

**REGULAR MEETING  
MAY 8, 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 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, May 8, 2007. Mayor Phillip C. West presided at the meeting, which was opened with prayer by Assistant Pastor Aaron Wesley, China Grove Baptist Church.

MAYOR & BOARD PRESENT	ELECTED OFFICIALS ABSENT	CITY OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEADS
<b>Phillip C. West</b> Mayor  <b>J. "Ricky" Gray, Jr.</b> Alderman, Ward 2  <b>Theodore West</b> Alderman, Ward 4  <b>David Massey</b> Alderman, Ward 5  <b>Jake Middleton</b> Alderman, Ward 6	<b>Joyce Arceneaux-Mathis</b> Alderwoman, Ward 1  <b>Bob Pollard</b> Alderman, Ward 3	Donnie Holloway, City Clerk Everett Sanders, City Attorney Darlene D. Williams, Dep. City Clerk Sabrena Bartley, Director, Senior Center Brett Brinegar, Grants Coordinator Paul Dawes, Building Official Rick Freeman, Traffic Dept. David Gardner, Water Superintendent Patricia Gibson, Personnel Director Paul Johnson, Fire Chief Darlene Jones, Comm. Dev. Director Mike Mullins, Police Chief Eric Smith, Public Works Administrator Dennis Story, City Planner Ralph Tedder, Recreation Director Katie Sthalcup, Natchez Democrat

**MINUTES APPROVED**

**A motion was made by Alderman West to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the regular meeting of April 10, 2007 and approve as submitted. The motion was seconded by Alderman Middleton. The motion carried unanimously.**

**VISITORS WELCOMED**

Mayor West welcomed all visitors to the meeting and asked that all comments be limited to three (3) minutes. He thanked all friends and citizens of Natchez Adams County for attending the meeting.

- A. Natchez Fire Department Presentation of Plaques

Mayor West recognized Fire Chief Johnson.

Chief Johnson said he was honored to attend the meeting and make the presentation. He said in October 2006 at 600 Lower Woodville Road, there was a house fire. Station 2, C Shift answered the call

to the fire. Chief Johnson said the duties of a fireman are to save lives first and property second. The firemen exemplified this in the best way, they entered the structure and found Mr. Quinton Clemons unconscious on the floor. The firemen proceeded to rescue and revive Mr. Clemons and then extinguished the fire.

Chief Johnson said he would like to recognize the firefighters and their dedicated effort to the Natchez Fire Department.

Alderman Gray noted that the main purpose of the Natchez Fire Department is to save lives. He said on behalf of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen it gives him great pleasure to present the plaques to the gentlemen for saving a life. Alderman Gray said Chief Johnson is doing a wonderful job at the Natchez Fire Department.

Lieutenant Wayne Tullos  
Fire Fighter David Hull  
Fire Fighter Darrell Carter  
Lieutenant Leonard Rice

**B. Jim Sanders - Public Comments**

Mayor West recognized Mr. Jim Sanders.

Mr. Sanders extended condolences to Mayor West and his family. Mr. Sanders said his prayers are with him during this time.

Mr. Sanders said there are three (3) buzz words in his vocabulary that go around town 1) jobs; 2) grass cutting; and 3) delapidated housing. Mr. Sanders said his major concern at the present time is the condition of the former First Baptist Church Building. He summarized the attached statement:

Mayor West said there was a representative in town from the Universal Mission in the city two months ago. Mayor West said the representative arrived in town with the intent of attending the board meeting. He said the timing was off and he arrived the day after the board met. Mayor West said he will have Attorney Sanders give them a call and request answers to the questions. Mayor West said hopefully by the next board meeting there will be an update on the matter and decide on what the appropriate next step will be to address the issue.

Mayor West said for the record Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis is out of state with the Natchez High Choir and Alderman Pollard had an important matter to take care of.

**C. James Smith, Sunbelt Research and Development Consortium, Inc.**

Mayor West recognized Mr. James Smith, Project Administrator.

