

**City of Natchez
Minutes**

Regular Board Meeting

**Tuesday, February 23, 2021 6:00 PM NATCHEZ CONVENTION CENTER
& VIA TELECONFERENCE**

Board Secretary, Sevetrius Dillon

1. Call to Order
2. Prayer by Police Chief Joseph M. Daugherty, Sr.
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
 Alderman Daniel Dillard

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

#63:02/21

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Alderwoman Hall, seconded by Alderwoman Irving to approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held Tuesday, January 26, 2021, with necessary corrections. **The vote carried unanimously.**

#64:02/21

A motion was made by Alderwoman Irving, seconded by Alderwoman Smith to approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held Tuesday, February 9, 2021, with necessary corrections. **The vote carried unanimously.**

Welcome Visitors

Greg West
▪ Follow-up on High School Championship Row

#65:02/21

A motion was made by Alderwoman Smith, seconded by Alderwoman Irving to contribute **\$1500** to the **High School Championship Row** for the purchase of signage. **The vote carried unanimously.**

- Discussion of exception to have winter storm debris picked up by the City & possible contract with ER Assist

#66:02/21

A motion was made by Alderwoman Irving, seconded by Alderwoman Hall to engage **ER Assist** to begin an assessment of the **2021 Winter Storm Damage** of the City of Natchez.

Unfinished Business: None

County Business: None
Department Director's Reports

James Johnston- Community Development

#67:02/21

Natchez Railroad at Grade Safety Improvement Program
2016 TIGER Federal Railroad Administration

Staff, Natchez Railroad along with continued dialogue & input from Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) is requesting a motion to extend the City's 2016 TIGER by 12-months to June 30, 2022, due to delays in mobilization from the engineering contractor's geotechnical subcontractor to complete soil borings at the bridge at MP 144.6 for the embankment stabilization work; this was primarily due to drilling rig mechanical break downs and site accessibility. The COVID-19 pandemic also impacted their preparation of the project plans for the MP 144.6 embankment stabilization (Final design subtask 2.2b) and culvert at MP 131.9 (Final design subtask 2.2c).

Motion by Alderwoman Irving, second by Alderwoman Smith. The vote carried unanimously.

The current construction bid due date is March 1, 2021, which would only provide a 3-month construction window for MP 144.6 (part of Task 3.2 – Rehabilitation of Timber Bridges) and the culvert at MP 131.9 (Task 3.3 – Replacement of culverts), given the current June 30, 2021 period of the performance end date. Projects of the magnitude for the embankment retaining wall for the west abutment of the bridge at MP 144.6 need a minimum of a 6-to-9-month construction window as the material fabrication and delivery may require 3 months or more. Anticipated project completion is December 2021 BUT FRA recommends the 12-month extension to include submission of closeout documents, etc.

#68:02/21

In addition, the Natchez Railroad is requesting a motion to reallocate all unallocated Contingency funds (\$222,426.00 Federal, \$74,140.00 Non-Federal) across Task1 (Project Admin.), Task 2 (Final Design), and Task 3.2 (Rehab of Timber Bridges). Natchez Railroad is adding funds to the aforementioned tasks to cover expenses through project completion; increased costs are attributed to the additional scope that was added via grant amendment No. 1. Natchez Railroad is also requesting to reallocate funds (\$1,000.00 Federal and \$500.00 Non-Federal) from Task 4 (Grade Crossings Improvements) to Task 3.3 (Replacement of Culverts). The budget increase for Task 3.3 is needed to cover costs for the culvert at MP 131.9 (additional scope added via Amendment No. 1).

Motion by Alderwoman Irving, second by Alderwoman Smith. The vote carried unanimously.

Chief Joseph Daughtry- Natchez Police Department

- Discuss new Community Service Position

#69:02/21

A motion was made by Alderwoman Smith, seconded by Alderwoman Irving to approve the establishment of a Public Relations Officer position in the Police Department. **The vote carried unanimously.**

- Storm Report
- Update on new vehicles(Taken under advisement)

Chief Robert Arrington- Natchez Fire Department

- Propose NFD hosting a regional site for the MSTAT

#70:02/21

A motion was made by Alderman Davis, seconded by Alderman Frazier to approve Natchez Fire Department to participate in the regional hosting site for the Mississippi Standard Agility Test (MSTAT). **The vote carried unanimously.**

- Discuss the new testing procedure for firefighters, replacing CPAT
- Permission to replace jaws of life

#71:02/21

A motion was made by Alderman Dillard, seconded by Alderman Davis to approve the purchase of replacement jaws of life.

