

**City of Natchez  
Minutes  
Mayor and Board of Aldermen  
Regular Board Meeting**

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**Tuesday, June 8, 2021**

**11:00 AM**

**COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
& VIA TELECONFERENCE**

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Board Secretary, Sevetrius Dillon

1. Call to Order
2. Prayer by Reverend Jim Sanders
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Roll Call by City Clerk:

Present: Mayor Dan Gibson  
Alderwoman Valencia Hall  
Alderman Billie Joe Frazier  
Alderwoman Sarah Carter-Smith  
Alderwoman Felicia Bridgewater-Irving  
Alderman Benjamin Davis (via phone conference)  
Alderman Daniel Dillard

Also Present: Attorney, Walter Brown  
Servia Fortenberry- City Clerk  
Sevetrius Dillon – Chief Deputy City Clerk

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**#252:06/21**

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Alderwoman Irving, seconded by Alderwoman Smith to approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held Tuesday, April 27, 2021. **The vote carried unanimously.**

**#253:06/21**

The Hon. Peyton Prospere appeared before the Board of Aldermen and discussed the process of issuing the proposed Two Million Dollar (\$2,000,000) General Obligation Bond. Mr. Prospere presented a Resolution Of The Mayor And Board Of Aldermen Of The City Of Natchez, Mississippi Declaring The Intention To Issue General Obligation Bonds Of The City In A Principal Amount Of Not To Exceed. Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000) For The Purpose Of (A) Constructing, Improving Or Paving Streets And (B) Constructing, Improving And Repairing Parks And Recreational Facilities, Including Duncan Park; Directing The Publication Of A Notice OF Such Intention; And For Related Purposes. A motion was made by Alderwoman Hall, seconded by Alderwoman Smith, to approve the resolution of intent for a 2,000,000(Two Million Dollar) General Obligation Bond. **The vote carried unanimously.**

**#254:06/21**

A motion was made by Alderwoman Hall, seconded by Alderwoman Smith to approve the schedule of recreation updates/improvements presented to the Board of Aldermen. **The vote carried unanimously.**

**Welcome Visitors**

Clara Foster & LaTarsha Blanton-Bella Rouge Healthcare Inc.

- Discussion on upcoming Health Fair

Brandon McCranie & Jimmy Allgood

- Discussion of first official written documentation of Bigfoot in America

**Other City Business**

Chris Gouras-Gouras & Associates, Chandler Russ and Scott Slover

- The Broadway Redevelopment Project

#255:06/21

A motion was made by Alderwoman Hall, seconded by Alderwoman Irving to take TIF proposal approval under advisement until City Attorney Callaway has reviewed documents. **The vote carried unanimously.**

Jessica Hawkins, Community Liaison-City of Natchez

- Juneteenth 2021 Update

#256:06/21

Mayor requested authority to provide \$1,500 from his travel budget to donate to Juneteenth Celebration on behalf of the City of Natchez. Alderwoman Smith moved to approve donation of \$1,500 to the Juneteenth Celebration by the City of Natchez, and Alderwoman Irving seconded the Motion. **The vote carried unanimously.**

**Unfinished Business: None**

**County Business: None**

**Department Director's Reports**

**James Johnston- Community Development**

- **2021 Special Needs Assistance Program-Federal Home Loan Bank of Dallas**

The City of Natchez, in partnership with member banks Concordia Bank & Trust, Home Bank, contractors Dunn Construction, L. Scott Construction and Natchez Inspection Department recently completed the approved home repairs for fourteen (14) qualified homeowners. Local investment totaled **\$85,188.00**. Since the City of Natchez began collaborating with local member banks on this program, we have assisted one hundred and sixty (160) qualified homeowners representing a total investment of **\$806,953.00**.

- **2020 Affordable Housing Program-Federal Home Loan Bank of Dallas**

As an update – Staff, in partnership with member banks Concordia Bank & Trust and Home Bank has completed the requisite lien and or title searches and 95% of participants have completed the housing counseling course. Of the twenty (20) qualified participants, five (5) will be under contract by 9:00 A.M. Wednesday, June 9, 2021.

