

**REGULAR MEETING  
MAY 13, 2008**

A Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Natchez, Mississippi, was held in the City Council Chamber at 11:00 A.M. on Tuesday, May 13, 2008. 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
<b>Phillip C. West</b> Mayor  <b>Joyce Arceneaux-Mathis</b> Alderwoman, Ward 1  <b>J. “Ricky” Gray, Jr.</b> Alderman, Ward 2  <b>Bob Pollard</b> Alderman, Ward 3  <b>David Massey</b> Alderman, Ward 5  <b>Jake Middleton</b> Alderman, Ward 6	<b>Theodore West</b> Alderman, Ward 4	Donnie Holloway, City Clerk Everett Sanders, City Attorney Darlene D. Williams, Dep. City Clerk Brett Brinegar, Grants Coordinator Sabrena Bartley, Senior Center Paul Dawes, Building Official David Gardner, Water Superintendent Henry Harris, Recreation Department Temple Hendricks, Mayor’s Secretary Darlene Jones, Comm. Dev. Director John Lewis, City Planer Mike Mullins, Police Chief Wilbert Whitley, Recreation Department Eric Smith, Public Works Oliver Stewart, Interim Fire Chief Ralph Tedder, Recreation Director Connie Taunton, Tourism Director Natchez Democrat

**MINUTES APPROVED**

**A motion was made by Alderman Massey to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 22, 2008 and approve as submitted. The motion was seconded by Alderman Pollard. The motion carried with Alderman Massey, Alderman Pollard, Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis, Alderman Middleton voting in favor. Alderman Gray voted against the motion.**

**VISITORS WELCOMED**

Mayor West welcomed all visitors to the meeting. He reminded everyone of the policy that allows all visitors to speak for three (3) minutes before the board.

**A. Business of the Month — Dynasteel**

Mayor West recognized the May, 2008, Business of the Month, Dynasteel Corporation. Mayor West said Dynasteel Corporation opened in 1987, and began its operation in Natchez on John R. Junkin Drive, and is managed by Joey Gilbert. This operation currently has 230 employees, but

anticipates that number growing to 300. Mayor West said over the years, Dynasteel had more than doubled the size of their facility and has made many upgrades to the original facility with over seven (7) million dollars invested in infrastructure. They have future plans to add a training facility and an additional building and equipment for material handling.

Mayor West said Dynasteel is one of the only truly skilled manufacturers in the Natchez area, and the products built in Natchez are shipped to all areas of the country for major utilities. This cooperation is a proud supporter of Copiah-Lincoln Community College and the Port Authority. Dynasteel Corporation looks forward to serving this community for many years to come. Mayor West congratulated Dynasteel on being chosen May Business of the Month.

Alderman Pollard presented the plaque to Mr. Joel Gilbert.

Mayor West thanked Mr. Gilbert for being a part of the community.

## **ATTACHMENT UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis questioned the status of the Marblestone project.

Mr. Gardner said the funding was approved but it is making its way down to Natchez from congress. There was a letter from that effect from NRCS stating that it was approved although funding was pending appropriations. He said while waiting on funding they would proceed with moving the road over. Mr. Gardner said they have prepared plats for the City Attorney review for the completion of the title search. The property is tied up in heir property and the individuals are being located. He said once the easement or the right of way acquisition is complete the road would be widened. The plans were submitted to the public works department to proceed. Mr. Gardner said everything is ready to go.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis said in regard to the ditch on Cemetery Road and the cleaning of the other area. She said there was a motion made to have the Engineer examine the area and discuss the matter with the Public Works Director, Mr. Smith. Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis said unofficially the ditch was always there. She requested information from Mr. Gardner in terms of locating the ditch.

Mr. Gardner said research was done and he found that a project was completed in 1994. Over the years the ditch has been filled in and the trucks are being parked on the shoulder. He said elevations were shot for grades and the information was provided to the Public Works department to build the area. Mr. Gardner said he was awaiting a call when Mr. Smith is ready to proceed and have grade stakes placed.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis questioned City Attorney about the status of the court system regarding demolition and grass cutting.

Attorney Sanders said some cases were filed and the remaining would be submitted when the paperwork is complete.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis requested a list of properties that were filed. She questioned the process following the submittal.

Attorney Sanders said the problem was identifying the persons involved, because the proceedings will become a regular law suit. He said he would provide a list of the sites for the board to review and make a determination of what should be removed.

## **DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS**

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

Mr. Gardner said Alderman West requested the review of the property on Lafayette Street in regard to flooding of a private home. He said the area was located and the survey was completed. Mr. Gardner said plans were completed for the correction of the problem and were submitted to the Public Works Department.

