

**City of New Bern
Board of Aldermen Meeting
January 22, 2019 – 6:00 P.M.
City Hall Courtroom
300 Pollock Street**

- 1. Meeting opened by Mayor Dana E. Outlaw. Prayer by Rev. Robert Johnson of Ebenezer Presbyterian Church. Pledge of Allegiance.**
- 2. Roll Call.**

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

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

Alderwoman Harris made a motion to move Item 15 before Item 8, noting there were numerous individuals in attendance who were interested in that topic, seconded by Alderman Kinsey. The motion carried unanimously 7-0.

Consent Agenda

- 3. Consider Approving a Proclamation for Human Trafficking Awareness Month.**

Traci Klein, Executive Director of True Justice International, requested a proclamation proclaiming January as Human Trafficking Awareness Month.

- 4. Consider Approving a Proclamation for International Civitan Clergy Appreciation Week.**

On behalf of a local Civitan club, Juliet Meyer requested a proclamation observing International Civitan Clergy Appreciation Week, which is February 3-9, 2019.

- 5. Consider Adopting a Resolution Approving the Closure of Specific Streets for Vision Forward's Annual Black History Month Parade on February 16, 2019.**

Victor Taylor with Vision Forward requested streets be closed to vehicular traffic on Saturday, February 16, 2019, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. for the annual Black History Month Parade. Those streets are the 400-600 block of First Street, 700-1300 blocks of Broad Street, 400-800 blocks of George Street, and the 700 block of Main Street.

6. Consider Adopting a Resolution Approving the Closure of Specific Streets for the Antique Automobile Club of America Car Show on May 11, 2019.

Frederick Wagner, Show Chairman with the Antique Automobile Club, requested streets be closed to vehicular traffic on Saturday, May 11, 2019, from 7 a.m. until 2 p.m. The streets to be closed are the 200-300 blocks of Middle Street and the 300-400 blocks of Pollock Street.

7. Approve Minutes.

Minutes from the January 8, 2019 regular meeting were provided for review and approval.

Alderman Odham made a motion to adopt Items 3-7 of the Consent Agenda, seconded by Alderman Kinsey. The motion carried unanimously 7-0.

15. Discussion of Substantially Damaged City-owned Assets.

A report of building repair estimates for City-owned properties damaged during Hurricane Florence has been received from the insurance carrier. The contents of the report was discussed, including the properties that sustained substantial damage. Substantial damage is defined as damage that exceeds 50% of the building value. City properties substantially damaged include the following: old Parks and Recreation Administrative building, old BP storage building, fire training classroom and Stanley White Recreation Center. It is possible the old Leaf & Limb storage building and the restrooms at Henderson Field are also substantially damaged. An adjustor will be determining the value of those properties.

Mr. Stephens pointed out properties that are substantially damaged are required to be brought into compliance with the City's latest code requirements, including requirements pertaining to electrical, elevation, structural, HVAC, etc. Staff is seeking direction from the Board to recognize the aforementioned properties as substantially damaged and proceed with bringing the properties up to code or submit them to FEMA's 428-mitigation process. Properties submitted for mitigation would have to be relocated or elevated. Replacing or fixing the properties at their current locations will subsequently make the properties ineligible for future funding through FEMA. That means if those properties were to again sustain flood damage, FEMA would not issue funds to cover that loss.

Alderman Aster asked for confirmation that the Manager was seeking direction on whether to proceed with 428 mitigation or repairs, and Mr. Stephens stated that was essentially correct. Some of the properties are "no brainers", but some may be more of a difficult decision. In the case of Stanley White Recreation Center, the City may lose the ability to use that facility as it is currently used. That facility sits at an elevation 6, and the current base flood elevation at the lowest point in New Bern is 10. When the new flood maps are adopted in June or July, that new

elevation may become 11. You can bet that this property will flood again in the future. The 428-mitigation program is an opportunity to raise properties in their current location or relocate the buildings to a safe zone outside of the flood plain. Alderman Aster stated there was no decision to be made by the Board until FEMA reviews the loss and denies or grants the 428 mitigation. Mr. Stephens explained the 428 plan is a process, and he briefly described what it entailed. Alderman Aster felt the City would be missing a good opportunity if the Board did not give the City Manager direction to apply for 428 mitigation funds.

