

**ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
JULY 1, 2008**

An Organizational Meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Natchez, Mississippi, was held in the City Council Chamber at 10:00 A.M. on Tuesday, July 1, 2008. City Clerk Donnie Holloway presided at the meeting, which was opened with prayer by Council.

MAYOR & BOARD PRESENT	ELECTED OFFICIALS ABSENT	CITY OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEADS
Jake Middleton Mayor Joyce Arceneaux-Mathis Alderwoman, Ward 1 J. "Ricky" Gray, Jr. Alderman, Ward 2 Bob Pollard Alderman, Ward 3 Ernest 'Tony' Fields Alderman, Ward 4 Mark Fortenbery Alderman, Ward 5 Dan Dillard Alderman, Ward 6		Donnie Holloway, City Clerk Everett Sanders, City Attorney Darlene D. Williams, Dep. City Clerk Brett Brinegar, Grants Coordinator Sabrena Bartley, Senior Center Patricia Gibson, Personnel Director Darlene Jones, Comm. Dev. Director John Lewis, City Planner Oliver Stewart, Interim Fire Chief Ralph Tedder, Recreation Director Darryl White, Tourism Division Natchez Democrat

VISITORS WELCOMED

Mr. Holloway, City Clerk welcomed all visitors to the meeting. He asked that all cell phones be turned off.

ADMINISTER OATHS OF OFFICE

A. MAYOR

Mr. Holloway asked that Mr. Jake Middleton be sworn in as the Mayor of the City of Natchez. Mr. Middleton was sworn in by Judge Jim Blough. He was assisted by his wife.

Mayor Middleton was welcomed to the City of Natchez.

B. ALDERMEN

WARD 1

Mayor Middleton noted that Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis, Ward 1 was sworn in at the previous meeting

WARD 2

Mayor Middleton asked that James Earl Gray be sworn in as the Alderman of Ward 2 for the City of Natchez. Mr. Gray was sworn in by Judge Lillie Blackmon-Sanders with the assistance of his family and friends. Mayor Middleton congratulated Alderman James Earl Gray.

WARD 3

Mayor Middleton asked that Robert Pollard be sworn in as the Alderman of Ward 3 for the City of Natchez. Mr. Pollard was sworn in by Judge Jim Blough with the assistance of his family and friends. Mayor Middleton congratulated Alderman Bob Pollard.

WARD 4

Mayor Middleton asked that Ernest Anthony Fields be sworn in as the Alderman of Ward 4 for the City of Natchez. Mr. Fields was sworn in by Judge Lillie Blackmon-Sanders with the assistance of his family and friends. Mayor Middleton congratulated Alderman Ernest Anthony Fields.

WARD 5

Mayor Middleton asked that Mark Fortenberry be sworn in as the Alderman of Ward 5 for the City of Natchez. Mr. Fortenberry was sworn in by Judge George Ward with the assistance of his family and friends. Mayor Middleton congratulated Alderman Mark Fortenberry.

WARD 6

Mayor Middleton asked that Daniel Dillard be sworn in as the Alderman of Ward 6 for the City of Natchez. Mr. Dillard was sworn in by Judge Al Johnson with the assistance of his family and friends. Mayor Middleton congratulated Alderman Daniel Dillard.

E. DEPUTY CITY CLERKS

Darlene Davis Williams
Dianne Holland

F. DEPUTY COURT CLERKS

Deborah Owens
Tangela Sullivan

MAYOR PRO TEMPORE ELECTED

A motion was made by Alderman Gray and seconded by Alderman Fields to appoint Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis to the position of Mayor Pro Tempore for the first two years of the term. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Middleton noted that the salary of Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis would not change due to her retirement from the school district. Mayor Middleton said Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis would be working for the city at a lesser salary.

ELECTED OFFICERS

A. CITY ATTORNEY

Mayor Middleton recommended the reappointment of Attorney Everett Sanders to the position of City Attorney for a one year term pending contract agreements.

A motion was made by Alderman Gray and seconded by Alderman Pollard to reappoint Attorney Everett Sanders to the position of City Attorney for a one year term pending contract agreements. The motion carried unanimously.

B. CITY AUDITOR

Mayor Middleton recommended the reappointment of Gillon and Company to the position of City Auditor for the four-year term.

A motion was made by Alderman Gray and seconded by Alderman Pollard to reappoint Gillon and Company to the position of City Auditor for the four-year term. The motion carried unanimously.

COMMENTS BY MAYOR JAKE MIDDLETON

Mayor Middleton recognized the dignitaries in the audience, Supervisor Henry Watts, Mayor Hiram Copeland and his staff, the City of Natchez Department Heads and employees, family and friends. Mayor Middleton noted that he was very enthusiastic about the board and what is going on in Natchez. He thanked everyone for attending the meeting and said the administration is taking off at a great time in the city and he looks forward to working with everyone to move the city forward.

Mayor Middleton said the board will face a time in the history of the city, there is a promise of industrial growth. He said they will face many challenges, the cost of fuel and dealing with petroleum-based products, the city is faced with the increased cost of food and necessities. Mayor Middleton said his plan is to stay within the budget to make sure the city will provide the services expected from the city. He said the city is short on the number of police officers and firefighters that

will be corrected.

Mayor Middleton said good things are coming to the City of Natchez, 1.3 million dollars to pave the four major arteries, \$500,000 for the Forks of the Road project, and the finalization of the Trails Project. He said he will look into the use of smaller cars throughout the city departments as a better way to patrol.

Mayor Middleton said one subject he talked to was the consolidation of city and county services. He said it would be easy to consolidate the city and county law enforcement departments and recreation. There are good ideas coming down the pipe. The Supervisors are interested in recreation for the community. Mayor Middleton said there are accommodations to host State Wide facilities. He said the city and county must communicate to follow through with the plans.

Mayor Middleton said there are several things that must be done to see the Trails Project and the Forks of the Road Project to come to fruition. The Board of Aldermen made a commitment to work hard for the citizens of Natchez. He said if there are issues, the Aldermen should be called and things will be worked out.

Mayor Middleton said Natchez and Vidalia is the Miss-Lou and Natchez will be successful.

Mayor Middleton recognized former Mayor West and thanked him for attending the meeting.

Mayor Middleton requested a silent prayer for the West family.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Alderman Gray and seconded by Alderman Pollard to Adjourn the Organizational Meeting of July 1, 2008. The motion carried unanimously.

**JAKE MIDDLETON
MAYOR**

ATTEST:

**DONNIE HOLLOWAY
CITY CLERK**