

TOWN OF BLADES

Office of the Mayor and Council
20 West Fourth Street
Blades, Delaware 19973

Council Minutes
March 9th, 2009

Present: Mayor David Ruff, Councilman Russell Joseph, Councilman BJ Hardin, Councilman Earl Chaffinch, Councilman Mike Smith, Councilman Charles Green, and Vikki Prettyman, Town Administrator.

Mayor Ruff called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm with the Lord's Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the February 9th, 2009 minutes, motioned to accept in written form by Councilman Joseph, seconded by Councilman Smith, motion carried.

Approval of the February 9th, 2009 executive session minutes, motion to accept in written form by Councilman Joseph, seconded by Councilman Chaffinch, motion carried.

Police Report: Commissioner Chaffinch read the Police Report submitted by Chief Cooke.

Mayor Ruff commented that he has received several compliments regarding the coverage and patrolling being made.

BEDCO: Councilman Hardin read the minutes for the March 5th, 2009 meeting submitted by Spuck Bennett.

Planning & Zoning: Councilman Hardin stated that the meeting was cancelled for March 2nd, 2009. No items on the agenda.

Unfinished Business:

- 1) Code Officer Report, No report submitted. Councilman Hardin and Code Officer, Bill Matsinger, have been working on making sure residents are in compliance with the new address ordinance.
- 2) Housing Report, Submitted and read by Councilman Hardin
- 3) Water Report, Submitted by Brandon Slater, read by Councilman Greene
- 4) Streets Read, Read by Councilman Joseph
 - i. Compliments on the snow plowing in the town. Councilman Joseph read the compliments that came in from citizen written up by Town Administrator.
 - ii. Councilman Smith said the roads looked great.
 - iii. Councilman Joseph stated that the truck hit a manhole cover that was raised up and hitting it knocked it up underneath the truck damaging the driver door and undercarriage.
- 5) Parks/Cemetery, Submitted and read by Michael Smith

- 6) Police Report, Submitted by Chief Cooke, read by Chief Cooke
- 7) Mayor Report, Submitted and read by David Ruff

New Business:

Mayor Ruff stated that the paving on Market Street will be held up because of the storm drainage project. DelDot will not allow cutting into the roads until after five years after the initial paving is completed. Councilman Joseph asked why DelDot isn't responsible for the storm drainage on Market and High Streets. Mayor Ruff stated that the contracts with DelDot state that the responsibility is turned over to the town after work is completed. Our engineers are currently working on a solution to the problem and see to if the state will be willing to share in the expense.

*Mrs. Starr Kulikowski stated that if the town gets the money to fix the drainage doesn't it set precedence for it being the towns responsibility for future repairs?

Transfer tax ordinance read for the first time. No questions on the ordinance. Mayor Ruff explained that the town currently collects transfer tax at 1 1/2% but the state is considering changing the percentage that municipalities received unless the municipality has ordinance stating the percentage they are to receive.

Bids for the Guttering: Lowest bid came in from Gutter Guys at \$700.00. The other bids were \$713.00, \$792.00, \$955.00. Motion made to accept the bid from the Gutter Guys for \$700.00, by Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilman Hardin, motion carried.

Town Administrators Budget Re-allocation: The budget numbers were moved to cover the increase in the health insurance premiums. The total was not changed. Motion made to accept the budget re-allocation, by Councilman Joseph, seconded by Councilman Chaffinch, motion carried.

CD: Town Administrator read the rates of CD from the area banks. The highest yield came from Discover Bank, Greenwood, DE at 2.75% for a 12 month CD. Motion made to move the remaining balance out of the Morgan Stanley account to Discover Bank for the 12 months, by Councilman Joseph, seconded by Councilman Greene, motion carried.

Workshop: Requested workshop to discuss the Source Water & Well Head Protection Act and the applications for police officers set for 9am on Saturday March 14th, 2009.

Good of the Community:

Mr. John Kulikowski asked Councilman Hardin about the house numbers being on the mailbox and the house. Discussion on why numbers are a priority on the home first.

Mr. Brock stated that with the warm weather the park was full with kids playing basketball into the late hours of the night.

Ms. Brenda spoke up stating that there was a Haitian lady knocking on her apartment door, and how does she get in touch with the police department. Councilman Chaffinch stated that she must call 911. Brenda said that it wasn't an emergency. Councilman Chaffinch stated that in order to have an officer respond to her home she needed to call 911. Brenda stated she called up to town hall and someone told her that the town hall didn't have anything to do with the police department. The Town Administrator spoke up and stated that the phone call was handled by her and that that

wasn't exactly how the conversation went. Brenda then went on to discuss that her cousin had complaints about the cemetery being cleaned up and that her flowers were missing. Councilman Smith stated that the flowers for Christmas, fall, Valentine's Day, and old flowers were clean out of the cemetery today; the ad was posted in the papers.

With no other comments, Councilman Joseph motioned for Council to enter into an Executive Session, motion seconded by Councilman Smith, motion carried. Mayor Ruff recessed the Council meeting to later reconvene in 5 minutes. Recess at 8:08pm.

Council entered back into regular session at 9pm. Motion to adjourn council meeting, made by Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilman Joseph, motion carried. Mayor Ruff adjourned the meeting at 9pm.

Submitted,

Vikki Prettyman
Secretary