

**REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 13, 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, November 13, 2007. Mayor Phillip C. West presided at the meeting, which was opened with prayer by Mrs. Sabrena Bartley, Executive Director of Senior Center.

| MAYOR & BOARD PRESENT | ELECTED OFFICIALS ABSENT | CITY OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEADS |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Phillip C. West Mayor Joyce Arceneaux-Mathis Alderwoman, Ward 1 J. "Ricky" Gray, Jr. Alderman, Ward 2 Bob Pollard Alderman, Ward 3 Theodore West Alderman, Ward 4 David Massey Alderman, Ward 5 Jake Middleton Alderman, Ward 6 | | Donnie Holloway, City Clerk Everett Sanders, City Attorney Darlene D. Williams, Dep. City Clerk Sabrena Bartley, Director Senior Center Brett Brinigar, Grants Coordinator Paul Dawes, Building Official Rick Freeman, Traffic Director David Gardner, Water Superintendent Patricia Gibson, Personnel Director Henry Harris, Recreation Department Temple Hendricks, Mayor's Secretary Darlene Jones, Comm. Dev. Director Dennis Story, Planning Director Ralph Tedder, Recreation Director Darryl White, Tourism Department Danny White, 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 October 23, 2007 and approve as submitted. The motion was seconded by Alderman Massey. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING

NATCHEZ DEVELOPMENT CODE & ZONING MAP

A motion was made by Alderman Middleton and seconded by Alderman Pollard to go out of order to have the scheduled public hearing. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor West recognized Ms. Corinne Fox, Consultant and requested comments.

Ms. Fox noted that it was nice to appear before the Mayor and Board of Aldermen. She said there has been work on the City of Natchez Development Code for several years and the procedure was followed with public hearings. Ms. Fox said comments were entertained from the Planning Commission that was expressed as a consequence of some of the processes they have gone through. Ms. Fox recognized Mrs. Deborah Martin, Chairperson of the Planning Commission and Mr. Ed Godfrey, Vice-Chairperson who would like to present suggestions and comments before the board at this time.

Mayor West recognized Mrs. Martin.

Mrs. Deborah Martin noted that the Planning Commission feels that it is their duty to present a Development Code that is based on sound city planning principles. The commission has been meeting and working on the code for the past two years and would hope that any changes the board would like to make could be discussed in a meeting before it is voted on. Mrs. Martin said the specific areas in question are the 75-foot height in the WD (Waterfront) zoning district, defining the gateways to the City of Natchez; reader board signs in the B-3 (Central Business) zoning district; and digital billboards.

Mrs. Martin noted that the Planning Commission met on November 1, 2007, to address the above referenced concerns and it was unanimously reaffirmed that the previous recommendation that the building and vessel height be changed from 75 feet to read as it did in the earlier version of the zoning ordinance, where the building height is based on the height of the surrounding buildings. The gateways that are used as entrances to the city that are defined in the code do not include Liberty Road from the Natchez Trace, Martin Luther King, Jr. Street to Wilson Road, and Melrose Montebello Parkway to Sgt. Prentiss Drive. Mrs. Martin said a motion was made by the Planning Commission and passed unanimously that these areas be included as gateways to the city. Further, it was voted on that all illegal signs that should have been removed in 1999 and 2004 according to the existing Sign Ordinance be identified and removed. The Planning Commission reaffirmed the previous recommendation that reader board signs not be allowed in the B-3 (Central Business) zoning district. The legality is questioned of allowing a reader board only on city owned property and there should be legal advise on that matter. She said the Planning Commission does not feel that adequate research has been done on the issue of Digital Billboards because this is a very new issue. She said in Jackson, Ms for each digital billboard installed two previous existing billboards had to be removed. Before the Planning Commission can recommend to include the digital billboards in the code, additional information is necessary. Mrs. Martin said once the digital billboards are allowed and erected the damages issues will be involved at a later time if determined that they were not acceptable in a specific location. She said if the recommendations are not acceptable to the Mayor and Board of Aldermen, a joint meeting between the Planning Commission is requested.

