



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
May 13, 2024***

Present: Mayor Rev. Dr. Pierre Gaither, Sr., Vice-Mayor William Stang, Councilwoman Nancy McAdams, Councilman Gary Miller, Councilwoman Susan Seltzer, 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

Mayor Rev. Dr. Pierre Gaither appointed Councilwoman Susan Seltzer as the Code Enforcement Commissioner and P&Z Chair.

Minutes from the April 8, 2024, Town Council Meeting: Motion to accept in written form, by Councilman Gary Miller; Seconded by Vice-Mayor William Stang. Motion passed, Vice-Mayor William Stang – Yes, Councilwoman Nancy McAdams – Yes, Councilman Gary Miller – Yes, Councilwoman Susan Seltzer – Yes. Carried

Police Report – Submitted by Police Chief and read by Councilwoman Nancy McAdams. Monthly statistics.

P&Z – Meeting minutes submitted by David McAdams and read by Councilwoman Susan Seltzer. Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm. March 4, 2024, meeting minutes were approved. A proposal to split a lot was tabled until variances are acquired. A proposal for a lot division was tabled until appropriate variances are acquired. A proposal to move a lot line was approved. A proposal for a lot division was approved. Plans for Blades Mini Storage was approved. Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

❖ Committee Reports:

- Housing/Code – Report submitted by Code Enforcement Officer, Marcus Trammell and read by Councilwoman Susan Seltzer - Monthly statistics
- Water - Report submitted by Public Works Supervisor Frank O'Day and read by Vice-Mayor William Stang. Monthly statistics
- Streets – Report submitted and read by Councilman Gary Miller. Mac from Del-Mar-Va Paving has been in touch with the office scheduling our 2024 Street Paving Project.
- Parks & Cemeteries – Report submitted and read by Councilwoman Nancy McAdams. The completion of the grant to help pay for plants and landscaping supplies for Hardin Hall and possibly plants for the Town Hall frontal area was delayed by an environmental check of the soil. This has been completed except for specific dimensions. Hunter Creek Homes, Inc. says actual work on Hardin Hall will begin this week.

Nancy's research shows that the Blades Park does not comply with the ADA (American Disabilities



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Act, Title II) federal mandate. She is working on the process we must take to comply so we are not in violation. That process will lead to grants to make our Blades Park accessible for all people in need of special accommodations. This will take a lot of time and money.

Meanwhile, she has a committee set up to study various activities for the park, especially for children. Suggestions are warmly welcome. Questions and suggestions are always welcome on any of her projects.

- Police – Report submitted by Councilman Donald Trice and read by Councilwoman Nancy McAdams. Councilman Donald Trice had a Monday, Tuesday and Friday meeting with Chief Willey and Lori.

The Police Department has received the grants they applied for. They purchased four Canon cameras, one for each police vehicle. They also purchased a storage cabinet and safety cones with barricade bars.

April 28, 2024, he attended the Southern Delaware Kidney Walk at Cape Henlopen Park in Lewes.

Officer Krager will be finishing his training with Seaford Police Department by the Middle of May.

Saturday, April 27, 2024, he helped with the DEA National take back program, where people can turn in unneeded, outdated and unused medication for safe disposal. Blades Police Department took in over 30 pounds of medication that day.

There are three more events planned for the year: June 6th, an Old Fashion Street Dance, August 8th, National Night Out and October 31st, Halloween. The Town Council are invited to come out to all of the events.

The Police Department is still working on Accreditation Certification through the State.

Delaware State Police will still be in town to help out.

On April 21, 2024, shots were fired in the Town of Blades. A man and woman had an argument, the man fired several shots into the ground. No one was hurt. The Delaware State Police responded and later arrested the man. Councilman Donald Trice thanked the Delaware State Police for their quick response.

Due to future growth, Councilman Trice and Chief Willey are looking for ways to improve the Police Department by adding personnel and equipment.

