

**CITY OF NEW BERN  
BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETING  
JULY 12, 2022 – 6:00 P.M.  
CITY HALL COURTROOM  
300 POLLOCK STREET**

1. **Meeting opened by Mayor Dana Outlaw.** After which, he reflected on the shooting that took place in front of the courthouse today. Noting this happened in front of two seats of government, he questioned what additional steps elected officials were going to take to abate the problem of violence. He expressed pride in the quick response provided by the New Bern Police Department. **Prayer by Rev. Robert Johnson of Ebenezer Presbyterian Church. Pledge of Allegiance.**

2. **Roll Call.**

Present: Mayor Dana Outlaw, Alderman Sabrina Bengel, Alderman Robert Aster, Alderman Barbara Best, Alderman Johnnie Ray Kinsey, and Alderman Jeffrey Odham. Absent: Alderwoman Jameesha Harris. A quorum was present.

Also Present: Foster Hughes, City Manager; Marvin Williams, Assistant City Manager; Michael Scott Davis, City Attorney; Jaimee Bullock-Mosley, Assistant City Attorney; and Brenda Blanco, City Clerk.

Mayor Outlaw invited Police Chief Patrick Gallagher to the podium to provide an update on today's events. Chief Gallagher said a call was received at 10:50 a.m. that shots had been fired and subjects were down in front of the courthouse. Officers from the New Bern Police Department, Craven County Sheriff's Office, and NC Highway Patrol were on scene. Also on scene were EMS units, members of the New Bern Fire Department, and the District Attorney. The victims, brothers from Bayboro, were provided aid by the officers who first arrived on scene. Unfortunately, the older brother, Jordan McDaniels, succumbed to his injuries. The younger brother, Jaheem McDaniels, is fighting for his life at the hospital in Greenville. The suspect, Dakota Wright, is in custody and has been charged with one open count of murder, two counts of assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill, and one count of attempted murder. Chief Gallagher felt it was important for citizens to know that this was not a random act of violence. New Bern is a safe place to live, work and visit. Violent crime downtown is an oddity.

3. **Request and Petition of Citizens.**

Barbara Sampson of 480 NC Hwy. 55 West, as Chair of the People's Assembly, asked questions about the CDBG Annual Action Plan. She questioned how three homes would be chosen for rehabilitation, the criteria, and how to apply. She wanted to know when this information would be made available to the public. With respect to the six bus shelters, the plan only provides details for three of

those, and she asked about the plans for the remaining three. While transportation is a need, she felt the Craven Area Rural Transit System ("CARTS") should offer more frequent routes and afterhours transportation. Ms. Sampson also questioned the funding that was designated for administrative costs and felt those services should be provided in-kind by Development Services. She suggested the full funding be used for projects that would benefit citizens. The People's Assembly felt the plan failed to offer much to the community as a whole, and it also felt more input should be sought from the communities. Mayor Outlaw told Ms. Sampson some of her questions would be addressed under the public hearing for Item 9, and he notified Ms. Sampson that she could pose additional questions at that time.

Lori Ann Prill of 210 New Street expressed concern about the historical marker donated to the City and installed at Union Point Park to promote Tommy Moore's Guinness Book World Record. She was curious about the way the donation was accepted and stated she was unable to find where the Board of Aldermen voted to accept the gift. The City Manager emailed her late this afternoon that the donation was handled at a department level by Parks and Recreation. His email stated the marker was located behind the flagpole adjacent to the large tree, which Mrs. Prill stated was contradictory to the picture in the Sun Journal. The Manager's email also stated the marker had been removed at the request of Mr. Moore and that the Board would be asked within the next month or so to consider a policy for approval of markers on public property. Mrs. Prill stated the Manager's response did not answer the question of who accepted the donation and installed the marker, which is information citizens are entitled to know. She stated this was another "sweep it under the rug" move to avoid divulging the truth. This is also another example of the dysfunctional way the Mayor, Aldermen and City employees have been operating for many years. She emphasized that the relationship between officials and the public is fiduciary in nature. She cautioned against fulfilling special requests for favor and stated Aldermen are prohibited from directing staff to execute tasks. She stated the behavior of elected officials was a systemic abuse of power within the City, and she questioned who directed Parks and Recreation to accept and install the marker. Mrs. Prill also commented on the photo taken by a mayoral candidate featuring New Bern police. She expressed concern that the photo was taken on City property and that it indicates the City and all New Bern police endorse the candidate. She felt the photo may be a violation of the elected officials' code of ethics, state election rules, and a possible violation of NCGS 160A-169 regarding city employee political activity. The officers in the photo were City employees in and out of uniform and on workplace property. Employees may support whomever they wish subject to City policy and elected officials' code of ethics.

