REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 8, 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, August 8, 2006. Mayor Phillip C. West presided at the meeting, which was opened with prayer by Bishop Stanley Searcy of New Hope Missionary Baptist Church.

MAYOR & BOARD PRESENT	ELECTED OFFICIALS ABSENT	CITY OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEADS
Phillip C. West **Mayor** **J. "Ricky" Gray, Jr.** **Alderman, Ward 2** **Bob Pollard** **Alderman, Ward 3** **Theodore West** **Alderman, Ward 4** **David Massey** **Alderman, Ward 5** **Jake Middleton** **Alderman, Ward 6**	**Joyce Arceneaux-Mathis** **Alderwoman, Ward 1**	Donnie Holloway, City Clerk Everett Sanders, City Attorney Darlene D. Williams, Dep. City Clerk Sabrena Bartley, Senior Center Director Brett Brinegar, Grants Coordinator Paul Dawes, Building Official Rick Freeman, Traffic Dept. Patricia Gibson, Personnel Director David Gardner,Engineer/Superintendent Temple Hendricks, Mayors Secretary Walter Huston, Planning Department Ron Ivey, Public Works Director Paul Johnson, Fire Chief Darlene F. Jones, Comm Dev. Director Mike Mullins, Police Chief Eric Smith, Public Works Administrator Ralph Tedder, Recreation Director Walter Tipton, Convention Center Wilbert Whitley, Recreation Dept. Natchez Democrat

MINUTES APPROVED

A motion was made by Alderman West to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the regular meeting of July 11, 2006 and approve as submitted. The motion was seconded by Alderman Pollard. The motion carried unanimously.

BUSINESS OF THE MONTH - Silas Simmons, LLC

Mayor West recognized Silas Simmons as Business of the Month. He noted that Mr. Charles Caldwell is the current manager with a total of 30 employees. Mayor West said the company represents many of the successful individuals and businesses in our area, many of whom are of the third and fourth generation.

Mayor West noted that Silas Simmons, LLC are faithful contributors and volunteers to many organizations, including the Rotary Club, Kiwanis Club, Lions Club, Relay for Life, American Red Cross, Natchez Children's Home and many more. He said they pride themselves on the personal attention they give to their clients, and their employees share the company's vision for success. Mayor West said 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.

Alderman Middleton presented the plaque for the business of the month.

Mr. Bill Russ was present to accept the award.

ATTACHMENT

APPEAL HEARING

Mr. & Mrs. Dan Bland - 111 South Rankin Street

Mayor West asked if Mr. & Mrs. Dan Bland were present. He asked if there was a representative for the appeal hearing. Mayor West asked if Mr. & Mrs. Bland were notified of the scheduled hearing.

Mrs. Temple Hendricks said the Blands were notified.

Alderman Pollard noted that during a conversation with Mr. Dan Bland it was stated that they were going to drop the appeal.

Mayor West asked that the Board not go out of order for the appeal hearing because there was no representative.

RECEIVE BIDS

a. Passbach-Dameron Ditch Drainage Modification Project

Mr. Gardner said bids were received and opened for the Passbach/Dameon Ditch-Drainage Modification Project by the ad hoc committee consisting of himself, JoAnne Hicks, Eric Smith, and Alderman Massey on Tuesday, July 25, 2006. Mr. Gardner said there were two bids submitted

1. Dozer, Inc. $112,110.00
2. Camo Construction $ 53,090.00

Mr. Gardner asked the board to accept the bids as submitted and award the bid to the low bidder Camo Construction.

Mayor West requested comments.

A motion was made by Alderman Massey and seconded by Alderman Pollard to accept the two bids for the Passbach-Dameron Ditch Drainage Modification Project and award the low bid to Camo Construction Company in the amount of $53,090.00. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gardner asked that the board authorize Mayor West to execute the contract documents and all necessary documents to proceed with the Passbach-Dameron Ditch Drainage Modification Project.

Mayor West requested comments.

A motion was made by Alderman Middleton and seconded by Alderman Massey to authorize the execution of documents to proceed with the Passbach-Dameron Ditch Drainage Modification Project. The motion carried unanimously.

VISITORS WELCOMED

Mayor West welcomed everyone to the meeting. He recognized Kathy Stephens with the United Way.

