

**CITY OF NEW BERN
BOARD OF ALDERMEN SPECIAL MEETING
AUGUST 15, 2022 – 6:00 P.M.
CITY HALL COURTROOM
300 POLLOCK STREET**

- 1. Meeting opened by Mayor Dana Outlaw. Prayer by Alderman-elect Hazel Royal. Pledge of Allegiance.**

- 2. Roll Call.**

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

Consent Agenda

- 3. Consider Adopting a Resolution Calling for a Public Hearing to Rezone 3603 Neuse Boulevard C-4 to C-3.**

The owner of 3603 Neuse Boulevard requested to rezone the 0.92+/- acre parcel from C-4 Neighborhood Business District to C-3 Commercial District. The Planning and Zoning Board unanimously approved this request at their August 4, 2022 meeting. It was requested a public hearing be scheduled for September 13, 2022.

- 4. Consider Adopting a Resolution Calling for a Public Hearing to Rezone Tax Parcel IDs 8-210-11002, 8-210-11003, 8-210-11004, 8-210-11006, 8-210-11009, 8-210-11010, and 8-210-23000 from A-5F, A-5, and R-10 to R-6.**

The owner of seven parcels off Trent Creek Road totaling 413.39 +/- acres requested to rezone the property from A5-F Agricultural Forestry District, R-10 Residential District, and R-10A Residential District to R-6 Residential. The parcels are adjacent to the Craeberne Forest development. The Planning and Zoning Board unanimously approved this request at their August 4, 2022 meeting. It was requested a public hearing be scheduled for September 13, 2022.

- 5. Consider Adopting a Resolution Calling for a Public Hearing to Rezone 601 Third Avenue from R-6 to C-3.**

The City requested to rezone two parcels totaling 4.139 +/- acres which are currently split zoned as C-4 Neighborhood Business District and R-6 Residential to one zoning of C-3 Commercial District. This property is the site of the new

Stanley White Recreation Center. The Planning and Zoning Board unanimously approved this request at their August 4, 2022 meeting. It was requested a public hearing be scheduled for September 13, 2022.

6. Approve Minutes.

Draft minutes from the July 12, 2022 closed session and August 09, 2022 regular meeting were provided for review and approval.

Alderman Aster made a motion to approve Items 3-6 of the Consent Agenda, seconded by Alderman Bengel. The motion carried unanimously 6-0.

7. Miscellaneous.

After serving as mayor for more than eight years, Mayor Outlaw thanked his Lord and Savior, his dad who was New Bern's City Manager from 1968 to 1981 and his mother (Marie), and siblings. He also thanked his children: daughter Janet and husband Graham, daughters Katie and Jenna, son Adam, and granddaughter Keely. He also expressed gratitude to Brenda Blanco, City Clerk, stating she was important to both the City and him, and that a mayor is not a Mayor of New Bern without her as the City Clerk. She does a lot of things and is the glue for him and the City. Appreciation was expressed to all the past Governing Boards that have progressed New Bern to where it is now. Lastly, appreciation was voiced to Lori Grady for being by his side and being his confidant and go-to person during Hurricane Florence. As an unelected official, she did a lot for the City and helped with coordinating matters following the hurricane.

Alderman Odham thanked Mayor Outlaw for his leadership. There were many events outside of the hurricane for which the Mayor lead the way. Despite differences of opinions and backgrounds, this Board has shown it was able to come together in tough times. The current Board is the longest-serving Board in the City's history. While it may seem things are coming to an end for this Board, it is actually a steppingstone for future Boards. Alderman Odham stated he was humble to have been a part of this Board and expressed well wishes to those who were leaving. He stated he looked forward to working with the new Board. The goal has always been and should always be to move the City forward.

Alderman Kinsey said it had been an honor to serve the City, and he looked forward to continuing that service and establishing new relationships. It has been a pleasure for him to work with Mayor Outlaw, who joined him in cleaning trenches and ditches during storms.

Mayor Outlaw noted Alderman Best was not in attendance because she was under the weather. He stated she had worked hard for the Pleasant Hill Community Center, which he saw yesterday.

Alderman Aster stated he would miss Mayor Outlaw and his guidance. Ward 1 is by far the busiest ward, and Alderman Bengel has done a wonderful job and will leave big shoes to be filled. He stated Alderwoman Harris had certainly kept him on his toes, which he appreciated.

