

SPECIAL Town Hall City Council Meeting - Minutes

1. **Call Meeting to Order** Mayor Williams called the special meeting to order at 6:30 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 Kim Schlichting, 4) Council Member Beverly Felts. Council Member Mike Hale excused absence.
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. Paul Theiss, Volunteer New Berlin Fire Department Chaplin, and Pastor Saint John Lutheran Church in Marion.
4. **Comments:**
 - a. **Mayor welcome comments** – Mayor Williams welcomed everyone to the Special Town Hall meeting and asked those present to indicate by show of hands if they saw a sign posted on what was going to be discussed tonight.
 - b. **County Judge Comments** – Mayor Williams recognized Guadalupe County Judge Kyle Kutscher who introduced himself and commented on the roads in Guadalupe County, right of way issues, condition of roads and the development and growth of the county, future plans and projects and funds that are available through the county.
 - c. **County Commissioner Comments** – Mayor Williams recognized Guadalupe County Commissioner Precinct #4 Stephen Germann who introduced himself and commented on the growth in the county, and funding that is available.

Commissioner Germann recognized and introduced Mr. Douglass Burnside, Guadalupe County Road and Bridge Administrator. Mr. Burnside provided brief comments and introductions.

- d. **Fire Chief Comments** – Mayor Williams recognized Fire Chief Kurt Strey who updated the Council regarding the following:
 - Wildfires in and throughout the area and the departments assistance – over 1000-man hours – fortunate to have about 40 people who work in various functions to keep New Berlin Fire and Rescue a viable force.
 - Responses to fires of all types, vehicle accidents, farm related incidents and medical calls
 - Increased cost of fuel, bunker gear and communication devices, etc.
 - EMC side – he has attended several meetings, met District Disaster Coordinator
 - City and small contribution to department on future agenda
 - Sausage Festival September 3rd – proceeds go toward the volunteer fire department -volunteers are needed to help set up and tear down.

Chief Strey introduced his two Assistant EMC's Ryan and Charlie as well as the New Berlin Fire Fighters who were present this evening – a round of applause exuded. Chief Strey mentioned that by way of contractual payments for services, in the past the city has made a small contribution to the department, she asked that this be placed on the next agenda for consideration.

- e. **City Marshal Comments** –

Mayor Williams recognized and introduced Marshal Terreal Hatcher who provided his activity report for the dates June 20, 2023, to August 21, 2023, and addressed questions:

- *Total Stops – 56*
- *Total citations issued – 79*
- *No/suspended DL - 11*
- *Warnings issued – 51*
- *Calls for service/incidents - 4*
- *Assist Agency - 3*
- *Fire - 1*

Total Citations & Warnings to date 250/154 (11 vehicles have been impounded. 1 arrest. 6 drug paraphernalia cases, 1 stolen vehicle recovered.

Marshal Hatcher showed examples of false and illegal paper tags and explained how easy they are to obtain and how they are used.

Mayor Williams recognized New Berlin Municipal Judge Jacqueline Ott and Municipal Court Clerk Taylor Light who were in the audience this evening. Judge Ott provided a brief biography and update regarding the progress of the court.

- f. **City Council Members Comments** – Mayor Williams recognized Council Member Kim Schlichting who mentioned a new upcoming event for Oktober“Feier” October 21st 9 to 5, New Berlin Community Center - crafts, rummage sale, 5K run, domino tournament, and food trucks. Funds raised will go toward scholarships for local students.
- g. **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.

Mayor Williams recognized those that signed up to speak and they indicated that they would like to wait until the items are discussed. A list of those who spoke are attached to these minutes.

Mayor Wiliams did recognize Betty Trivette who encouraged all those to get involved in the upcoming October 21st Oktober Feier event. Please contact her for more information at bettytrivette@gmail.com.

- h. **Planning and Zoning Commission Comments:** Diana Flippo Strey, Chairperson

Mayor recognized Councilmember Schlichting who stated that the Commission is planning on looking at and reviewing the city ordinances.

- i. **Other Committee Comments**

- 1. PARKS and PLAYGROUNDS – Melvin Strey, Chairperson

Mayor Williams recognized Mr. Strey who provided information on the recent application initiation process for the GVEC Power-Up grant proposal for the construction of a walking track in New Berlin City Park. We should know if we received the grant sometime after October 1st. Mayor Williams thanked all those involved for allowing them to use the Community Center this evening. Mayor Williams recognized Mr. Melvin Strey for the work that was done with the renovations of the Community Center, the playground. Mayor also mentioned Melvin is

coming up on 30 years as Vice President of GVEC. His work they then has been instrumental in securing some of the grants that have been awarded to the city.

