

## **REGULAR MEETING October 12, 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 11:00 A.M. on Tuesday, October 12, 2010. Mayor Pro Tempe Arceneaux-Mathis presided at the meeting, which was opened with prayer by Pastor Aaron Wesley.

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

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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 September 28, 2010. The motion was seconded by Alderman Dillard. The motion carried unanimously.**

### **BUSINESS OF THE MONTH – BISCUIT & BLUES**

Mayor Pro Tempe Arceneaux-Mathis read a proclamation for Biscuits & Blues as the business of the month.

### **VISITORS WELCOMED**

#### **Ser- Boxley – Civil War Reenactment**

Ser Boxley stated that the third annual Miss-Lou region will have its Living History events on October 29 and October 30, 2010. He added the admission will be free for both events. The locations will be 115 South Pearl Street and the Historic Jefferson College.

**Alderman Pollard made a motion to allow Mrs. Susan Cassagne to speak before the board. Seconded by Alderman Fields. The motion carried unanimously.**

### **Susan Cassagne**

Mrs. Cassagne stated that she would like to invite the board to the Mississippi Energy Awareness event that will be held tomorrow at 10:00 am at the Armstrong Library.

Mrs. Cassagne stated that there will be a Teen Room Open House at the Library on October 28, 2010. She added that the room has been funded through a grant from the Mississippi Library Commission.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Alderman Gray asked for an update on 116 McIntyre Blvd.

Mr. Nix stated that 116 McIntyre is on the list to be demolished. He added that the property has been categorized as a dangerous building. He further added that all the properties on the list will be presented to the board on the last board meeting in November, so that that they can be adjudicated.

## **DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS**

### **FIRE DEPARTMENT, Chief Stewart**

Chief Stewart stated that he needed approval from the board to suspend employee number 301598 for two 24 hour shifts without pay, for violating Natchez Fire Department general order section 3.

**Alderman Pollard made a motion to suspend employee number 301598 for two 24 hour shifts without pay, for violating Natchez Fire Department general order section 3. Seconded by Alderman Dillard. The motion carried unanimously.**

### **ENGINEERING, David Gardner**

Mr. Gardner stated that they have been approved for 6 sites on the Emergency Watershed protection program through NRCS. He added that the NRCS is currently reviewing the various sites and should be having something in writing by October 20<sup>th</sup>. He added that he would like authority for the mayor to sign all necessary documents for the application of the six sites.

**Alderman Gray made a motion to allow the mayor to sign all necessary documents for the 6 sites on the Emergency Watershed protection program through NRCS. Seconded by Alderman Fields. The motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Gardner stated that a pavilion has been added on the downtown walking trail in front of the cock of the walk.

Mr. Gardner stated that approximately 20% of the construction is complete on Phase 2-A of the North Natchez Drainage Project. He added that the contractor will have until March 21, 2011 to complete the project.

Mr. Gardner stated that they had a meeting with the Mississippi Department of Transportation about the scope of the Forks of the Road project. He added that they are processing the project activations and will be starting on the design work.

Mr. Gardner stated that they had a meeting with the Regional Transportation Facility last week to go over project details and the scope of the work. He added that hopefully the contract should be reviewed and executed by the first part of November.

Mr. Gardner stated that the roof replacement contract has been submitted to the City Attorney. He added that he needs the board to authorize the mayor to sign all necessary documents to be submitted to MDA pending the City Attorney's review and concurrence. He further added that it is a 100% grant.

**Alderman Gray made a motion to authorize the mayor to sign all necessary documents for the roof replacement to be submitted to MDA pending the City Attorney's review and concurrence. Seconded by Alderman Fortenbery. The motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Gardner stated that he received notification from MDA that Daisy Street has been approved. He added that the project has been approved for a total of \$370,000. He further added that they will begin at the cuddle sack and work their way upstream until the funds run out.

Mr. Gardner stated that they are in the process of working through Southwest MS Planning on the Environmental Clearance documents. He added that he needs the board to authorize the mayor to sign all necessary grant documents, so that it can be sent in by the deadline of October 18, 2010.

**Alderman Gray made a motion to authorize the mayor to sign all necessary Environmental Clearance grant documents, so that it can be sent in by the deadline of October 18, 2010, to the Mississippi Development Authority. Seconded by Alderman Fields. The motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Gardner stated that the traffic signal grant has been approved. He added that he would like permission to advertise for bids for the purchase of the materials of the Traffic Signal Energy Grant.

**Alderman Gray made a motion to allow the City Engineer to advertise for bids for the purchase of the materials of the traffic signals Energy grant. Seconded by Alderman Fields. The motion carried unanimously.**

Alderman Gray asked about the status of the tree on the property of Tammie Williams.

Mr. Gardner stated that the tree is her responsibility.

