

REGULAR MEETING
April 27, 2010

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, April 27, 2010. Mayor Jake Middleton presided at the meeting, which was opened with prayer by Alderman Ernest “Tony” Fields.

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 Sabrena Bartley, Senior Center Paul Dawes, Building Official David Gardner, City Engineer Connie Taunton, Tourism Director Mike Mullins, Police Chief Oliver Stewart, Fire Chief Natchez Democrat
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		
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 April 13, 2010. The motion was seconded by Alderman Dillard. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING – PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis made a motion to go out of order for a public hearing on property maintenance. Seconded by Alderman Fields. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Dawes submitted the property violations before the board.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis made a motion to accept the property violations on the submitted list. Seconded by Alderman Fields. The motion carried unanimously.

Alderman Fields made a motion to go back into regular session. Seconded by Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis. The motion carried unanimously.

VISITORS WELCOMED

NONE

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Alderman Dillard made a motion to accept the nomination of David Troutman to the School Board city appointee. Seconded by Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis.

Alderman Gray called for the question.

Alderman Fields recused himself from the vote. He stated that he is an employee of the Natchez-Adams School District and he does not want to be caught in any conflict of interest issue. He added that he hopes that the board has the best interest of the kids of Adams County in mind.

Alderman Pollard made a motion to amend Alderman Dillard's motion to allow another name to be added to the motion. Seconded by Alderman Fortenbery. The motion failed with Alderman Gray, Alderman Dillard and Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis opposing.

The original motion remained on the floor.

A roll call vote on the motion was taken with the following results:

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis: yae

Alderman Gray: yae

Alderman Pollard: nae

Alderman Fortenbery: nae

Alderman Dillard: yae

The motion passed with a 3 to 2 vote in favor of Mr. David Troutman.

Alderman Fields stated that within a few weeks we should be hearing something from the Prescription Discount Program through the National League of Cities.

Alderman Fields stated that he is still having problems with Brumfield Apartments. He asked Mr. Willie B. Jones to come before the board to explain the conditions of the apartment complex.

Mr. Jones stated that the apartment complex is owned by Stanford Management and a conference call was conducted. He added that the management company promised that they would have all the problems corrected by the first of the year. He further added that the apartments are still in terrible shape such as mold, mildew, and no heat. He added that the apartment manager is doing the best that she can do.

Alderman Fields stated that the conditions of the apartments are still damaged from Hurricane Katrina and Gustav. He added that it is time for the board to address the situation now on the front end.

Alderman Fields stated that he spoke with Mr. Andrew Calvit of Atmos Energy and Mr. Calvit would like set up a meeting. He added that he would like Alderman Gray to attend the meeting with Mr. Calvit.

Alderman Fields stated that the board is not ready to act on the Interlocal Agreement with the Engineering Department.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

FIRE DEPARTMENT, Chief Stewart

Chief Stewart stated that employee 302190 violated the Natchez Fire Department rule. He asked for approval of the disciplinary action of suspending him for 24 hrs. without pay.

Alderman Pollard made a motion to approve Chief Stewart's disciplinary action of suspending employee #302190 for 24 hrs. for the violation of the Natchez Fire Department. Seconded by Alderman Fortenbery. The motion carried unanimously.

TOURISM, Connie Taunton

Mrs. Taunton stated that May 10 - 16 is National Tourism Week. She asked for a proclamation declaring May 13th Tourism Day in Natchez. She further stated that the Natchez Convention Promotion Commission has voted to start having quarterly meetings and their first meeting will be on May 13th, so they will combine both events together.

Mrs. Taunton stated that the Mississippi Public Broadcasting produced a segment on the Rhythm Night Club fire in 1940. She added that it was aired on MPR. She further added that the NAPAC museum is getting international coverage for the African American Heritage Tourism. She further stated that Mr. Darryl Smith will provide tours during ASHTO.

Mrs. Taunton stated that she will be traveling a lot since she has been elected the incoming president of the Natchez Trace Compact. She further added that she has also been appointed to the Tourism Advisory Council by the Mississippi Development Authority.

ENGINEERING, David Gardner

Mr. Gardner submitted the Project updates to be apart of the minutes.

