

REGULAR MEETING

July 7, 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, June 7, 2009. Mayor Jake Middleton presided at the meeting, which was opened with prayer by Pastor Ed Temple.

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

MINUTES APPROVED

A motion was made by Alderman Fortenbery to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 23, 2009. The motion was seconded by Alderman Pollard. The motion carried unanimously.

BUSINESS OF THE MONTH

Mayor Middleton recognized Isle of Capri Casino on being chosen as the July 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.

Deanne Tanksley – Gillon Group

Mrs. Tanksley stated that she was pleased to present the completed audit report for September 30, 2008 year end. She added that she would like to thank City Clerk, Donnie Holloway and his staff as well as all of the staff members of the City. She added that there

was a clean audit opinion for all of the financial statements and on the federal awards, there were no findings in the federal awards or problems with compliance of state law. She added that there is one internal control recommendation that has been made and is in the process of being corrected and she is working with the City Clerk to continue that process.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

INSPECTION DEPARTMENT, Paul Dawes

Mr. Dawes presented the financial report for the month of June.

Alderman Fields asked for an update on the Angeletty House's balcony.

Mr. Dawes stated that he does know of any place that they can attach the balcony and it is stored under the house.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, Darlene Jones

Mrs. Jones stated that the Christmas meeting has been changed from July 9, 2009 to July 23, 2009 at 4:00 pm. She added that she would like the board to allow two YouildBuild students to give an update on the YouthBuild Program.

Gloria Jackson
Brandon Grantham

ENGINEERING, David Gardner

Mr. Gardner stated that he has received the Environmental Clearance on two projects from MDOT. He added that the two projects are the Trails Project and the Overlay of Union Street Project. He stated that now, this paves the way for them to submit the plans. He stated that they have a scheduled office and field review next Monday. He added that his goal is to have everything under contract by September 30, 2009.

Mr. Gardner stated that the CVS Pharmacy is proposing a new building on 61 North Near Morgantown Road. They plan to place the building on an existing water line. Since the code prevents that, they have worked out an agreement where the City can relocate the water line on some of their property and CVS Pharmacy will give the City an easement to do so and the City will terminate the existing easement where the old water line would be abandoned. He added that in order to do this he would need authority for the Mayor to execute an agreement in order to terminate the utility easement and establish a sanitary sewer and water line easement on the new location.

Alderman Gray made a motion to allow the Mayor to execute an agreement in order to terminate the utility easement and establish a sanitary sewer and water line easement on the new location. Seconded by Alderman Fields. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gardner stated that he is happy to announce that Canadian National Railroad has agreed to donate 2 parcels of property to the City of Natchez. It would be the property adjacent to

Orleans Street between Broadway and Canal Street. He added that the second parcel will be between Canal Street and Briel. He stated that Attorney Sanders has review the contract and with one modification, the removal of the indemnification provision. He asked for approval for the Mayor to enter into the Real Estate Donation Contract with Canadian National Railroad that will pave the way for the City to receive the donated property.

Alderman Pollard made a motion to allow the Mayor to enter into the Real Estate Donation Contract with Canadian National Railroad that will pave the way for the City to receive the donated property. Seconded by Alderman Dillard. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gardner proposed that the City execute a change order for one in the amount of \$17,133.12 for Midway construction Company. He added that this is 85% Federal funded and 15% Local. He added that he would like the board's approval to execute change order number one.

Alderman Pollard made a motion to allow Mr. Gardner to execute change order number 1. Seconded by Alderman Fortenbery. The motion carried unanimously.

Alderman Gray asked what are the obligations on the match.

Mr. Gardner stated it would be 15% which will still be under budget.

RECREATION, Ralph Tedder

Mr. Tedder announced that on Thursday at 10:00 a.m., there will be a ribbon cutting at the Duncan Park's new pavilion and invited everyone to come out. He added that the project was started over three years ago with a total cost of \$35,000 and the Recreation Department paid \$3,500.

CITY OFFICIALS' REPORT

ALDERMAN GRAY, Ward 2

Alderman Gray stated that he wants the public to know that it is our responsibility to clean up around our property and it is not the City's responsibility.

Alderman Gray stated that some of the Senior Citizens in the neighborhood called because the grass was dry and firecrackers were popping outside of their homes. He added that it was placed in the newspaper and there is an ordinance about popping firecrackers in the city limits.