Alderman Gray stated that the letter that was sent to Ms. Williams stated that Public Works does not have the funds to remove the tree. He added that the letter is misleading. He further added that if Public Works is not going to take care of the tree, then the letter needs to state that.

#### **TOURISM DEPARTMENT, Connie Taunton**

Mrs. Taunton stated that she received a called from Jackie Tyson that is working with GSA and they would like to place a World War I Adams County Memorial Veterans plaque in Natchez. She added that the plaque will have about 1200 names on it. She further stated that there are six places in Natchez that they want to place the plaques.

#### **RECREATION, Salina Edwards**

Mrs. Edwards requested permission to advertise for bids for a new Golf Cart Lease. She stated that the bids will be opened at the November 23, 2010 Board of Aldermen Meeting. The bid will be for a (3) year lease of (50) new Golf Carts and (1) new Range Cart. She further added that the lease funding is in her FY 2010 - 2011 Budget.

**Alderman Dillard made a motion to allow permission to advertise for bids for a new Golf Cart Lease. Seconded by Alderman Fortenbery. The motion carried unanimously.**

#### **CITY OFFICIALS' REPORT**

##### **ALDERMAN FIELDS – WARD 4**

Alderman Fields stated that this month is Breast Cancer Awareness month and this is the time we take to honor those that have survived breast cancer and remember those that have lost the fight against breast cancer. He added that it is very important that we support all of the events that are going on in the area, and definitely donate our time and money to finding a cure for cancer.

##### **ALDERMAN FORTENBERY – WARD 5**

**Alderman Fortenbery made a motion to approve the purchase of a new pothole patching unit to be used for the streets of Natchez. Seconded by Alderman Pollard.**

Alderman Fortenbery stated that the merchandise is not to exceed \$75,000.00

Mr. Holloway stated that the pothole patching unit will be financed over a 5 year period.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

#### **ALDERMAN DILLARD – WARD 6**

Alderman Dillard stated that we are at the end of one fiscal year and beginning a new fiscal year.

**Alderman Dillard made a motion that the board directs the auditor under additional services to prepare a certificate report of the final revenues and expenditures for the entire \$33,000,000 budget of fiscal year 2009 – 2010 with service fees not to exceed \$1,500. Seconded by Alderman Gray.**

Alderman Pollard stated that he does not see the necessity of the additional service.

**The motion carried with Alderman Pollard opposing.**

**Alderman Dillard made a motion that the auditor prepares a certificate report of the Recreation Department's expenditures and revenues for the fiscal year 2009 – 2010 with service fees not to exceed \$500. Seconded by Alderman Gray. The motion carried unanimously.**

**Alderman Dillard made a motion to direct the City Attorney to take the necessary legal actions to determine that all options and extensions between the City of Natchez and the Roth Hill Natchez Enterprise have expired. Seconded by Alderman Fortenbery. The motion carried unanimously.**

Alderman Dillard stated we need to look at what is in the best interest for the riverfront district in our city for our economic development. He added that we have an opportunity for creative approaches of what can happen with our riverfront.

#### **ALDERMAN GRAY, Ward 2**

Alderman Gray stated that he has letters from Police Department employees requesting salary increases. He indicated that an employee transferred to another department and the police department employees are asking that the salary of the transferred employee be distributed amongst each other. He added that he requested that Chief Mullins come up with the figures to see what the increase would be.

Alderman Gray stated that he assured the property owner on Purnell Hill that the city will alleviate the problem that she is having.

Alderman Gray stated that he still is waiting on the East Steirs Lane water flooding issue to be resolved. He added that when it rains, the children have to walk in high water to Martin Luther King Jr. Street to catch the bus.

Mr. Atkins stated that at the next board he will be requesting funding from the board to correct the problem.

Alderman Gray stated that the board never voted for a Judge Pro Tempe and in the next work session, he will bring it to the boards' attention that there needs to be a formal vote for a Judge Pro Tempe.

Alderman Gray stated that on the corner of Fisk and Bluebird Street there is a tree on the right of way that is dead and can fall at anytime. He added that he would like to know how much it would cost to get the tree removed. He further added that the city is on notice that the tree is dead.

Alderman Gray stated that the grant writer is looking into the USDA grant for police cars.

Alderman Gray stated that he would like to see the curfew ordinance be enforced more because there are children being out during school hours and at night.

Alderman Gray stated that Senator Kelvin Butler was down last weekend and he gave two \$500 scholarships to two individuals from this area.

Alderman Gray stated that there are still problems in the Holiday Apartments area.

Alderman Gray stated that we need to get the students to a board meeting to give them certificates on high scores on the MCT2 test.

Alderman Gray congratulated Habitat for Humanity for the awesome work that they have done in Ward 2. He added that he hopes that we can find more property to help them to continue with what they are doing.

Alderman Gray stated that his sympathy goes out to the Kelly, Davis, Ross, and Lee Raymond family. He added that he also wishes Bishop Jackson a speedy recovery.