Alderman Best asked about the time span to receive a response from FEMA about the mitigation. Mr. Stephens said staff received the insurance report just before Christmas. The consultants are in a holding pattern until they receive direction about pursuing the 428 program. By pursuing 428 mitigation, the City is acknowledging the building is substantially damaged and that it must meet the new building codes. The approval process will take two to three months, at best. If it will be mitigated, there will be a need to raise it or tear it down and rebuild it at its current site or find a new property on which to locate it. Any of those options would require engineering and architectural services, which will take months of design followed by a period of construction. At minimum, it will take two years to have a facility back up and running.

Alderman Bengel asked if all properties that are substantially damaged could be submitted for consideration under the 428-mitigation program, except Stanley White Recreation Center. Mr. Stephens replied yes, noting separate project work sheets would be completed. If the City does not pursue 428 mitigation, Alderman Bengel asked what funds the City would receive to repair the facility. Mr. Stephens stated the City would receive insurance proceeds and may get FEMA funds to cover the deductible. The kicker is if the property is not mitigated and it is a repetitive loss property, the City is risking the possibility of receiving future FEMA funds to cover damages to that building. The building currently sits at an elevation 6. Hurricane Irene was at 7½ to 8 feet, and Hurricane Florence was a 10½ to 11 feet; this is the second repetitive loss sustained to the building. Both the insurance company and FEMA have the right to say they will no longer cover the property or disburse funds because of future damages.

Alderman Kinsey asked what portion of the recreation center's foundation was compromised. Mr. Stephens stated the foundation has not yet been investigated. The entire gymnasium floor is a loss, and there was 4½ to 5 feet of water in the building. All of the new cabinetry has to be replaced, and the mold in the brickwork has to be mitigated. The full insurance report lists everything that was compromised, which totaled \$606,732 in damages.

Alderwoman Harris stated she felt it should be included on the mitigation list so the City could get the best bang for the buck. However, her main concern is the fact the building is a pillar in the black community, and alternatives are needed during the two-year period when the building would not be operational. She asked about the possibility of securing a loan to begin fixing the property now and then reimburse the City once FEMA funds are received. Mr. Stephens stated anything is possible, but cautioned that if the building is put back in the same location that the land or

structure would need to be elevated to meet the new building and fire codes. If a metal building is considered, at best case, that would take at least a year to complete. A brick and mortar building would take much longer to build. The availability of contractors right now is slim, as many are telling homeowners it would be at least four months before they could provide estimates.

Knowing how long it would take to construct a new building, Alderman Aster asked if the Director of Parks and Recreation could come up with a plan to address the recreational needs of that community in the interim. Mr. Stephens stated he and Foster Hughes, the Director, would brainstorm on plans for transportation to other sites such as West New Bern Recreation Center and local school or church gymnasiums. Mr. Stephens noted FEMA provides opportunities for temporary buildings, but there are restrictions.

Mr. Stephens stated more than likely in a normal situation, this property would not have been brought before the Board for discussion. However, understanding the significance of the Stanley White Recreation Center and what it means to the community is the reason it was brought before the Board.

Alderwoman Harris asked what had been done to the Stanley White facility thus far and if it were possible to open the doors and use some of the rooms. Alderman Aster commented he was sure the building was full of mold. Mr. Stephens confirmed there is mold in the building, and if the City opens the facility, it is taking on the liability of people who may get sick from that mold. The second concern is the compromise of the electrical system, which would need to be addressed before the building could open.