Mr. James Smith thanked the Mayor & Board for allowing him to speak. He said the presentation

is a six-month update on the CDBG Project, Drainage for Zoa & Bluff Street. Mr. Smith said that Calvin Dean, Project Engineer, made a presentation regarding the time line. It was determined that plans would be developed and bid documents would be available in January 2007, with construction starting in early spring.

Mr. Smith said although the project is not at that point, progress has been made, because February 22, 2007 plans were submitted to the City Engineer for review and approval. There were several revisions of the plans and final approval issued on March 26, 2007. At that point, it was agreed upon to advertise for bids to be accepted on May 8, 2007.

The Project Engineer, City Engineer and the City Planner attended a pre-bidders conference held on April 24, 2007 at City Hall. Mr. Smith said it was his understanding that an item was presented to the Board of Aldermen to delay the acceptance of bids because the City Engineer wanted to have the utility companies meet with the potential bidders.

Mr. Smith said he discussed the matter with the Mississippi Development Authority and was informed that there was no reason to delay the acceptance of bids. He said an addendum was issued by the City Engineer to delay bid acceptance until June 12, 2007. Mr. Smith said the project is approximately three (3) months behind with the addition of another month to accept bid proposals. There were concerns from Alderman Gray regarding the application for another CDBG project. The application for the next CDBG project is not until the end of the year. Mr. Smith said he did not agree with the change of the bid date as recommended by Mr. Gardner. In the addendum prepared by the City Engineer there was no arrangement made for the utility companies to meet and discuss the concerns. Mr. Smith said he was at a loss in regard to the technical side of the project. He presented a written report to the made a part of the minutes.

Mayor West requested comments.

Alderman Gray said he was concerned with the delay of the Zoa Street project and the city missing out on the next available grant. He said the city cannot afford to miss out on any funding for grant money. Alderman Gray said if everything is working in favor of the project and the delay will not affect the next project request there was not a problem.

Alderman West requested comments from David Gardner regarding the matter.

Mr. Gardner said it was in the best interest of the city that the bids were delayed because the contractors expressed concerns with the utilities being in the path of construction. He said it was unanimously agreed upon by the Project Engineer and the contractors who attended the bid conference. He said it was noted by the contractors that if the concerns were not worked out prior to the submittal of bids the cost of delays would be factored into the bid price.

Alderman West asked Mr. Gardner if he was staying in contact with the Project Engineer.

Mr. Gardner said he followed the orders of the Project Engineer, Calvin Dean, and attended the meeting as requested. Mr. Gardner said he presented the information to the Mayor and Board of Aldermen as submitted by the project Engineer.

Alderman West asked if there would be a problem with the completion of the project within the time frame as too not interfere with another CDBG application.

Mr. Gardner said there should not be a problem with the project completion date. He said the new application for CDBG funds will not be due until the end of the year. Mr. Gardner said he did not want to see the project delayed but in the interest of the City of Natchez it was necessary. He said the delay will provide time for additional bids to be submitted that may be within budget.

Alderman Massey said there were other times when projects were delayed to allow for lower bids.

Mr. Gardner said if the bids were received and were out of budget the time delay would be more severe. The delay will now allow contractors time to work with the Project Engineer and the utility companies to get the concerns ironed out.

Mr. Smith said an additional addendum should be prepared to shorten the construction deadline.

Mr. Gardner said in the construction bids you must allow adequate time for completion of the project.

Alderman West asked if all parties involved have a full understanding of what is going on with the project.

Mr. Smith said everyone is on the same page and is in contact with each other. He said his main concern was with the delay in accepting the bids.

Alderman Gray questioned the role of the Project Administrator in the project.

Mr. Smith said the Administrator is responsible for making the recommendations from the Project Engineer. He said the Project Engineer should not make decisions to delay a bid acceptance without discussing the concerns with the administrator. He said all team members must work together as a team.

