

Minutes Board of Mayor and Aldermen Regular Meeting

Tuesday, June 13, 2017

11:00AM

Council Chambers

Building

1. Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance and Call to Order
Prayer was led by Minister Jim Sanders
Pledge of Allegiance was Alderwoman Carter Smith.

2. Roll Call

Present: Mayor Darryl V. Grennell
Alderwoman Joyce Arceneaux-Mathis
Alderman Billie Joe Frazier
Alderwoman Felicia Irving
Alderwoman Sarah Carter Smith
Alderman Benjamin Davis
Alderman Daniel Dillard

Also Present: City Attorney Robert Latham
Interim City Clerk Megan Edmonds

3. MOTION was made by Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis and SECONDED by Alderwoman Irving to approve Finance & Regular Meetings of May 9, 2017 and Finance & Regular Meetings of May 23, 2017, with editorial changes.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. Business of the Month – S & T Discount Tires - June 2017

S & T Tire, located at 5 Sergeant Prentiss Dr., was established in 1976. The business is owned and managed by Patrick Smith and Doug Smith. Their future plans are to stay ahead of the competition by offering the most up to date services. They contribute to the community by supporting local schools and law enforcement. S & T prides themselves on customer service, honesty and hard work. The owners work hard, alongside their employees to offer the best service possible, at the best price.

5. Public Hearing – Nuisance properties

Public Hearing to adjudicate nuisance lots, pursuant to the Mississippi Code of 1972.

Nuisance Lots Locations:

Ward 1. 103 & 106 Brown Subd. Road; 53 Cemetery Road; 16, 25, 87 & 107 Marblestone Road, 23 Ridge Alley - open needs boarding up; 207 St. Mary St.
204 Creek St request or board up in Oct of 2016 expired May 2017, will adjudicate on June 27, 2017.

Ward 2. 13 & 19 Roundale Street; 381 Old Washington Road

Ward 3.

Ward 4. 813 Washington Street

Ward 5.

Ward 6. 2724 Roselawn Drive

MOTION was made by Alderwoman Carter Smith and SECONDED by Alderwoman Irving to open Public Hearing as it pertains to nuisance lots.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Ms. Ida Anderson, 4 Brookview Ln., Neighborhood Watch Program Captain for the Marblestone Rd. & Cemetery Rd. area came before 4 Brookview Ln. said they want to clean up their community as well as provide a safe atmosphere. She stated whatever assistance received, would be greatly appreciated.

MOTION was made by Alderwoman Irving and SECONDED by Alderman Davis to close public hearing.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOTION was made by Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis and SECONDED by Alderwoman Irving to declare all of the properties listed in the Staff Memorandum as properties harboring nuisance conditions that violate the Mississippi Code of 1972, and to adopt the Resolutions recommended by the staff.

MOTION was made by Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis and SECONDED by Alderman Dillard to amend the prior motion to exclude 204 Creek St.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Request:

1. Stonehurst II is requesting that if the City of Natchez, maintain the hillside on East Oak Street for a billed amount of \$200.00 a monthly cut with our side arm equipment. Mr. Ray Chatman is the POC at 601-527-1690.

Mayor Grennell stated, per Attorney Latham, the city has no legal authority to do maintain the hillside on East Oak St, so the request was denied.

2. Lurie D. Thompson c/o Grace Washington, 5 Lindo Lane, Natchez, MS for 14 Marblestone Road is requesting an extension until after August 9, 2017 to clean up property. Ms. Washington is the POC at 601-445-5565.

MOTION was made by Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis and SECONDED by Alderwoman Irving to allow 30 day, grace period, from June 13th, to clean up the property on 14 Marblestone Rd.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Liens: 205 Arlington Ave. \$360.00; 41 Beaumont Street \$383.00; 43 Beaumont Street \$383.00; 1037 N Dr. Martin L. King \$400.00; 904 N Union Street \$322.00.

