

Regular City Council Meeting - Minutes

1. **Call Meeting to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. **Roll Call:** Assistant to the City Secretary Brenda Dennis 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 Mike Hale, 4) Council Member Kim Schlichting, 5) Council Member Beverly Felts.
3. **Opening:** Pledge of Allegiance US Flag and Texas Flag, and Invocation. The Pledges of Allegiance to the US Flag and Texas Flag, and Invocation were performed. The Invocation was led by Mr. Schlichting.
4. **Comments:**
 - a. **Mayor Comments** – Mayor Walt Williams reminded Council to not go off agenda and discuss items not listed. He asked Council to help remind him if they were going off topic during the meeting, and not wait until the end of the meeting. Mayor Williams in answer to Council Member Schlichting questions from the last meeting had the following answers:
 - *Regarding Marshall's duties outside our jurisdiction, and can the Marshall write tickets - it is allowed by State Law. He is required to take action. If he writes a citation outside our jurisdiction it goes to the specific area court. (Example: if he writes a citation in Santa Clara – it goes to that court)*
 - *Liability insurance coverage for the Marshal – was \$500,000 this is normal due to qualified immunity, he asked what it would cost to go \$1,000,000, answer it would be \$12.00 more per month. So, we are at \$1,000,000.*

Mayor Williams stated that he has added a new agenda item going forward as our County Commissioner has been attending our meetings and moved to item (b).

- b. **County Commissioner Comments** – Commissioner Germann spoke on the City of New Berlin's ETJ. He spoke regarding the County's budget. He also stated that Commissioners Court will be holding a public hearing tomorrow regarding New Berlin's "No through truck traffic" streets ordinance that the council passed. He stated that it did not get a unanimous vote earlier, it was a 3 to 2 vote. It is now set for a public hearing tomorrow at Commissioner's Court. Commissioner Germann encouraged all those present to either call in or attend the meeting to show support for this.

He spoke about the other items – re: Speed limit changes, 45 mph on Church Road and Gin Spur Road 35 mph, those were tabled because the speed study he did himself indicated that Church Road should be 50 mph and 45 mph on Gin Spur Road. He indicated "no they are not going to do that". County Engineer indicated to get a petition of the citizens in the area. These two items are on their agenda for tomorrow also.

Main reason he came, is they are working on their budget, we need to be conservative due to the economy possibly going to tank. Again, he spoke about the roads and understands the problem with Gin Road. The problem is at I-10 and the construction and what this is causing. The county is reworking several areas of Gin Road each week. We know the roads will not be able to handle the extra truck traffic as a result of the construction on I-10. He is speaking with Congressman Henry Cuellar and Congresswoman Monica De La Cruz office as we are going to have to find some money as the I-10 construction is a three-year project and we are going to have to do something about our roads. We need to come up with a plan and that is why it is on the agenda tonight for discussion.

- c. **Fire Chief Comments** – Fire Chief Strey 173 calls for the year. July 8, 2023, is their Fundraiser letters have gone out, if you have not received one, contact them.

He provided an update on the two (2) recent fires. Several surrounding cities assisted due to hot weather and providing relief to the firefighters – a constant rotation is necessary especially during the hot weather.

He is waiting for a phone call from the Judge to set up a meeting to discuss budgets and some budget items.

Close to getting their First Responder Vehicle. The Brush Truck they are building is on hold waiting on one part, a control arm and have been told that July 7th is the ship date.

Main Engine at the recent fire had a mechanical issue (plumping issue he calls it) had a pressure relief valve problem where it stuck open, and it is currently being addressed to find out why it is staying open, they are working on it now to get it back in service.

- d. **City Marshal Comments** – Marshal Hatcher provided his activity report for the dates April 18, 2023, to June 19, 2023:
- *Total Events – 161 (16 – no/suspended DL, 1 – no commercial DL, 11 – no liability insurance, 36 – registration violations, 3 – drug possession paraphernalia, 16- false license plate,*
 - *Total Stops – 79*
 - *Total citations issued – 104*
 - *Warnings issued – 47*
 - *1 call for service/incidents*
 - *6 towed vehicles*
 - *2 Assist Agency*
 - *2 Arrests*
- e. **City Council Members Comments** – Council Member Schlichting speaking on behalf of Community Center and their President stated that they are going to be doing an October Fire (Fire is the German word for festival) Fair on October 21, 2023, like a Community Fair gathering to include a 5K, crafts sales, 42 domino tournament, several different activities throughout the day, this is sponsored by the Community Club. This would also be a good day if the city wanted to do a pet vaccination day at City Hall. She is seeking a Resolution regarding temporary road closure for their 5K run as they are looking to do it down Old School Road down Britzke Road Church and back. Also related to the Club, the Sausage Festival, we will be shutting down Old School Road for three days.
- 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

No comments were provided.

