

**REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 14, 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, August 14, 2007. Mayor Phillip C. West presided at the meeting, which was opened with prayer by Assistant Pastor Aaron Wesley, of Egypt Baptist Church.

| MAYOR & BOARD PRESENT | ELECTED OFFICIALS ABSENT | CITY OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEADS |
|---|-----------------------------|---|
| Phillip C. West Mayor Joyce Arceneaux-Mathis Alderman, Ward 1 Bob Pollard Alderman, Ward 3 J. “Ricky” Gray, Jr. Alderman, Ward 2 Theodore West Alderman, Ward 4 David Massey Alderman, Ward 5 Jake Middleton Alderman, Ward 6 | | 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 Salina Edwards, Recreation Assistant Director Rick Freeman, Traffic Department David Gardner, Water Superintendent Patricia Gibson, Personnel Director Henry Harris, Recreation Department Temple Hendricks, Secretary to Mayor Paul Johnson, Fire Chief Darlene Jones, Comm. Dev. Director Mike Mullins, Police Chief Eric Smith, Public Works Administrator Francis Ransom, Public Works Manager Anita Smith, Community Improvement Specialist Dennis Story, City Planner Walter Tipton, Convention Center Director Wilbert Whitley, Recreation Department 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 July 24, 2007 and approve as submitted. The motion was seconded by Alderman Massey. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor West recognized Mr. Bruce Moak and noted that he requested a Certificate of Need to operate a taxi service in the community.

Mr. Bruce Moak, said he submitted the application requesting a Certificate of Need to operate

a taxi service in the Natchez community. He said at the present time there is not a taxi service available to accommodate the needs of the community. Mr. Moak requested the approval to provide the service.

Mayor West requested comments from the board.

Alderman West said there was a question of whether there would be a two-way radio system in the vehicle.

Mr. Moak said he will have the two-way hand held radios similar to the system at the police department.

Alderman West asked if there would be meters installed in the vehicle.

Mr. Moak said the meter will be installed and there will be signage provided on the exterior of vehicle for identification as required through the police department.

Alderman West asked if the rates would be set by the individual or by the Board of Aldermen.

Mr. Moak said the rates would be set by the Mayor and Board. He said he did contact the taxi service in McComb, Mississippi and they provided him with rate information. The rates would be the same as the established business in McComb with the initial pick-up fee being \$6.00 with two free miles, and \$2.00 per mile thereafter.

Alderman Pollard questioned the number of vehicles.

Mr. Moak said he will start with one unit and possibly expand in the future. He said he would like to find out what the demand will be for the service in Natchez.

Alderman West questioned the amount of the required privilege license.

Mr. Holloway said the privilege license fee would be the same as all service businesses. He said the license fee is mandated by the State of Mississippi based on the number of employees and the license for one vehicle would be \$20.00.

Alderman West asked if there is a limit to the number of taxi services based on the residential population.

Mr. Moak said there is no mentioned in the ordinance to regulate the number of vehicles per residents.

Mayor West requested a motion to close the public hearing.

A motion was made by Alderman Middleton and seconded by Alderman Massey to

close the public hearing. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor West asked if the board was prepared to respond to the request.

A motion was made by Alderman Middleton and seconded by Alderman Massey to approve the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Bruce Moak (Miss-Lou Taxi) for the operation of a taxi service contingent on the following:

1. Operation of one vehicle
2. Use of two-way hand held radios
3. Twenty-four hour service
4. Issuance of the required Insurance Certificate
5. Fees as set by the Mayor & Board of Aldermen
\$6.00 per pick-up with the first two (2) miles free
\$2.00 per mile thereafter.

The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Holloway said Mr. Oscar Davis submitted an application for a Certificate of Need to operate a taxi service as well. Mr. Holloway said the applicant asked that the public hearing be postponed until the next scheduled meeting because he was unable to attend the scheduled meeting.

BUSINESS OF THE MONTH - AUGUST

Heritage Chrysler Dodge Jeep

Mayor West noted that the August Business of the Month was Heritage Chrysler Dodge Jeep, owned by Eugene Monagan, and managed by Ryan Nelson. The dealership opened its doors for business in Natchez in 2005 and currently has a total of twenty-two (22) employees. Heritage Chrysler Dodge Jeep has been sponsors for many local community programs such as the Bi-annual rodeo, Youth rodeo, and many golf tournaments. They utilize local vendors in order to keep the City of Natchez thriving. Mayor West said the business has recently opened a new state of the art facility that provides a home-like atmosphere for the City of Natchez and surrounding areas. This business is most proud of the friendly environment and enjoyable work atmosphere for their employees.