#### **Consent Agenda**

#### **4. Consider Approving a Proclamation Honoring Dr. Dorothy Henderson-Bell.**

During her tenure with the NC Emergency Management Division, Dr. Dorothy Henderson-Bell has been instrumental in assisting the City of New Bern with its

FEMA claims. This proclamation will recognize her efforts and the assistance she has provided.

**5. Consider Adopting a Resolution to Close Specific Streets for the Duffyfield Resident Leaders' Neighborhood Soul Food Festival.**

The Duffyfield Residents Leaders have requested to close the 800 block of Cedar Street from 9 a.m. until 7 p.m. on August 6, 2022 for a Neighborhood Soul Food Festival. A rain date of August 13, 2022 was requested.

**6. Approve Minutes.**

Minutes from the June 14, 2022 closed session and June 28, 2022 regular meeting were provided for review and approval.

Alderman Odham made a motion to approve Items 4-6 of the Consent Agenda, seconded by Alderman Best. The motion carried unanimously 6-0.

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**7. Presentation on CivicReady New Bern Alerts.**

The City is transitioning from the CodeRed system to a new, interactive, mass notification and emergency messaging platform called New Bern Alerts. The system delivers information and emergency messaging via text, email, telephone, and mobile app. Colleen Roberts, Public Information Officer, shared a PowerPoint presentation to review the new system and how citizens can sign up for the free alerts.

**8. Presentation on 2022 National Night Out.**

National Night Out is observed annually on the first Tuesday in August. Its purpose is to enhance the relationship between residents and law enforcement. In 2012, the New Bern Police Department began caravanning through communities to participate in satellite National Night Out activities. This year, the event will return to a citywide observation at Union Point Park on August 02, 2022 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. A few communities are choosing to still gather in their own neighborhoods, and the Police Department will make effort to have a community policing officer visit those neighborhoods as well as assisted living facilities. Police Chief Patrick Gallagher introduced Sgt. Kevin Brice, who shared more details for the planned event.

**9. Conduct a Public Hearing on the 2022 CDBG Annual Action Plan.**

Each year, the US Department of Housing and Urban Development ("HUD") requires Entitlement Cities to submit an Annual Action Plan to receive CDBG funding. The plan summarizes the actions, activities and specific resources that will be used to address needs and goals in the Strategic Plan. For the 2022

program year, the City's funding allocation is \$269,786. It is proposed \$53,957 of that be used for planning and administration, \$130,000 for the completion of the bus shelter project with one at the VOLT Center and one at 520 Roundtree Street, and the balance of \$85,829 designated for housing rehabilitation. Currently, the City has received four applications for housing rehabilitation. Applicants must meet specific income requirements, and rehabilitation is not available to landlords.

