

**CITY OF NEW BERN
BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETING
DECEMBER 13, 2022 – 6:00 P.M.
CITY HALL COURTROOM
300 POLLOCK STREET**

- 1. Meeting opened by Mayor Jeffrey Odham. Prayer by Ethel Sampson. Pledge of Allegiance.**

- 2. Roll Call.**

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

- 3. Approve Agenda.**

Alderman Aster made a motion to approve the agenda and add the proclamation that was presented to the New Bern High School (“NBHS”) football team, seconded by Alderman Prill. The motion carried unanimously 6-0.

Proclamation

Mayor Odham read the proclamation honoring New Bern High’s football team. He reviewed activities that were held earlier in the afternoon to recognize the team’s victory at the 4A state championship game.

- 4. Request and Petition of Citizens.**

Jay Greene of 200 Ticino Court was disturbed to learn City of New Bern employees are underpaid and said he took issue with that. The City obtained a market survey and for some reason has not brought its salaries up to those offered by other municipalities. As a citizen, the reason he loves New Bern is mostly because of the City’s employees. He thanked employees for their service and said he truly believed the Board needed to do whatever was necessary to bring the salaries up to the market standard, even if that meant raising taxes. He and other citizens do not mind paying more for the services they are receiving from the City’s employees and feel they should be paid what they deserve.

Jackie Dees of 310 Madam Moores Lane, Accounts Services Supervisor for the Customer and Payment Services (“CAPS”) office, stated she was speaking on behalf of herself and her staff to request the Board implement the full recommendation of the consultant. It has been difficult to hire and retain staff due

to competing wages. She did not want to see services reduced due to the lack of staff.

Ruth Cooper of 1022 Colleton Way moved here a year ago from Cincinnati. As a former pediatric registered nurse, she stated she was opposed to the social district. One of her concerns was the impact a social district could have on future generations and fetal alcohol spectrum disorders. She also expressed a need for better bike lanes along Trent Road.

Consent Agenda

5. Consider Adopting a Resolution Initiating the Upset Bid Process for 304 and 308 S. Front Street.

At the August 09, 2022 meeting, a suggestion was made and direction subsequently given to place signage on the “Talbot’s lots” advertising the property for sale. At the November 08, 2022 meeting, a minimum bid of \$750,000 was established for the two parcels. A bid of \$825,000 has been submitted by Betty Wilson.

6. Consider Adopting a Resolution Authorizing the Submission of a BRIC Grant Application.

FEMA administers the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (“BRIC”) program, which makes federal funds available for hazard mitigation activities. Staff desires to apply for a BRIC grant in the amount of \$200,000 to be used for planning and scoping the restoration of the Duffyfield canal project. The grant will be matched by the City’s award of the NC Attorney General’s Environmental Enhancement grant in the amount of \$150,000.

7. Consider Adopting a Resolution Calling for a Public Hearing to Rezone 910 and 914 Bloomfield Street.

The Redevelopment Commission requested to rezone two parcels totaling 0.252 +/- acres from R-6 Residential to C-4 Neighborhood Business District. The parcels are located at 910 and 914 Bloomfield Street. The Planning and Zoning Board unanimously approved the request at its November 01, 2022 meeting. A public hearing was sought for January 10, 2023 for the Governing Board’s consideration of the request.

8. Approve Minutes.

Draft minutes from the November 22, 2022 meeting were provided for review and approval.

Alderman Best made a motion to approve Items 5-8 of the Consent Agenda, seconded by Alderman Prill. Upon a roll-call vote, the motion carried unanimously 6-0.

9. Presentation by Governing Board.

In recognition and honor of his service as Mayor from December 10, 2013 to August 15, 2022, Mayor Odham, on behalf of the Governing Board, presented former Mayor Dana Outlaw with a plaque and the gavel used during his term. Mayor Outlaw said it was a pleasure to serve the City of New Bern and staff for 16 years. He thanked the employees for their help during his tenure and expressed appreciation for all they do for the City. Mayor Outlaw received a standing ovation.

With this presentation, the Board will officially start the tradition of passing the gavel to the outgoing Mayor.