Mr. Gardner said a second pre-bid conference will be held with the contractors of record and the utility companies. He said he was not originally a part of the project. Mr. Gardner said he was glad to assist with the project.

Mr. Smith said Mr. Gardner was asked to review the plans as a courtesy.

Alderman Gray said if the project was in Ward 2, he would make the request to be informed of all changes. He said with a project of this importance the Mayor and Board should be contacted and made aware of any changes. The Administrator and the Project Engineer are both responsible for keeping the City of Natchez informed.

Mr. Smith said the pre-bid conference was held and a decision was presented to the Mayor and

Board.

Mayor West asked that all concerns be taken into consideration throughout the project. He thanked Mr. Gardner for getting involved.

#### **D. Walter Brown - Joint Resolution**

Attorney Walter Brown, said he was presenting the Joint Resolution of Board of Supervisors of Adams County, Mississippi and Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Natchez in connection with the Corrections Corporation of America initiative on Hwy 84. Mr. Brown said several months ago the Board of Supervisors was asked to and did initiate a process whereby a petition could be filed in connection with putting a prison in Natchez Adams County, Mississippi. He said CCA asked the Board to circulate a petition, publish notice of a petition whereby if 1500 people protested the company, site, or purpose of it, an election would have to be called. Mr. Brown said no petition was filed and by April 24, 2007 the deadline date, and on April 25, 2007 the Board of Supervisors adjudicated that there was no protest and no petition filed. On May 1, 2007, the Board of Supervisors adopted a second resolution dealing with House Bill 1734, which is the bill initiated by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen as a local and private act before the Legislature during the 2007 session to allow the City of Natchez Water Works to extend beyond the five (5) mile limit as prescribed by law to the site which is nine (9) miles outside the city limits. Mr. Brown said the bill passed and there was an amendment as requested by the Board of Supervisors. The amendment indicated that the county board would, along with the city board, authorize any project outside the five-mile limit in so far as utility service. He said the bill was not introduced as stated but it will accomplish what is to be done.

Mr. Brown said as a result the Board of Supervisors and the City of Natchez must adopt a joint resolution adjudicating that the site is acceptable, the project is acceptable, and comply with House Bill 1734 to authorize Natchez Water Works to provide sewer service to the site. In addition the proposed resolution authorized the Mayor of the City and the President of the Board of Supervisors to apply for grants, loans or other financial assistance for the infrastructure needed for the project. Mr. Brown said the project is a 94 million-dollar investment by CCA including the acquisition of the land which is 143 acres. It will provide approximately three hundred (300) jobs with a payroll of approximately \$11 million, and taxes produced will be made available to the County and the School District in the amount of \$1,200,000 per year. The Mississippi Development Authority does have funds available for the project, and infrastructure funds. He said on Wednesday, May 9, 2007, with approval by the Board of Aldermen, he will go to Jackson and ask that the Mississippi Development Authority make grants to the project for infrastructure, primarily water and sewer. He said the county road, Hobo Forks Road, will be resurfaced. Mr. Brown said the resolution requires that whatever agreement is reached between the City, County, Water Works, Mississippi Development Authority, Economic Development Administrator, Delta Regional and other sources to assist with the project will come before the Mayor and Board of Aldermen for final approval.

Mr. Brown said there is a tight time line in that CCA has a target date of July 1, 2007 to begin construction and November 2008 as a completion date, with the facility ready to open December 2008. There will be a lot of things happening over the next weeks. He said the project passed the petition process

and now the infrastructure financing is taking place. Mr. Brown said preconstruction meetings are taking place, and meetings to discuss how to get the project off the ground as quick as possible.

Mayor West requested comments.