To comply with CDBG regulations, a public hearing is required to receive comment on the plan. Any comments received will be summarized and incorporated into the plan for HUD's review and approval. A resolution to adopt the plan will be presented at the August 09, 2022 Board meeting. Several questions were posed by the Board and answered by Matt Schelly, Interim Director of Development Services. One of the questions was why the City continues to attempt some of the difficult projects that cannot be finished in a timely manner, as this leads to the City getting its hand slapped by HUD. Mr. Schelly said the primary reason is the projects are requested by the public. Alderman Odham said he was in favor of projects that would benefit more citizens, and not just one or three homeowners. He suggested picking one project, such as sidewalks or drainage, that may equate to less overhead or administrative costs. Alderman Bengel expressed concern with increasing bus routes when the City has no control over transportation. Mr. Schelly pointed out the funding is for physical improvements only, not services. The selected projects are determined by input received from citizens, staff, and the consultant. Alderman Odham noted the plan lists items that are important to the community but are not being addressed, such as drainage, flood mitigation, the Redevelopment Commission, and Stanley White Recreation Center, and he asked if it was too late to adjust the plan to address those requests. Mr. Schelly felt it was not too late, but pointed out CDBG funds had been used in the past to create the Biddle Street retention basin.

Alderman Best inquired as to how many employees in Development Services work with the CDBG program, and Mr. Schelly responded one. She then asked if staff had investigated the federal CDBG COVID grants, noting approximately \$45 billion in funding is available. Mr. Schelly was unaware and stated staff would look into this if they had not yet.

Mayor Outlaw opened the public hearing, and the following came forward to speak:

- Michael More of 1502 Lucerne Way spoke specifically about the bus shelters. The one shelter that was completed earlier this year on Fort Totten Drive cost over \$150,000. He questioned how two additional shelters could be built for \$130,000 and where additional funding would come from to complete the shelters. He asked if the \$130,000 could be fragmented and put into other projects. Based on his observation, the existing shelter had not been used more than three times.
- Barbara Sampson of 480 NC Hwy. 55 West asked for a definition of low-to-moderate income. She also asked in what communities the public

meetings were held, as she did not recall a meeting being held in Duffyfield. She was concerned that not all communities were contacted. Ms. Sampson was not opposed to the bus shelters, but felt less money should be spent on the shelter project.

- Greg Holmes of 1023 Spivey Circle and Pastor of First Missionary Baptist Church explained some of the projects were handed to Mr. Schelly. Pastor Holmes said he walked the neighborhood with staff, which targeted two homes in Duffyfield where seniors were sitting in their living rooms with buckets that were collecting water from the roof. He felt the funding could be better used and stated there are community leaders who would volunteer to take on some of the tasks that others are being paid to do. While the bus shelters may be needed, he felt they could be pursued later and the current funding better allocated.
- Elaine Rosen (address not provided) questioned the roughly \$54,000 in administrative costs allocated for staff salaries, supplies, and a consultant. She also questioned whether staff refers to City employees that are already drawing a salary and, if so, whether they receive extra money for working on this project. Mr. Hughes explained employees are not paid additional money to work on CDBG projects. The majority of the administrative funds are for supplies and consultants that help put the information together. In response, Ms. Rosen wanted to know how much of the funding goes to the consultant. Mr. Hughes said it depends on what is approved, and he thought a percentage ratio was utilized. Ms. Rosen asked that the City provide a breakdown for the projects.
- Wendy Card of 4623 Rainmaker Drive asked for the name of the consultant. Mr. Schelly announced the overall consultant is Urban Design Ventures and the consultant for the housing rehabilitation project is McDavid. She also asked for the amount deemed as low-to-moderate income and how the program was advertised. Mr. Schelly was unsure of the answer to both questions, but stated the income amount is established by HUD and is based on the average median. Alderman Bengel believed the income threshold was \$24,000 and stated the agenda backup detailed the amount. Ms. Card also inquired as to who selects the applicants. It was explained that as applications are received, they are vetted and chosen on a first-come basis from those who qualify. Mr. Schelly believed applicants could access the applications online. Mr. Hughes stated once the plan is approved, a press release will be issued with information on how to apply.

A brief discussion ensued about the difference in the CARTS transportation service versus Omnibus.

