

**REGULAR MEETING  
APRIL 10, 2007**

A Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Natchez, Mississippi, was held in the City Council Chamber at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 10, 2007. Mayor Pro Tempore Theodore West presided at the meeting, which was opened with prayer by Alderman J. Ricky Gray.

MAYOR & BOARD PRESENT	ELECTED OFFICIALS ABSENT	CITY OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEADS
<p><b>Theodore West</b> Mayor Pro Tempore</p> <p><b>Joyce Arceneaux-Mathis</b> Alderwoman, Ward 1</p> <p><b>J. "Ricky" Gray, Jr.</b> Alderman, Ward 2</p> <p><b>Bob Pollard</b> Alderman, Ward 3</p> <p><b>David Massey</b> Alderman, Ward 5</p> <p><b>Jake Middleton</b> Alderman, Ward 6</p>	<p><b>Phillip C. West</b> Mayor</p>	<p>Donnie Holloway, City Clerk Everett Sanders, City Attorney Darlene D. Williams, Dep. City Clerk Sabrena Bartley, Senior Center Director Jim Blough, Municipal Judge Brett Brinegar, Grants Coordinator Paul Dawes, Building Official Rick Freeman, Traffic Dept. David Gardner, Water Superintendent Henry Harris, Recreation Mike Mullins, Police Chief Dennis Story, City Planner Eric Smith, Public Works Administrator Wilbert Whitley, Recreation Department Ralph Tedder, Recreation Director Walter Tipton, Convention Center Director Katie Sthalcup, Natchez Democrat</p>

**MINUTES APPROVED**

**A motion was made by Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the regular meeting of March 27, 2007 and approve as submitted with attached addendum. The motion was seconded by Alderman Pollard. The motion carried unanimously.**

**AWARD OF BIDS**

**1. General Supply Bids**

Mayor T. West requested comments from Mr. Gardner regarding general supply bids received.

Mr. Gardner said the general supply bids were received and taken under advisement. He said all bids were analyzed. Mr. Gardner said his recommendation is to award the bid to the lowest bidder. He presented a copy of the bids for the minutes.

Mayor T. West requested a motion on the recommendation.

**A motion was made by Alderman Massey and seconded by Alderman Pollard to award the bids for general supplies to the low bidder. The motion carried unanimously.**

## **ATTACHMENT**

### **2. Website Development and Electronic/Online Payment Services**

Mayor T. West requested comments from Ms. Brinigar regarding bids received for website development.

Ms. Brinigar said she was present on behalf of Community Development with the two bids received for website development. Ms. Brinigar said the proposals were reviewed by the selection committee and the recommendation is to award the bid to U.S. Network.

Mayor T. West requested comments.

**A motion was made by Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis and seconded by Alderman Pollard to award the bid for Website Development and Electronic/Online Payment Services to U.S. Network. The motion carried unanimously.**

## **BUSINESS OF THE MONTH**

Mayor T. West requested assistance from Alderman Pollard and Alderman Gray in the presentation of the Business of the Month banner and plaque.

Mayor T. West said Callon Petroleum Company is the Business of the Month for April, 2007. He said, opened in 1950, Callon Petroleum Company began its operation in Natchez with only five employees and was one of the seven Mississippi based companies listed on the New York Stock Exchange. Callon Petroleum Company now has 61 employees, and is owned and operated by Fred L. Callon. The company strives to increase oil and gas production and shareholder values for its customers.

Mayor T. West said Callon has made tremendous contributions to the community over the years including assisting with financial gifts to the American Red Cross, American Heart Association, AmSouth Bank Cancer Tennis Tournament, Boys and Girls Club, Christmas Angel Tree Project, and many other organizations. Callon's stable highly qualified workforce allows them to compete successfully in the oil and gas business of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and the employees are most proud of the wholesome quality of life offered by the Miss-Lou area. Callon Petroleum looks forward to serving this community for many years to come. Congratulations, Callon Petroleum on being chosen April business of the month.

Alderman Pollard read the plaque and presented the banner.

Mr. Terry Trovato was present to accept the award on behalf of Callon Petroleum Company. Mr.

Trovato said they are very honored to be in Natchez.

### **VISITORS WELCOMED**

Mayor T. West welcomed all visitors to the meeting.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

### **DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS**

#### **GRANTS DEPARTMENT, Brett Brinegar**

Ms. Brinegar said packets were mailed to additional Congressional Representatives from Mississippi as requested by Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis. She said back-up material was mailed which will take up to three months to clear the mail room because everything is examined that goes to Washington.

