

**CITY OF NEW BERN
BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETING
OCTOBER 26, 2021 – 6:00 P.M.
CITY HALL COURTROOM
300 POLLOCK STREET**

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

Present: Mayor Dana Outlaw, Alderman Sabrina Bengel, Alderwoman Jameesha Harris, Alderman Robert Aster, Alderman Johnnie Ray Kinsey, Alderman Barbara Best, and Alderman Jeffrey Odham. Absent: None. A quorum was present.

Also Present: Foster Hughes, City Manager; Michael Scott Davis, City Attorney; and Brenda Blanco, City Clerk.

Consent Agenda

- 3. Consider Adopting a Resolution to Close the 200-300 Blocks of Middle Street for the Light Up the Season Beary Merry Christmas Event.**

Amanda Banks, Event Chair for the Downtown Council, requested to close the 200 and 300 blocks of Middle Street for the Light Up the Season Beary Merry Christmas event on November 26, 2021 from 3:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. A rain date of November 27, 2021 was sought.

- 4. Consider Adopting a Resolution to Close Specific Streets for the Beary Not-So-Scary Halloween Event.**

Amanda Banks also requested to close the 200-300 blocks of Middle Street, 300 block of Pollock Street, and 200 block of Craven Street for the Beary Not-So-Scary Halloween event on October 30, 2021 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. A rain date of October 31, 2021 was requested.

- 5. Consider Adopting a Resolution Calling for a Public Hearing to Rezone 4416 US Hwy. 17S from R-10 Residential District to C-3 Commercial District.**

Corey Thomas requested to rezone a 0.46-acre parcel from R-10 Residential to C-3 Commercial. The parcel is in the extraterritorial jurisdiction west of the Rocky Run area and is identified as 4416 US Highway 17 South and Craven County Tax Parcel ID 8-206-028. The Planning and Zoning Board unanimously approved the application at its October 5, 2021 meeting. It was requested a public hearing be scheduled for November 9, 2021.

6. Approve Minutes.

Minutes from the October 12, 2021 regular meeting are provided for review and approval. Additionally, closed session minutes from the following dates were considered for approval: January 23, 2018, February 03, 2018, February 13, 2018, April 10, 2018, April 24, 2018, May 22, 2018, June 12, 2018, June 26, 2018, July 24, 2018, August 14, 2018, August 28, 2018, November 27, 2018, March 12, 2019, April 09, 2019, April 23, 2019, May 14, 2019, May 28, 2019, June 11, 2019, July 09, 2019, August 27, 2019, October 22, 2019, November 12, 2019, December 10, 2019, January 10, 2020, February 25, 2020, March 10, 2020, May 26, 2020, July 14, 2020, August 11, 2020, September 22, 2020, November 10, 2020, December 08, 2020, January 12, 2021, January 26, 2021, February 05, 2021, February 09, 2021, April 16, 2021, April 27, 2021, May 04, 2021, May 11, 2021, June 22, 2021, June 29, 2021, June 30, 2021, July 13, 2021, and August 24, 2021.

Alderman Odham made a motion to approve Items 3-6 of the Consent Agenda, seconded by Alderman Best. Alderman Bengel asked that the minutes be removed from the Consent Agenda so a correction could be made and to allow for a separate vote to unseal specific closed session minutes. Alderman Odham amended his motion to approve only Items 3-5 of the Consent Agenda to allow the minutes to be approved separately and to allow for an additional motion to unseal closed session minutes, seconded by Alderman Best. The motion carried unanimously 7-0.

Alderman Bengel made a motion to approve the minutes listed under Item 6, to amend the March 10, 2020 minutes to reflect the change requested by Alderwoman Harris, and to unseal the following closed session minutes: January 23, 2018, April 10, 2018, April 24, 2018, May 22, 2018, August 14, 2018, November 27, 2018, March 12, 2019, May 14, 2019, May 28, 2019, June 11, 2019, August 27, 2019, November 12, 2019, December 10, 2019, January 10, 2020, March 10, 2020, May 26, 2020, August 11, 2020 Part 2, September 22, 2020, November 10, 2020, December 08, 2020, January 12, 2021, January 26, 2021 Part 1, April 16, 2021 Part 1, May 04, 2021, and June 22, 2021 Part 1. Alderman Aster inquired about the correction, and Alderwoman Harris pointed out the correction had been emailed. Noting he did not have the email, Alderman Aster asked for the correction. Alderwoman Harris said she requested that the March 10, 2020 minutes be revised to state that she agreed to move forward with the acquisition of the Stanley White property based on the acquisition being a backup plan. Mr. Davis advised the Board to make two separate motions.