10. Presentation of City Employees of the Year.

The Employee of the Year program was reinstated to recognize employees who demonstrated excellent performance in their job duties over the previous 12-month period. Under the new program, one employee from three service categories was recognized: Cynthia Mair for Public Service, Monico Hargett for Public Safety, and Ryan Young for Public Utilities/Works. The winner of each category was presented with a plaque and check for \$300.

Except for Department Heads, Division Superintendents, Division Chiefs, Fire Battalion Chiefs, and Police Captains, all regular full and part-time employees were eligible for nomination. Nominees were reviewed by a Selection Committee and announced at an employee luncheon on December 08, 2022.

11. Recognition of 2022 Citizens Police Academy.

Graduates of the recent Citizens Policy Academy were in attendance. Linda Grzeika, the class president, provided an overview of the participants' experience. The latest academy marked the 25th session to be held.

12. Presentation by Craven County Alcoholic Beverage Control Board.

Chip Chagnon, Chairman of the Craven County Alcoholic Beverage Control ("ABC") Board, provided an annual briefing and presented a \$76,859 check to the City for its portion of ABC sales (the PowerPoint erroneously indicated \$78,859).

13. Presentation of the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report and Audit for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2022.

Alan Thompson, Certified Public Accountant from Thompson, Price, Scott, Adams and Company, P.A., the firm that performed the City's audit, distributed copies, and discussed findings of the June 30, 2022, Annual Comprehensive Financial Report ("ACFR") and audit. There were two audit findings: a budget violation for

expenditures that exceeded the authorized and appropriated budget, and a negative fund balance in the Grants Special Revenue Fund.

14. Conduct a Public Hearing and Consider Adopting Revisions to the Land Use Ordinance.

Chapter 160D of the general statutes consolidates development regulations that were previously in Chapters 153A and 160A. Local governments were required to update their ordinances to conform with the new chapter, and the City updated its Land Use Ordinance several months ago. Some additional changes are needed to implement procedural requirements under Chapter 160D. The Planning and Zoning Board unanimously reviewed and recommended the proposed revisions at its November 01, 2022 meeting.

Mayor Odham opened the public hearing, but no one came forward to speak. Alderman Best made a motion to close the public hearing, seconded by Alderman Aster. The motion carried unanimously 6-0.

Alderman Prill made a motion to adopt revisions to the land use ordinance, seconded by Alderman Royal. Upon a roll-call vote, the motion carried unanimously 6-0.

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

The City charter provides that at the first meeting in December the Board is to appoint one of its members to serve as Mayor Pro Tem for a one-year term. The Board was asked to select a designee to perform mayoral duties in 2023 during the absence of the Mayor.

Alderman Aster made a motion to appoint Bob Brinson as Mayor Pro Tempore, seconded by Alderman Best. Upon a roll-call vote, the motion carried unanimously 6-0. Ms. Blanco administered the oath of office to Mayor Pro Tem Brinson.

16. Consider Adopting a Resolution to Amend the Classification Pay Plan for Fiscal Year 2022-23 as Part of the Market Analysis Pay Study.

Piedmont Triad Regional Council conducted a market pay study for the City of New Bern. The analysis provides necessary data to ensure New Bern's salaries are competitive and comparable with employees in relevant labor markets. To act on the results of the market study, the City Manager proposed the classification pay plan be amended to provide for partial implementation of the recommended market study. Full implementation would cost \$3.5 million. In a two-step partial enactment, the first phase would provide a 66% implementation effective December 25, 2022 (reflected in employees' January 13, 2023 paycheck). The proposal made provision that positions advancing by one grade would receive a 3% annual salary increase, two grades a 6% annual salary increase, and three grades a 10% annual salary increase. Positions that decreased by one grade

would receive a 1% bonus. This implementation would cost \$1.5 million for the remaining six months of the current fiscal year. There were 55 positions recommended for a one-grade advance, 122 recommended for a two-grade advance, 24 recommended for a three-grade advance, and 2 recommended to decrease by one grade. Step two of the enactment would look at funding the balance of the study's recommendations during the FY2023-24 budget.

Alderman Aster said he was in favor of full implementation. If employees are not paid what they are worth, they will continue to use the City as a steppingstone and leave once trained. For budget reasons only, Alderman Aster said he would "get on board" with a partial implementation effective December 25th, but wanted to know the date the second stage would become effective. He preferred the second date be July 1st. He felt the City had talented employees who needed to be paid.

