



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
February 12, 2024***

Present: Mayor Rev. Dr. Pierre Gaither, Sr., Vice-Mayor William Stang, Councilwoman Nancy McAdams, Councilman Donald Trice, Councilman Garold Miller and Town Administrator Lisa Marks.

Mayor Rev. Dr. Pierre Gaither, Sr. officially opened the meeting at 7:00 pm.

Lord's Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance

HELP Initiative, Inc. Presentation by Charles Kistler and Harold Stafford

- Motion to approve HELP Initiative, Inc. recommendations made by Vice-Mayor William Stang; Seconded by Councilman Donald Trice. Motion passed, Vice-Mayor William Stang – Yes, Councilman Donald Trice – Yes, Councilman Garold Miller – Yes, Councilwoman Nancy McAdams – Yes. Carried

Minutes from the January 08, 2024, Town Council Meeting: Motion to accept in written form, by Councilman Donald Trice; Seconded by Vice-Mayor William Stang. Motion passed, Vice-Mayor William Stang – Yes, Councilwoman Nancy McAdams – Yes, Councilman Donald Trice – Yes, Councilman Garold Miller – Yes. Carried

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

P&Z – No meeting in February.

❖ Committee Reports:

- Housing/Code – Report submitted by Code Enforcement Officer, Marcus Trammell and read by Mayor Rev. Dr. Pierre Gaither, Sr. - Monthly statistics
- Water report - Reports submitted by Public Works Supervisor Frank O'Day and read by Vice-Mayor William Stang. Monthly statistics
- Streets – Report submitted and read by Councilman Garold Miller. Councilman Miller met with Delmarva Paving to go over streets for the 2024 Street Project. Representative Daniel Short will be funding 70% and Senator Bryant Richardson will fund the remaining 30% (total project cost is \$67,478.00). Councilman Miller and Code Enforcement officer Marcus Trammell met with DelDOT to discuss the stormwater drainage issue on North Market Street. DelDOT will bring a device to see where the clog in the drain is located. Delmarva Power will be replacing the lights in Little Meadows with LED lights. We have been looking into replacing the old Christmas banners, but they are expensive. Therefore, a decision has not been made.



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- Parks & Cemeteries – Report submitted and read by Councilwoman Nancy McAdams. The park looks like it has for months. The lawn mower has been repaired, but it is old. Councilman Garold Miller and I are going to shop around for a new one. Hopefully, we will be able to get funding since the park has a small budget. The road on the south side of the cemetery has been damaged by tree roots. If we cut the roots, it will most likely kill the trees. Town Administrator Lisa Marks is working with a contractor to see how we can solve the problem and repave that area. The permitting for Hardin Hall has begun, we should be starting soon. While I was away, Code Enforcement officer Marcus Trammel and Lisa were able to meet with Hunter Creek Homes, Inc.
- Police – Report submitted and read by Councilman Donald Trice.
I still stay in contact with Chief Willey and Lori in the office.

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. He has about 3 weeks before he graduates from the Police Academy on the 1st of March.

I would like to thank the Seaford Police Dept. for the help that they have provided during Chief Willey's injury. I would also like to thank the Delaware State Police for their help. We have been seeing a lot of DSP in town helping us out.

Paperwork has been started for next year's grants. We received the two grants we applied for. One for security cameras for the Police Dept., this is required for our certification. The other grant is for security cameras at the park. We have received the office cameras and are waiting on the park cameras to arrive.

We received a grant of \$3,400.00 for a full body shield and we received the body shield last week.

The Chief Meet & Greet with the residents of Blades went very well. I would like to thank everyone for coming.

We have Charles Kistler from HELP Initiative here to talk about the poor lighting in town. This was brought up at the Meet & Greet. Thank you Representative Danny Short for suggesting HELP Initiative.

Saturday, April 27, 2024, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., the Police Department will be having a DEA National Takeback Program. Turn in unneeded medications for safe disposal. The location will be at the Blades Police Department backdoor.

Upcoming events will be March 30th, Blades Easter Egg Hunt at the Blades Park from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Come out and have a good time with the kids.



