

**REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 28, 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, August 28, 2007. Mayor Phillip C. West presided at the meeting, which was opened with prayer by Bishop James Calhoun, of Harvest Time Church.

MAYOR & BOARD PRESENT	ELECTED OFFICIALS ABSENT	CITY OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEADS
Phillip C. West Mayor Joyce Arceneaux-Mathis Alderwoman, 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 Brett Brinegar, Grants Coordinator David Gardner, Water Superintendent Patricia Gibson, Personnel Director Temple Hendricks, Secretary to Mayor Paul Johnson, Fire Chief Darlene Jones, Comm. Dev. Director Eric Smith, Public Works Administrator Dennis Story, City Planner Ralph Tedder, Recreation Director Walter Tipton, Convention Center Director Wilbert Whitley, Recreation Department Danny White, Natchez Police 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 August 14, 2007 and approve as submitted. The motion was seconded by Alderman Pollard. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING

Oscar Davis - Taxi Cab Service

Mayor West noted that an application was submitted by Mr. Oscar Davis requesting a Certificate of Need to operate a taxi service in the community. Mayor West requested a motion to open the public hearing.

A motion was made by Alderman West and seconded by Alderman Massey to open the

public hearing. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor West requested comments from the public. There being no comments made, the public hearing be closed.

A motion was made by Alderman West and seconded by Alderman Gray to close the public hearing. The motion carried unanimously.

Alderman West said on behalf of the applicant, Oscar Davis, the request was made for a Certificate of Need to operate five (5) taxi vehicles. Alderman West said at the last meeting an approval was issued for a one vehicle taxi service in Natchez. The same criteria will be adhered to with the exception of cell phones being used for communication.

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

A motion was made by Alderman West and seconded by Alderman Gray to approve the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Oscar Davis for the operation of a taxi service contingent on the following:

1. Operation of five (5) vehicles
2. Use of cellular telephones for communication
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.

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 Coach Pitch All Star State Champions

Mayor West recognized the 2007 Mississippi Coach Pitch - All Star State Champions. He asked that the Coaches and Team Members come forward. Mayor West said the team won the sub-district playoff undefeated, while in the District Playoff games the team lost one game to advance to the South State Championship and was undefeated. The team won the Over all State Championship undefeated.

Mayor West presented certificates to the team members and coaches.

Lee Ford, Jr
Daniel Garrity
Jacobe Jenkins
Jace Calcote
Jack Dukes
Reed White
Brock Farmer
Gage Dossett
Dalvion Jackson
Craig Bradley
Christian Day
Gabe Smith

Alderman Pollard said as a past baseball coach, it is a commitment that the coaches spend their time, money, and sacrifice time away from their homes for their team. Alderman Pollard said he was always close to winning but never got the State Championship. He said on behalf of the City of Natchez he thanked the coaches for a great job and bringing home the championship to make Natchez look good.

Coach Gary Farmer
Coach Billy Calcote
Coach Charlie Bradley
Coach Reagan White

ATTACHMENT CERTIFICATE

b. Susan Cassagne - Presentation from Judge George Armstrong Library

Mayor West recognized Mrs. Susan Casagne to make a presentation of Appreciation to the City of Natchez.

Mrs. Susan Casagne, said she and Ms. Janet Minor on behalf of the Children's Library would like to present the Mayor and Board of Aldermen with a Certificate of Appreciation for the contribution for the Summer Library Program. Mrs. Casagne thanked everyone for helping with the programs for the children.

ATTACHMENT (letter)

c. Leola Harris - Angelethy House

Mayor West recognized Mrs. Leola Harris and requested comments.

Mrs. Leola Harris said on behalf of the Angelethy House and the Southwest Mississippi Chapter of the Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc she wanted to provide the City of Natchez with information for the annual update of the program. She thanked Mayor West, Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis, Alderman West for visiting with group on different occasions. Mrs. Harris said the Angelethy House serves as headquarters for the Southwest Mississippi Chapter of the Coalition of 100 Black Woman, Inc.

Mrs. Harris provided information on the events held during the 2006-2007 year at the Angelethy House. She said during the year there were many organizations and businesses who donated to the program, she thanked all for their participation.