#257:06/21

- **Project Silver-Development Infrastructure Program (DIP #427) MS Development Authority**

Staff is requesting a motion to pay Construction Estimate #3, totaling **\$23,275.00**, with the entire sum being paid by the benefitting business, Loss Prevention Services, LLC. **Motion by Alderwoman Hall, second by Alderwoman Smith, to approve resolution authorizing the payment requested. The vote carried unanimously.**

	<b>City of Natchez</b>	<b>Loss Prevention Services, LLC.</b>
Stubbs NK Contracting	\$-0-	\$23,275.00

#258:06/21

- **Cemetery Road EWP-Natural Resource Conservation Service**

Staff has received Pay Estimate #1 from Jordan, Kaiser & Sessions for G. Rayborn Contracting, LLC totaling **\$325,434.66** and is requesting a motion to pay the estimate.

**Motion by Alderwoman Hall, second by Alderwoman Irving, to pay the estimate as requested by the staff. The vote carried unanimously.**

**Jody Rutter- Inspections Department**

- Convention Center (Elevator, lighting and AC issues)

#259:06/21

A motion was made by Alderman Dillard, seconded by Alderwoman Irving to approve repairs to three (3) elevators to include lighting at the Natchez Convention Center in the amount of **\$3,675.00**. The vote carried unanimously.

#260:06/21

A motion was made by Alderman Dillard, seconded by Alderwoman Irving to approve repair to 134-ton unit at the Natchez Convention Center in the amount of **\$14,392.10**. The vote carried unanimously.

**Chief Joseph Daughtry- Natchez Police Department**

- Swearing in of Officer Aaron Wesley
- Approval of travel and per diem for Chief of Police Conference in Biloxi, MS June 13<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>, 2021, to include reimbursement of expenses incurred

#261:06/21

A motion was made by Alderwoman Smith, seconded by Alderwoman Irving to approve travel and per diem for Chief of Police Conference in Biloxi, MS June 13<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>, 2021, to include reimbursement of expenses incurred. The vote carried unanimously.

- Update on Mudbug Festival
- Update on Hank Williams, Jr. Concert (July 4<sup>th</sup>)
- Update on string of car burglaries
- Transfer of Municipal Court Services from Office of City Clerk to Police Department

#262:06/21

A motion was made by Alderwoman Smith, seconded by Alderman Davis to approve the transfer to municipal court services from under the supervision of the Office of the City Clerk to the Department of Public Safety, Police Division. The vote carried unanimously.

**Chief Robert Arrington- Natchez Fire Department**

- Approval of travel and per diem for Fire Chiefs Conference in Biloxi, MS June 25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>, 2021, to include reimbursement of expenses incurred.

#263:06/21

A motion was made by Alderman Davis, seconded by Alderman Dillard to approve travel and per diem for Fire Chiefs Conference in Biloxi, MS June 25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>, 2021, to include reimbursement of expenses incurred. The vote carried unanimously.

**City Officials' Reports**

**Alderwoman Hall**

- Discussion of Civil Debt Relative to Nuisance and Dangerous Properties versus private property liens
- Due to the absence of Attorney Bryan Callaway, no action is requested but would like the board to consider MS Code 21-19-11, moving to civil debt versus lien in the future due to the City not receiving any compensation in relation to the work performed by Mr. Rutter and the Inspection Department.
- Thanked the Mayor's Renewal Task Force on Recreation and the Golf Committee and Fund Raising Committee.
- Request for funding from Community Development Fund 2 Lights at Tennis Court

#264:06/21

Alderwoman Hall requested \$3,000 from Community Development Fund 340 to replace and retrofit lights that were damaged at the tennis courts that were damaged at same time fence was torn down. Alderwoman Hall announced City would attempt to get MEMA to reimburse, but lights need to be replaced at approximately \$1,400 a piece. Alderman Dillard moved to authorize the funds requested, and Alderwoman Hall seconded the Motion. The vote carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Smith, seconded by Alderwoman Irving to authorize the progression of a contract for lease purchase agreement for police and fire department vehicles. **The vote carried unanimously.**

**Alderman Frazier**

- Thanks given to board for approving recreation bond for parks
- Citizens in North Natchez

**Alderwoman Smith**

- Thank you to City of Natchez and County of Adams for the development of jobs
- Would like to schedule the meeting for Safe City Taskforce
- Reminding everyone of crimestoppers hotline
- Wanted to tell Alderman Davis that we miss him.

