

**REGULAR MEETING
JULY 11, 2006**

A Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Natchez, Mississippi, was held in the City Council Chamber at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, July 11, 2006. Mayor Pro Tempore David Massey presided at the meeting, which was opened with prayer by Pastor Bart Walker with Parkway Baptist Church

MAYOR & BOARD PRESENT	ELECTED OFFICIALS ABSENT	CITY OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEADS
<p>Joyce Arceneaux-Mathis Aldерwoman, Ward 1</p> <p>J. "Ricky" Gray, Jr. Alderman, Ward 2</p> <p>Bob Pollard Alderman, Ward 3</p> <p>Theodore West Alderman, Ward 4</p> <p>David Massey Alderman, Ward 5</p> <p>Jake Middleton Alderman, Ward 6</p>	<p>Phillip C. West Mayor</p>	<p>Donnie Holloway, City Clerk Everett Sanders, City Attorney Darlene D. Williams, Dep. City Clerk David Atkins, Engineering Department Sabrena Bartley, Senior Center Director Brett Brinegar, Grants Coordinator Brenda Cantu, Mayor's Secretary Paul Dawes, Building Official Rick Freeman, Traffic Dept. Patricia Gibson, Personnel Director Ron Ivey, Public Works Director Paul Johnson, Fire Chief Darlene Jones, Community Dev Specialist Tony Moon, Engineering Department Mike Mullins, Police Chief Eric Smith, Public Works Administrator Ralph Tedder, Recreation Director Walter Tipton, Convention Center Wilbert Whitley, Recreation Dept. Dawn Williams, Planning Specialist Joan Gandy, Natchez Democrat</p>

SWEARING IN CEREMONY

Mayor Massey asked that Mr. Everett Sanders be sworn in as the Attorney for the City of Natchez. Mayor Massey introduced Judge Tyree Irving, Mississippi Court of Appeals. Mayor Massey said Mr. Sanders would be assisted by his wife, Judge Lillie Blackmon-Sanders. Judge Irving noted that Attorney Sanders was sworn in as the City Attorney on his birthday.

Mayor Massey welcomed City Attorney Sanders to the City of Natchez.

Mayor Massey asked that the new Mayor ProTempore be sworn in at this time, Alderman Theodore West.

Alderman Theodore West was sworn in by Judge Tyree Irving with the assistance of his son, J'Depaul West, and his grandchildren, Walker Savali and Kendrick West Jones.

Alderman Massey turned the meeting over to Mayor Pro Tempore T. West,

MINUTES APPROVED

A motion was made by Alderman Massey to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the regular meeting of June 27, 2006 and approve as submitted. The motion was seconded by Alderman Pollard. The motion carried unanimously.

VISITORS WELCOMED

- a. Business of the Month - David New Operating Company
David New Drilling Company
W.T. Drilling Company

Mayor T. West recognized David New Operating, David New Drilling, and W.T. Drilling Companies as Business of the Month. He noted that Mr. David New was present to accept the award.

Mayor T. West noted that the City of Natchez, Adams County Board of Supervisors, Natchez Business & Civic League, and Natchez Adams Chamber of Commerce are proud to recognize the Business of the Month. Mayor T. West requested comments from Mr. David New.

Mr. New said he appreciates the local businesses and thanked the Mayor for the award.

Alderman Gray recognized Darrel Grinnell, Adams County Supervisor.

b. Ross McGehee - Adams County Soil & Water Conservation District

Mayor T. West recognized Mr. Ross McGehee and requested comments.

Mr. Ross McGehee noted that he is Chairman of the Adams County Soil & Water Conservation District. Mr. McGehee said they work with local, state and federal agencies to promote natural resource conservation within the confines of Adams County. He said there is a meeting once a month in the district to facilitate the needs and operations of the conservation partners. Mr. McGehee said the work done by Soil Conservation Services include Bluff stabilization work, Silver Street stabilization, Natchez City Cemetery, Stream bank stabilization projects, and local residential properties.

Mr. McGehee said along with addressing soil erosion concerns within the city and county the Geographic Information System (GIS) is being operated. He said the GIS system has been referred to by the Governor of the State of Mississippi as an example of how city and county government can work together with one system for a common goal. Mr. McGehee said that speaks well of the level of cooperation between the city and county.

