

FINANCE MEETING
May 13, 2014

The Finance Meeting of the City of Natchez met in the Council Chambers on Tuesday, May 13, 2014, at 9:30 a.m.

PRESENT:

Mayor Larry L. "Butch" Brown	
Alderwoman Joyce Arceneaux-Mathis	Ward 1
Alderman Ricky 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
Chief Danny White
James Johnston, Planning Department
Ed Bowser, IT Director
Angela Penfield, Senior Accountant
Brenda Cantu, Personnel

James Johnston, Planning Department

2014 Special Needs Assistance Program (SNAP)

Mr. Johnston read a letter from Naomi Hall extending thanks and appreciation to the mayor and BOA for working with CB&T and Home Bank to assist special needs households in addressing health and safety issues at their homes.

MS Department of Transportation
2014 Urban Youth Corps Program

Mr. Johnston advised that he and Mr. Dollar would request from the board a motion to execute the required board order authorizing approval and execution of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the MS Transportation Commission (MTC) and City of Natchez that outlines the responsibilities of both parties with regard to implementing the 2014 Urban Youth Corps Program including that the LPA shall not be reimbursed if any information regarding the Urban Youth Corps or information pertaining to the funding by the Urban Youth Corps is released to the press without the written approval of the MDO.

Preservation of Yazoo & MS Valley Railroad Depot
Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) Funding

Mr. Johnston was requesting the replacement of the MOU between MTC and city to include the recently approved \$247,500.00 in additional funds for the preservation of the Yazoo & MS Valley Railroad Depot. These monies are in addition to the 2013 grant award, totaling \$500,000.00. Coupled with local matching funds of \$186,875.00, the total project budget is \$943,375.00.

Concurrence with MDOT would be requested on Supplemental Agreement #1 to incorporate and approve the additional scope of work from the 2014 TAP monies into SSR's professional services agreement. Supplemental Agreement #1 would not exceed \$31,426.00.

Application to Fund Construction of Satellite Senior Citizen Center at North Natchez Park
Community Development Block Grant 2014 Public Facilities Application
The required public hearing was held at 10:00 A.M. on Tuesday, April 29th in the Natchez Council Chambers. Mr. Johnston would be requesting permission to spread the minutes of the public hearing onto the city's minutes.

Ed Bowser, IT Director

Robert Disenberger and Pang of Civicplus participated in a conference call regarding the functions of the new government website. Due to problems with the connection, Mayor Brown asked Civicplus to come to Natchez to make a presentation directly to the public.

Hyde Carby, City Attorney

Mr. Carby advised that two issues with MidLa were if a new pipeline would be built or if the existing pipeline would be abandoned. The city has filed a letter to state its intentions as the issues move forward. A discussion was held on the impact of the pipeline abandonment on citizens. Alderman Dillard asked if an independent assessment of the pipeline has been made. Mayor Brown responded not that he knew of—MidLa had asked Atmos to replace the pipeline from Winnsboro to Natchez.

Telepak had been reminded that the city owns ROWs that they will need to use and they will need to alert MDOT. Telepak wanted a 25 year lease which Mr. Carby thought was common. He'd prepare a summary for the BOA.

Mr. Johnston and Mr. Carby had been working with Alcorn to work out the details of the Farmer's Market lease. The city is required to enter a 99 year lease with USDA. Mayor Brown discussed the layout of the site and Alderman Fortenbery asked if the BOA can see plans before voting to give a 99 year lease. Mayor Brown said that the site will have to go through Preservation but not through MDAH.

Mayor Brown advised that he was forming a community development committee to make decisions concerning the funds from Magnolia Bluffs Casino.

Mr. Carby said that he'd be asking the BOA to authorize Sam Keyes of Butler Snow to prepare documents for the Holiday Inn TIF. It can be offered to local banks as the amount is small.

Mr. Carby had prepared a summary of the process to amend the charter to make the municipal judge and city clerk positions appointed. Alderman Fortenbery asked that the two positions be separated.

Mayor Brown reported that he needed voting delegates for the MML conference. No action was taken and a resolution needs to be adopted. (It will be handled at the next meeting.)

Mayor Brown advised that he still needed a meeting to discuss the NWW's/Engineering's possible division. He asked that the BOA meet in two groups of three each.

Angela Penfield, Senior Accountant, appeared and advised that the conversion into Springbrook hasn't been completed yet as clean up needs to be done. The accounting staff needed to come up with outstanding checks and outstanding deposits for the bigger accounts to get the conversion done into Springbrook. The department is as ready for the audit as they can be. She'd provided the schedule that Deanne Tanksley needed. Alderwoman Carter Smith asked if a more concise/simpler report could be provided as even Mrs. Tanksley had requested.

Alderman Dillard said that he appreciated the dockets that the transfers and interfunds loans are listed but he didn't think that the list was complete. He said, for example, if you paid a loan off, it should still be on the schedule. Ms. Penfield replied that she wasn't carrying forward those that were paid off prior to the current month. Alderman Dillard said the Casino Annual Lease Fund 's balance should be \$1,424,000.00 but it never made it to the report. Ms. Penfield replied because it didn't have a beginning balance but it could also be found in the cash account. Alderman Dillard asked for clarification on the \$333,000.00 for contract services that had been paid out of the Casino Annual Lease fund--Ms. Penfield replied that she'd already answered in a previous written response and she was not answering again. Ms. Penfield advised Alderman Dillard that she'd asked that he send her his questions in writing. Alderman Dillard said that he'd asked her questions but she'd passed them off. Ms. Penfield asked how she'd passed the questions off. Mayor Brown gavelled the meeting and said if a problem, it needed to be addressed outside the meeting.

A motion was made by Alderman Fields, 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 personnel, a contract and a litigation update.

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