Mrs. Martin thanked the Mayor and Board for their time.

Mayor West requested comments from the public on the Development Code.

Mayor West requested a motion to return to the regular order of business.

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

Mayor West said the Board would like to review the recommendations provided by the Planning Commission and respond as promptly as possible.

Alderman Pollard agreed with Mayor West and noted that the Board of Aldermen and Planning Commission should meet and discuss the final issues of the Development Code.

A. Business of the Month - Natchez Needle Arts

Mayor West recognized Natchez Needle Arts as the November Business of the Month. Mayor West said Natchez Needle Arts opened its doors in 2005 as a needlework supply store and since last March, has doubled in size. The quality of their inventory rivals that of shops in major cities throughout the United States. Mayor West said Natchez Needle Arts offers education opportunities to knitters and needle pointers that attract many people from the community as well as other areas. The employees at Natchez Needle Arts are most proud of their ability to share skills with others that they can enjoy for a lifetime. They look forward to serving the community for years to come. Mayor West congratulated Natchez Needle Arts on being chosen the November business of the month.

Alderman Pollard presented the plaque on behalf of the City of Natchez, Adams County Board of Supervisors, Natchez Business and Civic League, and Natchez Adams County Chamber of Commerce to Natchez Needle Arts.

Mrs. Cynthia Whittington invited everyone to visit the shop. She said they have professional individuals who are scheduled to come to Natchez to visit with customers. Mrs. Whittington said there are teachers on the national level to come and teach in the shop. When individuals come to Natchez from other areas they are here to shop at other business, buy gasoline, and stay in the hotels. She said she is always promoting Natchez.

Mayor West thanked Mrs. Whittington for her comments.

ATTACHMENT

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor West said he made the request to be moved up on the agenda due to a luncheon he would like to attend.

Mayor West said he will travel to New Orleans, La to attend the National League of Cities Conference. He said he will be meeting with a representative of Tulane University. Mayor West said Ms. Brinigar has been working with him with a distinguished group of individuals with Tulane University who are interested in the Forks of the Road project. Mayor West said the group has credibility, contacts and they would be a very important part of this project being moved forward. He acknowledged Ms. Brinigar who

is overseeing the project and has been with the group in New Orleans and in Natchez on several occasions.

Mayor West said he would like to read a statement and have it entered as part of the record. He said the statement is addressed as:

ATTACHMENT

A motion was made by Alderman West and seconded by Alderman Gray to make the statement a part of the Regular Minutes of November 13, 2007. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor West presented Mr. Adam Cole with a copy of the statement to be printed in the Natchez Democrat. Mayor West asked that Mr. Cole present the document to be printed as submitted.

Mayor West asked that the next item of business is the recommendation of twenty-seven (27) individuals to serve on the Recreation Advisory Board to assist with the development of a Comprehensive Recreational Plan.

Recreation Advisory Board

1. Gary Farmer
2. Joe Joe Eidt
3. Wilbert Whitley
4. SWillie Woods
5. Carrie Lambert
6. Cathy Stephens
7. David Cauthen
8. Lance Reed
9. C.A. Bowlin
10. Kenny Boyd
11. Tom Matthews
12. Plez West
13. Faye Minor
14. Matilda Stephens
15. Michael Winn
16. Eddie West
17. Jeannie Peabody
18. Mike Martin
19. Pat Biglane
20. Henry Harris
21. Dan Bland
22. Cathedral High School Rep.

23. Mayor's Youth Council President
24. Mayor's Youth Council Vice-President
25. Debbie Hudson (Chamber Director)
26. Natchez Business & Civic League President
27. Pam Ferrington

Mayor West recommended the following individuals for the City's Working Committee.

