

City of Natchez
Minutes
Mayor and Board of Aldermen
Regular Board Meeting (Virtual/Teleconference)

Tuesday, May 26, 2020

06:00 PM

Virtual/Teleconference

Board Secretary, Denise Bell

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

Present: Mayor Darryl V. Grennell
Alderman Mathis
Alderman Frazier
Alderman Smith
Alderman Irving
Alderman Davis
Alderman Dillard

Also Present: Attorney, Robert Latham

#186:05/20

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Alderman Mathis, seconded by Alderman Irving to approve Regular Board Meeting April 14, 2020 Minutes with editorial changes.

Alderman Mathis: Aye

Alderman Frazier: Aye

Alderman Smith: Aye

Alderman Irving: Aye

Alderman Davis: Aye

Alderman Dillard: Aye

The vote carried unanimously.

#187:05/20

A motion was made by Alderman Mathis, seconded by Alderman Irving to approve Special Call Board Meeting April 16, 2020 Minutes with editorial changes.

Alderman Mathis: Aye

Alderman Frazier: Aye

Alderman Smith: Aye

Alderman Irving: Aye

Alderman Davis: Aye

Alderman Dillard: Aye

The vote carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Mathis, seconded by Alderwoman Irving to approve Regular Board Meeting April 28, 2020 Minutes with editorial changes.

Alderwoman Mathis: Aye

Alderman Frazier: Aye

Alderwoman Smith: Aye

Alderwoman Irving: Aye

Alderman Davis: Aye

Alderman Dillard: Aye

The vote carried unanimously.

**Department Director's
James Johnston**

#189:05/20

**Natchez Railroad at Grade Safety Improvement Program
2016 TIGER**

Natchez Railroad is requesting the mayor & board of alderman accept the low bid of Mid-South Railroad Services, Inc. for the upgrade of nine (9) automatic warning device installations for the At-Grade Safety Project (Task 4.0) that was advertised with an RFP dated April 10, 2020 and due on May 13, 2020. Mid-South is located in Fairbanks, LA and submitted a Lump Sum Bid of \$882,907.95; the budgeted amount of this activity totaled \$1,087,850.00.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Mathis, second by Alderwoman Smith.

Alderwoman Mathis: Aye

Alderman Frazier: Aye

Alderwoman Smith: Aye

Alderwoman Irving: Aye

Alderman Davis: Aye

Alderman Dillard: Aye

The vote carried unanimously.

In total seven (7) bids were received for this activity. The letter of recommendation, bid tab, proofs of publication will all be made a part of the city's minutes.

#190:05/20

In addition, back on March 11th staff brought before the board a request to allow Natchez Railroad to issue a Request for Statement of Qualifications (RFQ) for firms and/or individuals interested in providing engineering services for the design & preparation of plans for the railroad embankment retaining wall adjacent to NW abutment of St. Catherine Creek (MP 144.6) and a culvert through the railroad embankment located at approx. 700 track feet E of Ratcliffe Farm Road near MP 131.9 in Adams County. Proposals were due to the Natchez Railroad by April 4, 2020. Alderwoman Sarah Carter-Smith and Alderman Dan Dillard agreed to serve on a committee, in addition to staff, to review the proposals received from this solicitation.

A motion was made by Alderman Dillard, second by Alderman Davis

Alderwoman Mathis: Aye

Alderman Frazier: Aye

Alderwoman Smith: Aye

Alderwoman Irving: Aye

Alderman Davis: Aye

Alderman Dillard: Aye

The vote carried unanimously.

The Selection Committee reviewed the proposals received. Based on the cumulative score and a letter of recommendation from Natchez Railroad, Neel-Schaffer was selected to provide the engineering services for this activity.

Per NRR, nine (9) engineering firms furnished the Request for SOQ but only two (2) firms submitted. In telephone conversations w/several of the firms as to why they did not submit an SOQ, NRR received the impression that selection committees tended to score due to name recognition within the community.

The letter of recommendation and contract w/Neel-Schaffer will be made a part of the minutes.

**Citywide Water Improvement Project – Second Public Hearing
CDBG Public Facilities**

At 11:00 A.M. on Tuesday, May 26, 2020 staff held the required second public hearing for this citywide water improvement project, albeit a virtual public hearing. Staff is requesting the minutes of the public hearing be made a part of today's board meeting minutes.

