

**City of Natchez**  
**Minutes**  
**Mayor and Board of Aldermen**  
**Special Call Meeting**

**Thursday, January 3, 2019**

**11:00 AM**

**Council Chambers Building**

Board Secretary, Kaytlyn McDonald

1. Call to Order
  2. Silent Prayer & Pledge of Allegiance
  3. Roll Call by Interim City Clerk:  
Present: Mayor Darryl V. Grennell  
Alderwoman Joyce Arceneaux Mathis  
Alderman Joe Frazier  
Alderwoman Sarah Carter Smith  
Alderwoman Felicia Irving  
Alderman Benjamin Davis  
Alderman Dan Dillard
- Also Present: Interim City Clerk, James Johnston  
Robert Latham, City Attorney

*Bridgett Pollard, Natchez Housing Authority*

Informed the Mayor & Board of Aldermen of safety issues being undertaken by the NHA including receiving proposals to place between 75 to 100 security cameras at Marilyn Heights and Ram Circle Apartments, meaning 100% of these properties will be under surveillance.

Police Chief, Walter Armstrong, was asked if they were integrated with Project NOLA. Chief Armstrong responded no but that Project NOLA was contacted to see if they wanted to submit a proposal.

Ms. Pollard did comment that the monitoring station would be housed at their offices on St. Catherine and that space was being provided to the Natchez Police Department as well. Ms. Pollard went on to say that the Natchez Housing Authority Commissioners are expected to make an award on January 19, 2019 when they meet again.

Alderwoman Mathis requested that Mr. Ingram and the Natchez Housing Authority be invited to the next board meeting.

*Justin Dollar, Natchez Public Works*

Mr. Dollar is requesting permission to advertise for construction for the identified Emergency Watershed Program (EWP) sites listed as follows –

- 129 & 139 Homochitto Street
- 131 Linden
- 131 Lower Woodville Road
- 1823 & 1825 Wheeler
- 20 Roundale
- 26 Cemetery Road
- 370 West Stiers Lane
- 83 ½ & 85 Brenham Ave.
- 124 Pecanwood
- 122 Briarwood

**A motion was made by Alderwoman Irving, seconded by Alderwoman Mathis, to allow Mr. Dollar to proceed in advertising these projects. The motion carried unanimously.**

Alderwoman Mathis asked what the estimated project budget was.

Mr. Dollar replied the NRCS estimate was \$2,049,379.50 but did emphasize that it included Marin Avenue.

*Chief Walter Armstrong and Captain Tom McGehee, Natchez Police Department* Chief Armstrong, with assistance from Captain McGehee, discussed the MSWIN Network procurement process, bids received, the number of radios, both portable and mobile, to be requested for the Natchez Police Department, Fire Department and Public Works as well as the required auxiliary equipment.

The city is proposing to purchase 29 mobile and 50 portable radios, 10 with encryption, for the police department and 8 for Public Works. For the time being, the Natchez Police Department and Public Works will let the Natchez Fire Department borrow surplus radios until it is determined if a pending grant will receive funding consideration.

The two bids being considered are –

Com South	\$165,178.00	Jackson Communication	\$190,617.00
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Jackson Communication is offering Motorola equipment and the MSWIN network was built by Motorola.

See the attached Natchez Police Department report that is hereby made a part of the minutes summarizing justification for the purchase of the Motorola equipment from Jackson Communication. In addition, the Motorola equipment can be purchased using MS State Contract Pricing #3429 whereas other vendor equipment can not.

**A motion was made by Alderman Frazier, seconded by Alderwoman Mathis to select Jackson Communication as the lowest and best bid totaling \$190,617.00 and to incorporate the justification for the bid as provided by the Natchez Police Department in the affixed PowerPoint Presentation and to allow the City Clerk to issue a Purchase Order for up to \$150,000.00 for the purchase of the equipment. The motion carried unanimously.**

*James Johnston, Interim City Clerk and Planning & Community Development*

**Per staff request to close dormant bank accounts, etc.**

The entire fund balance(s) from Fund 182 and Fund 337 need to be merged into one account and retitled to **NATCHEZ TRANSIT CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND**. Per Mrs. Bartley, these are earmarked that they should not be commingled with the General Fund or Natchez Transit Operating funds.

**A motion was made by Alderwoman Mathis, seconded by Alderman Frazier, to allow the clerk to merge the two accounts into one and to open a new account titled “Natchez Transit Capital Improvement Fund”. The motion carried unanimously.**

The board requested an explanation as to why the following funds were being closed and balances transferred -

#171 Hospital Insurance -- \$8,547.47 to 606 Victory Tax Withholding.