Mr. McGehee presented the SWCD/NRCS Program Revenues and thanked the City for the continued support over the years. Mr. McGehee said millions of dollars have been brought into the City of Natchez and looks forward to a long and continued relation with the city. He said there is an increase in the budget which is understandable, due to salary increases, insurance and contractual services. Mr. McGehee said he is excited about the work that is going.

Mr. McGehee presented the following attachment.

c. Eddie Ray Jackson - R.A.D.L. Track Club

Mayor T. West recognized Mr. Eddie Ray Jackson and requested comments.

Mr. Eddie Ray Jackson noted that he is the Head Coach of the R.A.D.L. Track Club, (Raising an Alliance of Discerning Leaders). He said the group has participated in several community service projects, visiting nursing homes, cutting grass for the elderly and assisting with the AOP office with Judge Hudson. Mr. Jackson said the group recently participated in a track meet in Orlando, Fl and ten individuals placing in the top eight (8) are to be considered as All-Americans. He said nineteen (19) qualified to participate in the AAU Track & Field Jr. Olympic Games in Norfolk, VA, July 30-August 5, 2006.

Mr. Jackson said he talked with Mayor Phillip West and requested financial support for the upcoming trip to Virginia. Mr. Jackson said he was not sure if a donation could be done as an entity or if it was best done individually. He said they receive support from the Recreation Department from Ferriday, La because there are children on the team from the area. Mr. Jackson said his main goal is to reward the team for their hard work and dedication.

Mayor T. West requested comments.

Alderman Gray said Mr. Jackson should discussed the matter with Mayor Phillip West to find out what funding he had suggested. Alderman Gray asked if there was a time schedule on the request.

Mr. Jackson said he would appreciate the assistance prior to the trip to Virginia.

Mayor T. West asked if the group is a non-profit organization.

Mr. Jackson said the organization is non-profit and he will discuss the request with Mayor Phillip West when he is in town. Mr. Jackson thanked the board for their consideration.

d. Natchez Police Department Representatives

Mayor T. West recognized Lieutenant Billy Joe Frazier, Natchez Police Department and requested comments.

Lieutenant Billy Joe Frazier presented the following statement:

Mayor T. West recognized Lieutenant Danny White, Natchez Police Department and requested comments.

Lieutenant Danny White recognized Mayor T. West and the Board of Aldermen. Lieutenant White said he was present to speak on behalf of the Fraternal Order of Police. He said there has not been a raise for the police officers in many years. Mr. White said the salary for a police officer is \$21,420. He said the City of Natchez is constantly losing good officers to higher paying employers which requires the hiring of new officers. There are fewer veteran officers on the city streets because of salary concerns. He said the last pay raise for police officers was in October, 2001 which was part of the step program. Lieutenant White said several veteran officers are currently working for the Adams County Sheriffs Department because of the increase in salary. He said there are officers currently looking to be employed by the county, Ms. Highway Patrol, or entities in Louisiana because of the vast difference in the salary.

Mayor T. West recognized Detective Jerry Ford, Natchez Police Department and requested comments.

Detective Jerry Ford addressed the Mayor and Board of Aldermen in regard to the need for a salary increase for the Natchez Police Officers and other concerns. Mr. Ford said he is the Vice-President of the Fraternal Order of Police, Natchez Chapter. He said the additional concern is the high deductible on the current health insurance policy. Mr. Ford asked that the Mayor and Board of Aldermen look into the high deductible and find a solution to have a more affordable health insurance policy. Mr. Ford said the individuals take pride in being a part of the Natchez Police Department and asked the Mayor and Board of Aldermen to consider providing competitive salaries and a lower insurance deductible for health care.

Mayor T. West requested comments from the board.

Alderman Gray said he will agree with the police officers and the statements made regarding the need to have competitive salaries. He said there is the need to also give raises to the Natchez Fire Fighters. Alderman Gray said he was glad to see the police officers attending the meeting in support. He said the board is working on the request.

Alderman Pollard said the Board did discuss the possible raises for the police officers. He said things will be happening in the City of Natchez and the Natchez Police Officers and Fire Fighters will have to be ready and experienced and well paid for what they do. Alderman Pollard said the security and safety of the City of Natchez will depend on the two departments. He said he is 100% in support of giving the raises that are most deserved. Alderman Pollard said he will fight to get as much as possible for the officers.

