

FINANCE MEETING
September 23, 2014

The Finance Meeting of the City of Natchez met in the Council Chambers on Tuesday, September 23, 2014, at 4:30 p.m.

PRESENT:	Mayor Larry L. "Butch" Brown	Mayor
	Alderman Arceneaux-Mathis	Ward 1
	Alderman Rickey Gray	Ward 2
	Alderman 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
James Johnston, Community Development Director
Kevin Kirby, Director of Tourism
Ed Bowser, IT Director
Sabrena Bartley, Director Natchez Transit and Sr. Citizens Ctr

James Johnston, Community Development Director

MS Regional Recycling Cooperative Grant
Electrical Tie-In for 2CY Compactor

Bids for the electrical tie-in would be received at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, September 26th, in the Office of the City Clerk. Mr. Johnston would be seeking permission to review the bids and to award the work to the lowest and best bidder in the Regular Meeting. A purchase order would be issued for this work and no local match would be required for this activity.

Alderman Fields advised that the purchase of the Hall property next to Concord Park would provide approximately 15 parking places and the most pressing issue was to acquire the property.

Mayor Brown introduced Kevin Kirby, new CVB Director.

Sabrena Bartley, Director Natchez Transit and Senior Citizens Center

Alderman Dillard asked Mrs. Bartley about fund 125 which was projected to bring in \$2.2M but \$1.375M had been brought in as of August. Mrs. Bartley advised that those were numbers brought forward from the previous budget and budget revision time was her opportunity to correct the numbers.

Mrs. Bartley advised that budgeted amounts for Fund 125 and Fund 113 shown were not correct. She clarified that the budget should show \$1.5M versus the \$2M reported as no construction revenues. She would have the actual numbers in a day or so and those numbers could then be entered.

Alderman Dillard asked if any additional funds would be coming into the construction budget. Mrs. Bartley said Natchez Transit had over \$300,000.00 in the process of being received. The funds should go to 125-000-242. Alderman Dillard said the City Clerk had projected \$1.3M—Mrs. Bartley said those were also figures transferred from last year's budget. Mrs. Bartley said \$750-\$800,000.00 had been deposited with the additional \$300,000.00 to be added to it.

Ray Brown appeared to request that the BOA approve a homecoming parade in the downtown area for October 17th. Mayor Brown said that the problem was that was Balloon Race weekend. Alderman Fields reported that the parade can't be moved to Thursday. After much discussion, Mr. Brown was advised to contact Chief White for a parade permit and details of the parade staging area and route would be worked out.

Alderman Dillard expressed his concern about the adoption of the 2014-2015. The state statute advised that a public hearing had to be held. Mr. Holloway said that another meeting needed to be held with the BOA to go over the figures that needed to be changed and cuts to be made. Alderman Dillard asked if

the millage rate had been advertised—Mr. Holloway said it had not been advertised yet, it would go into the ad advertising stating when the public hearing would be.

Alderman Dillard said that statute states that the governing authorizing should not issue any warrants to pay bills unless the budget was approved. According to the statute, the city clerk's office cannot function, cannot pay bills.

Mr. Carby said there were two statutes if you're anticipating extra money from revenues or raising taxes and the advertising for the budget was more flexible. Mr. Carby advised that Alderman Dillard was correct about the October 1st date and the one week deadline prior to the adoption of the budget was correct. A discussion was held on the timeline for advertising and cut off dates. Alderman Dillard clarified that the public hearing had to be held a week before the adoption of the budget.

Mr. Carby summarized that if the ad would run in Thursday's paper and the public hearing held that day, the budget could be adopted on October 2nd.

The City Clerk said that you don't just advertise the millage but you advertise what the city expects to collect from taxes. He left to get a sample of the advertisement from last year to show the BOA.

Mr. Johnston clarified that not having the audit ready by October 1st would affect grant funding.

A motion was made by Alderman Fields, with a second by Alderman Gray, 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 in accounting and recreation.

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

Alderman Gray made the motion to adjourn the Finance Meeting to go into 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