Response: The account was only being used as a pass through for Natchez Water Works premiums & COBRA premiums deposits. Ms. Edmonds set up an account line item for these deposits in the 606 Fund to bypass this (unnecessary) step.

# 604 Tax Fund -- \$3,143.51 to 606 Victory Tax Withholding.

Response: This account had not been used in a few years. All payments are run through the 606 Fund.

The Clerk's office had to make a "budget line item" inter-fund loan from the General Fund to Recreation Fund #126 in the amount of \$10,000.00 to cover payroll. Staff is requesting permission to retroactively approve this request and to reimburse the General Fund when ad valorem is received.

**A motion was made by Alderwoman Irving, seconded by Alderwoman Mathis, to retroactively approve this request and to allow the Clerk to reimburse the General Fund when ad valorem is received. The motion carried unanimously.**

Staff is requesting permission to set up a new bank account for the city's 2018 CDBG Public Facilities. The account will need to be titled PF18 – Citywide Water Improvement Project.

**A motion was made by Alderwoman Irving, seconded by Alderman Dillard, to allow the Clerk to set up a new bank account for the city's 2018 CDBG Public Facilities grant and title it PF18 – Citywide Water Improvement Project. The motion carried unanimously.**

Staff is requesting permission to set up a new bank account for the \$900,000.00 in BP monies received from the MS Legislature that will be serving as match for the Emergency Watershed Program.

**A motion was made by Alderwoman Mathis, seconded by Alderwoman Irving, to allow the Clerk to set up a new bank account for the BP monies received from the MS Legislature that will be serving as match for the Emergency Watershed Program. The motion carried unanimously.**

Staff is requesting approval of the December and January mini dockets.

**A motion was made by Alderwoman Mathis, seconded by Alderwoman Irving, to approve the December 2018 and January 2019 mini dockets. The motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Johnston asked that Mr. Johnny Byrne of Byrne Insurance come forward to discuss in detail the automatic renewal of the city's automobile and property & liability insurance policies that expired on December 31, 2018.

*Johnny Byrne, Byrne Insurance*

Mr. Byrne noted a savings of approximately \$6,500.00 for FY19 between the two insurances, and that typically MS Municipal Services is one-half to two-thirds less expensive than competing insurance companies. In addition, Byrne Insurance solicits proposals every two to four years to make sure they are offering the most competitive rates available.

**A motion was made by Alderwoman Mathis, seconded by Alderman Frazier, to ratify the renewal of the city's automobile and property & liability insurance policies that expired on December 31, 2018. The motion carried unanimously.**

A Monthly Budget Report for the period ending 12/31/18 was provided to the board from Ms. Megan Edmonds.

Mr. Latham discussed in brief the need to approve the Natchez Health Insurance Plan that went into effect on October 1, 2018 with LS & Associates.

Roll Call Vote to approve the Natchez Health Insurance Plan --

Alderwoman Mathis	Aye
Alderman Frazier	Aye
Alderwoman Smith	Nay
Alderwoman Irving	Aye
Alderman Davis	Aye
Alderman Dillard	Aye

The Roll Call vote was five (5) voting Aye and one (1) voting Nay.  
The Natchez Health Insurance Plan was approved on a five to one roll call vote.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Irving, seconded by Alderman Dillard, to move to Closed Determination. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Alderman Frazier, seconded by Alderwoman Irving, to move to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing topics covered under personnel, potential litigation, potential lease or purchase of property, as permitted under MS Code ANN 25-41-7. The motion carried unanimously.

No action was taken during Executive Session.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Smith, seconded by Alderman Dillard, to return to Open Session. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Mathis, seconded by Alderwoman Irving, to allow City Attorney Latham to work with a title insurance company to obtain title insurance on the property the City of Natchez owns along the Mississippi River in proximity to Silver Street. The motion carried unanimously.

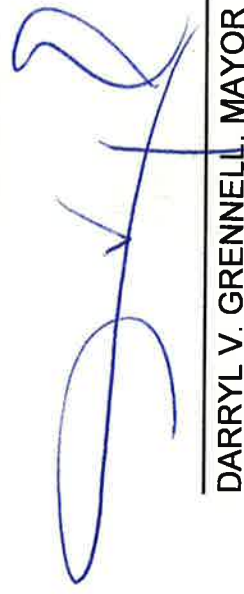
A motion was made by Alderwoman Mathis, seconded by Alderwoman Irving, to allow City Attorney Latham to associate on behalf of the City, Tommy Siler, as outside counsel in representing the City of Natchez in a suit by a prior employee. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Mathis, seconded by Alderwoman Irving, to adjourn the Special Call Meeting of January 3, 2019.

ATTEST:



JAMES JOHNSTON, INTERIM CITY CLERK

  
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DARRYL V. GRENNELL, MAYOR