**A motion was made by Alderman West and seconded by Alderman Massey to adopt the Joint Resolution of Board of Supervisors of Adams County, Mississippi and Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Natchez. The motion carried unanimously.**

**JOINT RESOLUTION  
OF  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF ADAMS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI  
AND  
MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF NATCHEZ**

WHEREAS, the Mississippi Legislature at its 2007 Regular Session did enact House Bill 1734 which was approved by Governor Haley Barbour on April 12, 2007, a true and correct copy of which legislation is attached hereto as Exhibit "A;" and

WHEREAS, pursuant to House Bill 1734, authority was given to the governing authorities of the City of Natchez and of Adams County to approve certain utility services outside the City of Natchez to a site of a proposed capital improvement project approved by the said governing authorities; and

WHEREAS, Corrections Corporation of America did request of the aforesaid Board of Supervisors the publication of a Notice and Intent to the citizens of Adams County, the company's intention to locate a private correctional facility in Adams County, Mississippi for the housing of approximately 1500 federal inmates at a cost of the proposed project to be approximately \$90,000,000 with anticipated employment of 300 persons and with sanitary sewer services to be provided by the Natchez Water Works; and

WHEREAS, subsequent to said Notice, no petition of protest signed by 1500 of the qualified electors of Adams County was filed with the Board of Supervisors of Adams County within sixty (60) days of the last publication of the aforesaid Notice requesting an election be called on the question of locating such facility at said site and therefore no election need be called, and adjudication of the no protest has been duly determined and recorded on the Minutes of the Board of Supervisors of Adams County, Mississippi.

NOW THEREFORE, each of the said governing authorities has been duly notified of the fact that no protest has been filed and in order to fully comply with the provisions of House Bill 1734 and to proceed expeditiously with the proposed project, the said governing authorities acting for and on behalf of the City of Natchez and Adams County, Mississippi do hereby formally approve of the project for the City of Natchez, Mississippi and the Board of Water Commissioners to construct, operate and maintain that portion of the sewer distribution system of the City of Natchez and of the Natchez Water Works to provide sewer services to the proposed facility of Corrections Corporation of America at the intersection of Hobo Forks Road and U. S. Hwy. 84 in Adams County, Mississippi.

BE IF FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor of the City of Natchez and the President of the Adams County Board of Supervisors are hereby authorized and empowered to execute any and all documents necessary to fully effectuate the approval of this Resolution and the siting of

the aforesaid facility at the named site, including but not limited to application on behalf of the City, County and Natchez Water Works for grants, loans or other financing arrangements for the cost of providing of such sewer service infrastructure, construction and operation including the acquisition of easements and other rights incidental in locating, constructing and operating the aforesaid sewer line to the said facility and site.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the application process shall also include requests on behalf of the City, County and Adams County Water Association for grants, loans or other financing arrangements for the cost of providing water service infrastructure, construction and operation including the acquisition of easements and other rights in locating, constructing and operating water service to the said facility and site.

PROVIDED HOWEVER that any and all agreements or contracts between such funding agency or governmental entity and the City of Natchez and/or Adams County shall be first submitted to and approved by such Board or Boards prior to taking effect.

SO RESOLVED this the 1<sup>st</sup> day of May, 2007.

**ATTEST: ADAMS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**

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THOMAS J. O'BEIRNE                      DARRYL GRENNELL, PRESIDENT  
CHANCERY Clerk                              ADAMS COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

SO RESOLVED THIS THE 8<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF MAY, 2007

**ATTEST: CITY OF NATCHEZ, MISSISSIPPI**

\_\_\_\_\_  
DONNIE HOLLOWAY                              PHILLIP C. WEST, MAYOR  
CHANCERY CLERK

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS  
NONE**

**DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS**

**GRANTS COORDINATOR, Brett Brinigar**

Ms. Brinigar said she filed an application for the FEMA Fire Grant for the 2007 year. She said the application was for \$40,000 to equip the fire stations with exercise equipment. Ms. Brinigar said this will allow the firefighters to start a regular exercise program supervised by their personal physicians. She said it will be six months before the funds are provided.

