

**City of New Bern
Board of Aldermen Meeting
November 26, 2019 – 6:00 P.M.
City Hall Courtroom
300 Pollock Street**

- 1. Meeting opened by Mayor Pro Tem Jeffrey Odham. Prayer by Alderwoman Harris. Pledge of Allegiance.**
- 2. Roll Call.**

Present: Mayor Pro Tem Jeffrey Odham, Alderman Sabrina Bengel, Alderwoman Jameesha Harris, Alderman Robert Aster, Alderman Barbara Best, and Alderman Johnnie Ray Kinsey. Absent: Mayor Dana Outlaw. 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 the 300 Block of Pollock Street for Christ Episcopal Church’s Community Christmas Caroling Event.**

John Haroldson, Event Coordinator, requested the 300 block of Pollock Street be closed on December 19, 2019 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. for Christ Episcopal Church’s community caroling event.

- 4. Considering Adopting a Resolution to Close Specific Streets for the Sudan Shriners’ Annual Winter Ceremonial Parade.**

On behalf of the Sudan Shriners, Sharon Evans requested the 400-800 blocks of George Street, 400-600 blocks of Broad Street, and the 200-300 blocks of Middle Street be closed to vehicular traffic on January 25, 2020 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. for the Shriners’ Annual Winter Ceremonial Parade. It was also requested that the south side lane of Broad Street be closed to parking from 12 a.m. until the conclusion of the parade.

- 5. Consider Adopting a Resolution to Call for a Public Hearing to Rezone 2403 Trent Road from C-4 Neighborhood Business District to C-3 Commercial District.**

M.W. Properties of Eastern North Carolina, LLC submitted a request to rezone 1.31 acres located at 2403 Trent Road from C-4 Neighborhood Business District to C-3 Commercial District. The Planning and Zoning Board approved the request at their October 1, 2019 meeting. It was requested a public hearing be held on December 10, 2019 to receive public comment and consider the rezoning request.

6. Consider Approving a Proclamation for GivingTuesday.

Tharesa Lee requested a proclamation observing the first Tuesday after Thanksgiving as GivingTuesday. GivingTuesday is a celebration of philanthropy and volunteerism and encourages citizens to serve during the holiday season and at other times of the year. The proclamation is perpetual.

7. Approve Minutes.

Draft minutes of the November 12, 2019 meeting were provided for review and approval.

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

Mr. Stephens recognized attendees from the new Leadership Craven class.

8. Conduct a Public Hearing and Consider Adopting an Ordinance to Annex 310 South Street.

John and Laura Lambert, property owners, petitioned the City to annex 0.733 acres of land located at 310 South Street. The property is located in Number Two (2) Township and is situated off Sandy Point Road in the Bridgeton area. This public hearing was called for at the Board's previous meeting.

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

Alderman Bengel made a motion to adopt an ordinance to annex 310 South Street, seconded by Alderman Harris. Upon a roll-call vote, the motion carried unanimously 6-0.

9. Conduct a Public Hearing and Consider Adopting an Ordinance to Annex 618 W. Thurman Road.

Charles and Dana Riddick, property owners, petitioned the City to annex 6.10 acres located at 618 W. Thurman Road. The property is further identified as Craven County Tax Parcel 7-109-15001. The Board called for this public hearing at its last meeting. This is the property for which a sewer-use agreement was approved at the Board's October 22nd meeting.

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

Alderman Best made a motion to adopt an ordinance to annex 618 W. Thurman Road, seconded by Alderwoman Harris. Upon a roll-call vote, the motion carried unanimously 6-0

10. Appointment(s).

No appointments were made.

11. Attorney's Report.

The City Attorney had nothing to report.

12. City Manager's Report.

Mr. Stephens stated the Board had previously asked for staff to research discretionary spending. While he has not yet found any information on this, he will reach out to the School of Government and some other municipalities and report back to the Board. New York City has a policy specific to nonprofits receiving discretionary funds.

