

REGULAR MEETING
July 26, 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, July 26, 2011. Mayor Jake Middleton presided at the meeting, which was opened with prayer by Reverend Jones.

MAYOR & BOARD PRESENT	ELECTED OFFICIALS ABSENT	CITY OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEADS
John ‘Jake’ Middleton Mayor		Donnie Holloway, City Clerk Diane Holland, Deputy Clerk Everett Sanders, City Attorney
Joyce Arceneaux-Mathis Alderwoman, Ward 1	Mark Fortenbery Alderman, Ward 5	Sabrena Bartley, Senior Center Oliver Stewart, Fire Chief Salena Edwards, Recreation Natchez Democrat
J. “Ricky” Gray, Jr. Alderman, Ward 2		
Bob Pollard Alderman, Ward 3		
Ernest “Tony” Fields Alderman, Ward 4		
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 June 14, 2011 and adopt the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Alderman Pollard. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING

Alderman Pollard made a motion to go out of regular order to hold a Public Hearing. Seconded by Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Nix discussed that James Myers has an application to rezone property adjacent to the Tobacco Mart from B-1 and R-2 to B4. He added that the Planning Commission recommended approval in their May meeting. He further added that the zoning map needs to be amended as well.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis made a motion to approve application PC-11-16 to rezone property adjacent to the Tobacco Mart from B-1 and R-2 to B4 and to amend the zoning map. Seconded by Alderman Gray.

VISITORS WELCOMED

GILLON & COMPANY, Deanne Tanksley

Deanne Tanksley appeared for Gillon & Co. to advise the Board of the September 30, 2010 Audit. A copy of the Audit was provided for the Mayor and Board. She stated it was a clean audit opinion after adjustments, etc. She referenced two reporting formats; (1) accrual on page 16 where there was an increase of net assets of \$1.6 million which does not include Water Works, etc., and (2) Applied Modified Accrual which showed the city had an increase of assets of \$800K. The difference is where and how the expenses are treated on the statement themselves. The Audit shows that the City is moving out of the process of borrowing funds and did reduce the cost of government by \$2 million. Internal controls are noted on page 96: the Budget was not amended as required by law last July. This is only to make a point to the Board and not to give an opinion on internal control. Further information is on page 90-92. The federal programs met all requirements and 75% of the federal monies were spent. There were some time issues on information required by the Audit and delays due to the understaffing situation of the City Clerk's office.

Alderman Dillard made a motion to adopt the audit report from Gillon & Company. Seconded by Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis. The motion carried unanimously.

Worthy Women of Watkins Street Cemetery Association

Mrs. stated that they are asking for help in securing funds for the upkeep Watkins Street Cemetery. She added that there is no revenue to generate for the upkeep of the cemetery other than asking the public and organizations for help. She further added that there are no plots that are being sold there.

Alderman Gray stated that the City and the County need to get together to do what we have to do because the House Bill is already in place.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis stated that the cemetery was going to be declared historical once it reaches 100 yrs.

Mrs. Sanders said the cemetery reached 100 years old in March 2009. She added that now the cemetery is 102 years old.

Alderman Gray made a motion that the City seeks designation that Watkins Street cemetery is a historic cemetery. Seconded by Alderman Dillard. The motion carried unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis stated that the business owners around the reconstruction of the Collendae and Old Railroad depot building would like a time line in know what they will have to do so that their businesses can continue. She added that they are requesting to meet with the City Planner and City Engineer, including herself.

Mayor Middleton stated that they will be notified when the city receives the grant.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Chief Mullins–Police Department

Chief Mullins stated that an application for the Justice Assistance Grant is due 8/31/11. This will be used for the purchase of in-car video equipment, and will require a 25% match from the City in the amount of \$15,000.

Alderman Gray made a motion to allow Southwest MS Planning to pursue the Justice Assistance Grant for patrol car videos. Second by Alderman Fields. The motion carried unanimously.

Bob Nix –Planning Department

Mr. Nix stated that he needs to determine how Mississippi State Law works with respect to conducting a mineral extraction industrial type activity in a residential zoning district. He further added that the board may need to consult with the Preservation Commission.

David Gardner – Engineering

Mr. Gardner stated that the MDEQ Illegal dumpsite project is 100% complete. He added that all the reimbursements have been submitted to the state.

Mr. Gardner stated that the MEMA/FEMA meetings have been going well. He added that MEMA is saying that the sandbags that were not touched by water are not contaminated but the sand bags that have been touched by water are contaminated and must be hauled to a landfill. He added that will be an expense to us including the tree and logs from Cooper Street.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis made a motion to allow City Engineer the authority to utilize the competitive bids for hauling that meet the criteria for FEMA/MEMA. Seconded by Alderman Gray. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gardner stated that the state will cut the grass one more time but in the meantime, they are working with MDOT to develop an agreement so that it can be in place for next year and there are no delays.