Mr. Gardner said he reviewed the sites of McIntyre and Mario Street for erosion control. He said the area would be put on the site list for NRCS. Mr. Gardner said there is no way to get funding for the project at this time but if any funds become available the project would be on the list.

Mr. Gardner said on West Stiers Lane there was a request to widen the edge of pavement and he recommended that this is done. He said the area was surveyed and will be ready for Public Work to proceed with the project.

Mr. Gardner requested approval to subcontract (Tera Source) the hydro seeding (grass seeding) in the amount of \$2,950 with authorization for the Mayor to sign and execute the necessary documents.

**A motion was made by Alderman Gray and seconded by Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis for the approval to sub-contract the hydro seeding (grass seeding) in the amount of \$2950 with authorization for Mayor West to sign and execute the necessary documents. The motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Garner said there was a supplemental agreement to change the unit price for dirt. The change would allow for grass to grow. He said the unit price will be lowered for bar excavation from \$8.00 to \$7.50 and will be a decrease of \$3,100. Mr. Gardner requested approval for the change.

Mayor West requested comments.

**A motion was made by Alderman Gray and seconded by Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis for the approval of a supplemental agreement that will change the unit price of dirt from \$8.00 to \$7.50 and allow a decrease of \$3,100. The motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Gardner said there was a final inspection on the West Stiers Lane project and a punch list is being prepared. He said the project would be accepted at the next scheduled meeting.

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

Mrs. Jones said the Keep Natchez Adams County Beautiful Affiliate will participate in the Great American Clean Up on May 17, 2008, 8:00-12 noon. She said they will partner with the Downtown Development Association for a Clean-up and Beautification Project on Main and Franklin Streets. Mrs. Jones said the second project will be held on May 31, 2008 at the Broadmoor Park between the hours of 8:00- 12 noon. She requested volunteers to assist with both projects.

Alderman Gray said he met with Manola Irby from Alcorn State University. He said a program will be incorporated with the Boys and Girls Club. Alderman Gray requested comments from Mrs. Jones.

Mrs. Jones said the Crime Prevention team will partner with the Boys & Girls Club and the Alcorn State University Cooperative Extension Program to promote the Boys & Girls Club throughout Natchez. She said they will be working through the school systems to get more children involved.

Mrs. Jones said Ms. Irby works with the Alcorn State University Youth Program and heads the Leadership Academy. The Boys & Girls Club has structured programs and scheduled field trips during the summer months. Mrs. Jones said the additional organization will broaden and diversify the Boys & Girls Club since there is no other recreation within the city.

#### **GRANTS COORDINATOR, Brett Brinigar**

Ms. Brinigar noted that funds were available for the finger print scanner. She said the final paperwork will be filed and the equipment will be installed and training provided to the officers. Ms. Brinigar said the scanner will assist in crime prevention in the area.

Ms. Brinigar said the City of Natchez was designated as a Preserve America Community. She said Mr. Bob Young and other representatives will come to Natchez and make the presentation of the award to the city. The tentative date is June 10, 2008.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis asked that the presentation be made before July 1, 2008 because of the work Mayor West has put into the project.

Mayor West thanked Mr. Grover Mouton for the work he has done with the Forks of the Road project along with Mr. Young.

Alderman Gray asked if other applications were submitted for illegal dump site funds.

Ms. Brinigar said the grant application will be submitted during the summer. She said there is an opened application until June 30, 2008 which prevented the submittal of a second application. Ms. Brinigar said when the site is complete and all expenditures are submitted the next application

will be prepared.

#### **SENIOR CITIZENS DEPARTMENT, Sabrena Bartley**

Mrs. Bartley announced that the Department will pick up three (3) new vehicles from Brandon, Ms. that will replace older vehicles. The new vehicles are valued at \$156,644. Mrs. Bartley said the match money will be made available by Multi-Mobile funds that were applied for last year. Mrs. Bartley said the vehicles will be no cost to the city and eighty (80) percent of the insurance cost will be paid. Mrs. Bartley said the costly vehicles will be removed from the fleet and the paperwork for the new vehicles will be presented to the City Clerk to be added to the inventory.

Mrs. Bartley said she is working with Chief Mullins to provide identification badges to all employees within the department. She said there are problems when employees go out of town and present a City of Natchez check without proper identification. Mrs. Bartley said she will require all employees in the department to have the appropriate identification.

Mrs. Bartley said there are several new activities at the center that she would like the board to be aware of. She said there will be a spade tournament held on Thursday afternoons with prizes.