- **ARRA Overlay (Contract Amount \$574,802.55):** Project is complete. Rick will be painting parking tic marks. Final inspection is scheduled for Wednesday April 29th.
- **Union Street Overlay (Contract Amount \$599,902) :** Project is under construction with handicap ramps and sidewalks being repaired/replaced. The Contractor is allowed 180 calendar days, from February 25th, to complete the project. This would give us a completion date somewhere around the end of July. We anticipate that the Contractor will finish prior to this time.
- **Bluff Riverfront - Downtown Walking Trails (Contract Amount \$1,609,694.75) :** The Contract has been awarded... Effective date of Notice to Proceed was on April 9th, 2010. The Contract has 440 Calendar Days to complete the project. This would give us a completion date somewhere around the middle of June, 2011.
- **North Natchez Drainage - Phase II-A:** The project has been advertised and we will hold a prebid meeting on May 11th at 2:00 pm. The bids will be received on Tuesday May 25th by

4:00... we hope to be able to make recommendation for an award, that night at the Board Meeting.

- **North Natchez Drainage - Phase II-B:** We are still working on the final wording for the Amendment to the PCA and letter of intent. The USACE is reviewing our submittal for real estate credit on Phase II-A and will most likely coordinate this review, with finalizing the Amendment to the PCA. This Amendment to the PCA will provide for the Federal Share, required to complete the original planed limits for the North Natchez Drainage Project... we are also continuing to pursue funding sources for our match requirements on the Phase II-B portion of the project.
- **St. Catherine Street - Forks of the Road Trails Project :** We are working with MDOT District Coordinator, Randy Dickerson on setting up this funding via the Delta Region Transportation Development Program (DRTDP). This funding source is unique to MDOT, therefore we may need to change up some of our standard protocols. Our District Coordinator should let us know something within the next week...
- **Regional Transit Facility:** We are expecting to hear back from MDOT officials within the next week on how would should proceed with project activation. The funding for this project is coming through MDOT, via the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). This funding source is unique to MDOT, therefore protocols are being adjusted by MDOT to accommodate. Once we get authorization from MDOT, we will proceed with consultant negotiations etc.. so we may begin the design and right of way acquisitions process. We will have to deal with relocation of any Catholic Charities venues, presently in the building.
- **NRCS Sites- Bluebird, Oakhill, North Street & MLK :** We are 95% Complete with Plans and Specs.. are looking forward to advertising for bids, soon. We must be under Contract no later than June 30th 2010 and the project must be completed by October 1, 2010
- **Roof Repair - Municipal Buildings (Administered by SWMPDD):** I spoke with Allen Laird and he is working on a pre-development Contract between MDA and the City of Natchez... will most likely be a week before that Contract is ready to be reviewed and executed by the City. Once Contract is executed with MDA, then Allen can proceed with Negotiation / Contract for consulting services, with the firm chosen by the ad hoc selection committee.
- **Trash Dump Sites - DEQ Grant Application:** Application has been submitted, and we should hear the results within the next week or so.
- **Daisy Street Grant Application** - Engineering staff will meet with Alderman Gray and Allen Laird on Thursday, April 29th (2:00pm) to go over detailed scope of work and project budget. The Grant Application is due by the end of May. Also.. Allen Laird presented the City Attorney with a Resolution regarding the Daisy Street Project, which I assume has been executed.
- **FAU Funds 2010 - Misc. Streets:** It is very important that the Board promptly select the priority of streets and scope of work, so Engineering can prepare a more detailed cost estimate and project limits, for the Board to approval at the following Board Meeting on May 11th.

CITY OFFICIALS' REPORT

ALDERMAN FORTENBERY – WARD 5

Alderman Fortenbery reminded everyone about the Big Joe Celebrity Golf Tournament. He added that there will be a lot of former NFL players that will be playing. He encouraged those interested to get registered for the event.

ALDERMAN POLLARD – WARD 3

Alderman Pollard stated that he would like to make a correction for the Natchez Democrat. He said that he does not live in the Woodhaven Subdivision and he does not pass that sign everyday. He added that he would like to thank the Reed's for being good Samaritans and doing a good deed for the city.

ALDERMAN GRAY, Ward 2

Alderman Gray stated that he and Mr. Dollar made some rounds in Ward 2. He added that water is running in the drain and it is pointing directly toward the soil, causing erosion of the soil.

Alderman Gray stated that he has been going door to door on Daisy Street to help residents fill out surveys.

Alderman Gray stated that the board needs to look into the Personnel Policy. He added that if the board does the hiring and the firing, how does the Mayor have the last say so when it comes to dismissal.

Alderman Gray stated that he feels that there are some bad practices in this city including favoritism. He added that we need to find a way to bring it to a closure.

Alderman Gray congratulated the Berry Family for their son being the #5 pick in the NFL draft.

