

## **REGULAR MEETING**

### **March 08, 2011**

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, March 08, 2011. Mayor Jake Middleton presided at the meeting, which was opened with prayer by Reverend Denny Read.

<b>MAYOR &amp; BOARD PRESENT</b>	<b>ELECTED OFFICIALS ABSENT</b>	<b>CITY OFFICIALS &amp; DEPARTMENT HEADS</b>
<b>John ‘Jake’ Middleton</b> Mayor	Donnie Holloway, City Clerk	Coretta L. Logan, Deputy Clerk Everett Sanders, City Attorney Sabrena Bartley, Senior Center David Gardner, City Engineer Connie Taunton, Tourism Director Oliver Stewart, Fire Chief Natchez Democrat
<b>Joyce Arceneaux-Mathis</b> Alderman, 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>Mark Fortenbery</b> Alderman, Ward 5		
<b>Daniel Dillard</b> Alderman, Ward 6		

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### **MINUTES APPROVED**

**A motion was made by Alderman Fortenbery to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the Regular and Finance Meetings of February 22, 2011 and adopt the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Alderman Pollard. The motion carried unanimously.**

**A motion was made by Alderman Gray to go out of regular order for a public hearing. Seconded by Alderman Pollard. The motion carried unanimously.**

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

Bob Nix discussed amending B-4 zone district regulations to allow mobile home to be used as a special exception use as accessory residences for management and security personnel at nonresidential establishments. He added that it was the recommendation of the Planning Commission as well.

Mr. Sammie Cauthern of 112 South Hampton Drive, Natchez, MS stated that he was here to speak on behalf of the property owner for Mr. Shehand. He added that Mr. Shehand told his tenants that he would provide them 24 hour security. He further added that Mr. Shehand is the type of guy that will not do anything wrong or illegal.

Alderman Fortenbery stated that we have to be fair to everyone which includes the residents.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis stated that the board needs more time to figure out a win-win situation.

Alderman Gray stated that he has not seen the application come before the board for the first trailer.

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

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

**Alderman Dillard made a motion to table recommendation of the City Planner to amend B-4 zoning district regulations until the board can get a workshop together. Seconded by Alderman Gray. The motion carried with Alderman Pollard opposing.**

## **RECEIVE BIDS**

Mayor Middleton opened and acknowledged bids for the One Year General Supplies, Construction Materials, & Contract Services.

**Alderman Fortenbery made a motion to take the bids under advisement. Seconded by Alderman Gray. The motion carried unanimously.**

## **VISITORS WELCOMED**

### **The Veterans' Service**

Mr. Jackson from the VA Medical Center presented a plaque to Mr. Theodore Earl Drane for his continued years of commitment.

### **Smokey Joe Frank**

Mr. Frank discussed the idea of revitalizing the two antique fire engines that are on John R Junkin Drive next to the fire station and place them where they can be seen by tourists.

### **Hayden Petkovsek**

Mr. Petkovsek discussed his concerns with DirtWorks untimely promises. He further stated that the yards have not been landscaped back to their original state. There was no garbage service for two months; the newspaper was only received 3 days per week, and there was no mail service for two weeks because of the project. He further added that the maps that were given when he sold the easement do not correspond to where DirtWorks is working.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Alderman Fields stated that there was a meeting last week between the residents of Brumfield Apartments, Section 8 representatives, and himself. He added that it was a really good meeting. He further noted that a lot of residents have made arrangements to transfer to other places. He said that there are monies available to help assist with transferring/moving. He further noted that there are monies that can possibly go towards paying utilities.

Alderman Fields stated that he is having trouble finding suitable places for some residents that are not very mobile and are not able to get out and look for properties.

Alderman Arceneaux asked Mayor Middleton to include Attorney Walter Brown and Attorney Sanders in the next work session to thoroughly discuss and explain the obligations that the city has in the LUMPS program.

Alderman Dillard stated that the written notice that was delivered to Premier Gaming by certified mail also needs a copy of the minutes/resolution so that they will understand that the board's intentions are on record.

Attorney Sanders stated that he will be sure to take care of the matter.

## **DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS**

### **ENGINEERING – David Gardner**

Mr. Gardner stated that on the Daisy Street project, he has a contract with Jordan, Kaiser, and Sessions and he needs authorization of the mayor to execute it. He added that this is for the design and inspection services regarding the project.