Alderwoman Harris made a motion to approve the minutes with the adjustment provided by the City Clerk, seconded by Alderman Best. Mayor Outlaw stated for the record that he did not remember what was said and that closed session minutes and notes are not verbatim. He asked Mr. Davis if he should recuse himself or abstain from voting, or just vote no. Alderman Aster stated he also needed legal counsel as he did not remember that conversation taking place during the closed session. Alderwoman Harris stated she had witnesses as to what she said, and the Board could postpone approval so she could have her witnesses come before the Board and speak as to what they heard. Alderman Aster questioned how she

had witnesses since the discussion was in closed session. Alderwoman Harris responded that she was in Washington DC, outside, and people could hear her conversation. Mayor Outlaw then questioned if that meant there were people privy to a closed session, and Alderwoman Harris responded "probably yes". Alderman Best confirmed that she recalled Alderwoman Harris stating she supported the acquisition of property as a Plan B and that she had concurred and agreed with Alderwoman Harris that the minutes should be amended to reflect both of their support as a Plan B. Alderwoman Harris stated Alderman Best was her other witness, and Alderman Aster questioned her earlier statement that she could bring additional witnesses as to what was said. He asked Alderwoman Harris who shared closed session information. Alderwoman Harris said she did not share anything, but was out in public and people could hear her conversation. She stated the Board decided to have a closed session while she was out of town, and the Board did not let her know that there would be a conversation about the acquisition of property for Stanley White until she was in Washington D.C. Mr. Davis noted it would take a majority of the Board to approve any minutes. He advised the Board could elect to approve all the minutes except those being adjusted so Board members could refresh each other to the extent that they could with respect to those particular minutes.

Mayor Outlaw stated after hearing what was said in the last five minutes that he wanted Mr. Davis to contact the Institute of Government to see how the Board should proceed if someone other than the Board had been privy to a closed session. Alderman Aster agreed with reaching out to the Institute of Government. Alderwoman Harris suggested Mr. Davis also find out about the "whole bunch of" closed session information that was leaked about Mark Stephens. She stated the Board was again moving forward with trying to "silence the voices of what is really going on". She stated she knew for a fact that she stated she would support the acquisition of that property as a Plan B, and she felt that needed to be notated. Mayor Outlaw stated he was not saying Alderwoman Harris did not make that statement, but that he absolutely could not remember.

Alderman Best asked if statute prohibited detailed minutes for closed sessions, and Alderwoman Harris asked if the closed sessions could be recorded. Mr. Davis responded the best solution would be to have the closed session minutes at the next meeting.

Alderman Aster restated that he did not recall anything ever being stated that they would support the acquisition of the property as Plan B if FEMA did not approve the rebuild in the original location. For that reason, he would vote no to approve the minutes or would vote yes to approve the minutes except for that statement. Alderman Best said she was not bickering with any alderman, but she would have never voted yes to move forward with the new location if she had been given more details. Alderman Aster reminded Alderman Best that in a live meeting she thanked others for finding an alternate location for Stanley White.

Alderman Bengel called the question at 6:14 p.m. Alderman Best again stated she was not going to argue with another Board member and that anything needing to

be discussed should be done in person behind closed doors and on a one-to-one basis. She then stated she knew what was said at the March 10, 2020 meeting and was going to stand by that. Upon a roll-call vote to approve the minutes with the amendment, the motion carried 4-3 with Mayor Outlaw, Alderman Aster, and Alderman Kinsey voting against it.