First Annual Up-Town Fund Day in the Park
11th Annual Martin L. King Youth Rally
Open House Celebration
Natchez Natives in Conversation - Local Talents
Art Exhibits
Tutorial Sessions

Mrs. Harris said the insurance policy was updated with Byrne Insurance Agency for the 2007-2008 year. She provided a copy for the minutes.

Mrs. Harris provided a copy of the 2007-2008 program schedule to be placed on the minutes. She thanked the City of Natchez for allowing the group to provide the program to the community.

Mayor West thanked Mrs. Harris for the update.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis said she was glad to have the building occupied by the Coalition of 100 Black Women. She thanked Mrs. Harris for the great job they are doing.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis and seconded by Alderman West to authorize that the activity report and the insurance policy be spread on the minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

Alderman West thanked Mrs. Harris for a job well done. He said for those who have not visited the Angelethy House he would like to encourage them to observe the programs and visit the art exhibits. Alderman West said the 100 Black Women are doing a tremendous job.

ATTACHMENT

d. Natchez-Adams County Humane Society - Linda Harper

Mayor West recognized Mrs. Linda Harper, with the Humane Society.

Mrs. Linda Harper, said as President of the Natchez Adams County Humane Society, she was present to beg for funds. Mrs. Harper said for the past ten years the society has received \$15,000 from the City of Natchez. She said ten years later the Humane Society is still receiving the same funds and the annual budget has increased during that time from \$76,000 to \$100,000. Mrs. Harper said when she became a volunteer and a board member the organization took in 2,200 animals per year, and ten years later the numbers will be approximately 3,000 per year. She said they have seen a large number of animal abuse, neglect cases. She provided photographs for the board to review of the abuse cases and the improvements made through the Humane Society for the animals.

Mrs. Harper said the Humane Society is responsible for the care of all animals they receive in the shelter and must hold them five (5) to seven (7) days for treatment. The animals must be wormed, and given the rabies vaccination. Mrs. Harper said the vet care, utility cost, medicine, and maintenance fees have all doubled over the years. She said from April 1, 2007 through June 30, 2007 approximately 334 cats and kittens were accepted with 28 being adopted, 380 dogs and puppies were accepted with 61 being adopted. Mrs. Harper said 74% of the animals received are euthanased every year and this is a very sad thing to be involved with.

Mrs. Harper said the Humane Society is struggling with debt and the year is not over. She said there is a wonderful volunteer base to assist with the daily functions of the shelter. There are fund raising events scheduled throughout the year for assistance for the construction of a new building. She asked that the City of Natchez increase the funds to the amount of \$25,000 per year.

Mrs. Harper provided a copy of the budget to be spread on the minutes

ATTACHMENT

Mayor West thanked Mrs. Harper for her comments and said the City is in the process of finalizing the budget and the request would be taken under advisement.

d. Walter Brown - Economic Development

Attorney Walter Brown said he appreciated the work done by Mrs. Leola Harris and the Coalition of 100 Black Women at the Angelethy House. Attorney Brown said they negotiated the contract one year ago and the organization has more than fulfilled the expectations of the city. Attorney Brown said Mrs. Harris has done everything they promised the City they would do in regard to the community programs and the Angelethy House. He thanked Mrs. Harris for the great work done by the organization.

Attorney Brown said the Ground Breaking Ceremony was held for the Corrections Corporation of America project on Hwy 84. He thanked the City of Natchez for the assistance with the grant that

was submitted through Delta Regional Authority that enabled the matching funds for the project in the amount of \$500,000. Attorney Brown said the support from the Mayor and Board of Aldermen made the difference in the work of the Natchez Water Works and their contributions and the Adams County Water Association and CCA made the difference in getting the project and getting the infrastructure funds. He said the governor formally read the letter granting the money to the City of Natchez in the amount of \$4.6 million dollars for the infrastructure for the City of Natchez and Adams County Water Association to provide the utilities. Attorney Brown said the project is currently underway and it will reap great benefits for the community with 300 new jobs, over \$1 million in advalorem taxes to the county and school district with the City of Natchez being the main stay in the process.