Alderman Middleton said there is great respect for the Natchez Police and Fire Departments although there are many people who do not know what happens on a day to day basis. Alderman Middleton said the board will make it happen if they are allowed time to work out the concerns.

Mayor T. West, Chairperson of the Police Department said they are in the process of getting things done. He said they are fighting hard to bring the department up to a competitive salary.

e. Ser Seshs Ab Heter - C.M. Boxley (Africa House Museum)

Mayor T. West recognized Ser Seshs Ab Heter - C.M. Boxley (Afrika House Museum) and requested comments.

Ser Seshs Ab Heter-Boxley said he was present to ask the Mayor and Board to adopt a directive policy to be aimed at meditating some of the neglect that exists in the City of Natchez relative to African Descent peoples contributions. He read the quote from Dr. John Henry Clark. "History is a clock that people use to tell their political and cultural time of day." Ser Boxley said if this is so we should be able to ask the question in Natchez. How can we of African descent tell our political and cultural time of day, how is this demonstrated, where can it be seen. "It is also a compass that people use to find themselves on map of human geography." Ser Boxley said where is the map of human geography in Natchez that African descent people from the beginning can find themselves. The issue of human geography falls within the purview of the United Nations, human rights of African descent people to be able to find themselves on the map of human geography in Natchez. "The role of history is to tell a people what they have been, where they have been, what they are and where they are." Ser Boxley said how can this be applied to Natchez where it can visuallably and readily see it, not in the books, not in the archives. Where can children, tourist come to Natchez and see what role was played in history. "The most important role that history plays is that it has the function of telling people where they still must go and what they still must be." Ser Boxley said if we apply this rule that Dr. John Henry Clarke has provided for us in history then we will know that Natchez has a problem of meeting the particulars of the clock, compass and the road map.

Ser Boxley said in 2001 a professor indicated that a cultural situation exists where it appears that people of European descent think their culture is superior and the African descent is inferior. Ser Boxley said this is an indictment of Natchez. Ser Boxley said he has thought very seriously about this book.

Ser Boxley noted that "Each initiative toward making public history in Natchez more racially inclusive represents another victory of the African American experience and, one might add, a victory for history it self." Ser Boxley said why should the people have to come all the time and make each initiative, step by step. Why can't the community leaders and people open up the history that is being denied and let everyone know the facts.

Ser Boxley said Ralph Jennings always talked about information not being included in history that is studied in school. Ser Boxley said the history was deliberately not taught in schools. He said there were people who made sure the history books did not have any information that would take on a contradiction to the idea of the south. He said many generations of people were denied the history of African descent people. Ser Boxley said this was a form of discrimination.

Ser Seshs Ab Heter-Boxley said two days before the 143rd anniversary of the surrender of Natchez to the United States, he comes before the Board of Alderman regarding the development of an official policy being set relative to a directive to the City's Convention Center and Natchez Visitor Center promotion of African American history denied in Natchez.

Ser Boxley said he would like to see a picture of soldiers of the United States coming up the hill in uniforms with black troop taking over Natchez to execute the Civil War in Natchez. The summer of 1863 speaks to the Juneteenth Celebrations. Ser Boxley identified the uniform he was wearing to be the Sixth Heavy Colored Artillery. He said the flag that was given to the 5th Heavy Colored Artillery was brought back to Natchez.

Ser Boxley requested an official policy directing the two agencies to immediately begin tangible and visible promotion of the following:

1. City of Natchez can promote the chattel slavery, blacks in the Civil War and 19th & 20th Century Civil Rights immediately with development of brochures for distribution to tourists

- and the general public.
2. City of Natchez can start on chattel slavery immediately by exhibiting the Forks of Roads educational panels at the Convention Visitor's Center and the Convention Center.
 3. City of Natchez can start on blacks in the Civil War immediately by exhibiting the map of Fort McPherson at the Convention Visitor's Center and the Convention Center.

Ser Boxley said if the City of Natchez would start immediately with written and documented images this would note that things are headed in the direction of overcoming what appears that European people have done everything in Natchez.

Ser Boxley requested a policy directive because the individuals who operate the Convention Center and the Natchez Visitors Center are not going to promote the information.

Ser Boxley thanked the Mayor and Board of Aldermen for allowing him to make the presentation.