Mayor West congratulated Heritage Chrysler Dodge Jeep on being chosen the August Business of the Month.

Alderman Middleton presented the Certificate to Mr. Eugene Mongue and welcomed him to Natchez.

Alderman Gray noted that Mr. Monagan was invited to attend the Board Meeting several times before and he was glad he could finally get him downtown.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis said Mr. Monagan should be given the endurance award

because of the situation presented by the construction of the new bridge. Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis said the area now has a beautiful establishment and once the construction is finalized the business will be in a great location.

Mr. Monagan apologized for the additional dust and dirt during the construction of the business. He invited everyone to visit the new facility.

ATTACHMENT

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.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Alderman Middleton recognized the Chamber of Commerce Director, Mrs. Debbie Hudson.

Mayor West welcomed Mrs. Hudson back to Natchez.

Alderman Gray read the letter submitted by Ms. Lisa Wynee Johnson announcing her resignation from the Natchez Preservation Commission. Alderman Gray said there are several vacancies on the commission that should be filled immediately to allow them to continue with the regular business.

Mayor West requested a motion to accept the resignation of Ms. Lisa Johnson.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis and seconded by Alderman Gray to accept the resignation of Lisa Wynee Johnson from the Natchez Preservation Commission. The motion carried unanimously.

Alderman Gray asked that the board approve three appointments to the Natchez Preservation Commission.

A motion was made by Alderman Gray and seconded by Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis to appoint the following individuals to the Natchez Preservation Commission

1. Gary Guido
2. Fred Middleton
3. Cornelius Bradley to fill the vacant position of Lisa Johnson

The motion carried with Alderman Gray, Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis, Alderman Pollard, Alderman West, and Alderman Massey voting in favor. Alderman Middleton recused himself from the vote.

Alderman Pollard asked that Mr. John Ray be reappointed to the Natchez Water Board of Commissioners.

A motion was made by Alderman Pollard and seconded by Alderman Massey to reappoint Mr. John Ray to the Natchez Water Board of Commissioners. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor West asked that action be taken on the resignation letter submitted by Mr. James Coleman from the Natchez Adams County School Board and the Natchez Civil Service Commission. Mayor West requested comments.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis and seconded by Alderman Gray to accept the resignation letter from Mr. James Coleman from the Natchez Adams County School Board and the Natchez Civil Service Commission. The motion carried unanimously.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, Darlene Jones

Mrs. Jones noted that the Mayor's Youth Council Community Day Event was held on Sunday August 5, 2007 and it was a success. She thanked the sponsors Super Market Operations, Dunleith, Bluff Distributors, Natchez Radio, Ketco, State Farm, Winn Pharmacy, United Ms Bank, Sunshine Shelter, Natchez Regional and Waste Management for their donations. Mrs. Jones also thanked the project presenters for the event, The local Christian Rock Band, Alvin Shelby Choir, New Hope Youth Choir and the Alpha-Omega Stompers. She said next year the event will be bigger and better.

Mrs. Jones said applications were submitted to the local high schools for the Mayor's Youth Council. She said applications will be accepted through the schools until Friday, August 31, 2007 with the first meeting being held on Monday, September 24, 2007.

GRANTS COORDINATOR, Brett Brinigar

Ms. Brinigar said she was pleased to announce that the City of Natchez was approved for the \$500,000 grant from Delta Regional Authority for the sewer line extension to the Hobo Forks Road site. She requested approval of the resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute and file all documents associated with Delta Regional Authority on behalf of the City of Natchez.

Mayor West requested comments.

A motion was made by Alderman Gray and seconded by Alderman Pollard to accept the \$500,000 grant from Delta Regional Authority for the sewer line extension to the Hobo Forks Road site and authorize the Mayor to execute and file any documents on behalf of the

City of Natchez. The motion carried unanimously.

Alderman Pollard expressed his appreciation to Ms. Brinigar and other staff involved in the grant application. He said the application had to be submitted expeditiously with a large amount of hard work. Alderman Pollard said this was a major project for the City of Natchez.