City's Working Committee

1. Phillip West
2. Jake Middleton
3. Ricky Gray
4. David Gardner
5. Darlene Jones
6. Everett Sanders
7. Theodore West
8. Bob Pollard
9. Ralph Tedder

Alderman Gray asked that Mr. Roy Garcia be recommended as the representative from Cathedral High School.

Alderman Pollard noted that Mr. Garcia is retiring from Cathedral and moving.

Mr. Holloway stated that Joe Joe Eidt would be the representative from Cathedral High School.

Mayor West said if there are other individuals the Board would like to recommend please let him know.

Alderman Gray said he was not aware of Mr. Garcia leaving Natchez. Alderman Gray said the city should do something nice for Coach Garcia.

Mayor West said there are several individuals the city should recognize.

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.

1. Carolyn Banks - Not present

2. Fannie Brown - Home Loan Program

Mayor West recognized Mrs. Fannie Brown and requested comments.

Mrs. Brown said in regard to the Home Funds Program recent monitor visit, Ms. Lillie Naylor, MDA revealed a balance of \$500.00 in the fund account. Mrs. Brown said the draw down could not be less than \$1,000. Ms. Brown said she was told that one individual sold her house and there were funds to be recaptured by MDA for the City of Natchez in the amount of \$7,200. Ms. Brown requested authorization from the city to close out the fund account prior to December 30, 2007. She said if the account is not properly closed out the city would not be allowed to apply for funds for a full year.

Alderwoman Arceneaux requested a suggestion from Mrs. Brown to best utilize the funds in a timely manner.

Mrs. Brown said the B&K loan officer is currently reviewing the applications to possibly identify a qualified individual to utilize the balance in the account. Mrs. Brown said the application process would allow the draw down of the funds although there may not be adequate time to complete the process. She said because there is no certainty that the funds would be depleted prior to the end of the year, it would be best to close out the funds and be in a position to apply for additional funds February 1, 2008.

Mr. Holloway said there is \$500.00 in the fund account and \$1,800 in advent fees that must be closed out before December 30, 2007.

Mrs. Brown said she would have the exact amount available in the account when the monitor visit is complete. She said any corrections will be presented to the Mayor and Board of Aldermen.

Mayor West requested comments.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis to accept the recommendation by Mrs. Brown to close-out the program and funds remaining in the account to allow the City of Natchez to be in the position to reapply February 1, 2008 for additional funds. The motion was seconded by Alderman Gray.

Alderman Gray asked if the program is closed out with funds in the account will the city be liable.

Mrs. Brown said actually the city funds were used and the remaining funds came back to the city when a property was sold. She said there is a fifteen (15) year time span that the property owner must hold the property. Mrs. Brown said the City of Natchez depleted the \$250,000 allocated for the home program.

Mayor West requested additional comments.

The motion carried unanimously.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis asked if the city would be allowed to apply for the same program or apply for funds for rehabilitation.

Mrs. Brown said rehab dollars can be used for owner occupied dwellings that are delapidated or in need of repairs. She said MDA would recommend that if the house was built prior to 1976 it should not be considered for rehab because it can not be brought up to meet the code requirements. Mrs. Brown said it would be suggested that the house be demolished and replaced with a new dwelling. The key to the rehab program is the person living in the house must be the actual property owner. Mrs. Brown said in most cities the property on the list for rehab is usually heir property.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis asked if federal funds would be available to assist the elderly make repairs to their property. She said the funds would be allocated for weather stripping, roofing repairs and other necessary general repairs. Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis asked if the funds could be used for renovations. She said if the property is declared historic why would MDA recommend demolition.

Mrs. Brown said if home funds are used from MDA the requirement would be to demolish and rebuild in the majority of the cases. The fact is there may be lead based paint, asbestos and other environmental issues. Mrs. Brown said the requirement is made by MDA for those reasons. She said MDA would possible consider a proposal for a project and see if it would fall within the requirements.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis asked if Mrs. Jones, Ms. Brinigar and Mr. Story would work close with Mrs. Brown to formulate a proposal that will assist in the possible rehab of the structures.

