

REGULAR MEETING May 12, 2009

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 12, 2009. Mayor Jake Middleton presided at the meeting, which was opened with prayer by Aaron Wesley.

MAYOR & BOARD PRESENT	ELECTED OFFICIALS ABSENT	CITY OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEADS
John ‘Jake’ Middleton Mayor		Donnie Holloway, City Clerk Coretta L. Logan, Deputy Clerk Darlene Jones, Community Development
Joyce Arceneaux-Mathis Alderwoman, Ward 1		Sabrena Bartley, Senior Center Paul Dawes, Building Official Patricia Gibson, Personnel Director
J. ‘Ricky’ Gray, Jr. Alderman, Ward 2		Connie Taunton, Tourism Director David Gardner, Engineering Mike Mullins, Police Chief
Bob Pollard Alderman, Ward 3		Oliver Stewart, Fire Chief Brett Brinegar, Grants Coordinator Natchez Democrat
Ernest ‘Tony’ Fields Alderman, Ward 4		
Mark Fortenbery Alderman, Ward 5		
Daniel Dillard Alderman, Ward 6		

MINUTES APPROVED

A motion was made by Alderman Pollard to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 28, 2009 and approve the minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded by Alderman Fortenbery. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Alderman Gray to open a public hearing regarding text amendment for fruit stands. Seconded by Alderman Fields. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. John Lewis proposed a text amendment approved by the Planning Commission to allow Fruit and Produce stands in a B4 zoning district in Natchez, at a distance of 300 feet or more from a state highway.

Alderman Gray asked if this text amendment would apply to new applicants or would it apply to existing produce owners that are already conducting business with a privilege license.

Mr. Lewis stated that there is no ordinance for produce stands in the city of Natchez. He added that when the text amendment is adopted, the produce owner would then make application and comply with the prerequisites of opening a produce stand.

Alderman Gray stated that he felt like if a produce stand is already conducting business with a privilege license, then that owner should be grandfathered in.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis stated that the board should gather more information and come back to decide after the Recessed meeting.

Alderman Gray asked if there was anything that was in the development code that addresses fruit stands now.

Mr. Lewis stated that there is nothing in the development code that currently pertains to fruit stands.

Mayor Middleton indicated that this text amendment will allow him to operate where he is currently operating.

Alderman Gray stated that he would like to adopt the text amendment if it is for the best interest of everyone involved. He added that as of right now, he is not familiar enough with the text amendment and how it will affect Mr. George Davis.

Mr. Lewis stated that Mr. George Davis of Davis Produce has been at his current location illegally. He added that Mr. Davis never received a building permit.

Alderman Gray stated that one of the building inspectors came out to Mr. Davis' place and told him several things that he needed to do.

Mayor Middleton stated that the discussion of the text amendment will pick back up later in the afternoon and they will vote on it then.

Alderman Fields made a motion to close the public hearing. Seconded by Alderman Gray. The motion carried unanimously

Alderman Gray made a motion to go back into regular session. Seconded by Alderman Pollard. The motion carried unanimously.

BUSINESS OF THE MONTH

Mayor Middleton announced Jordan, Kaiser, & Sessions as Business of the month.

VISITORS WELCOMED

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

Reverend Clifton Marvel

Reverend Marvel of 1202 Mascagni Avenue read a letter to the Mayor & Board regarding to two drainage projects.

Stan Owens

Mr. Owens stated that he would like to answer any questions regarding the Code Red Weather Warning System. He added that the Adams County Board of Supervisors is completely funding the code red weather warning system. He added that it is free to the public and it is for any Adams County and Natchez citizen, and they are encouraged to sign up. He added that it is a very area specific system.

Mr. Owens stated that the website is www.adamscountymiss.gov or you may call his office 601-442-7021. He added that at the end of the month they will be adding a siren in the Washington area thanks to the Adams County Water Association. He added that they are currently working on four more areas to place sirens, which will be Cloverdale, Broadmoore, Kingston, and Sibley. He added that the current sirens that they have are at the Central Fire Station, one next to the Middle School, one at the National Guard Armory, one by the Ford Place Hwy 61 South, and LaGrange.