- Elijah Brown of 916 Fort Totten Drive felt the funding would be better used by following guidelines and addressing small repairs such as replacing floors, electrical work, etc. He pointed out he had seen people use the bus shelter at Fort Totten and he had also seen others who had to stand in the rain while waiting for transportation. He suggested the administrative costs be cut and used to help more people, and that the City stop throwing money away. Year after year, consultants are paid and not a lot is done. He suggested using City staff instead of consultants.



- Terre Holloway of 1001 Main Street asked how his name was populated on the list that was provided in the plan. He thought the meeting he attended was with Dr. Caldwell. After some discussion, it was noted the meeting was held on March 07, 2022 at Development Services' conference room, and a notation was made that Mr. Holloway asked for water pumps in Duffyfield.

Alderman Bengel suggested a presentation by Urban Design Ventures to explain how the program works.

Alderman Best made a motion to close the public hearing, seconded by Alderman Odham. The motion carried unanimously 6-0.

**10. Consider Adopting a Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Memorandum of Understanding with the Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point.**

The proposed Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") will establish protocols whereby the New Bern Police Department and Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point ("MCAS") will assist one another on an as-needed basis to provide non-reimbursable law enforcement support. The MOU does not create any additional jurisdiction or modify existing jurisdictions for either party. In part, the MOU will allow the Police Department to use the MCAS' training range, which is more sophisticated than the one the City has through the community college. The term of the agreement is 10 years. Mr. Williams stated the MCAS has similar agreements with several area law enforcements and municipalities.

Alderman Aster made a motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a Memorandum of Understanding with the Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, seconded by Alderman Kinsey. Upon a roll-call vote, the motion carried unanimously 6-0.

**11. Consider Adopting a Resolution Approving the Sale of 604 B Street.**

After receiving an offer of \$2,000 from Charles Diggs and Cecilia DiCarlo for the purchase of 604 B Street, the bid was advertised, but no upset bids were received. The property is a 0.19-acre vacant parcel that was acquired by the City in 2002 and has a tax value of \$3,900. The bidders have spoken with staff in Development Services about their plans for the property and have expressed a desire to pursue the process.

While the property is owned solely by the City, proceeds will be split with the County to satisfy a provision in the conveyance for outstanding, unpaid property taxes due to Craven County. If the sale is approved, the County will receive \$881.25, and the City will receive \$1,118.75, which includes the advertising cost.

Alderman Bengel made a motion to adopt a resolution approving the sale of 604 B Street, seconded by Alderman Aster. Upon a roll-call vote, the motion carried unanimously 6-0.

**12. Consider Adopting a Resolution Approving the Sale of 2101 Woodland Avenue.**

After receiving a bid of \$10,500 from Kenny Muse for the purchase of 2101 Woodland Avenue, the bid was advertised, but no upset bids were received. The vacant 0.25-acre parcel has a tax value of \$20,000 and was acquired from the NC State Highway Commission (now NC Department of Transportation) in 1960. The triangular-shaped parcel was created by the relocation of Highway 17. The bidder has spoken with staff in Development Services about his plans for the property and has expressed a desire to pursue the process.

Alderman Best made a motion to adopt a resolution approving the sale of 2101 Woodland Avenue, seconded by Alderman Kinsey. Upon a roll-call vote, the motion carried unanimously 6-0.

**13. Consider Adopting a Resolution in Support of NC Department of Transportation Confirming a Speed Limit of 55 MPH on SR 1005 Between SR 1242 (Parker Road) and NC Hwy. 55.**

State Route ("SR") 1005 between SR 1242 (Parker Road) and NC Hwy. 55 is a major street that is owned and maintained by the NC Department of Transportation ("NCDOT"). After completing an engineering and traffic investigation, NCDOT is confirming a designated speed limit of 55 mph. The proposed resolution signifies the City's support of this. Once DOT has confirmed the set speed limit, an ordinance amendment will be presented to the Board to modify the City's schedule of maximum speed limits to add this designation.