Mayor West said Mrs. Jones would be the appropriate person to continue to work with Mrs. Brown and MDA. He said he appreciates Mrs.. Brown working close with the city on the home program.

Alderman Gray said he was told that the program is set up on a point system. He said he understood that rehab funds are harder to obtain because of this system. Alderman Gray said he would not want the city to spend time working toward obtaining rehab dollars and not be afforded the opportunity to be involved in the home fund program. Alderman Gray thanked Mrs. Brown for working with the City of Natchez.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, David Gardner

Mayor West requested comments from Mr. Gardner regarding the recreational proposal as it relates to the bean field.

Mr. Gardner said Mayor West asked that he look at viable sites to house the recreational complex. There were several sites reviewed that would be eligible. Mr. Gardner said he explored the possible use of the bean field since there was discussion about the archeological sites that would prevent the use of the area.

He said he was not sure of the locations that could not be used because of the restrictions. Mr. Gardner said he discussed the issues with individuals at the Natchez Trace Department in Tupelo and they were gracious enough to forward information indicating the site layout. He said an ariel photograph was formulated to visualize the sites in the bean field, and the wooded area.

Mr. Gardner said there is a larger area that is not restricted due to the archeological sites. There is an open ground area that would be suitable to house some of the recreational needs. He said he would like to gather information from the committees that was completed in the past and take advantage of it. He said if he could receive a priority need list for recreation he would place the information on the map to determine what who be allowed. Mr. Gardner said once the sites are identified on the map based on the recreational priorities he would meet with the Natchez Trace group and make an informal presentation for the utilization of the bean field. There will be many hurdles to cross as with any other project but they will have to be worked out. Mr. Gardner said he would like to meet with the group and see how the proposal could be moved forward.

Mayor West noted that there is the need for a large group of people to make a project of this magnitude and importance work and happen. Mayor West said he was pleased to have Mr. Gardner research the bean field site and be in a position to know what can be done in the area. Mayor West said he talked with Mr. Tedder and was informed of the original restrictions although they may not be the same at the current time.

Mayor West said the major goal is to have an outdoor complex as well as an indoor complex. The facilities must be easily accessed by the community and visitors from all around. He said there is a large amount of information to be reviewed by the committee. Mayor West said the large recreation committee will be divided into different purposes, the working committee will be the major committee in regard to getting things done, although the persons on the other committees would be in positions to provide valuable input and help facilitate community meetings. He said a plan must be developed that can be exposed to the community, a plan must be developed to finance the proposal. Mayor West said he is shooting for the sky, to allow everything possible to be done. There should be a quality indoor facility, a comprehensive outdoor complex and other recreation areas within the neighborhoods.

Mayor West said there should also be upgraded and revitalized recreation areas within the city. He said everything should be done and a plan be provided to educate the community on what is happening. Mayor West said with the anticipated revenue for the City of Natchez and the right plan and approach, the people in the community will give support to the plan in every way possible. Mayor West thanked everyone for the confidence in working on the project and with the help of everyone the plan is possible.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT, Dennis Story

Mr. Story noted that there will be three (3) items on the Planning Commission agenda for Audubon Terrace. He said the Planning Commission will be reviewing applications for Rezoning, Site Plan, and Subdivision of land at the regular meeting of November 15, 2007. Mr. Story said the site plan and subdivision applications would be approved or not approved by the Planning Commission. He said the

rezoning application would be a recommendation to the Mayor and Board of Alderman from the Planning Commission with the final decision being made by the board.

Mr. Story said there was a Change Order request for the Zoa Street project. He said the contractor started digging on the site and found several gas lines that stopped the progress. Mr. Story said ATMOS was unable to replace the gas lines because they did not have the main power or equipment to move the lines so an outside contractor was hired to come in and complete the project.

