



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
December 11, 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 7:02 pm.

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

Minutes from the November 13, 2023, Town Council Meeting: Motion to accept in written form by Councilman William Stang; 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 – Chief Willey, Councilman Donald Trice and Police Administrative Assistant Loretta Lynch presented Certificates of Appreciation to volunteers that have helped the Police Department with their events.

BEDCO – No report at the time of this meeting.

P&Z – No meeting in December.

❖ 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. The Christmas lights are up. The garage has room for storing salt. Currently we have enough for one storm.
- Parks & Cemeteries – Report submitted and read by Councilwoman Nancy McAdams. Removing the tree roots and repaving the cemetery roads is going to be very expensive. This will require grants and legislative funding. One bid for paving is in and another one is expected. We still need one more. One lawn mower is repaired. The leaves in the park will be mowed and mulched. Five grants are being prepared for 2024 funding handicapped playground/park equipment. We are waiting for permits from the County to begin Hardin Hall.
- Police – Report submitted and read by Councilman Donald Trice. Councilman Trice meets with Chief Willey and Police Administrative Assistant daily.

Town Council Meeting Minutes



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Chief Willey is working 40 hours a week lite duty.

The remodel of the Town Hall is about finished. The heating system is up and running. DryTech finished the basement. The LED lights are done in the Police Department and the hallway. The painters are done. The new basement door is on. Replacing the carpet with laminate flooring is done. The Police Department is having 3 new workstations and 3 new computers installed this week. Everything should be finished by the end of December. We welcome everyone to come up and look at the newly remodeled Town Hall.

The candidate that is attending the Dover class is doing very well. We get a report on him from the Dover Police Academy every week. The candidate calls Chief Willey every Friday and they go over the week.

The Chief is planning another meet and greet with the residents of Blades in January at the Blades Volunteer Fire Company. The last one went very well. Refreshments will be served.

There is a USDA grant that the town can apply for to redo sidewalks in the Town of Blades, which we badly need. Town Administrator needs to stay on top of this grant. We need to replace sidewalks on Market Street.

On December 2nd, the Blades Police Department and Blades Volunteer Fire Company had a free breakfast with Santa. I would like to thank all the residents of Blades that came out to help us with the breakfast and the businesses that donated to help with the cost of putting on the breakfast and buying gifts. We had about 154 attend. The Blades Police Department and Blades Volunteer Fire Company will be making this a yearly function.

The Police Department contacted DelDOT last month for a traffic study for the Market Street and High Street intersection, due to the heavy traffic going through town. We have not heard anything back from DelDOT yet.

The Chief is planning another meet and greet with the residents of Blades in January or February at the Blades Fire Hall. The last one went very well. Refreshments will be served.

The Police Department would like to thank the Town Council, Blades Volunteer Fire Company and the Blades residents in supporting us with the functions that Police Department has. Thank you for your support. I think these functions we have bring the Town and the residents of Blades closer together as a town.

2023 was a good year for the Police Department, we got a lot done, but we are looking at 2024 and what we want to do. With the support of the Town Council and the residents of Blades, we can make 2024 an even better year for the Town of Blades. On behalf of the Blades Police Department and myself, we want to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Joyful New Year.

- Mayor's Report – Report submitted and read by Mayor Robert Atkinson. Mayor Atkinson gave a brief report of his meetings and public appearances during the month of November. Mayor Atkinson also



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voiced his concerns about a potential development in the town limits of Blades

- Town Administrator Report – Report submitted and read by Town Administrator Lisa Marks. Ms. Marks reported November door hanger and shutoffs for past due accounts, Weaver Real Estate Appraisal has completed appraising homes that have been recently built, the USDA ECWAG Grant is in the final stage to close out the PFOS/PFOA Water Treatment Plant Project and the 2024 tax bills will be sent out the first week of January.

She thanked Marcus and Crystal for all of their hard work and dedication preparing for the Blades Kids Christmas Party. She also thanked all of the sponsors for their donations that made this event possible including being able to give out 300 gifts to the children, supplies to make crafts and provide them with lunch and hot chocolate. The hard work from all of the volunteers put a smile on the children's faces as they picked their gifts, made a special craft, played games and sat with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Thank you, Fred, Deborah, Barbara, Celeste, Niecy, Lauren, Sharon, Crystal, Sloan and Marcus.

In Observance of Christmas and New Year's Day, Town Hall will be closed Monday, December 25, 2023 and Monday, January 1, 2024.

❖ New Business:

- The Comp Plan Update Resolution – Councilman William Stang read RESOLUTION 2023.12.11 Comprehensive Plan Update Resolution. Motion to approve RESOLUTION 2023.12.11 Comprehensive Plan Update Resolution 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
- Adoption of 2024 Budget – Town Administrator Lisa Marks read the 2024 Budget. Motion to approve the 2024 Budget made by Councilman William Stang; Seconded by Councilman Garold Miller. 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
- Christmas Light Contest – Deadline Wednesday, December 20, 2023

❖ Old Business:

- N/A

❖ Good of the Community

Citizen Gary Gallamore, 131 Meadow Drive, questioned the validity of the June 12, 2023, swearing in of Council members and possible violations.



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Mayor Atkinson removed himself from the meeting and building. (per the Town Solicitor, the Council is valid)

Entered into Executive Session: N/A

Exited Executive Session: N/A

Councilman Donald Trice motioned to adjourn the December 11, 2023, Blades Town Council Meeting, Seconded by Councilman William Stang.

Vice-Mayor Pierre Gaither, Sr. adjourned the Blades Town Council Meeting at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lisa Marks
Town Administrator