Attorney Brown said a petition must be submitted to the Public Service Commission to provide the authority to provide the sewer service to the site. He said there was no controversy about the process. Attorney Brown requested authorization for the Mayor and Natchez Water Works to file a petition with the Mississippi Public Service Commission to make the 143 acre site a part of the service area.

Mayor West requested comments.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis and seconded by Alderman West to grant authorization for the Mayor and Natchez Water Works to file a petition with the Mississippi Public Service Commission to make the 143 acre site on Hwy 84 a part of the service area. The motion carried unanimously.

Attorney Brown said several months ago the board approved and entered into a lease agreement with the New Orleans Hotel Consultants for the property at 212 Main Street. He said the approval was conditioned upon the appraisals being made along with the right of access for the improvements to the property. Attorney Brown said the appraisals were done and all requirements were met and requested that the lease agreement be ratified and the commencement of it on October 1, 2007.

Mayor West requested comments.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis and seconded by Alderman West to ratify the lease agreement with the New Orleans Hotel Consultants for the property at 212 Main Street and approve the commencement of the lease on October 1, 2007. The motion carried unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Natchez Adams County School Board nominations

Mayor West said there was unfinished business that he would like to take up at the current time. He said the board has been in deliberations over the past months regarding the nominations for the

Natchez Adams County School Board and the Civil Service Commission. Mayor West said there were interviews with many great persons. He said the board will not go wrong with any appointments made because all persons interviewed were first class citizens.

Mayor West said the board will be allowed the opportunity to make a nomination of the persons he recommend or other persons. Mayor West addressed the School Board position in reference to the expired term of John Dale. Mayor West *recommended Mrs. Thelma Newsome* for the position. Mayor West said the second position which availed itself due to the resignation of Mr. James Coleman, he *recommended Ms. Matilda Stephens* to fill the unexpired term.

Mayor West said that Mrs. Thelma Newsome is a former educator with thirty (30) years experience in the Natchez Adams County Public School System and she is the parent of children who were educated in the school district. He said Mrs. Newsome has tremendous experience in many capacities with the school district but more important she loves children and Natchez.

Mayor West said that Mrs. Matilda Stephens is active in the community and works with many people and children and has done so for many years. He said Ms. Stephens is dedicated to and very passionate about the City of Natchez. Mayor West noted that Ms. Stephens has always put the interest of the children and those persons she serves before her own interest. He said she is a very committed and energetic person.

Mayor West opened the floor for nominations to fill the expired full term of John Dale.

Alderman Gray nominated Mrs. Thelma Newsome.

Alderman Middleton nominated Mrs. Millicent Mayo.

Alderman Pollard agreed with the nomination of Mrs. Mayo.

Alderman Massey noted that there were many great interviews and none more impressive that Mrs. Mayo. Alderman Massey said he has never seen anyone as passionate about wanting to serve on the School Board. He said she explained the difficulties in the current system and what she felt she could do to assist. Alderman Massey said the nominee should be one who has worked in the school system and understand the need for improvement.

Mayor West asked if there were additional nominations for the full term of John Dale. He requested a motion to close the nominations.

A motion was made by Alderman West and seconded by Alderman Gray to close the nominations. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor West requested a vote in favor of the nominee Mrs. Thelma Newsome.

The vote in favor was Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis, Alderman Gray, Alderman West.

Mayor West requested a vote in favor of the nominee Mrs. Millicent Mayo.

The vote in favor was Alderman Pollard, Alderman Massey, Alderman Middleton.

Mayor West noted that due to a three / three vote the chair would vote in favor of Mrs. Thelma Newsome filling the full term of John Dale on the Natchez Adams County School Board.

Mayor West opened the floor for nominations to fill the unexpired term of James Coleman.

Alderman Gray nominated Ms. Matilda Stephens.

Mayor West asked if there were additional nominations. He requested a motion to close the nominations.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis and seconded by Alderman Gray to close the nominations. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor West requested a vote in favor of the nominee Ms. Matilda Stephens.

The vote in favor was Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis, Alderman Gray, Alderman Pollard, Alderman West, Alderman Massey and Alderman Middleton.