Mr. Gardner stated that there is a Daisy Street meeting Thursday to go over the plans with the engineers. He added that the plans are almost done and they are to a point where they are ready to move forward.

Mr. Gardner stated that the Regional Transportation building is about 60% complete on the engineering drawings.

Mr. Gardner stated that the Phase 2 B right of way contract has been executed with Ridgepoint Realty.

CITY OFFICIALS' REPORT

ALDERMAN POLLARD – WARD 3

Alderman Pollard stated that he would like to commend all department heads for helping cut expenses by \$2 million dollars. He added that on behalf of himself and the other aldermen he thanks them for their assistance.

Alderman Pollard stated that the brand new fire truck is ready for inspection. He added that Chief Stewart will be traveling to Wisconsin to check out the truck and we will have a report from him in late August. He further added that the travel is at no expense to the city.

ALDERMAN FIELDS – WARD 4

Alderman Fields stated that there will be a Memorial service at the Minorville Jubilee on Friday at 7:00. He added that Saturday morning will be a processional starting at 10:00. He further added that the rest of the day will be a day of family fun and fellowship.

Alderman Fields indicated that there is a house in the Ashburn neighborhood that needs to be placed on the adjudication list.

Alderman Fields stated that the Pilgrim Baptist Church will have its back to school explosion on August 2nd at 7:00pm.

Alderman Fields asked that Mayor Middleton set up a meeting with Mr. Hilbert from Cable One. He added that he is still receiving calls from dissatisfied customers.

ALDERMAN FORTENBERY – WARD 5

Absent

ALDERMAN DILLARD – WARD 6

Alderman Dillard stated that the Norman Puck Junior Golf program and the city tournament will be coming up. He added that the course is looking good. He further added that there are still some problems with the pump, but they are working on that.

Alderman Dillard stated that they are looking to implement the new accounting software in October. He added that it will be a tremendous asset for the city.

Alderman Dillard stated that by law, we have to revise the budget in July. He added that we have got to get to October without borrowing any additional monies.

ALDERWOMAN ARCENEAUX-MATHIS – WARD 1

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis stated that the Festival of Music Committee had a meeting on July 14th. She added that they are looking for grants for lightening outside and handicapped accessible parking, and two public restrooms.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis stated that she attended the meeting with Mr. Jay Pearson. The MS Protocol Etiquette program will include grades 7 – 12. And the program will have approximately 35 students.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis stated that on August 19th, she and Alderman Dillard did a walk through on Wall and Madison Street.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis stated that there is an extreme traffic and speed problem on Oak Street.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis made a motion that the board adopts a resolution to authorize Southwest MS Planning to submit the home investment partnership grant on behalf of the city of Natchez. Seconded by Alderman Fields. The motion carried unanimously.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis made a motion to authorize Southwest MS Planning to advertise and hold a public hearing for the home grant on August 16th at 5:00 pm. Seconded by Alderman Gray. The motion carried unanimously.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis stated that the residents of Beverly Hills are saying that there are two bad humps in the area that are in bad shape. She added that she also needs more carpe fish for the pond.

ALDERMAN GRAY – WARD 2

Alderman Gray asked Mr. Gardner to check into the large cut in the street on Martin Luther King. He added that it may be a gas company problem.

Alderman Gray stated that the Daisy Street Reunion was a successful reunion.

Alderman Gray stated that we have some really bad streets in the city. He added that we are going to have to find a way to address it. He further added that we may have to do a bond to overlay some of the streets.

Alderman Gray stated that his condolences go out to the McKinnley, Frye, Brown, Logan, Thomas, Barber, and Worley families.

CITY CLERK'S REPORT, DONNIE HOLLOWAY

Mr. Holloway stated that he would like the board to approve the revised budget.

Alderman Gray made a motion to approve the revised budget. Seconded by Alderman Fields. The motion carried unanimously.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT, Everett Sanders

Attorney Sanders asked that the board approve the lease subject to his review and consultation with an Oil and Gas attorney regarding the lease.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis made a motion to approve the lease subject to his review and consultation to the Oil and Gas attorney regarding the lease. Seconded by Alderman Fields. The motion carried with Alderman Dillard opposing.

MAYOR'S REPORT

No Report

NEW BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Alderman Fields, seconded by Alderman Gray to Adjourn the Regular Meeting of July 26, 2011. The motion carried unanimously.

ATTEST:

**JAKE MIDDLETON
MAYOR**

**DONNIE HOLLOWAY
CITY CLERK**