Alderwoman Harris presented an award from the Craven County Freedom Summer Tour of Unlock Our Vote for the City's support. She thanked God for the opportunity to sit in her elected seat and thanked her parents, James Adams and the late Margie Adams. Her mother watched the live meetings and would stick up for Alderwoman Harris and others. Thanks was expressed to the many people who kept her encouraged throughout her term: Ramona, Marion, Jules, Jesse, Tara, Reggie, Bonques, Ms. Sharon, Ben Watford, Victor, Robbie, Michael, "Mama" Sampson, late Mr. Sampson and the entire Sampson family, Mr. and Mrs. White, Mr. Brown, and countless others. She thanked Talina Massey and Corey Purdie for encouraging her, noting they all served the community before she was elected, during her term, and would continue to serve afterwards. She thanked all City staff for making her look good over the years by satisfactorily handling all requests. She stated it had been a pleasure to work with staff, and she looked forward to working with them from the "outside". When she needed her, Ms. Blanco always picked up Alderwoman Harris' calls and made her life easy. Alderwoman Harris stated she had no political experience, but Ms. Blanco walked her every step of the way. It has been an honor and pleasure to work with her, and she deserves every raise she gets plus more. Gratitude was expressed to Alderman Best for being a supporter and a fighter when her help was needed on City business and for her willingness to stand up alongside Alderwoman Harris for what was right. It has been an honor and a pleasure for the two of them to serve together as they made history as the longest-serving Board, and as the second and third black women to serve on the Board of Aldermen. Alderman Bengel was also recognized for making history by being one of three women to serve simultaneously on the Board. She thanked the entire Board for allowing her to grow in her experience. The public was encouraged to stay engaged and hold elected officials accountable for their actions and the promises made during elections. It is the public's right to ask questions and request answers. Alderwoman Harris thanked her children, Tyler, Olivia and Aaron, Jr., for allowing her to be away from home when duty called and embracing her with love every time she returned home. Without the support of her husband, Aaron Harris, she would not have been able to serve her community. While he may not be at every community event, he is always standing in her corner and loving her. She thanked him for nursing her back to health during her breast cancer journey and helping her work through the pain of losing her mother. Appreciation was expressed to all those who came before Alderwoman Harris to create fertile soil for her to plant her political dreams and seeds and for those who will come after her.

Stating she was very thankful for her family, Alderman Bengel recognized her family: daughter Becky and son-in-law Jonathan, and her son Buddy and his fiancé. Her husband, Steve, was home sick. It takes the love and support of family to be an elected official, and Steve Bengel is the wind beneath her wings.

She thanked him for always supporting her when others had abandoned her. The first ward citizens were thanked for giving Alderman Bengel the opportunity to serve them. She stated it had been an honor and a privilege to serve the City that she cared for deeply. She referenced her role in pursuing the Redevelopment Commission and an elevator for City Hall. Although her term has ended, she will continue to be a voice for better housing choices, the redevelopment of the Choice Neighborhood area, and the downtown business district. She urged the new Board to remember that downtown is not a residential neighborhood, but a commercial zone with residences strengthening the economic impact. Thanks were expressed to the City's awesome staff and City Manager, Foster Hughes. New Bern is blessed with some of the best Department Heads in North Carolina. Although they did not always agree, her colleagues were thanked for working with her over the last four plus years. Noting she and Alderman Odham had a rough start, she thanked him for never calling her names and for his willingness to always work things out. Noting she also had a rough start with Mayor Outlaw, she thanked him for his tremendous respect, support, forgiveness, and leadership efforts on her behalf. She voiced appreciation for his friendship. In closing, Alderman Bengel said she was glad to see the meanness of the process finally over; the people have spoken, and she had no regrets. It was her hope that the new Board would work together for the good of the citizens. She welcomed Alderman Prill to the Ward 1 seat and stated she would help him in any way she could. She advised the new Board members to work with each other and the staff, be prepared to discuss the issues, and seek God's guidance. As a final comment, Alderman Bengel read a note her daughter had written to her.

Alderman Kinsey said he failed to thank his son, Sean, and took a moment to acknowledge him.

Mayor Outlaw said he and Alderman Bengel would be back to ride the elevator in May of 2023. Alderwoman Harris reminded him, when the time comes, to also attend the ribbon-cutting for the Stanley White Recreation Center.