Alderman Best stated she hoped the audience understood the time involved with 428 mitigation and the consequences associated with not pursuing mitigation. She also stated citizens had expressed opposition to the programs at Stanley White being moved to the West New Bern Recreation Center. If the City has to do that, she stated it would be a temporary situation. Aldermen Bengel stated she somewhat agreed with Alderman Best, but that she would rather try to work out with some of the community churches or spaces to hold afterschool and other programs at their facilities on a temporary basis. She suggested this be done before considering utilization of West New Bern.

Alderman Odham said it seemed the Board had a decision to make as to whether to mitigate or repair the building in its current state. If it were mitigated, the building would have to be elevated or relocated. If it is repaired in its current state, the City is risking the fact that it would have no more coverage in the future. That means, if a flood were to occur next year, the City would have lost the opportunity for any FEMA funding. Mr. Stephens again pointed out if the building stays in its current location, City ordinances would require the building be brought up to the current building codes. Alderman Odham stated the insurance funds are not enough to restore the building, so in his opinion, the City needed to pursue mitigation. That does not mean the Board is making a decision on what will happen with the building, but it is simply starting the process to get additional funding. He suggested staff

report back to the Board with a temporary fix that may include transportation or other facilities within the community.

Alderwoman Harris expressed concern about submitting the Stanley White Recreation Center for consideration under 428 mitigation, questioning if the only options that could come from mitigation would be elevation or relocation. She was worried about the potential of losing the option to repair the building. Mr. Stephens stated once a property is submitted for mitigation that there was no going back. Alderman Aster stated 428 mitigation would provide sufficient funding to rebuild the facility square foot for square foot. If mitigation is not pursued, the only funding that will be received is insurance proceeds plus the amount of the deductible. If mitigation funds are not awarded, the City can still get the insurance proceeds and the amount of the deductible from FEMA.

Alderman Aster made a motion to give staff direction to apply for 428 mitigation funds for the old Parks and Recreation administration building on National Avenue, the BP storage building on Oaks Road, the Fire Department's training classrooms, and the Stanley White Recreation Center, seconded by Alderwoman Harris. Upon a roll-call vote, the motion 6-1 with Alderwoman Harris voting against it.

Alderman Best made a motion to allow one individual from the community to speak on behalf of the Stanley White Recreation Center with reference to the 428 mitigation, seconded by Alderman Odham. The motion carried unanimously 7-0.

Bernard George of 1822 Beaufort Street stated members of the community had held several meetings about the damage and lack of action on Stanley White, and they have requested that he speak on their behalf. The community has been inundated with rumors about the City's plans. His understanding about the 428-mitigation process is that it would pay for removal of debris, and Alderman Aster and Mr. Stephens confirmed it would pay for removal of the items and materials from the building. Mr. George referenced a letter that he and some others from the community recently sent to the City about their concerns. The facility is more than a recreation center, but is the heart and soul of the community, according to Mr. George. While the community does not want to see repetitive damage at the site, it does want to see the facility built back better. His family has lived near the center for 97 years, and he is aware the facility is low. He researched the center and learned Mayor Outlaw's father was the City Manager when both Stanley White and West New Bern Recreation Centers were built. The City's first attempt at being designated as an All-American City was turned down because it was determined that the City had not done enough in low-income neighborhoods. Mr. George stated he and most of those in attendance lived in low-income neighborhoods, but that did not subject them to second-class service. Dr. D. E. Henderson donated the Henderson Park property to the City for recreational purposes. Decades later, the recreation centers were built. Both were supposed to be twin recreation centers with one situated in the white neighborhood and one in the black neighborhood. The Stanley White Recreation Center was finished a little different because the federal government provided additional funding for low-income neighborhoods. The federal government understood all neighborhoods could not be treated the same. Recreation is a major building block in the community. To see that center

removed and located elsewhere makes the residents feel as if there are flies in their face. Mr. Stanley White, the Athletic Director at Cedar Street and for whom Stanley White Recreation Center was named, died making maintenance repairs to neglected City property. He died at Kafer Park after being electrocuted from trying to turn on the lights. The park was named after him because there was no one who had done as much for the youth and elders. That is a legacy to the community. Alderman Bengel's mother-in-law was on the Recreation Commission and fought for both parks and facilities. The community is asking the City to consider mitigation, but they also do not want a decision made that will take away the legacy of Mr. Stanley White and take away the heart and soul of their community. To move the center from their community would be a terrible injustice.