Mayor T. West requested comments.

Alderman Arceneaux-Mathis said several months ago when she was in Washington, D.C. she talked about some of the requests made by Ser. Boxley. She said this was discussed to be done in a collective manner. Alderman Arceneaux-Mathis said since that time it was set up through the Planning Department three (3) meetings for individuals to provide information to put a plan in place. She said the group was sending out information to entice additional people to be involved in Heritage Tourism. Alderman Arceneaux-Mathis said because the final meeting was not held she will have to discuss the matter further. She said what the group was looking at was being inclusive of what was presented by Ser Boxley and some other things to include a St. Catherine Street Festival. She said these things need strong planning and individuals who are hired to perform these duties. Alderman Arceneaux-Mathis said there were plans for a presentation via NAPAC, the Forks of the Roads, Angeletty House and other properties.

Alderman Arceneaux-Mathis said there were plans for new brochures and the heritage tourism information should be added, or there should be plans for the development of a separate brochure that would be more inclusive of the history that should be presented. She said she is not sure where the group is headed at this time until someone is assigned to work with them through the office of the Mayor.

Alderman Gray said there is a tour provided by Mrs. Ora Frazier. He said there was a group of people in Natchez who went on the tour and was very impressed with it. Alderman Gray said the group was from Texas and said they would like to bring more groups to Natchez for the tour. He said the group can not move forward until there is a person in place to handle the situation.

Alderman Arceneaux-Mathis asked that the Mayor appoint an individual to coordinate and organize.

Mayor T. West asked if the Department of Heritage Tourism is still active in the Visitors Center.

Mr. Tipton said Ms. Valeria Quinn is working with African American Heritage. He said she is currently working in Dallas, Tx promoting African American Heritage Tourism. Mr. Tipton said the department is in support of the Juneteenth Celebration, the Forks of the Road, worked with the Minorville Celebration and they are attracting African American Conventions to Natchez. Mr. Tipton said the involvement with Heritage Tourism is as committed as all other aspects of tourism. He agreed with the information presented and he would like to see a more coordinated effort and more of the African American Heritage available in the area presented. He said this would be a great opportunity to attract more business to Natchez. Mr. Tipton said the exhibits at the Visitors Center were done with a comprehensive and balanced approach. He said the Convention Center and the Visitor's Center is an equal business. He said everyone is treated with the same respect. Mr. Tipton said he is in support of everything that was presented. He said there is an opportunity to bring additional African American business to Natchez and he is looking forward to that happening.

A motion was made by Alderman Arceneaux-Mathis and seconded by Alderman Gray to

have the City Attorney develop a policy to address the following:

1. **City of Natchez can promote the chattel slavery, blacks in the Civil War and 19th & 20th Century Civil Rights immediately with development of brochures for distribution to tourists and the general public.**
2. City of Natchez can start on chattel slavery immediately by exhibiting the Forks of Roads educational panels at the Convention Visitor's Center and the Convention Center.
3. City of Natchez can start on blacks in the Civil War immediately by exhibiting the map of Fort McPherson at the Convention Visitor's Center and the Convention Center.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis said as she outline the group was beginning to work on a more inclusive plan. She said if this is going to be a start it would be good to have an ordinance. She said directions should be issued as to what department will work with the process. Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis said the Convention Center is working on tourism from a point of what is existing and established. The groups have been trying to pursue the establishment of some particular kinds of information that is not established. She said there are other pieces that should be put together to complete the puzzle and make heritage tourism a vital part of Natchez. Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis said this process will take development.

Mayor T. West requested comments.

Alderman Pollard said the Community Development Specialist is currently working on some of the projects discussed.

Mrs. Jones, Community Development Specialist said she is currently working on projects and she would like to meet with Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis and Alderman Gray to discuss how the City can move forward on the request.

Mayor T. West asked that a committee be formed to bring suggestions to the board on how to proceed.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis said the groups that were formed should be notified and called together. She said the organization was coming together. Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis said she was glad to know that Mrs. Jones will step in and continue with the organization of the project.

