

**CITY OF NEW BERN
BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETING
NOVEMBER 22, 2022 – 6:00 P.M.
CITY HALL COURTROOM
300 POLLOCK STREET**

- 1. Meeting opened by Mayor Jeffrey Odham. Prayer by Lt. Derek Dubay from the New Bern Police Department. Pledge of Allegiance.**

- 2. Roll Call.**

Present: Mayor Jeffrey Odham, Alderman Rick Prill, Alderman Hazel Royal, Alderman Robert Aster, Alderman Johnnie Ray Kinsey, Alderman Barbara Best, and Alderman Robert Brinson. Absent: None. A quorum was present.

Also Present: Foster Hughes, City Manager; Marvin Williams, Assistant City Manager; Jaimee Bullock-Mosley, Assistant City Attorney; and Brenda Blanco, City Clerk.

- 3. Approve Agenda.**

Alderman Aster made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Alderman Kinsey. The motion carried unanimously 7-0.

Consent Agenda

- 4. Consider Adopting a Resolution Closing Specific Streets for the Shriner's Annual Parade.**

On behalf of the Sudan Shriners, Sharon Evans requested the 400-800 blocks of George Street and 400-600 blocks of Broad Street be closed from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. on January 21, 2023 for the Shriner's Annual Winter Ceremonial parade. Additionally, it was requested the 200-300 blocks of Middle Street be closed from 7 a.m. until 2 p.m. and the southside (eastbound lane) of Broad Street be closed to parking from 12 a.m. until the conclusion of the parade.

- 5. Consider Adopting a Resolution Closing Specific Streets for the 2022 New Year's Eve Block Party.**

The City's annual New Year's Eve Celebration is scheduled for December 31, 2022. It was requested the 200 block of Pollock Street from the entrance of the Dunn Building's parking lot to Craven Street be closed to vehicular traffic from 7:00 a.m. on December 31, 2022 until 8 a.m. on January 1, 2023. Additionally, it was requested the 300 block of Pollock Street, a portion of the 200 block of Craven Street beginning at Morgan's Tavern & Grill, and the 300 block of Craven Street be closed from 2:30 p.m. on December 31, 2022 until 3 a.m. on January 1, 2023

6. 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. It was requested a public hearing be held on December 13, 2022 for the Governing Board's consideration.

7. Consider Adopting a Resolution Calling for a Public Hearing on Revisions to the Land Use Ordinance.

Chapter 160D of the NC General Statutes consolidates city and county statutes for development regulations, formerly in Chapters 153A and 160A, into a single unified chapter. The Planning and Zoning Board unanimously recommended approval of the revisions during its November 01, 2022 meeting. It was requested a public hearing be held on December 13, 2022 to consider the revisions

8. Consider Adopting a Resolution to Initiate the Upset Bid Process for 115 Hillmont Road.

Argelis Arauz Fallas submitted an offer of \$7,500 for the purchase of 115 Hillmont Road. The offer represents 50% of the tax value. The property is a vacant 0.54-acre parcel that was acquired by the City and County in 2019 through tax foreclosure. If the property is sold for the initial bid, it is estimated the County will receive \$4,255.38 and the City \$3,244.62 from the proceeds.

9. Consider Adopting a Resolution to Initiate the Upset Bid Process for Tax PID 8-015-023.

Argelis Arauz Fallas submitted an offer of \$3,000 for the purchase of Tax Parcel ID 8-015-023 (1000 Neuse Avenue). The offer represents 50% of the tax value. The property is a vacant 0.23-acre parcel that was acquired by the City and County in 2006 through tax foreclosure. If the property is sold for the initial bid, it is estimated the County will receive \$1,848.97 and the City \$1,151.03 from the proceeds.

10. Consider Adopting a Resolution to Initiate the Upset Bid Process for Tax PID 8-015-022.

Argelis Arauz Fallas also submitted an offer of \$2,700 for the purchase of Tax Parcel ID 8-015-022 (rear of 1000 Neuse Avenue). The offer represents 50% of the tax value. The property is a vacant 0.12-acre parcel that was acquired by the City in 2003. It is contiguous to and landlocked by the property identified in the previous item.

11. Approve Minutes.

Minutes from the November 03, 2022 retreat and November 08, 2022 regular meeting were provided for review and approval.

Alderman Aster made a motion to approve Items 4-11 of the Consent Agenda, seconded by Alderman Prill. Upon a roll-call vote, the motion carried unanimously 7-0.