8. Consider Adopting a Resolution Authorizing the Installation of Additional Street Lights.

Alderman Aster requested additional street lighting at the entrance of Taberna Circle by Old Airport Road. The Department of Public Utilities evaluated the area and determined the current lighting does not meet the City's light standard. The installation of two lights would cost \$3,982.34, and the monthly utility charge for service would be \$16.88.

Alderman Aster made a motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the installation of additional street lights, seconded by Alderman Kinsey. Upon a roll-call vote, the motion carried unanimously 7-0.

9. Consider Approving a Lease with the Veterans Employment Base Camp and Organic Garden.

On August 27, 2013, the Board adopted a resolution approving a 64-month lease with the North Carolina Coastal Land Trust for 1.21 acres of Henderson Park, which is located at 940 Chapman Street. The land has been utilized by the Veterans Employment Base Camp and Organic Garden ("VEBCOG") to operate a community garden. The garden assists disabled veterans by using horticulture therapy, and it assists disadvantaged or homeless veterans with transitional employment. The lease expired on November 30, 2018, and Lovay Wallace-Singleton, Executive Director of VEBCOG, is seeking another lease for a 60-month term at a rate of \$1.00 per year. The new lease would be directly with VEBCOG, and the intent to consider the lease has been duly advertised as required by state statute.

Mayor Outlaw thanked Mrs. Wallace-Singleton for her work at the garden and with other veteran affairs.

Alderwoman Harris made a motion to adopt a resolution approving a lease agreement with the Veterans Employment Base Camp and Organic Garden, seconded by Alderman Bengel. Upon a roll-call vote, the motion carried unanimously 7-0.

10. Consider Adopting a Resolution Approving the Acceptance of a Public Beach and Waterfront Access Grant and Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Grant Agreement.

In 2018, a grant application was submitted to the NC Department of Environmental Quality Division of Coastal Management for a Public Beach and Coastal Waterfront Access grant. The application has been approved in the amount of \$97,000, which requires a cash match of \$16,500 with a local in-kind match of \$16,500, for a total contract amount of \$130,000. The grant funds are intended to be used for site improvements at Martin Marietta Park. Those improvements would include a gravel driveway, turnaround and parking pad; a soft beach launch site; an ADA-accessible floating dock and kayak launch with a walkway from the parking lot; a shelter and restroom; and general amenities such as benches, picnic tables, grills, etc.

Alderman Best made a motion to adopt a resolution approving the acceptance of a Public Beach and Waterfront Access Grant and authorizing the City Manager to execute a grant agreement, seconded by Alderman. Upon a roll-call vote, the motion carried unanimously 7-0.

11. Consider Adopting a Resolution to Decrease the Membership of the Housing Authority of the City of New Bern.

As discussed at the special meeting on January 15, 2019, the Board expressed a desire to consider reducing the size of the Housing Authority of New Bern from its current eleven members to either nine, seven or five members. Proposed resolutions were drafted to accommodate any of these three scenarios.

Alderman Kinsey made a motion to adopt a resolution to decrease the membership of the Housing Authority from eleven members to seven, seconded by Alderman Bengel. Mr. Davis pointed out the proposed resolution that reduces the Board size to seven also excluded four seats, two of which are vacant due to resignations and two of which are members whose terms have expired. The remaining seats would still be on a staggered schedule. Alderman Bengel questioned if there were any issues with that, and Mr. Davis stated he just wanted to make sure the Board was aware of that final point. Upon a roll-call vote, the motion carried unanimously 7-0.