Alderman Best made a motion to adopt a resolution in support of the NC Department of Transportation confirming a speed limit of 55 mph on SR 1005 between SR 1242 (Parker Road) and NC Hwy. 55, seconded by Alderman Kinsey. Upon a roll-call vote, the motion carried unanimously 6-0.

**14. Consider Adopting a Resolution in Support of NC Department of Transportation Reducing the Speed Limit on NC 43 Between SR 1483 (Briarwood Lane) and the 0.101 Mile Mark North of SR 1481 (Gracie Farms Road).**

NC 43 between SR 11483 (Briarwood Lane) and 0.101 mile north of SR 1481 (Gracie Farms Road) is a major street that is owned and maintained by the NC Department of Transportation ("NCDOT"). After completing an engineering and traffic investigation, NCDOT is recommending the speed limit be reduced from 55 mph to 50 mph. The proposed resolution signifies the City's concurrence. Once DOT has officially reduced and posted the speed, an ordinance amendment will

be presented at a future meeting to modify the City's schedule of maximum speed limits to reflect the change.

Alderman Best questioned the reduction of just 5 mph, noting the area is heavily congested. Mr. Hughes explained a traffic engineering study was performed by DOT which resulted in this recommendation. Al Cablay, Director of Public Works, said DOT's speed study revealed this portion of roadway was not addressed in the City's ordinance, and DOT recommended it be set at 50 mph. Alderman Best suggested the speed limit be reduced to 45 mph. Mr. Hughes stated the item could be tabled to allow staff an opportunity to reach out to DOT. Alderman Odham questioned whether this portion of the roadway was within the city limits, and Mr. Williams confirmed the area is within the city's municipal limits. Since DOT is asking the City to support its request, Alderman Odham suggested this is a good time to ask DOT to honor the requests the City submits to them.

Alderman Best made a motion to table this item until the City Manager or staff can reach out to NCDOT, seconded by Alderman Bengel. The motion carried unanimously 6-0.

(Alderman Best momentarily stepped out of the room at 7:45 p.m.)

**15. Consider Adopting an Ordinance for the Demolition of 1503 Oak Drive.**

Staff is seeking to demolish the structure located at 1503 Oak Drive. The home is in a dilapidated state, and letters were mailed to the owners in February, March, and April of 2020 regarding its unfit condition for human habitation. An order was issued to demolish the structure by July 19, 2020. To date, no permits have been applied for, and the structure remains noncompliant and unsafe. All utilities have been removed, and the estimate for the City to demolish the structure is \$6,800.

At the request of Alderman Odham, Mr. Davis explained state statute provides that the cost of demolition becomes a lien against the property. If not paid, it is collected as an unpaid tax, and tax foreclosure is initiated to recover the unpaid lien. If the City acquires title to the property, that does not mean the fair market value of the vacant lot will ever meet the cost of the demolition.

Alderman Odham made a motion to adopt an ordinance for the demolition of 1503 Oak Drive, seconded by Alderman Kinsey. Upon a roll-call vote, the motion carried unanimously 6-0. Of note, Alderman Best had momentarily stepped out of the room, thus technically yielding a vote in the affirmative.

**16. Consider Adopting a Budget Ordinance Amendment for Fiscal Year 2022-23.**

This budget amendment will recognize a Brownfields grant in the amount of \$500,000, which requires no match. The funds will be used to inventory, prioritize, and conduct environmental site assessments. The funds will also be used to develop two cleanup plans and three area-wide plans in the Greater Five Points area.



(Alderman Best returned to the room at 7:47 p.m.)

Alderman Bengel made a motion to adopt the budget ordinance amendment for Fiscal Year 2022-23, seconded by Alderman Aster. Upon a roll-call vote, the motion carried unanimously 6-0.