Mayor Odham recalled the last action taken by the Board only adjusted salaries and not the pay grades, which was part of the problem. Mr. Hughes confirmed that had occurred from time to time. Traditionally, until 2021 when inflation struck, the City has issued flat or low cost-of-living adjustments ("COLA"). He explained the lack of adjusting the classification pay plan has put the City in its current position. New Bern is under the market when compared to the other cities and counties included in the study. A few employees will receive more than the 3%, 6% or 10% increase if that increase does not put them at the minimum salary for the newly-recommended grade.

Alderman Best asked if each job description was reviewed, and Mr. Hughes responded Department Heads were tasked with reviewing the job descriptions. The consultant then compared New Bern's job descriptions with other comparable cities. Alderman Best stated she understood the need to use a consultant and compare New Bern to other cities, but she questioned whether anyone took into consideration all factors of the job. For example, the Board knows the City Clerk has a demanding job and puts in a lot of time, but the same position in a benchmark city may not be equivalent. Mr. Hughes said that was not a contributing factor in the study. Those employees could be rewarded on a merit basis, which the City has been able to do over the last four years. Alderman Best said she felt it was necessary to look at the job an employee does and the time they put into their job.

Mr. Hughes stated the City's employees are its number one asset and without them the City cannot operate. It's necessary to look out for them to the best of the City's ability. It is a tough time, and the City is having to compete with other municipalities. Once the City adopts any increases, other cities and counties will also go through the same process and the cycle will likely continue for a while. Alderman Aster said across-the-board raises are not the answer, as some employees would be entitled to more based on the results of the study.

According to Kim Ostrom, Director of Finance, the cost of full implementation for the enterprise funds would be just over \$1.2 million. That brings the General Fund's cost down to \$2.4 million. Mr. Hughes reminded the Board that a tax

reevaluation is forthcoming, the results of which will be unknown until February. Inflation is still an issue, and the City has a lot of capital items it cannot purchase, and projects that are requiring additional funds. Alderman Aster commented the cost of everything is up, except for employees' salaries. The City needs to keep its employees, who are the best that money can buy. Employees are leaving and going to other places of employment.

Alderman Prill inquired as to whether any statutory restrictions would prohibit immediate action to implement part of the increase now and part of it effective July 1st. Mr. Davis said that could be expressed as a goal and objective, but it was not advisable to mandate that now since it would involve next year's budget. Alderman Prill also asked if the Board took such action whether the second phase of implementation could be reversed by the Board at a future date; he felt that question had been addressed by Mr. Davis' response. Thus, he sensed the recommendation would be for the Board to act on the first part of the implementation while noting an intention to implement the second part later. Alderman Aster said he would get on board as long as the second portion of the increase is scheduled with a target date of July 1st.

Alderman Prill made a motion to take official action tonight based on staff's recommendation on the 66% percent or 2/3 implementation effective with the first pay period in January and that the Board make a commitment or intent that the second part of the implementation would be effective as of July 1, with the understanding that between now and then hopefully nothing out of the ordinary comes up, the numbers look good at the time the Board is working with the budget and that the City can afford to fully implement that by official action, seconded by Alderman Aster. Upon a roll-call vote, the motion carried unanimously 6-0. Prior to voting, Alderman Best asked if the employees understood the motion and what the Board was about to agree to do. An employee interjected from the audience that employees disagreed with the action.

Alderman Aster made a motion to take a recess, seconded by Alderman Best. The motion carried unanimously 6-0, time being 7:27 p.m.

The meeting resumed at 7:37 p.m. Alderman Best returned to the room a few seconds later.

For procedural clarification, Mayor Odham asked for clarification that the intent of the motion was to adopt Item 16 (classification pay plan) as presented with the caveat that the Board would look to make a further implementation in July of next year. Alderman Prill said he was trying to get the Board to move forward with an intent for the second increase as of July 1 or thereabouts. Alderman Aster expanded to say the implementation would be 66% of the recommended salary from the consultant at the very next pay period with a target date of July 1st for the rest of the increase. Mr. Hughes noted the need for the motion to include the amendment to the classification pay plan, and Alderman Prill confirmed that was part of his motion.