Alderman Bengel made a motion to unseal the minutes that she referenced earlier, seconded by Alderwoman Harris. Upon a roll-call vote, the motion carried 6-1 with Alderman Kinsey voting against it.

7. Consider Approving the 2022 Holiday Calendar.

Annually, the Board approves a calendar designating the holidays to be observed and dates for which City offices will be closed. The proposed calendar for 2022 mirrors the 11 days that will be observed by Craven County. The State of North Carolina will observe 12 days in 2022, as they will close three days for Christmas.

Alderwoman Harris stated she had reached out to Mr. Hughes to see what it would cost for Juneteenth to be added as a paid holiday. He indicated the cost would be approximately \$120,000, depending on the need for public safety and utilities to work on that day. She and Talina Massey had previously expressed a desire to make this a city holiday in 2022 since the Governor made it a national holiday. Mr. Hughes clarified that Juneteenth is a federal holiday and the State's 2022 calendar does not indicate Juneteenth as an adopted holiday. However, several cities around New Bern have added it. Alderman Bengel suggested if Juneteenth were added as a holiday that the City reduce a day at Thanksgiving or Christmas. Alderman Aster said he was in favor of following benchmark cities by waiting to see what they do and consider making a change in the future once information is available from those cities.

Alderman Aster made a motion to approve the 2022 holiday calendar, seconded by Alderman Kinsey. Upon a roll-call vote, the motion carried 5-2 with Aldermen Best and Harris voting against it.

During a discussion prior to the vote, Alderwoman Harris inquired about the other cities that had approved Juneteenth as a holiday. Sonya Hayes, Director of Human Resources, said staff checked with some municipalities in February and again last week. Of those contacted, Wilmington, Wilson, Craven County, Havelock, and Morehead City are not observing Juneteenth. Goldsboro has had some discussions about the holiday, but has not added it at this point. Observing are Kinston, Rocky Mount, Greenville, and Washington. Alderman Bengel asked if those cities added it as an additional holiday or substituted Juneteenth for another holiday, and Mrs. Hayes was unsure except for Greenville and Washington, which added the observance in 2022 as an additional holiday.

Alderman Odham noted the State observes three days for Christmas in 2022, but Craven County and New Bern only have two. Mrs. Hayes noted Craven County and a lot of municipalities traditionally follow the State's calendar, but for some reason Craven County only approved two days for Christmas this year. Alderwoman Harris stated she was trying to be progressive, and she felt it was important to honor and respect what Juneteenth represents. The holiday is part of the diversion, equity, and inclusion that she felt New Bern needed to gravitate toward. She suggested the holiday be added in 2022 with the understanding that it is a test, and if it does not work out for the City then remove it in the future. Alderman Aster was concerned about removing the holiday once it was given. Alderwoman Harris said the unknown was the impact an additional holiday would have on Police, Fire, and utilities' overtime. Alderman Aster said his motion stood, as he would like to wait to see what the State and other cities choose to do. Alderman Bengel agreed it is better to be a leader than a follower sometimes, but she wanted to stay within the 12 holidays and felt if Juneteenth were added then the day after thanksgiving or Christmas should be taken away. Alderman Aster pointed out that people like to go home for Thanksgiving.

8. Consider Approving the 2022 Board of Aldermen Meeting Roster.

The Board adopts a meeting roster for each calendar year. The proposed roster identifies the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month as regular meetings. All meetings will begin at 6 p.m. Mr. Hughes noted the calendar does not include dates for a retreat or budget meetings, but if the new Board decides to have such meetings they could be added in the future. Noting the election would be held on March 08, 2022, Alderman Bengel suggested a meeting not be held on that date, but possibly the day before or after. Alderman Aster said those running for office may be working the polls that evening. Mr. Davis confirmed the Board could choose to change the date or not hold a meeting.

Alderman Bengel made a motion to approve the 2022 Board of Aldermen Meeting Roster with the exception and exclusion of March 08, 2022, seconded by Alderman Aster. Upon a roll-call vote, the motion carried unanimously 7-0.

9. Consider Adopting a Resolution Amending Ward Boundaries and Approving a Map of New Bern Ward Boundaries Dated October 26, 2021.