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, David Gardner

Mr. Gardner thanked Ms. Brinigar for the assistance on the Hobo Forks Road project. He said the project is more than the \$500,000 grant that was approved for the City of Natchez. Mr. Gardner said by going to Delta Regional Authority it was the match for the CDBG water grant. He said this is money that the City of Natchez and Adams County Water Association will not have to provide for the project. Mr. Gardner said this was major as far as leveraging grants and maximizing the dollars for the project.

Mr. Gardner said the contract with Smart Data Strategies for the City of Natchez Digital Parcel Mapping Project, Project # 033-01 has been completed. He requested permission for the Mayor to execute the final documents and authorize notification of completion to the contractor and provide the advertisement to the newspaper.

Mayor requested comments.

A motion was made by Alderman West and seconded by Alderman Massey to authorize the Mayor to execute the final documents for Smart Data Strategies, notify the contractor, and provide advertisement in the newspaper of the completion of the contract. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gardner said he received notification from RCS regarding the West Stiers EWP project. He said the documents, project agreements, title of opinion, financial management plans, O&M agreements, Drug Free Certifications, Standard of Conduct, and other forms that must be executed by the Mayor of the City of Natchez and submitted to RCS are being finalized. Mr. Gardner requested authorization to have the documents executed for the \$137,000 grant. He said there is a match to the grant and Adams County has agreed to provide a contribution of \$8,000. Mr. Gardner requested permission for the Mayor to execute the necessary documents to get the project started.

Mayor West requested comments.

A motion was made by Alderman Gray and seconded by Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis to authorize the Mayor to execute the necessary documents for the West Stiers Lane EWP project. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gardner said there is a large amount of activity in the area of the Convention Center Hotel, Broadway Street, Roth Hill Road with proposed developments. He said the Engineering Department

has reviewed the type of utilities that would be needed for the area. He said there will be electrical work done to get the hotel project situated with adequate power underground and being able to connect the underground lighting project scheduled for Broadway Street, and Roth Hill Road. Mr. Gardner said there were several meetings with Entergy to discuss the proposal with a quote of approximately \$31,000 for the project.

Mr. Gardner made a recommendation to the Mayor and Board to allow Entergy to proceed with Phase I of the three phase project in the amount of \$31,000. He said this is in connection with the Economic Development proposed for the Convention Center Hotel and the projects along Broadway Street and Roth Hill Road. Mr. Gardner said the projects will be linked together electrically.

Mayor West requested comments.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis and seconded by Alderman Massey to approve the proposal to authorize Entergy to proceed with Phase I of the electrical project in the amount of \$31,000 for the Broadway Street, Roth Hill Road area.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis asked if there was money in the condo project to provide the electrical service to the area. She asked if the city would tap into the fund for the Phase I project.

Mr. Gardner said the money is tied into CD's and reserved for the proposed project. He said the funds from the condo project are on hold.

The motion carried unanimously.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT, Dennis Story

Mr. Story said in regard to the Zoa Street Drainage project, there was a pre-construction conference held on July 31, 2007 and the proposed start date for the project was slated for August 13, 2007 with seventy-five (75) days for completion. Mr. Story said he did visit the area and there was no evidence of the project starting on Monday, August 13, 2007.

Mayor West requested comments.

Alderman Gray asked if the late start of the Zoa Street project and the late completion date would stop the City from applying for another CDBG project.

Mr. Story said the deadline for other CDBG projects would be in 2008. He said the Zoa Street project should be completed prior to the end of October, 2007. He said he will contact the project engineer and confirm the proposed completion date.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis said she and Alderman Gray did contact the project engineer, Calvin Dean and asked Mr. Story to stay in close contact with Mr. Dean throughout the project. Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis said after working with three (3) CDBG grants she tried to work close

with the engineer. She said there is always a determination hearing on what you want to submit as a CDBG grant because the community will have to come together on it. She said that is done prior to December 1, when they are in search of monies for funding. There are days that you have to have a project completed. She said when she contacted the engineer he was pushed to say he would be starting the Zoa Street project during the month of August, so he would have it complete by mid-October. It is understood that one CDBG grant must be closed out prior to submitting an application for another project unless there is an emergency situation. Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis requested clarification from Mr. Gardner.

