

**City of New Bern
Board of Aldermen Meeting
January 11, 2011
City Hall Courtroom 7:00 P.M.
300 Pollock Street**

1. **Meeting Opened by** Mayor Lee W. Bettis, Jr. **Prayer by** Deacon Johnnie Sampson. Pledge of Allegiance.
2. **Roll Call.** Alderman Sabrina Bengel; Denny Bucher; Johnnie Ray Kinsey; Bernard White; and Dana Outlaw. Absent: Alderman Victor Taylor.

Also in attendance: Mike Epperson, City Manager; and Scott Davis, City Attorney.

3. **Executive Session Re: Legal Matters, NC General Status 143-318.11 (a) (3).**

Alderman Outlaw made a motion to go into executive session pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (3). The motion was seconded by Alderman Bengel and unanimously carried, time being 7:08 P.M.

Alderman Bucher made a motion to recess the closed session, seconded by Alderman Bengel. The motion carried unanimously, time being 7:40 P.M.

4. **Mayor's Comments on 2010 Accomplishments.**

Mayor Bettis reviewed some of the activities of the Board over the past 13 months, noting it had been a challenging time. The Board was faced with several immediate problems, and he noted they had solved some of those, made progress toward others and even discovered some they didn't know were there.

One of the critical tasks at hand was to find a City Manager, and with advice and guidance from the UNC School of Government, the Board was able to fill the position with a proper "man-job match". Mike Epperson was hired for the position. Bringing enthusiasm and experience, Mr. Epperson has hit the ground running.

Another problem tackled by the Board has been the replacement of the City's outdated emergency communication system. The City is now close to finalizing an agreement to procure a state-of-the-art system which should serve us well for decades. Additionally, the Board has strived to improve the openness and ease with which New Bern citizens can communicate with City government. One of the first steps taken has been to hold Board of Aldermen meetings in each of the wards. These meetings created a sense of approachability with the public.

The Board also addressed the perception of contractors and developers that “it was just too hard to do business with the City”. In response to that perception, the City has now developed and promulgated standards that encourage new development.

A main concern to all has been the high cost of electrical service. Although the City is bound by contractual agreements forged years ago, it has embarked on an effort to address the problem. The aim is to look for cooperative efforts that are a win-win for the customer and the utility.

Mayor Bettis ended his remarks by talking about the three core future goals for the Board. Those goals were identified as: 1) improving the financial health of the City; 2) creating a smart customer-focused organization capable of accomplishing our priorities; and 3) leading transformation of the Five Points Commercial Corridor, the Greater Duffyfield neighborhoods, and other distressed areas of our City. The Mayor noted there were a lot of challenges ahead, but emphasized the Board remains confident and committed.

5. Proclamation for 300th Anniversary Year.

Mayor Bettis read a proclamation honoring Nelson McDaniel and members of the 300th Committee and New Bern Celebration, as well as the hundreds of volunteers. The City of New Bern honored Nelson McDaniel for his outstanding service to the community and for his leadership of the 300th Anniversary Celebration by bringing together all segments of our community to educate and celebrate all people who make New Bern a great city. Also, the city honored the members of the 300th Anniversary Committee, New Bern Celebration and the hundreds of volunteers who gave tirelessly of their time and energy for the planned events and activities throughout 2010 year.

Alderman Bengel served as the Ex-Officio Board of Aldermen Representative for the New Bern 300th Committee. Alderman Bengel and the Board of Aldermen recognized the New Bern 300th Committee and the New Bern Celebration Committee for their service and dedication to making the 2010 a great year. Each member received a thank you letter from the Mayor and Board of Aldermen commemorating their service for the 300th Celebration and honoring the Heritage of New Bern.