Based on the August 2021 release of census data, it was determined that population in some wards of New Bern had become imbalanced and in need of adjustment. The Board discussed this topic several times and received public comments through its website and a public hearing that was conducted on September 28, 2021. After taking that input into consideration and working with staff, the boundaries were realigned to create more balanced and better proportioned wards within the City. The new boundaries were designated on a map entitled "Map of New Bern Ward Boundaries – October 26, 2021". Alice Wilson, GIS Coordinator, shared a PowerPoint reviewing the new map and some additional information. Mrs. Wilson confirmed the new boundary information would be provided to the Board of Elections. Roughly 1,700 housing units are affected by

the changes, and they will be notified of their new ward. If the new boundaries are submitted this week, the filing period will begin on December 06, 2021 with an election held on March 08, 2022. It is unknown when the new Board will take office, and Alderman Bengel explained that would be determined by whether there is a local runoff. She explained how a federal runoff could also impact the date the new Board takes seat.

Alderman Aster made a motion to adopt a resolution amending the ward boundaries and approving a map of New Bern Ward Boundaries dated October 26, 2021, seconded by Alderman Kinsey. Upon a roll-call vote, the motion carried unanimously 7-0.

10. Consider Adopting a Resolution Approving Guidelines for Elected and Appointed Boards, Commissions, and Committees Using Personal or Official Social Media Platforms.

Guidelines for elected or appointed officials using personal or official social media platforms were reviewed at the October 12, 2021 meeting. Mr. Davis reviewed two minor revisions he had made from the original draft, and he also answered questions about potential scenarios.

Alderwoman Harris made a motion to adopt a resolution approving guidelines for elected and appointed boards, commissions, and committees using personal or official social media platforms, seconded by Alderman Bengel. Upon a roll-call vote, the motion carried unanimously 7-0.

11. Consider Adopting a Resolution Approving a General Warranty Deed between Habitat for Humanity of Craven County NC, Stephen Wood and Robin Powell, and the City of New Bern for 1707 Moore Avenue.

On September 24, 2019, the City approved the conveyance of 1707 Moore Avenue to Habitat for Humanity for the purpose of developing affordable housing for low and moderate-income families. Habitat has subsequently constructed a home on the property and intends to transfer the home to a buyer. By executing a deed to transfer ownership to the buyer, the City will release any rights retained under a Transfer and Reversion Agreement between the City and Habitat.

Alderman Odham made a motion to adopt a resolution approving a general warranty deed between Habitat for Humanity of Craven County, NC, Stephen Wood and Robin Powell, and the City of New Bern for 1707 Moore Avenue, seconded by Alderwoman Harris. Upon a roll-call vote, the motion carried unanimously 7-0.

12. Consider Adopting a Resolution to Accept Ownership and Maintenance of Watercrest Loop in the Carolina Colours Subdivision.

The City received a request to accept ownership and maintenance of Watercrest Loop in the Carolina Colours Subdivision. Public Works performed a built-to-

standards inspection and confirmed that the street had been constructed to meet the City's street design standards.

Alderman Aster made a motion to adopt a resolution to accept ownership and maintenance of Watercrest Loop in the Carolina Colours subdivision, seconded by Alderman Kinsey. Upon a roll-call vote, the motion carried 6-1 with Alderwoman Harris voting against it.

Following the motion and prior to the vote, Alderman Odham asked for information on the one-year and two-year warranty. George Chiles, Interim Director of Public Works, explained there had been prior discussion about extending the warranty period to two years. However, the current ordinance still provides for a one-year warranty period. Alderman Odham asked if the ordinance needed to be updated, and Mr. Davis indicated he would review the statute to see if there was any flexibility on the issue. Concerns were expressed about accepting roads too soon when there is still construction and build-out in the area.

13. Consider Adopting a Resolution to Accept Ownership and Maintenance of Downey Drive in the West New Bern Development.

The City received a request to accept ownership and maintenance of Downey Drive in the West New Bern Development. Public Works performed a built-to-standards inspection and confirmed that the street had been constructed to meet the City's street design standards. Alderman Best noted the development was in its early stages and expressed concern about accepting the street with just a one-year warranty. Mr. Chiles pointed out Downey Drive was only slightly more than 700 feet in length. The street is located by the highway patrol station. There is one other commercial lot on the street before it dead ends at a terminus. This is the only portion that has been platted thus far and is the limit of the City's acceptance.