## **17. Discussion of ARP Projects.**

At its June 28, 2022 meeting, the Board voted to divide the \$6,704,351 in American Rescue Plan ("ARP") funds among the six wards. Of that funding, \$2 million has been allocated for stormwater projects, \$350,000 will be shared among Wards 1, 2 and 5 for the Redevelopment Commission's McCotter House project, and \$400,000 has been reserved for the Norfolk Southern culvert until further discussion is held between Wards 4 and 5. An updated list of allocations by ward was provided to the Board and displayed to the public.

Mayor Outlaw suggested staff update the Board on whether the Norfolk Southern culvert was time sensitive. Alderman Best pointed out staff had not yet started work on the project. Alderman Kinsey expressed a desire for staff to review the project and report back to the Board any plans to move forward and whether other entities have an interest in participating in the project. Alderman Best asked why Alderman Kinsey did not converse about the project when the topic came up previously and at which time she questioned whether it was a project for Derby Park. She then expressed a desire for her allotment to be used for the North Hills/Simmons Street stormwater project. She stated she had no problem with staff reviewing the Norfolk Southern culvert to see if it is a dire emergency. If it is, she would be amenable to using some of her funds to address the project.

Mr. Cablay clarified that the culvert does sit within Ward 5, but the benefit is clearly contributed to Ward 4. The confusion resulted in staff reporting where the culvert is located versus the area it serves. Mayor Outlaw suggested the Aldermen for Wards 4 and 5 sit down to discuss the topic with staff. He also felt it would be fair to say that future development may benefit by the culvert. He felt the area that would be more affected was Alderman Kinsey's ward versus Alderman Best's ward. For the record, Alderman Best stated she wished this had been cleared up the night she asked which ward the culvert affected. She again indicated her willingness to meet to discuss the matter.

Starting with Ward 1, Mr. Hughes reviewed the list of proposed projects. The City has approximately 16 stoplights that it controls, none of which are synced. The plan is to sync those over the next four to five years. To sync all lights would cost about \$1 million. Once synced, public safety could manipulate the lights based on acute needs. In reviewing the costs to address the intersection of Broad and Middle Streets, Alderman Bengel said she would prefer to spend \$130,000 on the crosswalk versus the cost to install traffic lights. Alderman Odham disagreed and felt installing the crosswalk would be throwing away money. Additional discussion ensued about the intersection.

Alderman Bengel made a motion to spend the money as allocated in the handout to include \$350,000 for the light at Middle and Pollock Streets (she meant Broad instead of Pollock), seconded by Alderman Aster. The motion carried unanimously 6-0.

Alderman Aster made a motion to spend \$14,000 for four electronic speed signs for Old Airport Road, seconded by Alderman Odham. The motion carried unanimously 6-0.

Mr. Hughes stated the Racetrack Road project in Ward 4 and the North Hills stormwater project in Ward 5 would be on hold pending conversation between the two Aldermen about the Norfolk Southern project.

Alderman Odham made a motion to approve the projects listed for Ward 6 using ARP funds, seconded by Alderman Aster. The motion carried unanimously 6-0.

Mayor Outlaw said in earlier ARP discussions, he did not mention the possibility of using funds to illuminate the bridge. He suggested that idea be revisited at some point in the future.

Alderman Best suggested Wards 1, 3 and 6 shift any leftover funding they may have toward the Norfolk Southern culvert. Mr. Hughes stated staff would continue to work with Aldermen on additional projects and would present those before the Board at such time they are identified.

#### **18. Appointment(s).**

Alderman Bengel made a motion to reappoint Steve Strickland and Julius Parham to the Redevelopment Commission, seconded by Alderman Aster. The motion carried unanimously 6-0. Both will serve five-year terms to expire on August 14, 2027.

#### **19. Attorney's Report.**

The City Attorney had nothing to report.