After discussion, advisement to refer to the Fire Committee to review and bring prices to the Board. Alderman Dillard requested to withdraw his motion. Alderman Davis agreed and withdrew his second to the motion.

City Officials' Reports

Aldерwoman Hall

- Spoke with the owner of Susie B. West and Lower Woodville Road Apartments about structural damage. Assessing all 32 apartments for damage. Aldерwoman Hall has also spoken to the manager of the Carpenter Apartments after the winter storm, and to her knowledge, there was no damage. The Mayor's Renewal Task Force on Recreation was scheduled to meet to discuss data on all city parks and that will be rescheduled.

Alderman Frazier

- Thank Mr. Brad Bradford for offering the service of bottled water to the citizens of Natchez.

Aldерwoman Smith

- Thanks to the City, Mr. Hinkle, and the Mayor for getting information to the citizens. Emergency Management for the

Aldерwoman Irving

- Would like to amend the motion for the MLK Jr. Clean day, so that the motion states week instead of day to not interfere with Dr. MLK Jr. Holiday.

#72:02/21

A motion was made by Aldерwoman Irving, seconded by Alderman Frazier to amend the motion of Board Order #56:02/21, **MLK Clean-up Day shall be MLK Service Week. The vote carried unanimously.**

- Would like to thank student from **Cathedral Catholic School for the card** sent in appreciation for City Board Members and their roles in the community. Sends an air hug and hopes to meet in person.

Alderman Davis

- No Report

Alderman Dillard

- The City of Natchez considers Public Works Department as essential workers.

Servia Fortenberry - City Clerk's Report

#73:02/21

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

Aldерwoman Hall: Aye

Alderman Frazier: Aye

Aldерwoman Smith: Aye

Aldерwoman Irving: Abstain

Alderman Davis: Aye

Alderman Dillard: Nay

#74:02/21

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

Aldерwoman Hall: Aye

Alderman Frazier: Aye

Aldерwoman Smith: Aye

Aldерwoman Irving: Abstain

Alderman Davis: Aye

Alderman Dillard: Aye

#75:02/21

A motion was made by Aldерwoman Irving, seconded by Alderman Frazier to approve the City Clerk Servia Fortenberry and Deputy City Clerk Pamela Patterson to attend Ole Miss 50th Annual Spring Conference, March 24 – 26, 2021 in Gulfport, MS, to include reimbursement of expenses incurred. **The vote carried unanimously.**

City Attorney's Report

- Award the City of Natchez Bank Depositories to the lowest and best bidder for a two-year term beginning May 1, 2021.

#76:02/21

A motion by Alderwoman Smith, seconded by Alderwoman Hall to approve sealed bids to be sent to Mississippi State Treasury's Office to be open, reviewed, and returned to the City of Natchez with a recommendation. (Mr. Callaway stated that he will personally handle the bids) **The vote carried unanimously.**

Mayor's Report

- Update on cruise ships, docks, and Silver Street
- Legislative Update – Receiving good input from out lobbyist.
- Discussion of COVID-19 concerns – people are getting their COVID vaccines. We have had thousands in our community that have been vaccinated.
- Update on Georgia - Economic Development Trip

#77:02/21

A motion was made by Alderwoman Irving, seconded by Alderman Frazier, to **clean Dr. Martin Luther King Road** annually on, or during the week of the celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Day. The vote carried unanimously.

#78:02/21

A motion was made by Alderwoman Hall, seconded by Alderman Davis to enter Executive Session for two personnel matters. **The vote carried unanimously.**

The Mayor announced that no actions were taken.

A motion was made by Alderman Davis, seconded by Alderwoman Hall to adjourn Executive Session and return to open meeting. **The vote carried unanimously.**

#79:02/21

A motion was made by Alderwoman Hall, seconded by Alderwoman Frazier to approve the Hire and Termination report for the month of February. **The vote carried unanimously.**

Adjourn

#80:02/21

A motion was made by Alderman Davis, seconded by Alderwoman Hall to adjourn the Regular Board Meeting of February 23, 2021, at 8:58 PM. **The vote carried unanimously.**



DAN M. GIBSON, MAYOR

ATTEST:



SERVIA FORTENBERRY, CITY CLERK