13. New Business.

Alderman Best

Constituents have expressed concern about the inability to see the lanes along Glenburnie Road, Neuse Boulevard, and Broad Street when it is raining. She asked if light reflectors could be placed on these streets. Mr. Stephens stated NC Department of Transportation ("NCDOT") maintains the three streets mentioned, but the City could look into placing these on some of the City-maintained streets. Mayor Pro Tem Odham noted he had also received three complaints about Glenburnie Road, and questioned whether NCDOT had applied the final thermoplast. Matt Montanye, Director of Public Works, said NCDOT has advised they did some temporary painting on Highway 70 and some other streets, and they will apply the thermoplast in the spring.

The need for a potential traffic light at Lake Tyler's entrance on Hwy. 43/Washington Post Road was again voiced. Mr. Montanye said NCDOT has previously indicated they would monitor that area for needs.

Jeff Ruggieri, Director of Development Services, was asked to provide an update on the 404 Program. Mr. Ruggieri stated last week the City received a list from FEMA of the houses that qualify for the grant. Out of approximately 80 applications, 18 qualify and the City is working with them to obtain additional information requested by FEMA. Mr. Ruggieri will forward the list of qualifying properties to the City Manager so it can be shared with the Board.

Alderman Kinsey

Everyone was wished a Happy Thanksgiving, and staff was complimented on the decorations throughout the City.

Mayor Pro Tem Odham

Foster Hughes, Director of Parks and Recreation, was called to the podium to provide information on a public meeting to receive input on the Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Mr. Hughes announced the meeting will be held December 12, 2019 from 4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at West New Bern Recreation Center.

Alderman Aster

Mr. Hughes was asked to report on a seminar he recently attended on abandoned boats. While funds are currently not available to address the issue, Mr. Hughes said there is movement in that direction. The City would be required to put in place an ordinance that addresses derelict and abandoned boats. A lot of coastal cities and towns are working toward this. It is currently a difficult and time-consuming process to remove the boats. Alderman Aster suggested the City begin issuing littering citations, and Mr. Hughes agreed to discuss that with the Police Department.

At the Board's last meeting, there was discussion about possibly reaching out to vendors regarding hotspots for citizens in the Bluewater Rise area. Mr. Stephens stated he has not yet checked on that, but would do so the following day.

Alderwoman Harris

Everyone was wished a Happy Thanksgiving.

Alderman Bengel

There are several items the City will need to have before the legislative delegation in Raleigh, and she suggested the process be started in January.

The DoubleTree has officially started construction and anticipates reopening in mid to late May. The Convention Center is still struggling to book conventions due to a lack of hotel rooms in the immediate vicinity of the Center.

Mr. Hughes was asked to provide information on the community tree-lighting. He explained festivities will start at 4:30 p.m. on Friday at Union Point Park with Bryan Mayer leading the crowd in Christmas carols, followed by the tree lighting ceremony, a special lighting display, and a parade. Games and activities will follow on Middle Street. The flotilla will take place on December 7th beginning at 4:30 p.m. with a Christmas concert by Lewis and Clark. A movie in the park is planned for December 13th featuring The Polar Express. The second annual New Year's Eve celebration will include a cub dropping at 9 p.m. so the children can participate and get home early, if desired. The main bear drop will be at midnight.

Alderman Bengel interviewed Salvation Army Captain Curtis Kratz for a segment of "This Week from City Hall". The Salvation Army continues to utilize bell ringers and provide angel trees as a way for people to get involved with helping others.

A documentary entitled "New Bern Rises" will air this evening at 8 p.m. on UNC-TV. This will cover the challenges faced by the community and its resiliency.

14. Closed Session.

A closed session was not needed.

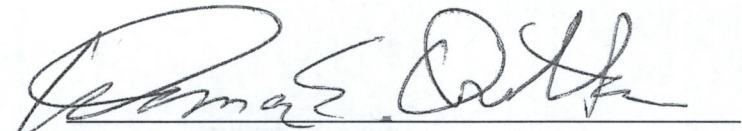
15. Adjourn.

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

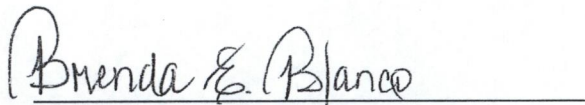
The attached documents are incorporated herewith and are hereby made a part of these minutes.

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: December 10, 2019



Dana E. Outlaw, Mayor



Brenda E. Blanco, City Clerk