



Town of Blades
OFFICE OF MAYOR & COUNCIL
20 W Fourth Street
Blades, Delaware 19973-4122
(P) 302.629.7366 (F) 302.629.0199

March 9, 2026 at 7 PM
Town Council Meeting
BVFC Banquet Room
200 E. Fifth Street, Blades, DE 19973

Present: Mayor Nancy McAdams, Vice Mayor Susan Seltzer, Councilman Gary Miller, Councilman Donald Trice, Councilmen Gary Gallamore, Councilwoman Judy Evans, and Town Administrator Mary Reza

Meeting called to order by Mayor Nancy McAdams at 7:01 PM
Lord's Prayer
The Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes from February 5, 2026 Special Town Council Meeting
Donnie Trice, Motioned and Gary Gallamore, Second, Passed in written form.

Approval of Minutes from February 9, 2026, Town Council Meeting
Susan Seltzer Motioned and Judy Evans, Second, Passed in written form.

➤ Community Concerns

- Resident came to the podium and thanked Mayor Nancy for her reply about the new speed bump that was placed on 6th street. She stated that from previous administration it was mentioned to them about placing speed bumps in areas of concern in Little Meadows community. Also spoke about the removal of the speed bump that is currently located in a resident's driveway.
 - Mayor clarified paving bids will be requested by end of March.
- Resident came to the podium with concerns over lack of maintenance of storm water management in the area of 5th and 6th street since at least 2020.
 - Town Council is working with Chesapeake Water Alliance to identify projects within the town for immediate remediation to support with grant funding opportunities.
- Historical issues with pond approval and state/local coordination, emphasized on a proactive committee development, stated that there are town management gaps, and need for volunteer/standing committees.
 - Mayor/Administrator responded that the town is in process of hiring maintenance staff; seeking summer help through the high school program. Town has a scheduled meeting on March 27th to meet with Chesapeake Watershed Alliance, aiming for grants and technical support.
- Resident concerned about delayed receipt of her Tax bill (postmarked March 7th and due March 31st) very upset about only having 3 weeks to pay, concerned about the high late fee and mortgage company payment timing. Request for clarity on what increased taxes are for, and how to access budget breakdowns.
 - Mayor stated that we transitioned to a new administrative staff, no prior information/manuals with processing, worked with vendor to make sure that everything was uploaded corrected. Process was delayed by audits, missing line items and legal review.
 - Tax increase justified by stagnant rates (not raised since 1971) and severe funding shortages.
 - Assurance that extension of payment deadline was extended to April 10, 2026. Information about the Town budget can be made available at the Town Hall.
 - Asked residents to call their mortgage companies to make sure that their tax bill was received and to call the town hall and we will make sure that it gets processed.



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➤ Old Business

- Vice Mayor Susan Seltzer read the 3rd reading of Town of Blades Clean Up Ordinance 441.
 - Motioned by Susan Selzer and 2nd by Donnie Trice passed by a unanimous roll call vote.
- Cemetery clean up and Wreaths Across America Clean up beginning Saturday, March 24, 2026, all decorations/unauthorized items must be removed by March 28, 2026, in preparation of Easter. This includes any trees, shrubs, florals, crosses, homemade monuments, fencing and borders left past 15 days after a funeral will be removed.
- Town of Blades Municipal Election on April 6, 2026
 - 3 Council Member seats
 - Register to vote at the Town Hall, last day to register is Wednesday, March 25th by the close of business at 4:30 pm
 - Notice of Canceled Elections was filed with Department of Elections. Incumbent Trice and Seltzer will be sworn in on April 13, 2026 Town Council Meeting.
- Tax bills mailed on March 6th

➤ Police Report

- DSP worked 4 paid jobs worked (4-hour blocks) in February. The snow reduced the amount of special duty patrols that were worked. There were 11 traffic arrest made.

➤ Report from Planning and Zoning

- No meeting for March.

