

**CITY OF NEW BERN  
BOARD OF ALDERMEN RETREAT – DAY 1  
FEBRUARY 2, 2018 – 1:00 P.M.  
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES' CONFERENCE ROOM  
303 FIRST STREET**

**Board Members in Attendance:** Mayor Dana Outlaw; Aldermen Sabrina Bengel, Jameesha Harris, Robert Aster, Johnnie Ray Kinsey, Barbara Best, and Jeffrey Odham. A quorum was present.

**Also in Attendance:** Mark Stephens, City Manager; Kristen Culler, Assistant City Manager; Brenda Blanco, City Clerk, and J.R. Sabatelli, Director of Finance.

Mayor Outlaw opened the meeting with prayer followed by a moment of silence in memory of Greg Smith. The pledge of allegiance was recited.

**Revenue and Expenditure Discussion**

Mr. Stephens began this discussion by reviewing the sources of revenue for the General Fund, which are estimated to total \$36.5 million in Fiscal Year 2018. These sources were described in some detail. It was noted the estimated revenue from ad valorem taxes is projected at \$13.8 million, up slightly from the previous fiscal year. The current tax rate is \$0.46 per \$100 in real property value, as last set by the Board beginning in calendar year 2016. Mr. Stephens also pointed out other revenues for which rates are established by the Board.

In reviewing General Fund expenses, a breakdown of expenditures was provided by category. Total estimated expenses for Fiscal Year 2018 are projected at \$38.7 million, which is approximately \$2 million short of the projected revenue. Mr. Stephens and Mr. Sabatelli explained how the difference would be covered by fund balance carryover from the previous fiscal year.

**Strategic Planning Session to Discuss Goals, Objectives, and Priorities**

Mr. Stephens noted one of the purposes of this retreat is not to ask what the City wants to do or how it wants to do it, but why. He asked that the focus of the retreat remain on the “why”. Mr. Stephens then introduced Chris Estes, a consultant who will assist the Board in establishing goals and objectives.

Each Board member recently submitted a list of issues that are important to each one of them. Mr. Estes explained the process of culling this list to one that reflects the items of most overall importance. He then reviewed a list of draft goals that were derived from the initial list of issues. These goals were discussed and amended accordingly based upon the outcome of the discussion. During the discussion, additional areas of concern that surfaced included 911 consolidation, cemetery detail/care, and cyber security vulnerability.

Based on the identified goals, Mr. Stephens presented a list of potential objectives that he and Mrs. Culler pre-populated. From that list, Items 1, 3 and 2 were discussed in-depth (in that order), with lengthy discussion about the following:

- Merit increases, cost-of-living increases, and the issues associated with maintaining pay bands to stay within the current market;
- Recreational needs for youth and seniors, and a community center for Pleasant Hill; and
- The desire and possible construction of an additional fire station or construction of a multi-use facility that would be utilized by Fire, Police, Communications, Information Technology, and the Emergency Operations Center.

Mr. Estes announced the remaining objectives would be viewed at tomorrow's session. Once all of the objectives are established, staff will polish the list to word it a little better.

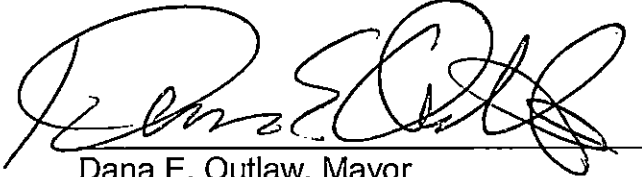
### **Adjourn**

Alderman Odham made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Alderman Kinsey. The motion carried, time being 4:53 p.m.


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

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

Minutes approved: February 13, 2018



Dana E. Outlaw, Mayor



Brenda E. Blanco, City Clerk