17. Consider Adopting a Budget Ordinance Amendment for FY2022-23 to Provide for Amendment to Classification Pay Plan.

In correlation with the amended classification pay plan, this budget amendment allocates funds for the increased costs of salaries and benefits for the period of January 1, 2023 through June 30, 2023. Pay increases were calculated on positions that were adjusted by one or more pay grades. If the newly-calculated salary did not meet the minimum of the respective pay grade, then the salary was brought to the minimum of that grade. Fund balance will be appropriated as follows to provide for the increased costs: \$766,019 from General Fund, \$81,636 from Water Fund, \$73,999 from Sewer Fund, \$216,243 from Electric Fund, \$3,494 from the MPO Plan Grant, and \$13,277 from the Solid Waste Fund for a total of \$1,154,668.

Noting there are two employees who are overpaid according to the study, Alderman Aster questioned why they would receive a bonus. Mr. Hughes felt all employees should receive something instead of two being left out.

Alderman Aster made a motion to adopt the budget ordinance amendment for FY2022-23 to provide for the amendment to the classification pay plan, seconded by Alderman Prill. Upon a roll-call vote, the motion carried unanimously 6-0.

18. Consider Adopting a Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Change Order for the City Hall Elevator Project to Include a Fire Alarm System.

During the permitting process, it was discovered the fire alarm coverage for City Hall would need to be extended to the elevator annex to meet current fire and building codes. A change order was requested to increase the previously approved contract with Daniels and Daniels Construction Company by \$70,708.51.

Alderman Aster made a motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a change order for the City Hall elevator project to include a fire alarm system, seconded by Alderman Brinson. Upon a roll-call vote, the motion carried unanimously 6-0.

19. Consider Adopting an Ordinance Amendment to the City Hall Elevator Project Fund.

In conjunction with the previous item, this budget ordinance amends the City Hall Elevator Project Fund by \$70,709 to provide for the fire alarm system. Funds will be appropriated from the General Fund fund balance.

Alderman Prill made a motion to adopt an ordinance amendment for the City Hall Elevator Project Fund, seconded by Alderman Royal. Upon a roll-call vote, the motion carried unanimously 6-0.

20. Consider Adopting a Budget Ordinance Amendment for FY2022-23.

As the final step to provide funding for the fire alarm system in the elevator annex, this amendment will appropriate \$70,709 from General Fund balance. The amendment also appropriates \$189,108 from General Fund balance for the repointing of City Hall and makes appropriations to cover encumbrances for outstanding purchase orders as of June 30, 2022 that have been rolled forward. Lastly, it makes transfers from the Water and Sewer Funds' fund balances to cover Phase III of the Township 7 Sewer Improvements Project.

Alderman Royal made a motion to adopt a budget ordinance amendment for FY2022-23, seconded by Alderman Aster. Upon a roll-call vote, the motion carried unanimously 6-0.

21. Consider Adopting a Resolution Awarding Contract-I for the Township No. 7 Sewer Improvements Phase-III Project.

In 2010, the City established the Township No. 7 Sewer Improvements project and has since completed Phases I and II. Phase III remains to be completed and will increase transmission capacity at the equalization basin, construct a new transmission force main across the Trent River, and relocate Lift Station No. 10. Bids were received in November, and James L. Cayton Utilities, Inc. submitted the lowest bid at \$5,646,728 for the linework.

Alderman Aster made a motion to adopt a resolution awarding Contract-I for the Township No. 7 Sewer Improvements Phase-III Project, seconded by Alderman Prill. Upon a roll-call vote, the motion carried unanimously 6-0.

22. Consider Adopting a Resolution Awarding Contract-II for the Township No. 7 Sewer Improvements Phase-III Project.

Related to the previous item, this contract is for the relocation of the pump station from the bank of Lawson Creek Park. Bids for this portion of the work were also received in November, and Peters and White Construction Co. of Chesapeake, VA submitted the lowest bid at \$959,395.

Alderman Aster made a motion to adopt a resolution awarding Contract-II for the Township No. 7 Sewer Improvements Phase-III Project, seconded by Alderman Prill. Upon a roll-call vote, the motion carried unanimously 6-0.