Ms. Brinigar said she assisted the Engineering Department to close out the 2006 Emergency CDBG project. She said it was a very successful project.

Ms. Brinigar said she did coordinate dates with Mr. Smith for the dump site clean up. She said the new grant will be started in two weeks and the old grant will be closed out when the fence is installed on West Stiers Lane and Cottage Farm Road to prevent future dumping.

Ms. Brinigar said she submitted several grant application in conjunction with the Trails Project for the match for the trails grants. She said everything is proceeding normally with the grants.

Mayor West requested comments.

### **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, Darlene Jones**

Mrs. Jones said the Keep Natchez Adams County Beautiful has been selected as one of the 15 affiliates for the 2007 Target City Award. She said the Target City award is a partnership that Keep America Beautiful has with Waste Management. Mrs. Jones said two Mississippi cities were chosen, Natchez and Vicksburg. She said the award will provide \$5,000 to the City of Natchez with a partnership with Waste Management.

Mrs. Jones noted that Youth in Government Day would be held on Wednesday, May 9, 2007. She asked everyone to come and participate in the event.

Mrs. Jones introduced members of the Mayor's youth Council who were able to attend the meeting, Chantell Knight, Ashley McCullen, Yalani Hayes, and Nicole Ballard. Mrs. Jones said the group was present to make a presentation to the Mayor & Board of Aldermen. She said they were requesting approval of the community project they has planned. She said the project date is scheduled for July 14, 2007. She said this group is truly lead by students.

Ms. Chantel Knight, said on behalf of the Mayor's Youth Council condolences go out to Mayor West and his family. She said the Mayor's Youth Council have planned a Community Day on the Natchez Bluffs for Saturday, June 14, 2007. Ms. Knight said this would be a great way for the community to bond.

Ms. Ashley McCullen said the Community Day will consist of music, food and fun for all. She said the location will be in Memorial Park or on the Natchez Bluffs. Ms. McCullen said the group discussed the location and because of the renovations to the fountain in the park they would rather have the event on the bluffs.

Ms. Yalani Hayes, said the event is not only a fun day for families, it is a learning experience for the Mayor's Youth Council. She said the event will be a great day for the community.

Ms. Nicole Ballard said the purpose for the presentation is to request permission from the Mayor and Board to approve the Community Day on the Natchez Bluffs, and allow amplified music between the hours of 10:30 am - 4:00 pm.

Alderman Massey said the event would be good for the City of Natchez.

Alderman West asked if young men are involved and what type music will they have.

Ms. Ballard said there are several young men involved with the group although they had to attend class. She said they will feature several local young groups, area choirs and individuals.

Alderman Massey said there is a noise ordinance in effect and a permit will be required for the event.

Mrs. Jones said she talked with Chief Mullins about a noise permit and he suggested approval from the Board for the event and he will issue the permit.

Alderman Gray said the event would be good for the community. He said he talked to Mrs. Jones about having a group of students from the Mayor's Youth Council attend the Youth Cultural Breakfast in Washington, DC. He said other cities provide for their youth to attend and be a part of the meetings.

Mayor West asked if there is an alternative plan in case of rain.

Mrs. Jones said that was not discussed, but during the next meeting they would develop a plan.

Mayor West requested additional comments.

**A motion was made by Alderman West and seconded by Alderman Gray to grant approval for the Community Day Event to be held on the Natchez Bluffs and a noise permit to be issued by the Natchez Police Department. The motion carried unanimously.**

#### **PLANNING DEPARTMENT, Dennis Story**

Mr. Story said the Planning Department is currently working with the consultant, Corrine Fox to review the comments provided as part of the Public Hearing held at the last board meeting. He said a meeting will be scheduled with the Planning Commission to review the comments and make the necessary changes to the document.

Mr. Story said there were several orders to be presented to the Board of Aldermen for approval. He noted that the property owners were notified and have not corrected the situation. Mr. Story presented the orders to be approved.

Mayor West requested comments.

