



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
June 10, 2024***

Present: Mayor Rev. Dr. Pierre Gaither, Sr., Vice-Mayor William Stang, Councilwoman Nancy McAdams, Councilman Gary Miller, Councilwoman Susan Seltzer, Councilman Donald Trice, Officer Emmet Krager, Chief Martin Willey 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

Minutes from the May 13, 2024, Town Council Meeting: Motion to accept in written form, by Councilman Donald Trice; Seconded by Councilwoman Nancy McAdams. Motion passed, Vice-Mayor William Stang – Yes, Councilwoman Nancy McAdams – Yes, Councilman Gary Miller – Yes, Councilwoman Susan Seltzer – Yes, Councilman Donald Trice - Yes. Carried

Police Report – Submitted by Police Chief and read by Councilman Donald Trice. Monthly statistics. Officer Emmet Krager was introduced by Chief Martin Willey.

P&Z – Meeting minutes submitted by David McAdams and read by Councilwoman Susan Seltzer. Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm. June 3, 2024, meeting minutes were approved. A proposal to split a lot (132-1.11-133.00) was approved. A proposal for a lot division (132-1.16-3.00) was tabled until appropriate variances are acquired. A proposal for contingent approval for Cypress Landing was tabled until required documents are provided. Meeting was adjourned at 8:47 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. We are possibly looking at September to begin the 2024 Street Paving Project.
- Parks & Cemeteries – Report submitted and read by Councilwoman Nancy McAdams. As you might have noticed, Hardin Hall is under construction. Plants to beautify the building will be ordered when the outside shell is up.

There are 115 Veterans buried in the cemeteries and the request to “VETERAN’S WREATHS” – a symbol of HONOR, RESPECT and VICTORY has been made. The Wreaths arrive in December and we will need instructions and volunteers to place them.



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Councilwoman McAdams is requesting grants from Sussex County and local non-profits to eventually add another monument to the Blades Park to include the Veterans from World War I, Korea, Vietnam and the Middle East Wars as the present monument only includes World War II.

Grants to make accessible the restrooms and paths of travel are in the process as well.

An infant swing is now available in the park. Thanks Frank and Chris for the immediate installation.

Questions and suggestions are welcome on any of these projects.

- Police – Report submitted by Councilman Donald Trice and read by Councilman Donald Trice. Councilman Donald Trice apologized for not attending last month's meeting; he had a two-week vacation planned that month. He did stay in touch with Chief Willey and Lori while he was away.

As the Police Commissioner, Councilman Trice welcomed Officer Emmet Krager to the Police Department, also stating he will be a great asset to the Police Department.

Starting this month, the Police Department will hold a monthly meeting with all of their officers.

Councilman Trice apologized for the mix up on the date for the Street Dance. Even though they had to move to the Blades Marina, they had about 60 to 65 show up and had a good time. He thanked Lori and all of the volunteers that helped at the Old Fashion Street Dance. Without volunteers, they could not hold these kinds of events. The Old Fashion Street Dance will be held the 2nd Saturday in June each year at the Blades Park.

Councilman Trice attended the monthly Team Meeting, as well as helped with the Old Fashion Street Dance.

Upcoming Events: June 24th at 7:00 pm at the Town Hall, they will be having a Chief Advisory Board Meeting. This meeting is mandatory as part of their accreditation. This committee is made up of 5 people, they cannot be town employees or council members. August 6th, National Night Out from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at the Blades Park. The Town Council are invited to come out to all events.

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

Councilman Trice thanked the Delaware State Police for helping out.

Councilman Trice thanked the Seaford Police Department for the training they gave Officer Krager.

Due to future growth, Councilman Trice and Chief Willey are looking for ways to improve the Police Department by adding personnel or equipment for the safety of their officers. They are looking for grants and other financial aid that will help them reach their goals.

DelDOT did a traffic study at Market Street and High Street. They said we have the traffic, however not enough accidents to need a traffic light. They are planning to repaint lines on the street.



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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 and our officers safe. If we all work together as a TEAM, we can achieve our goal of making the town a better and safe place to live.

- Town Administrator Report – Report submitted and read by Town Administrator Lisa Marks. Ms. Marks reported May door hanger and shutoffs for past due accounts. 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 Town of Blades Matching Planning Grant with DHSS (Delaware Health and Social Services) has been fully executed. This funding towards 120 Water / Lead Copper Rule Compliance expenses. Ten properties are in the process of having liens attached, due to past due taxes. The 2023 Consumer Confidence Report for Water Quality is posted in the Town Hall lobby and on the Blades website. <https://blades.delaware.gov/files/2024/05/BLADES-2023-CCR-REPORT-FINAL.pdf> Lank, Johnson & Tull, CPAs are currently working on our 2023 Audit.

