

**City of New Bern
Board of Aldermen Meeting
January 23, 2018 – 6:00 P.M.
City Hall Courtroom
300 Pollock Street**

- 1. Meeting opened by Mayor Dana E. Outlaw. Prayer by Alderman Bengel. Pledge of Allegiance.**
- 2. Roll Call.**

Present: Mayor Dana Outlaw; Aldermen Sabrina Bengel, Jameesha Harris, Robert Aster, Johnnie Ray Kinsey, Barbara Best, and Jeffrey Odham (via telephone).
Absent: None. A quorum was present.

Also Present: Mark Stephens, City Manager; Kristen Culler, Assistant City Manager; Michael Scott Davis, City Attorney; and Brenda Blanco, City Clerk.

Consent Agenda

- 3. Approve Adopting a Resolution Closing Specific Streets for the Annual Black History Month Parade on February 17, 2018.**

Victor Taylor, Chairman of Vision Forward, requested streets be closed for the Black History Month Parade from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, February 17, 2018. The streets to be closed to vehicular traffic are the 500 block of Fort Totten Drive, 1300-1800 blocks of Trent Boulevard, 400 block of First Street, 700-1300 blocks of Broad Street and 400-800 blocks of George Street.

- 4. Consider Adopting a Resolution Closing Specific Streets for the Ghent Neighborhood Association Mardi Gras Parade on March 3, 2018.**

On behalf of the Ghent Neighborhood Association, Michael Genest requested the 1400-1800 blocks of Spencer Avenue be closed to vehicular traffic on March 3, 2018 from 12 noon to 5 p.m. for the Association's annual Mardi Gras Parade and block party.

- 5. Consider Adopting a Resolution Closing Specific Streets for the Great Glow Run on March 10, 2018.**

Rachel Cox, Development Manager with Easter Seals UCP, requested specific streets be closed on March 10, 2018 from 6:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. for the annual Great Glow Run. The streets to be closed are the 200-700 blocks of East Front Street, 800 block of North Craven Street, 700-800 blocks of Howard Street, 100-600 blocks of Queen Street, and 600-800 blocks of George Street.

6. Consider Adopting a Resolution Closing Specific Streets for the Neuse River Bridge Run on March 24, 2018.

The Neuse River Bridge Run is slated for March 24, 2018. Accordingly, Gary Kenefick, Chairperson for the event, requested the 200 block of East Front Street be closed from 4 a.m. to 12 noon and the 200 block of South Front Street be closed from 5 a.m. until 12 noon. The organizers also plan to hold a “Super Kids Run” on March 23, 2018 from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Union Point Park, and the Director of Parks and Recreation has previously authorized the closure of the park streets during this time.

7. Consider Approving a Proclamation for International Civitan Clergy Appreciation Week.

On behalf of New Bern Civitan Club, Bob Whitley requested a proclamation recognizing International Civitan Clergy Appreciation Week from January 28 – February 3, 2018.

8. Consider Approving a Proclamation for the Rotary Club District Conference.

Lee Martin Adams with Rotary International District 7720 requested a proclamation for the club’s upcoming district conference. The conference will be held in New Bern on May 4-6, 2018.

9. Approve Minutes.

Minutes from the January 9, 2018 meeting were available for review and approval.

Alderman Aster made a motion to approve Items 3-9 of the Consent Agenda, seconded by Alderman Kinsey. The motion carried unanimously.

10. Consider Adopting a Resolution Approving the Sale of 508 Third Avenue.

After receiving an offer in the amount of \$2,500.00 from Tonyah L. Dillahunt, the Board adopted a resolution on December 12, 2017 to initiate the upset bid process for 508 Third Avenue. The offer was advertised, but no additional bids were received.

The property is a vacant lot owned solely by the City of New Bern, having been acquired in 2011 as part of a CDBG program to realign Third Avenue. The offer represents approximately 62.50% of the tax value, which is \$4,000.00. If the property is sold for the initial offer, the City will receive \$2,308.88 after paying advertising costs of \$191.12.

Alderman Harris made a motion to adopt a resolution approving the sale of 508 Third Avenue, seconded by Alderman Kinsey. Upon a roll-call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

11. Consider Adopting a Resolution Authorizing the Execution of an Eminent Domain Certification for the Workforce Development Training Center Project.