Roberta Nutgall

Ms. Nutall, of 8 Pogo Street stated that she is here to solicit the City's support in opening a Tax Service business in Natchez. She added that she has been in the tax profession for approximately 15 years and for the last five years she has owned and operated her business in Louise, Mississippi. Ms. Nutall stated that she transitioned to Natchez due to her employment, which is the Manager for the Jeffersonian Apartments in Natchez, Mississippi.

She added that when the tax season has ended, she and her fiancé will be opening a game room in the City of Natchez called Wayne's World.

Alderman Dillard stated that he is looking forward to new businesses in the City of Natchez.

Alderman Fields stated that he really likes what he sees and would like to sit down and talk with Ms. Nutgall more.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis asked Mr. Gardner about the 592 Project.

Mr. Gardner stated that he and Ms. Brinegar have worked up the Congressional Appropriation request that was submitted Friday. He added that they sent it to Senator Cochran's office. He added that it would not hurt to submit Worth Peterson the latest copy of the two page Congressional Request.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis asked what would she need to take hew at the Vicksburg meeting.

Mr. Gardner stated that Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis should take the copy of the letter, congressional appropriation form, and the latest 3 and half million dollar booklet that was put together.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis stated that she will also send testimonies on CD's from residents who would not be able to travel to give their testimony. She added that they will be asking for special appropriation.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

ENGINEERING, David Gardner

Mr. Gardner stated that he and Ms. Brinegar have filled out the appropriation request. He added that he has spoke with several individuals to let them know that it is a high priority for the city. He said it is very difficult to get this funding and he is really trying.

Mr. Gardner stated that as to the update on the Federal Aid Urban Project for Union Street, they are waiting on the Environmental document. He indicated that he called this morning regarding the document because they cannot move forward until the clearance of the document. He added that once it is approved, it should move fairly fast after that.

GRANTS COORDINATOR, Brett Brinegar

Ms. Brinegar stated that she has gotten several congressional requests for more information on some of the items that were put into the stimulus package. She added that the Marblestone/West Steirs project is pending. She added that they have had a lot of inquiries on the recreation. She stated that the Congressional delegations are determining in what order they want to deal with each one.

Ms. Brinegar indicated that the Senators are handling the stimulus money while the House of Representatives are handling the appropriations request. She added that the assistants to the Senators are the ones that are sorting out the stimulus money.

Alderman Gray stated that he would like to keep his own record of the projects and requested that he have copies of the documentations.

Ms. Brinegar stated that she would forward the completed forms to Alderman Gray.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis stated that she will get with Ms. Brinegar after she receives the letter from Doctor Todd.

INSPECTION DEPARTMENT, Paul Dawes

Mr. Dawes read the Finance Report for the Month of April.

PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT, Patricia Gibson

Ms. Gibson submitted the personnel report for the month of April.

MUNICIPAL COURT, Jim Blough

Judge Blough submitted the Municipal Court Report for the month of April.

CITY OFFICIALS' REPORT

ALDERMAN FIELDS - WARD 4

Alderman Fields thanked the Minorville Community for a wonderful weekend. He added that it was very productive and he got to answer questions and offer ideas and suggestions.

Alderman Fields stated that he would like to offer his prayers and heart to the families that received catastrophic damages to their homes during the last storm.

Alderman Fields stated that he has a couple of places where speed bumps are definitely needed, especially in the Arlington and East Oak area.

Alderman Fields stated that his condolences go out to the George Robinson and Geneva Booker family.

ALDERMAN FORTENBERY - WARD 5

Alderman Fortenbery stated that he met with Mr. Eric Smith and they were discussing how they will begin their debris pickup. He added that some places were hit harder than others. He recommended that the general public contact Public Works with an address and that will be the easiest thing to do. He added that the city's funding is very limited so they have to be careful with every dime that they spend.

Alderman Fortenbery stated that he has some ideas and efforts for the Duncan Park to help clean up the piles.

Alderman Fortenbery asked the public to please pick up their trash because it is costly and time consuming for Public Works. He added that so many tax dollars go into debris clean up when it is so simple to just throw your trash in the right container.

Alderman Fortenbery stated that anything that the public can do to help, they would be greatly appreciated.