❖ New Business:

- Introduction of Officer Emmet Krager. Introduced earlier in the meeting.
- Marijuana Ordinance 420B-C: Motion to accept Marijuana Ordinance 420B-C made by Councilman Donald Trice; Seconded by Councilwoman Nancy McAdams. Motion passed, Vice-Mayor William Stang. – Yes, Councilman Gary Miller – Yes, Councilwoman Nancy McAdams – Yes, Councilwoman Susan Seltzer – Yes, Councilman Donald Trice - Yes. Carried.

❖ Old Business:

➤ N/A

- 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 May. Mayor Gaither was not able to attend the S.C.A.T. dinner. He was able to attend Seaford's Graduation, which he said was a beautiful ceremony. Mayor Gaither attended the June Team Meeting, where he met with staff and council members. Mayor Rev. Dr. Pierre Gaither, Sr. concluded his report with his resignation as the mayor and as part of Town Council, effective immediately.

❖ Good of the Community

Gary Gallamore, 131 Meadow Drive, spoke about Code 2003, Title 29, Section 100 pertaining to 3-minute speaking limit.

Kathleen Whittaker, 424 Summit Drive, questioned the \$50.00 park rental deposit being cash only. She also referred to a portion of the pond being on a resident of Little Meadows property and a representative



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of Cypress Landing had contacted the homeowner. She will be emailing Councilwoman Susan Seltzer about needed approval by Little Meadows HOA for anything concerning properties in Little Meadows.

David Ruff, 207 East Sixth Street, announced that the park rental deposit being cash only is a policy that has been in effect for years.

Denise Redmond, 302 East Fifth Street, supplied pictures and samples of her water which had an orange tint. Denise had scheduled the Office of Drinking Water to test her water later this week. She also inquired about water pressure and what to do about iron in the water.

Jerry Dorsey, 309 East Fifth Street, is concerned about speeding on Fifth Street and Sixth Street. He would like to see speed bumps and speed enforcement.

David McAdams, 209 East Seventh Street, inquired about a resident's payment arrangement for past due taxes that has been in effect for several years.

Keith Redmond, 302 East Fifth Street, shared that he has visited another small town in Delaware and they had speedbumps approved. He would like to have speedbumps installed.

David Ruff, 207 East Sixth Street, shared his concerns about the busted sidewalk by the bridge, the sidewalk at North Market Street / High Street under water at times, STOP signs at High Street / North Market Street and also Cannon Street, No Parking signs, drug houses and 15-20 people living in a single-family home.

Francine Kay, 306 East Fifth Street, stated that she is campaigning to get speedbumps. Her husband almost got hit while going to the mailbox. She pointed out that Third Street has speedbumps.

Starr Kulikauski, 503 Highland Court, inquired about fire hydrants being repainted, who maintains the retention ponds, branches in the cemeteries and the need for power washing at 500 South Market Street. She also feels the Town needs to hire an additional Public Works employee.

Mark Buras, 304 East Sixth Street, inquired about the former Mayor visiting Town Hall on a "daily basis" and if he still has keys.

Blades Volunteer Fire Company, President, Ronald Depew, reminded everyone about the Chicken Dinner Fund Raiser and Silent Auction for Past Chief Ronnie Fensick, Saturday, June 15, 2024, 2:00 pm until... at the Blades Volunteer Fire Company.

David Ruff, 207 East Sixth Street, inquired if the Police Chief will resume giving reports at the Town Council Meetings.

Celeste Dorsey, 309 East Fifth Street, questioned two separate Christmas Events – Police and Town.

Sharon Alston, 312 East Sixth Street, also questioned separate events.



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Joseph Donahue, 120 Meadow Drive, inquired about the Cypress Landing property 2009 annexation and where did the delinquent taxes collected go.

- Councilman Donald Trice would like to have a Council Workshop scheduled.

Councilman Donald Trice motioned to adjourn the June 10, 2024, Blades Town Council Meeting, Seconded by Councilwoman Nancy McAdams.

Vice-Mayor William Stang adjourned the Blades Town Council Meeting at 8:26 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lisa Marks
Town Administrator