2. ORDINANCES REVIEW/REVISE – Kim Schlichting, Chairman – Councilmember Schlichting stated as mentioned the Planning and Zoning Commission is planning on looking at the city’s ordinances.

5. Discussion only items:

- a. City Taxes/Property Tax Agenda Regulation – Ordinance No. 2021-001

Mayor Williams stated and reminded those present that before any item concerning local city of New Berlin, Texas property taxes can be put on the city of New Berlin council’s agenda, a petition must be presented to the mayor of the City of New Berlin with a minimum of 40% of the registered City of New Berlin. Texas voters’ signatures. Once the signatures are verified as valid by the City Council, or city staff, an agenda item will be added to the next city council agenda allowing the council to discuss items concerning local city property taxes. Mayor Williams reminded those present that current citizens do not pay city taxes; we currently rely on donations. If citizens want a tax, they need to follow the above procedures, he indicated that in the future the city will have to impose a tax to keep up with the growth and the roads.

Mayor Williams recognized several citizens who spoke regarding the need of a newsletter or a way to communicate with the citizens, they spoke regarding the voluntary donations, discussion regarding what percentage of citizens have donated.

- b. City Roads - Mayor Williams recognized several citizens who spoke about the urgent need to repair Gin Road and Santa Clara Road. Mayor Williams spoke in detail about the possibility of an Interlocal Agreement with the County and City to repair the roads. He indicated that the information provided was a draft and has not been approved by the County or the City.

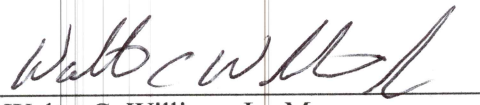
Mayor Williams recognized Guadalupe County Commissioner Stephen Germann, Guadalupe County Road Administrator Douglas Burnside and Guadalupe County Judge Kyle Kutscher who addressed questions from citizens, and council regarding the need to repair these roads. Considerable discussion regarding estimated costs for labor and materials, timelines, type of road repair, budgets, possible impact fees, ILA agreement and approvals. Spoke regarding citizen agreement to move forward with proposal to Guadalupe County.

- c. City Zoning -Mayor Williams spoke regarding the need to update the city’s zoning. He provided a map for citizens to view and make their recommendations regarding commercial, mixed use and residential areas. The proposals and information will be forwarded to the Planning & Zoning Commission for consideration. Their recommendations will be brought back to the council for approval.
- d. Other City Business/Recommendations from Citizens – Mayor Williams indicated that the city had a website and that information such as agendas and upcoming events can be found there. Mayor Williams recognized a few citizens who requested that the volunteer donation letter and a newsletter be placed on the city’s website.

Announcements – Mayor Williams reminded everyone of the Sausage Festival September 3, 2023.

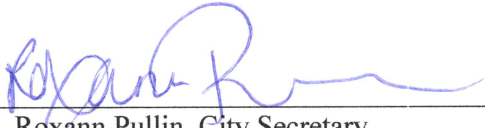
6. Adjournment

Mayor Williams adjourned the Special meeting at 8:15 p.m.



Walter C. Williams Jr., Mayor

Attested by:



Roxann Pullin, City Secretary



City of New Berlin: City Hall

Regular Town Hall Meeting - City Council

Meeting Date: 8-21-23 Time: 6:30pm

Public Comment Sign-Up

This time is provided for the public to address the City Council on issues or concerns and must be **INFORMATIVE ONLY**. City Council members may ask clarification questions. **NO CITY COUNCIL ACTION WILL BE TAKEN.**

Please add your name to this sign-up list **BEFORE THE MEETING**. 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.

PLEASE PRINT

| Name | Address | Agenda Item Number or Topic |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Freddy Friederick | 306 5th & L Rd Seguin, Tex. | |
| Jeff & Kim Zollerbach | 7388 Linn Rd - 9905 | |
| Jim & Christine Moos | 5262 E Gin Rd; Marion, TX | |
| E.S. & Betty Trivette | 373 FM 25538 | |
| Tina Ynfante | 1020 Kunde Rd | |
| Aleste Hetter | 200 starting Rd | |
| Juanita Arellano | | |
| Betty Surman | 4310 Gin Rd - Seguin 78155 | |
| Laura Luemmann | 7247 Hill Rd. Marion | |
| Mike Seibert | 3965 Gin Road Seguin TX 78155 | |

Personal - please print



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PLEASE PRINT

| Name | Address | Agenda Item Number or Topic |
|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Bills Michelle Vaden | 4890 S Santa Clara Rd | intersection of Santa Clara & Gln |
| [Signature] | | |
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