23. Consider Adopting an Ordinance to Amend the Township 7 Sewer Improvements Project Fund.

The Township 7 Sewer Improvements Project Fund will be amended by \$6,106,123 for Phase III of the project. Construction costs will initially be covered by a transfer of \$4,869,181 from the Sewer Fund and \$500,000 from Golden Leaf grant funds. Financing options will be reviewed with the intent of reimbursing the Sewer Fund. Additionally, \$1,236,942 will be transferred from the Water Fund to

complete work on water lines in the same area. The Water Fund will not be reimbursed for this transfer.

Alderman Aster made a motion to adopt an ordinance to amend the Township 7 Sewer Improvements Project Fund, seconded by Alderman Prill. Upon a roll-call vote, the motion carried unanimously 6-0.

24. Consider Adopting a Resolution Approving a Declaration of Intent to Reimburse the Township 7 Sewer Improvements Project.

This item relates to the previous items for the Township 7 Sewer Improvements project. As required by IRS regulations, a declaration of intent to reimburse must be adopted prior to or within 60 days of payment of expenditures that will be reimbursed through financing proceeds.

Alderman Prill made a motion to adopt a resolution approving a declaration of intent to reimburse the Township No. 7 Sewer Improvements Project, seconded by Alderman Royal. Upon a roll-call vote, the motion carried unanimously 6-0.

25. 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).

After completing an engineering and traffic investigation, the NC Department of Transportation (“NCDOT”) recommended the speed limit on NC Highway 43 between Briarwood Lane and Gracie Farms Road be reduced from 55 mph to 50 mph. This item was tabled at the Board’s July 12, 2022 meeting after Alderman Best suggested the speed be reduced to 45 mph. NCDOT evaluated the area and found that the density of the development did not warrant a reduction to 45 mph. The proposed resolution confirms the City’s concurrence with the reduction to 50 mph.

Alderman Best made a motion to adopt a resolution in support of NCDOT 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), seconded by Alderman Brinson. Upon a roll-call vote, the motion carried unanimously 6-0.

26. Consider Adopting a Resolution Approving a Bill of Sale for the Tisdale House and Special Warranty Deed for Tax Parcel ID 8-011-27000 (1311 Rhem Avenue).

The City has been working with New Bern Preservation Foundation on the transfer of the Tisdale house and sale of property on Rhem Avenue. The purchase price of the parcel is \$45,000. To preserve the Tisdale house, Mr. Davis explained restrictions and obligations would be imposed on the lot and house through restrictive covenants and a preservation agreement. All subsequent owners will be required to keep and maintain the property in its historic condition.

Mr. Hughes stated the Foundation has selected a recipient for the house and will formally announce their selection.

Alderman Prill made a motion to adopt a resolution approving a bill of sale for the Tisdale House and special warranty deed for Tax Parcel ID 8-011-27000 (1311 Rhem Avenue), seconded by Alderman Royal. Upon a roll-call vote, the motion carried unanimously 6-0.

27. Consider Adopting a Resolution Approving a General Warranty Deed Between Habitat for Humanity of Craven County NC, Marie Brown, and the City of New Bern for 2007 Pearson Street.

On September 24, 2019, the City approved the conveyance of 2007 Pearson Street 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 Royal made a motion to adopt a resolution approving a general warranty deed between Habitat for Humanity of Craven County NC, Marie Brown, and the City of New Bern for 2007 Pearson Street, seconded by Alderman Best. Upon a roll-call vote, the motion carried unanimously 6-0.

28. Appointment(s).

There were no appointments.

29. Attorney's Report.

The City Attorney had nothing to report.

30. City Manager's Report.

Mr. Hughes announced George Chiles was named as the Public Works Director. Mr. Chiles expressed appreciation to serve in this capacity and said he looked forward to the City's future growth.

Jessica Rhue has been hired to fill the position of Director of Development Services and will begin work on January 03, 2023.

The New Year's Eve block party will take place December 31st. Riverside Automotive Group is the event sponsor.