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 April, including having



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less available time due to jury duty, attending the SCAT Dinner Meeting in Bridgeville, meetings with employees and the Mayor of Lewes. The mayors were able to discuss the many things coastal and inland towns have to offer as well as concerns. Mayor Gaither met with Atlantic Design Kitchen & Bath to finalize flooring, countertops and cabinetry selections for Hardin Hall. Vice-Mayor William Stang attended the S.C.A.T. Breakfast. Mayor Gaither noticed dying trees that are white in color at the southern end of River Road. Mayor Gaither had concerns; if this was caused by something in the water and if that was the case, would it affect the town. After research he discovered it was not caused by the water, but buzzard feces. There is a large population of buzzards in that area.

- Town Administrator Report – Report submitted and read by Town Administrator Lisa Marks. Ms. Marks reported April door hanger and shutoffs for past due accounts. The final reimbursement request has been submitted for the current ORPT Grant. She and Frank are working with HydroCorp and Delaware Rural Water Association on the Cross Connection Control Plan. She and Frank are also working with 120Water, collecting inventory information for our Lead and Copper Rule Compliance. The 2023 Consumer Confidence Report for Water Quality will be completed this month. Lank, Johnson & Tull, CPAs are currently working on our 2023 Audit.

❖ New Business:

- Annexation Pubic Hearing: Brad Hoffman of Alliance Builders represented the owner of 8616 Concord Road. Brad answered questions pertaining to the plans for the property, ex: single-family home with a 2-car garage, possible 6 month to a year time frame, the driveway will be on Concord Road, the annexation was requested so they could have town water, there is no interest in becoming part of Little Meadows.
- Chesapeake Utilities Franchise Agreement: Motion to accept Chesapeake Utilities Franchise Agreement made by Vice-Mayor William Stang; Seconded by Councilman Gary Miller. Motion passed, Vice-Mayor William Stang. – Yes, Councilman Gary Miller – Yes, Councilwoman Nancy McAdams – Yes, Councilwoman Susan Seltzer - Yes. Carried.

❖ Old Business:

- N/A

❖ Good of the Community

Denise Redmond, 302 East Fifth Street, presented the Mayor, Council Members and Other Distinguished Guest with two pages of comments and concerns pertaining to Cypress Landing and the upcoming presentation for final approval. Mayor and Council were given copies to follow along. A Petition to Stop Cypress Landing, signed by 101 residents from Blades and Seaford was presented.

Kathleen Whittaker, 424 Summit Drive, asked if her 3 minutes could be given to Denise, so she could continue reading. Granted



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Celeste Dorsey, 309 East Fifth Street, asked if her 3 minutes could be given to Denise, so she could continue reading. Granted

Margery Delany, 126 Meadow Drive, asked if her 3 minutes could be given to Denise, so she could continue reading. Granted

Joseph Donahue, 120 Meadow Drive, stated that Insight Homes stated information has been acquired, but not presented.

Mark Buras, 304 East Sixth Street, stated that Sussex Conservation has not passed or approved Cypress Landing.

Francine Kay, 306 East Fifth Street, stated the Insight Homes had said they expected construction to begin early spring and it has not begun.

Mayor Gaither, stated they have not moved forward and have not presented to P&Z.

Jerry Dorsey, 309 East Fifth Street, is concerned about his property's layout. The September 6, 2022 P&Z Meeting Minutes showed the approval for a new building, but did not elaborate about what was discussed.

Keith Redmond, 302 East Fifth Street, was disturbed by Council comments. He would like to know when a study/report was done stating there is enough water. He would like the study stating there is enough water.

Mark Buras, 304 East Sixth Street, inquired about discolored water in his toilet.

Gary Gallamore, 131 Meadow Drive, thanked the Council for the explanation of having enough water, as well as the Engineer's March 11, 2024, letter. (Stating there is water capacity for the proposed Cypress Landing residential development, per the 2021 Water Facility Plan)

Councilwoman Nancy McAdams motioned to adjourn the May 13, 2024, Blades Town Council Meeting, Seconded by Vice-Mayor William Stang.

Mayor Rev. Dr. Pierre Gaither, Sr. adjourned the Blades Town Council Meeting at 8:11 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lisa Marks
Town Administrator