12. Consider Adopting a Resolution Approving an Agreement with New Bern Preservation Foundation for the Purchase and Sale of Real Property.

The City has been working with the New Bern Preservation Foundation (“NBPF”) on the Tisdale house project, and NBPF has been working with interested parties to identify the most qualified candidate to receive and renovate the house. The Foundation asked the City to consider selling property behind its offices at 303 First Street. The parcel faces Rhem Avenue and would be used to relocate the Tisdale House. The Board gave staff direction to proceed with facilitating this request. The purchase and sale agreement provides a sales price of \$48,250 and requires that the closing take place within 30 days of execution. It also requires the Tisdale house be relocated to the property by February 15, 2023.

Alderman Prill made a motion to adopt a resolution approving an agreement with New Bern Preservation Foundation for the purchase and sale of real property, seconded by Alderman Royal. Upon a roll-call vote, the motion carried unanimously 7-0.

13. Consider Adopting a Resolution Approving a Contract with Midwest Maintenance, Inc. for the City Hall Repointing Project.

City Hall sustained interior water damage during Hurricane Florence because of rain intruding through the mortar joints. Bids were solicited for the repointing of City Hall, and two were received. The lowest bid was submitted by Midwest Maintenance, Inc. at a cost of \$564,108. The Board was asked to adopt a resolution approving a contract with this vendor and authorizing the City Manager to execute the contract and any change orders within the budgeted project amount. If the contract is approved, the City will need to designate an additional \$164,000 for the project, which will be presented in the form of a budget amendment at the next meeting. The project will take six months to complete.

Alderman Prill made a motion to adopt a resolution approving a contract with Midwest Maintenance, Inc. for the City Hall repointing project, seconded by Alderman Aster. Upon a roll-call vote, the motion carried unanimously 7-0.

14. Consider Adopting a Resolution Approving the Sale of 806 Main Street.

First Missionary Baptist Church made an offer to purchase 806 Main Street for \$2,000. The offer was advertised, but no upset bids were received. The tax value of the 0.18-acre vacant parcel is \$4,000. The City and Craven County acquired the property in 2009 through tax foreclosure. At that time, taxes, interest, penalties, fees, and costs due to the County were \$2,167.90 and \$845.82 to the City. If the property is sold for the initial offer, the County will receive \$1,188.45 and the City \$811.55 from the proceeds.

Alderman Aster made a motion to adopt a resolution approving the sale of 806 Main Street, seconded by Alderman Royal. Upon a roll-call vote, the motion carried unanimously 7-0.

15. Consider Adopting a Resolution to Designate American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 Funds.

On May 25, 2021, the Board adopted a budget ordinance establishing the American Rescue Plan Fund (“ARP”) in the amount of \$6,704,351. Eligible categories of use under the final rule include support the COVID-19 public health and economic response, water/sewer/broadband infrastructure, premium pay, and replacement of lost public sector revenue. As explained at the November 03, 2022 retreat, this resolution will authorize the City to elect the standard allowance for lost revenue.

Alderman Aster made a motion to adopt a resolution to designate American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 funds, seconded by Alderman Prill. Upon a roll-call vote, the motion carried unanimously 7-0.

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

This budget ordinance reestablishes encumbrances for purchase orders outstanding as of June 30, 2022 that will be honored in Fiscal Year 2023. It also amends the General Fund by transferring \$6,704,351 from the American Rescue Plan Fund to cover public safety salaries and benefits, and it amends the Grants Fund to recognize a \$350,000 award from the Department of Justice – Community Oriented Policing Services Grant. The grant requires no matching funds and will be used for a licensed clinician and two qualified professionals from RHA Health Services to provide crisis assessments through the Police Department as outlined in a Memorandum of Understanding approved by the Board on June 14, 2022.

Alderman Brinson made a motion to adopt a resolution a budget ordinance amendment for FY2022-23, seconded by Alderman Aster. Upon a roll-call vote, the motion carried unanimously 7-0.

17. Appointment(s).

No appointments were made.

18. Attorney's Report.

The City Attorney had nothing to report.