**Alderman Gray made a motion to allow the mayor to execute the contract with Jordan, Kaiser, and Sessions for the Daisy Street project. Seconded by Alderman Fields. The motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Gardner stated that the surveys are complete for the six EWP sites and they are now working on the plans and specifications.

Mr. Gardner stated that they are about 40% complete with the plans and specifications on the St. Catherine Street Forks of the Road Trails Project. He added that they are considering bringing master gardeners in to assist with the landscaping.

Mr. Gardner stated that there will be a public meeting regarding Phase II of the Trails project on Thursday, March 10, 2011 at the Holy Family School at 5:30 and the public is invited to attend.

Mr. Gardner stated that the design phase of the Regional Transportation Facility is underway. He added that they will have a technical meeting with the designers.

Mr. Gardner stated that they are working on the plans and specifications for the FAU streets (Liberty Road, Ratcliff, and Brenham Avenue) and they are about 50% complete.

Mr. Gardner stated that the LED traffic lights have arrived and Mr. Freeman will be incorporating the lights.

### **PLANNING – BOB NIX**

Mr. Nix introduced his Assistant City Planner Denik Simon. He added that Ms. Simon's assignment was to put together certified local government grant application that do require a local match.

Mr. Nix submitted a list of all the unsafe structures in Wards 1 and 2. He stated that there will be a workshop to discuss how they will deal with the budget and policy issues of the properties.

## **CITY OFFICIALS' REPORT**

### **ALDERWOMAN ARCENEAUX-MATHIS – Ward 1**

Aldерwoman Arceneaux-Mathis stated to Mr. Gardner that if there are any Marble Stone/ West Steirs Lane Project updates or changes to give the information to Alderman Gray or Alderman Dillard so that she can get it when she goes to Washington.

Aldерwoman Arceneaux-Mathis stated that on the North Natchez Drainage Phase 2B, they have given the information to Representative Johnson concerning possible funding from the Mississippi Legislature.

Aldерwoman Arceneaux-Mathis stated that they have been in discussions with the Delta Regional Transportation and are waiting for them to contact the city with a reply.

Aldерwoman Arceneaux-Mathis stated that they have found out that there are some Gustav funds. She added that that the City has resubmitted an application where the funding can possible come through MDA.

Aldерwoman Arceneaux-Mathis stated that she suggests that the board look through the PERS report thoroughly. She added that because of the 25% loss that PERS incurred in 2008 there were 17 cities that had a 30 year projected term from 1980 to 2020 and they were given an amount of money that they would have to pay into the PERS fund to cover the employees. She further stated that three suggestions were discussed. The city can continue to levy the amount of mills that we are levying currently and make a balloon payment on 2020. The city can go up on millage on the 2020 date to cover the employees, or the city can look into extending its time and decreasing the millage. Aldерwoman Arceneaux-Mathis also stated that we need to look into it because we do not want to make a balloon payment.

Aldерwoman Arceneaux-Mathis said that the Chamber of Commerce put on a nice event for the Board of Supervisors and the Board of Aldermen. She added that if the boards could cooperate and collaborate more, then the boards could get more things done for the community. She further added that the boards will need to meet to organize and prioritize a list of needs for this community and invite the legislative delegation.

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

Alderman Gray read the monthly police report.

Alderman Gray stated that he attended the Board of Supervisors meeting yesterday and littering was the topic of discussion. He added that the county increased the littering fine from \$500 to \$1,000. He further stated that the city should make a commercial showing the serious consequences of littering.

Alderman Gray congratulated the Co-Lin Lady Wolves for winning the State and Regional Championships. He added that the two local ladies on the team are Miss Bradley and Miss Blanton.

Alderman Gray stated that there will be a Team Summit that will be held on Saturday April 2, 2011 at the Alcorn State University Nursing School Natchez Campus from 8am- 12pm.

Alderman Gray provided concerns from constituents to Mr. Atkins regarding water drainage issues.

Alderman Gray stated that the board needs to start back operating the Community Development Project Budget requests.

Alderman Gray stated that his condolences go out to the Sewell, Bonds, Harper, Reynolds, Simpson, Scott, Tedder, and Chandler Russ Family.

### **ALDERMAN POLLARD – WARD 3**

No Report

### **ALDERMAN FIELDS – WARD 4**

Alderman Fields discussed several streets that Natchez Water Works has either patched or is in the process of patching.