The members of the 300th Committee are as follows: Nelson McDaniel, Chairman; Susan Moffat-Thomas; Dawn Heller; Jean Boyd; Mary Harris; Bernard George; Buzz Mead; Robert Holmes; Emily Scoppe; Gwen Bryan; Jimmie Hicks; Kay Williams; Ken McCotter; Carol Becton; Annette Stone; and Alderman Sabrina Bengel. The members of the New Bern Celebration Committee are as follows: Susan Braatan, Chairman; Marvin Raines; David Stroud; Elizabeth Ward; Lonnie Pridgen; Alex Badger; Rev. Reginald Midgette; Ernie Richardson; Steward Smith; Troy Smith; Micky Corcoran; Chuck Dale; Bill Fentress; Bob Mattocks; Jimmie Hicks; Susan Moffat-Thomas; Bill Naumann; and Linda Thomas.

Alderman Bengel presented Nelson McDaniel, Chairman New Bern's 300th Celebration, with the original article plate from the Sun Journal's award. Nelson McDaniel is the Sun Journal's Newsmaker of the Year. Alderman Bengel had the original newspaper article matted and framed for Mr. McDaniel. Alderman Bengel also thanked Linda Staunch, Executive Director, for her hard work in making the 300th Celebration a reality. Mrs. Staunch was the backbone of the day-to-day operation according to Alderman Bengel, who stated "you did a fabulous job".

6. Presentation of National Night Out Award.

Danielle Glynn, Citywide Community Watch Coordinator, gave an update on the Community Watch Program and National Night Out, and presented an award to the New Bern Police Department.

The National Night Out is in its 27th year and will observe this year on August 2, 2011. This nationwide event brings awareness to crime, drug and violence prevention. It has been held annually in communities around the United States since 1984 and is sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch. During this event, bookbags filled with school supplies are given away, as well as children identification kits. There will be live music, food vendors, demonstrations, face painting and many more activities for young and old alike. This event is free and open to the public.

New Bern's National Night Committee, in partnership with New Bern Police, organized this local event with countless volunteers' hours. In addition to crime prevention awareness, it focuses on education involving school-age children and health and safety organizations that provide many benefits to our community. This is the event of the year that brings all community watch groups together in partnership with law enforcement. Also, the Park Watch program is a partnership between New Bern Police, New Bern Parks and Recreation, Community Watch groups and all citizens to reduce crime, vandalism and illegal activities in our city parks. Modeled after community Watch, Park Watch provides citizens guidelines to follow when reporting suspicious activity that helps keep our city parks safe year round.

New Bern was recognized as a National Award Winner by the National Association of Town Watches for outstanding participation. This is the third consecutive year that New Bern has won this award.

Alderman Outlaw made a motion to recess the meeting, seconded by Alderman Bengel for a short repast for the members of the 300th Celebration. The motion carried unanimously, time being 8:15 P.M. The meeting reconvened at 8:30 P.M.

7. Request and Petitions of Citizens.

Toni Bonnici, 512 Jefferson Avenue, requested an update on the Broad Street terminus and Municipal Parking lots. Mr. Bonnici stated this issue was discussed at the December 14, 2010 board meeting and he would like to know the status of this issue. As he stated previously, the City of New Bern does not own this property.

Attorney Davis stated he has not done any research on this issue in two (2) months; it was turned over to Mr. Avery, Director of Planning & Inspections, and Mr. Hardison, Director of Park & Recreation. Mr. Avery stated city staff met with the representatives of the Shriners and the adjacent owners. The Shriners have discussed the issue and appointed a committee to study the ownership and then make a recommendation to the organization at its January 21, 2011. What the city staff understands is that it will be a favorable report to work with the city.