12. Consider Adopting a Resolution Approving a Revised Schedule of Maximum Speed Limits as Defined in Section 70-132 through 70-135 of the New Bern Code of Ordinances.

Pursuant to an agreement with the NC Department of Transportation (“NCDOT”) dated January 31, 2018, the City accepted ownership and maintenance of portions of Old Airport Road identified as SR 1111 and SR 1997, including Bridge #10. The City is in the design phase of making improvements to Old Airport Road from the Taberna Subdivision to Landscape Drive. Residents have expressed concern to Alderman Aster about the speed limit along this road; thus, he requested it be reduced from 45 mph to 35 mph. At this time, there are three sections of the road outside of the city limits that total .51 miles and are still owned by NCDOT. NCDOT is in the process of modifying their ordinances to change the speed along these

three sections to coincide with the changes proposed for the city-owned portions of the road.

Alderman Aster made a motion to adopt a resolution approving a revised schedule of maximum speed limits as defined in Section 70-132 through 70-135 of the New Bern Code of Ordinances, seconded by Alderman Odham. Upon a roll-call vote, the motion carried unanimously 7-0.

Alderman Aster asked when the change would take place, and Mr. Stephens stated the City's section would take place immediately. Matt Montanye, Director of Public Works, announced the signage would be changed on the following day.

13. Consider Adopting a Budget Ordinance Amendment for the Martin Marietta Park Project Fund.

This budget ordinance amendment acknowledges receipt of Waterfront Access grant funds from the NC Department of Environmental Quality Division of Coastal Management as referenced above.

Alderman Odham made a motion to adopt a budget ordinance amendment for the Martin Marietta Park Project Fund, seconded by Alderman Kinsey. Upon a roll-call vote, the motion carried unanimously 7-0.

14. Consider Adopting an Ordinance Amendment for the Schedule of Fees and Charges.

On August 14, 2018, the Board adopted the most recent version of the City's Schedule of Fees and Charges. The schedule needs to be updated to take into account changes in the State of North Carolina Fire Code that became effective January 1, 2019. A redlined version of the schedule was provided to identify those changes.

Alderman Bengel asked for explanation of the automatic fire sprinklers and the number of heads. Alderman Aster explained the number of heads referred to sprinkler heads, not people in the building. Danny Hill, Fire Marshall, stated the schedule combined the sprinkler system and the fire heads into one permit. He confirmed the fee is \$100 per system plus \$2 per fire head.

Alderman Odham made a motion to adopt an ordinance amendment for the Schedule of Fees and Charges, seconded by Alderman Kinsey. Upon a roll-call vote, the motion carried unanimously 7-0.

15. Discussion of Substantially Damaged City-owned Assets.

See above. This item was discussed out of sequence as indicated earlier in the meeting.

16. Appointment(s).

Alderman Bengel made a motion to appoint Kennail Humphrey to the Police Civil Service Board, seconded by Alderman Odham. The motion carried unanimously 7-0. Ms. Humphrey will serve a two-year term that will expire on January 21, 2021.

Alderwoman Harris made a motion to appoint Peggy Broadway to the Historic Preservation Commission, seconded by Alderman Odham. The motion carried unanimously 7-0. Ms. Broadway will replace Karin McNair, who resigned, and she will complete the remainder of Ms. McNair's term that expires on May 15, 2021.

17. Attorney's Report.

The City Attorney had nothing to report.

18. City Manager's Report.

Mr. Stephens recognized a group from Leadership Craven who were attendance. They stood in recognition.

The Board's annual retreat is scheduled for this Saturday beginning at 8:00 a.m. at the Development Services' Conference Room, 303 First Street. The morning session will consist of departmental presentations that provide an overview of next year's budget and the department's vision. The afternoon will cover stormwater drainage, electric rates, and any other topics the Board wishes to discuss.

