

PROCEEDINGS OF REGULAR MEETING
NEW BERLIN BOARD OF ALDERMEN
JANUARY 18, 2016—7:30 P.M.

STATE OF TEXAS
CITY OF NEW BERLIN
275 FM 2538

The City of New Berlin convened a regular meeting open to the public on January 18, 2016 at City Hall. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Gilbert Merkle at 7:30 P.M.

The following members of the Board were present: Mayor Gilbert Merkle, Mayor Pro Tem Nick Milanovich, Aldermen Claire Walters and Chris Davenport, City Secretary Joan Milanovich and City Treasurer, Ruth Zwicke. Absent was Aldermen Barbara Gerhart and Joyce Wolfe

Following the roll call, Mayor Merkle led the group in the United States of America Pledge of Allegiance and the Texas Pledge of Allegiance. The invocation was led by Mayor Merkle.

MAYOR'S REPORT: The Mayor reported that he had drafted a Tax Ordinance requesting the Appraisal District prepare a tax role for the City of New Berlin for the purpose of setting a tax rate for the year ending September 30, 2017. The Board was in unanimous agreement to proceed since the AD had not been keeping the City's tax roll up to date.

The Mayor also reported that the parking lot has been delayed since it appears to be more involved than Mike Barker and Wesley Greer had anticipated. They will meet next Tuesday to review the area and the proposed cost.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT: Fire Chief Kurt Strey reported that Kicaster Fire Department had closed. Ninety-seven percent of the area has been taken over by La Vernia. Since New Berlin is back-up for La Vernia, they will be going deeper into Wilson County. There is a possibility that County Line will be closing in which case New Berlin will also go to Highway 123. In this event they will need an increase in communications. The present tower is not big or strong enough.

At this time, the department has 24 active members and 6 reserve members.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: The minutes for the regular meeting of November 16, 2015 were presented. A motion was made by Nick Milanovich to accept the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Chris Davenport. The vote was unanimous to accept the motion as presented.

It was not necessary to approve the minutes for the Budget Workshop on December 6, 2015. The budget was presented. No action was taken.

Secretary's Report:

1. The Secretary reported that she will be resigning by March 31 if an experienced replacement can be found. She will contact the Texas Municipal Clerks Assoc. (Alamo Chapter) to see if a retired secretary may be interested in the position.

2. The Secretary presented a draft of paid holidays for the staff for 2016. The Board approved the schedule as presented.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Treasurer's Report: The financial reports for November, 2015 were presented. A motion was made by Claire Walters and seconded by Chris Davenport to accept the November, 2015 financial reports as presented. **The vote was unanimous to accept the motion.**

The preliminary financial reports for December, 2015 were presented for review. Final reports will be presented in February, 2016.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There was no public comment.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

PLANNING & ZONING: (Meets 2nd Thursday of the month.) Joni Milanovich, Chairman
There was no report.

PUBLIC INFORMATION: The newsletter has not been completed due to extra requirements for the San Antonio annexation. It will be sent as soon as possible.

OTHER VOLUNTEER COMMITTEES:

LIBRARY—Chairman is needed—No Report.

CRIME WATCH—Wayne Zwicke, Chairman—No Report.

PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS—Melvin and Joy Strey, Chairmen—No report.

MAPPING—Gil Merkle, Chairman—Mayor Merkle reported that he is working with County to try to complete a City map.

OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS—No Reports.

BOARD AGENDA

1. DISCUSSION/ACTION REGARDING ELECTIONS TO BE HELD IN CITY HALL: Discussion centered around the fact that early voting for the presidential primary will begin on February 16th. Equipment will be brought in on February 15th which is the Board Meeting night. The Board decided to keep the meeting on February 15th and “work around” the equipment.

The City election, if necessary, will be held on May 7, 2016. A motion was made by Chris Davenport to have the County conduct the election if the price is within our budget. The motion was seconded by Claire Walters. **The vote was unanimous to accept the motion.**

2. DISCUSSION/ACTION REGARDING THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER: A motion was made by Claire Walters and seconded by Chris Davenport to continue with the Seguin-Gazette as our official newspaper for the next year. **The vote was unanimous to accept the motion.**

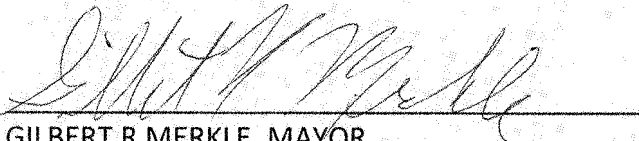
3. DISCUSSION/ACTION REGARDING TOWN HALL MEETING: The Town Hall Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 31, 2016. The date for next year would be March 31, 2017. After some discussion it was decided that the budget cycle will be discussed after we have more information concerning the tax roll and what time frame would be more advantageous for the citizens. No action was taken.

4. DISCUSSION/ACTION REGARDING AUDIT COMMITTEE: The Board agreed that Fran Gunther and Lynette Dague should be contacted to sit on the Audit Committee. The City Secretary and the City Treasurer will also be on that committee. The Secretary will make the arrangements to complete the audit as soon as possible.

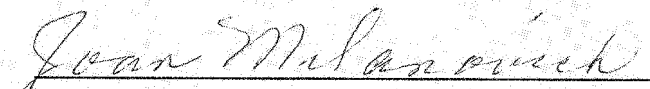
ANNOUNCEMENTS: There was some discussion concerning Chairmen and Committee Members that will soon be needed. The Mayor suggested that we need a Chairman for at least three committees: Roads Administrator, Facilities Administrator and Administration Chairman. These committees would help with long-range planning and budgeting and any other necessary duties. These people would be a volunteer city staff.

It was noted that the GVEC Franchise agreement is due to be renegotiated this year.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Chris Davenport to adjourn. It was seconded by Nick Milanovich. The vote to adjourn was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned by Mayor Gil Merkle at 8:45 p.m.


GILBERT R MERKLE, MAYOR

ATTEST:


JOAN MILANOVICH, CITY SECRETARY
(SEAL)