Mr. Bonnici stated the city has spent \$24,064.40 in legal fees from April 15, 2010 to October 25, 2010. Mr. Bonnici further stated he has spoken with the State, Department of Transportation, and Attorney General Office of Abandonment and other agencies for the city/attorney to contact in reference to the ownership. According to the last attorney's bill, there is no record where any of these agencies have been contacted. The property is owned by the State of North Carolina. Mr. Bonnici and Ms. Bennett have done the research, but to no avail nothing has been done or finalized. Previously, Mr. Davis informed the board he would be doing a title search on this property. Are not the citizens entitled to the finding of this research, stated Mr. Bonnici? There is no title for this property. The sanborne map shows this property never existed prior to January 1931. This land was created between 1953-54 to build the bridge. Mr. Bonnici disagrees with me Mr. Avery that it will be a favorable report on behalf of the city, because he has personally spoken with two members on the board who clearly stated there is no guarantee Sudan Temple will deed the property to the city upon ownership.

Mayor Bettis asked Mr. Bonnici to relay in five words what he wanted to be done? Mr. Bonnici replied he wanted the city to direct the attorney to contact the appropriate agencies to resolve the ownership issue.

The municipal parking lot has no signage as of today stated Mr. Bonnici. There are seventy (70) spaces available for leasing and individuals are on a waiting list. At the last meeting, the board went into closed session to discuss the municipal parking lots. According to Attorney Davis, the Hilton has not leased the fifty (50) parking spaces at the Crayton lot. It was understood their Certificate of Occupancy could be revoked if the parking spaces are not acquired. What is the status of this issue? Attorney Davis stated Chapter 11 was filed last week in Federal court for Sky Sail, and the city has sixty (60) days to respond. Mr. Bonnici asked when will the parking spaces be numbered and a "Municipal Parking" sign erected. Attorney Davis informed the board a sign could be

erected at their choosing, but the problem is how many spaces will be available once the Sky Sail issue is resolved. Sky Sail has an obligation to lease the fifty (50) parking spaces in order to keep their Certificate of Occupancy. Alderman Bengel stated there is no reason the remaining spaces cannot be leased and designated signage “municipal parking”.

8. Public Hearing on the CAMA Land Use Plan.

Annette Stone, City Planner, gave an overview of the CAMA Regional Land Use Plan. A land use plan is a collection of policies and maps that serves as a community’s blueprint for growth. The Coastal Area Management Act requires each of the twenty (20) coastal counties to have a local land use plan in accordance with guidelines established by the Coastal Resources Commission. Municipalities may choose to adopt their own land use plan. The CRC’s guidelines provide a common format for each plan and a set of issues that must be considered during the planning process; however, the policies included in the plan are those of the local government, not of the Coastal Resources Commission. This is the second Regional Land Use Plan that has been developed between New Bern, River Bend and Trentwoods.

Mayor Bettis opened the public hearing to receive public comment on the CAMA Land Use Plan. There was no public comment on the CAMA Land Use Plan.

Alderman Bucher made a motion to close the public hearing, seconded by Alderman Bengel. The motion carried unanimously.

Alderman Bengel made a motion to adopt the resolution for the CAMA Land Use Plan, seconded by Alderman Outlaw. Upon a roll-call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

9. Public Hearing and Consider Adopting Resolution Amending Section 6 of the Charter of the City of New Bern as to Term Limits of Elected Officials.

Attorney Davis stated this public hearing is to consider a resolution requesting the North Carolina General Assembly to introduce and secure passage of local legislation to amend Section 6 of the Charter of the City of New Bern as to term limits. The changes would be to impose term limits for the Mayor so that an individual serving as Mayor may only serve two (2) full consecutive terms; to allow the Mayor to vote on all questions before the Board as if he were a member of the Board, rather than only voting to break a tie; and to impose term limits for Aldermen so that individuals serving as Aldermen may only serve two (2) full consecutive terms.

Mayor Bettis opened the public hearing to receive public comment on amending Section 6 of the Charter of the City of New Bern as to term limits of elected officials.

Alderman Bengel expressed imposing term limits for the Mayor and Aldermen that an individual may serve two (2) full consecutive terms. All the residents of the City of New Bern vote for the Mayor as well as the Aldermen of their ward. The Mayor should be allowed to vote on all issues. Alderman Bengel is in favor of term limits for both the Mayor and Aldermen.