ALDERMAN DILLARD - WARD 6

Alderman Dillard commended the Recreation Director, Ralph Tedder and his crews for the efforts at Duncan Park with the debris. He added that they are working

with Public Works and discussing ways to take care of the debris problems. He added that he would like for everyone to be patient with them through the grass cutting season.

Alderman Dillard stated that he would like a resolution for the recognition of George Robinson.

Mayor Middleton stated that the resolution has already been put in place by Alderman Gray.

Alderman Gray stated that he will invite Mrs. Robinson to the next board meeting so that Mayor Middleton can present the resolution to her.

Alderman Dillard stated that in Ward 6 he has a request for a speed indicator trailer for Duncan and Auburn Avenue.

Alderman Dillard stated that the 1/10 of a mile on Melrose Avenue will remain in the \$662,000 Stimulus Package with the two intersections.

Alderman Dillard asked his constituents to continue to forward their pothole repair requests and he will try to address this as their infrastructure maintenance.

Alderman Dillard stated that Waste Management will pick up a certain amount of debris, which will help out Public Works. He added that they are going to have to reeducate the youth and the community on the cost of litter.

Alderman Dillard asked if the board could get some more information on the new Cable One rates to see what is expected.

Alderman Gray stated that Mr. McCool needs to come back to educate the board and the general public on rate increases.

Mayor Middleton stated that he met with Mr. McCool a couple of weeks ago and some of the channels that have been added are now costing more to put in. He added that these rate increases are not coming from Mr. McCool; they are coming from their Corporate Office out of Arizona.

ALDERWOMAN ARCENEAUX-MATHIS - WARD 1

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis stated that the Woodlawn neighborhood watch group met last night and they said that they are worried about the young kids out until 1 a.m. and 2a.m. and walking in the streets.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis stated that she would like to meet the land owners who rent properties in these neighborhoods to discuss the impact their renters have on the neighborhoods and the property owners' legal responsibilities.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis congratulated Public Works on a good job done from the storm. She added that there is a deep hole on left side of the corner of Elm and Union Street that needs to be repaired.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis said she would also like a code enforcement list on grass cutting.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis asked Ms. Brinegar if she could check to see if there were any types of tree removal grants or assistance.

Ms. Brinegar stated that there is no assistance like that available. She added that she checked after Hurricane Katrina.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis made a motion to invite Worth Peters of Southwest Planning and Development District to the next meeting. Seconded by Alderman Gray. The motion carried unanimously.

She added that she will attend the Southwest Planning & Development Meeting in Summit on May 15th.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis requested training session information from Ms. Bringer and Mrs. Bartley on the Stimulus Workshop they attended.

ALDERMAN GRAY - WARD 2

Alderman Gray congratulated Public Works for a tremendous job during the storm.

Alderman Gray asked Chief Mullins to inform the officers regarding 18 wheelers parked in residential areas.

Alderman Gray stated that on Beaumont Street the kids are staying out late and there is an ordinance in place that prohibits children from staying out all night.

Alderman Gray asked Mr. Dawes about the condemned signs that were placed in Ward 2.

Mr. Dawes stated that the letters have already been sent out to the property owners where the signs have been placed. He added that the signs are to alert individuals that it is not safe to go into. He added that it does not give the city authorization to proceed with any type of demolition.

Alderman Gray asked has Mr. Dawes and the City Attorney got together to discuss individuals taking advantage of the building permits.

Mr. Dawes stated that he offered an ordinance to shorten the period of building permits, but it was never adopted.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis asked Mr. Dawes to check on the status of 937 North Union Street.

Alderman Gray stated that he knows what Mr. Marvel is talking about regarding Minor Street Project because all the water is going on the side that Mr. Marvel is talking about.

Alderman Gray stated that he spoke with Mr. Gardner about the drainage problem on West Steirs Lane and Mr. Gardner stated that it would be \$6,000 to do it in house and \$90,000 to get a contractor. He added that he will speak with Mr. Smith to see if Public Works can assist in placing a drain to save the city \$84,000.

Alderman Gray stated that his sympathy goes out to the Booker, Robinson, and Thompson families. He added that his sympathy also goes out to the family of the Mayor of Jackson.