Alderman Gray stated that the board needs to communicate better than what they are doing. He added that he had no idea that the Mayor was out of town.

Alderman Gray stated that he is so happy for the residents of Daisy Street.

Alderman Gray stated that injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.

### **ALDERMAN POLLARD – WARD 3**

No Report

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

Mr. Holloway asked the board to approve docket number 101 – 383 and docket number 8678 – 9113.

**Alderman Fortenbery made a motion to approve docket number 101 – 383 and docket number 8678 – 9113. Seconded by Alderman Pollard.**

**Alderman Gray stated that he is opposing vendor # 356118 on the docket.**

**The motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Holloway stated that he needs a motion from the board to get proposals from the bank on the lowest interest rate in the amount of \$75,000 to finance for the purchase of the pothole patcher over a 60 month period.

**Alderman Fortenbery made a motion to get proposals from the bank on the lowest interest rate in the amount of \$75,000 to finance for the purchase of the pothole patcher over a 60 month period. Seconded by Alderman Pollard. The motion carried unanimously.**

## **CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT, Everett Sanders**

Attorney Sanders stated that he just received two contracts related to the professional services between Southwest Mississippi Planning and Development District, Inc. and the City of Natchez. He added that the board needs to make a motion to enter into the contract pending his full review of the contract.

CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES  
BETWEEN  
SOUTHWEST MISSISSIPPI PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT, INC.  
AND  
THE CITY OF NATCHEZ, MISSISSIPPI

This contract is made and entered into by and between The City of Natchez, hereinafter known as the Grantee, and Southwest Mississippi Planning and Development District, Inc., hereinafter known as the District, for certain professional services as more fully hereinafter are set forth. The Grantee desires to engage the District to render certain professional services in connection with its Community Development Block Grant No. 1122-05-272-PF-01, to make drainage improvement to Daisy Street in Natchez.

**Alderman Gray made a motion to enter into the contract of professional services in connection with its Community Development Block Grant No. 1122-05-272-PF-01, to make drainage improvement to Daisy Street in Natchez pending the City Attorney's full review and approval of the contract. Seconded by Alderman Fortenbery. The motion carried unanimously.**

Attorney Sanders stated that he needs the board to make a motion to enter into the contract pending his full review of the contract.

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**Alderman Fields made a motion to enter into the contract of professional services in connection with its Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant No. GT11-0810-0057, to replace traffic signal lights with energy efficient LED lights in Natchez pending the City Attorney's full review and approval of the contract. Seconded by Fortenbery. The motion carried unanimously.**

**MAYOR PRO TEMPE'S REPORT,**

Mayor Pro Tempe Arceneaux-Mathis stated that the discussion of the board has agreed to reschedule the Regular Board meeting of October 26, 2010 and will be moved to October 27, 2010 at 6:00 pm, with the Finance meeting at 4:00 pm.

**Alderman Fields made a motion to reschedule the Regular Board meeting of October 26, 2010 to October 27, 2010 at 6:00 pm, with the Finance meeting at 4:00 pm. Seconded by Alderman Dillard. The motion carried unanimously.**

Mayor Pro Tempe Arceneaux-Mathis stated that a Special Call meeting will be on October 19, 2010 at 9:30 am.

**Alderman Gray made a motion to hold a Special Call Meeting on October 19, 2010 at 9:30 am to discuss personnel. Seconded by Alderman Pollard. The motion carried unanimously.**

Mayor Pro Tempe Arceneaux-Mathis stated that she did the welcome to Leadership Mississippi last Thursday. She added that they also toured Natchez while they were here.

Mayor Pro Tempe Arceneaux-Mathis stated that the new Natchez Inc. director, Chandler Russ was announced on last Tuesday. She added that she is very excited to have someone that is from Natchez and understands what this city needs.



## **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Nix presented the names of the candidates to be considered for the Planning Commission.

The board agreed to review the resumes and get back with Mr. Nix at the next board meeting.

Alderman Fields stated the McLaurin Elementary is deemed a successful school by accountability standards.

Alderman Fields stated that tomorrow is parent / teacher conference day beginning at 10:00 o'clock and ending at 6:00 o'clock. He added that Friday is the homecoming parade that will start promptly at 2:30pm.

Alderman Fields stated that on October 1, 2010 he launched a website which is [www.TonyFieldsNtz.com](http://www.TonyFieldsNtz.com). He added that there is a lot of useful information on the site and this is another way to disseminate information to the public.

Alderman Gray stated that Southwest Mississippi Planning Development District will have a meeting in Brookhaven, MS on Monday, October 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm. He added that this meeting is to discuss our legislative agenda for the upcoming legislative session.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**A motion was made by Alderman Fields, seconded by Alderman Pollard to Adjourn the Regular Meeting of October 12, 2010. The motion carried unanimously.**