Mayor T. West asked that Mrs. Jones schedule meetings to move forward.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis asked that the previous motion be rescinded. The motion was seconded by Alderman Gray. The motion carried unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, Tony Moon - Assistant Engineer

Mr. Tony Moon said there are bids to be submitted and opened on Tuesday, July 25, 2006 for the Passback/Damaron Drainage Project. He asked that an ad hoc committee be appointed to accept and open the bids. Mr. Moon said the ad hoc committee will include David Gardner-City Engineer, Eric Smith-Public Works Administrator, Alderman David Massey and Deputy City Clerk, JoAnne Hicks.

A motion was made by Alderman Middleton and seconded by Alderman Pollard to appoint an ad hoc committee to accept and open bids on July 25, 2006 for the Passback/Damaron Drainage Project. The committee will include David Gardner-City Engineer, Eric Smith-Public Works Administrator, Alderman David Massey and Deputy City Clerk, JoAnne Hicks. The motion carried unanimously.

Monthly Report for the Natchez Water Works Department

PLANNING DEPARTMENT, Dawn Williams - Planning Specialist

Mrs. Williams stated that an appeal has been submitted by Dan Bland regarding the July 6, 2006 decision of the Natchez Zoning Board of Adjustment to deny his request for a Special Use Permit to operate a two (2) unit Bed & Breakfast at 111 South Rankin Street. Mrs. Williams asked that the date of the appeal hearing be set for the Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Board of Alderman on August 8, 2006.

Mayor T. West requested comments.

A motion was made by Alderman Massey and seconded by Alderman Middleton to set the appeal hearing for Dan Bland 111 South Rankin Street for the Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Board of Alderman on Tuesday, August 8, 2006 at 11:00 a.m. The motion carried unanimously.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, Brett Brinegar -Grants Coordinator

Ms. Brinegar said the City of Natchez was awarded a \$20,000 grant to clean up illegal dumpsites in Ward 2. She said the City will apply again in August for the second 2006 round. This is a no-match grant.

Ms. Brinegar said the City of Natchez has passed phase one of the Emergency CDBG and been placed under pre-Agreement, which means that we can start work on the sewer line repairs now and be reimbursed for that work later if the grant is awarded. She said the Engineering department will begin work ASAP. The full application was submitted to MDA in June. Ms. Brinegar said the city should hear something within the next 30-60 days.

Mayor T. West requested comments.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis questioned the status of the Zoa Street CDBG project.

Ms. Brinegar said she will contact the case manager for the CDBG project.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis asked that Ms. Brinegar follow through with the project to assure completion. Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis asked Ms. Brinegar if she was able to get a copy of the paperwork for the CDBG grant.

Ms. Brinegar said she was in the process of requesting the information.

Mayor T. West asked why all the dumpsite cleanups were selected in Ward 2.

Ms. Brinegar said all the worst sites are located in Ward 2. She said there are five (5) sites in Ward

2 that should be addressed immediately. She said the second grant will be divided between other wards as needed.

Alderman Massey asked if anything will be done about the tires in Ward 1.

Ms. Brinegar said she discussed the tire situation with DEQ and they are working on a solution to the problem. She said some of the tires can be disposed of in the county.

Alderman Gray said there is a major problem with dumping in Ward 2 and it is not getting better. He asked if the city can purchase cameras to be installed at the beginning and end of West Stiers Lane to record every vehicle to identify the dumping. Alderman Gray said when the sites are cleaned they are filled again.

Ms. Brinegar said she will discuss the matter with DEQ and possibly apply for a grant to purchase cameras to be used in the area.

Mayor T. West requested a motion.

A motion was made by Alderman Gray and seconded by Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis to authorize research through DEQ for a grant to possibly purchase cameras to be used in the area of possible dumpsites. The motion was carried unanimously.

POLICE DEPARTMENT, Mike Mullins - Police Chief

Chief Mullins said before 1993 the police officers were allowed to work off duty security details in their official uniforms. He said for thirteen (13) years the uniforms could not be used for off duty employment. Chief Mullins said a new law was passed on July 1, 2006 by the legislature allowing officers to work off duty details in their official uniform with side arms. Chief Mullins said they important element of the law will include the following stipulations:

1. The officer must be working within the jurisdiction, City of Natchez;
2. All acts and omissions of the officer are the liability of the employer and not the City of Natchez;
3. Approval must be issued by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen;
4. The work location must be filed with the Natchez Police Department.

Chief Mullins said the department must have approval from the board to allow the officers to use the uniforms and side arms. He said he will discuss the stipulation and policies with Attorney Sanders.