The Economic Development Administration (“EDA”) requested an owner’s certification regarding eminent domain for the Workforce Development Training Center Project (also known as the VOLT). The certification provides that the City has not and will not use any available power of eminent domain for the purpose of advancing the economic interests of private parties in connection with any property comprising the VOLT project. It also certifies that the City does not anticipate it will be required to use eminent domain in connection with the project, but provides that the City will immediately contact the EDA’s regional office if an available power of eminent domain may be used.

Alderman Bengel made a motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the execution of an eminent domain certification for the Workforce Development Training Center project, seconded by Alderman Aster. Upon a roll-call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

12. Consider Adopting a Resolution Authorizing the Installation of a Street Light on Church Hill Court.

Residents have requested additional street lighting in the area of Church Hill Court. The Department of Public Utilities evaluated the area and determined the current lighting met the City’s light standard. However, the Police Department recommends additional lighting for public safety. The installation of lights will cost \$1,291.63, and the monthly utility charge for service will be \$8.44.

Alderman Kinsey made a motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the installation of a street light on Church Hill Court, seconded by Alderman Aster. Upon a roll-call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

13. Consider Adopting a Resolution Approving a Transportation Improvement Project - Municipal Agreement with NC Department of Transportation Under Project 47112.3.1.

This item was on the January 9, 2018 agenda, but was tabled until this meeting to allow for additional information to be provided by staff. Jeff Ruggieri, Director of Development Services, recently provided the Board with a summary describing how this agreement is intertwined with the Workforce Development Center and explaining the funding for both projects. During discussion of this item, Mr. Ruggieri expanded upon the information provided in the summary.

The terms of the agreement provide for NCDOT to design and construct the entirety of the road diet along First Street, which will reduce four travel lines to three and

will add bike lanes and sidewalks along First Street from Neuse Boulevard to Pembroke Avenue. Upon completion of the project, the City will reimburse DOT \$260,000.00 of the cost. Additionally, the City will assume maintenance of the sidewalks and will relocate and adjust any City-owned utilities that conflict with the project. According to Mr. Ruggieri, the Department of Public Utilities estimates the relocation of utilities will cost \$20-30,000. This estimate is for materials only and does not include labor, which will be performed in-house.

Alderman Bengel expressed reservation with the road diet, but stated she would vote in favor of this item as she supports the Workforce Development Center and knows it is dependent upon the road diet. Alderman Odham asked for clarification that if the road diet was of concern and the Board did not approve the agreement, that the City would essentially lose the funding from NCDOT and would then have to find the shortfall for the matching grant. Mr. Stephens confirmed this.

Alderman Kinsey made a motion to adopt a resolution approving a transportation improvement project – municipal agreement with the NC Department of Transportation under project 47112.3.1, seconded by Alderman Harris. Upon a roll-call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

14. Consider Adopting an Ordinance to Amend the Advanced Metering Infrastructure Demand Side Management (“AMI/DSM”) Project Fund.

The AMI/DSM project is a multi-year project with a current budget of \$9,050,000. The Department of Utilities has requested an additional \$1,006,000 to cover costs related to adding more customers to the system since the onset of the project. These additional funds will be provided through a transfer of \$610,000 from the Water Fund, \$375,000 from the Electric Fund and \$21,000 from interest earnings.

Mayor Outlaw questioned the proportional sharing of this expense and why the Sewer Fund was not contributing toward the cost of having the meters read, since sewer is based upon water consumption. Mr. Hughes stated the Water Fund has picked up the cost of the water meters and all the infrastructure associated with the water improvements. The Sewer Fund pays a proportionate share of the expenses for the Utility Business Office (“UBO”) and meter readers, which in Mr. Hughes’ opinion, captures the Sewer Fund’s share of the expense. Mr. Stephens stated he, Mr. Hughes, and the Director of Finance would review this further.

Alderman Aster made a motion to adopt an ordinance to amend the Advanced Metering Infrastructure Demand Side Management (“AMI/DSM”) Project Fund, seconded by Alderman Harris. Upon a roll-call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

15. Consider Adopting an Ordinance Amending the FY18 Electric, Water and Sewer Funds Operating Budgets.

This budget amendment provides for the transfer of funds referenced in the previous item. It also appropriates \$432,000 from sewer fund balance to Sewer

Collection System Maintenance to cover emergency costs related to a sinkhole repair at the Waste Water Treatment Plant and appropriates \$75,224 to the Electric Fund for expenses related to the Slocum Gate Project, which were funded through a reimbursement from NCDOT.