ALDERMAN FIELDS, WARD 4

Alderman Fields stated that the Relay for Life will be on May 7th at 6:30 pm on the Vidalia Riverfront. He encouraged everyone to get out and support cancer research.

Alderman Fields read a resolution of the City Council of the City of Natchez.

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF NATCHEZ, AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF NATCHEZ TO APPLY FOR FUNDING UNDER THE ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF NATCHEZ HEREBY RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

WHEREAS, the Mississippi Development Authority's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program (EECBG) provides funding for improved energy efficiency in the state of Mississippi to eligible cities and counties through funds made available under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of **Natchez** authorizes the City of **Natchez** to apply for grant funds under this program; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of **Natchez** recognizes that the support of the City Council is fundamental to the success of any program;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of **Natchez** will fully support the EECBG application and will fully comply with all EECBG and

ARRA regulations and requirements, including monthly reporting, use of the Energy Star Portfolio Manager software as described in the EECBG Funding Opportunity Announcement, Davis-Bacon Wage requirements, Buy American Act requirements, National Environmental Policy Act Requirements, and historical preservation requirements.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that **Jake Middleton as Mayor of the City of Natchez**, is hereby authorized and empowered to execute in the name of the City of Natchez; all necessary documents to implement and carry out the purpose of this resolution.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 27th day of April, 2010.

Jake Middleton, Mayor
City of Natchez

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Alderman Fields made a motion to adopt the resolution of authorizing the City of the City of Natchez to apply for funding under the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program. Seconded by Alderman Fortenbery. The motion carried unanimously.

ALDERMAN DILLARD – WARD 6

Alderman Dillard stated that contracts are being drawn up on the accounting software.

Alderman Dillard stated that this pass weekend all of the golf courses were being used by players, the tennis courts were filled, as well as the playgrounds. He added that he was very proud to see the park being utilized.

ARCENEUX-MATHIS – WARD 1

Alderwoman Arceneux-Mathis stated that she has given each Alderman an information packet from the trip to Washington. She added that there was a lot of good information received from the National League of Cities and that she would like to share the information with the entire board. She further added that notes from the HUD meeting are also included in the information packets.

Alderwoman Arceneux-Mathis recognized Alderman Fields and Alderman Dillard to cover the National League of Cities PowerPoint presentation.

Alderman Fields discussed clean energy topics based on information received from Dr. Chu, Secretary of Energy. He also discussed the reauthorization of education acts based on information provided by Dr. Artie Dunn, Secretary of Education.

Alderman Dillard discussed the TIGER program from information provided by Ray LaHood, Secretary of Transportation (70 billion dollar budget).

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis discussed the National League of Cities Successful Neighborhood Stabilization as presented by Pat Costigan, Sr. Vice President of The Community Builders. She discussed Implications of NSPS (Neighborhood Stabilization Program), Choice Neighborhoods – Troubled Section 8 Assisted Housing, 3rd General Session - Karen Mills, Director Small Business Administration, based on information provided by Secretary Gary Locke, Dept. of Commerce, and Marketing Cities and Towns for Economic Development

CITY CLERK'S REPORT, DONNIE HOLLOWAY

Mr. Holloway asked the board to declare Parcel #28-1-5, 727 Martin Luther King Street as surplus property.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis made a motion to declare 28-1-5, 727 Martin Luther King Street as surplus property. Seconded by Alderman Fields. The motion carried unanimously.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT, EVERETT SANDERS

NONE

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Middleton stated that the Rail line that runs between Natchez and Brookhaven is in a serious situation. He added that they are not getting enough traffic between Natchez and Brookhaven and they are averaging about nine cars per week. He encouraged businesses that can do business by rail to do so.

Mayor Middleton stated that he, Alderman Pollard, Attorney Sanders, Mr. Holloway, along with some of the Adams County Supervisors met with Rentech last week. He added that everything is moving forward and they will be having some public hearings coming soon.

Mayor Middleton congratulated Mr. David Troutman for being appointed to the School Board.

NEW BUSINESS

Alderman stated to Mr. Gardner that he would like to see the new Transit Center be named in honor of Mrs. Francis Troscalir.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis thanked Ms. Coretta Logan and Ms. Sally Durkin for setting up the PowerPoint Presentation.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Alderwoman Pollard seconded by Alderman Fortenbery to adjourn the meeting until May 11, 2010. The motion carried unanimously.

**JAKE MIDDLETON
MAYOR**

ATTEST:

**DONNIE HOLLOWAY
CITY CLERK**