Aldermen White expressed his concerns of term limits for the Aldermen, but has no problem with term limits for the Mayor. He is not in favor of term limits for the Aldermen; he feels minorities will not get elected. "If you vote at large, it will eliminate minorities". Alderman White is not in favor of term limits for the Alderman.

Alderman Outlaw stated if an Alderman is doing their job, an incumbent has an advantage over a challenger. He expressed in order to keep the city staff and employees on their toes; you need to change elected officials, "new people with fresh ideas". Alderman Outlaw is in favor of term limits for the Alderman and Mayor.

Alderman Kinsey stated citizens are going to vote for whomever they would like to see in office regardless. Leave the decision up to the voters versus imposing term limits.

Alderman Bucher is in favor of term limits. "Term limits are in place for the President of the United States, Senate, and the House of Representatives" and now the Mayor and Board of Aldermen.

Toni Bonnici, 512 Jefferson Avenue, stated public office should not be a career. Mr. Bonnici referenced Section 18 in the proposed resolution regarding eligibility of candidates for aldermen; residence in ward and certain other qualifications required. The portion of this section: "no person who has been elected alderman for two full terms shall be eligible as his own immediate successor." This quote opens up the door for a lot of interpretation; does this mean an Alderman may move to another ward and run? This language should be eliminated from the resolution. Mr. Bonnici expressed the same concerns in Section 19 regarding eligibility of candidates for Mayor, "no person who has been elected Mayor for two (2) full terms shall be eligible as his own immediate successor." This language should also be eliminated from the resolution.

Alderman Bucher made a motion to close the public hearing on term limits, seconded by Alderman Bengel. The motion carried unanimously.

Alderman Bengel made a motion to adopt the resolution for term limits for the Mayor and Aldermen serving two (2) full consecutive terms with the Mayor having a vote, seconded by Alderman Outlaw. Upon a roll-call vote, Aldermen Bengel, Bucher and Outlaw voted "Yes", Aldermen Kinsey and White voted "No". The motion passed 3-2.

10. Public Hearing and Consider Adopting Resolution Amending Appendix A “Land Use” of the Code of Ordinances Regarding Street Design Standards.

Attorney Davis stated this resolution is requesting that the planning and zoning board review the proposed amendment to Section 15-219, “Construction standards and specification” of the Land Use Ordinance to update Appendix C regarding street design standards following the public hearing. Jordan Hughes, City Engineer, and staff along with stakeholders work together to amend Section 15-219 of Appendix A of the Land Use Ordinance.

Mayor Bettis opened the public hearing to receive public comment on amending Section 15-219 of Appendix A of the Land Use Ordinance.

Alderman Bengel made a motion to close the public hearing of Appendix A of the Land Use Ordinance, seconded by Alderman Outlaw.

Alderman Outlaw made a motion to adopt the resolution amending Section 15-219 of Appendix A of the Land Use Ordinance to be sent to the planning and zoning board, seconded by Alderman Bucher. Upon a roll-call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

11. Update on Public, Education and Government (PEG) Channel Status.

Mark Trail, Information Technology Manager, gave an update on the City’s PEG channel. A letter was sent to Suddenlink requesting two (2) channels, funds equivalent to the cost of a video titler generator, and legal access to Suddenlink’s music channel. Suddenlink agreed to provide the City with a single PEG channel as per the current franchise agreement. They also agreed to provide a check for the equivalent cost of the video title generator, but they will not be able to legally provide access to the music channels.

Several vendors were contacted that provided the necessary equipment for this project. After reviewing the contents, Mr. Trail chose the Whitlock Group located in Durham, N.C. The Whitlock Group has previously serviced other cities and counties on like projects, and the group made multiple trips to New Bern to ensure their quotes were accurate for the job. The work will be divided between Whitlock, Suddenlink and the Public Works Department. Public Works will do the majority of the cabling in the court room to ensure it meets the historical requirements. Suddenlink will install the fiber into the building and Whitlock will be installing the equipment. A field camera was borrowed from the Police Department, and all the training on the software has been completed. Currently, the city has spent \$26,155.30 for this project, and additional funds will be needed to procure the music licenses.