A. Kathy Stephens - Disaster Plan Recommendation

Mrs. Kathy Stephens said on behalf of all individuals involved with United Way they are pleased to present the disaster plan recommendations. Mrs. Stephens said included in the packet presented to the Mayor and Board of Aldermen was the executive summary, power point presentation, planning recommendations and the training recommendations. She said she would like to meet in a work session with the Mayor and Board to discuss the procedures of the plan. Mrs. Stephens said all information will be used to work in tandum for the creation of a work format.

Mrs. Stephens said she learned through the consultants that because of the Office of Emergency Preparedness, by Mississippi law it is a joint office between the city and the county. She said the city should be notified that the Adams County preparedness plan has not been in compliance since 1996. She

said the plan was written in early 1996 and updated when new guidelines were provided by the State of Mississippi. Mrs. Stephens said there were six (6) major recommendations from the Federal level that have not been integrated into the county plan. She said during Hurricane Katrina there was difficulty trying to function by the plan to the point where the plan was put away and Mayor West ran a command center, which was similar to the plan.

Mrs. Stephens said it is with great pleasure that the plan is donated to the City of Natchez on behalf of the agencies who worked hand and hand during the disaster. She said the office of Emergency Preparedness informed the Board of Supervisors that there were no problems during Hurricane Katrina and there was minimal damage in Adams County. Mrs. Stephens said debris removal was the least of the concerns. She said the human service work was critical and the need for the 18 hour days to make sure everything was delivered properly.

Mrs. Stephens said she was available to answer questions and looked forward to joining the board in a work session to further discuss the development of a disaster plan that would be compatible with the County plan. She said the consultants identified that the plan could lower the insurance for the City of Natchez if the plans were compatible.

Mayor West requested comments and noted that the last update for the Adams County Emergency plan was in 1996. He said the last update for the Natchez Fire Department was also at that time, which were probably done together. Mayor West agreed with the recommended by Mrs. Stephens to have a work session to discuss the details of the proposed plan.

Mrs. Stephens said the recommendation is for a plan to cover tornados and hurricanes. She said there is no evacuation plan in place for Adams County. Mrs. Stephens said a disaster plan and evacuation plan are separate documents.

Mrs. Stephens said the company was so impressed with the City of Natchez working hand in hand with the non-profit organizations and faith based organizations that they donated $300,000 for Hurricane Katrina relief and donated $36,000 to the United Way to assist with the cost of the disaster plan. She said the company is willing to work with the city in developing a plan.

Mayor West thanked Mrs. Stephens for the continued work with the United Way.

B. <u>Andre Farish - Parking Under the Hill for a Special Event</u>

Mayor West recognized Andre Farish and requested comments.

Mr. Andre Farish stated that Natchez Under-the-Hill is one of the most popular sites in the city, and the City of Natchez is not reaping the full benefit potential because of the lack of parking. Mr. Farish requested the consideration of widening Silver Street from the lift station to the private parking lot. He said there are very few obstacles to prevent this and the return would justify the cost. Mr. Farish said the Under-The-Hill Saloon is sponsoring the third annual Under-the-Hill Luau on Saturday, August 19, 2006. He said this event has ballooned into a gathering of individuals from many places. He said his vision for the event is continued growth. Mr. Farish said the individuals attending the event will eat, sleep and help the general economy of Natchez.

Mr. Farish asked the board for leniency in regard to parking along Silver Street for the event date, August 19, 2006. He asked that the sidewalk be utilized for parking with the street being cleared enough for the access of emergency vehicles. Mr. Farish requested consideration from the board.

Mayor West requested comments from the board.

Alderman Middleton requested clarification of the request to allow parking on the sidewalk.

Mr. Farish requested parking to be allowed on the bluff side of Silver Street. He said there would be adequate space to allow access of emergency vehicles.

Alderman Middleton asked if this would create a problem with the boardwalk.

Mr. Farish said there would not be a problem for the boardwalk. He said parking would be allowed from the lift station to the first parking lot.

Alderman Middleton asked if there would be a problem for the Natchez Police Department.

Chief Mullins said if parking is allowed along the bluff side of Silver Street there would not be a problem. He said there would be adequate space for emergency vehicle access.

