



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

July 13, 2026

Town Council Meeting

Hardin Hall

18 W. Market Street, Blades, DE 19973

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

Meeting called to order by Mayor Nancy McAdams at 7:00 pm

Lord's Prayer

The Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes from June 8, 2026 Town Council Meeting

Councilman Donnie Trice motioned to approve the minutes and councilman Gary Gallamore seconded, passed all in favor in written form.

➤ Community Concerns

- Resident acknowledged that parts of the speed bumps were removed, now has a concern about the speeding down the road. Wanted an update as to when the temporary speed bumps were going to be installed. Response: we are working on the bid package to get it sent out, making sure that we have all what we need to complete the road projects in town.
- Resident has offered to rewrite some of the town ordinances. Town really needs to do something about the outdated ordinances and reevaluate the fines.
- Resident came before the council concerned about his whole street. Have seen a lot more activity since the home on N Market Street was vacated. Along with this has come drugs and prostitution up and down the street. The biggest concern that the resident has is the children on the street. Something has to be done about this.
- Resident came before the council that lives on the same street as the previous resident and stated the same concerns about his children going out side and see them and being exposed to that. There are cars that come up and down the road all hours of the night. Something has to be done.
- Resident was concerned about the proposed ordinance changes for the working-class families and that have a limited income. Resident has been in his home for over 40 years and does not feel that it is anyone's concern what is in his yard.

➤ Old Business

- 3rd Reading-Ordinance 442 Prohibiting the establishment, expansion, or operation of bulk fuel and propane storage facilities within town limits.
 - Councilmen Donnie Trice motioned to accept the ordinance 442 and Councilwoman Susan Seltzer 2nd, all were in favor with roll call vote, Gary (yes), Susan (yes) and Donnie (yes).
- 2nd reading of Amendment of Ordinance 276-A, Rules and Regulations for the use of Town of Blades Park.
- 250 USA - Celebration in Blades Update
 - Ordered prizes and are still planning the last items needed for the Blades Celebrates America 250. Still looking for volunteers and donations. Saturday, July 25th from Noon to 4pm. It will be a fun day. Count and bring the little ones!
- Recruiting of new member of Blades Councilmember



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➤ Police Report

- 17 traffic citations, 2 parking tickets, 2 warnings, 3 persons/criminal arrest, 0 local fugitives, 4 accidents, 0 DUI, and 28 complaints (2 Misc. Investigations, 1 theft, 1 harassment, 1 Domestic, 2 assist other agency, 1 fraud, 2 suspicious events, 4 welfare checks, 1 unauthorized use of MV, 1 robbery. Criminal arrest 2-Jason Norris and 1-Richard Scugguro-Breach.
- Chief Toto addresses the Council and the Town attendees on what he has done to make 2nd street safe and addressing the community concerns that were brought up at the beginning of the meeting.

➤ Report from Planning and Zoning

- Met on July 6, 2026 report from Susan is attached to minutes.

➤ Committee Reports:

- Housing – Vice Mayor Susan Seltzer
 - Code Enforcement Report: 15-building permits, Ordinance 330 Trash-1, Ordinance 410-Grass-6, Ordinance 416 Abandoned Vehicle-3, New Construction Inspections-1
 - Marcus has helped the Blades Police department with squatters, homeless people who were nuisance, assisted Kim with water issues around the Town.
 - June 10th Town Council Workshop
 - June 25th Delaware League meeting at Cheswold Fire Hall, Main topic was FOIA
 - July 8th Danny Short Coffee meeting
 - Discussion with rep from Sussex Conservation District about the ponds in Little Meadows, and what needs to be done with them. Can start cutting down fragmites and pulling out the sweet gum. Will have to back fill where items are pulled out. Keeping the cages clear around the drains is priority. He confirmed that the ponds were approved in 2005.
 - Hardin Hall plants planted around and have kept up with the watering; one bush will need to be replaced. Ordered solar lights to go around gutter line as it is a bit dark.