Alderman Odham made a motion to adopt a resolution to accept ownership and maintenance of Downey Drive in the West New Bern development, seconded by Alderman Bengel. Upon a roll-call vote, the motion carried 6-1 with Alderwoman Harris voting against it.

14. Consider Adopting a Resolution to Approve a Change Order with Trader Construction Company for the Hurricane Florence Category A Drainage Ditch Project Within the Jack Smith Creek Drainage Basin.

The Board adopted a resolution on December 08, 2020 authorizing the City Manager to execute a contract with Trader Construction Company for the Jack Smith Creek Hurricane Florence Category A Drainage Ditch Project in the amount of \$382,650. A change order is needed to increase the contract by \$148,195 to cover realized and anticipated increases in quantities of sediment and vegetation and additional costs associated with working in the railroad right-of-way. Mr. Chiles explained the original estimates were based on estimated quantities. In this case, the sediment and vegetation that has been dug out was more than estimated. Additionally, there is a section that has been identified along the railroad tracks

behind J.T. Barber Elementary School that will be included in the scope of work. That additional work is reflected in the increased cost, and the total cost of the project will be reimbursed by FEMA.

Alderman Best expressed concern about the area by the railroad tracks from Evergreen Cemetery to Simmons Street. Mr. Chiles stated he would investigate why that area was not included in the work. He explained the consultants walk the ditches and use their professional judgment to determine what is related to Hurricane Florence. The areas identified by the consultants are the areas that can be included in the contracts. Alderman Aster asked how much of the category A work was ready for billing. Kimberly Ostrom, Interim Director of Finance, stated she would need to obtain that information and follow up with it later. She commented that reimbursement requests had been submitted to FEMA monthly.

Alderman Aster made a motion to adopt a resolution to approve a change order with Trader Construction Company for the Hurricane Florence Category A drainage ditch project within the Jack Smith Creek drainage basin, seconded by Alderman Best. Upon a roll-call vote, the motion carried unanimously 7-0.

15. Consider Adopting a Budget Ordinance Amendment for FY2021-22.

This budget ordinance amendment reestablishes encumbrances for additional purchase orders outstanding as of June 30, 2021 that will be honored in Fiscal Year 2022. These purchase orders were not included with the ones that were rolled forward in the budget amendment adopted on September 14, 2021. The amendment also acknowledges \$20,000 in revenue from Magic Midways, the traveling carnival that rented Lawson Creek Park, and appropriates those funds for the Henderson Park project. Additionally, \$13,670 from fund balance is designated for the replacement of Parks and Recreation's 2018 Ford Escape that was totaled in an accident. Insurance funds of approximately \$21,330 will also be applied to cover the \$35,000 replacement cost.

Alderman Bengel made a motion to adopt a budget ordinance amendment for FY2021-22, seconded by Alderman Aster. Upon a roll-call vote, the motion carried unanimously 7-0.

16. Discussion of Surplus Real Property.

Staff reviewed real property owned by the City and determined 32 parcels were not beneficial for current or future planned use. Of those parcels, 22 are owned jointly with Craven County. For reference, a descriptive list and map of the parcels was provided to the Board. Surplus real property is listed on the City's website and offered for sale to the public pursuant to the upset bid process outlined in NCGS §160A-269.

Alderman Bengel noted there are additional parcels within the boundary of the Redevelopment Commission ("Commission") that are owned jointly by the City and Craven County and which have not been deeded to the Commission. She asked

for a list of those properties, and Mrs. Wilson displayed the list on the overhead. Alderman Bengel inquired about the process for conveying the parcels to the Commission. In response, Mr. Davis explained the City previously reviewed and conveyed to the Commission certain City-owned properties that fell within the Commission's boundaries. At that time, it did not include all the City-owned parcels; for example, the Days Hotel site was not transferred. The jointly-owned properties have not been conveyed, as it would be peculiar to convey a partial interest in properties and make the Commission a "partner" with the County. Alderwoman Harris inquired about the possibility of asking the County to transfer their interest to the City so that the City could deed the parcels to the Commission. If the lots could be used for housing, then the revenue from the housing would help sustain the Commission. Mr. Davis suggested a presentation be made to the County to show the properties could be used in a way that would generate a tax base or benefit the public at large.