Alderman Gray questioned the procedure to be used to get the grass cut and to eliminate the problem of adding to the list and nothing being cut.

Mr. Smith said inmates will be used to assist with city business and the public work's crew would work on the grass cutting projects. He said the crew started on Dunleith Street.

Alderman Gray asked if 5 Lincoln Street was on the list to be cut.

Mr. Smith said 5 Lincoln Street is on the list to be cut next.

**A motion was made by Alderman Massey and seconded by Alderman Middleton to approve the orders for grass cutting. The motion carried unanimously.**

### **CONVENTION CENTER, Walter Tipton**

Mr. Tipton said there were several events held in Natchez over the past weekend. He said all the hotels were booked. He listed the events held in the area.

1. Natchez Festival of Music
2. A symphony of Garden Tours
3. Rodeo - Rodeo Arena in Adams County
4. Tennis Tournament
5. Golf Tournament
6. Relay for Life - Vidalia Riverfront
7. Ms. America-Lynda Lee Meed was in Natchez for a Class Reunion
8. Mississippi Black Professionals

Mr. Tipton said the weekend was full and there was a lot of activity. He said this speaks well about the community.

Mr. Tipton said May 12-20 is National Tourism Week. He asked that a Proclamation be signed to adopt May 12-20, 2007 as National Tourism Week. He said tourism is an intricate part of Natchez, Mississippi.

**A motion was made by Alderman Massey and seconded by Alderman Middleton to adopt the Proclamation declaring May 12-20, 2007 as National Tourism Week. The motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Tipton invited the Mayor and Board to the Chamber After Hours event to be held on Thursday, May 17, 2007.

### **FIRE DEPARTMENT, Chief Paul Johnson**

Chief Johnson thanked Ms. Brinigar for submitting the FEMA Grant application for the Wellness Centers at the fire stations. He said the request is for \$35,000 with a 10% match from the department. Chief Johnson said the match money is in his budget for the year. He said equipment will be located at each station and the fire fighters will be required to have a physical each year. Chief Johnson said the equipment will help keep the men physically fit to do their jobs.

Chief Johnson said June 6 - 9, 2007, the Fire Chiefs/Fire Fighters Conference will be held in Natchez. He said Mr. Tipton, Ms. Quinn, Ms. Ogden have all worked with him in preparing for the conference.

Chief Johnson said a month ago Supervisor Grennell told him the volunteer group Ameri-Corp was looking to do a project in Natchez Adams County. Chief Johnson said he agreed to talk with the sponsor of the group, Dr. Watts from Alcorn State University. Chief Johnson said the group agreed to come to Natchez and paint the fire plugs in the downtown area. He said the group of 50 individuals painted the fire plugs from Orleans Street to Madison and Martin L. King to the bluff. He thanked Mr. Gardner for providing the paint for the project, and a cook out was provided for the volunteers at Central Station. Chief Johnson said he would like to present the group with a proclamation at a later date.

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

Mr. Dawes presented the April, 2007 monthly financial report.

### **ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, David Gardner**

Mr. Gardner said on the Trails Project via MDOT, the committee received the TCSP Grant in the amount of \$270,750.00 and at the previous meeting the Memorandum of Understanding was executed by the Mayor. Mr. Gardner said it is now time to advertise for Request for Proposals for the design engineering, contract administration, and the construction engineering for the project. Mr. Gardner said a selection process will be implemented to review the documents prior to the submittal to MDOT for final review. He requested authorization to advertise for RFP's and begin the process.

**A motion was made by Alderman Massey and seconded by Alderman Middleton to authorize the advertisement for Request for Proposals for the Trails Project. The motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Gardner said this is the first process in getting the trails completed. He said once the contract is underway, construction will start.

### **PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, Eric Smith**

Mr. Smith thanked the Mayor and Board of Aldermen for the street sweeper. He said the sweeper arrived last Thursday and is being used. There will be a routine schedule for the machine.