Mrs. Bartley reminded everyone that there would be changes in the transportation system to help curb the high gas prices. She said the department will require that individuals call in advance and schedule where they would like to go and the time. Mrs. Bartley said this would allow the department to group travel destinations together if possible.

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

Mr. Dawes presented the monthly report for the Inspection Department.

#### **ATTACHMENT**

Mayor West asked Mr. Dawes to inspect the repairs completed on the Bluff Gazebo. Mayor West asked that the board go by and see the gazebo. He said the detailed work list is available in his office.

#### **FIRE DEPARTMENT, Oliver Stewart, Interim Chief**

Chief Stewart thanked the Mayor and Board of Aldermen for allowing him the opportunity to serve as Interim Fire Chief.

#### **LOBBYIST FOR THE CITY OF NATCHEZ**

Mayor West recognized Ms. Camille Young and Mr. Crowell Armstrong who have been lobbying for the City of Natchez for the past years.

Ms. Camille Young presented a copy of the review from the past Legislative Session. She

said the City of Natchez had a productive legislative year. Ms. Young said in the summary there are bills of interest for Natchez and Adams County that are related to tourism and other general tourism bills. She said HB#832 will provide funds for Welcome Centers. All bills were passed and signed by Governor Barbour as late as yesterday.

Ms. Young said the letter of intent for \$1.3 million was presented for the resurfacing of the gaming roads in the City of Natchez, and \$.05 million was presented for the planning and preliminary work for the Forks of the Roads Project. Ms. Young said the summary was completed by a member of the Senate Staff on the Legislative Familiarization Tour held in Natchez in March, 2008. She said the group was pleased to see what was happening in Natchez and amazed by the things that will be done in the future.

Mayor West requested comments.

Alderman Pollard thanked Ms. Young for her assistance in the 1.3 million for the roads. Alderman Pollard asked for the check.

Ms. Young said the check was in the mail. She noted that the letter of intent was bonding. Ms. Young said the members of the Natchez Adams County Legislative Delegation were great supporters and leaders. She said the benefit of having people available in the delegation was tremendous for the City of Natchez.

Mayor West said without the assistance of Ms. Young and Mr. Armstrong the 1.3 million would not be available to the City of Natchez. Mayor West said there was a great deal of work done in the process of making this happen. Mayor West thanked Ms. Young and Mr. Armstrong for their dedication to the City of Natchez.

Ms. Young asked everyone to take time to review the summary and be aware of the amount funds being provided to the City of Natchez. She said the City of Natchez had a great year.

Alderman Gray said the work of the lobbyist did pay off for the City of Natchez. Alderman Gray thanked everyone who was involved.

## **CITY OFFICIALS' REPORTS**

### **ALDERWOMAN ARCENEUX-MATHIS**

Alderwoman Arceneux-Mathis asked Attorney Sanders to provide an update on the status of the green pond in Beverly Hills Subdivision.

Attorney Sanders said he could not locate the property owner. He said he talked with Willie B. Jones, Code Enforcement officer who reported he contacted the owner. Attorney Sanders said he would continue the search.

Alderwoman Arceneux-Mathis said until the property owner is located, nothing can be done.

Attorney Sanders agreed.

Alderman Arceneaux-Mathis questioned the connection between the Recreation Department and the park owned by International Paper Company.

Mr. Tedder said the park is owned by Adams County. He said it is not part of the Natchez Recreation Department. Mr. Tedder said the neighborhood currently operates the park.

Alderman Arceneaux-Mathis asked if there is dialogue between the City and County regarding the park maintenance.

Mr. Tedder said there was no dialogue since there was a joint recreation commission prior to the close of International Paper Company.

Alderman Arceneaux-Mathis said the residents are complaining because there is not adequate lighting in the park. She asked that Mr. Tedder meet with her to discuss the matter with the county representatives.

Mr. Tedder said they should meet with Mr. Lazarus to discuss the matter of the park.

Alderman Arceneaux-Mathis asked Mr. Smith, Public Works Director to have the limbs, shrubs and bushes cut hanging over Old Smiths Lane. Alderman Arceneaux-Mathis said the residents said the limbs are scratching their vehicles. She also asked that in the preliminary planning for the Public Works Department they look at the repairs needed for Vines Street.

Alderman Arceneaux-Mathis thanked the voters of Ward 1 for their confidence in her. She said she appreciated everything that was done for her.

## **ALDERMAN GRAY**

Alderman Gray requested an update from Mr. Smith on Vinier Street, he said there was a motion made to have the street overlaid.

