

**City of New Bern
Board of Aldermen Meeting
July 23, 2019 – 6:00 P.M.
City Hall Courtroom
300 Pollock Street**

- 1. Meeting opened by Mayor Outlaw. Prayer by Alderman Best. Pledge of Allegiance.**
- 2. Roll Call.**

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

Consent Agenda

- 3. Consider Adopting a Resolution to Close Specific Streets for MumFest 2019.**

Lynne Harakal, Executive Director of Swiss Bear Downtown Development Corp., requested several street closures to accommodate the 2019 MumFest event slated for October 11-13, 2019. The streets to be closed from 5:00 p.m. on October 11th until 11 p.m. on October 13th are the 200-400 blocks of Broad Street, 200-300 blocks of East Front Street, 200-300 blocks of Middle Street, 300 block of Craven Street, and the 300-400 blocks of Pollock Street. In addition, she has requested the 200 blocks of Craven and Pollock Street have restricted vehicular access. Swiss Bear is also requesting use of the city-owned lots known as the “Talbots Lot” located at 304 and 308 South Front Street and the City-owned parking lot on the corner of Craven and Pollock Streets. Union Point Park will also be utilized for the event, and the Director of Parks and Recreation has authorized closure of the park.

- 4. Consider Adopting a Resolution to Close Specific Streets for the United Worship Center’s Back-to-School Event.**

Elder Marvin Collins with United Worship Center has requested the 900 block of Main Street and part of the 800 block of West Street be closed to vehicular traffic on August 24, 2019 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for a “Back to School Jam”.

- 5. Consider Adopting a Resolution Calling for a Public Hearing to Permanently Close a Portion of Saint John Street.**

Attorney Brian Taylor, on behalf of James “Smoke” Boyd, has requested a portion of Saint John Street be permanently closed pursuant to NCGS §160A-299. Mr.

Boyd owns all of the adjoining properties on both sides of the proposed area of closure. A public hearing was requested to be called for August 27, 2019.

6. Approve Minutes.

Draft minutes from the July 9, 2019 regular meeting were provided for review and approval.

Alderman Harris made a motion to approve Items 3-6 of the Consent Agenda, seconded by Alderman Odham. The motion carried unanimously 7-0.

7. Consider Adopting a Resolution to Amend the Classification Pay Plan for FY2019-20.

As part of the budget process, the Board adopted the Budget Ordinance for Fiscal Year 2019-20 on May 28, 2019. That ordinance incorporated a Classification Pay Plan. After reviewing efficiencies and operational needs of the Police Department, it is recommended the Pay Plan be amended to add a position of Deputy Chief of Police. The pay schedule grade will be 27, which is a minimum salary of \$69,726, midpoint salary of \$91,603 and maximum of \$113,480. By adding this position, it will help facilitate succession planning. In light of anticipated retirements, Police Chief Toussaint Summers felt this move was important to ensure there is someone with experience in the upper ranks. He explained the position of Deputy Chief is typically an appointment by the Police Chief, instead of a competitive process. Mr. Stephens confirmed the addition of the position would not increase the number of funded positions in the department.

Alderman Best made a motion to adopt a resolution to amend the Classification Pay Plan for FY2019-20, seconded by Alderman Odham. Upon a roll-call vote, the motion carried unanimously 7-0.

8. Consider Adopting a Resolution to Approve a License Agreement with The New Bern Area Improvements Association, Inc.

Prior to being substantially damaged during Hurricane Florence, Parks and Recreation offered several programs at the Stanley White Recreation Center. Discussions have been held with the owner of the Omega Center about the possibility of conducting these programs at their facility. The Omega Center is located in the same neighborhood as the Stanley White Recreation Center and would be convenient for area residents who are within walking or biking distance. The license agreement proposes a three-year term at a rate of \$85,000. The Omega Center shall provide all water, sewer and electric utilities, but the City will reimburse the cost of those utilities on a monthly basis at a sum equal to 57.14% of each utility bill. Additionally, the Omega Center shall make specified improvements to the property and will be responsible for all routine repairs and maintenance on

the property. The City will be responsible for mowing and maintaining the grass and landscaping.

