

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) Council Member Joyce Wolfe, 2) Council Member Kim Schlichting, 3) Council Member Beverly Felts, 4) Council Member Mike Hale, 5) Mayor Pro-Tem Erika Gonzales

Also present: City Secretary Roxann Pullin, Assistant to the City Secretary Brenda Dennis, Marshal Terreal Hatcher.

3. **Opening:** Pledge of Allegiance US Flag and Texas Flag, and Invocation

Mayor Williams asked if anyone knew who wrote the Pledge of Allegiance to the US flag? He answered it was Francis Bellamy, a Baptist Minister. Pledge of Allegiance to the 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 Jeff Schlichting.

4. **Comments:**

- a. **Mayor Comments** - Mayor Williams commented on the success of the recent Sausage Festival and thanked all those that made it possible.
- b. **County Commissioner Comments** – Commissioner Germann also commented on the success and great Sausage Festival event. Commissioner Germann commented on the success of the recent Town Hall meeting, and it was great getting input from the public. He mentioned the amount of trash he has seen on the roads and what a problem it has become as well as the road signs that have been damaged or missing. The no through Truck signs are up, if you see trucks provide him with the name of the trucking company and he will give them a call to remind them about the No Through Truck traffic on the specified roads.

He again mentioned calling in and offering comments to the Commission. Regarding the Interlocal agreement he will make comments when the item is discussed tonight, but that he does not know when it will be placed on their agenda for discussion should the council approve it but will let the city know.

- c. **Fire Chief Comments** – no comments were provided.
- d. **City Marshal Comments**– Marshal Hatcher provided his activity report for the dates August 22, 2023, to September 18, 2023:
 - *Total Stops – 13*
 - *Total citations issued – 18*
 - *Warnings issued – 10*
 - *No/Suspended DL – 3*
 - *No Liability Insurance – 3*
 - *Expired Registration – 6*
 - *Possession Drug Paraphernalia – 3*
 - *License Plate (False/fictitious/Improper use) - 2*
 - *Call for service/incidents - 1*
 - *Assist Agency - 1*

Marshal Hatcher asked the Council to look into possible ordinances (1) Engine Braking; (2) and ordinance regulating the use of hand-held mobil communication devices and portable electronic devices while driving.

- e. **City Council Members Comments** - Council Member Felts asked if the City Marshal could be more active/more presence at City events at the Community center. Speeding during the events, discussion regarding the city placing temporary signs up during events for traffic to slow down.

Council Member Schlichting thanked everyone involved with the success of the Sausage Festival. October 21st Fare is coming up – questions please contact her. Council Member Hale also thanked all those involved in the success of the Sausage Festival event.

County Commissioner Germann stated that he was able to get the speed limit changed on Church Road to 45 miles per hour, signs should go up in a month.

- 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 spoke.

- g. **Planning and Zoning Commission Comments:** Diana Flippo Strey, Chairperson – no comments as they have not met.

h. **Other Committee Comments**

1. **PARKS and PLAYGROUNDS** – Melvin Strey, Chairperson – Mr. Strey stated that they should be hearing about the grant application for the walking path project on the first of October. He stated that in preparation of the installation of the walking paths he has been killing several red ant beds. Also noted was the City Secretary killed a rattle snake, (actually Mr. Strey came to kill it).

He will report the results of the funds received from the Sausage Festival at the next meeting, but the event was a great success.

2. **ORDINANCES REVIEW/REVISE** – Kim Schlichting, Chairman – Council Member Schlichting asked if the City Marshal has looked into the ordinances that were sent to him for review, in answer Marshal Hatcher has reviewed them, he is looking at them for possible changes.

5. **Consent Agenda:**

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

1. **Minutes:** City Council Special Meeting – August 7, 2023, and City Council Town Hall Meeting August 21, 2023.
2. **Financial Reports:** June, July, & August 2023
3. **Resolution No. 2023-007** – Resolution by the City Council of the City of New Berlin, Texas approving a Resolution canceling the November 7, 2023, election due to unopposed candidates.
4. **Website design/Dream Host hosting and service expenditure** – Consideration and/or action approving an expenditure of \$3000.00 for redesign and new website hosting service.

Council Member Beverly Felts motioned to place consent agenda item 5a (4) on for discussion, Council Member Kim Schlichting seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0. Motion carried.

Council Member Joyce Wolfe motioned to approve consent agenda items 1-3. Council Member Kim Schlichting seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0. Motion carried.

6. **Council Discussion Agenda**

5a (4) Website design/Dream Host hosting and service expenditure – Consideration and/or action approving an expenditure of \$3000.00 for redesign and new website hosting service.

Mayor Williams and City Secretary Roxann Pullin introduced this item stating that going with the Dream Hosting services will save the city money, website will look more like Santa Clara's website – more user friendly, more capabilities. Training for city staff is also included. Mayor Williams and City Secretary Pullin addressed questions from the Council. Security will also be a portion of this. This will also prove

the city government emails. This will allow us to go for grants if we have a .gov email. The funds are available in the professional services account.

Council Member Joyce Wolfe motioned to approve the expenditure of \$3000.00 for redesign and a new website hosting service, which will also include security. Mayor Pro-Tem Erika Gonzales seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0. Motion carried.