Alderman Fields stated that there is a request for cash from Allen Laird of Southwest MS Planning and Development in the amount of \$23,560.50 and \$3,040.00 for the Energy Efficiency Community Block Grant that will be refunded to the City.

**Alderman Fields made a motion to approve \$23,560.50 and \$3,040.00 to Southwest MS Planning and Development for the Energy Efficiency Community Block Grant that will be refunded to the City. Seconded by Alderman Dillard. The motion carried unanimously.**

Alderman Fields stated that there will be a public meeting regarding the Forks of the Road Trails project on Thursday, March 10, 2011 at the Holy Family School at 5:30 and the public is invited to attend.

Alderman Fields stated that he had an opportunity to tour the Waste Water treatment plant facility. He added that it is state of the art.

Alderman Fields discussed the malfunction of the light on the corner of Martin Luther King Jr. Street and Minor Street. He also discussed lighting issues on Fletcher and Vidal Street.

Alderman Fields discussed the need for more police presence in the Cedar Hurst Apartments area.

### **ALDERMAN FORTENBERY – WARD 5**

No Report

### **ALDERMAN DILLARD – WARD 6**

Alderman Dillard stated that this past weekend the Greenwave were in action. He added that the kids in the program did a marvelous job on the entry into the Duncan Park. He further added that in a two hour span, they had accomplished a great amount of work.

Alderman Dillard stated that they were able to use monies in the budget to do the necessary repairs to the Tennis Shop. He added that there is more work to be done but the repairs were needed.

Alderman Dillard stated that on April 8<sup>th</sup> the Chamber of Commerce will have its 18<sup>th</sup> annual golf scramble at Duncan Park. He added that he is very excited about having it at Duncan Park. He further added that it would be a good idea if the Chamber could host an Elected Officials scramble, pairing up the Board of Supervisors and Board of Aldermen so that they can get to know each other on a different level.

Alderman Dillard stated that we need the 5<sup>th</sup> trail to be under the hill. He added that if so, we can begin the stimulus of economic recovery for downtown Natchez and under the hill. He further added that the trail comes in first, come back with a road, add parking and infrastructure, and then you grow it; and then the people will come here to enjoy it.

Alderman Dillard stated that there will be four years before Natchez's 300<sup>th</sup> birthday. He added that we should have something done at Fort Rosalie because it is the largest dilapidated property owner in the city.

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

Mayor Middleton asked the board to approve docket #3382 – 3859 and #32089 and #353409 docket.

**Alderman Fortenbery made a motion to approve docket #3382 – 3859 and #32089 and #353409. Seconded by Alderman Dillard. The motion carried with Alderman Gray opposing.**

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

Attorney Sanders stated that he placed a proposed agreement between the Garden Club and the City of Natchez in connection with the use of the City Auditorium in each Alderman's box. He added that he recommends approval.

**Alderman Fortenbery made a motion to approve and enter into an agreement between the Garden Club and the City of Natchez in connection with the use of the City Auditorium. Seconded by Alderman Dillard. The motion carried unanimously.**

## **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Middleton stated that the Chief of Police would like to order two new police cruisers.

**Alderman Gray made a motion to allow the Chief to order two new police cars. Seconded by Alderman Fields. The motion carried with Alderman Dillard opposing.**

Mayor Middleton stated that he was asked by Mr. Grennell if the city would like to co-sponsor a reception for Dr. Brown at Alcorn State University.

**Alderman Fields made a motion to allow the mayor to co-sponsor a reception for Dr. Brown at Alcorn State University. Seconded by Alderman Dillard. The motion carried unanimously.**

Mayor Middleton stated that April 22<sup>nd</sup> will be declared the Steven Ridley day. He added that a proclamation is currently being put together.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Alderman Fields made a motion that the City Planner develops an ordinance for the board in consideration to regulate a time to stop the sale of alcohol and closing times for bars and nightclubs in the city limits. Seconded by Alderman Gray. The motion carried unanimously.**

Mayor Middleton stated that this will not result in changing our resort status.

Alderman Gray stated that the Rhythm Night Club marker on the bluff is out of place. He added that it should be at the site on St. Catherine Street where the fire actually occurred.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**A motion was made by Alderman Fields, seconded by Alderman Fortenbery to Adjourn the Regular Meeting of March 8, 2011. The motion carried unanimously.**

**ATTEST:**

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**JAKE MIDDLETON  
MAYOR**

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**DONNIE HOLLOWAY  
CITY CLERK**