

FINANCE MEETING
April 22, 2014

The Finance Meeting of the City of Natchez met in the Council Chambers on Tuesday, April 22, 2014, at 4:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor Butch Brown
Alderman Joyce Arceneaux-Mathis Ward 1
Alderman Ricky Gray Ward 2
Alderman Sarah Carter Smith Ward 3
Alderman Mark Fortenbery Ward 5
Alderman Dan Dillard Ward 6

ABSENT: Alderman Tony Fields Ward 4

ALSO PRESENT: City Clerk Donnie Holloway
City Attorney Hyde Carby
Temple Hendricks, Board Secretary
Creda Stewart, Interim Tourism Director
Ed Bowser, IT Director
James Johnston, Community Development Director

James Johnston, Planning Department

Delta Regional Authority

Mr. Johnston advised that he'd be asking for permission to prepare and submit an application for the 2014 State Economic Development Assistance Program to assist with the planning and marketing of the 2016 Tricentennial Celebration. The application would not be expected to exceed \$150,000.00. No cash match was being requested from the city for this application.

MS Department of Transportation
2014 Urban Youth Corps Program

The City of Natchez was expected to receive funding for its 2014 Urban Youth Corps Program, for a grant amount not to exceed \$35,000.00, with a 20% non-cash local match. Mr. Johnston asked for permission to post the job notice and hire the five selected young persons for the program. Proposed work would be to make repairs in Memorial Park, install mulching and, hopefully, make sidewalk repairs.

2014 Public Facilities Community Development Block Grant

Proposed Construction of Satellite Senior Citizen Center at North Natchez Park

Mr. Johnston advised, to proceed with this project, the following motions would be requested of the board:

- Resolution authorizing and approving the filing of a CDBG Public Facilities for the construction of a satellite senior citizen center
- Resolution pledging the \$350,000.00 in cash and \$126,042.00 in in-kind services (a bank statement showing the cash match would be required and included in the application)
- Resolution authorizing the mayor to sign any and all documents necessary to submit the 2014 CDBG PF application
- Resolution pledging that the city will maintain the CDBG-funded project

Mr. Holloway asked Mr. Johnston where the money would be coming from. Mayor Brown replied that Magnolia Bluff's casino money could be used. Alderman Fortenbery asked if the contract with MBC didn't state that the casino would be included in discussions regarding expenditure of funds. Mayor Brown advised that this will be discussed at a dinner to be held at the casino on April 29th.

Alderman Fortenbery asked why the city wouldn't put the casino money into the existing senior citizens' center. Mr. Johnston advised that Sabrena Bartley had provided an operating budget and the city would have two senior centers—the new center will be concentrating on new wellness programs.

Alderman Carter Smith asked if Mrs. Bartley had been asked about the \$350,000.00 going towards repairs at her existing facility. Mr. Johnston replied that it might not be feasible to keep the current building open.

Mr. Johnston, in response to a question from Alderman Dillard that the operating costs would be about \$410,000.00 a year but that was for staff—Mayor Brown advised that Mrs. Bartley has a program in place which provides for salaries. In response to Alderman Dillard’s question if the city would be expected to contribute to the operating costs, Mr. Johnston replied that the assumption was that the new center would also operate under existing funding.

Ed Bowser, IT Director

Mr. Bowser advised that out of six firms that had applied to provide the city’s new website, Civicplus had been selected. He was wanting to get the contract approved pending Mr. Carby’s review. Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis asked if the BOA could have a demonstration of the new website. Alderman Fortenbery asked if Mr. Bowser could come to the next BOA meeting with the cost of the website.

Meg Freeman

Mrs. Freeman appeared asking for the BOA’s approval to hold in Bras on the Bluff on November 1. Mr. Carby reminded her to get a permit from Chief White.

Creda Stewart, Interim Tourism Director

Mrs. Stewart reported that she’d made two changes at the CVB with all community calls and all complaints going to her. An inventory of assets is being completed. She advised that the city would be celebrating Tourist Appreciation Day on May 7th and the mayor would receive a check which would represent the amount that the tourism industry had brought to Natchez last year.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Arceneaux, with a second by Alderwoman Carter Smith, to close the Finance meeting to make a determination that a valid reason existed to go into Executive Session. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Carby returned and advised that it had been determined that a valid reason existed to go into Executive Session which was the discussion of the location and expansion of a business.

After meeting in Executive Session, Alderman Dillard made the motion to go out of Executive Session and adjourn to the Regular Meeting of the Board of Aldermen. Alderman Gray seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Larry L. “Butch” Brown, Mayor

Attest:

Donnie Holloway, City Clerk