Mayor West noted that Ms. Matilda Stephens will fill the unexpired term of James Coleman on the Natchez Adams County School Board.

b. Civil Service Commission nominations

Mayor West said there are two vacant positions on the Civil Service Commission, the expired term of Mr. George Robinson and the resigned term of Mr. James Coleman.

Mayor West *recommended Mr. Dante Weir* to fill the expired term of Mr. Robinson. Mayor West said Mr. Ware has military and supervisory experience, has worked with management / labor and is willing to serve the community fairly. Mayor West requested a nomination for Mr. Ware

Alderman Gray nominated Mr. Dantae Weir to fill the expired term of George Robinson.

Alderman Massey nominated Mr. George Robinson to be reappointed to the position. Alderman Massey said he talked with Mr. Robinson and he would like to continue to serve on the Civil Service Commission.

Mayor West requested additional nominations. There being no further nominations he

requested a motion to close the nominations.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis and seconded by Alderman Gray to close the nominations. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor West requested a vote in favor of the nominee Mr. Dante Weir.

The vote in favor was Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis, Alderman Gray.

Mayor West requested a vote in favor of the nominee Mr. George Robinson.

The vote in favor was Alderman Pollard, Alderman West, Alderman Massey, Alderman Middleton.

Mayor West noted that Mr. George Robinson will be reappointed to the Civil Service Commission.

Mayor West *recommended Mr. David Reed* to fill the unexpired term of Mr. James Coleman. Mayor West said Mr. Reed is a local attorney with the reputation of being fair and understands the due process. Mr. Reed has the legal expertise that will make him a valuable asset to the commission. Mayor West requested a nomination for Mr. Reed or any additional nominations.

Alderman Gray nominated Mr. Dante Weir to fill the unexpired term of James Coleman.

Mayor West requested additional nominations. There being no further nominations he requested a motion to close the nominations.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis and seconded by Alderman West to close the nominations. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor West requested a vote in favor of the nominee Mr. Dante Weir.

The vote in favor was Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis, Alderman Gray, Alderman Pollard, Alderman West, Alderman Massey, Alderman Middleton.

Mayor West noted that Mr. Dante Weir will be appointed to the Civil Service Commission to fill the unexpired term of James Coleman.

c. Comprehensive Health Wellness

Mayor West said the Comprehensive Health Wellness proposal was briefly discussed in the Finance Meeting. Mayor West read the proposal he submitted to the Board of Aldermen.

Attachment

Mayor West said he will be asking the County to provide half of the money if they would so desire. He said if Adams County would choose not to do so, the City of Natchez will be committed to make it happen by authorizing up to \$100,000 from the public properties fund to be used for this purpose. Mayor West said if and when we reach a point where this particular matter will be moving forward, then from the bond proceed public properties will be reimbursed the \$100,000 for the development of the proposal. He said a report and recommendations from the consultant will be provided by January 1, 2008.

Mayor West said he wanted to share the proposal with the board members and with the general public. He requested comments.

Alderman West commended Mayor West for bringing the proposal to the City of Natchez. Alderman West said recreation has been the topic of conversation for a long time and no one has decided to move forward and get off the center until the proposal was brought to the table. He said there were joint ventures attempted with the city and the education system and it did not work. Alderman West noted that for the Mayor to state that the City will move forward with or without Adams County was great.

A motion was made by Alderman West to accept the Comprehensive Recreational Proposal for the City of Natchez and move forward with or without the requested participation from Adams County. The motion was seconded by Alderman Gray.

Mayor West requested comments on the motion.

Alderman Massey said in the proposal the City of Natchez will provide \$100,000 seed money from the public properties fund. He said the city recreation budget is between 700,000 and 800,000 per year and the county budget is \$40,000. Alderman Massey said any group that goes to other facilities for recreational purposes they return to Natchez with the question why can we not have the same recreation facility. He said every city that has great recreation facilities have a joint city / county recreation board. Alderman Massey said the only way to have a top notch recreation facility the city and county must participate. He said city and county taxes are being paid by the residents of the city while the individuals in the county do not provide funds for recreation.