12. Adopt Resolution Approving System Purchase Agreement with Communications International, Inc. for the Purchase of a Radio Communications System and Services.

Chief Palombo stated this has been a long process in the purchasing of a radio communication system; it has been eight (8) years in the making. The board previously adopted a resolution to enter into negotiations with Communication International, Inc with the assistance of the consultants at TUSA Consulting Service. A contract agreement has been reviewed by the attorney and staff. Chief Palombo recognized the members of the TUSA Consulting Service as: Shane Kilpatrick; Chris Inscoe; David Hansley; and Guy Stevens.

The city will be replacing its aging 800 MHz Trunked Radio System. The timing is critical in order to meet the requirements mandated by the Transition Administrator and the Federal Communications Commission for the use of funding. The city will utilize 911 funds and the rebanding agreement funds from Sprint/Nextel. The city must demonstrate that the city has prepared and presented a clear funding plan along with a vendor contract for the replacement of the radio system this week. This resolution authorizes the City staff to execute and implement the contract between Communications International, Inc. and the City of New Bern.

Alderman Outlaw asked Chief Palombo to explain the process informing the public of the replacement of the radio system. Tusa Consulting Service was tasked with the review of vendor proposals for the upgrade communication system. The top two ranked proposals came from Motorola and Communications International, Inc. CII final proposal was chosen as the best choice for providing New Bern with the upgrade. CII met all requirements of the RFP with the exception of minor non-equipment. The proposed system was designed with multiple redundancies that TUSA determined to be more than the City needed to ensure system reliability. As a result of the over-design, the proposed system cost was well above the budgetary limit imposed by New Bern at the time the RFP was released. Also, CII will provide support for seven (7) years on the equipment.

Mr. Epperson, City Manager, explained the funding for the radio system. The city will utilize 911 funds of \$234,604 and the rebanding agreement funds from Sprint/Nextel of \$375,489. Other revenues available toward the project are: Carolina East Health System-\$120,048; Water Fund-\$301,280; General Fund-\$1,929,710; and Electric Fund-\$1,616,170.

Alderman Bengel stated the Board of Aldermen has done their homework by reviewing all the options and made wise decisions. The board realizes the cost for replacing the radio system is expensive, but this project was needed eight (8) years ago. This project was time sensitive; the city has to meet deadlines to utilize outside funds. CII provided the best deal for the price.

Alderman Outlaw made a motion to adopt the resolution approving System Purchase Agreement between the City and Communications International, Inc., seconded by Alderman Kinsey. Upon a roll-call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

13. Adopt Project Budget Ordinance Establishing a Project Fund for the Radio System and Adopt Resolution Approving Declaration to Reimburse for Future Financing of the Radio System.

Mr. Epperson, City Manager, stated approval of the project budget ordinance establishes funds for the radio system equipment along with a resolution to approve a Declaration of Official Intent to Reimburse. The General Fund and Electric Fund will be paying for their part (General-\$1,929,710; Electric-\$1,616,170) through a future installment financing agreement. An installment financing for fifty-nine (59) months is the best alternative at this time. The Declaration of Official Intent to Reimburse must be adopted in order for the city to recoup the expenditures that was incurred during the financing. The staff has requested approval from the 911 Board to use \$234,604 of the Emergency Telephone System Fund. This contribution must be spent directly out of that fund and, therefore, it is not included in the project budget. Once the city receives the 911 Board's approval, a budget amendment will need to be approved by the board. Other funds available to the Radio System Equipment are Nextel Reconfiguration-\$375,489; Carolina East Health System-\$120,048; and transfer from the Water Fund-\$301,280.