Mr. Gardner said in the past generally if a project has money left in the fund and has not been closed out by the first of December, it would cause the city to not be eligible for the next round of grants

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis said it would not hurt the City to work closely with the project engineer. She said she stressed to Mr. Calvin Dean, Project Engineer the importance of starting the project on time and the need to have it completed within the allotted number of days. Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis said at the time of the last site visit the utilities had not been set and the utilities companies had not been notified. She said she did not want the Ward 1 project to hold up any other CDBG grant proposal for the City of Natchez. There must be micro-management of the Zoa Street project to not be inhibited by a company because they place the city in a bad situation. She said it would not hurt to have the project completed by November 1, 2007, and not go on longer and find out that because there was an opened project the city is not eligible to submit a new application. Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis asked that Mr. Story assist with the management of the project.

Ms. Brinigar noted that all projects must be completed and closed out prior to the start of a new application. She said the next scheduled deadline date is January 15, 2008.

INSPECTION DEPARTMENT, Paul Dawes

Mr. Dawes presented the July, 2007 monthly report for the Inspection Department.

ATTACHMENT

Mr. Dawes requested authorization to advertise the list of properties deemed for demolition and start the process.

Mayor West requested comments.

Alderman Gray asked who compiled the list of properties submitted for demolition.

Mr. Dawes said the Code Enforcement Officials assisted with the list and he followed up with review prior to presenting the list to the Board. He said the list is a partial listing of properties .

Alderman Gray said there are not many listing for Ward 2 and he is aware of many properties

that should be addressed. He questioned several properties on the list.

Alderman West said if all the properties on the list are approved for demolition the city would not have the funds to proceed. He asked why would the city bluff with sending the letter, the advertisement and not have the funds to follow through. Alderman West said there are forty-four properties listed and there is no money in the budget for demolition and the statement indicates that the properties will be demolished if not addressed by the property owner. He said why not address the properties that are burned, delapidated, and initiate the process with them first.

Mr. Dawes said there are properties on the list that will be taken down immediately, therefore it is not a bluff.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis said there are several properties on the list that were previously addressed. She said the city will have to take a stand for the people who are living adjacent to the properties on the list. Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis said that is the major problem, she said the constituents in Ward 1 should not live next to property that is not being maintained and allowing rats, roaches, snakes in the area.

Mayor West asked if the property list is advertised and all properties are not addressed will the process have to be repeated to proceed during the following year.

Mr. Dawes said if the notice is issued to the property owner and they do not respond it is the burden of the city to proceed with demolition.

Attorney Sanders asked if the property owners have been notified. He said a personal notice must be issued for each property on the list. He said publication in respect to persons who are known is inadequate. Attorney Sanders said there is a responsibility to give personal notice to each property owners that can be identified. He said the publication is for those persons whose residence and address can not be determined to be contacted.

Alderman Gray said the Planning Department has a way to notify the property owners because everyone on the list has been notified in the past of a violation.

Mr. Story said the notice was sent to the individuals through the Planning Department mostly for grass cutting or abandoned houses.

Alderman Gray said the property owners were notified, and there is a Blight Ordinance in place. He said the ordinance states that the properties should be demolished.

Mayor West said he would like to make sure the comments made by Attorney Sanders are understood, regarding the interpretation of the law as it relates to the publication of the listing if there was no attempt made to identify and locate the property owners. He said he would like further investigation to take place on the procedure.

Alderman Massey said it is commendable to finally receive a list of properties after many concerns from Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis and Alderman Gray about delapidate properties. He said Mr. Dawes is now trying to do something about the problem after enduring the most grief from the board about the problem. Alderman Massey said the messenger should not be shot, the process should be followed legally and the departments are on the right track with the publication of the list. Alderman Massey said by advertising the list of properties it will allow the list for demolition and when the monies are available the city will move forward. He said as the monies come available the properties will be determined and slated for immediate demolition. Alderman Massey said priority should be placed on burned and delapidate buildings.

Alderman West said the list should be prioritized per site.

Mayor West asked that a meeting be held to identify the properties that will be demolished based on need.

Alderman Pollard questioned the legality of the list to be published in the newspaper. He said there was a meeting held with Judge Blough regarding the legal process for grass cutting and demolition.

Attorney Sanders said he would like to research the information and the proper procedures for notification.

