

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

Tuesday, October 13, 2020

11:00 AM

IN-PERSON & TELECONFERENCE
NATCHEZ CONVENTION CENTER

City Clerk, Servia Fortenberry

1. Call to Order
2. Moment of Silent Prayer
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Roll Call by City Clerk:

Present: Mayor Dan Gibson
Alderman Valencia Hall
Alderman Billie Joe Frazier
Alderman Sarah Carter-Smith
Alderman Felicia Bridgewater-Irving
Alderman Benjamin Davis
Alderman Daniel Dillard

Also Present: Attorney, Bryan Callaway
Servia Fortenberry- City Clerk
Sevetrius Dillon – Chief Deputy City Clerk

#424:10/20

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Alderman Smith, seconded by Alderman Davis to approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held Tuesday, September 22, 2020. (Editorial change: correct Alderman Smith vote from Abstain to Recusal). **The vote carried unanimously.**

#425:10/20

A motion was made by Alderman Smith, seconded by Alderman Davis to approve the minutes of the Special Call Board Meeting held Wednesday, September 30, 2020. **The vote carried unanimously.**

Welcome Visitors

Presentations-

- Recognition of Jennifer Ogden Combs for her contributions to Natchez
- Presentation to Roy F. King III

Tim Houghton- AMR

- Presentation, Emergency Services

Sheri Brown

- Presentation, Proud to Take a Stand lighting improvements

James Walker

- Presentation for Security Services, Historic Natchez Bluff

#426:10/20

A motion was made by Alderman Smith, seconded by Alderman Hall to approve to hire Walker Security Services, to provide two security officers to patrol the Historic Natchez Bluff from 5:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. seven days a week through December 31, 2020 at a cost of \$15 per hour, pending proof of insurance and a contract. **The vote carried unanimously.**

Unfinished Business: None

County Business: None

Department Director's Reports

Sabrena Bartley- Natchez Senior Center/Natchez Transit System

#427:10/20

A motion was made by Alderman Davis, seconded by Alderwoman Smith to approve the Ratification of acceptance for the MS Department of Transportation audit language changes regarding the 2020-2021 5311 Rural Areas Transportation grant for Natchez Transit System. **The vote carried unanimously.**

#428:10/20

A motion was made by Alderman Davis, seconded by Alderwoman Hall to approve the Ratification of acceptance for the MS Department of Transportation audit language changes regarding the 2020-2021 5310 Elderly and Persons with Disabilities Transportation grant for Natchez Senior Center. **The vote carried unanimously.**

Mrs. Bartley provided detailed updates for the following Departments:

- Natchez Senior Center
- Natchez Transit System

James Johnston- Community Development

#429:10/20

**Citywide Water Improvement Project
MDA CDBG PF and MSDH SRF**

Staff is requesting a motion to approve payment for the following invoice from our consulting engineer and contractor –

Vendor	Invoice #	Amount
WGK	#50237	\$ 4,900.00
Greenbriar DSLP	#8	<u>\$246,048.10</u>
Total		\$250,948.10

NOTE that Engineering fees are being paid by Natchez Water Works via the State Revolving Loan and **NOT by the 2018 CDBG PF!**

IN addition, this is the eighth pay estimate from our contractor for this project. The City's CDBG PF will pay 41.3485% of invoices from the contractor, less the cost of several generators that are included (in this project) because generators are not eligible under the CDBG PF Program. Hence the City's portion of this invoice totals \$99,224.78 while Natchez Water Works via the SRF will pay the balance of the invoice.

Staff is requesting a motion to prepare and submit the necessary reimbursement documents to MDA for these requested funds AND to authorize the City Clerk, when the reimbursement is received, to issue a check in the same amount (\$99,224.78) to Natchez Water Works so that the contractor may be paid. **Motion by Alderwoman Hall, second by Alderwoman Carter-Smith. The vote carried unanimously.**

#430:10/20

2021 Federal Home Loan Bank's Special Needs Assistance Program (SNAP)

Staff again is working with member institutions Concordia Bank & Trust and Home Bank, N.A. on the expected upcoming 2021 SNAP Program, with applications expected to be due in early January. As in past years, staff is requesting the mayor & board waive all applicable building permit fees for this program. **Motion by Alderwoman Irving, second by Alderman Davis. The vote carried unanimously.**

Edmond Perrault- Information Technology

#431:10/20

A motion was made by Alderwoman Hall, seconded by Alderman Frazier to approve the assets to Natchez Convention Promotion Commission (Visit Natchez) at no cost to the recipient. **The vote carried unanimously.**

Chief Armstrong- Natchez Police Department

#432:10/20

A motion was made by Alderwoman Smith, seconded by Alderman Frazier approval to allow off duty uniformed police officers to work October 16th & 17th Balloon Fest and to be paid by the Balloon Fest Committee. **The vote carried unanimously.**

#433:10/20

A motion was made by Alderwoman Smith, seconded by Alderwoman Irving for approval to allow Co-Lin to use 2 hand held radios for an additional 6 months. **The vote carried with the Board voting as follow:**

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

Justin Dollar – Public Works

#434:10/20

A motion was made by Alderwoman Hall, seconded by Alderwoman Irving to approve two (2) **EWP Engineering** contracts with **JKS**. One contract includes the 3 sites: 1). Natchez Bluffs 2). 1, 2, 4 Gloucester Court 3). MLK site. **The vote carried unanimously.**

Board deferred to the next meeting: MDOT Highway cutting from Trinity School to South City limits. Includes mowing, trimming, and spraying of medians and shoulders of highway. Jeffrey Ross current MDOT mowing contractor presented a price of \$8000/year to cut 18 times a year the center median and 50' on each side of the highway.