Alderman Bucher made a motion to adopt the project budget ordinance for the radio system and adopt the resolution approving declaration to reimburse, seconded by Alderman Bengel. Upon a roll-call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

20. Report on Reorganization/ Resolution Amending Classification Pay for Fiscal Year 2010-2011.

Mr. Epperson, City Manager, gave an overview on the reorganization of City Government. These changes will give the city the opportunities to improve efficiency while maintaining or increasing effectiveness. He is recommending approval that certain classes of positions be added to the Classification Pay Plan for fiscal year 2010-2011. The Classification Pay Plan to be amended will add the position of a Senior Management Assistant and the position of Director of Utilities.

Changes within Public Utilities include Jordan Hughes becoming the City Engineer which will be a division head position instead of a department head. The water resources operation will report to Mr. Hughes, and the entire function will report to Jon Rynne. The engineering staff will relocate to the electric administration building.

The electric service and billing office will no longer report to Jon Rynne and will relocate to the customer service center. They will report to Steve Anderson, Business Office Manager. This change will improve customer service.

Change in the City Manager's office will include Dawn Heller, Executive Assistant, relocating to the Customer Service Center as an Account Services Supervisor.

The Public Information Officer, which is currently funded in the Police Department, will now become a city-wide function and report to either the City Manager or the Senior Management Assistant. This position will be responsible for developing a comprehensive public information plan, website development and coordination of the PEG channel, as well as a resource to the Mayor and Board of Aldermen.

The new position of Senior Management Assistant will report to the City Manager. This position will be responsible for planning, coordinating, evaluating, and managing complex technical and administrative projects. It will also conduct comprehensive analysis, perform complex special studies and provide detailed reports regarding municipal policy and procedures.

The management staff made an offer for the position of Director of Public Works. The individual has accepted the position and will be on board next week. His name is Mark Stephens from Statesville, North Carolina. Also, there are thirty (30) vacant positions within the city. Department heads will continue to monitor their departments as to the reorganization.

Alderman Bucher stated the board directed Mr. Epperson to look at the structure of the city and to reorganize the organization in a more efficient manner for serving the citizens. This reorganization addresses the request made by the board.

Alderman Bucher made a motion to adopt the resolution amending the classification pay plan for FY 2010-11 and the reorganization structure, seconded by Alderman Bucher. Upon a roll-call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Alderman Bucher left the meeting at 9:45 P.M. due to illness.

14. Adopt Resolution in Support of the Croatan Regional Bicycle Plan.

Mr. Epperson, City Manager, stated the North Carolina Department of Transportation has provided two (2) grants for the development of comprehensive regional bike plans. The Eastern Carolina Council of Governments has contracted with NCDOT to prepare a plan for the Croatan Regional Bicycle Plan for the five counties bordering the Croatan Forest (Carteret, Jones, Craven Onslow and Pamlico). This resolution affirms New Bern's support of the regional bike plan. Neither of these grants requires city funds.

Alderman Outlaw made a motion to adopt the resolution supporting Croatan Regional Bicycle Plan, seconded by Alderman Kinsey. Upon a roll-call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

15. Approve Final Subdivision Plan for Longleaf Pines, Phase 6, Section C.

This nine-lot subdivision is located on a 1.88 acre tract off Thurman Road on Catarina Lane in the R-8 Residential District. This section was included in a letter of credit submitted for Phase Six in the amount of \$45,788 for the incomplete improvements. Utilities and service will be provided by the City of New Bern. Staff has reviewed the subdivision plan and finds that all technical and legal requirements for final subdivision approval have been satisfied and recommends approval.

Alderman Bengel made a motion to approve the final subdivision plan for Longleaf Pine, Phase 6, Section C, seconded by Alderman Outlaw. The motion carried unanimously.

