman Donald Trice; Seconded by Vice-Mayor Pierre Gaither, Sr. Motion passed, Vice-Mayor Pierre Gaither, Sr., – Yes, Councilman William Stang – Yes, Councilman Donald Trice – Yes, Councilman Garold Miller – Yes, Councilwoman Nancy McAdams – Yes. Carried

❖ Good of the Community



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Citizen inquired about a flag pole that had been donated to the Town by the Blades Volunteer Fire Company 7 years ago. The flag pole was to be placed in the Blades Cemetery.

Citizen inquired about the street valve box sticking up out of the road on Meadow Drive.

Citizen inquired about a street sign at Sixth Street and Market Street.

Citizen inquired about a street sign at Meadow Drive and Meadow Court.

Entered into Executive Session: 8:36 pm

Exited Executive Session: 9:57pm

Motion to approve conditional hiring of candidate pending passing final testing, including \$20,000 from 2024 Sussex County Grant towards payroll/benefit expenses made by Councilman Donald Trice; Seconded by Councilwoman Nancy McAdams. Motion passed, Vice-Mayor Pierre Gaither, Sr., – Yes, Councilman William Stang – Yes, Councilman Donald Trice – Yes, Councilman Garold Miller – Yes, Councilwoman Nancy McAdams – Yes. Carried

Councilman Donald Trice motioned to adjourn the August 14, 2023, Blades Town Council Meeting, Seconded by Vice-Mayor Pierre Gaither, Sr.

Mayor Robert Atkinson adjourned the Blades Town Council Meeting at 10:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lisa Marks
Town Administrator