Mayor West requested additional comments.

A motion was made by Alderman Massey and seconded by Alderman West to authorize the temporary parking along the bluff side of Silver Street for the Under-the-Hill Luau to be held on August 19,2006 with details being coordinated with Police Chief Mullins and Fire Chief Johnson. The motion carried unanimously.

C. James Smith - 2006 CDBG Grant Application

Mayor West recognized James Smith, Sunbelt Research & Development.

Mr. James Smith thanked Mayor West and the Board of Aldermen for allowing him to address the board. Mr. Smith said in January, 2006 his firm Sunbelt Research and Development was selected to prepare the 2006 CDBG application for the City of Natchez. He said Crown Engineering was selected to provide the engineering on the project. Mr. Smith said he was successful in submitting the grant application and received a site visit which indicated that all grant requirements were met.

Mr. Smith said an important part of the grant application was the door to door visits in the Zoa Street area collecting demographic information from individuals. He said he did the survey personally as part of the project over a period of three days. Mr. Smith said in mid July he received a call from Mayor West regarding the status of the CDBG application. Mr. Smith said he informed Mayor West that the Mississippi Development Authority was considering funding the application under the hardship category.

Mr. Smith said under the status of hardship funding, the process is based on the original application prepared by Sunbelt Research and Crown Engineering. He said the two companies completed the grant for the fees that were associated with implementing the grant. Mr. Smith said there are concerns with the submittal of the hardship application. He said under the hardship application additional information is submitted justifying why the city cannot wait until the next round of funding. Mr. Smith said his firm has done a good job for the City of Natchez over the past eight (8) months and there will be possible funding in the amount of 1.8 million dollars for the project. Mr. Smith said they also provided the presentation presented in Washington, D.C. for street improvements in Ward 1 and Ward 2.

Mr. Smith said Sunbelt Research and Crown Engineering are still in the standing for administering the project because they prepared it and will complete the engineering portion. He asked that the document he presented to the Board be entered into the minutes.

Mr. Smith noted that he is not a relative of the previous City Planner, Andrew Smith. He said through his efforts the two groups have delivered for the city and he is looking forward to completing the project. Mr. Smith said the firm of Sunbelt Research provided a full copy of the grant application to the City of Natchez. He said there were two e-mail copies of the application submitted to the Planning Department secretary during the transition of the City Planner leaving.

Mayor West requested comments.

Mayor West asked that Mr. Smith meet with the board following the regular meeting in Executive Session.

ATTACHMENT

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

CONVENTION CENTER, Walter Tipton

Mr. Tipton said there were fifteen (15) checks in the amount of $5,569.33 that have not cleared the bank. He asked that these checks be written off and the funds placed back into the proper accounts.

Mayor West requested comments on the request.

A motion was made by Alderman Massey and seconded by Alderman West to allow the fifteen (15) checks in the amount of $5,569.33 to be written off and the funds placed back into the proper accounts. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Tipton noted that the Minorville Festival was a great event and thanked everyone for their participation.

Mr. Tipton noted that the following are events scheduled for the upcoming weeks.

1. Ms-Lou Regional Tourism Summit
2. Ms-Lou Wildlife Expo
3. Reception commemorating the 189th Anniversary of the signing of the State of Mississippi Constitution at Jefferson College on August 15, 2006
4. Food Home and Health Show
5. Bowie Knife Show
6. Entertainment at the City Auditorium
7. Under-the-Hill Luau

Mr. Tipton reported that at the annual meeting of the Natchez Trace Compact he found out that Life Books have provided a list of one hundred (100) places to see in your lifetime. He said this list is world wide and of the twenty-five places in the United States, the Natchez Trace Parkway is #18 on the list. Mr. Tipton said the general public should know about this list. He said he purchased the book and this would be a great item.

Mayor West requested comments.

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, David Gardner, Engineer/Water Superintendent

Mr. Gardner said the advertisement for bids was sent out for the North Natchez Surface Water Project (592 Project). He said this project was approved by the Corp of Engineers and the bids will be received by the Board of Aldermen on Tuesday, September 12, 2006 at 11:00 am. He requested ratification by the Board of Aldermen for advertisement.