Mr. Story said Mr. Calvin Dean submitted the \$3,000 change order and requested an extension of the project of four weeks.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis and seconded by Alderman Gray to approve the change order in the amount of \$3,000 and provide the requested four week extension of the project.

Mayor West requested comments.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis said a conference call was held with Mr. Calvin Dean, Project Engineer who explained the situation and requested the change order. She said Mr. Dean explained the problems of the project and noted that the original contractor (Dirt Works) had to pull out of the project because it was delayed with the find of the additional gas lines on the site that were not removed by ATMOS. It was noted that Mr. Dean was sure the project would be completed prior to the deadline.

Alderman Middleton asked if the contractor should be responsible for the mistake and absorb the cost. He said the city should not be held responsible for the mistake.

Alderman Gray said he talked with Mr. Dean and was told that ATMOS came in and removed some gas lines but did not remove all. Alderman Gray said in the process of digging, the contractor found additional gas lines that were not removed. He said the change order was submitted after ATMOS could not remove the lines and Dirt Works, Inc had to leave the site and did not wish to leave the equipment for more than thirty (30) days. Alderman Gray said the funds will be reimbursed by MDA.

Mr. Gardner said ATMOS had due notice to have the lines removed and they had the responsibility to adhere to the specifications. He said the city requested that of ATMOS, and it was their obligation to have everything ready for the contractor. Mr. Gardner said there were several unanswered questions. He said the contractor is due compensation.

Alderman Middleton asked the question of why the city should be responsible.

Mr. Gardner said the city is not responsible, the responsibility should fall on ATMOS.

Mayor West requested a vote on the motion.

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

GRANTS COORDINATOR, Brett Brinigar

Ms. Brinigar said an application was submitted to the Department of Highway Safety requesting funding for the purchase of a Life Scan Fingerprint machine. She said an answer would not be forwarded for approximately six/eight weeks on the status of the application. Ms. Brinigar said the machine is a very important piece of equipment to have in the department because the original inking system slows down the process. She said when there are bench warrants some identifications are not immediately verified until after bail is posted. Ms. Brinigar said the fingerprint scanner would be a great asset to the crime control for the community.

Ms. Brinigar said in terms of rehabing old houses, the home funds can not be used. She said there are funds within various agencies within MDA that can be used. Ms. Brinigar said Mrs. Mimi Miller, Historic Natchez Foundation should be contacted because there are benefits and drawbacks in regard to the restrictions. She said the Woodlawn district was established by Ron & Mimi Miller for the purpose of the rehab project.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis said home fund programs are great for new houses, but there are elderly individuals who are not going to purchase a new home and definitely agree to have their home demolished.

Ms. Brinigar said the homes can be torn down and rebuilt on the same footprint.

Alderman Gray said he was informed that the Woodlawn Historic district is not under the jurisdiction of the Natchez Preservation Commission.

Ms. Brinigar said every district is under the same guideline with the exception of the Woodlawn Historic District, although it is on the National Register of Historic Districts.

INSPECTION DEPARTMENT, Paul Dawes

Mr. Dawes presented the October, 2007 monthly report.

ATTACHMENT

Mayor West requested a list of new businesses opened between the years of 2005 and the present time.

Mr. Dawes requested funds for the repairs to the library elevator. He said the Natchez library was not awarded the grant that was applied to assist with repairs. He said the Wilkinson branch was in more disrepair than Adams. Mr. Dawes requested approximately \$10,000 for the repair to the elevator.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis questioned the amount of funds in the public properties account.

Mr. Holloway said there is a balance of \$310,000 in the public properties account.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis to allocate up to \$10,000 from the public properties account for the repair of the elevator at the library pending clarification from the City Attorney. The motion was seconded by Alderman Pollard. The motion carried unanimously.

Alderman West asked if bids should be requested on the repairs.