- h. **Other Committee Comments**

1. **PARKS and PLAYGROUNDS** – Melvin Strey, Chairperson

Chair Strey thanked all those that attended and assisted with the City Workday, it was very successful. Chair Strey also reminded the Council regarding the walking path they are working on to submit a grant application for this project. He asked for letters of support for this project.

2. **ORDINANCES REVIEW/REVISE** – Kim Schlichting, Chairman

Chair Schlichting stated that the Planning & Zoning Commission will be looking at updating their ordinances.

5. Consent Agenda:

a. Discussion/Action on these Consent Agenda items to be acted on in a single motion.

1. Minutes: City Council Meeting – April 17, 2023
2. **Resolution No. 2023-004** – Consideration and/or action regarding approval of a Resolution by the City Council of the City of New Berlin, Texas authorizing the approval of adding Taylor Light Municipal Court Clerk as an account signer for the City of New Berlin Municipal Court Bank account.
3. **Resolution No. 2023-005** – Consideration and/or action regarding approval of a Resolution by the City Council of the City of New Berlin, Texas authorizing the approval of opening a separate bank account for the Marshal's office, adding Walter Williams, Mindy Paxton and Roxanne Pullin as owners and adding Terreal Hatcher as a signer.
4. Financial Report: April and May 2023

Council Member Beverly Felts motioned to approve the consent agenda items 1-4. Council Member Joyce Wolf seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0. Motion carried.

6. Council Agenda

- ### A. **Resolution No. 2023-003 - Century Oaks Unit 3** – Discussion and consideration and/or action regarding approval of a Resolution by the City Council of the City of New Berlin, Texas approving the recommendations by the Planning and Zoning Commission on June 5, 2023 concerning the approval request by R&D Custom Builders for the plat and construction plans of Unit-3 for the Century Oaks Subdivision on Santa Clara Road.

Mayor Williams briefed Council stating that this is Phase 3 and was approved by the Planning & Zoning Commission.

Council Member Joyce Wolfe motioned to approve Resolution 2023-003 - Council Member Schlichting seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0. Motion carried.

- ### B. **Resolution No. 2023-001** – Discussion and consideration and/or action regarding approval of a Resolution by the City Council of the City of New Berlin, Texas calling/ordering the November 7, 2023 City of New Berlin Joint General Election with Guadalupe County, approving the Guadalupe County Election contract to elect Alderman positions whose terms are expiring November 7, 2023 which are Alderman Member Erika Gonzales Position 1, Alderman Mike Hale Position 2 and Alderman Joyce Wolfe Position 3.

Mayor Williams recognized Assistant to the City Secretary Brenda Dennis who introduced this item answering questions from Council.

Council Member Joyce Wolfe motioned to approve Resolution 2023-001. Council Member Mike Hale seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0. Motion carried.

- ### C. **Resolution No. 2023-002** – Discussion and consideration and/or action regarding approval of a Resolution by the City Council of the City of New Berlin, Texas authorizing the approval of the Bexar Metro 911 Budget for Fiscal Year 2024, and other matters in connection therewith.

Mayor Williams provided an overview of this item and recommended approval.

Council Member Joyce Wolfe motioned to approve Resolution 2023-002. Mayor Pro-Tem Erika Gonzales seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0. Motion carried.

7. Discussion items only

- ### A. Discussion regarding maintenance of City Roads.

Mayor Williams stated he added this item as our roads are torn up and getting worse, he is constantly filling the potholes on Gin Road and the trucks keep tearing them back up along with the recent rain, he gets several calls a week.

Mayor Williams, Members of Council and County Commissioner discussed the following options for fixing the road conditions on Gin Road and others expressing their concerns:

- (1) Give back roads to county. We were on the schedule for 2024 but have been pushed again to be fixed. County is on a 10 to 30 -year plan for fixing roads.
- (2) Work with county to fix road. Continue to work with the county to assist in repairing our roads.
- (3) Property Tax - we do not want to do this.
- (4) Develop a Road Assessment fee for those living on Gin Road to pay for repairs. He is working with our attorney to get information on this. Mayor Williams explained what might be possible.

Commissioner Grissom stated that all citizens need to pound on their State Representatives regarding the TxDot I-10 repair is messing up the roads, TxDot is doing nothing for us. We need to contact them and let them know how this is affecting our roads.

Mayor Williams stated that he would like to propose a Road Committee. He will get with the attorney as he would like more information on how to do assessments.

Announcements

No announcements were made.


9. Adjournment

As there was no further business, Mayor Williams adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.



Walter C. Williams Jr., Mayor

Attested by:


Roxann Pullin, City Secretary