Mayor West requested comments.

A motion was made by Alderman Massey and seconded by Alderman Pollard to ratify the advertisement for bids for the North Natchez Surface Water Project (592 Project) to be accepted on Tuesday, September 12, 2006 at 11:00 a.m. The motion carried unanimously.

ATTACHMENT

Mr. Gardner requested permission from the board to authorize Mayor West to sign the pay request for the Traffic Signal Project that is ongoing through the Mississippi Department of Highway Safety. He requested approval for Mayor West to execute the monthly report.

Mayor West requested comments.

A motion was made by Alderman Pollard and seconded by Alderman Massey to issue authorization to Mayor West to execute the monthly report for the Traffic Signal Project. The motion carried unanimously.

ATTACHMENT

Mr. Gardner said the City Auditorium roof project was bided out and the notice to proceed was issued to the contractor to begin work. He said the Building Inspector informed him that the contractor is on site and the work has started.

Mr. Gardner said the asbestos abatement on the Laird/Hicks buildings on Main/Canal Streets is complete and payment is being processed. He said once the contractor submits the contract documents the city will be in the position to finalize the project.

Mr. Gardner informed Alderman Gray that the problem on Hampton Court was addressed and taken care of.

Mr. Gardner said the application for funding (TEA-21) was submitted for the Trails Project. He said the city received a grant in the amount of $25,000 grant from the Lower Mississippi Delta Initiative, submitted by the National Park Service on behalf of the city. He said funds were also approved in the amount of $217,000 for the project from the Physical Year Transportation Community System Preservation Program Grant to be administered by MDOT. Mr. Gardner said the Memorandum of Understanding should be executed prior to the end of September, 2006 and executed between the City of Natchez and MDOT to authorize the spending of funds for the project.
Mr. Gardner said the TEA-21 project is in the amount of $1,746,275.00 with a 20% match. He said the application that was submitted for $650,000 was submitted to Senator Cochren and approved by the Senate and the House of Representatives, is now in the committee on the final amount of funding which will be used toward the match. Mr. Gardner said the funding is falling in place on this project and by the summer of 2007 there should be construction on the Trails Project.

Mr. Gardner presented the Water Works report be spread on the minutes.

ATTACHMENT

BUILDING INSPECTION, Paul Dawes, Building Official

Mr. Dawes presented the monthly report for the Inspection Department.

ATTACHMENT

MUNICIPAL COURT, Jim Blough, Judge

ATTACHMENT

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, Darlene Fitzgerald-Jones, Director

ATTACHMENT

PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT, Patricia Gibson, Director

ATTACHMENT

CITY OFFICIALS' REPORTS (ALDERMEN)

ALDERWOMAN ARCENEAUX-MATHIS

Alderman Gray read the attached statement in the absence of Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis.

ATTACHMENT

ALDERMAN GRAY

Alderman Gray said he is proud to see the completion of the rails at the intersection of Martin L. King Jr. Street & Wilson Road by the Public Works Department. He said he has one concern and that is there are no sidewalks in the area for the children to utilize while walking to the Natchez Middle School. He said the area is dangerous because the children walk in the street to get to the intersection and during school hours the traffic is very heavy. Alderman Gray asked that MDOT is contacted and asked to provide sidewalks in the area because of the emergency situation.

Alderman Gray said at the last meeting he requested information from the Public Works Department on the estimated cost to pave North Union Street. Alderman Gray said the estimated cost to pave North Union Street will be $63,000. He said this project would be completed by the city.

A motion was made by Alderman Gray to have North Union Street paved from West Stiers Lane to Elm Street for the proposed amount of $63,000.00. The motion was seconded by Alderman West.

Mayor West requested comment on the motion.

Alderman Pollard asked who will provide the $63,000.

Alderman Gray said the funds will be provided from the Capital Improvement Fund and the City Clerk, Mr. Holloway verified that the funds are available.

Alderman Pollard requested verification from Mr. Holloway that the $63,000 is available for the street improvements.

Mr. Holloway said there is money available in the Capital Improvement Fund.

Alderman Pollard said he remembered discussing the possibility of paving North Union Street but there was not a final decision made. Alderman Pollard questioned the procedure for making a street a priority. He said additional discussion is needed on the request.

