

**REGULAR MEETING**  
**December 22, 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 6:00 P.M. on Tuesday, December 22, 2008. Mayor Jake Middleton presided at the meeting, which was opened with prayer by Pastor Doug Broome.

<b>MAYOR &amp; BOARD PRESENT</b>	<b>ELECTED OFFICIALS ABSENT</b>	<b>CITY OFFICIALS &amp; DEPARTMENT HEADS</b>
<b>John ‘Jake’ Middleton</b> Mayor	<b>Mark Fortenbery</b> Alderman, Ward 5	Donnie Holloway, City Clerk Coretta L. Logan, Deputy Clerk Temple Hendricks, Mayor’s Secretary Oliver Stewart, Fire Chief Ralph Tedder, Recreation Director Natchez Democrat
<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>Ernest ‘Tony’ Fields</b> Alderman, Ward 4		
<b>Daniel Dillard</b> Alderman, Ward 6		

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**MINUTES APPROVED**

**A motion was made by Alderman Fields to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 8, 2009 and approve as presented. The motion was seconded by Alderman Dillard. The motion carried unanimously.**

**Alderman Fields made a motion to go out of order to have a Public Hearing. Seconded by Alderman Dillard. The motion carried unanimously.**

**Mr. Dawes presented a list of properties for demolition and for grass, weed, and debris cleaning.**

- 20 Williams**
- 21 Williams**
- 22 Williams**
- 27 Williams**
- 28 Williams**
- 30 Williams**

**31 Beaumont  
33 Rickman  
35 Minor  
53 Minor  
64 Brenham Avenue  
810 North Rankin**

**Rachel Woods of 89A York Road, stated that she is here to speak on behalf of Betty Malone, that owns the 20 October Street property. She stated that Mrs. Malone asked the board to allow her to make the necessary repairs to the property.**

**Rosa Newman of 802 North Rankin Street stated that**

**Grass and Weeds**

**1 College  
5 College  
4 Matthew  
13 Matthew  
9 Rickman  
14 Zoa  
20 Williams  
21 Williams  
22 Williams  
27 Williams  
28 Williams  
30 Williams  
50 Minor  
106 Bluff  
317 Anne Holden  
531 South Canal  
573 Inez  
573 ½ Inez  
577 Inez  
610 Jefferson  
642 East Steirs  
713 Martin Luther King  
725 Martin Luther King  
727 Martin Luther  
815 Martin Luther King  
1411 Sunset Blvd.**

**Mr. Alvin Bacon, 10 Oscar Street, stated that he is here on behalf on his wife Brenda Bacon for 27 Williams Street. He stated that when he purchased the land through land sale, the owners where not notified and he has not received a clear title. He added that he will get the home boarded up and clean the debris and grass from the property.**

**Alderman Arceneaux-Mathis made a motion to go back into regular order of business. Seconded by Alderman Dillard. The motion carried unanimously.**

**Alderman Arceneaux-Mathis made a motion to allow Mrs. Betty Malone to make all necessary repairs to the 20 October property by February 15, 2010. Seconded by Alderman Fields. The motion carried unanimously.**

**Alderman Arceneaux-Mathis made a motion to allow Mr. & Mrs. Bacon to make all necessary repairs to the 27 Williams property by February 15, 2010. Seconded by Alderman Gray. The motion carried unanimously.**

**Alderman Arceneaux-Mathis made a motion to go forth with the other jublations as described on the list . Seconded by Alderman Fields. The motion carried unanmaniously.**

**Alderman Arceneaux-Mathis made a motion to complete the adjuducations for the grass, weed, and debris as described on the list. Sefconded by Alderman Fields. The motion carried unanimously.**

#### **RECEIVE BIDS**

**Mayor Middleton opened**

#### **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.

#### **Attorney Walter Brown**

Attorney Brown discussed that the board had approved an annexation for the North and South Charter amendment, which was required by law that it be submitted to the governor's office, and it had to be approved by the Attorney General along with the Secretary of State.

Attorney Brown requested that the annexation document be placed in the minutes.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**None**

#### **DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS**

## **RECREATION DEPARTMENT, Ralph Tedder**

Mr. Tedder requested \$8,000 from the Public Properties Account to cover the expenses to install the Duncan Park Pavilion donated by Natchez Leadership. The Adams County Board of supervisors has donated \$7,000 toward the total \$15,000 installation cost.

**Alderman Dillard made a motion to approve the request for \$8,000 from the Public Properties to cover the expenses to install the Duncan Park Pavilion donated by Natchez Leadership, seconded by Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis. The motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Tedder requested approval of the low bid of \$15,000 from Landscape Resources Landscape Construction Service and to authorize payment from the Public Properties Account to pour the concrete slab and install the 44' x 30' Pavilion in Duncan Park. The Adams County Board of supervisors has donated \$7,000 will be deposited into the Public Properties Account.