ALDERMAN POLLARD - WARD 3

Alderman Pollard made a motion to propose a joint resolution between the Adams County Board of Supervisors and the City of Natchez Mayor and Board of Alderman for the Code Red System intergovernmental agreement communication grant. Seconded by Alderman Dillard. The motion carried unanimously.

Alderman Pollard read Fire Department Report.

Alderman Pollard stated that yesterday was the National Tourism Awards Event where he presented the awards. He added that Mayor Middleton and Alderman Dillard attended the event and it was extremely packed.

Alderman Pollard stated that it was very successful and this was the largest crowd in five years since he has been doing this.

Alderman Pollard stated that two years ago, the event was on his birthday and Connie Taunton embarrassed him by having 200 people sing Happy Birthday to him and this year the event fell on his birthday, and he didn't tell Connie so she would not do the same thing again this year.

Mrs. Taunton stated that the Mississippi Welcome Center has a list of things planned this week for National Tourism Week.

Alderman Pollard made a motion to allow Annette Anderson to speak. Seconded by Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis. The motion carried unanimously.

Annette Anderson of the Mississippi Welcome Center stated that they will be celebrating National Tourism Week through this week until May 17th. She added that they will have various art work and photographs on display during the Visitors Center hours.

CITY CLERK'S REPORT, DONNIE HOLLOWAY

Mr. Holloway stated that he spoke with Director Brown at MDOT and their lease upstairs in the Council Chambers building runs through February 28, 2010, but they are

asking to opt out of it within the next month or two. He added that the city has furniture and computers that are currently there. He added that he will take inventory to see what is up there. Mr. Holloway asked that the board consider allowing them to opt out of the lease.

Alderman Arceneaux-Mathis made a motion to allow MDOT to opt out of the lease after all the inventory has been taken and everything has been accounted for. Seconded by Alderman Gray. The motion carried unanimously

Mr. Holloway stated that he has a resolution for the voting delegates for the City of Natchez at the Mississippi Municipal League. He added that Alderman Gray will be the voting delegate, Donnie Holloway as first to alternate, and Jake Middleton as second alternate.

Alderman Arceneaux-Mathis made a motion that Alderman Gray will be the voting delegate, Donnie Holloway as first to alternate, and Jake Middleton as second alternate for the voting delegates for the City of Natchez at the Mississippi Municipal League.

Mr. Holloway asked the board to approve docket number 5411 to 5702.

Alderman Gray stated that there are some personnel matters to discuss before adopting the budget.

Mayor Middleton stated that the docket will be approved at the recessed meeting.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT, EVERETT SANDERS

Attorney Sanders stated that the City of Natchez is entering into an exhibition agreement with NAPAC to house, store, and display the Finely Collection.

Alderman Arceneaux-Mathis made a motion to spread the contract on the minutes between NAPAC and the City of Natchez to house, store, and display the Finley Art Exhibition. Seconded by Alderman Fields. The motion carried unanimously.

Alderman Pollard stated the City is not responsible for the Insurance of the Finely collection.

City Attorney stated that the Finley's will pay for it, the City will reimburse the Finley's, and NAPAC will reimburse the City.

Mayor Middleton stated that once the exhibit arrives and it gets in the hands of NAPAC, and it is set up at the NAPAC Museum, it then becomes the responsibility of NAPAC.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Middleton read a proclamation for National Police Week.

Mayor Middleton stated that Public Works is working very hard to keep our city clean in addition to what they do on a daily basis. He added that if you can do it yourself, that would be wonderful, but if you can't Public Works will get it, but it will take some time.

Mayor Middleton stated that if you load all your limbs in large piles, Waste Management will not pick it up, but if you pack it to approximately 2 cubic feet they will get it along with the garbage. He added that Waste Management will not pick up large piles nor long branches.

Mayor Middleton stated that litter is an issue in the City. He added that if you see someone littering, get the tag number and submit it to the Police Chief and he will take care of it.

NEW BUSINESS

NONE

RECESS

A motion was made by Alderman Fields, seconded by Alderman Fortenbery to recessed the Regular meeting until May 12, 2009 at 1:45 p.m.. The motion carried unanimously.

**JAKE MIDDLETON
MAYOR**

ATTEST:

**DONNIE HOLLOWAY
CITY CLERK**