31. **New Business.**

Alderman Brinson

The City Manager's evaluation was conducted during the Board's last closed session. At that time, the Board discussed his salary and compensation. Alderman Brinson made a motion to award the City Manager \$12,000 for a bonus, seconded by Alderman Aster. Upon a roll-call vote, the motion carried unanimously 6-0. During a brief discussion, Alderman Brinson stated Mr. Hughes was hired during a challenging time of transition between Boards. He has managed day-to-day operations while missing three Department Heads. For this reason, the Board discussed during the closed session a bonus instead of a salary increase. Mayor Odham noted this is a one-time bonus of \$12,000 during the current fiscal year.

Public Works and the Stormwater Division were thanked for addressing drainage issues in Kings Row.

Gratitude was also expressed to the New Bern Historical Society and Carol Becton for the Great Fire presentation and to Parks and Recreation for the tree-lighting ceremony, flotilla, ice skating rink, etc.

The Board of Education and Craven County Commissioners recently held swearing-in ceremonies, which Alderman Brinson attended. He voiced sentiments of congratulations to the newly-elected officials and said he looked forward to working with them.

Wreaths Across America will arrive at the National Cemetery on December 17th at 8:30 a.m. Participants were advised not to park inside the cemetery. Beginning at 11 a.m., the City will provide bus transportation from Ruth's Chapel to the cemetery. The ceremony to lay the 5,000 wreaths will begin at noon. Following the ceremony and laying of wreaths, participants may transition to Greenwood Cemetery to also lay wreaths.

Merry Christmas to the Board, staff, and citizens. With the new Department Head hires and enactment of a salary increase for employees, Alderman Brinson was optimistic for the year ahead. He was hopeful positions could be filled, the City could be maintained as a great place to live, work, and play, and was optimistic about a plan for commercial and residential growth.

Alderman Best

Merry Christmas to the Board and staff.

Thanks was voiced to the employees who attended this meeting.

Employees have expressed appreciation for the Christmas gift card authorized by the Board.

Thanks to the City Manager for bringing back the Employee of the Year program and having an employee luncheon.

Alderman Aster

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone.

Condolences were expressed to the family of the West Craven student killed on December 11th.

Alderman Royal

Alderman Royal echoed sentiments for a Merry Christmas and thanked everyone for their work.

Alderman Prill

It has been an interesting four months thus far, and Alderman Prill stated he looked forward to the next three years.

Mayor Odham

Christmas with the Embers will be held this Friday evening at the DoubleTree Hotel, which is now locally owned by John Haroldson. Mr. Haroldson is working on plans to make the annex next to the DoubleTree a separate hotel. The annex has been vacant since Hurricane Florence. Mayor Odham expressed kudos to Mr. Haroldson.

The City Clerk reminded him earlier in the day about the Board's need to complete ethics training. The Eastern Carolina Council of Governments ("ECC") is conducting a training and has offered for the City's elected officials to attend at no charge. However, that may lead to a sense of obligation for the City to reinstate its membership with ECC. Additionally, the City has already paid for on-demand training through the School of Governing. After a brief discussion about whether to schedule a group meeting or take the course individually, Ms. Blanco was asked to send the link individually to everyone. Officials can then decide to choose to take the course on their own or gather with no more than two other officials to take it collectively.

Mayor Odham reflected on NBHS's football game Friday night. It was well attended by those who supported the Bears.

Merry Christmas to all.

32. Closed Session.

Alderman Aster made a motion to go into closed session pursuant to NCGS §143-318.11(a)(3) to maintain attorney-client privilege, seconded by Alderman Prill. The motion carried unanimously 6-0, time being 8:19 p.m.

Open Session

Alderman Royal made a motion to authorize the City attorney's office to proceed with condemnation of a 400-foot x 1-foot spite strip along Sellhorn Boulevard against Sellhorn Section 6 Community Association, Inc., to increase the width of the right of way by one foot, seconded by Alderman Aster. The motion carried unanimously 6-0.

33. Adjourn.

Alderman Aster made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Alderman Brinson. The motion carried unanimously 6-0, time being 8:28 p.m.

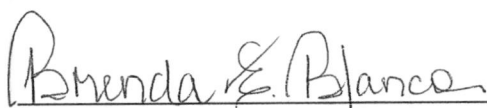
The attached documents are incorporated herewith and are hereby made a part of these minutes.

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: January 10, 2023



Jeffrey T. Odham, Mayor



Brenda E. Blanco, City Clerk