

FINANCE MEETING
March 26, 2013

The Finance Meeting of the City of Natchez met in the Council Chambers on Tuesday, March 26, 2013, at 4:30 p.m.

PRESENT:	Alderwoman Joyce Arceneaux-Mathis	Ward 1
	Alderman Rickey Gray	Ward 2
	Alderwoman Sarah Carter Smith	Ward 3
	Alderman Tony Fields	Ward 4
	Alderman Mark Fortenbery	Ward 5
	Alderman Dan Dillard	Ward 6

ALSO PRESENT:

City Clerk Donnie Holloway
City Attorney Hyde Carby
Temple Hendricks, Board Secretary
David Gardner, City Engineer
James Johnston, Community Development Director
Frankie Legaux, Planning and Zoning Director

Planning and Zoning:

Mayor Brown advised that Amanda Wells and Margaret Green of Magnolia Bluffs Casino had appeared prior to the meeting to discuss pole banners. Curtis Norton, Traffic, had already installed brown and white trail blazer signs, which direct traffic to attractions. Blue and white signs are installed by the City and identify where the casinos are located. Magnolia Bluffs Casino representatives met with Frankie Legaux yesterday and have agreed upon a banner design. The banners will be placed on a pole-one sign facing Main Street and one facing Broadway. The Isle of Capri will have the opportunity to install the same type of signage. Alderwoman Carter Smith suggested that "Magnolia Bluffs" appears below the magnolia flower and the word "casino" is larger. Mayor Brown advised that he likes the tan color for the banner.

Frankie Legaux handed out an attachment to an e-mail. She had met with Leighton Janes and Tony Russell of MDEQ on March 12th at the site on Kelly Avenue. If more testing of the site is requested, the City will have to pay for it as MDEQ no longer has a reason to test the site. Mayor Brown said that it is important to let the people that petitioned for rezoning know the city's findings. Mayor Brown suggested that realtor Nancy Durkin be contacted on the findings and see if she wishes to appear before the BOA. Alderman Gray stated that the sellers should have an environmental assessment done. Mayor Brown said that Mrs. Legaux will contact the realtor who is representing the petitioners and the sellers can proceed with the sale if they wish.

The new building code has come before the Planning Commission and it was approved last week. In Mrs. Legaux's handout, the red notations are changes that are being made to the Development Code. The changes involve dates. Proposed ordinances are also attached.

Every year the City has to complete a Fire Code update. The City will write a letter stating that we're making updates to this code.

There are few changes being made to the Development Code. Mr. Galler wants to make some changes but he's not provided those changes but they will be presented at the first meeting in April. Mayor Brown stated that one change that Mr. Galler wants is to increase the size of outbuildings/storage buildings. Secondly, Mr. Galler does not want to adopt the requirement that residential properties have to have a sprinkler installed where a hot water heater exists.

Mayor Brown said that the City is trying to make our Development Code friendlier to a town our size.

Mrs. Legaux advised that Phil Walker will be moving the preservation ordinances within this chapter but will not be working on them. The City is just now adopting the 2009 ICC Code. Mr. Carby said that moving all preservation ordinances to the Development Code will insure uniform enforcement.

Community Development:
Healthy Workplace Initiative

Titled "NatchHEALTH," the first activity was a blood pressure screening that took place from March 15th through March 19th. 140 employees participated. The blood pressure screening was organized by Analisa Therrien of the Planning Department. Analisa was accompanied by Tanya Hurst, Wellness Works, and Paige Dickey, MS Free Tobacco Coalition. Items discussed included informing employees about the BCBSMS Annual Wellness Program and the perils of smoking.

CDBG PF 2013 – Daisy Street

At the request of Mayor Brown, David Gardner, Allen Laird and James Johnston met with MDA staff to see what could be done to improve the likelihood of the proposed Daisy Street PF application to be funded. Several good suggestions were offered but with most applications, the application must maximize points based on the available scoring criteria. David Gardner and Mr. Johnston evaluated numerous options to maximize the application's points (to increase the chances of being funded) and to minimize as best as possible the cash-cost to the city. The following project budget was proposed –

NWW/Engineering perform the engineering services in-house

The Planning Department prepare and administer the project (if funded)

NWW/Engineering perform the utility relocation services

The board attorney work with NWW/Engineering for Easement Acquisition (2)

The board contribute \$156,000.00 in cash which is \$29,000.00 less than what is budgeted in the Capital Improvements Fund. James Johnston said that he will be asking the BOA for permission to submit the 2013 Urban Youth Corps application which would allow five college-aged students to be hired at PW this summer.

The following will be requested of the board at its 6:00 Meeting:

Pass a motion to rescind the approval of the SWMPDD to prepare and administer the City's 2013 CDBG Public Facilities application

Pass a motion authorizing the filing of a 2013 CDBG PF application that also authorizes the mayor to sign any and all documents pertaining to the submission of the application

Pass a motion authorizing the holding of the required public hearing

Pass a motion committing to the required match for 2013 CDBG PF application

In-kind donations totaling \$75,000.00 (engineering and administration plus utility relocation)

Cash contribution (from Capital Fund) totaling \$156,000.00

Engineering:

David Gardner will be asking for approval of Supplemental Agreement #2 for the North Natchez Drainage IIB project. The agreement will result in an overall increase of \$35,580.00 to the construction cost due to replacing a 12" RCP with an 18" RCP.

Warren Reuther stated that his company manages the Natchez Convention Center, Community Center and Auditorium. In 2007 there were 32 meetings and this year there are 57. He's coming to ask the BOA to increase his funding from \$20,000.00 per month to \$24,000.00 in order to hire a representative for the Jackson market. Mr. Reuther asked that Angela Weathersby be hired as 99% of the business for the Convention Center comes out of Jackson.

Mr. Reuther clarified that out of the \$20,000.00 that his company receives monthly, he does not receive anything as a management fee.

Mr. Reuther is only asking for Ms. Weathersby's salary today. She will be on the NCC's payroll, the NCC will provide her office space in Jackson, and Connie Taunton has agreed to pick up the advertising and travel expenses. Alderman Fortenbery said he's concerned that the City doesn't have these funds budgeted. He also isn't sure if the other hotels will be receiving equal representation by Ms. Weathersby. Mr. Reuther stated that the average convention books 500 hotel rooms so all the hotels are utilized. Alderman Carter Smith asked as most of the conventions come out of Jackson, why has Mr. Reuther only been sending a representative there once or twice a quarter. Alderman Fortenbery asked the City Clerk if he knew where the funding for the new position will come from.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis, seconded by Alderman Gray, to close the Finance Meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board went into the conference room and Mr. Carby returned to advise that a determination had been made to go into Executive Session to discuss the sale of public land and active litigation.

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 Fortenbery seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Larry "Butch" Brown
Mayor

Attest:

Donnie Holloway, City Clerk