Mr. Smith said he examined the street with Mark Godfrey, Road Manager-Blain Company and measured. Mr. Smith said the board approved the overlay of three (3) streets (Vinier, Shaw, Gloucester Court) in the amount of \$29,800. He said the Blain Company recently provided a price of \$28,000 for Vinier Street. Mr. Smith said the price of the mix was \$14,000 and \$14,000 for the overlay. Mr. Smith said the original price was for the asphalt mix only.

Alderman Gray asked why the price of the project doubled.

Mr. Smith said the original price was for the asphalt mix only and not the overlay price. He said the price for Vinier Street alone would be approximately \$28,800. Mr. Smith said the project for the three streets would be \$56,000.

Alderman Gray said the condition of the street has worsened over the months due to a broken sewer line.

**A motion was made by Alderman Gray to approve the overlay of Venier Street. The motion was seconded by Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis.**

Mayor West said of the three (3) streets on the list for repairs which is in the worse condition.

Mr. Smith said Venier Street is the worse of the three because there is more traffic. He said on Shaw Street there is only one or two vehicles. Mr. Smith said the amount of work and the cost would be the same.

Mayor West said the original cost was \$29,800 and the cost to complete the three streets now would be approximately \$56,000.

Mr. Holloway asked if the \$19,800 would include the materials and overlay for Venier Street.

Mr. Smith said the cost for the completion of Venier Street would be \$28,800 for materials and overlay.

Mr. Holloway said he would like to review the budget and see if the funds are available. He said during the time of the original motion he agreed that the funds of \$28,800 would be available. Mr. Holloway asked that no vote is taken on the motion until he is allowed to examine the budget.

Alderman Gray said he would amend the motion to include subject to the funds being available.

**A motion was made to amend the original motion to approve the overlay of Venier Street pending available funds. The motion was seconded Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis.**

Mayor West said originally the board allocated \$30,000 to the paving of three (3) streets and not only one can be completed with the amount.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis questioned the break down of the cost of each street.

Mr. Smith said he would provide the breakdown of the cost.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis said she would support the motion although there were comments.

Alderman Gray said he received the cash balance report from the City Clerk and there are funds available for the street repairs. He said there is \$312,000 in Capital Improvements that can be used for streets.

Mr. Holloway requested comments from Mr. Gardner on what is available in the Capital Improvement fund.

Mr. Gardner said he would have to have approximately \$300,000 for the Union Street project. He said the Union Street project is a \$800,000 job with a \$250,000 match. Mr. Gardner said he would need everything available in the Capital Improvement Fund.

Alderman Gray questioned the cost of the Union Street project.

Mr. Gardner said the Union Street project would have to meet the requirements of the Federal Standards which would include, curb gutter, striping and everything else.

Alderman Gray asked if the Capital Improvement Funds are different from the FAU Funds.

Mr. Gardner said the Capital Improvement Fund was setup only to be used as match funds for projects. He said that is the only source for match funds.

Alderman Gray asked that the motion on the floor is amended.

Mayor West requested comments.

Alderman Pollard said he would vote against the motion to spend \$30,000 on one street. He said there is a street in every Ward that could benefit from \$30,000.

Alderman Massey noted that he requested \$15,000 for the repairs of the Lindbergh ditch. He said there were three (3) cases of the West Nile Virus. Alderman Massey said there was no support on that request from anyone on the board to get that done.

Alderman Massey offered a friendly amendment to the motion. He said Ward 5 is as important as any other ward, and with the condition of the ditch there are residents dying because of the lack of caring from other members of the board.

**A friendly amendment was made by Alderman Massey to include \$15,000 for the repairs of the Lindbergh ditch. The motion was seconded by Alderman Middleton.**

Mayor West requested comments.

Alderman Pollard requested clarification to the motion.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis asked that the condition of the ditch be clarified. She said she understood that the problem was taken care of by MDOT.

Alderman Massey said the problem occurred after Hurricane Katrina and Rita and homes in the area were flooded. He said they went to Washington and lobbied for the funds for the culvert. He said all water empties into the ditch from all businesses in the area. Alderman Massey said he discussed the matter with Mr. Smith, Mr. Gardner and everyone else for the past three (3) years. He said he has repeatedly asked for \$15,000 for the repairs. Alderman Massey said he was told by Camo Construction that they would slope the ditch to eliminate the standing water. He said the

mosquitos in the area are overwhelming. Alderman Massey said he recently found out that there are no chemicals to place in the ditch. Alderman Massey said Francis Ransom, Public Works said rocks could be placed in the ditch to assist with the flow of the water.

Alderman Massey said the overlay of the street is no more important than the deaths of the residents in Ward 5.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis asked Mr. Gardner if he reviewed the ditch site and would the requested \$15,000 be enough to take care of the situation.