- a. **Resolution No. 2023-008** – Discussion and consideration and/or action approving a Resolution by the City Council of the City of New Berlin Texas, authorizing an Interlocal Governmental Agreement between Guadalupe County and the City of New Berlin for the purpose of improvements to the following roads: Gin Road and Santa Clara Road located within the city limits of City of New Berlin.

Mayor Williams stated that the Interlocal Agreement indicates the County will do \$100,000 for Gin Road and \$100,000 per mile for Santa Clara Road. Mayor stated that when RD Builders set up their permitting, they contributed \$2500.00 per permit which the city would use for roads that feed into Century Oaks or Century Oaks roads for the future. Price for repairs for Gin and Santa Clara roads have risen since first estimated two years ago and we were getting band aid roads. By utilizing the road construction repair techniques outlined by the county for each road, the roads will go from lasting 5 to 10 years to lasting 10 to 20 years, we will be getting much better roads.

The city will need to come up with \$200,000. We have \$150,000 in the Century Oaks account; so, he went looking for money in different places. He stated we have the money right now in our money market account, when he started as Mayor the council had \$150,000 in our account, we now have \$300,000. We have been increasing the money we have been putting into the account. We have the money to take out the other \$50,000 without doing anything or we can take it out of the building and road funds. We have the money to do Gin Road and a mile of Santa Clara Road. He stated that he would like to do all of Santa Clara Road, but it would probably be another \$100,000, we could do that because he is unaware of any other high dollar expense.

Council Member Schlichting asked what our total contribution would be. In answer, Mayor stated that we are going to start with \$200,000, we will finish Santa Clara Road up to Century Oaks and all of Gin Road. If we did all of Santa Clara Road, that's \$300,000. We would have to come up with \$150,000 but that does not include Gin Road. Total to do Gin Road and all of Santa Clara Road would be \$400,000, we do not have the money to do that. His suggestion is to do a mile of Santa Clara Road and all of our part of Gin Road, the County will be doing their part at the same time. This is not a fixed amount of money, as they said if they get out there and might run into some issues and that the material costs could go up the amount would increase.

Council Member Felts asked if this is what was discussed and, on the map, handed out at the Town Hall Meeting, Mayor Williams confirmed yes. We are looking at \$200,000 but could go up to about \$220,000.

Guadalupe County Commissioner Stephen Germann stated he believed it will get done, the county has done their budget for this year and this project when approved by the commission will be completed a year from now. He wanted to make sure that they understood this. The city will still have to patch and listen to the complaints until the project comes up a year from now to be completed. Mayor Williams stated that he has had conversations with the Judge and that if they cannot do this project for around \$200,000 - \$220,000 then he will give the roads back to the county. Again, Commissioner Germann stated that he believes the Commission will approve, but he is only one vote.

Council Member Mike Hale motioned to approve the Interlocal Agreement with the County in the amount of up to \$220,000. Council Member Joyce Wolfe seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0. Motion carried.

- b. **FY 2023 City Budget Adjustments** – Discussion and consideration and/or action by the City Council of the City of New Berlin Texas approving a budget adjustment to the FY 2023 City Marshal and Municipal Court accounts.

Mayor Williams explained that when the city approved their budget and were setting up the budget for the Marshal and the Court, we basically came up with the Marshal's salary, and we put a little money in for the

Court and to run the Marshal's office. We indicated at that time we would have money coming in from the Court as we went through the year. We did not put in the revenue amounts that we would be receiving from the Court. We have money coming in from the citations, and we need more money to run the Marshal and Court offices. We have money that we are not spending and are moving it around for excess expenditures. We have the money from the revenue of the court and from other accounts with surplus to make the budget adjustments for the Marshal and the Court.

At this point we have surplus money within the budget that we can move around with the adjustments would not exceed the approved budget amount, if we see we are going to exceed our budget, then we would come back to council and adjust it. He recommends approval and that the motion be made to allow the Mayor and City Secretary to move money around within the confines of the approved budget.

Council Member Beverly Felts motioned to allow the Mayor and City Secretary to move money around within the confines of the approved budget as needed and approve the budget adjustments for the City Marshal and Municipal Court accounts. Council Member Kim Schlichting seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0. Motion carried.

Announcements

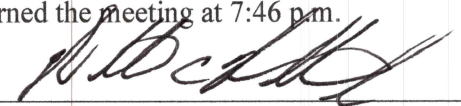
Mayor Williams indicated that he needs volunteers to sit on the budget committee, those wishing to serve to please let him know after the meeting. He indicated that Mayor Pro-Tem Gonzales has already indicated she would serve.

Citizen Betty Trivette indicated that National Night Out is October 3rd and wanted to know if the city is going to do anything at the Community Center for this event. Mayor Williams indicated that we could host it here at City Hall and would get the word out. They confirmed October 3rd at 6:00 p.m.

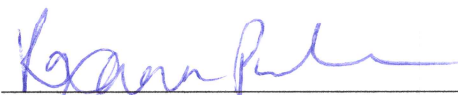
Mayor Williams indicated that we also will be starting to plan the Christmas Party, Mayor Pro-Tem Erika Gonzales has volunteered to take the lead on this and that she has already received donations to the tune of \$2,000. We are looking for donations and volunteers. If interested, please contact Erika.

Mayor Williams indicated that he is working on a newsletter and that the only cost would be the postage to mail them out.

7. **Adjournment** – As there was no future business, Mayor Williams adjourned the meeting at 7:46 p.m.



Walter C. Williams Jr., Mayor

Attested by: 
Roxann Pullin, City Secretary