There had been discussions about Green Park Terrace LLC and the loan they have with the City. That loan has since been renegotiated. Mr. Davis and the attorney for Green Park have come to terms on the new loan documents, copies of which were at the Board's seats. The loan amount is \$120,000 at 0% interest for a term of 10 years with the first payment due on July 1, 2019 and the final payment due on June 1, 2029. Mr. Davis said the only thing out of the norm is that the note will be assumable by a subsequent buyer. Mayor Outlaw asked if there would be an opportunity to vet the potential mortgagor, and Mr. Davis responded no. Alderman Bengel questioned the payoff of \$110,000 versus \$120,000, and Mr. Davis stated that was a typo. He clarified procedurally tonight is just to make sure the terms are acceptable. A resolution will be presented at the Board's next meeting. Mr. Davis stated that in essence, this is effectively a refinance with partial debt and interest forgiven. Stating time is somewhat of the essence, Mayor Outlaw asked if this could be approved at the retreat. Mr. Davis stated a special meeting could be called, although Green Park's attorney has expressed they are more concerned with getting the checks endorsed than executing the new loan documents. Aldermen Bengel said she wanted to see the final documents before the checks were endorsed. Alderwoman Harris voiced support that a special meeting be called as the Mayor suggested. Alderman Aster asked if the new loan documents provided consequences for missed payments, and Mr. Davis confirmed foreclosure would be an act of recourse.

Alderwoman Harris made a motion to call a special meeting on Saturday, January 26, 2019 at 8 a.m. at Development Services' Conference Room to consider a resolution to approve a new promissory note and Deed of Trust and authorize the City Manager to endorse the checks, seconded by Alderman Kinsey. The motion carried unanimously 7-0.

19. New Business.

Alderman Odham

A meeting was held with a group who have expressed concerns with the phone number not being answered or people not getting valid information from the hurricane hotline. Alderman Bengel said she had met with Jeff Ruggieri, Director of Development Services, and he stated it is a training issue. She stated that is why she had asked the City Manager to have someone brought in to answer citizens' questions. Citizens are complaining that when they call that their calls are not returned, or they are told the City's hotline is only for elevation or buyouts. The Administrative Assistant in Development Services is answering the hotline. Alderman Odham said this is a concern that needs to be addressed at some point, and he asked if there would be time to address it at the retreat. Mr. Stephens said the afternoon session provides for the Board to discuss other topics of interest. He attended the County Commissioner's meeting this morning and encouraged others to listen to the replay of the meeting, as there is a lot of information concerning the convention center.

Alderman Best

Commissioner Johnny Sampson was in attendance and recognized. Gratitude was expressed to those who attended the Martin Luther King Outreach Ministry prayer breakfast held Monday at the Flame.

Alderman Kinsey

New Bern Church of Christ assisted many individuals during Hurricane Florence. They are now looking to bring around six 18-wheelers of brand-new furniture to distribute to hurricane victims. Alderman Kinsey made a motion to use the old firemen's museum as a location to store and distribute the furniture, seconded by Alderwoman Harris. After seconding the motion, Alderwoman Harris asked if the African American Cultural Heritage group would still be able to hold their meetings in the building, and Alderman Kinsey responded yes. Alderman Bengel asked if there was a time frame, and Alderman Kinsey stated they would need the facility for three weeks, so he felt a month would be adequate. Alderman Odham asked if the Board could agree to use of the facility through the end of February. Alderman Bengel then asked Mr. Davis if there were any issues, and he indicated no. After discussion, the motion carried unanimously 7-0.

Alderman Kinsey stated he, the Mayor, City Manager, and Alderman Odham met with the East Carolina Workforce Development group to discuss ten free laborers who could help dig out ditches. Mr. Stephens said the program is funded through the State to employ individuals who may have long-term unemployment or may have been unemployed due to their employer being shut down because of Hurricane Florence. The program funds the employees' salaries and covers their insurance. The City can utilize the workers at no cost, but has to provide

supervision. Mr. Montanye has contacted the group in an attempt to get those boots on the grounds. The organization, Green Lamp, said it would be several weeks before they could get their paperwork together. Alderman Kinsey noted they are serving Craven, Pamlico and Wayne counties.