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The Police are still working on Accreditation Certification through the State. It is a long process and a lot of paperwork.

We need the support of the Town Council and residents, so we can do our job in keeping this town a safe place to live. If we all work together as a TEAM, we can achieve our goal of making the town a better and safe place to live.

- Mayor's Report – Report submitted and read by Mayor Rev. Dr. Pierre Gaither, Sr. Mayor Gaither gave a brief report of his meetings and public appearances during the month of January, including attending the SCAT Meeting where he was able to meet with State Officials and other Mayors. The meeting was productive and informational. Mayor Gaither announced the Governor has certified the Comp Plan and read the Letter of Certification to Council and residents. Mayor Gaither also had meetings with Councilors and employees. Town Hall has a cleaning crew coming in once a week. Mayor Gaither has been reading and learning in order to do the best job he can for the Town. Anyone is welcome to contact him for a meeting to discuss concerns. Mayor Gaither closed with thanking everyone for the prayers and condolences for him and his family during their time of loss.
 - Town Administrator Report – Report submitted and read by Town Administrator Lisa Marks. Ms. Marks reported January door hanger and shutoffs for past due accounts. Delmarva Power will be changing the 100-watt high pressure sodium lights to LED lights in Little Meadows. The Governor has certified the Comp Plan. The certification letter was signed Friday, February 9, 2024. The certification letter is on the website. The Comp Plan is too large to download. Replacement of Hardin Hall is starting to move forward. We will be deciding on a date for the Ground Breaking Ceremony in the next week or so. Siding, windows, doors, roofing, paint, flooring, cabinets, vanity tops and countertops have been ordered. The EPA was doing soil sampling on River Road February 5th, 6th & 7th. Friday, February 9, 2024 the EPA issued their Record of Decision for Blades Operable Unit 2 (waterline extension). Lank, Johnson & Tull, CPA have the documents for our 2023 Audit. The quote for the 2024 Street Project has been submitted and approved for funding. Gary and Marcus met with DeIDOT to discuss stormwater drainage issues on North Market and Hill Street. DeIDOT will be bringing a device to see where the clog is located.
- ❖ New Business:
- CDBG Resolution – Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing – Resolution read by Vice-Mayor William Stang. Motion to accept the CDBG Resolution – Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing made by Councilman Donald Trice; Seconded Councilman Garold Miller. Motion passed, Vice-Mayor William Stang – Yes, Councilman Donald Trice – Yes, Councilman Garold Miller – Yes, Councilwoman Nancy McAdams – Yes. Carried



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- Town Election Announcement: Town Elections will be held April 1, 2024, to fill 3 Council positions – Candidate Filing Forms must be submitted by 4:30 pm, on Wednesday, March 13, 2024.
- Appoint 2024 Municipal Election Board - Mayor Rev. Dr. Pierre Gaither, Sr. appointed Starr Kulikauski, Fred Henning and Lisa Marks to the 2024 Municipal Election Board.
- Appoint two Planning & Zoning Committee members - Mayor Rev. Dr. Pierre Gaither, Sr. appointed Starr Kulikauski and Raymond Adkins to the Planning & Zoning Committee and thanked them for volunteering. Mayor Gaither requested the Planning & Zoning Committee appoint an Acting Chair until the upcoming election.

❖ Old Business:

- N/A

❖ Good of the Community

Starr Kulikauski, 503 Highland Court, inquired about the April 1st voting hours. – 2 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Jerry Dorsey, 309 East Fifth Street, inquired if the Market Street stormwater repairs would include Little Meadows. – No

Francine Kay, 306 East Fifth Street, requested Mayor Gaither apologize for the way he spoke at the last meeting. – Mayor apologized if he offended anyone and welcomed anyone that would like to speak with him individually.

Vice-Mayor William Stang motioned to adjourn the February 12, 2024, Blades Town Council Meeting, Seconded by Councilman Donald Trice.

Mayor Rev. Dr. Pierre Gaither, Sr. adjourned the Blades Town Council Meeting at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lisa Marks
Town Administrator