8. Sine Die Adjournment.

Alderman Bengel made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Alderwoman Harris. Upon a roll-call vote, the motion carried unanimously 6-0, time being 6:26 p.m.

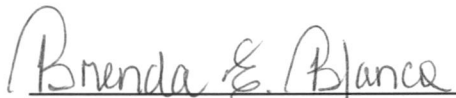
The attached documents are incorporated herewith and are hereby made a part of these minutes.

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: September 13, 2022



Jeffrey T. Odham, Mayor



Brenda E. Blanco, City Clerk

**CITY OF NEW BERN
BOARD OF ALDERMEN SPECIAL MEETING
AUGUST 15, 2022 – 6:00 P.M.
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1. Administration of Oath of Office to Mayor.

The oath of office was administered to Jeffrey T. Odham by W. David McFadyen, III, District Court Judge.

2. Administration of Oath of Office to Aldermen.

The oath of office was administered to the Aldermen as follows:

- Robert V. Aster was sworn in by Steve Tyson, NC State Representative.
- Robert W. Brinson, Jr. was sworn in by Steve Tyson, NC State Representative.
- Johnnie Ray Kinsey was sworn in by Brenda Blanco, City Clerk.
- Rick Prill was sworn in by Brenda Blanco, City Clerk.
- Hazel B. Royal was sworn in by The Honorable Michael R. Morgan, NC Supreme Court Associate Justice.

3. Meeting opened by Mayor Jeffrey T. Odham. Prayer by Pastor Scott Coghill of New Life Church. Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Roll Call.

Present: Mayor Jeffrey T. Odham, Alderman Rick Prill, Alderman Hazel Royal, Alderman Robert Aster, Alderman Johnnie Ray Kinsey, and Alderman Robert Brinson, Jr. Absent: Alderman-elect Barbara Best. 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.

5. Approval of Agenda.

Alderman Aster made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Alderman Kinsey. The motion carried unanimously 6-0.

6. Comments by Board Members Followed by Brief Reception.

Alderman Prill read a quote by Edward Everett Hale: "Coming together is a beginning, keeping together is progress, working together is success." He stated this was his hope for the new Board.

Alderman Royal voiced appreciation for the opportunity to serve, shared her belief that there is potential to move forward, and stated “together we win.”

Alderman Aster thanked the new Board members and said he was looking forward to working with each one of them. He also thanked his constituents in Ward 3 for their support.

Alderman Kinsey stated he was ready to go to work and that it was an honor to serve with the new Board.

Alderman Brinson read a prepared statement. After recalling a friend of his frequently states that concerned citizens should find good candidates, get them elected, and then hold their feet to the fire, Alderman Brinson reminded his fellow Board members that they are now being held to the fire. He felt the Board needed to make decisions that are best for New Bern, to have a dialogue with constituents and each other, and to be transparent in decisions. Communication is a challenge and a responsibility. He encouraged people to reach out to him and stated his willingness to meet with anyone. A lot of effort is spent to talk “at” people instead of “with” people, and it is his desire to change that. He vowed to listen before he speaks and understand before he decides. There are unique contributions that veterans can make to the City, and he will strive to bring that perspective.

Mayor Odham thanked his wife, Jeannie, and son, Gavin, for their support. The bible on which he took his oath was one given to him by his parents. While the Board will be faced with challenges, it will also have new opportunities. He stated it is now time to govern and move New Bern forward. He gave his word that every decision he makes will be done with the best interest of the City of New Bern at heart.

Alderman Aster made a motion to take a brief recess, seconded by Alderman Prill. The motion carried unanimously 6-0, time being 7:04 p.m.

The meeting resumed at 7:21 p.m.

7. Appointment of Mayor Pro Tempore and Administration of Oath.

Alderman Aster made a motion to appoint Alderman Johnnie Ray Kinsey as the Mayor Pro Tempore, seconded by Alderman Royal. The motion carried unanimously 6-0.

8. Adjourn.

Alderman Aster made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Alderman Kinsey. The motion carried unanimously 6-0, time being 7:25 p.m.

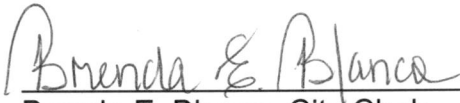
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Jeffrey T. Odham, Mayor



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