➤ Committee Reports:

- Housing – Vice Mayor Susan Seltzer
 - Read the Code Enforcement report.
 - ◆ Building Permits-1, Ordinance 330 Trash-1, Ordinance 416- Abandoned Vehicle-1, Rental Inspections-16
 - Resident fille out complaints for certain homes within the town that are going to be addressed. She thanked the resident and any others for their interest in wanting to see Blades cleaned up, input is welcomed.
 - Provided pizza and drinks to Sussex Tech JROTC at the school as a “Thank you” for their participation in Wreaths Across America ceremony. She was joined by Francine and Bill Kay.
 - During the blizzard of February 22-23 Marcus prepared everything for the lowing and when the snow reached 4 inches plowing began. Councilman Miller and Marcus plowed though out Sunday evening. In the early morning hours visibility was too bad and stopped plowing. Plowing started again at 6 am for the next 6 hours.
 - Attended Danny Short’s coffee meeting on March 4.
 - March 5th attended the Sussex County Emergency Operations Planning meeting with Nancy and Mary.
 - Easter Egg Hunt scheduled for March 28th from 10am – 12pm at the Blades Park.
 - Mentioned that April 11th is the Town Wide Clean up. Please note the hours have changed and it will be from 8am until 11 am.
 - America 250th Planning: First meeting will be held on March 11th at 6 pm at Café Milano.
- Water – Commissioner Gary Gallamore
 - February 1st town was notified that the boil water restriction issued on January 31st as a result of the hydrant failure was lifted. Well #2 failed to restart. Well 1 and Well 3 were operating properly
 - February 6th in response to the predicted extreme cold weather councilman Trice and Councilman Gallamore installed heat lamps in the pump areas of wells 1 and 2. Well 3 is submerged pump and not exposed to the weather.



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- Town Council executive meeting on February 9th, Seaside Plumbing was selected from the 5 quotations received to install the remaining new radio-read water meters and to make a determination of the type of piping from the water meter pit to the residence.
- February 16th Water hydrant at 6th and Market Street was reinstalled.
- PFAS and Hexavalent Chromium testing is scheduled to be performed in March
- N E coli or Coliform bacteria were detected this month.
- On vacation from February 20th through March 2nd
- Streets – Commissioner Gary Miller
 - Baker paving completed patch work and speed bump on 6th street.
 - Bids are requested for whole street paving.
 - Sink hole in middle of 5th street Shrock has been informed and will repair.
 - Thank you to Mayor Nancy, David McAdams and Donnie for their help.
- Parks & Cemeteries – Commissioner Judy Evans
 - Grant applications in progress to acquire new playground equipment-catalogs reviewed costs assessed.
 - Seeking accessible and multi-age options for park.
- Police – Commissioner Donnie Trice
 - Candidate was interview for the PT Administrative Assistant position in the Police Department.
 - Updating the police department taser with the new Taser 10
 - New Police Chief will be sworn in on April 13th Town Meeting
 - Chief Willey is working on more grants for the police department and still attending state and county meeting for the police department
 - New body cameras have been ordered, going through equipment to make sure that everything is up to date, grants are available to apply for to replace this equipment.
 - Due to heavy traffic on High St., DelDOT is still monitoring the east bound lane light at 13 & 20.
 - Still working with Delaware State Police to patrol the streets of Blades
 - February 7th helped Chief Willey along with New Chief with testing 2 police applicants. They both passed the written test. Due to the weather physical fitness test will be rescheduled.
 - Thanks to Seaford Police Department for the use of their meeting room and Seaford High School for the use of the school track for testing.
 - February 22nd bought more street markers and put them down and put salt down at the intersection of Little Meadows 5th street, Cannon Street, and 6th and Cannon st, before the snow started. Volunteered to help low the streets but was not called
 - March 7th helped Chief with the physical fitness testing of 2 police applicants.
 - Candidate was in her 11th week of training at the Dover Police Academy when she got hurt. Due to her injuries, she will not be able to finish this academy.
 - The Police Department will be sending two to the police academy this fall. It will either be Dover or State police.
- Mayor's Report – Mayor Nancy McAdams
 - Interviewed and given a tour of the facilities to three prospective employees to fill the maintenance position, and the council will interview one of them in executive session. We received 16 applications.
 - Continue to recruit for a certified water operator. We continue to use White Marsh, a segment of tidewater. We almost hired a very competent Operator, but we could not accommodate his requirement of 6 weeks of vacation.
 - Town Elections will not be necessary as we have two incumbent council members.