#### **20. City Manager's Report.**

- Mr. Hughes reported on the heavy rain that was encountered this past weekend. Public Works was busy addressing issues, and the only two complaints came from the Taberna and Greenbrier subdivisions. Staff met with Alderman Aster on Monday to look at some of the issues in Taberna and to discuss methods to alleviate those.
- The Board was asked if they had interest in creating an ad hoc committee to consider a policy for signage and naming of anything that goes into public spaces. Mayor Outlaw offered to serve or have three Aldermen serve on the committee. Alderman Aster suggested buildings also be included in the

policy and that staff present draft recommendations for the committee to review. Mayor Outlaw suggested staff look at benchmark cities and maybe report back at the next meeting, noting the Board may be more motivated at that point to do something. For historical reference, Alderman Bengel reported on the "Put Your Mark on the Park" program that was part of the Union Point Park project. The program offered opportunities for the public to buy personalized bricks, benches, fencing, etc. Mr. Davis confirmed the City currently does not have a written policy on this topic.

(Alderman Kinsey momentarily stepped out of the room at 8:13 p.m.)

## **21. New Business.**

### Alderman Best

Citizens were reminded to vote. One-stop voting ends on July 23<sup>rd</sup>, and election day is July 26<sup>th</sup>.

Alderman Best asked whether Parks and Recreation's budget included improvements to existing cemetery shelters. Mr. Hughes said no, but staff would continue to look into that.

Thanks was expressed to all employees for their hard work and dedication. Employees working outside should take adequate breaks and get plenty of fluids.

### Alderman Aster

Gratitude was expressed for the work on the F-11 jet. The new paint job looks great.

As the City Manager mentioned, Taberna sustained a lot of flooding this past weekend. It was more flooding than seen during Hurricane Florence. Thanks was expressed to the Public Works staff.

(Alderman Kinsey returned to the room at 8:16 p.m.)

Alderman Aster also reminded everyone to vote.

The City Manager was asked to provide an update on the Henderson Park project and the BP building. Mr. Hughes noted at the last meeting he announced the basketball court had been installed at the park. A new shelter has been ordered for the park, and lights, a new fitness court, and seating will also be installed. Assistance has been sought from Congressman Murphy's office regarding the BP building. The City may have to file for arbitration in the next day or so.

### Alderman Bengel

At the Mayor's request, Alderman Bengel reported on a virtual meeting that was held with the American Flood Coalition and attended by members of the CARES group.

Merchants have recently complained about individuals riding skateboards on the sidewalk and almost knocking down an elderly couple. Mr. Davis said riding skateboards or bikes is not allowed on the sidewalk, but the ordinance was amended in recent years to allow riding on streets.

Thanks was expressed to Chief Gallagher and the Police Department for addressing speed on National Avenue and issues downtown. Condolences were expressed on the passing of Thelma Chadwick and Joanne Frank.

If any citizen has concerns or questions about her, what she does, businesses she owns, or how she serves the City, Alderman Bengel asked that they call her. She said she was amazed at how much misinformation is circulating about her.

Alderman Odham

Mr. Hughes was asked whether the budget provides for exterior cameras at City Hall. The Manager confirmed funding is included for cameras around the exterior parameters as well as the interior of the new annex. Staff is waiting on pricing.

Alderman Kinsey

Thanks was voiced to Mr. Hughes for his help addressing citizens' concerns.

**22. Closed Session.**

Alderman Odham made a motion to go into closed session pursuant to NCGS §143-318.11(a)(5) to discuss the potential acquisition of real property, seconded by Alderman Kinsey. The motion carried unanimously 6-0, time being 8:31 p.m.


**23. Adjourn.**

Alderman Aster made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Alderman Bengel. The motion carried unanimously 6-0, time being 8:47 p.m.

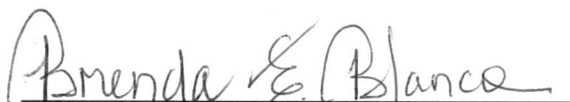
The attached documents are incorporated herewith and are hereby made a part of these minutes.

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](http://www.newbernnc.gov). Video and audio recordings of the meeting have been archived.

Minutes approved: August 09, 2022



Dana E. Outlaw, Mayor



Brenda E. Blanco, City Clerk