Alderman Gray said the State Legislature passed a law that indicated that property owners can be fined for not maintaining their property. He said the Blight Ordinance passed by the City of Natchez also states that fine for violating the ordinance is \$250.00 each day the violation continues. Alderman Gray said if the people are fined it would help eliminate some of the problems.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis to proceed in a legal manner with the current list and other properties cited for demolition and allow the Mayor, City Attorney, City Planner, Building Official, and Public Works Director to work together and formulate a legal method by which the properties will be prioritized and approved for demolition. The motion was seconded by Alderman Gray.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis said a meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 22, 2007 to discuss the list of properties with Mr. Dawes, Mr. Story, Attorney Sanders to work through the list of properties submitted. Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis said she would not apologize to the Board for taking up the time to discuss the situation of the properties because the people who live adjacent to the abandoned, delapidate structures have endured more minutes than it takes to make comments during the Board meeting.

Mayor West called for the vote on the motion.

The motion carried with Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis, Alderman Gray, Alderman Pollard, Alderman Massey, and Alderman Middleton. Alderman West abstained from the vote.

Mayor West asked that the group meet on Wednesday, August 15, 2007 at 4:30 p.m. to proceed with the discussion.

Mr. Dawes stated that the roof on the Cock of the Walk building is leaking and the rear portion over the kitchen should be replaced. He said the estimated cost is \$10,000.

Alderman Pollard asked if there would be an insurance claim.

Alderman Middleton asked if the roof had been inspected.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis and seconded by Alderman West to take the request under advisement.

Mayor West requested comments.

Alderman Gray said there are several properties that should be updated and addressed during the budget revisions. He said maybe there is additional monies to assist with the repairs.

Alderman Middleton asked that Mr. Dawes provide the information to the Mayor and Board prior to the budget hearings.

Mayor West said there will be discussion as it relates to the facilities and this item will be added to the list. He said a plan must be devised to address the most needed item on the list.

The motion carried unanimously.

CITY OFFICIALS' REPORTS

ALDERWOMAN ARCENEAUX-MATHIS

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis said letters were mailed to the community in regard to 592 funds being eliminated. She said the correspondence is asking that the community join the City of Natchez in a lobbying effort. Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis said the resolution was presented to the Adams County Board of Supervisors and was approved. Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis read the joint resolution.

ATTACHMENT

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis thanked Mr. Gardner for his assistance with the Joint

Resolution. She asked Mr. Gardner if Mr. Mike Lipsey was in town to visit Natchez.

Mayor West said Mike Lipsey did not come to Natchez, and noted that he met with four (4) staff members from the office of Congressman Pickering. Mayor West said the group was in town on Monday, August 13, 2007.

Alderman Arceneaux-Mathis said when she was in Washington she especially requested that Ward 1 and Ward 2 representatives be notified when they arrived in town so they could tour and see the problems in the community. She said she understood people not doing anything when they can not see and understand what the problems are. Alderman Arceneaux-Mathis said she wanted Mr. Lipsey to see and understand the living situation of citizens who are paying taxes and live in Adams County.

Mayor West said he met with the group and was prepared to take them around and they indicated that they had already gone through the areas mentioned by Alderman Arceneaux-Mathis.

Alderman Arceneaux-Mathis asked who took the group through the areas. She also asked who was present during the group's visit to Natchez. Alderman Arceneaux-Mathis stated that she would feel better if she had been notified. She said Mike Lipsey assured her that he would not come back to Natchez without meeting with her and be allowed the opportunity to visit the areas.

Mayor West said the names of the individuals can be provided through his office.

Alderman Arceneaux-Mathis said a true response is not given from the congressmen unless they see the area for themselves. She said when the Corp of Engineers bus tour was taken to view the area where water flooded the properties, there was a difference response. She said the concerns about the 592 funds and Phase II of the project was interpreted differently when they could see it for themselves. Alderman Arceneaux-Mathis said she would like the people from the Marblestone area to personally invite Congressman Pickering, Senator Cochern and the delegation to come and see the area.

Alderman Arceneaux-Mathis said when you think about a bridge collapsing and the infrastructure of the country, you can sit and talk about what we do not want to hear, but when something happens then everyone will get in a hurry to correct the problem. She said billions of dollars are being sent out of the country and the City of Natchez can not get 10 million dollars to repair two wards to allow people to live decently. Alderman Arceneaux-Mathis said she would like the congressmen to see what she is talking about.