Noting he had only heard rumors about this and had little details, Alderman Kinsey made a motion to table this item until he could speak with the City Manager to ask questions, seconded by Alderwoman Harris. A discussion ensued about whether this would delay the initiation of programs, and Mr. Stephens felt that was a possibility in light of the work that needed to be done to get the building ready. As the discussion continued, Alderman Bengel called the question. Alderwoman Harris and Alderman Best both expressed concern that not all Board Members are informed of plans for the City, regardless of the ward involved.

Instead of tabling the matter, Alderman Odham suggested the details be discussed now while all Board members were present. Alderman Kinsey withdrew his motion, and Alderwoman Harris withdrew her second. Mr. Stephens then explained the terms of the license agreement in some detail. Foster Hughes, Director of Parks and Recreation, explained all programs except two fitness classes were transferred to West New Bern Recreation Center following the closure of the Stanley White Recreation Center. The Omega Center will be utilized by the City four days a week, and staff from Stanley White Recreation Center will be monitoring the programs at the Omega Center.

Alderman Best suggested the license agreement specify a “total” of \$85,000 over the three-year term. She also expressed concern with the percentage of utility reimbursement.

Alderman Bengel made a motion to adopt a resolution to approve a license agreement with The New Bern Area Improvements Association, Inc., seconded by Alderwoman Harris. Upon a roll-call vote, the motion carried unanimously 7-0.

9. Consider Adopting a Resolution of Support for the Installation of Split Side-Street Signal Phasing at the Intersection of US Highway 70 East and Thurman Road.

Alderman Aster has been involved in conversations with Denny Bucher, a Craven County Commissioner, regarding safety concerns at the intersection of Highway 70E and Thurman Road. This is a highly-traveled area that has been the scene of several vehicular accidents. It was suggested a resolution be adopted to indicate the City’s support of NCDOT installing a split side-street signal at this intersection. Craven County adopted a similar resolution of support at their July 15, 2019 meeting.

Alderman Aster made a motion to adopt a resolution of support for the installation of split side-street signal phasing at the intersection of US Highway 70 East and Thurman Road. Upon a roll-call vote, the motion carried unanimously 7-0.

10. Submission of Tax Collector's Annual Settlement for Tax Year 2018.

NC General Statute §105-373 requires the Tax Collector to furnish to the Board an annual settlement of property taxes. Ron Antry, Craven County Tax Administrator, has provided a statement revealing the total 2018 amended tax levy was \$13,334,949.79. As of June 30, 2019, \$13,238,730.63 of this had been collected, which represents a 99.28% collection rate. The amount delinquent as of that date was \$96,219.16.

In addition, the 2018 amended tax levy for the Municipal Service District was \$195,977.75. As of June 30, 2019, \$195,596.51 of this had been collected, which equates to a collection rate of 99.81%. The amount remaining delinquent as of June 30, 2019 was \$381.24.

Alderman Odham requested the Director of Finance provide the Board a list of the top 10 delinquent taxpayers.

Alderman Odham made a motion to accept the annual tax settlement reports for 2018, seconded by Alderwoman Harris. The motion carried unanimously 7-0.

11. Consider Adopting an Ordinance to Amend Section 66-85 of Chapter 66 for City-Sponsored Events.

On May 14, 2019, the Board adopted an ordinance amending Section 66-85 regarding city-sponsored events after receiving a request to move the 2019 Duffest from May to June. This was a one-time request, after which the desire was to restore the event to its normal month of May. Now that the 2019 event has been held, the ordinance needs to be amended again to reverse the change in month.

The ordinance specifies the months in which events will be held to ensure that all city-sponsored events are spread out over the course of the year. Otherwise, several events could be scheduled in the same month or over the same span of time; thus, putting a strain on staff and City resources.

Alderwoman Harris made a motion to table this item until the next agenda to allow her time to confirm with Duffest organizers the month in which they want their event held, seconded by Alderman Bengel. The motion carried unanimously 7-0.

12. Appointment(s).

Alderman Best made a motion to appoint Barbara Sampson to the Board of Adjustment, seconded by Alderwoman Harris. The motion carried unanimously 7-0. Ms. Sampson will fill the seat previously held by Steve Strickland and will serve a three-year term to expire on July 23, 2022.

Alderman Kinsey made a motion to appoint Betty Blythe to the Friends of the Firemen's Museum Board, seconded by Alderman Odham. The motion carried

unanimously 7-0. Ms. Blythe will serve out the remainder of the term previously held by Juleon Dove, which expires on April 22, 2020.