Alderman Massey said for the city to put up \$100,000 that is not available at this time is not the right thing to do, other than robbing the public properties fund. He said there was no increase in taxes for the construction of the soft ball fields, but funds were provided from the trees being cut. Alderman Massey said the city has always worked hard to provide recreation for the city and the county. He said it is time for the county to put up half of the \$100,000. He said the city should not go along with the proposal. Alderman Massey said he will agree that the recreational proposal will be great for the city.

Alderman Massey said several years ago Mayor Brown and Alderman Middleton provided a

recreation plan similar to the new proposal. He said the City of Natchez, Adams County, and the School System were all asked to participate financial in the proposal. Alderman Massey said the school immediately pulled out of the running and then International Paper closed its doors and the county lost a large amount of taxes. Alderman Massey said the county should pay the same amount of taxes for recreation. He said for him to vote in favor of the proposal Adams County will have to provide \$50,000 of the seed money. He said he is tired of being double taxed in the City of Natchez and hearing about the sub-par recreational facilities when the city has stepped up since 1988 and provided recreation for the county of Adams.

Alderman Massey said he admires Mayor West for his foresight with the proposal.

Alderman Middleton, Recreation Chairperson, said there is no one on the board more passive than he is about recreation. He said the loss of International Paper Company set the previous proposal back. He said everyone in the City of Natchez and Adams County should stand and do what is proper for the children. Alderman Middleton said there must be a fifty / fifty share in the proposal. He said the proposal would be great for the economic development of the city.

Alderman Gray said he grew up when there was recreation in the community. He said he is 100 percent in favor of recreation. Alderman Gray said there is a problem when there are children walking the street with nothing to do in regard to recreation. He said his motto is 'It is better to build boys than to repair men.'

Alderman West called for the previous motion.

Mayor West said in clarification, everyone is passionate about recreation. He said the proposal would be up to \$100,000 and the county would be asked to share in the cost, but if they choose not to share the City of Natchez will proceed anyway. Mayor West said the city should not be stymied by the refusal for whatever reason of any other group in the city from doing what is necessary to move the community forward in a recreational perspective for our children, youth and families. He said this is a great time financially to pick up on the specific way to accomplish the proposal. He said the city has not been in a financial position to even say \$100,000 could be used from public properties to be mandated for a such a project.

Alderman Massey said the city is in the budget process at the current time, and according to the figures from the City Clerk, the budget is \$400,000 under the current revenue from last year. He said until the money is in hand it can not be spent. Alderman Massey said there is equipment that is not functional. He said he totally agreed with the idea but there should be time to complete the budget and be fiscally smart in order to do it properly. Alderman Massey said only if the county provides \$50,000 of the funds will he vote in favor of the proposal.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis asked the City Clerk how much money is currently in the Public Properties fund.

Mr. Holloway said there is approximately \$268,000 in the public properties fund.

Alderman West asked if there are funds set aside for a swimming pool.

Mr. Holloway said there is \$48,000 set aside for a swimming pool.

Mayor West questioned the \$500,000 identified as monies available that can be used anywhere necessary. He stated that these are funds that exclude money in public properties.

Alderman Middleton asked if there is \$60,000 in the fund for bathrooms at Duncan Park.

Mayor West said when there is something that is wanted the money is available and when there is something we do not want there are concerns. He said he is aware of the amount of money available.

Alderman West called for the previous motion to accept the Comprehensive Recreational Proposal for the City of Natchez and move forward with or without the requested participation from Adams County.

Mayor West requested a vote on the previous motion to accept the proposal.

The motion carried with Alderman West, Alderman Gray, Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis, and Alderman Pollard voting in favor. Alderman Massey and Alderman Middleton voted against the motion.

Alderman Middleton asked that he go on record that he voted against the request as presented and he would like to see Adams County participate in the Recreational proposal.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT, Patricia Gibson

Mrs. Gibson said in regard to the Compensatory Leave she was requesting authorization to amend the personnel policy to reflect the change in the carry over hours from 20 hours to 40 hours a year.

A motion was made by Alderman Massey and seconded by Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis to amend the Personnel Policy to reflect the change in the carry over hours from 20 hours to 40 hours per year. The motion carried unanimously.

Alderman Massey asked if the Personnel Policy read to the working hours of the Department Heads and the recording of days they take for personal days.