19. City Manager's Report.

- Kari Warren, Interim Director of Parks and Recreation, has been hired as the Director of Parks and Recreation. She was selected out of 96 applicants and initially started working for the City in 2015, serving as a Special Project Coordinator and Special Event Coordinator. Mrs. Warren expressed her appreciation for the promotion.
- ReBuild NC has applied for a demolition permit for the house at 1601 Hyde Street. Demo should start on Monday.
- The City has received the Distinguished Budget Award for its preparation of the FY2023 annual budget. The award is due to a collaborative effort among all departments.
- City offices will be closed Thursday and Friday for Thanksgiving.
- Beary Merry Christmas kicks off on Friday with a tree-lighting ceremony in Union Point Park. Ice skating and other events are also slated.
- New Bern High School is in the playoffs, and the game will be broadcast live this weekend on a large screen at the intersection of Pollock and Middle Streets.

20. New Business.

Alderman Brinson

While attending the November 7, 2022 Craven County Commissioner's meeting, Alderman Brinson learned the county is in dire need of additional foster families. Those interested can call the Hope Family Resource Center at 252-636-6472.

He also attended the Veterans Stand Down on November 9th. The event supplied valuable information, goods, and services to over 100 veterans.

The Craven County Veterans Luncheon on November 11th was attended by almost 200 veterans. Alderman Brinson attended this event as well. Veteran of the Year Award was presented to Virginia Spencer, an Army veteran and owner of Carolina Creations, and Bob Cusik, a Marine veteran, received the lifetime achievement award.

The Wreaths Across America ceremony will be held at noon on December 17th at the National Cemetery. Wreaths will also be placed on 63 veterans' graves in Greenwood Cemetery. November 28th is the last day to sponsor a wreath.

Alderman Brinson made a motion to approve the College Park Drainage Improvements project to be paid with \$155,000 in (Ward 6) ARPA funds, seconded by Alderman Aster. The motion carried unanimously 7-0. The project will replace the drainpipe from the Princeton Lane cul-de-sac to the ditch behind the properties at 1500 and 1501 Princeton Lane and regrade the pipe running from that ditch and between the properties facing Princeton Lane and Queens Court.

Alderman Brinson also made a motion to approve the Pinehurst Drive pump station upgrade for \$567,892 to be paid from Ward 6 ARPA funds, seconded by Alderman Kinsey. The motion carried unanimously 7-0. This project will replace the pump

station at the end of Pinehurst Drive that is starting to show signs of failure and has no redundancy with two pumps. It will also allow an external generator to be attached during a loss of grid power.

A Happy Thanksgiving was expressed to staff and citizens. Alderman Brinson said he was thankful for his salvation, the conclusion of the elections, and a good relationship among the Board. Mayor Odham thanked Alderman Brinson for attending several events that he had been unable to attend in his capacity as Mayor.

Alderman Best

The Christmas parade is next Saturday, and the Governing Board will be participating.

A desire was expressed to meet with the Manager, Assistant Manager, Mayor, George Chiles, and Avery Smith on Tuesday to discuss the North Hills/Simmons Street study. Engineers will be in attendance.

Alderman Kinsey

Everyone was wished a Happy Thanksgiving.

An inquiry was made as to where things stand with the pay study. Mr. Hughes said the Board will be asked to vote on a recommendation at the December 13th meeting. The goal is for implementation to be effective the first of January. The final document on the study should be received next week.

Alderman Aster

Coffee with Cops took place this morning and went very well.

Alderman Royal

Everyone was wished a happy and restful Thanksgiving.

A town hall meeting will be held on December 5th at 6 p.m. with residents of Southgate, Carolina Avenue Apartments, Camden Square, and the Trent Boulevard corridor. Peletah Ministries will host the event.

Mayor Odham

Beary Merry did not request a rain date for Friday's street closure. Alderman Prill made a motion to set a rain date for Saturday night, seconded by Alderman Royal. The motion carried unanimously 7-0.

A welcome was voiced to Tiffany Askew, Executive Director of the Housing Authority, who was in attendance.

21. Closed Session.

Alderman Prill made a motion to go into closed session pursuant to NCGS §143-318.11(a)(6) for a personnel matter to conduct the City Manager's annual performance evaluation, seconded by Alderman Royal. The motion carried unanimously 7-0, time being 6:43 p.m.

22. Adjourn.

Alderman Royal made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Alderman Prill. The motion carried unanimously 7-0, time being 8:41 p.m.

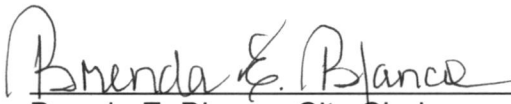
The attached documents are incorporated herewith and are hereby made a part of these minutes.

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 13, 2022



Jeffrey T. Odham, Mayor



Brenda E. Blanco, City Clerk