Discussion: Beautification projects going out for bids dealing with adjudicated properties

Discussion: Hurricane Delta cleanup. Public Works would only be picking up the debris that fell within our R.O.W. and not picking up property owners debris curbside per the City Ordinance.

City Officials' Reports

Alderwoman Hall - Visited drainage site with Public Works Director, Justin Dollar. She working with the County on Recreation, they have meet twice. She gave an over of Hurricane Delta and Ward 1 Community.

Alderwoman Irving – Thanked First Responders for their efforts during Hurricane Delta. There are trees down, she will call Justin Dollar.

#435:10/20

A motion was made by Alderwoman Smith, seconded by Alderwoman Hall to donate \$1,500 to the Balloon Festival to be paid from the Community Fund #001-094-690. **The vote carried unanimously.**

Servia Fortenberry - City Clerk's Report

#436:10/20

A motion was made by Alderman Dillard, seconded by Alderman Davis to request proposals for financing a tax anticipation loan for the payment of emergency expenditures for FY21. **The vote carried unanimously.**

#437:10/20

A motion was made by Alderman Frazier, seconded by Alderwoman Smith 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: Aye

#438:10/20

A motion was made by Alderwoman Hall, seconded by Alderwoman Smith to approve the **Mini Claims Docket. The vote carried unanimously.**

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

#439:10/20

A motion was made by Alderwoman Hall, seconded by Alderwoman Irving to approve the FY20 Municipal Compliance Questionnaire. **The vote carried with the Board voting as follows:**

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

City Attorney's Report

Taken under advisement: Consider approval of E911 Inter-local Agreement

#440:10/20

A motion was made by Alderman Frazier, seconded by Alderwoman Irving to approve the Natchez Manor License to host bands and a concert on Union Street on October 17, 2020 from 2:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M., and further authorize the Mayor to sign all necessary documents. **The vote carried unanimously.**

#441:10/20

A motion was made by Alderwoman Smith, seconded by Alderman Dillard to approve the Urban Renewal District Resolution. **The vote carried unanimously.**

#442:10/20

A motion was made by Alderman Frazier, seconded by Alderman Dillard to approve the Riverbend Offset Agreement for additional costs incurred during landfill closure. **The vote carried unanimously.**

Taken under advisement: Consider authorizing the City Clerk to issue MGM (Brooking) Pro Shop payments, and discussion of August 11, 2020 resolution requiring receipts from the Recreation Department prior to reimbursements

Taken under advisement: Approval to rescind RFP process on General Hospital.

#443:10/20

A motion was made by Alderman Dillard, seconded by Alderman Davis to approve Resolution to Declare State of Emergency for Hurricane Delta. **The vote carried unanimously.**

Mayor's Report

- Update COVID-19 – be kind, we'll get through this together, the number are declining
- Update Chief of Police & Chief of Fire Department hiring – Process for Police Chief has been extended until Friday, October 16, 2020. The five finalists for Fire Chief will be reduced to three and sent to the Board.
- Update on ticket sales at the Visitor Center – we are selling tickets everything is going well
- Update on Watkins & Eager lobbying efforts – had a joint meeting with the County
- Update on Open Container – make sure laws are being enforced
- Discussion of Beautification Projects – will report at next meeting
- Senator John Horhn stopped by to greet the Board during a brief recess

#444:10/20

A motion was made by Alderwoman Hall, seconded by Alderwoman Irving to Approve the Remote Worker Incentive Program "Shift South" – Chandler Russ. **The vote carried unanimously.**

#445:10/20

A motion was made by Alderman Dillard, seconded by Alderwoman Smith to declare Margaret Martin School surplus to include the gym. **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

#446:10/20

A motion was made by Alderwoman Hall, seconded by Alderwoman Irving to set a 5% salary increase for Mayor Pro Tempore. **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: Abstain

#447:10/20

Upon determination, a motion was made by Alderwoman Irving, seconded by Alderwoman Hall, to enter into **Executive Session Personnel Matter and Pending Litigation involving the City.** **The vote carried unanimously.**

A motion was made by Alderwoman Smith, seconded by Alderwoman Hall to return from Executive Session and into its open meeting. **The vote carried unanimously.**

Upon returning to Open Session Alderman Dillard left the meeting.

#448:10/20

A motion was made by Alderwoman Irving, seconded by Alderwoman Hall to approve the salary adjustments for the Department of Transportation for the City of Natchez as provided for by a grant mandated by the MS Department of Transportation. **The vote carried with the Board voting as follows:**

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

Adjourn

A motion was made by Alderman Davis, seconded by Alderwoman Hall to adjourn the Regular Board Meeting of October 13, 2020 at 4:03 P.M.



DAN M. GIBSON, MAYOR

ATTEST:



SERVIA FORTENBERRY, CITY CLERK