Alderman Gray stated that he would like for everyone also pray for Ms. Kimberly Allen.

Alderman Gray stated that his sympathy goes out to the families of Michael Jackson, Steve McNair, and Mrs. Dunmore in the lost of her husband. He added that he would like to thank the community for their love and support in the loss of his father.

ALDERMAN POLLARD - WARD 3

Alderman Pollard read the monthly report the Natchez Fire Department.

ALDERMAN FIELDS - WARD 4

Alderman Fields stated that he would like to remind everyone about the Minorville Jubilee on July 25th and the chairpersons are asking for donations. He stated that he was asked by the residents of Washington Road to publicly give a nod of encouragement to the Police Department. The residents are very pleased with the presence of the police officers patrolling the area.

ALDERMAN FORTENBERY - WARD 5

Alderman Fortenbery stated that he agrees with Alderman Gray, if the community would take 2 – 3 minutes to pick up their trash, it would make a big difference. He stated that if the officers see someone littering, please give them a ticket.

Alderman Fortenbery asked Darlene Jones for an update on the littering educational information.

Mrs. Jones stated that car trash bags were issued.

Alderman Fortenbery stated that if you see someone that is littering from their vehicle, get their tag number and call the Chief of Police. He added that this is our City and we should take pride in it.

Alderman Fortenbery stated that when the community pitches in to help keep the city clean, the grass can be cut quicker.

ALDERMAN DILLARD - WARD 6

Alderman Dillard stated that he wants to assure the public that this board is engaging the budget process. He stated that the board is inherently dependent on the departments and the city administration for the information that is brought to us concerning the city's financial well-being and welfare.

Alderman Dillard stated that when they began last year to put this budget together one of the things that became apparent was that each year the administration would borrow against next year's tax revenues in a form of a tax anticipation loan.

Alderman Dillard stated that it is not unusual to borrow money for your cash flows, but it becomes a problem when you continue to borrow money each year. He added that up until the current storms the city was processing 7% - 8% ahead of our sales revenues from last year.

Alderman Dillard stated that if our revenues are coming in and the Departments are holding the line, then where are we over. He stated that is what the board has been trying to determine. He added that if it is not on the outside, then it must be internally.

Alderman Dillard stated that we have three months to make it to the end of the fiscal year. He stated that this is the time to hold the line, no expenditures, no travel, no purchases, until we can get to the end of the year to see where we are.

Alderman Dillard stated that it is still not 100% clear, but this board is going to find out. He added that he has been getting several calls from the grass cutters and they are excited. He stated that there are a few more steps that would have to be taken before they can actually move on that.

Alderman Dillard stated that he wants the city to know that they are concerned with the financial responsibility and accountability.

Mr. Holloway stated that there are no loans out there that this board does not know about. He added that any loan would have to be spread on the minutes. He stated that the auditor announced to the board that everything has been done by the state and federal law.

Alderman Dillard stated that there is a certain amount of fiduciary responsibility that the City Clerk has and that involves making this board fully aware of the processes. He stated that at the next board meeting Mr. Holloway should bring a schedule of transfers and loans of all accounts that have occurred thus far.

CITY CLERK'S REPORT, DONNIE HOLLOWAY

Mr. Holloway asked the board to approve the docket number 6961 through 7260.

Alderman Pollard made a motion to approve docket number 6961 through 7260. Seconded by Alderman Fields. The motion carried with Alderman Gray opposing.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT, EVERETT SANDERS

Attorney Sanders stated that the matters that he had have already been addressed.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Middleton stated that he received a call that the youth in the Roselawn area are removing the drain covers. He asked Mr. Eric Smith and Chief Mullins look into the matter. He added that in the next couple of weeks, they will be interviewing for a vacancy on the Civil Service Board and also appointing two members to the Preservation Committee, and an appointment to the EDA board. He added that one of the City's members resigned.

NEW BUSINESS

Alderman Dillard made a motion that the City Clerk prepare a schedule of all loans that are current and active that are taken out against the City to be repaid and that he present this to the board at the next meeting and every meeting thereafter. Seconded by Alderman Gray. The motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Alderman Fields, seconded by Alderman Fortenbery to Adjourn the Regular Meeting of July 7, 2009. The motion carried unanimously.

**JAKE MIDDLETON
MAYOR**

ATTEST:

**DONNIE HOLLOWAY
CITY CLERK**