Alderman Massey said the agreement was to have two (2) employees trained at the school in Texas on the operation of the equipment. He asked if the school was scheduled and who would be attending.

Mr. Smith said the class will be held in Waco, Texas. He said the operators would be Kenny Jackson and Robert Sylvester, and the mechanic is Bubba Hale. Mr. Smith said Mr. Jackson and Mr. Hale will attend the class. Mr. Smith said the machine was delivered and the representative stayed for two days

for the demonstration and operation. It was suggested that the men operate the machine for a month prior to attending the class. The training will be provided by Tempco.

Mayor West requested comments.

Alderman Middleton said the training should be a priority. He said the machine was very expensive and extreme care should be taken in the operation and maintenance.

Alderman Gray said when the gentlemen attend the class they should make sure they train someone else in the department to operate and repair the machine.

**MUNICIPAL COURT, Judge Jim Blough**

### **CITY OFFICIALS' REPORTS**

**ALDERWOMAN ARCENEUX-MATHIS**

**Not present**

**ALDERMAN GRAY**

Alderman Gray presented the April, 2007 monthly report for the Natchez Fire Department.

Alderman Gray thanked Mr. Smith and the Public Works Department for the completion of several projects in Ward 2.

Alderman Gray said there is a serious problem with illegal dumping in Ward 2. He said he would like his constituents to help catch one person and this would be an example that others would see. Alderman Gray said he would like to know the names of people dumping furniture and trash in the area after it has been cleaned. The city is being disrespected and the people should be aware of the penalty associated with illegal dumping.

Alderman Gray said there were calls from residents requesting speed bumps for the following areas: Vaughn Drive; Lincoln Street; Beaumont Street; and Oak Street.

Alderman Gray requested a list of delapidated properties in Ward 2 from the Building Official, Paul Dawes.

Mr. Dawes said there is not a list of properties for Ward 2, except the list provided by Alderman Gray.

Alderman Gray said there are serious problems with deliapedated houses and he has received several calls from the elderly resident with concerns. He asked what happened to the money that was put in the budget to help with the problem. Alderman Gray asked Mr. Dawes to meet with the Code Enforcement

Officers and identify properties in Ward 2 that should be demolished and submit the list to him. He said the Building Inspector will make the final determination to demolish the property.

Mr. Dawes said he will be glad to work with the Code Enforcement Officers to provide a list of properties.

Alderman Gray said the Natchez High Choir attended the Music Festival in Chicago and they received several awards and honors. Alderman Gray asked that the choir be invited to the next scheduled meeting to be recognized for their hard work and dedication. He added that although the Natchez High Track Team did not win the State Championship, one young lady broke state records and her name will appear in the record books, Ms. Kiara Jones.

Alderman Gray said his sympathy goes out to Mrs. Mamie Lee Mazique and family because of the death of her sister. He thanked Dr. Watts, Alcorn State University, and the Ameri-Corp Volunteers for painting the fire plugs in downtown Natchez. Alderman Gray said he would like to have more community participation when it comes to keeping the city clean.. He said if some of the abandoned houses are torn down it would eliminate the problem of trash being thrown in the area.

Alderman Gray said he received a call from a resident about a man lying in the street in the area of Old Horseshoe Lane. He said the caller said the police were contacted. Alderman Gray said this is one reason something must be done about the abandoned houses in Ward 2.

Alderman Gray said he had a list of concerns to discuss with Mr. Smith after the meeting.

Alderman Gray said he was told that Natchez has the nicest police officers. He said the lady was surprised when she did not receive a ticket for speeding while trying to get to a conference on time.

Alderman Gray said he attended the MML Conference reception at Dunleith on behalf of the Mayor. He said everyone in attendance said something positive about Natchez and said they would like to return to the city.