Mr. Gardner said several years ago, the cost was \$10,000. He said the ditch should be lined with rock to keep the water flowing. Mr. Gardner said \$15,000 would take care of the situation.

Mayor West requested a vote on the amended motion.

**The amendment to the motion carried unanimously.**

Mayor West requested a vote on the original motion.

**The original motion carried unanimously.**

Alderman Gray said there are serious concerns on Prince Street regarding the abandoned houses. He said the children on the playground of Prince Street DayCare are being harmed with objects being thrown. Alderman Gray said the property owner is requesting assistance with the problems. Alderman Gray said the problems are coming from 5 & 7 Claiborne Street. Alderman Gray requested an update on the status of the properties.

Mr. Dawes said the properties are currently owned by The Historic Natchez Foundation. He said one property will be boarded up and the other will be demolished.

Alderman Gray asked that Mr. Dawes discuss the matter with the Historic Natchez Foundation and find out the progress of the project.

Alderman Gray asked that Mr. Smith get a copy of the letter from the resident at 311 Bluebird Drive regarding the water flow across the property.

Mr. Smith said he did visit the site and because the house is at the bottom of the hill the water will automatically flow across the site. The house was built under the second hill on the street. Mr. Smith said the department provided dirt and fill for the area. He said the only cure for the problem is curb and gutter.

Alderman Gray requested a report from Mr. Smith to be presented to the property owner. Alderman Gray asked Mr. Gardner to review the site during a rain or following a hard rain.

Alderman Gray said the State Superintendent of Education, Hank Bounds was scheduled to meet with the Committee for Better Education in Natchez. Alderman Gray said there were questions of whether the meeting was scheduled on the same date as the School Board meeting. He said the

meeting held was very productive. Alderman Gray said Superintendent Bounds noted that there are two types of communities, Supply and Demand. It was indicated that Natchez should become a demand community. Alderman Gray said everyone should visit the schools and see what is going on.

Alderman Gray noted that he is only one vote on the board and he would not intentionally vote against the safety of the community.

Alderman Gray thanked his constituents for their continued support.

### **ALDERMAN POLLARD**

Alderman Pollard requested information on the mosquito truck and chemicals. He said during the walk through Ward 3 he has heard many comments and concerns regarding the mosquitos and West Nile. Alderman Pollard asked if the truck is working.

Mr. Smith said the mosquito truck is working although the chemicals used last years would not be available. He said chemical cost is \$6,500 for a 55 gallon drum. Mr. Smith said additional larvicide was ordered.

Alderman Pollard asked if the cost of chemicals was included in the budget.

Mr. Smith said the old price of the chemicals were included in the budget not the new price.

Alderman Pollard said they would discuss the amendment of the budget. He said he would like to see the truck on the streets immediately.

Alderman Middleton questioned the dilution ratio of the chemical and the coverage.

Mr. Smith said the dilution ratio is three / one and the coverage is not a large area.

Alderman Middleton said they should look at another company for cheaper prices.

### **ALDERMAN WEST**

**Not Present**

### **ALDERMAN MASSEY**

Alderman Massey noted that he did not single Alderman Gray out with the vote against the Lindbergh ditch. Alderman Massey said if he did he apologized.

Alderman Massey noted that the mosquitos in Ward 5 are larger than any others.

### **ALDERMAN MIDDLETON**

**No Report**

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

Mr. Holloway requested approval of Docket # 4765 through #5550.

**A motion was made by Alderman Pollard and seconded by Alderman Massey for the approval of Docket # 4765 through #5550.**

Alderman Middleton asked if Attorney Sanders reviewed the docket.

Attorney Sanders said he reviewed the docket.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

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

**No Report**

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor West recognized Mr. Tony Fields, elected to serve as Alderman of Ward 4 and Mr. Dan Dillard elected to serve as Alderman of Ward 6.

Mayor West noted that he would like to see the major arteries resurfaced prior to July 1, 2008. He said the money is available.

Mr. Gardner said a full set of drawings will be required for the project. He said the mill cost will not be accepted. Mr. Gardner asked if the funds will be administered through the City of Natchez or MDOT.

Mayor West said the funds will be administered through the City of Natchez.

Mr. Gardner said they are prepared to move forward.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**None**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**A motion was made by Alderman Massey and seconded by Alderman Pollard to Adjourn the Regular Meeting of May 13, 2008. The motion carried unanimously.**

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**PHILLIP C. WEST,  
MAYOR**

**ATTEST:**

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**DONNIE HOLLOWAY  
CITY CLERK**