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- Program sponsored by the Department of Labor which pays students while they work. We will try to arrange for one or two students for the summer.
 - Continue to attend many meetings to learn more about PFAS, disaster planning.
 - Mary and I met with Solicitor at the Smith Firm to question and learn about the FIOA request that we have been receiving must list specific text from town documents.
 - Attended SCAT Breakfast in Georgetown, preparing to speak in April to explain our goals and challenges.
 - Will be searching for grant opportunities for the Town.
 - Laurel Police department is holding "Public Safety Classes. Form was provided.
- Town Administrator – Mary Reza
- Attended Danny Short's coffee hour March 4, 2026 at Nanticoke Senior Center. Listened to updates on his position in the State Joint Finance committee for state budgeting. He gave each town an opportunity to update.
 - Tuesday, March 4, 2026, Emergency Operations Planning Course that was hosted by Sussex County Public Safety Office. This meeting was to focus on key concepts and terminology relevant to EOPs, understand how Town EOPS integrate into a County EOP.
 - Attended SCAT Committee Breakfast on March 6th in Georgetown with Mayor Nancy. Guest Speaker was Heather Warren from DRWA
 - Sending notice to Department of Elections, as of 4:30pm Friday, March 6, 2026 only the two incumbent councilpersons refiled for Election, Donnie and Susan. They will be re-sworn On April 13, 2026.
 - Water Bills will be mailed out as soon as possible; there was a problem with the wand reader. We sent out 25 disconnect notices and 24 responded. We were able to collect over \$6,600.00 in past due accounts. Thank you to Terri and Trish who have been a big help with these collections.
 - Continued to receive support from Delaware Rural Water and meeting regularly with Jim Mooney. Will be attending a meeting to discuss the Asset Management Plan support that we received in December.
 - I have attended a couple of meetings for Emergency Alert Systems. I am compiling information to present to Town Council.
 - In the office we are working to compile information needed for Town financial audit for 2025.
 - 2026 Property Tax Bills were mailed out.
 - We were able to work with our intern from Pathways for Success and has completed her training with the Town of Blades.
 - Sent solicitation to Stafford Star for Resolution for the Selling of the Dump Truck, and solicitation about the cemetery clean up.
 - Bridge update 2wks the Bridge will be in the open position from 9pm until 5am, contractor will provide transportation.
 - Dirt Bike in town and police have been notified.

New Business

- 250 USA celebration in Blades- Committee Sign up Sheet in back of room.
 - ◆ 1st meeting- March 11, 2026 at 6 pm at Café Milano
- New Maintenance employee to be interviewed
- Advertising will go out for Water Operator
- New office Security Procedure in the works.
- Emergency Alert System- Go Gov.

Councilmen Donnie Trice motioned to adjourn the regular session of the Blades Town Council meeting and move into Executive Session and seconded by Councilwoman Susan Seltzer at 8:11 pm, all in favor.



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Executive Session was started at 8:24 pm

Discussion on personnel, maintenance employee, Water operator, Police Assistant.

Councilman Donnie Trice motioned to adjourn the executive session of the Blades Town Council meeting and move back to regular session and Councilman Gary Gallamore second at 10:34 pm, all in favor.

Back to Regular Session and the following were voted on:

- Vote to accept the hiring of Police Administrative Assistant, Lisa Fensick, Councilwoman Judy Evans motioned to hire Police Administrative Assistant and Councilmen Donnie Trice seconded, all were in favor by roll call vote.
- Vote to accept hiring of Maintenance Supervisor, Kim Short, Councilmen Gary Gallamore motioned to hire Maintenance Supervisor, and Councilmen Gary Miller second, all were in favor by roll call vote.

Councilmen Donnie Trice motioned to adjourn the March 9, 2026 Blades Town Council Meeting, second by Councilwoman Susan Seltzer at 10:38 pm

Mayor Nancy McAdams adjourned the Blades Town Council Meeting at 10:39 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Reza
Town Administrator