Mayor West requested comments.

Alderman Massey requested information from Mr. Gardner, City Engineer regarding the priority of FAU streets. Alderman Massey asked if the FAU street projects are prioritized in regard to what street will be overlayed first.

Mr. Gardner said the city is responsible for the decision of what streets are overlayed first. He said North Union Street and Homochitto Street are top priority in regard to FAU (Federal Aid Urban) status. He said the paving of North Union Street if done at this time would bypass the FAU funding service. Mr. Gardner said the funds would be provided by the city.

Alderman Massey questioned the proper procedures for acquiring FAU funds.

Mr. Gardner said if the request is to have North Union Street paved by FAU funds, and it is slated for the next street on the list, an application must be submitted through MDOT and the process would take

up to three (3) years. Mr. Gardner said the same process is required as it was for Minor Street, Martin Luther King Jr. Street and Duncan Avenue. He said a FAU project takes the estimated three years because plans and specifications have to be prepared and placed in the program prior to applying for funds through MDOT. Mr. Gardner said it will take two years to build up the funds to provide for the project every third year.

Alderman Massey asked where North Union Street is on the FAU list.

Mr. Gardner said North Union Street is top priority on the FAU list.

Alderman Massey asked if plans and specifications are being prepared for the North Union Street as a FAU project.

Mr. Gardner said the North Union Street will be processed for paving as the next FAU project .

Mayor West called for a vote on the motion.

The motion was denied with two votes in favor, Alderman Gray and Alderman West, and three votes against the motion Alderman Pollard, Alderman Massey, and Alderman Middleton.

Alderman Gray noted that the denial of the request did not surprise him since all decisions are split down racial lines. He said he was told by the Aldermen how bad the condition of North Union Street is and when funds are available the request is denied.

Alderman Gray asked if the funds were provided by the Cock of the Walk for rent.

Mayor West said three fourths of the funds are available and a check was provided for the remaining amount. He said he was not sure if the balance was available to be placed in the necessary account.

Alderman Gray said he would like to make the motion to close the Cock of the Walk establishment if funds were not made available.

Mayor West questioned the proposed date to close the establishment and based on what circumstance.

Alderman Gray said based on the correspondence submitted to the owner and the deadline date for payment being July 1, 2006. He said the document stated that if the funds were not in place by July 1, 2006 the establishment would be closed. Alderman Gray said the correspondence also noted that if the money is in place and the rent is one month late the establishment would be closed.

A motion was made by Alderman Gray stating that if funds were not make available by the Cock of the Walk the establishment will be closed or if the rent is one month late the establishment would be closed.

Mayor West requested a second on the motion.

Mayor West stated that the motion died due to the lack of a second.

Alderman Gray said he received a letter from Habitat for Humanities regarding water usage for the construction of the house on Smith's Lane. Alderman Gray asked Mr. Gardner to look into the situation and possibly provide assistance to the organization for the water bill since they are providing assistance to the needy in the community.

Mr. Gardner requested the name of the contact person for the organization.

Alderman Gray asked Mr. Gardner to contact Mr. Duncan McFarland.

Alderman Gray said he received additional complaints from residents in Ward 2 regarding uncut grass and dilapidated properties adjacent to them. He said some properties have not had the grass cut in over a year. Alderman Gray said he will contact the Planning Department and Public Works to see if the properties are on the list to be cut.

Alderman Gray said he attended the MML Conference and there are several new bills that were introduced and should be reviewed by the Board. He provided copies for the Aldermen and Natchez Democrat.

Alderman Gray asked that the Natchez Democrat print an article regarding Drag Racing to inform the public of the fines and jail time associated with the offense. He said Senate Bill #2210, Cruelty to Animals added new laws to outlaw fighting of animals. Alderman Gray noted that House Bill 1307, enhanced the penalties for assault on public officials, effective July 1, 2006. He asked that the board review the document.
ATTACHMENT

Alderman Gray noted that Mr. J.D. Wallace came before the board a year ago to discuss the charges placed on his taxes for grass cutting. Alderman Gray said there were concerns with the $500.00 charges for cutting the small lot.

A motion was made by Alderman Gray to reduce the cost for the grass cutting at 22 ½ Concord Street from $500.00 to $250.00.