**Alderwoman Irving**

- Congratulations to the class of 2021 and well wishes on their future endeavors
- Light outages in several areas reported and addressed by Inspections Departments
- The lack of fiber optics in areas are giving poor services, in the black communities and the 200 block of Martin Luther King Street.
- Calls regarding Tulsa Massacre and placing markers on mass graves to identify individuals in the cemetery.
- Drainage issues in the cemetery.
- Emphasis on neighborhood watch meeting.
- Community is questioning will citizens be involved in the decision making on

**Alderman Davis**

- Police and Fire Department are hiring
- Assessments were done on all Fire Stations but the City was not financial ready for improvements needs as well as COVID-19 caused a delay in ability to complete needed improvements.

**Alderman Dillard**

- Natchez is a Film Industry
- Applauds boards for taking steps necessary to attract business

**Servia Fortenberry - City Clerk's Report**

#266:06/21

A motion was made by Alderwoman Hall, seconded by Alderman Davis to approve the **Claims Docket. The vote carried with the Board voting as follows:**

Alderwoman Hall: Aye

Alderman Frazier: Aye

Alderwoman Smith: Aye

Alderwoman Irving: Abstain

Alderman Davis: Aye

Alderman Dillard: Nay

**City Attorney's Report**

Forks of the Road. Deeds have been prepared for donation, and Resolution to authorize Mayor To execute documents to convey is in order.

#267:06/21

A Motion was made by Alderwoman Hall, seconded by Alderwoman Smith, to approve resolution Authorizing Mayor to sign Deeds and documents necessary to convey donation to National Park Service. **Vote carried unanimously.**

- Approval of Location Agreement (Great Escapes with Morgan Freeman)

#268:06/21

A motion was made by Alderwoman Smith, seconded by Alderwoman Hall to approve the Location Agreement between the City of Natchez and Great Escapes with Morgan Freeman to include the indemnification clause. **The vote carried unanimously.**

- Consider waiving potential conflict of interest of counsel for Debristech, LLC

#269:06/21

A motion was made by Alderman Dillard, seconded by Alderwoman Irving to approve the waiver of potential conflict of interest of counsel for Debristech, LLC. **The vote carried unanimously.**

**Mayor's Report**

- Discussion of management options for entertainment at city-owned venues
- Update on crimes issues and steps being taken to improve safety in Natchez
- Update on Summer Worker Program

#270:06/21

A motion was made by Alderwoman Irving, seconded by Alderwoman Hall, to approve working with Jordan, Kaiser Sessions to seek bids and complete the punch list on the NRCS Marin Avenue retaining wall project by June 21<sup>st</sup>. the deadline for completion of project. **The vote carried with the Board voting as follows:**

Alderwoman Hall: Aye  
Alderman Frazier: Absent (Left room)  
Alderwoman Smith: Aye  
Alderwoman Irving: Aye  
Alderman Davis: Aye  
Alderman Dillard: Aye

#271:06/21

A motion was made by Alderwoman Irving, seconded by Alderwoman Hall to enter Executive Session to discuss a previously tabled personnel matter. **The vote carried unanimously.**

**Executive Session**

#272:06/21

**Mayor announced closed determination to enter into executive needed to address hire/fire report. It pertains to a personnel matter regarding an employee on the hire/fire report in an earlier month, and executive session needed because of privacy concerns and because personnel matter.**

Following closed determination, a motion was made by Alderwoman Hall, seconded by Alderwoman Irving to return to regular session. **The vote carried unanimously.**

**Report on Executive Session by Mayor**

- Discussed a matter regarding personnel
  - No Board action was taken

#273:06/21

A motion was made by Alderwoman Smith, seconded by Alderwoman Hall to approve the **Hire/Termination Report** for the month of April. **The vote carried with the Board voting as follows:**

Alderwoman Hall: Aye  
Alderman Frazier: Nay  
Alderwoman Smith: Aye  
Alderwoman Irving: Aye  
Alderman Davis: Aye  
Alderman Dillard: Aye

#274:06/21

A motion was made by Alderwoman Hall, seconded by Alderwoman Irving to approve the **Hire/Termination Report** for the month of May. **The vote carried unanimously.**

**Adjourn**

A motion made by Alderwoman Hall, seconded by Alderman Davis to adjourn the Regular Board Meeting of June 8, 2021 at 2:33 PM.



DAN M. GIBSON, MAYOR

ATTEST:



SERVIA FORTENBERRY, CITY CLERK

