

TOWN OF BLADES

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

Council Meeting Minutes
November 10th, 2008

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

Approval of the October 20th, 2008 minutes, motioned to accept by Councilman Joseph, Councilman Smith stated there needs to be a correction to the minutes fence replaced was 219 feet not 21 feet as stated in minutes, motion made to accept the minutes with the correction of 219 feet, seconded by Councilman Chaffinch, motion carried.

Police Report: Councilman Chaffinch read the Police Report. Motion to accept report in the written form by Councilman Hardin, seconded by Councilman Smith, motion carried. Report on file at Town Hall.

BEDCO: Councilman Hardin read the BEDCO Report, on file at Town Hall.

Planning & Zoning: Councilman Hardin read the P&Z Report, on file at Town Hall.

Unfinished Business:

- 1) Code Officer Report, No report submitted.
- 2) Housing Report, Submitted and read by Councilman Hardin
- 3) Water Report, Submitted by Brandon Slater, read by Councilman Greene
- 4) Streets Report, Submitted and read by Councilman Joseph
- 5) Parks/Cemetery, Submitted and read by Michael Smith
- 6) Police Report, Submitted by Chief Cooke, read by Chief Cooke
- 7) Town Administrator's Report, Submitted and distributed to Council
- 8) Mayor Report, Read by David Ruff (verbal report only)
 - i. BEDCO letter requesting 70X80 of the land next to the enclosed parking area across from the marina. The want to square the area off and are willing to pay for the surveying. An official lease document must be drafted. Will address under new business.

All reports were approved and are on file at the Blades Town Hall.

New Business:

The Blades Volunteer Fire Department, Todd Reilly and Rick Gilbert, presented the Council and Citizens with information for the address signs that are acceptable with the upcoming ordinance change. Order sheets are available through the fire department. Turn around is three (3) weeks.

Councilman Smith brought up the price quotes received for the new tables and chairs for Hardin Hall. Councilman Joseph motioned to have this issue brought to a workshop after hearing from the fire department on where they purchased their tables and chairs. Councilman Hardin seconded the motion and the motion was carried.

Councilman Greene motioned for approval of the new mud pump at a cost of \$1650.00, seconded by Councilman Chaffinch, motion carried.

Councilman Smith brought up the proposed rate changes to the Business License and Rental License Ordinance. Motion made by Councilman Joseph to move forward with the reading of the changes to the ordinance. Councilman Smith seconded the motion, motion carried.

Town Administrator read the proposed changes to the Ordinance establishing business licenses and fees for such licenses. First reading 11/10/2008.

Mayor Ruff read the letter from BEDCO requesting a section 70' X 80' next to the parking/storage area across the street from the Marina. Councilman Joseph stated that a signed agreement with the Town will be needed after the survey is completed. It will be a non-charge sub-lease, will wait for proper documentation.

Mayor Ruff stated that council will need to enter into an Executive Session for personnel issues and financial investment issues. Mayor Ruff set Council Workshops for 11/17 and 11/24 both at 6pm.

Good of the Community:

Question was asked about the Veterans Day Ceremony at the Park and the Mayor stated that the Town will not be holding a ceremony this year.

Rumor that the Town will be losing both police officers: The Mayor stated that he was unable to comment at this time on the status of the department. That council is discussing the hiring of another officer, but that the officers are asking for more money and 12 hour shifts and a take home car. Discussion on what it takes to hire a new officer and putting through the academy.

Comment/Question asked: Is it feasible to turn over the department to the State Police? Mayor Ruff responded that the Town would have to pay the State Police by the hour.

Question: Are you renewing the Police Chief's contract? Mayor Ruff stated that it was a personnel issue and unable to discuss.

No further comments. Councilman Smith motioned for the council to move into an Executive Session. Seconded by Councilman Greene, motion carried.

Recess at 8:04pm.

Returned to Regular Session at 8:30, Councilman Joseph motioned to give the employees and close the Town Hall on Friday December 26th, 2008. This will be a regular closed day and not a holiday. No holiday pay will be received for working this day off. Motion was seconded by Councilman Hardin, motion carried.

Motion to adjourn made at 8:37pm by Councilman Joseph, seconded by Councilman Greene.

Respectfully Submitted,

Vikki L Prettyman
Secretary