#191:05/20

Bulletproof Vest Program

US Department of Justice

Staff is requesting permission to submit an application to the USDOJ for the purchase of eight (8) vests at the request of the NPD, at an approximate cost of \$712.50 per vest. The program pays approximately 50% of the cost of the vest.

A motion was made by Alderman Frazier, seconded by Alderwoman Irving.

Alderwoman Mathis: Aye

Alderman Frazier: Aye

Alderwoman Smith: Aye

Alderwoman Irving: Aye

Alderman Davis: Aye

Alderman Dillard: Aye

The vote carried unanimously.

#192:05/20

Fay Minor-Recreation Department

- **Request to hire two part-time employees to replace two part-time workers.**

A motion was made by Alderwoman Mathis, seconded by Alderwoman Smith to defer the request until the 1st of June, to hire two part time employees within the Recreation Department.

Alderwoman Mathis: Aye

Alderman Frazier: Aye

Alderwoman Smith: Aye

Alderwoman Irving: Aye

Alderman Davis: Aye

Alderman Dillard: Aye

The vote carried unanimously.

#193:05/20

FYI: Henry Harris is completing his paperwork for Retirement.

A motion was made by Alderman Dillard, seconded by Alderwoman Mathis to adopt a Resolution to show appreciation to Henry Harris for his employment with the City of Natchez.

Alderwoman Mathis: Aye

Alderman Frazier: Aye

Alderwoman Smith: Aye

Alderwoman Irving: Aye

Alderman Davis: Aye

Alderman Dillard: Aye

The vote carried unanimously.

- **Request to hire employees within the Public Works Department.**

A motion was made by Alderman Davis, by seconded Alderwoman Irving to defer hiring of employees within the Public Works Department, until the 1st of June.

Alderwoman Mathis: Aye

Alderman Frazier: Aye

Alderwoman Smith: Aye

Alderwoman Irving: Aye

Alderman Davis: Aye

Alderman Dillard: Aye

The vote carried unanimously.

City Official Reports

#195:05/20

Alderwoman Mathis

A motion was made by Alderwoman Mathis, seconded by Alderman Frazier to send an official letter to Natchez Railroad to abate nuisance properties between 112 to 118 Natchez Street, to the dead end on Chickasaw Street.

Alderwoman Mathis: Aye

Alderman Frazier: Aye

Alderwoman Smith: Aye

Alderwoman Irving: Aye

Alderman Davis: Aye

Alderman Dillard: Aye

The vote carried unanimously.

#196:05/20

Alderman Dillard

A motion made by Alderman Dillard, seconded by Alderwoman Irving to allow the Finance sub-committee to solicit a contract to hire an Accounting firm to assist Clerk in reconciliation with audit for FY18 completion.

Alderwoman Mathis: Aye

Alderman Frazier: Aye

Alderwoman Smith: Aye

Alderwoman Irving: Aye

Alderman Davis: Aye

Alderman Dillard: Aye

The vote carried unanimously.

#197:05/20

A motion made by Alderwoman Mathis, seconded by Alderwoman Irving to Defer until May 28, 2020 in hiring an Accounting Firm to help with Bank reconciliations once we receive an update from Carl Hammond from Silas & Simmons.

Alderwoman Mathis: Aye

Alderman Frazier: Aye

Alderwoman Smith: Aye

Alderwoman Irving: Aye

Alderman Davis: Aye

Alderman Dillard: Aye

The vote carried unanimously.

#198:05/20

A motion was made by Alderman Frazier, seconded by Alderman Davis to approve the Claims Docket.

Alderwoman Mathis: Aye

Alderman Frazier: Aye

Alderwoman Smith: Aye

Alderwoman Irving: Not participating in voting process

Alderman Davis: Aye

Alderman Dillard: Nay

The vote passed by majority.

#199:05/20

A motion made by Alderman Frazier, seconded by Alderman Davis to approve Mini Claims Docket.

Alderwoman Mathis: Aye

Alderman Frazier: Aye

Alderwoman Smith: Aye

Alderwoman Irving: Not participating in voting process

Alderman Davis: Aye

Alderman Dillard: Nay

The vote passed by majority.