Ms. Brinegar said a report was submitted on previous projects involving low income housing and rehab of private housing. She said a copy of the summary was provided for review by the Mayor and Board with brief recommendations on how to proceed. Ms. Brinegar said the research is not complete, this process will take a while. There will be additional information provided.

#### **ATTACHMENT**

#### **INSPECTION DEPARTMENT, Paul Dawes**

Mr. Dawes presented the financial report for the month of March, 2007 for the Inspection Department. He said there was one permit issued for new construction where there was no construction previously.

#### **ATTACHMENT**

Mr. Dawes said the property owners of 14 West Woodlawn Street, have been issued the required notifications for demolition. He said this is a burned property that should be demolished. Mr. Dawes recommended approval of demolition based on the property being declared a nuisance.

**A motion was made by Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis and seconded by Alderman Gray to declare 14 West Woodlawn Street (Map 41-107 B, 90) as a nuisance and approve demolition. The motion carried unanimously.**

Mayor T. West asked if there were bids requested on the demolition.

Mr. Dawes said he did not have bids on the property, he said advertisement will be submitted.

Mayor T. West asked if it could be demolished on an emergency basis.

Mr. Dawes said the structure can be demolished on an emergency basis only if it is in eminent danger of collapse. Mr. Dawes said the property is not in danger of collapse.

**PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT, Patricia Gibson**

Monthly report submitted for March, 2007.

**ATTACHMENT**

**MUNICIPAL COURT, Judge Jim Blough**

Municipal Court Report for March, 2007.

**ATTACHMENT**

**CITY OFFICIALS' REPORTS**

**ALDERWOMAN ARCENEAUX-MATHIS**

Aldерwoman Arceneaux-Mathis said she wanted to make sure she understood correctly the comments made by Ms. Fannie Brown, AJFC, at the last meeting. Aldерwoman Arceneaux-Mathis said Ms. Brown noted that the City of Natchez was at the end of the Down Payment Assistance Program. She said the program should be closed out to allow for another program in the next fiscal year with the home program. Aldерwoman Arceneaux-Mathis said she would like the status of the program and the scheduled date for the down payment assistance program to be closed out. She requested comments from Ms. Brinegar.

Ms. Brinegar said she was not sure if Ms. Brown would initiate another down payment assistance program.

Aldерwoman Arceneaux-Mathis asked that Ms. Brown is contacted through the Mayor's office and discuss the status of the application and make sure the application is not initiated again.

Aldерwoman Arceneaux-Mathis said there was a neighborhood meeting held on Monday, April 9 to focus on areas earmarked for assistance. She said Ms. Brinigar was present to discuss possible federal housing programs that would deal with the rehabilitation of homes. Aldерwoman Arceneaux-Mathis said there was a large number of concerns mentioned by the residents. She said the group was asked to make a list of the most immediate concerns and a secondary list to be presented to the Mayor and Board of Aldermen.

Aldерwoman Arceneaux-Mathis requested information regarding the lack of lighting throughout the community. She said she would like Chief Mullins to provide information on what Entergy is doing about

the lights that are out. Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis said there are quite a few lights that are out.

Chief Mullins said the night patrol officers are asked to identify the lights that should be repaired and submit the pole numbers to him and he will contact Entergy.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis said there is an abundance of crime when there is darkness. She asked Chief Mullins to work on the lighting situation.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis said she received the report from Mr. Gardner regarding the Zoa Street project and she asked that Mr. Gardner and Mr. Story work together to see the project through completion. She said she would like to know when the project will start and what the projected time of completion will be. Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis asked that this information be submitted to her.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis asked if there was an update on the drainage project.

Mr. Gardner said the Corp. of Engineers is working closely with the City of Natchez on the project. He said the City of Natchez will host the meeting of the Mississippi River Commission on Wednesday, April 11, 2007 and on Thursday the public hearing will be held at Fulton Street. Mr. Gardner said the Mississippi River Commission will receive comments from the public in regard to the high and low water inspection.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis said she noticed in the Public Works report that the grass cutting was 65% complete. She asked when the grass along Maple Street will be cut.