Mr. Dawes said the elevator companies are both located in Jackson and the original bids were submitted in 2002.

CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU, Darryl White

Mr. Darryl White said he had several conversations with the contact person of Majestic American Cruise Line, the new owner of the Delta Queen Steamboat. Mr. White said there will be five (5) scheduled dockings through the end of the year by Majestic American Cruise Line. This schedule will determine if the tour will continue throughout 2008 which will assist with the funds for the NAPAAC Museum.

Mr. White said the following dates should be added to the calendar.

November 30, 2007 -- Lighting of the Natchez Christmas Tree
December 8, 2007 -- Christmas Parade and Street Festival

Mr. White said the street festival will be held following the Christmas Parade to entice individuals to spend time in the downtown area.

PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT, Patricia Gibson, Director

Mrs. Gibson submitted the Personnel monthly report for the months of September/October, 2007.
ATTACHMENT

MUNICIPAL COURT, Jim Blough, Judge

Judge Blough submitted the Municipal Court monthly report for September, 2007.
ATTACHMENT

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, Eric Smith

Mr. Smith submitted the Public Works monthly report dated November 13, 2007.
ATTACHMENT

CITY OFFICIALS' REPORTS

ALDERWOMAN ARCENEUX-MATHIS

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis said a meeting was held on November 8th, 2007, at Prince Street School which included Ward 1 & Ward 2 residents. She said during the meeting several community responders and volunteers came forth and answered questions. There will be a third meeting held to address the reinstatement of several neighborhood watch groups with the assistance of Mrs. Jones, Community Development Specialist. Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis said it was suggested that a series of meetings be held similar to the National Night Out to allow the residents to be aware of their surroundings and to allow the officers to make themselves know to the community.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis said there were questions about the hiring of new officers and the time line. She asked if five (5) officers would be hired prior to January, 2008.

Lieutenant Danny White said the police exam would be given on Wednesday, November 14, 2007 and officers would be scheduled to attend the police academy in January, 2008.

Mayor ProTempo T. West requested clarification from Mrs. Gibson, Personnel Director regarding the hiring of police officers.

Mrs. Gibson said Chief Mullins did not discuss the number of officers he intended to hire. The exam would be administered on Wednesday, November 14, 2007. There are twenty-three (23) individuals scheduled to take the exam and upon a passing score the individuals will go through the physical agility test, followed by the oral interview process and then placed on the eligibility list and sent to the academy. She said two certified officers will be interviewed the week of 11/26/07.

Mrs. Gibson said currently there are three (3) vacant positions that can be filled immediately. There are two (2) officers on extended military leave with not return date set; and one on leave to return within a week. Mrs. Gibson said two (2) officers resigned and there were two certified officers added to the payroll.

Mrs. Gibson said the military officers will not be added to the payroll until their tour is complete. She said the military time has been extended for both officers.

Mayor Pro-Tempo T. West said his understanding is there are currently two (2) vacancies in the department and there is a shortage of two (2) officers.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis said Chief Mullins will hire the officers necessary to take care of the shortage and provide adequate protection on the streets.

Alderman Gray said Chief Mullins informed him that he is in the process of hiring one officer

immediately and in January, 2008 three officers will go to the academy.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis said she received a call from a resident regarding a high water bill from a leak. She said the leak was repaired and the resident was told to contact the Natchez Water Works Department / David Gardner. Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis asked Mr. Gardner if he was contacted.

Mr. Gardner said the water bill adjustments are made in the front office without his knowledge. He said the standard policy is that once the leak is repaired and the receipts are submitted the meter is reviewed and the adjustments are made. Mr. Gardner asked that the resident contact the front office for additional information.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis said Jackson, Mississippi is appealing to the Legislature for reimbursement for untaxed property within the city. She asked Mr. Holloway to request information regarding state owned land that is not taxed. Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis said she would like the City of Natchez to get funds from the state owned properties.

