

FINANCE MEETING
March 5, 2013

The Finance Meeting of the City of Natchez met in the Council Chambers on Tuesday, March 5, 2013, at 9:00 a.m.

PRESENT: Mayor Butch Brown
Alderman Rickey Gray Ward 2
Alderman Sarah Carter Smith Ward 3
Alderman Tony Fields Ward 4
Alderman Mark Fortenbery Ward 5

ABSENT: Alderman Joyce Arceneaux-Mathis Ward 1
Alderman Dan Dillard Ward 6

ALSO PRESENT: City Clerk Donnie Holloway
City Attorney Hyde Carby
Temple Hendricks, Board Secretary
David Gardner - City Engineer
Justin Dollar – Public Works Director
Sabrena Bartley - Senior Center/Transit Director

David Gardner advised that six month general bids would be received in the Regular Meeting.

The grass cutting contract with Jeffrey Ross is up for renewal and Mr. Gardner would like to change payment being made on a monthly versus per cutting basis and increase the number of cuts to 18 and increase the area to cut. The monthly cost will be \$3,300.00. Mr. Gardner stated that at the old price of \$2,700.00 per cutting, the equivalent cost would be significantly higher than the new established rate. Twelve spots along the right-of-ways will be added. Justin Dollar advised that an off-duty police officer will protect the mowers along the state highway with orange cones placed in one lane when needed.

Mayor Brown asked Justin Dollar how long it would take to clean the old Pecan Factory site. Mr. Dollar and Mr. Gardner will work out a plan to clean the site with Mr. Gardner or Mayor Brown to contact the County regarding the use of a dozer.

Regarding the grass cutting contract with Jeffrey Ross Industrial Services to cut the bluff and other areas inside the city, Mr. Gardner will be asking the BOA for approval to add two additional areas to the existing mowing contract by increasing Jeffrey Ross' contract by \$150.00 a month for the old Pecan Factory site and \$300.00 a month for the nature trails. The additional \$5,400.00 more per year will include picking up trash. All changes for Jeffrey Ross' mowing contracts will be handled via Supplemental Agreement #1.

Justin Dollar advised that Public Works is close to the trunk of the tree on Bishop Street. They've cut everything off the right-of-way and almost ¾ of the tree is on private property. Public Works does not have the proper equipment to remove the trunk. Mr. Dollar called three companies for bids-Live Oak submitted one bid, one company said tree was too big and he's waiting on third bid from Tommy Smith. Mayor Brown asked Mr. Dollar to stop removal of the tree as Chartres Consultants or Habitat for Humanity might be able to use the site. Mr. Dollar and Mr. Carby will meet to discuss the bids.

Mayor Brown advised that Chartres has proposed building 100 scattered housing properties. James Johnston is working on obtaining locations. The City would give the sites to Chartres. Chartres has met with the Historic Natchez Foundation and the homes that will be built on St. Catherine and MLK will need to meet the historic district guidelines. Chartres has a zero tolerance so the City has an opportunity for a program which will cleanup downtown, provide affordable housing and place the properties back on the tax rolls. Alderman Gray asked that Chartres look into the SNAP program so that they can rehab existing properties. Alderman Carter Smith stated that it would be much easier for Chartres to build from the ground up.

Mayor Brown stated that Frankie Legaux had given an extensive report at the work session on March 4th regarding the rezoning on Kelly Avenue. In summary, the monitoring wells on the property have been removed. There are a couple of wells that remain on the Armstrong property themselves. The old Krouse Metals location has been remediated. Mrs. Legaux has documentation on clearance from MDEQ so there is no reason that the property cannot be developed. Alderman Gray asked if MDEQ has

completed an environmental clearance. Frankie Legaux will present her 139 page MDEQ clearance report in a few minutes.

Mayor Brown asked if the BOA wished to sell the Logan Building and the Sunshine Shelter. Mayor Brown then advised that the City will declare them surplus property.

A motion was made by Alderman Fortenbery, seconded by Alderwoman Carter Smith, to go into Executive Session. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Carter Smith, seconded by Alderman Fortenbery, to remain in Executive Session to discuss economic development regarding the Regional Transit Facility and legal issues. The motion carried unanimously.

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

Larry L. "Butch" Brown, Mayor

Attest:

Donnie Holloway, City Clerk