

Regular City Council Meeting - Minutes

1. **Call Meeting to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.
2. **Roll Call:** City Secretary Roxann Pullin provided the roll call with Mayor Williams, noting a quorum of the following Council members Present: 1) Mayor Pro Tem Erika Gonzales 2) Council Member Joyce Wolfe, 3) Council Member Beverly Felt§, 4) Council Member Kim Schlichting, 5) Council Member Mike Hale
3. **Opening:** Pledge of Allegiance US Flag and Texas Flag was led by Mayor Williams. The Invocation was also led by Melvin Strey.
4. **Action to swear in by Oath of Office the November 7, 2023, Elected Officials.**
 - a. Alderman Erika Gonzales – Oath of office provided
 - b. Alderman Mike Hale – Oath of office provided

Mayor Williams provided the oath of office to newly re-elected Alderman Erika Gonzales and Alderman Mike Hale.

5. **Comments:**
 - a. **Mayor Comments – Mayor Williams provided the following comments/announcements:**
 1. Mayor Williams thanked everyone new and old for attending the meeting.
 2. Mayor Willims announced New Berlin City Marshal, Terreal Hatcher’s, inditement. Currently, the City of New Berlin does not have specifics on the case. The inditement is related to an incident that happened a few years ago when Hatcher was employed with City of Santa Clara. Mayor Williams will be meeting with the Guadalupe County District Attorney’s office next Wednesday, March 27, 2024. Mayor Williams will keep the council and residents updated as he obtains information.
 - b. **County Commissioner Comments – Commissioner Germann stated that the interlocal agreement was not approved. It came down to crew and time, not money. Commissioner Germann stated he spoke to the assistant road administrator and asked for a plan on how to fix the road situation for safety reasons. Commissioner Germann proposed a new interlocal agreement that would cover two 400-foot sections. The first 400-foot section is at the intersection of Santa Clara and Gin Road. The second 400-foot section is near the low water crossing. The county’s patch crew will remove the old portion and come in with a base, like cement, then black top it. The county and the City of New Berlin will split this cost 50/50. Estimated Cities cost is around \$16k. This interlocal agreement will need to go to Commissioners court for approval. If approved, Commissioner Germann believes the two approved 400-foot sections can be started and completed by the end of September 2024. Commissioner Germann would like to present this new proposed interlocal agreement to Commissioners court within the next 10 days. Commissioner Germann also notified council that the Guadalupe County Engineer was relieved of his duties.**
 - c. **Fire Chief Comments – Chief Strey not present. Melvin Strey spoke on his behalf and stated that it is day 78 for the year of calls.**
 - d. **City Marshal Comments** Marshal Hatcher submitted the yearly required Racial Profiling Report and his activity report for the dates November 14, 2023, to March 18, 2024:
 - *Total Stops – 648*
 - *Total citations issued – 657*
 - *Warnings issued – 372*
 - *Truck Route Violations – 149*
 - *No/Suspended DL –46*

- *No Commercial DL-4*
- *No Liability Insurance -68*
- *Registration Violations - 146*
- *Possession Drug Paraphernalia -6*
- *License Plate (False/fictitious/Improper use) - 16*
- *Call for service/incidents - 1*
- *Arrests -5*
- *Assist Agency - 2*
- *Total Citations & Warnings to Date -964/564*

- e. **City Council Members Comments** – Alderman Kim Schlichting thanked Mayor Williams for his comments regarding City of New Berlin Marshal Hatcher and asked for updates as they come available. Alderman Kim also stated that Jeff Schlichting submitted a permit for the walking trail.
- f. **Public Comments:** This time is provided for the public to address the City Council on issues or concerns. NO CITY COUNCIL ACTION WILL BE TAKEN AT THIS TIME. Please add your name to the sign-up list BEFORE THE MEETING. Public comment(s) may be limited to 3 minutes per speaker. You will be called upon by the Mayor during the meeting. Any person making personal, impertinent, or slanderous remarks while addressing the Council may be directed to leave the meeting.

No one signed up to speak.