#200:05/20

Bob Latham -City Attorney

A motion made by Alderwoman Mathis, seconded by Alderman Davis to cancel Deed of Trust for Margie Pullen that dates back to 2002, from the City of Natchez.

Alderwoman Mathis: Aye

Alderman Frazier: Aye

Alderwoman Smith: Aye

Alderwoman Irving: Aye

Alderman Davis: Aye

Alderman Dillard: Aye

The vote carried unanimously.

#201:05/20

A motion made by Alderwoman Mathis, seconded by Alderman Davis to approve the project an Access Agreement for the project pertaining to the erosion near the casino approved by the Corp. of Engineers.

Alderwoman Mathis: Aye

Alderman Frazier: Aye

Alderwoman Smith: Aye

Alderwoman Irving: Aye

Alderman Davis: Aye

Alderman Dillard: Aye

The vote carried unanimously.

Mayor's Report

On behalf of the Mayor, Board of Alderman, and citizens of Natchez, would like to extend gratitude and appreciation to the COVID-19 Task Force Committee.

Close Determination

A motion was made by Alderman Davis, seconded by Alderwoman Irving for closed determination

- Alderwoman Mathis: Aye
- Alderman Frazier: Aye
- Alderwoman Smith: Aye
- Alderwoman Irving: Aye
- Alderman Davis: Aye
- Alderman Dillard: Aye

The vote carried unanimously.

Enter into Executive Session

A motion was made by Alderwoman Smith, seconded by Alderman Davis, to move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel and potential sale or lease of property.

- Alderwoman Mathis: Aye
- Alderman Frazier: Aye
- Alderwoman Smith: Aye
- Alderwoman Irving: Aye
- Alderman Davis: Aye
- Alderman Dillard: Aye

The vote carried unanimously.

Return to Open Session

A motion was made by Alderman Davis, seconded by Alderman Dillard, to return to Open Session.

- Alderwoman Mathis: Aye
- Alderman Frazier: Aye
- Alderwoman Smith: Aye
- Alderwoman Irving: Aye
- Alderman Davis: Aye
- Alderman Dillard: Aye

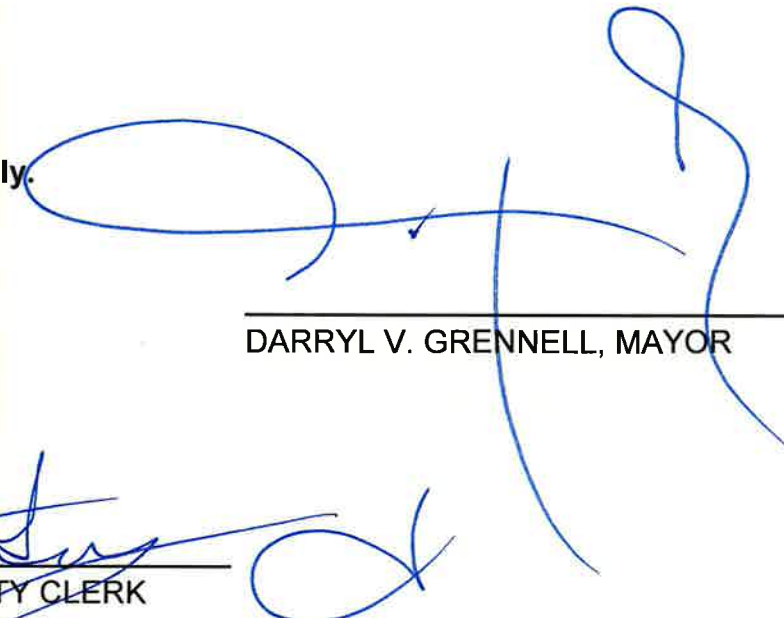
The vote carried unanimously.

Adjourn

A motion was made by Alderwoman Smith, seconded by Alderman Dillard to close the Regular Board Meeting of May 26, 2020 in memory of Mrs. Dale Holloway Steckler

- Alderwoman Mathis: Aye
- Alderman Frazier: Absent
- Alderwoman Smith: Aye
- Alderwoman Irving: Aye
- Alderman Davis: Aye
- Alderman Dillard: Aye

The vote carried unanimously.



DARRYL V. GRENNELL, MAYOR

ATTEST:



SERVIA FORTENBERRY, CITY CLERK