Mayor West requested a second on motion.

Alderman West requested discussion on the fees for grass cutting.

Mayor West asked if Alderman Gray would withdraw the motion to allow open discussion on the grass cutting fees.

Alderman Gray withdrew the motion to all for discussion.

Alderman West noted that the cost of grass cutting fees was discussed at a previous meeting.

Alderman Gray said the recommendation was not made a part of the minutes.

Mayor West noted that the board did not take official action on reducing the amount charged for grass cutting on the Wallace property. He said it was in the context of discussing the issue and looking at the overall standards as it relates to the cost to see if adjustments should be made. Mayor West said there were concerns discussed although no decision was made.

Alderman Pollard said there was a fee increase approved for the Planning Department. He said the board was informed by Andrew Smith that the fees were being increased based on recommendations from the Planning Commission, Preservation Commission, and the Board of Adjustment. Alderman Pollard said he was told that the board members did not agree with the large amounts of the increase.

Mayor West said Alderman Pollard was talking about a separate issue. Mayor West said there are set fees for grass cutting and cleaning dilapidate properties.

Alderman Pollard asked if the Public Works Department will determine the fees for grass cutting.

Mayor West said the fees were set prior to them being elected. He said there was a concern from Mr. Wallace regarding the fees charged for cutting the small lot. Mayor West said it was discussed in context of seeing if the standards should be amended in terms of how the fees should be determined.

Alderman Pollard recommended that the board review the procedures and contact the property owner regarding the matter.

Alderman Massey said as Chairman of Public Works he would like to be allowed to review the situation and discuss the matter with the Mr. Ivey, Public Works Director, and return the information to the board.

Alderman Gray said he would welcome the suggestion made by Alderman Massey to review the situation.

Alderman Gray said the water problem on Seals Lane was reviewed by the County Engineer and City Engineering personnel. Alderman Gray said he received a confirmation from Adams County Supervisor Grennell to assist with correcting the problem. Alderman Gray requested information from Mr. Gardner, City Engineer regarding the findings and a possible solution.

Mr. Gardner said a meeting was held on July 31, 2006 and the Seals Lane property was discussed. He said there was an agreement from the county to provide the following materials for the project:

1. 60 linear feet of 18 inch corrugated metal pipe
2. 2.5 cubic yards of concrete

Mr. Gardner said the city agreed to provide the 15 linear foot concrete trench box with a traffic grate for the project. He said the trench box will be constructed by the public works department.

Alderman Gray requested an estimated cost on the project.

Mr. Gardner said the cost will be based on the construction of the trench box which will take approximately two (2) days. He said the only out of pocket expense will be the cost of labor which will be provided by the Public Works Department.

Mayor West requested a motion to proceed.

A motion was made by Alderman Gray to authorize Public Works to proceed with the project on Seals Lane with the assistance as agreed by Adams County. The motion was seconded by Alderman West. The motion carried unanimously.

Alderman Gray thanked the World Changers for the projects completed in the Ward 2 community. Alderman Gray said the World Changers come to Natchez every other year and assist with needed repairs to homes. He said the residents in Ward 2 were pleased with the work that was done. Alderman Gray said he was glad the city participated financially in the project to give the World Changers an opportunity to help those in need in the Natchez community.

Alderman Gray said he talked with Mr. Herman Nelson, Kelly Avenue regarding the ownership and possible purchase of the property owned by the City of Natchez. Alderman Gray said the property owner has been keeping the area cut and would like to purchase the property.

Mayor West requested the address of the property.

Alderman Gray said the property is located on the corner of Kelly Avenue and Gayosa Street across the street from the tire company.

Mayor West asked that Mr. Huston, Planning Department research the ownership of the referenced property and provide the information to him.

Alderman Gray said Mr. Dunmore contacted him again regarding the condition of his property in West Stiers Lane. Alderman Gray said he will schedule a meeting with the County Engineer and the City Engineer to discuss the situation and see what assistance can be provided to the property owner.

Alderman Gray read a prayer before ending his report.