Mayor T. West requested comments.

Alderman Gray said this was the topic of discussion during the MML Conference and he is glad the law was finally passed. He said there is an advantage to having the officers in uniform while off duty. Alderman Gray said there will be a greater amount of respect for police officers in full uniform while working off duty.

Alderman Pollard said he is also in support of allowing officers to wear their uniforms during off duty employment. He said this will also allow the police to supplement their salaries.

Mayor T. West requested a motion .

A motion was made by Alderman Pollard and seconded by Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis to approve the use of the official uniforms and side arms by the Natchez Police Officers during off duty employment based on Senate Bill #2236 with stipulations set forth by the board.

Alderman Massey questioned the use of side arms during off duty employment. He questioned the responsibility of the officer on duty.

Chief Mullins said the city is responsible for the purchase of uniforms and side arms for all officers.

He said the employer the officer will be working for off duty will be responsibility for all acts and omissions of the officer working for their establishment.

Alderman Massey asked who is responsible for filing the paperwork when the officer is working off duty.

Chief Mullins said the Senate Bill does not require a wavier, although it would be in the interest of the City of Natchez to have a document drafted by the City Attorney. He said the law states that it is the liability of the employer. Chief Mullins said the document would make the employer aware of the responsibility.

Attorney Sanders said he will provide a document for Chief Mullins to review. Attorney Sanders said the statue specifically grants immunity to the municipality or the county. He said a wavier could be prepared if it is the pleasure of the board.

Alderman Pollard said according to Senate Bill #2236 the officer may wear the official uniform and utilize the official firm arm while in the performance of private security services during off duty hours.

Alderman Middleton noted that the officers will be serving in a private capacity.
Chief Mullins agreed that the officers will be employed by private agencies.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis said she was contacted a few years ago by officers who wanted to wear the uniforms but it could not be done because there was a law in place to prohibit it. She said there was the question of the pay mechanism. She asked how the officer would be paid for the private employment. Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis asked if the payment would be issued to the Police Department or would the officer receive payment from the employer.

Chief Mullins said the finances will be between the officer and the employer. He said this matter is not just about the officer making money it is having extra officers out in the community. Chief Mullins said on a regular shift there are approximately eight (8) officers on the street and with the new law there could be as many as 12-15 uniformed officers in the community on a busy weekend. He said having the uniformed officers on duty will be a benefit to the public.

Mayor T. West called for a vote on the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

Chief Mullins noted that National Night Out is scheduled for August 1, 2006 and will begin at 4:00 p.m.. He said they added several additional neighborhoods to the schedule.

TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT, Rick Freeman - Director

Mr. Freeman said last year the Traffic Department applied for a grant for the sign inventory. He said the sign inventory is now complete and they are waiting to receive a detailed report. Mr. Freeman said an estimate was received from the engineering consultant for the second phase of the project which will include purchasing material, and the installation of signs. The grant is in the amount of \$96,000 with a match by the city for \$24,000. Mr. Freeman said the match will be provided by in-kind service and labor. He requested authorization from the board to allow Mayor West to sign the application for the second phase of the sign inventory grant.

A motion was made by Alderman Massey and seconded by Alderman Middleton to authorize Mayor West to sign the necessary documents for the submittal of the application for the second phase of the sign inventory grant. The motion carried unanimously.

INSPECTION DEPARTMENT, Paul Dawes - Building Official

Mr. Dawes presented the monthly report for June, 2006.

CITY OFFICIALS REPORTS

ALDERWOMAN ARCENEUX-MATHIS

Aldерwoman Arceneux-Mathis asked that Chief Mullins check on the concerns regarding fireworks at the Susie B. West Apartment complex. She said she received calls from the residents of the complex.

Aldерwoman Arceneux-Mathis requested comments from Ms. Brinegar regarding the grant submitted for the Library Elevator repairs.

Ms. Brinegar said the grant application was submitted and she received a follow-up call stating that it was received and was under review. Ms. Brinegar said according to Casey Hughes the results should be final at the end of July.