Mr. Holloway said the state owned properties revert back to the city. He said the properties would be sold if possible.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis asked that everyone take the time to review the packet from Commercial Christmas Display. She said it was discussed at a previous meeting. Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis said the company submitted a proposal to the city to refurbish the Christmas displays.

ATTACHMENT

A motion was made by Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis to accept the contract presented by Commercial Christmas Specialties and commit to spending \$7,000 for the next three years which will include the refurbishment of 50 silhouette pole displays at no charge. The motion was seconded by Alderman Gray.

Alderman Pollard said he attended the CVB meeting and the three groups, CVB, NDDA and the City of Natchez will partner together to put on the Christmas parade. He said there are plans to purchase floats with removable displays that will be placed on the bluff. Alderman Pollard said the partnering will provide a greater holiday atmosphere for the City of Natchez.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis said everyone is attempting to make Natchez a destination spot for the holidays.

ALDERMAN GRAY

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

ATTACHMENT

Alderman Gray recognized Battalion Chief Chris Gibson who was present at the meeting.

Alderman Gray said he received a request for a speed bump to be placed on Grant Street.

Aldermen Gray said after consulting with Attorney Sanders there is no formal process to follow when renaming a street.

A motion was made by Alderman Gray and seconded by Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis to approve the renaming of Wilson Road to Pilgrim Boulevard between Martin L. King Jr. Street and Old Washington Road. The motion carried unanimously.

Alderman Gray encouraged everyone to visit the Parent Center at Robert Lewis Middle School.

Alderman Gray thanked Southern University Jaguars for visiting Natchez. He said there were hundreds of fans in town eating at Ryan's and spending dollars in Natchez.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis said a statement was made by the Coach of Jackson State University encouraging Jackson fans to stay home and not attend the game in Baton Rouge, La against Southern because of the crime. Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis said the coaches must realize that when the teams and fans travel from city to city the money is spread throughout the SWAC. She said maybe the Southern fans should stay away from Jackson, Mississippi when the next game is schedule there because of the murder and crime.

Alderman Gray said he attended several funerals and heartfelt sympathy goes out to the Steckler, Leake, Matthew and Anderson families.

Alderman Gray noted that Medi-Care Part D will make changes to the policy and there is an open enrollment period from November 15, 2007 through December 1, 2007. He asked that questions be directed to Winn Pharmacy for additional information.

ALDERMAN POLLARD

Alderman Pollard said Lower Woodville Road will be closed for approximately two week while repairs are being made. He said the repair project will start on Wednesday, November 14, 2007. He noted that residents will be allowed to travel through the barricades to get to their homes. Alderman Pollard asked Mr. Gardner if the Natchez Democrat was put on notice of the closing of the street.

Mr. Gardner said a notice was placed in the Natchez Democrat regarding the closing of the street.

Alderman Pollard thanked all city departments for being available to assist during the project. He asked that everyone be prepared that Lower Woodville Road will not be opened to traffic for the next two (2) weeks.

Alderman Pollard due to a vacancy on the Convention and Visitors Bureau Board he recommend Stephanie Hutchins to fill the position.

A motion was made by Alderman Pollard to name Stephanie Hutchins to the Convention & Visitors Bureau Board. The motion was seconded by Alderman Middleton. The motion carried unanimously.

ALDERMAN WEST

No Report

ALDERMAN MASSEY

No Present

ALDERMAN MIDDLETON

No Report

CITY CLERK'S REPORT, DONNIE HOLLOWAY

Mr. Holloway requested approval of Docket #408 through #1160.

Alderman Middleton asked if Attorney Sanders reviewed the docket.

Attorney Sanders said he reviewed the docket.

A motion was made by Alderman Gray and seconded by Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis to approve the Docket # 408 - #1160 with the exception of item # 356667 subject to further review. The motion carried unanimously.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT, EVERETT SANDERS

No Report

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor ProTempo T. West requested clarification on the items to be on the Planning Commission agenda.