Mrs. Gibson said the Personnel Policy does not address the question. She said she is currently

keeping up with the time of most Department Heads.

Alderman Massey said during budget meetings he asked that each Department Head provide their time to the Personnel Department.

A motion was made by Alderman Massey to amend the Personnel Policy to read that all department heads work the hours of 8:30 am - 5:00 pm and with any deviation from the schedule, or personal time taken will be reported to the Personnel Director. The motion was seconded by Alderman Middleton.

Mayor West requested comments.

Alderman Gray said he was not prepared to vote on the motion at the current time.

Alderman West asked if he could offer a friendly amendment to the motion, that if there are any deviations from the schedule, or regarding personal time it will be reported to the Mayor's Office.

Alderman Massey said he would accept the friendly amendment. He said all department heads should be accountable.

Alderman Gray requested clarification on the request. He said his understanding is that the Mayor would handle day to day operations and the board sets policy. Alderman Gray said he will agree that the request is a good idea, but it should have been discussed prior to the meeting.

Mayor West said the subject was discussed previously, and the request will be a very unenforceable suggestion without a time clock.

Mayor West said in order for the request to be effective and fair, it would mean that every Department Head will report to the Mayor and he will make sure they are available and on the job between the required hours. Mayor West said he is not in the position to do what is requested. Mayor West said if there are individuals who are not doing their jobs they should be terminated.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis asked that the request be tabled to allow further research.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis and seconded by Alderman Gray to table the motion to amend the Personnel Policy to read that all department heads work the hours of 8:30 am - 5:00 pm and with any deviation from the schedule, or personal time taken will be reported to the Personnel Director.

Mayor West requested comments regarding the motion.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis said the previous motion had merit and she understood where the motion was coming from. She said the city is in the process of evaluating Department Heads and

finding out their philosophies. Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis said until the evaluations are complete and there is a joint philosophy as a board as to the diversity of how the departments will be handled the request should be tabled. She said the board should decide on the direction it would like to go prior to amending the policy.

Alderman Massey asked that the original motion be withdrawn.

The motion to table carried unanimously.

Mayor West referenced the Personnel Policy in regard to 5.0 General Rules

5.0 GENERAL RULES

5.1 WORKWEEK/WORKDAY

- 5.1.1 Each Department head shall establish the work schedule for each department. This schedule shall be submitted to and approved by the Mayor.

Mayor West said the section of the Personnel Policy should be examined.

NATCHEZ FIRE DEPARTMENT, Paul Johnson, Chief

Chief Johnson said he would like to respond to the request made by Alderman Gray to have the fire hydrant moved from Ray Street to Phillips Lane. He said due to the current codes the fire hydrant can not be relocated. Chief Johnson said all existing fire hydrants are grandfathered and a hydrant must be ten (10) feet from any existing water main. He said since there are sewer water mains on both sides of Martin L. King Jr. Street the existing fire hydrant can not be moved.

Alderman Gray thanked Chief Johnson for the information.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT, Dennis Story

Mr. Story said the Zoa Street CDBG project was started and the drainage culverts were being cleared.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis asked that the residents of the Zoa Street area be sent a letter informing them of the start of the project and the proposed completion date. She said the residents should be aware of what is happening. She said they may not be happy with the current situation for a short time but the final outcome will be satisfying.

Alderman Gray said a petition was presented to him from the residents from Old Washington Road objecting to the proposed Audubon Terrace Development.

Alderman Gray asked that the petition be presented to the Planning Commission as an objection to the development.

Mr. Story said the plans were submitted for the Audubon Terrace Development although they were not complete and the plans were not considered for review by the Site Plan Review Committee. Mr. Story said when the plans for the development are submitted, reviewed by the Site Plan Review Committee, the final plan will be submitted to the Planning Commission for final site plan approval.

Mayor West requested comments.

A motion was made by Alderman West and seconded by Alderman Massey to formally accept the petition presented from the residents of the Old Washington Road area to be presented as an objection to the Planning Commission in regard to the Audubon Terrace Development. The motion carried unanimously.