## **ALDERMAN POLLARD**

**Not Present**

## **ALDERMAN WEST**

Alderman West said two months ago a meeting was held with Planning, Public Works, and the Code Enforcement Officers to establish a pilot program to deal with deliapatated houses. He asked if the group was able to meet again to discuss the findings, or come up with a solution to the problem. Alderman West said the first targets would be the properties owned by the city. He said they would be demolished by public works and the inmates would clear the land. The land would then be divided between the adjacent property owners. Alderman West encouraged the committee to meet and discuss what should be done.

Alderman West said orders were signed to have property cut and cleaned that is owned by the State of Mississippi. He said it may be possible for the State to give the property to the city and in turn it is given to the adjacent property owners. Alderman West said this would get the problem off of the city's list.

Mrs. Jones said she was working on a partnership with AJFC where the home program would help home owners purchase property from the city and have it renovated or demolished. She said AJFC would also have the capability of demolishing property once purchased by a new owner.

Alderman West asked that Mrs. Jones and Mrs. Brown be allowed to join the committee and discuss a possible solution to the problem.

Mr. Story said he talked with the office of the Secretary of State and was informed that the State of Mississippi could transfer the property to the City of Natchez if there is a mechanism in place to allow a non-profit organization to renovate the property or demolish it. Mr. Story said the city could not renovate the property and offer it for sale. He said the nonprofit organization would have full authority over the property.

Mayor West said AJFC has continued to work with the home ownership project for several years and would be helpful to the city in this matter.

Alderman Gray said he met with Ms. Brown, from AJFC and she should be invited to be a part of the committee to discuss delapidated properties throughout the city. He said she would have great ideas to bring to the table. Alderman Gray said Ms. Brown would be able to concentrate on finding home owners for the properties.

Alderman West noted that he requested budget projection from all Department Heads and thanked the five (5) who submitted the information. He said he was looking forward to hearing from the others.

Alderman West asked that Mrs. Jones coordinate the meeting and let him know.

Alderman West requested an updated list of changes made to the New Development Code based on the comments from the Public Hearing before it is presented to the Planning Commission. He said he would like to see the comments and know what changes were made. Alderman West said this would assist the Board in making an intelligent decision.

Mr. Story said he would compile the list of comments for the board.

## **ALDERMAN MASSEY**

Alderman Massey said the month of May is National Law Enforcement Month and recognized the great individuals of both the Natchez Police Department and the Adams County Sheriff's Department.

Alderman Massey asked that he meet with Mrs. Gibson to review application.

Mrs. Gibson said the deadline would be Friday, May 11, 2007 and the application would be available after that date.

#### **ALDERMAN MIDDLETON**

Alderman Middleton said there were many activities at Duncan Park over the past weekend. He said there was a golf tournament, and tennis tournament. Alderman Middleton said he will have a full report at the next scheduled meeting.

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

Mr. Holloway requested approval of the docket #4815 - 5588.

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

Attorney Sanders said he reviewed the docket.

**A motion was made by Alderman West and seconded by Alderman Massey to approve the docket #4815-5588 as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.**

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

**NO REPORT**

#### **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor West thanked the employees of the City of Natchez and commended the Department Heads. He said he is very pleased with the work that is being done within the City of Natchez. Mayor West said there have been many concerns that were addressed and taken care of in order to prepare the city to move aggressively into the future. He said other members of the Board of Alderman recognized the confidence, dedication and commitment to the City of Natchez.

Mayor West thanked the Board of Aldermen, and city employees for the support shown to him and his family during their loss. He said he will forever be grateful

Mayor West requested additional comments.

Alderman West said the Board was reminded of the vacant positions on various boards and commissions. He asked that these positions be discussed before the work session and individuals be nominated for the vacancies.

**NEW BUSINESS**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Alderman Massey and seconded by Alderman Middleton to adjourn the Regular Meeting of May 8, 2007. The motion carried unanimously.

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**PHILLIP C. WEST,  
MAYOR**

**ATTEST:**

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**DONNIE HOLLOWAY, CITY CLERK**