Alderman Aster made a motion to adopt an ordinance to amend the Advanced Metering Infrastructure Demand Side Management (“AMI/DSM”) Project Fund, seconded by Alderman Harris. Upon a roll-call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

16. Appointment(s).

Vacancies on the New Bern Appearance Commission are filled on a rotating basis, and the next two appointments are to be made by Aldermen Kinsey and Best. Alderman Bengel recommended Kate Rosenstrauch be considered, as she has expressed an interest in serving on the Commission. Alderman Kinsey made a motion to appoint Mrs. Rosenstrauch to the Appearance Commission, seconded by Alderman Harris. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Outlaw asked for confirmation as to whether the vacant seat on the New Bern-Craven County Public Library Board of Trustees was to be filled by an elected official or a citizen, and the City Clerk confirmed the vacant seat is to be filled by an elected official on the Board of Aldermen. Alderman Kinsey nominated Alderman Harris, but she respectfully declined. Alderman Harris then suggested Alderman Bengel, who replied her plate is full, but that she would accept the nomination if no one else desired to fill the seat. The Board will consider this appointment at a future meeting.

17. Attorney’s Report.

The City Attorney had nothing to report.

18. City Manager’s Report.

Mr. Stephens announced the City of New Bern was the recipient of the Chamber of Commerce’s 2017 Corporate Member of the Year award. He thanked and congratulated City staff for their hard work and efforts.

19. New Business.

Alderman Odham

Reflected upon the award from the Chamber by stating it was well earned by staff.

Alderman Best

Clarification was sought as to whether the restroom on the second floor is available to the public. Mr. Stephens confirmed all bathrooms are available to the public. The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship Banquet was held January 14, 2018. Alderman Best asked the Board to consider sponsoring five young adults in the

future by paying for their attendance. The banquet was mostly attended by middle-aged and older people, and she felt the younger generation needed to be a part of this history. Scholarship applications are still being accepted.

Alderman Kinsey

Staff was thanked for their work during the recent snowstorm.

Alderman Aster

Gratitude was expressed to the Fire Department for their response to the recent warehouse fire.

Alderman Bengel

Kudos was expressed to the city staff for its recent award from the Chamber.

Condolences were expressed to the family of Marty Ingianni, who passed away yesterday.

Citizens have inquired about the possibility of waiving late fees incurred on utility bills that were due when the office was closed because of inclement weather. Another citizen has asked whether a payment schedule will be considered for those who have high electric bills because of the severe weather. Mr. Stephens explained the correlation between high bills and the use of a heating system with heat strips. The UBO does allow four payment arrangements, and customers should reach out to the UBO to make arrangements. Alderman Harris asked whether the number of payment arrangements could be extended for those who have already exhausted the limit of four, and Mr. Stephens replied the Board could choose to take action as it desires (i.e. upon a majority vote). Regarding late penalties, staff has been instructed to be lenient on those penalties according to Mr. Sabatelli.

Mayor Outlaw

County Commissioner Johnnie Sampson and Mrs. Ethel Sampson were in attendance and acknowledged.

On Monday, January 29, 2018, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. a public-input meeting will be held at the New Bern Mall regarding the Martin Marietta Park.

20. Closed Session.

Alderman Aster made a motion to go into closed session pursuant to NCGS §143-318.11(a) (5) to discuss a property acquisition matter, seconded by Alderman Kinsey. The motion carried unanimously.


21. Adjourn.

Alderman Aster made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Alderman Kinsey. The motion carried unanimously, time being 8:05 p.m.

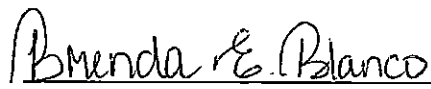
The attached documents are incorporated herewith and are hereby made a part of these minutes.

NOTE: For additional details and information on the Board of Aldermen meetings, please visit the City of New Bern's website at www.newbern-nc.org. Video and audio recordings of the meeting have been archived.

Minutes approved: February 13, 2018



Dana E. Outlaw, Mayor



Brenda E. Blanco, City Clerk