Aldерwoman Arceneux-Mathis said she and Alderman Gray have information they prepared as a follow-up to the trip to Washington, D.C. She asked that Ms. Brinegar look into the status of funding dates on the national level. She said they were asked to send a copy of the power point presentation back to the contacts. Aldерwoman Arceneux-Mathis asked Ms. Brinegar spear head gathering the information to be mailed out to the Congressmen inviting them to visit Natchez. She said there are two sets of correspondence to be mailed immediately to the residents of Ward 1 and Ward 2. Aldерwoman Arceneux-Mathis said she would like to meet with Mr. Tipton to discuss the completing and copying of the power point presentation to be submitted.

Aldерwoman Arceneux-Mathis said she would like to get the information to the Congressmen as soon as possible. This matter should be addressed before the session ends and funds are appropriated. Aldерwoman Arceneux-Mathis asked that on the directive of the Mayor, members of the Planning Department, Ms. Brinegar, Mrs. Jones, and Mr. Tipton meet immediately following the board meeting in the conference room to discuss the completion of the projects.

Aldерwoman Arceneux-Mathis thanked Mrs. Brenda Cantu for her belief in the Board and assistance over the past years. Aldерwoman Arceneux-Mathis said she hoped everything works out for Mrs. Cantu and her family.

ALDERMAN GRAY

Alderman Gray presented the monthly report for the Natchez Fire Department.

Alderman Gray said he received several complaints about the condition of Union Street from residents that have vehicle damage because of the street. He said Union Street is a FAU street and bids should be requested for the overlay of the street. Alderman Gray said there is money available for this project.

Mayor T. West requested comments.

A motion was made by Alderman Gray and seconded by Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis to authorize Public Works to advertise for bids for the resurfacing of Union Street from Stiers Lane to Elm Street. The motion carried unanimously.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis asked that she and Alderman Gray ride Union Street in its entirety with the Public Works Director & Administrator to make sure there are no problems on South Union Street prior to the advertisement is complete.

Alderman Gray said he received a call from a resident in West Stiers Lane regarding the narrow area adjacent to her house. He said a vehicle ran off the road traveling along West Stiers Lane into her yard. There is a guard rail in front of the property that is there for protection. Alderman Gray asked Public Works Director, Ron Ivey to go to the site and provide an estimate of what is needed.

A motion was made by Alderman Gray and seconded by Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis to authorize Public Works to provide an estimate for the installation of a guard rail along the narrowest point of West Stiers Lane. The motion carried unanimously.

Alderman Gray said following research of the erosion problem on Ivy Lane he found out that the area is not part of State right-of way. He said the funds used to install the retaining walls along Martin L. King Jr. Street were provided by USDA. Alderman Gray asked that the Engineering Department contact the Natural Resource Conservation Service regarding the Ivy Lane erosion problem and request funds for the Ivy Lane problem.

Mr. Atkins said he will contact the USDA representatives and discuss the problems at the Ivy Lane

site.

Alderman Gray said while in Washington and completing research he found that USDA funds were used to completed the project on Miami Court. He said he did not understand why the city is looking for funds when funds are available. Alderman Gray said there should be funds available to the residents in West Stiers Lane. Alderman Gray requested the names of the contacts with USDA because he will personally give them a call. The problems in West Stiers Lane are not getting better.

Alderman Gray said the property of Mary Johnson, 202 Lamar Street & First Street is being damaged by running water from the city street across her property. He said the city should do what is necessary to correct this problem. Alderman Gray asked both the City Engineer and Public Works Director to review the site and find a solution.

A motion was made by Alderman Gray to authorize the Public Works Director and the City Engineer to research the damage caused by water from the city street at 202 Lamar Street and provide a solution. The motion was seconded by Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis. The motion carried unanimously.

Alderman Gray said he was glad to hear that the city will include funds in the budget for the purchase of a street sweeper to address curb appeal.

Alderman Gray questioned the overlay asphalt patch at the corner of Martin L. King Jr. Street adjacent to Mackel Funeral Home. He asked if that site was a blow-out from the INI project. Alderman Gray said there was damage to many streets in the city as they completed the INI projects. He asked if and when the street will be repaired.

Mr. Atkins said the damage to the streets was due to the gas company, INI projects. He said there are concerns with the repairs to the INI projects that will be addressed at the end of August.

Alderman Gray said he will be attending the MML conference on the date Mrs. Brenda Cantu will be leaving the city and he wanted to thank her for her assistance and wish her the very best. Alderman Gray welcomed Everett Sanders as the City Attorney.

