

REGULAR MEETING

March 22, 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 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 22, 2011. Mayor Jake Middleton presided at the meeting, which was opened with prayer by Reverend Doug Broome.

MAYOR & BOARD PRESENT	ELECTED OFFICIALS ABSENT	CITY OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEADS
John ‘Jake’ Middleton Mayor		Coretta L. Logan, Deputy Clerk Donnie Holloway, City Clerk Everett Sanders, City Attorney Sabrena Bartley, Senior Center David Gardner, City Engineer Connie Taunton, Tourism Director Oliver Stewart, Fire Chief Natchez Democrat
Joyce Arceneaux-Mathis Aldерwoman, 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 Fields to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the Regular and Finance Meetings of March 8, 2011 and adopt the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Alderman Pollard. The motion carried unanimously.

VISITORS WELCOMED

Debbie Hudson

Mrs. Hudson invited the board and the public to sign up for the Regionalism Luncheon that will be held tomorrow at the Natchez Convention Center at 11:45am. She added that there will be discussion on how Louisiana and Mississippi can work together in efforts of regionalism.

Mrs. Hudson stated that the Chamber has an Education Committee that has been meeting for two years. She added that it consists of public and private schools. She further added that on April 13th there will be a “Get on the Bus” tour that will begin at Natchez High School and end at Susie B. West. She noted that this will be a way to familiarize ourselves of all the schools that are in the community.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Brumfield Apartments

Alderman Fields recognized the Brumfield residents in the audience. He added that the board is working hard but, the clock is ticking for the Brumfield residents.

Alderman Fields requested more police presence at the Brumfield area at night.

Brian Marvel of Natchez spoke on behalf of his mother who lives at Brumfield Apartments. He added that he feels that the board is qualified enough to work together to help the residents of Brumfield. He further added that he is deeply concerned because his mother is still there.

Alderman Fields stated that the clock is ticking and the residents of Brumfield need to relocate into a safe environment because on March 31st the building is going to go black.

Alderman Fields recognized Catholic Charities representative, Cynthia Jackson to speak before the board. Mrs. Jackson stated that they have attempted to contact everyone in the Brumfield Apartments. She added that if there is anyone that has not been assisted please give her a call because it is her desire to assist the residents with their relocation needs.

Alderman Fields stated that if there are units available, please accept it until a more desirable unit becomes available.

Mr. Willie B. Jones stated that the management company has left without returning the tenants deposits. He added that with all the violations that the management company committed, the City could have had several thousand dollars from the company due to their repeated violations.

Pre Manufactured Home

Alderman Fortenbery made a motion to deny the application for a special text amendment to allow accessory residential units in a B4 zoning district. Seconded by Alderman Gray. The motion carried unanimously.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

POLICE DEPARTMENT – Chief Mullins

Chief Mullins stated that it has been determined that employee number 302380 has violated City of Natchez personnel policy section 10.2.1. He added that he recommend that he be terminated from employment with the Natchez Police Department.

Alderman Fortenbery made a motion to terminate employee #302380 from employment with the Natchez Police Department. Seconded by Alderman Gray. The motion carried unanimously.

ENGINEERING – David Gardner

Mr. Gardner stated that he would like the board to accept all low bidders for the General bids of April 1, 2011 to March 31, 2012.

Alderman Dillard made a motion to accept all bidders for the General bids of April 1, 2011 to March 31, 2012. Seconded by Alderman Fortenbery. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gardner stated that he would like to get approval to execute change order no. 3 in the amount of \$100,252.15. He added that it is for a multitude of items that were needed for the North Natchez Drainage project which were discovered while they were doing the construction. He also added that 75% will be reimbursed by the Corp of Engineers.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis made a motion to execute change order no. 3 in the amount of \$100,252.15 for North Natchez Drainage project in which 75% will be reimbursed by the Corp of Engineers. Seconded by Alderman Gray. The motion carried unanimously.

PLANNING – BOB NIX

Mr. Nix discussed the 937 North Union Street property. He added that Mr. Fred Gallor spoke with Youth Build and they indicated that they could do the demolition work within 2-3 weeks. However, the asbestos would have to be removed before they could begin

Mr. Nix stated that there are 8 properties that have permits issued for demolition. Mr. Nix added that there is no city grant money available for the Neighborhood Stabilization Program.

TOURISM – DARRYL WHITE

Mr. White submitted copies of the African American History brochure. He added that the brochures were funded through a grant from the National Park Service.

RECREATION – WILBERT WHITLEY

Mr. Whitley stated that the Natchez Recreation Department will have its Youth League basketball awards on Saturday March 26, 2011 at 11:00 am and the Adult League Championship Game on Sunday March 27, 2011.

CITY OFFICIALS' REPORT

ALDERMAN GRAY, Ward 2

Alderman Gray stated that he spoke with Mr. Atkins and Mr. Dollar about a situation on Old Washington Road. He added that Mr. Dollar is going to be doing some work to alleviate the problem.

Alderman Gray discussed his concerns regarding overgrown lots and kudzu on Martin Luther King. He added that he understand that the city is short handed on grass cutters but the lots need to be cut immediately.

Alderman Gray stated that Mrs. Obama gave a speech at one of the sessions on community wellness. He added that we need to start putting activities in place to help the kids become more active outside. He further stated that we need to take obesity serious and get on the bandwagon.

Alderman Gray stated that he went to a class on preventing gang violence and building communities where young people thrive.

Alderman Gray stated that the main concerns expressed at the conference were the possible cuts of the CDBG funds.

Alderman Gray stated that he attended the diversity breakfast. He added that all races come out and have breakfast. He also added that it is one of the best breakfasts he ever attended.

Alderman Gray congratulated Reverend Leon Howard for being appointed to the Evangelist board of the State Convention.