Mr. Smith said the grass along Maple Street should be cut by Friday, April 13, 2007.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis said all areas in Natchez are important, but Maple Street is very important when the city is lobbying for funds in Washington with the Department of U.S.DA, and the gentleman who heads the department have ties to property on Maple Street. She said it is embarrassing to be asked about the status of the overgrown property in the area every time we go to Washington asking for money. Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis said there are three sites on Maple Street that have been on the list for a long while that should be addressed.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis asked Mr. Smith if he was contacted by Virginia Conn about the retaining wall following the rain.

Mr Smith said he talked with Mrs. Conn about the retaining wall.

## **ALDERMAN GRAY**

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

## **ATTACHMENT**

Alderman Gray asked if there is a process in place to deal with the upcoming grass season and overgrown lots. He said there are properties that are on the list that were not cut last year. Alderman Gray requested an explanation from Mr. Smith, Public Works Administrator.

Mr. Smith said he was informed by the Woodville Prison Commander that inmates can not go onto private property to cut grass. He said the inmates are only allowed to cut city owned property. Mr. Smith said he is researching other possibilities.

Alderman Massey asked Mr. Smith who provided the information that the inmates could not go on private property.

Mr. Smith said he talked with the prison commander at the Woodville site.

Alderman Massey asked Attorney Sanders to verify the information with the office of the Attorney General. Alderman Massey said maybe there is a strategy that the city can use to have the inmates assist public works get caught up on the lots one time.

Alderman Gray said other municipalities use inmates to clean and cut properties.

Alderman Gray requested information from Mr. Gardner regarding the repairs done on East Stiers Lane and the current condition of the area following a rain.

Mr. Gardner said the project was not a NRC project. He said the NRC project can not be started without the completion of paperwork. Mr. Gardner said if the area is surveyed and the project not started there would be a problem with the construction phase.

Alderman Gray requested a date on the start of the Seals Lane project.

Mr. Smith said he is reviewing the project list and the projects will be prioritized.

Alderman Gray asked Mr. Smith to stay in contact with Supervisor Grennell and let him know the status of the project to be done jointly with the county. Alderman Gray said he did not want to lose the funds to be provided by the county.

Alderman Gray said a meeting date should be scheduled to meet with Alan Ingram regarding the Housing Authority. Alderman Gray said the board should contact Mr. Ingram immediately and schedule the meeting.

Mayor T. West asked if the meeting should be held during open session.

Alderman Gray said the meeting should be held in open session.

Alderman Gray made a comment about the motion he made to terminate the Building Official. He said the information he had on the situation was not forwarded to the full board. Alderman Gray apologized to the board for not providing the pertinent information to them prior to the meeting. He said now that a process is in place to evaluate employees he will allow the process to handle the situation.

Alderman Gray requested prayers for Mayor West and family during the illness of his wife Carolyn.

Alderman Gray said he attended the meeting at Pilgrim Baptist Church regarding the Robert Lewis Middle School and noted that the problems at the school are minor. Alderman Gray said members of the school district are asking the community to visit the Middle School and see what is offered.

Alderman Gray said the media forms the opinion of the community. He said when you read information in the newspaper please check out things for yourself. The media forms an opinion and everyone should not follow it.

Alderman Gray thanked his constituents for attending the meeting.

#### **ALDERMAN POLLARD**

Alderman Pollard commented on the information provided by Mr. Gardner regarding the Mississippi River Commission. He said this is an elite group and Natchez is proud to host the public hearing. The Mississippi River Commission is made up of five (5) commissioners appointed by the President of the United States that travel the Mississippi River twice a year. He said this group oversees the high water inspection and the low water inspection, and projects along the Mississippi River. Alderman Pollard said the members will be traveling on the Marine Vessel Mississippi which is the tugboat owned by the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers. He said this is the most elaborate tugboat on the river but has never pushed a barge. Alderman Pollard said he had the privilege last year to ride on the high water inspection tour. He said the inspectors are the high brass of the Corp of Engineers, a very elite group to be in Natchez for a visit. Alderman Pollard said the red carpet is being rolled out for the group in conjunction with the public hearing and tour. He said a few will be allowed to ride the boat to the Red River Lock.

#### **ALDERMAN MASSEY**

Alderman Massey asked that Mr. Smith and Mr. Gardner meet to discuss the requirements for the maintenance of Lower Woodville Road.

**A motion was made by Alderman Massey and seconded by Alderman Pollard to authorize the request for bids on the maintenance of Lower Woodville Road.**

Alderman Massey said it was noted that due to the reconstruction of the trace lighting Lower Woodville Road will be repaired with money in the capital improvement fund.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis asked if Lower Woodville Road is one of the major arterial to

qualify for funds.