16. Adopt Resolution Approving Modification of Installment Purchase Contracts with First-Citizen Bank.

Mr. Epperson, City Manager, stated periodically, the city revisits loans to see if lower interest rates on debts can be acquired in an effort to save money. Currently, First Citizen is the only lender to offer a reduction in our interest rate. The approval of this resolution modifies the interest rate on the installment purchase contracts for: Improvements to Lawson Creek/Henderson Parks; Evans Mill Sewer Line/Facilities; refurbishment of a Vermeer Tub Grinder; and vehicles. The modifications will lower the interest rate and payment amount only, as the loan contracts will mature at the original dates. The total fees of \$800 will be within the payment amounts that were budgeted, and a net savings of \$10,000 will be seen.

Alderman Bengel commented the staff has looked at all the loans in an effort to save money by refinancing them. The lower the interest rate, the greater the saving will be for the city.

Alderman Outlaw made a motion to adopt the resolution approving modification of installment purchase contracts, seconded by Alderman Kinsey. Upon a roll-call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

17. Adopt Resolution for Audit Contract for Year Ending June 30, 2011.

This item was pulled off the agenda.

18. Approve closing to Traffic Certain Streets from 6:30 A.M. to 1:30 P.M. on January 22, 2011 for the Annual Shrine Parade.

Sudan Temple Shriners are requesting the 300-600 blocks of George Streets and 100-300 blocks of Middle Streets be closed to on-street parking from 6:30 A.M. until 1:30 P.M., Saturday, January 22, 2011 for the Annual Shriner's Parade.

Alderman Bengel made a motion to approve closing streets 300-600 blocks of George Street and 100-300 blocks of Middle Street for the annual Shriner's parade, seconded by Alderman Kinsey. The motion carried unanimously.

19. Approve Closing to Traffic Certain Street from 6:30 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. on January 15, 2011 for the Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Parade.

Dr. Martin L. King, Jr. Scholarship Award Committee is requesting that Fort Totten Drive, the 1500-block of Trent Boulevard to First Street, First Street to Broad Street, Broad Street to George Street to the 700-block of Cypress Street be closed to on-street parking from 6:30 A.M. to 1:00 P.M., Saturday, January 15, 2011 for the annual Martin L. King, Jr. Parade.

Alderman Bengel made a motion to approve closing Fort Totten Drive, 1500-block of Trent Boulevard to First Street, First Street to Broad Street, and George to Cypress Street for the annual Dr. Martin L. King, Jr. Parade, seconded by Alderman Outlaw. The motion carried unanimously.

21. Approve Minutes.

Alderman Bengel made a motion to approve the minutes from November 23, 2010 and December 14, 2010, seconded by Alderman Kinsey. The motion carried unanimously.

22. Appointments.

There are no appointments at this time.

23. Attorney's Report.

Reminded the board of the closed session to discuss some legal matters pursuant N.C. G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (3).

24. City Manager's Report.

Mr. Epperson reminded the board of the School of Government program, "Saving Money by Doing Business Together" to be held on January 26, 2011. The workshop will be held at the New Bern Riverfront Convention Center. Also, DOT has agreed to change out the traffic light at the intersection of Queen and Broad Street. DOT has requested a resolution in support of this change. A financial update will be discussed at the work session scheduled for January 18, 2011.

25. Announcements.

Alderman Bengel thanked the city employees for their hard work in the preparation for the 300th Celebration. Please support BBQ in Blue Jeans on Friday, January 21, 2011 at the New Bern Riverfront Convention Center at 6 P.M. Advance tickets are \$25.00, \$30.00 at the door. Also, please support the Martin L. King, Jr. banquet on Sunday, January 16, 2010, at 6 P.M. at the Riverfront Convention Center.

Alderman Outlaw announced the merger of Progress Energy with Duke Power.

Alderman Bengel made a motion to go into closed session pursuant to NC G.S.143-318.11 (a) (3). seconded, by Alderman Kinsey. The motion carried unanimously, time being 10:00 P.M.

26. Adjourn.

Alderman Outlaw made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Alderman Bengel. The motion carried unanimously, time being 10:40 P.M.

Mayor

City Clerk