Alderman Arceneaux-Mathis thanked Mayor West for meeting with the group and noted that she would appreciate a call if and when they return to Natchez because she wanted them to personally tour the areas.

Alderman Arceneaux-Mathis noted that on July 27, 2007 she walked through the Senior

Citizen Center and along with Mrs. Bartley, Executive Director have expressed the following concerns. Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis said they are very concerned that with the programs operated from the building and the grants and funds provided from the State that if there is a visit and the problems are viewed the projects may be closed down. She said for the record, verbatim that the attachment will be made a part of the minutes and everyone is made aware of the situation and progress is made to have repairs completed prior to the regular scheduled inspections.

ATTACHMENT 1

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis said she attended a workshop and met with the Senior Community Service Employment Program members (SCSEP) and was told that they are working in the State of Mississippi to provide employment to senior citizens who are interested in working. She said the organization will train and pay the citizens for a probationary period and allow the company to hire the individuals. Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis said she will provide the contact information to Mrs. Bartley.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis said she toured Ward 1 with Chief Mullins to determine where street lights were needed. She thanked Chief Mullins for assisting with the installation of the new light, although there were complaints that the light should be adjusted to eliminate the light from shining into the bedroom of a neighbor.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis asked Mr. Smith to inspect the rear of the Old Smoot Building on Broadway Street for overgrown vines and weeds. She said the front of the property was cleaned and asked Mr. Smith to investigate the condition of the rear of the building.

Mr. Smith said the property is on the list to be cleaned.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis said she received several calls from Mr. Bell regarding a lot on Buckners Alley behind his residence on North Union Street. Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis said she walked along Buckners Alley and found that there are two (2) tractors, a portable building, a van, truck, porta-let, two (2) trailers, tires and various trash items on the lot. She asked what is the procedure for having the property cleaned and what is allow to be stored on a lot and for what length of time before it is required to be moved.

Mayor West requested comments.

Attorney Sanders said he will research the ordinance and discuss the matter with Mr. Smith and Mr. Story.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis said she informed Mr. Bell about the abandoned vehicle ordinance and that all vehicles must have a current license tag, inspection sticker and be operable. She asked if the same requirement would apply to tractors. Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis stated that due to a legal question she would contact Mr. Bell at a later date with information.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis said on July 25-26, 2007 she visited a Hope Six Project in Meridian, Mississippi and Memphis, Tennessee with Mrs. Jones, Mr. Story and Alderman Gray. Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis said the projects are under the oversight of the local Housing Authority. She said they discussed several types of housing and was informed that there is a new philosophy for people who are worried about apartment complexes going up and the idea of moving away from the area. She said there are vigorous financial arrangements available to help people obtain good housing. The housing contracts stipulate a no felony policy which would assist the citizens of Natchez who are worried about crime moving into the neighborhood. The properties were posted and the residents have to adhere to the rules and regulations. Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis said the scatter technique was used to not have a large number of apartment units in one area. She said a more in-depth report will be provided at the next scheduled meeting.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis said Mrs. Jones was asked to put together a power point presentation for the Mayor and Board of Aldermen to see what was presented to them during the Hope Six Project tour. She said the full board should take a trip with the local housing authority and visit the sites and understand what is available for our community. Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis asked that a trip is scheduled for the Mayor, Board, Natchez Housing Authority, and the EDA to understand what is available.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis asked Mayor West to formally invite Governor Haley Barbour to Natchez to meet with the board. She said Natchez is the oldest city in Mississippi and the Governor should be aware of the problems in the area. The Governor should be invited before the election, along with John Arthur Eaves, because you will not know who will be the governor.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis to authorize the Mayor to formally extend an invitation to Governor Haley Barbour to visit Natchez. The motion was seconded by Alderman Gray. The motion carried with Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis, Alderman Gray, Alderman West, Alderman Massey, Alderman Middleton voting in favor. Alderman Pollard voted against the motion.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis said the Mississippi Legislative Delegates should be invited to meet with the Board of Aldermen annually. She said this was done in the past and should be continued.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis to authorize the Mayor to formally extend an invitation to the Mississippi Legislative Delegates to visit Natchez and meet with the Mayor and Board of Aldermen annually. The motion was seconded by Alderman Gray. The motion carried with Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis, Alderman Gray, Alderman West, Alderman Massey, Alderman Middleton voting in favor. Alderman Pollard voted against the motion.

