



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
October 9, 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, and Town Administrator Lisa Marks.

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

Opening Prayer by Vice-Mayor Pierre Gaither, Sr., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

Minutes from the September 11, 2023, Town Council Meeting: Motion to accept in written form by Vice-Mayor Pierre Gaither, Sr.; Seconded by Councilman Donald Trice. 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 Police Chief. Monthly statistics

BEDCO – No report at the time of this meeting.

P&Z – Read by Vice-Mayor Pierre Gaither, Sr. – Plans for new construction was approved for Lot 99 Summit Circle and 313 East Fifth Street. Plans for a four-unit apartment building was approved for 8532 Concord Road. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

❖ 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. Monthly statistics
- Streets – Report submitted and read by Councilman Garold Miller. Blades 2023 Street Paving Project has been completed. Streets are being assessed for the Blades 2024 Street Paving Project. Christmas lights have been changed over to using new, more durable bulbs.
- Parks & Cemeteries – Report submitted and read by Councilwoman Nancy McAdams. The park will be winterized in the next week. The picnic tables will be put in storage until Spring. The cemetery will be getting reseeded. Both lawn mowers are currently out of service. We are looking into purchasing a new one for next season. Hardin Hall is still in the permitting process. We will not be able to participate in Wreaths Across America until next year. We are planning a Veteran's Day Ceremony in the park on Veteran's Day, November 11, 2023.



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- Police – Report submitted and read by Councilman Donald Trice. Chief Willey would like to return to a 40-hour work week (sedetary duty). Remodeling of Town Hall has begun. Incar radar units are being purchased through grants. The new hire began the academy October 8th. The Chief is offering to speak at group or organization meetings on different topics. A meet and greet is being planned for January or February. The Police Department and BVFC will be handing out candy at the BVFC Halloween.
- Mayor's Report – Report submitted and read by Mayor Robert Atkinson. Mayor Atkinson gave a brief report of his meetings during the month of August.
- Town Administrator Report – Report submitted and read by Town Administrator Lisa Marks. Ms. Marks reported September door hanger and shutoffs for past due accounts, a meeting is scheduled for later in the week to review the Comprehensive Plan Update comments and suggestions from PLUS, Weaver Real Estate Appraisal continues to appraise homes that have been recently built. The report was concluded by reminding everyone to drive extra cautiously Tuesday, October 31st during the Town's Trick-or-Treating hours – 6-8 pm.

❖ New Business:

- Moratorium Cannabis Businesses – Councilman Donald Trice requested Council to consider a resolution/ordinance moratorium for cannabis businesses for twelve (12) month periods.
- Announce Hydrant Flushing, Week of October 16th - Hydrants will be flushed during the week of October 16th, this process takes several days.
- Announce Park Winterization, Week of October 9th – The park will be winterized and picnic tables removed until Spring.
- The Comp Plan Update – A Public Meeting and Council discussion about the Comp Plan will be on November's agenda.

❖ Old Business:

- N/A

❖ Good of the Community

Citizen Mary Knauss, 117 Meadow Drive, questioned an estimated reading on her water bill.

Citizen Joe Donahue, 120 Meadow Drive, suggested the Town sub-out the town's water system. He has researched the possibilities and offered to share his findings.

Citizen Bonnie Rose, 308 East Fifth Street, noticed the American flag at Town Hall has become ragged looking.



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Citizen Jerry Dorsey, 309 East Fifth Street, inquired if there are State Representatives that could assist with acquiring grants.

Citizen Susan Seltzer, 200 Meadow Court, inquired about her new meter lid and if a wand was required to read meter.

Entered into Executive Session: 8:26 pm

Exited Executive Session: 8:40 pm

Motion to approve Chief Willey's request to work a 40-hour week in a sedentary position. This is to be revisited at the next Council meeting 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 Garold Miller motioned to adjourn the October 9, 2023, Blades Town Council Meeting, Seconded by Councilwoman Nancy McAdams.

Mayor Robert Atkinson adjourned the Blades Town Council Meeting at 8:48 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lisa Marks
Town Administrator