ATTACHMENT

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, David Gardner

Mr. Gardner said he was informed by Mr. Roy Tipton that the rules changed in regard to the advertising process for the Trails Project. He requested authorization from the board to readvertise for the acceptance of proposals for the Trails Project. Mr. Gardner said there will be the reappointment of the selection committee, authorization to re-advertise and review the proposals.

Mayor West requested comments.

A motion was made by Alderman West and seconded by Alderman Massey to authorize the readvertisement for the acceptance and review of proposals for the Trails project. The motion carried unanimously.

CITY OFFICIALS' REPORTS

ALDERWOMAN ARCENEUX-MATHIS

Alderwoman Arceneux-Mathis noted that the residents in the Zoa Street area must understand that the project is moving forward. She requested approval of the attached resolution.

ATTACHMENT

A motion was made by Alderwoman Arceneux-Mathis and seconded by Alderman Gray to accept the resolution as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.

Alderwoman Arceneux-Mathis said in dealing with CCA, will there be a pre-filtering system of waste on the site.

Mr. Gardner said history has shown that there is a machine to filter and chop all items and larger

particles that are placed in the system. He said all items will be of size to be handled properly by the lift station once filtered through the monster machine.

ALDERMAN GRAY

Alderman Gray requested an update from Mr. Gardner on the West Stiers Lane EWP project.

Mr. Gardner said the project is moving forward with a survey to be completed prior to September 5, 2007. He said Jordan Kaiser & Sessions will assist with the design of the project. Mr. Gardner said the schedule is to have all work completed by February 28, 2007.

Alderman Gray asked that Mr. Smith, Public Works to have the drains inspected along Martin L. King Jr. Street following the heavy rainfall.

Mr. Smith agreed to have the drains along Martin L. King Jr. Street inspected for debris.

Alderman Gray said he is currently participating in the mentoring program at the Robert Lewis Middleton School. He asked that the parents take advantage of the Parenting Center at the school.

Alderman Gray asked if there is a game plan to address the shootings that have gone on in the community. He said there is an existing plan and ordinance and it should be reviewed by the board and police chief.

ATTACHMENT

ALDERMAN POLLARD

Alderman Pollard reported that the tourism dollars were extremely high for the months of May and June, 2007.

Alderman Pollard said the First Baptist Church Building on Main Street was officially sold on August 24, 2007. He said the renovations of the property will hopefully be positive for the downtown area.

ALDERMAN WEST

Alderman West asked Lieutenant Danny White what could be done to get guns off the streets of Natchez.

Lieutenant White said the guns are a major problem on the streets. He said there is not a lot that can be done because the law states that the guns are allowed. He said individuals can legally carry a gun if they are of age.

Alderman West said there should be a way to control the guns and the individuals who can

possess them on the street. He asked if road blocks could assist in the community to assure safety.

Lieutenant White said when there are road blocks set up the residents call and complained to the police department. He said he will discuss the matter with Chief Mullins.

Alderman Gray asked if the SWAT team could be used to assist with the crime situation. He said he would like to send the message to all residents that Natchez will not allow the shootings and crime in the Natchez community.

Alderman Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis said there are residents in Ward 1 who are interested in meeting with the City Officials to discuss the problems in the community. She said the ordinance may address some of the problems. Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis said she would like to make sure the elderly residents and children are safe.

Alderman West said there is a large amount of traffic in the community neighborhoods. He said if there is a way to reduce traffic in the neighborhoods there will be less problems on the streets.

ALDERMAN MASSEY

No Report

ALDERMAN MIDDLETON

No Report

CITY CLERK'S REPORT, DONNIE HOLLOWAY

Mr. Holloway requested approval of the revised budget for August 20, 2007.

Mayor West requested comments.

A motion was made by Alderman West and seconded by Alderman Massey to approve the revised budget for August 20, 2007. The motion carried unanimously.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT, EVERETT SANDERS

No Report

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor West thanked everyone for attending the meeting and requested a motion to adjourn the regular meeting of August 28, 2007.

NEW BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Alderman West and seconded by Alderman Massey to adjourn the Regular Meeting of August 28, 2007. The motion carried unanimously.

**PHILLIP C. WEST,
MAYOR**

ATTEST:

DONNIE HOLLOWAY, CITY CLERK