Alderman Massey said it is not a state highway, although it would be worth looking into with Mississippi Department of Transportation.

Mr. Gardner said Lower Woodville Road is not on the FAU route, the alignment of the road does not meet the requirements of the standards. He said the road would have to be straightened, money will not be provided if the road does not meet the standards.

Alderman Massey asked Mr. Gardner to check with MDOT to see if it is legal to use their milling equipment to allow the repairs to be done inhouse.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis suggested that the county is contacted to see if they have equipment that could be used to mill the street and the city provide the material and labor.

Mr. Gardner said the general supply bids could be used to do the project and not go through the process. He said it can be done by using the general supply bids submitted.

Alderman Massey asked that Mr. Gardner contact the county regarding the matter.

**Alderman Massey made a motion to rescind the previous motion to advertise for bids. The rescinded motion was seconded by Alderman Pollard. The motion carried unanimously.**

Alderman Massey said he was contacted by Supervisor Campbell and a letter was submitted regarding the possible removal of the barrier on Triumph Lane to allow access to the church being constructed. Alderman Massey asked that Chief Mullins review the situation and see if the barrier can be removed. He said this is a friendly suggestion that the barrier be removed.

Alderman Gray said he was contacted about the same question. He said the board must look at the fact that the Spray Ground, basketball courts, baseball fields are in the immediate area of the barrier. Alderman Gray said there are more children playing in the areas. He said there is a large amount of traffic and with the open stretch of street it would only allow for additional traffic and speeding. Alderman Gray recommended not removing the barrier because of the children playing in the area. He said he would not want to cause a traffic jam for the church but the safety of the children should be first.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis said she was trying to remember when the barrier was installed and the discussion of a possible road along the old railroad track. She said there was an existing road along the railroad track that was not being used. Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis said now that the church is being constructed in the area, the City Engineer, Public Works Administrator should drive the area and review what is there along the old tracks. She said when the barrier was installed she did not want the housing area locked in. Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis said now the area should be reviewed.

Alderman Massey said he wanted to bring the request to the board for discussion. He asked that

Chief Mullins research the request. Alderman Massey said the request was from Supervisor Campbell and any assistance would be appreciated.

Mayor T. West said the residents were in favor of the barrier being installed to eliminate traffic.

**ATTACHMENT (copy of letter from Supervisor Campbell)**

**ALDERMAN MIDDLETON**

Alderman Middleton said the barrier was installed because of the possible danger to the area with increased traffic and speeding.

Alderman Middleton said there is a large amount of activity on the area playgrounds, the golf tournaments. He said baseball season will be starting for the summer and school will be out. Alderman Middleton asked that everyone be aware of the children.

Alderman Middleton presented the report for the Recreation Department.

**ATTACHMENT**

**CITY CLERK'S REPORT, DONNIE HOLLOWAY**

Mr. Holloway requested approval of the docket # 4023 - 4814.

Mayor T. West requested comments.

**A motion was made by Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis and seconded by Alderman Middleton.**

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

Attorney Sanders said he reviewed the docket.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Holloway requested authorization to place on the surplus list the following lot.  
Lot 1, Block 27 Concord Addition, Tax Map 41-109, B-3.

Mr. Holloway said he requested three appraisals on the lot.

**A motion was made by Alderman Gray and seconded by Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis to place Lot 1, Block 27 Concord Addition, Tax Map 41-109, B-3 on the surplus list to be sold. The motion carried unanimously.**

**CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT, EVERETT SANDERS**

**NO REPORT**

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor T. West said there were several appointments to be made on various boards. He said he would like to follow procedure in filling the vacancies. Mayor T. West asked the board to nominate candidates to serve in the various vacant positions.

Alderman Gray said there should be term limits for the appointments to the boards. He said one individual should not be allowed to serve continuously.

Mayor T. West said the list of appointments should be reviewed.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis asked that the meeting be closed with a silent prayer for Mrs. Carolyn West.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**A motion was made by Alderman Middleton and seconded by Alderman Pollard to adjourn the Regular Meeting of April 10, 2007. The motion carried unanimously.**

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**THEODORE WEST, MAYOR PRO TEMPORE**

**ATTEST:**

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**DONNIE HOLLOWAY, CITY CLERK**