**Alderman Dillard made a motion to approve the low bid of \$15,000 from Landscape Resources Landscape Construction Service and to authorize payment from the Public Properties Account to pour the concrete slab and install the 44' x 30' Pavilion in Duncan Park. Seconded by Alderman Fortenbery. The motion carried unanimously.**

## **GRANTS COORDINATOR, Brett Brinegar**

Mrs. Brinegar stated that EPA has received the Brownsfield application and it is under review. She added that she does not expect to hear anything until spring.

Mrs. Brinegar stated that Alderman Dillard asked her to check for a Power Point Projector and Screen and she has received one price quote so far.

## **CITY ENGINEER, David Gardner**

Mr. Gardner requested permission to execute a contract between the City of Natchez and Ridgepoint for the 592 program.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis asked how much would it cost.

Mr. Gardner stated that the projected amount is a total of \$111,427.00 that may end up being lower.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis asked if we would be in compliance with 592 for reimbursement.

Mr. Gardner stated that the court would not give an approval up front. He added that you must submit all the necessary documentation in order for the court to review it.

Mr. Gardner stated that they are making sure that they are not doing anything that would make them not eligible for reimbursement.

**Alderman Arceneaux-Mathis made a motion to execute the contract, seconded by Alderman Dillard. The motion carried unanimously.**

## **CITY OFFICIALS REPORTS**

### **ALDERMAN FORTENBERY - WARD 5**

Alderman Fortenbery wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

He thanked the city and county workers for all the work they have done since the tornado. He said that it was amazing how much work they were able to do in just a couple of days. He added that this might be a good way to start the New Year off, by the city and county working together.

Alderman Fortenbery acknowledged the Traffic Department for their hard work. He added that Rick Freeman's and Eric Smith's guys did an amazing job and he appreciated them.

### **ALDERMAN DILLARD - WARD 6**

Alderman Dillard stated that he had no report at this time.

### **ALDERWOMAN ARCENEAUX-MATHIS - WARD 1**

Alderman Arceneaux-Mathis' report.

### **ALDERMAN GRAY - WARD 2**

Alderman Gray requested Chief Mullins to conduct a crime study from 2000 to 2008 to see whether our crime has increased or decreased. He added that he believes that the city has a gang problem and would like to get together to figure out how they could deal with this problem.

Alderman Gary stated that we need to restart the Crime Prevention Committee

Alderman Gray stated that he is still having the same problem since 2000, and which is abandoned houses. He added that people are stealing doors and other items from abandoned houses and are selling them.

Alderman Gray stated that in 2009 something needs to be submitted to the newspaper regarding burned houses. He added that every burned house should have 30 days to either fix it up or tear it down.

Alderman Gray stated that he feels that a PawnShop should not accept stolen goods and should be held accountable.

Alderman Gray stated to Mr. Holloway that he would like to see a copy of the agreement between the city and the county, regarding them collecting the ad valorem taxes within the city limits. He added that code section 65-15-21 states that the city should receive ½ of what the county collects or the county should maintain a certain amount of the city's streets.

Alderman Gray stated that it seems like everyone is cutting back except us and he hopes that we do not have to borrow money to balance the budget at the end of the year.

Alderman Gray stated that he received calls from his constituents, particularly in the West Steirs Lane area regarding the article in the paper about the city having 26 million dollars in needs. He added that he should have been in on making plans for the people he represents because he has several needs on that side of town.

Alderman Gray stated that the first meeting in January, they need to either vote for the smoking ordinance or against it.

Alderman Gray said his sympathy goes out to Mrs. Gwen Parker who lost her mother and he was happy to see the Police Department help her. He added that if we all work together we would have a better city.

Alderman Gray wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

### **ALDERMAN POLLARD - WARD 3**

Alderman Pollard thanked the city employees. He added that most of their work goes behind the scene and he wants to personally say thank you for everything they do for the city and it is not unnoticed by us.

Alderman Pollard wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

### **ALDERMAN FIELDS - WARD 4**

Alderman Fields recognized the Mayor's Youth Council. He said at the meeting, it was amazing to see all the young people from various schools conducting themselves in the manner that they did. He added that they talked about their love for the city and the things they would like to see from us.

Alderman Fields said that he appreciates Gwen Ball and Darlene Jones and the job that they are doing.

Alderman Fields stated that he was excited to see the letters in his box from Willie B. Jones that addressed the people that were in violation and asked that we stick to the deadlines.

Alderman Fields wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and asked that you spend time with your families and cherish every moment that you have.

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

Mr. Holloway wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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

Attorney Sanders requested approval of a resolution, authorizing the Mayor and the City Clerk to make application to the MS Development Authority, for a grant of \$650,000, for the completion of the infrastructure in the city.