Alderman Gray said he met with the West Stiers Lane neighborhood group and collected signed petitions to be submitted to the officials in Washington, D.C. along with letters inviting them to Natchez. He said there are petitions submitted by residents of Ward 1 and Ward 2. Alderman Gray asked that Ms. Brinegar accept the petitions and have them submitted with the letters.

Alderman Gray requested an update on the Mary Johnson property at First & LaSalle Streets, which has water running across the city street onto the property. Alderman Gray said he provided pictures of the site to the Public Works Department to show the drainage concerns. He said with a hard rain the property owner can not drive to the rear of her property. He asked that the site be reviewed on a rainy day by public works to observe the direction the water is running. Alderman Gray asked that a solution is made available to the property owners. He said that cleaning the property will not provide the necessary solution, the water will have to be redirected to eliminate the problem.

Mr. Ivey said there is a city drainage easement on the property. He said he will review the situation again and provide information to him.

Alderman Gray thanked his constituents for their support.

ALDERMAN POLLARD

No Report

ALDERMAN WEST

Alderman West said the 14th Annual Minorstreet Jubilee was a successful event and included the ribbon cutting ceremony for the opening of the newly reconstructed Minor Street. He thanked the following individuals for supporting the event:

Mayor West and the Board of Aldermen
Temple Hendricks for coordinating the ribbon cutting ceremony
Public Works Department-Mr. Smith, Mr. Ivey
Convention Center - Mr. Tipton, Valerie Quinn, Mr. Green
Recreation Department - Wilbert Whitley
Judge Jim Blough, Municipal Judge
Chief Mike Mullins, Police
Chief Paul Johnson, Fire

Alderman West said Mayor West and the Board of Aldermen along with Chief Mullins, Chief Johnson and Ms. Gibson, Personnel Director have diligently worked on a proposal that would address three major areas of concern for the sworn civil service employees of both the police and fire departments. Alderman West said the areas of concern are considered as the three R's.

RECRUITMENT RETENTION REWARD

Alderman West stated that special thanks go to Department Heads for their assistance in providing an across the board increase of $2,700 for the Natchez Fire Department and Natchez Police Department effective September 1, 2006. He said details of the plan will be released prior to September 1, 2006.

Mayor West requested a motion on the request.

A motion was made by Alderman West and seconded by Alderman Pollard to provide an across the board salary increase of $2,700.00 to the Natchez Fire Department and Natchez Police Department effective September 1, 2006. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor West commended Alderman West, Alderman Massey and the Board of Aldermen for the dedicated work on the plan to make the increase possible.

ALDERMAN MASSEY

Alderman Massey said a similar plan was presented by the Public Works Director for a small increase for the public works employees. He said the request is within the department budget. Alderman Massey said the department cut one position from the budget which made the increase possible.

A motion was made by Alderman Massey to approve the requested salary increase for the public works employees as submitted. The motion was seconded by Alderman West.

Alderman Gray said the public works department can not afford to cut an employee. He said in the last board meeting public works was short on employees and now they have decided to eliminate a position. Alderman Gray said Ward 2 is being neglected. He asked how employees can be cut from the department when the work is not being completed.

Alderman Massey requested clarification from Mr. Smith, Public Works Administrator, on the requested increase. He said the department found a way to work through the difficulties of getting the grass projects completed without hiring an additional individual.

Mr. Eric Smith, Public Works Administrator noted that one employee resigned and the position will not be filled. He said the bottom salary in the budget will be used to provide the salary increase for the employees.

Alderman Gray said the department should not cut personnel, he said if the board wanted to provide an increase for the employees they could do so without eliminating a position.

Alderman Massey said 75% of the work orders have been completed in Ward 2 and it is good management to find a way to provide for employees. Alderman Massey said the increase for the fire & police is being provided because personnel will not be replaced. He said there is not an increase in the budget for either department. Alderman Massey called for the previous motion.

Mayor West said the previous motion was been called for and requested a vote.

The motion carried unanimously to approve the salary increase for the Public Works Department.

ALDERMAN MIDDLETON

Alderman Middleton said the Recreation Department recently installed a **Climbing Wall Playground Structure** in the upper Duncan Park Playground. This is the 1st Climbing Wall Playground Structure in Natchez. He said the department has rebuilt larger Fall Zone Borders with increased fall zone materials at Oseola Park, and most of the upper Duncan Park Playground. Alderman Middleton said they will continue to rebuilt larger Fall Zone Borders with increased fall zone materials in the next Fiscal Year. There will be thick rubber wear mats installed under each swing and under the bottom of each slide as we complete the Fall Zone upgrades.