Alderman Kinsey made a motion to appoint Victor Taylor to the Police Civil Service Board, seconded by Alderwoman Harris. The motion carried unanimously 7-0. Mr. Taylor will fill the seat previously held by Craig Badder and will serve a two-year term to expire on July 23, 2021.

13. Attorney's Report.

The City Attorney had nothing to report.

14. City Manager's Report.

- Mr. Stephens provided an in-depth report on steps taken by the City to prepare for hurricane season. He also reported on a recent meeting of the Eastern North Carolina Recovery Alliance. Alderman Aster again suggested staff look at the former practice of providing small generators at major intersections to facilitate the traffic signals.
- The construction of docks at Lawson Creek Park are now complete.

15. New Business.

Alderwoman Harris

The rebuild of Kidsville is in process. Employees and volunteers worked in extreme heat. At Alderwoman Harris' request, Foster Hughes provided an update on the project, noting over 450 people participated in the rebuild, including many employees. Volunteer groups that assisted include: the Baptist Men's Group, Beary the Hatchet Axe Throwing Company, the Boys & Girls Club, Camp Seagull, Camp Seafarer, Epiphany School, First Baptist Church, Habitat for Humanity, Keller Williams Realty, the New Bern Yacht Club, Moen, the National Guard, Scouts, and the Single Marines. A ribbon-cutting ceremony should be held in about three weeks.

Alderman Bengel

Complaints have been received about Trent Court not cutting the grass around the buildings that will be demolished. It was requested the Nuisance Abatement Officer check on this.

Comments have also been received about the need to make the site of the former Days Hotel more presentable.

In the former Assistant City Manager's Office, there is white board list of items that Alderman Bengel is working on in Ward 1. She invited other Board members to review the list.

Alderman Best

Noting the area of Lake Tyler is busy and traffic will increase with more development, Matt Montanye, Director of Public Works, was asked to reach out to

the NC Department of Transportation about installing a stop light at the entrance to the subdivision.

Jeff Ruggieri, Director of Development Services, was asked about the UNC-C grant opportunities mentioned in the weekly report to address drainage projects in the areas of Greater Duffyfield and Five Points. Mr. Ruggieri stated the department is exploring every possible option for a resiliency study. Drainage concerns were discussed in some depth. Mr. Montanye explained the duties of the Stormwater Division. He encouraged Alderman Best to bring to his attention specific locations that have been identified where basins are full of dirt.

An update was also requested on the FEMA applications submitted by citizens. Mr. Ruggieri stated at this time no information has been received as to when the State will move toward the next step.

Alderman Odham

An update was requested on the traffic study for Second Street. Mr. Stephens stated he has asked for more traffic counters to be purchased. He also noted preliminary results reveal there is a 67% reduction in traffic as compared to a previous study that was performed during the same week of the year. Alderwoman Harris expressed concern that information has been distributed to the public prior to being shared with the Board. Chief Summers explained the information was shared in response to a public records request.

Alderman Kinsey

He met with Mr. Montanye today to discuss stormwater needs. Mr. Montanye explained certain work has not yet been performed as it may jeopardize potential FEMA funds. That work will be performed at a later time. There are 80 miles of ditches in the City, and staff is currently maintaining about a mile of ditch work per week. It would take approximately double the current staff to address all ditches within a year. Equipment needs and options were briefly discussed. Mr. Montanye announced the USDA has preliminarily approved five drainage projects, which were listed in the weekly report.

Alderman Aster

The Fire Department was congratulated for winning the Battle of the Badges blood drive.

16. Closed Session.

A closed session was not needed.

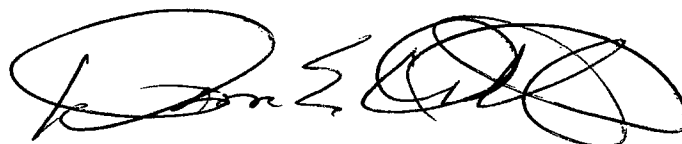
17. Adjourn.

Alderman Aster made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Alderwoman Harris. The motion carried unanimously 7-0, time being 7:46 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: August 13, 2019

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dana E. Outlaw', written over a horizontal line.

Dana E. Outlaw, Mayor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brenda E. Blanco', written over a horizontal line.

Brenda E. Blanco, City Clerk