Alderman Gray thanked his constituents for attending the meeting.

ALDERMAN POLLARD

Alderman Pollard said the board is trying to locate funds to pay for the street sweeper because it would be an asset to the City of Natchez. He said all the city streets are in need of this piece of equipment.

Alderman Pollard asked that Ken Whittington be reappointed to the Natchez Water Board.

Alderman Gray asked if Mr. Whittington was contacted and agreed to continue to serve.

Alderman Pollard said Mr. Whittington was contacted and is willing to serve.

A motion was made by Alderman Pollard and seconded by Alderman Massey to reappoint Ken Whittington to the Natchez Water Board. The motion carried unanimously.

Alderman Pollard thanked Mrs. Brenda Cantu for her service with the city during his two years on the board and wished her the best.

ALDERMAN WEST

No Report

ALDERMAN MASSEY

Alderman Massey noted that Mrs. Cantu has been really good to the City of Natchez. He said Mrs. Cantu stepped in when Delores Vines retired and kept the board in line. Alderman Massey thanked Mrs. Cantu and wished her the best in the future.

ALDERMAN MIDDLETON

Alderman Middleton said there was no report for the Recreation Department. He thanked Mrs. Brenda Cantu for her service and said it was a pleasure working with her.

CITY CLERK'S REPORT

Mr. Holloway requested approval of the docket as submitted. Docket #6199 through # 6996.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis asked if the docket was reviewed by the City Attorney.

Attorney Sanders said he reviewed the docket.

Alderman Massey, Alderman Pollard and Alderman Middleton asked that the record show that they are objecting to the approval of item # 6719.

Mayor T. West asked that item #6719 be removed from the docket pending clarification from the City Clerk.

A motion was made by Alderman Massey and seconded by Alderman Middleton to amend the docket with the removal of #6719 pending clarification from the City Clerk. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis and seconded by Alderman Gray to approve the amended docket. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor T. West asked that Mr. Holloway bring clarification to the board on item #6719.

Mr. Holloway said the revised budgets were issued for final review. He asked that the Board approve the Revised Budget for the 2006-2007 year.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis requested clarification on the revisions made to the budget.

Mr. Holloway said the budget revisions made by the Board included Convention Center \$50,000, Recreation \$10,000, other small items. He said the final budget revisions must be approved prior to August 1, 2006.

A motion was made by Alderman Massey and seconded by Alderman Pollard to approve the revised budget as submitted pending final review by Mayor Phillip West. The motion carried with Alderman Massey, Alderman Pollard, Alderman Gray, and Alderman Middleton voting in favor. Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis abstained from the vote.

Mr. Holloway said Mrs. Cantu started working for the City of Natchez in the City Clerk's office. He said it was a pleasure working with Mrs. Cantu over the past six years. He wished her good luck

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Attorney Everett Sanders said the option on the Convention Center Hotel has been executed.

Attorney Sanders recognized individuals who were in the audience in support of him. Attorney Sanders introduced his parents Mr. & Mrs. William Sanders, a family friend Ms. Winnie Washington, his nephew Keelan Sanders and Judge Irving from Jackson, Mississippi. Attorney Sanders introduced his daughters Keisha and Aisha Sanders and members of the Sanders Law Firm.

Attorney Sanders said he wanted to take the opportunity to express his appreciation to the Mayor and Board of Aldermen for the confidence invested in him by selecting him as counsel for the City of Natchez. He said he will make every effort to show that the trust of the board was not misplaced.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor T. West said the board is looking forward to working with Attorney Sanders.

Mayor T. West said Ms. Brenda Cantu will be missed and thanked her for her dedicated service to the City of Natchez and the Mayor and Board of Aldermen.

Mayor T. West said there is no board meeting set for July 25, 2006, and the work session scheduled for August 1, 2006 has been canceled.

Mayor T. West said the Minorville Jubilee Celebration will be held on July 29, 2006 through July 30, 2006. Mayor T. West presented the proclamation for the Minorville Jubilee

Mrs. Katie Moore was present to accept the proclamation for the Minorville Jubilee Celebration.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Alderman Massey and seconded by Alderman Middleton to adjourn the Regular Meeting of July 11, 2006. The motion carried unanimously.

PHILLIP C. WEST, MAYOR

ATTEST:

DONNIE HOLLOWAY, CITY CLERK