<u>Duncan Park Golf Course 2006 City Championship Tournament Winners</u>

Natchez Ladies City Championship Tournament		Margo McLeod
Natchez Seniors City Championship Tournament		Charles Yarborough
Bill McKenney Memorial Men's City Championship Tournament		K.G. Watkins
Natchez Juniors City Championship Tournament	(Boys)	Jordan Farmer
	(Girls)	Mary Kate Byrne

CITY CLERK'S REPORT, DONNIE HOLLOWAY

Mr. Holloway requested approval of the docket as submitted. Docket # 7429 through # 7765

Alderman Middleton asked if the docket was reviewed by the City Attorney.

Attorney Sanders said he reviewed the docket as submitted.

Alderman West asked if docket # 6719 was addressed.

Mr. Holloway said the docket # 6719 was paid because the asphalt was a bid contract and was delivered. He said #6719

A motion was made by Alderman West and seconded by Alderman Middleton to approve the docket # 7429 - #7765 as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT, EVERETT SANDERS

Attorney Sanders said there has been a law suit filed against the City of Natchez in connection to the flooding of property that took place in September, 2005 in the area of the Natchez Trace Parkway. Attorney Sanders said the lawsuit has been transferred to the MML, Insurance Carrier to be addressed. He said there appears to be some liability on the part of the National Park Service contractors and possibly MDOT in connection with that matter. Attorney Sanders said this will be handled by the insurance carrier.

Attorney Sanders said the second item involves the previous City Attorney, Walter Brown. Attorney Sanders said there are projects that Attorney Brown was involved in and it would be in the best interest of the City of Natchez to allow him to continue to handle the projects to their conclusion. Attorney Sanders said it is his recommendation that the Board allow Attorney Brown to represent the city in those cases.

Mayor West requested a motion.

A motion was made by Alderman West and seconded by Alderman Massey to authorize Attorney Walter Brown to continue as representative on behalf of the City of Natchez on the following cases and be compensated at the rate of $110.00 per hour and should cover services rendered since July 1, 2006. The motion carried unanimously.

ATTACHMENT

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor West asked Mr. Ivey, Public Works Director and Mr. Smith, Public Works Administrator how the projects would be characterized within the city and various neighborhoods as it relates to having the necessary manpower and time to cover the areas. Mayor West said when there are other specific assignments added regarding drainage, cutting tree limbs, it takes away from the time you have scheduled for maintenance. He requested an assessment.

Mr. Ivey said over the past weeks they have cut and groomed thirty-eight (38) lots in Ward 1, Ward 2, and Ward 3. He said the grass cutters are still running the regular routes and they are in the process of picking up an abundance of limbs on a regular basis on Monday and Thursday. Cleaning is done on a regular basis. Mr. Ivy said there are ten (10) inmates who are assisting with the lot cleaning.

Mayor West said there is grass that is overgrown on the city right of ways that should be addressed. He said he understood there were additional requests for the department to handle and he wanted to know if there was a manpower shortage in the area. Mayor West said if the shortage is contributing to a situation where the department can not keep up the maintenance of the city in a respectable manner as it relates to the neighborhoods.

Mr. Ivey said there are situations that can not be kept up. He said there is a minimum of three weeks to get around to every site regular duty.

Mayor West said he will ride through the neighborhoods and see what the situations are.

Alderman Massey said there were only twelve (12) employees prior to the hire of four (4) additional employees. He said the public works department has done a marvelous job with the limited number of employees.

NEW BUSINESS

NONE

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Alderman Massey and seconded by Alderman Pollard to go into Executive Session to discuss possible litigation. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Alderman Massey and seconded by Alderman Pollard to return to the regular order of business. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Alderman West and seconded by Alderman Pollard to adjourn the Regular Meeting of August 8, 2006. The motion carried unanimously.

PHILLIP C. WEST, MAYOR

ATTEST:

DONNIE HOLLOWAY, CITY CLERK