- g. **Planning and Zoning Commission Comments:** Diana Flippo Strey, Chairperson – Diana stated that P&Z approved the request for a variance to plat for subdividing 6.89 acres of land out of the Michael Ramel survey, Abstract No. 280 and John A. Wells Survey No 51, Abstract No. 335.
- h. **Other Committee Comments**
1. **PARKS and PLAYGROUNDS** – Melvin Strey, Chairperson
Melvin Strey stated that the lawn needs to be mowed.
 2. **ORDINANCES REVIEW/REVISE** – Kim Schlichting, Chairman – Kim stated that she needs to schedule a meeting with Mayor Williams to go over ordinances.

6. Consent Agenda:

- a. **Discussion/Action** on these Consent Agenda items to be acted on in a single motion.
1. **Minutes:** Special Budget Meeting 11/13/2023 and Regular Council Meeting 11/13/2023
 2. **Financial Reports:** November & December 2023 and January & February 2024

Mayor Williams read the above items into record and recognized Council Member Joyce Wolfe who moved to approve the consent agenda items 1 through 2. Council Member Beverly Felts seconded the motion. The vote of 3-0. Motion carried.

7. Council Discussion Agenda

- a. **Ordinance No. 2024-001** – Consideration and/or action approving Ordinance 2024-001 by the City Council of the City of New Berlin, Texas regarding a request for a Variance - Discussion and Consideration and/or action approving a request for a variance to plat for subdividing 6.129 acres of land, more or less, out of the William H. Smith Survey No. 62, Abstract 291, Guadalupe County, Texas and also being out of a 24.754 acre tract describes in Doc. #202399017310 of the Official Records of Guadalupe County, Texas..

Mayor Williams introduced this item to the Council. City Secretary Roxann Pullin informed mayor and council that the owner of the property was not able to attend the meeting and will reschedule for April's meeting. Item removed from agenda and will be posted on April's agenda for council discussion and/or action.

- b. **Ordinance No. 2024-002** – Consideration and/or action approving Ordinance 2024-002 by the City Council of the City of New Berlin, Texas regarding a request for a variance- Discussion and Consideration and/or action approving a request for a variance to plat for subdividing 6.89 acres of land with approximately 5.48 acres out of the Michael Ramel Survey, Abstract No. 280 and approximately 1.41 acres out of the John. A. Wells Survey No. 51, Abstract No. 335, Guadalupe County, Texas and also being a portion of that certain 10.00-acre tract described in Document No. 202199001742 of the Official Public Records of Guadalupe County, Texas and a portion of that certain 12.477 acre tract described in Document No. 201899003637 of said Official Public Records.

Mayor Williams introduced this item to the council. Council Member Kim Schlichting motioned to approve. Council Member Beverly Felts seconded the motion. The vote of 6-0. Motion carried.

- c. **Acadian Ambulance Service Agreement-** Discussion and consideration and/or action by the City Council of New Berlin, Texas regarding 911 Ambulance Service Agreement.

Mayor Williams introduced this item to the council. Council Member Kim Schlichting motioned to discuss. Council Member Kim Schlichting is concerned with the response time of Acadian Ambulance Service. Mayor Walt Williams stated he has a call out to the supervisor with Acadian to discuss this concern. Mayor Williams also stated that he has spoken to Chief Kurt Strey and they are both in agreement to approve and move forward with the Acadian Ambulance Service Agreement. Mayor Walt Williams called to change the motion to approve. Council Member Kim Schlichting motioned to approve. Council Member Joyce Wolfe seconded the motion. The vote of 6-0. Motion carried.

- d. **Gin and Santa Clara Roads** – Discussion and consideration and/or action by the City Council of New Berlin, Texas regarding Gin and Santa Clara roads.


Mayor Williams introduced this item stating that the commissioners court did not approve the interlocal agreement. Mayor Williams discussed some options on how to cover the cost of fixing the roads. One option is to give the roads back to the county. The second option is to raise money for the cost, which could possibly take up to 20 years to save. Council Member Kim Schlichting voiced concern with these options and would like to discuss other options such as, temporarily fixing Gin Road, by filling in the potholes and shoulder for now until Interstate 10 is completed, then come back and do a permanent fix with the help of Commissioner Germann. Mayor Williams stated that he is currently looking into temporary fixes and will revisit this.

Announcements

8. **Adjournment**– As there was no future business, Mayor Williams adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.



Walter C. Williams Jr., Mayor

Attested by: 

Roxann Pullin, City Secretary