Alderman Bengel asked how someone would express an interest in purchasing a jointly-owned parcel. Mr. Davis stated if the County were approached with an offer, they would reach out to him to see if the City desired to sell its interest. Noting this had been brought up at previous meetings, Alderwoman Harris expressed concern that the City was not selling the properties for enough money. She expressed a desire to receive the full tax value, which could be reinvested into the City.

Alderman Bengel voiced a willingness to help facilitate a conversation with the County about transferring the properties. Mr. Davis stated the County had always given up their interest when there was a sale, and they had been a good partner when there was a public purpose for the property. Noting it had been at least a couple of years since the Board voted to halt the sale of property in the boundary of the Redevelopment Commission, Alderman Odham asked if the properties that the City would not need for easements, drainage, etc. could be compiled in a list and those properties made available for sale. Alderman Bengel stated anyone desiring to bid on a parcel could make their request known to the Commission, and then the final decision would be made by the Governing Board.

Mr. Davis pointed out any surplus properties outside of the boundary were available for bid, and he suggested the Commission look at the list of properties and put a hold on the parcels for which they have plans. The other way is to let every bidder first go to the Commission to express their interest in a parcel. Any final sales would need to be approved by the Board of Alderman.

Alderman Bengel made a motion to give the City Manager direction to meet with the County Manager to discuss taking properties within the redevelopment area to the purview of the Redevelopment Commission to open up for sale and development, and the Commission would then review and put out a list of any properties, and anyone interested in any of the lots would have to first seek support from the Redevelopment Commission and then come back to the Governing Board for the sale; if the Commission were to give property away or do something else, that would be a whole different situation. The motion died for a lack of a second.

Mayor Outlaw asked if the properties were jointly owned whether that would require approval from both the City and County. Mr. Davis clarified the topic was the County giving away its entire interest in the lots, and the Commission would own the lots in fee simple once the City also gave away its interest. Once that were to happen, the Commission would have to seek approval from the Governing Board before selling any of the lots. The proceeds from the sale would go to the Commission. Alderman Bengel noted selling the property would place it back on the tax roll for the County to potentially receive some money. Alderman Aster pointed out the City, at its expense, is maintaining all the properties. Alderwoman Harris questioned why the City was bearing that expense if the properties had been transferred to the Commission, and Mr. Davis said the City was simply being helpful.

Alderman Odham made a motion to direct the City Manager to meet with the County Manager to discuss the potential of the County giving up its interest in the real property owned in the Redevelopment Commission area to the Redevelopment Commission, seconded by Alderwoman Harris. The motion carried unanimously 7-0.

17. Appointment(s).

No appointments were made.

18. Attorney's Report.

Mr. Davis met with the Stanley White Recreation Center Advisory Committee last week to discuss the design-build construction method. The following morning, a colleague called him to advise that state bidding statutes may conflict with federal bidding statutes and prohibit bidding the project through that construction method. Mr. Davis has reached out to various state and federal resources, and he did not see a way with moving forward with that process. The statute is clear that the City can get a waiver to use that construction method, but finding someone at the state or federal level to issue the waiver will likely not happen in the timeframe needed. Mr. Davis noted North Carolina's 2014 statute is unique across the country and precludes price consideration until a vendor is chosen. Federal statute requires that price be a factor in the decision. This issue will come to a head in the next 6-12 months because a lot of local governments will want to use the design-build method when spending the ARP funding. But for now, Mr. Davis felt the City had to follow the state statute and Mini-Brooks Act to find the most qualified architect engineer to design the project. Time requirements can be established in the Request for Qualifications ("RFQ"). Alderman Odham asked how quickly staff could issue a RFQ for architect-design services. Mr. Hughes said staff had already created a RFQ for design-build services, which could be reviewed by the City Attorney for needed changes. Staff could then issue that document within a few days, likely by Thursday. Alderman Aster said he agreed with proceeding in the manner suggested by Mr. Davis, but since the City has the attention of Congressman Murphy and Congressman Tillis with respect to the Stanley White facility, he wondered if Congressman Murphy could assist with obtaining a waiver. Mr. Davis said staff could release the RFQ on Thursday and then pull it if a waiver