Alderman Aster

Congratulations was expressed to Foster Hughes on the grant received for Martin Marietta Park.

Alderman Aster had conversations with County Commissioners Denny Bucher and E.T. Mitchell about problems at Thurman Road and Highway 70 where the intersection does not line up. Alderman Aster wanted citizens to know they were working on the issue to find a temporary solution, although it would probably be torn up in a few months.

A status update was requested on the quint fire engine that was flooded.

(Alderman Kinsey momentarily stepped out at 7:25 p.m.)

Chief Boyd said as of last week, the engine was sent to a factory representative. They are hopeful they will find out the extent of the damage in the next week or so. In the meantime, one of the reserve engines is being used.

Alderwoman Harris

She inquired about the next step for moving forward with Kidsville. Mr. Hughes said the plan is still to begin construction in the spring, noting the hurricane put a damper on starting fundraising efforts.

Alderman Bengel

Her new friend, Ms. Smith, was in attendance and recognized. Ms. Smith, a 94-year old, has a sewer issue on National and Oaks Road. Alderman Bengel asked Jordan Hughes, City Engineer, to talk with Ms. Smith following this meeting.

Alderman Best asked about the canal being cleaned on Trent Road and whether that was a city or state project. Mr. Stephens replied the City is working on it. He also stated a follow-up visit was held today with the USDA group. Ultimately, they will prepare worksheets and submit those to the State to see which projects are eligible for their program. If projects are found eligible, the USDA will try to put a rough cost estimate on them and employ an engineer to do a cost analysis.

(Alderman Kinsey returned to the room at 7:29 p.m.)

At the point where a project is found to be fully eligible and the cost estimate is available, they will start issuing funds. There is a local match, which may be in-kind services or funding. The program is a 75/25 program, which means a 25% match. Alderman Aster asked about the anticipated timeframe. Mr. Stephens said the representatives estimated they would get the worksheets prepared this week, but once it gets to the state level, they lose control. Mr. Montanye stated he hoped by the close of business on Friday to have a preliminary report from USDA. The State will come back and do a full analysis on the ones they deem eligible. Alderman

Aster asked which state agency is working on this, and Mr. Montanye responded it is the USDA with some representatives out of Greenville.

Alderwoman Harris said one of her constituents sent her a text asking how the Board would make a decision if 408 mitigation is approved and the options are to elevate or move the Stanley White Recreation Center. Mr. Stephens said it is a discussion the Board would have to have, and he recommended community input be sought as to what they want in the facility, etc.

20. Closed Session.

A closed session was not needed.

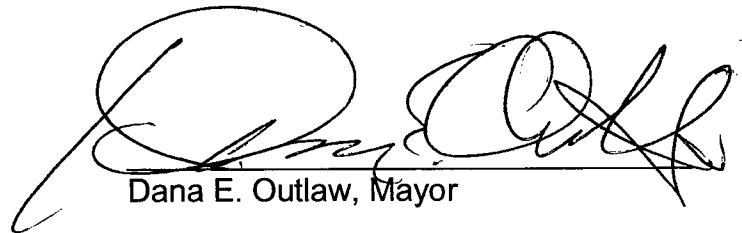
21. Adjourn.

Alderwoman Harris made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Alderman Kinsey. The motion carried unanimously 7-0, time being 7:34 p.m.

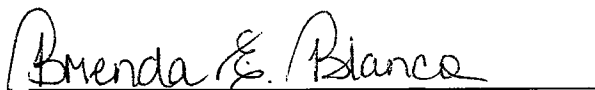
The attached documents are incorporated herewith and are hereby made a part of these minutes.

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: February 12, 2019



Dana E. Outlaw, Mayor



Brenda E. Blanco, City Clerk