ALDERMAN GRAY

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

ATTACHMENT

Alderman Gray presented a petition from the residents of Old Washington Road in regard to the construction of a government housing project in the area. He said the residents were seeking information about the project.

Alderman Gray asked that the petition be made a part of the minutes.

Alderman Gray said if the Mayor and Board of Aldermen would review the proposal and agree with the development the residents would better accept it.

ATTACHMENT

Alderman Gray presented photographs of the Hope Six Housing Project.

Alderman Gray said he was told that Vicksburg, Mississippi applied for Katrina funds to clean up the bayous and area affected by flooding. He said there is a major problem in Natchez and the application is worth submitting for funds to assist with the water problems running across the yards of residents and filling the bayous. Alderman Gray said the water problems are also contributing to the increased number of West Nile Virus cases found in the area. He asked that everyone pay close attention to standing water around their home.

Alderman Gray presented a letter from Mrs. Mary Curtis Smith requesting assistance with a tree in the rear of her property on the City of Natchez right of way. He said Mrs. Smith is interested in purchasing the strip of land and having the tree removed. Alderman Gray asked that Attorney Sanders and Mr. Holloway research the request and contact Mrs. Smith. Alderman Gray said there is also a property on the corner of Lamar and Gayosa Street with tree limbs hanging over private property from the city right of way. He asked that Mr. Smith review the situation and make the necessary corrections to both sites before there is damage to the properties.

Alderman Gray thanked Mr. Gardner for the assistance on the West Stiers Lane EWP project and getting the necessary grants. Alderman Gray asked if additional funds would be needed since the request for funding took a longer time than usual.

Mr. Gardner said a quote will be completed by Jordan, Kaiser & Sessions in regard to the change of the area and the additional funds needed. He said the project will be in a better position if additional funds are required for completion.

Alderman Gray said Mrs. Rovell Presley submitted a request to have Inez Street changed to Inez Church Street on behalf of her Great Grandmother. Alderman Gray asked that Attorney Sanders research the request and let him know what should be done.

Alderman Gray said during the conference he attended in Tunica, Mississippi he received great information that a Bill was addressed in Congress to return the Section 8 programs back into the communities. He said the vouchers issued in the past for housing will be allowed to be used toward the purchase of a house.

Alderman Gray asked Mr. Smith if the legal issues were resolved in regard to the Seals Lane project.

Mr. Smith said the department is currently working on the concerns.

Alderman Gray said during the last conference he attended a statement was made that hit home. He said the statement was 'There is a big gap between the haves and the have nots and the wants.' Alderman Gray said in order for the community to thrive and be what everyone on the board would like it to be there must be a way to close the gap between the groups.

ALDERMAN POLLARD

NO REPORT

ALDERMAN WEST

NO REPORT

ALDERMAN MASSEY

NO REPORT

ALDERMAN MIDDLETON

Alderman Middleton said he did not have a Recreation Report although he wanted to share the news with the board that Mr. Tedder was out of town due to the unexpected death of Amy Richmond, his sister in law. Alderman Middleton said the funeral service will be held on August 16, 2007.

CITY CLERK'S REPORT, DONNIE HOLLOWAY

Mr. Holloway requested authorization to spread surplus properties on the minutes. He said there were several items and three (3) vehicles from the Senior Citizens Center.

ATTACHMENT

A motion was made by Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis and seconded by Alderman Gray to authorize the surplus properties being spread on the minutes. The motion carried

unanimously.

Mr. Holloway requested approval of the docket # 7140 through 7923.

Alderman Middleton asked if Attorney Sanders reviewed the docket.

Attorney Sanders said he did review the docket.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis and seconded by Alderman Gray to approve Docket #7140 - 7923 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT, EVERETT SANDERS

NO REPORT

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor West reminded everyone of the meeting to be held on Wednesday, August 15, 2007 at 4:30 p.m. in the City Hall Conference Room.

NEW BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Alderman Pollard and seconded by Alderman Massey to adjourn the Regular Meeting of August 14, 2007. The motion carried unanimously.

**PHILLIP C. WEST,
MAYOR**

ATTEST:

DONNIE HOLLOWAY, CITY CLERK