Water – Commissioner Gary Gallamore

- June 3rd attended Danny Shorts coffee meeting
- June 15th met with representatives and engineers from the EPA, AECOM, SERCAP and Tidewater to discuss the status of our current water plant and take a tour of the facility.
- June 8th thru June 16th EPA's contractor AECOM, was intermittently performing a pump test on the town's three production wells that supply water to the community. The purpose of the pump test was to evaluate how much water the wells can produce while being pumped at a high rate.
- The River Road waterline installation is anticipated to happen during the summer of 2027.
- Daily water testing continues to assure the town that the drinking water meets or exceeds EPA and State standards. Bio testing remains negative.
- Streets – Commissioner Gary Miller
 - No report submitted.
- Parks & Cemeteries – Submitted by Vice Mayor/Council Woman Susan Seltzer
 - Waiting for a tree company to take care of the downed tree limbs in the park and cemeteries. They were unable to work due to the extreme heat.
 - Maintenance has been very busy keeping up with the issues around town hall and around the town. Mowing grass, spraying weeds, working with code enforcement on water leaks on Market St and W 2nd street and assisting with water meter change outs. Kim has been reading the meters monthly and working with Marcus and office staff to find, identify and correct meter issues. He has installed the lights; thermostat covers and first aid kit in Hardin Hall. He has worked with folks from City of Seaford to pressure jet and vacuum pump storm drains and French drains around Town.

▪ Police – Commissioner Donnie Trice

- Meeting with Chief Toto at least 3 days a week in person, if not by phone.



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- Working with Lisa Fensick on Grants
 - The police department is applying for the Police Grant again this year. The COPS grant will help pay for an officer up to 3 Years.
 - Candidate started the New Castle police academy and another will start this fall..
 - Chief Toto attended state and county meetings for Police Department
 - Working on grants for the police department
 - DSP still patrolling Blades
 - Chief Toto is patrolling our town and handling complaints that go through 911 dispatch
- Town Administrator – Mary Reza
- June 18th attended the Quarterly Delaware Municipal Clerks meeting. Build connections with other municipal clerks within the state. Learned how the programs support clerks within the state
 - June 23rd attended the quarterly meeting for CMAD with other town managers; guest was Jonelle from Delaware league of Local Governments.
 - 50 water meters have been replaced
 - Terri has been working hard with billing
 - Water bills mailed out on July 1st.
 - 18 Past due accounts Door hangers on Wednesday, July 15th and Disconnects scheduled for Wednesday July 22nd.
 - Posted for a Full-Time Clerk.
- Mayor's Report – Mayor Nancy McAdams
- We have a new and inviting restaurant with delicious food RiverRise.
 - Major mess on Market Street is almost cleaned up
 - May have a water supervisor soon and need a council person

New Business

- Little meadows request- Move light pole at Market/Concord Rd. entrance
 - Will work with HOA to get a quote to see how much is needed to move the light poles.
 - Concerns with the safety of the intersection and lighting.
 - Ongoing conversation that will need to be discussed with the Council
- Committee needed for developing a booklet for residents (ordinances, fees, penalties, ads, news, town events, etc.)
 - Spoke about developing a Charter committee
 - Creating a hand out about the Town and Ordinances for new residents when they move in. Also, for landlords to give to their tenants.
- Councilmen Gary Gallamore motioned to move the meeting into executive session, Councilwoman Susan Selter at 8:49 pm all in favor at 8:49 pm
- 9:04pm Executive Session was called to order.
- Personnel were discussed and interview the water operator candidate and discussed hiring this candidate.
- Susan Seltzer, motioned to move out of executive session to regular session at 9:39pm, Councilmen Donnie Trice 2nd the motion.
- There was a vote on the floor to Hire a Water Operator: Gary Gallamore motioned to hire the water operator and Councilwoman Susan Selter 2nd the motion. Roll call vote: Donnie Trice (Yes) Susan Seltzer (Yes) Gary Gallamore (Yes).

Councilman Donnie Trice motioned to adjourn the Blades Town Council meeting and seconded by Councilwoman Susan Seltzer at 9:44 pm, all in favor.

Mayor Nancy McAdams adjourned the Blades Town Council Meeting at 9:44pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Mary Reza, Town Administrator