Mr. Story said the Planning Commission will meet on Thursday, November 15, 2007 and there are three items on the agenda that concern Audubon Terrace 1) Rezoning; 2) Site Plan Approval; 3) Subdivision approval.

Mayor ProTempo t. West asked if the residents were notified of the meeting.

Mr. Story said the state requires that the Planning Department notify residents within 300 feet of the property. He said extensive notifications were made beyond the requirement. Mr. Story said a notice was mailed to the residents and a public notice was placed in the Natchez Democrat.

Mayor ProTempo T. West asked if the residents in the Mascagni area were properly notified.

Alderman Middleton said a request was made to have Mr. Story follow-up on the First Baptist Church and requested information on whether a permit was issued for the removal of the stained glass windows. He said his major concern was the downtown historic area.

Mr. Story said he contacted Mrs. Weathersly, Dream Homes, Inc. the current owner of the Old First Baptist Church Building. Mr. Story said Mrs. Weathersly indicated that the windows were removed from the buildings and they will not be replaced. Mr. Story said she said that the windows were being sold and since it was her private property she should be allowed to do what she wanted to do. Mr. Story said he informed Mrs. Weathersly of the regulations of the Historic District and the rules that applied to the historic building. It was indicated by Mrs. Weathersly that she met the qualifications.

Alderman Middleton questioned the issuance of the permit to have the windows removed from the historic building.

Mr. Story was a permit was issued for the renovation of the property so they could go in and reconstruct the interior because of the condition of the roof. He said a machine was used to remove the deteriorated roof.

Alderman Middleton asked if the property owner was in compliance with the permitting process.

Mr. Story said he could not say that the property owner was in compliance with the permitting process of the city. He said a permit was issued through the building inspection department to go in and clean up the building.

Alderman Middleton said he was not against business and renovating the building. He said he was asking if the proper permitting procedure was followed.

Mr. Dawes said there were not permit issued for the building. He said the only request was for permission to go in and clean the interior of the building. Mr. Dawes said he understood that the collapsed roofing materials and junk would be removed from the building. He said there was not a request for the removal of the windows.

Alderman Middleton asked if there is a procedure in place for applications for permits to change the facade of a building in the historic district.

Mr. Dawes said the procedure would be for the individual to submit an application to the Planning Department to go before the Natchez Preservation Commission for approval. Mr. Dawes said

Preservation Commission approval must be issued for any changes to the exterior of the building.

Alderman Middleton asked what should be done at this point. He said the proper steps should be taken if there are guideline in the historic district. He said the building is an anchor building in the city. Alderman Middleton asked that Attorney Sanders review the issue and provide the next steps to be taken in regard to the building.

Mr. Dawes said the removal of the windows from the building has opened it to the weather and further deterioration.

Alderman Gray said he understand the concern but he felt that the decision was on another agency. He said the Preservation Commission should be the agency to handle the situation. Alderman Gray said if the church will be converted into a condominium they will require sunlight and the dark windows would be removed anyway. He said by changing the use of the building there was not problem with the windows being removed.

Alderman Middleton said he would like to see development in the downtown area although there are the appropriate steps that should be followed.

Mr. Story suggested that all parties be invited to sit down and discuss the future of the building.

Alderman Pollard said it was his understanding that the building would be renovated into condominiums and personally the stained glass window would not be appropriate. He noted that the structure is privately owned.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis questioned Mr. Dawes in regard to the request from the property owner to remove the debris from the building.

Mr. Dawes said the only request from the property owners was to clean up the property mainly the interior. He said he was asked if a demolition permit was required to proceed with the clean up. Mr. Dawes said he did inform the property owners that they did not need a permit to clean the interior of the building.

NEW BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Alderman Pollard and seconded by Alderman Middleton to adjourn the Regular Meeting of November 13, 2007. The motion carried unanimously.