were obtained within a week or two. Mr. Hughes said the goal would still be to present information to the Board at the first meeting in December. Alderwoman Harris asked about the possibility of seeking qualifications for both methodologies and then pull the one that the City ultimately does not pursue. Mr. Davis noted the City is now getting six-month extensions on its failure to build the facility, so this would be a great case for a waiver. Alderman Odham echoed the earlier question as to whether the City could send out RFQs for both methods, and Mr. Davis recommended against that stating there would be a lot of downsides to that approach. He feared a regulator would review that as an aggressive approach, and he cautioned that an architect-engineer firm would not be happy to spend a lot of time and resources on an illegal process. When asked, Mr. Hughes felt it would be best to proceed with the traditional method. Noting there would likely be some design-build projects that use the ARP funding, Mr. Hughes said that would be addressed in the next few years.

By a show of hands, the Board unanimously gave direction to proceed with the traditional method. Mr. Hughes said the Purchasing Manager would advertise the RFQ nationwide on several sites.

19. City Manager's Report.

The City Manager had nothing to report.

20. New Business.

Alderman Bengel

November 5th is the one-year anniversary of the death of Commissioner Johnnie Sampson. His family asked that the City issue a proclamation proclaiming the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend as Commissioner Johnnie Sampson Day. Alderman Bengel voiced a desire to have this on the next agenda. The Board expressed support for the proclamation. Alderwoman Harris asked if the Board would be willing to make a motion to approve the proclamation now so the Sampsons could have the document by November 5th. Alderman Bengel made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign a proclamation celebrating the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend as Commissioner Johnnie Sampson Day, seconded by Alderwoman Harris. The motion carried unanimously 7-0.

American Legion Post 539 has taken on the mission of cleaning the headstones in Greenwood Cemetery. Bob Brinson, a member of the Post, said the group originally confirmed there were 43 veterans in the cemetery. During the cleaning process, however, they identified more than 60. Mr. Brinson said the information had been shared with the New Bern Historical Society and Find A Grave. At Christmastime, the organization will pay for wreaths to go on all the veterans' graves. The cleaning task was finished today, and tomorrow GPS coordinates will be secured for each veteran. Alderman Bengel asked if the information could also be provided to Parks and Recreation, which maintains records on the City's cemeteries.

Alderwoman Harris

Birthday sentiments were expressed to her son, AJ, who turned 17 today.

Alderman Aster

Todd Willis from Pamlico County passed away yesterday in his early 30s. He was the owner of Neuse River Bait and Tackle and the Wobbly Hog Restaurant. Please keep his wife, Heather, and young son in your prayers.

21. Closed Session.

A closed session was not needed.

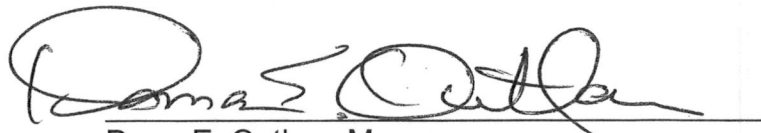
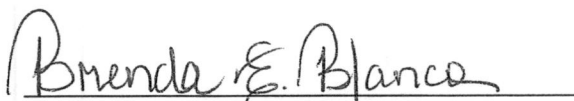
22. Adjourn.

Alderman Odham made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Alderman Kinsey. The motion carried unanimously 7-0, time being 7:47 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.newbernnc.gov. Video and audio recordings of the meeting have been archived.

Minutes approved: November 09, 2021


Dana E. Outlaw, Mayor
Brenda E. Blanco, City Clerk