Alderman Dillard asked what date was the application made.

Mr. Holloway stated two weeks ago.

Alderman Dillard said that the bill was approved in April and we are just making application on it.

Mr. Holloway stated that they have just made application on it because they were not informed on where the funds would be coming from. He added that the \$650,000 would pay half of the overlay project.

Alderman Dillard asked how would the other half be paid.

Mayor Middleton said that we don't have all the answers to all the questions, but hopefully we will know something soon.

Mr. Holloway said that we are still working with the legislators and the MDA.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis asked if we have a date on meeting with the financial consultants.

Mayor Middleton stated that it is suppose to be on Monday, but he it has not been confirmed. He added that he is doing this on their schedule.

Mr. Holloway stated for the record that the application has been sent for \$650,000 and they were to approve it yesterday. They guaranteed him that it would be approved, and as soon as they receive the resolution from the board, we should be getting the money.

Mr. Holloway stated that as soon as this application goes through, there would be another application sent to MDA.

Alderman Dillard said that the processes are complex with timeliness and attention to detail and he would expect more attention to those details in the future.

Mrs. Brinegar commented that this process was not a normal grant process. When an incentive appropriates the money, it doesn't tell you where it goes until they have finished the sessions and they have decided which agency.

Alderman Gray stated that he understood what Alderman Dillard is saying and the city has paved all these streets without the funds and that is the bottom line.

Alderman Dillard asked Mrs. Brinegar if she made application for this grant.

Mrs. Brinegar replied no.

**Alderman Gray made a motion to authorize a resolution by the mayor and City Clerk to make application to the MDA for a grant of \$650,000 for completion of the infrastructure in the city, seconded by Alderman Pollard. The motion carried unanimously.**

Attorney Sanders stated that the second resolution is the extension of Waste Management contract as it exists for a period of four years. The original contract which was for two years, expired November 30, 2008.

**Alderman Fields made a motion to approve the resolution to extend the contract of Waste Management for a period of four years, seconded by Alderman Pollard. The motion carried unanimously.**

## **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Middleton stated that the memo regarding the stimulus came from the Mississippi Economic Council. It was a Monday and it had to be in by Wednesday. He said all he did was sent the email to all department heads to ask them to send in any projects. He said he did not feel that this would be final. Mississippi was just trying to get their ducks in the row.

Alderman Gray stated that Mayor Middleton should have sent it to the Aldermen instead of the Department Heads. He added that his ward was not part of the stimulus and he was disappointed.

Mayor Middleton stated that on the smoking ordinance, the tourism people have been trying to set up a meeting with the restaurant owners, to get the feedback on what they want to do.

Alderman Gray stated that it is not up to the restaurants to decide. It is up to the board.



## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis made a motion that the city of Natchez invite Alcorn State University's Jazz Festival under the direction of Dr. Miller to bring the 2009 Jazz Festival to Natchez, seconded by Alderman Fields.**

Alderwoman stated that in October she met with Dr. Miller and discussed bringing the Jazz Festival to Natchez as a jump-start to heritage tourism. She added that she has not heard back from him yet.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis recommended us sending a letter to the ASU President along with Dr. Miller, expressing our interest in bringing the Jazz Festival to Natchez. She said she feels that may help us.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis made a motion that the board meet with the mayor prior to the first board meeting in January to outline the needs for request of any stimulus money for infrastructure for the city of Natchez. Seconded by Alderman Fields. The motion carried unanimously.**

Alderwoman stated that she wants us to get our ducks in line in terms of the infrastructure money.

**Alderwoman made a motion that the financial consultants meet with the board after meeting with Mayor Middleton, seconded by Alderman Gray. The motion carried unanimously.**

Alderman Gray said that he needed clarification. He said when the board has made a motion and it is out there for someone to carry the motion, he feels that other than the mayor, no one should stop the motion.

He said he was speaking in regards of the houses that were supposed to be boarded up. He said that Mr. Howard was awarded that bid to board up the houses and he needed to be paid.

Mr. Holloway stated that he spoke with Mr. Howard and the City Attorney. He said that Mr. Howard has agreed to a certain amount of monies and the city will pay him and put it against the taxes of the properties.

Alderman Gray stated that Chief Mullins had a great idea, that when a motion has been made to board up property, we should contact the police department the day before we are about to board the property, so that they can be aware of the matter, if something happens.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**A motion was made by Alderman Pollard, seconded by Alderman Dillard to Adjourn the Regular Meeting of December 23, 2008. The motion carried unanimously.**

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**JAKE MIDDLETON  
MAYOR**

**ATTEST:**

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**DONNIE HOLLOWAY  
CITY CLERK**