Alderman Gray congratulated Mr. David King for being Coach of the Year and Travon Chatman for being Player of the Year.

Alderman Gray stated that there is a serious problem with HIV in the world. He added that we need to find a way to have educational training on HIV.

Alderman Gray stated that his sympathy goes out to the Bland and Doss families.

ALDERMAN POLLARD – WARD 3

Alderman Pollard stated that he would like to thank Public Works and Water Works for their help in Ward 3. He added that he asked for their assistance and they were there

immediately. He also stated that there is a serious problem on Dunkerron Road and if the matter is not taken care of immediately the road will disappear. He noted that the two departments are on it and they will take care of it.

ALDERMAN FIELDS – WARD 4

Alderman Fields requested that the Mayor have John Hilbert, the new manager of Cable One, to come before the board at our next regularly schedule meeting. He added that the board needs to meet with him in lieu of the recent changes that were made.

Alderman Fields stated that last week there was a public meeting for Phase 2 of the trails project. He added that it was a great success. He further added that Mimi Miller and the Engineering Department gave a great presentation. He noted that he would like plenty of lighting for the area.

ALDERMAN FORTENBERY – WARD 5

Alderman Fortenbery made a motion to authorize the engineering department to take under contract the latest bids received on grass cutting pending the City Clerk's review of funds availability. Seconded by Alderman Dillard. The motion carried unanimously.

ALDERMAN DILLARD – WARD 6

Alderman Dillard stated that this year the Chamber of Commerce will have its annual golf event at Duncan Park. He added that he encourages everyone to come out and participate because it is an event for the city, in the city, and it will do good all the way around.

Alderman Dillard stated that in Washington, he was able to speak with congressional members and brought up the Fort Rosalie issue. He added that this will be an excellent opportunity for them to maintain the property and get it in a condition where the public can have access and to enjoy the view of the Mississippi River. He further added that he hopes to see some work done on the property before the end of this year.

Alderman Dillard asked the City Clerk where are we with the repayment of the tax anticipation loan.

Mr. Holloway stated that it has been paid since February.

Alderman Dillard noted that the City had until March 15th to repay the loan and it was repaid in February. He added that we are in compliance with the concept of the tax anticipation loan.

Alderman Dillard stated that they are anxiously waiting on the application of the new accounting software. He added that he needs the City Clerk to give a timeframe on the implementation of the software.

Mr. Holloway stated that he met with the staff yesterday regarding the software. He added that the Spring Brook representative sent him an email but he did not get a chance to read it. He further stated that he will come back with an update on the software.

Alderman Dillard stated that it is critically important that we get the software in place so that we can begin taking advantage of it. He added that this is how we will begin managing our monies, meeting our obligations, and providing all of the services.

ALDERWOMAN ARCENEUX-MATHIS – Ward 1

Alderman Arceneux-Mathis stated she met with Mr. Atkins, Mr. Bowley, and Mr. Ashley and walked the Wall Street Drainage project. She added that the project is beginning to be over a 12million dollar project. She also added that the people of Wall Street will be living in a better situation.

Alderman Arceneux-Mathis made a motion that the City of Natchez meets immediately with the US Corps of Engineers Vicksburg district to completely understand the status of the CPA on the Phase 2B project. Seconded by Alderman Gray.

Alderman Arceneux-Mathis stated that it is her understanding that we have a signed CPA for Phase 2B. She added that they are running under a continuing resolution and have not adopted the new budget. If the money is in the budget for 2010 then we are alright. She further stated that we need to go immediately and find out our status so that we will not be cut off like we were before.

Alderman Dillard stated that he would like for Hartman Engineering to be available as well to give the board project information on Phase 2B.

The motion carried unanimously.

Alderman Arceneux-Mathis made a motion that the city gets with the County Supervisors and develop a joint resolution opposing any cuts to CDBG Funds. Seconded by Alderman Fields. The motion carried unanimously.

Alderman Arceneux-Mathis stated that in Washington, they met with Congressmen Harper and Thompson, and his chief of staff, and Congressman Steven Palazzo. She added that they wanted to make sure that they saw everyone that is representing Mississippi because they will need everyone's support on finishing the 592 project. She added that they also met with the staff of Senator Cochran's and Senator Wicker's offices.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis stated that she cautions all city personnel regarding comments made in emails. Please keep all email professional and specifically on the subject of the email. She added that in her opinion, jokes and other outside comments should not be attached.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis discussed the various speakers in Washington including former Kentucky Secretary of State Trey Grayson's discussion on how to agree to disagree. She stated that the next workshop was the elementary and secondary education act, which has not been funded yet. She further stated that she also attended that breakfast and the speaker from California was wonderful and Mrs. Obama did a wonderful job as well.

CITY CLERK'S REPORT, DONNIE HOLLOWAY

No Report.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT, Everett Sanders

Attorney Sanders stated that he had a resolution authorizing the mayor to sign off on the release of funds for the roofing in connection with the Community Development Community Block Grant to the Southwest MS Planning and Development District which will be refunded.

Alderman Fields made a motion to authorized for the mayor to sign off on the release of funds to the Southwest MS Planning and Development District from the Community Development Block Grant for the roofing with the provision the finds be reimbursed. Seconded by Alderman Arceneaux-Mathis. The motion carried unanimously.

MAYOR'S REPORT

No Report

NEW BUSINESS

Alderman Fields stated that there will be a memorial prayer service on March 26th, 5:00 pm at the Macedonia Baptist Church for the two Graves children that were burned in the tragic house fire last year.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Alderman Fields, seconded by Alderman Fortenbery to Adjourn the Regular Meeting of March 22, 2011. The motion carried unanimously.

ATTEST:

**JAKE MIDDLETON
MAYOR**

**DONNIE HOLLOWAY
CITY CLERK**