MOTION was made by Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis and SECONDED by Alderwoman Irving to place liens on 205 Arlington Ave. \$360.00; 41 Beaumont Street \$383.00; 43 Beaumont Street \$383.00; 1037 N Dr. Martin L King \$400.00; 904 N Union Street \$322.00.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. Bids

A) Street sweeper – new regenerative air

Covington Sales & Service – Denim Springs, LA

Schwarze Industries – New sweeper – \$248,900.00 (delivery date 30 - 45 days)
Security attachment - \$12,500

Ingram Equipment Company – Pelham, AL

Sweeper - \$209,873.00
\$10,493.65 (check attached)

Vacuum Truck Sales & Service, LLC – Richland, MS

Sweeper - \$ 236,750.00
Security attachment - \$11,837.50

*Demo option - \$ 223,300.00

MOTION was made by Alderwoman Carter Smith and SECONDED by Alderman Davis to take street sweeper bids under advisement.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Attorney Latham mentioned a committee consisting of him, Alderman Frazier and Mayor Grennell, accepted bids from security companies to provide security for the old Titan Tire Company. Bids from five different companies were accepted.

It was determined that Dawson Security and Investigation Services was the lowest and best bid at \$9 per hour. The contract was awarded to Dawson Security and Investigation Services, in the amount of \$6,480.00 per month. A security services agreement was prepared by Attorney Latham and signed by Mayor Grennell and Mr. Dawson.

MOTION was made by Alderman Dillard and SECONDED by Alderwoman Irving to approve the bids that were submitted and the selection of Dawson Security and Investigative Services, by the committee. Also, to accept the security services agreement signed by Mayor Grennell and Mr. Robert Dawson.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

7. Welcome Visitors

Mayor Grennell presented the City's new brand. The brand will be used for letterheads and keys to the city, as it relates to municipal components of the City of Natchez.

The symbols, on the brand, include Natchez Indian Chief, with the Mississippi River and steamboat in the background, the French flag, British flag, Spanish flag, West African symbols and the 1897, 15 star American flag.

MOTION was made by Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis and SECONDED by Alderwoman Irving to use the new brand as branding component for all items disseminated by the Mayor and the Board.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mayor thanked Vidal Blankenstein for her diligent work on the new brand.

A) Kevin Preston, Magnolia Bluffs Casino

Mr. Kevin Preston was presented with presented with a Key to the City and known as Honorary Citizen with all rights duly bestowed.

MOTION was made by Alderwoman Irving and SECONDED by Alderman Davis to supported the presentation of Key to the City to Mr. Kevin Preston.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mr. Preston thanked the Mayor and Board. He stated they will continue to be a great corporate citizen.

B) Betty Jo Harris, 206 N. Union St

Ms. Harris came before the board to asked permission to put up a Little Free Library in Natchez. She stated the purpose of the Little Free Library is simply to promote reading neighborhoods across the world.

Ms. Harris stated she would put the Little Free Library, in Memorial Park, where tourists could have access to it. She said she would maintain it, as its steward.

MOTION was made by Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis and SECONDED by Alderwoman Irving to take the Little Free Library request, under advisement and to get with Riccardo Giani and Mimi Miller to make sure its location is structurally and aesthetically correct.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

C) Community Alliance – Letter of Support for RTCA Program

Mr. Giani stated the RTCA Program (Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program) is requesting a letter of support from the city. If accepted, this program helps to connect the National Park Service sites.

MOTION was made by Alderman Dillard and SECONDED by Alderwoman Irving to write a letter of support for the RTCA Program.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

D) My Brother's Keeper

Mayor Grennell recognized My Brother's Keeper, Inc. and listed the assistance they provided to local parks, North Natchez Park, Jack Waite Park, Duncan Park, Concord Neighborhood Park, Madison St. Neighborhood Park and Osceola Park. They provided just under \$225,000 to improve the recreational opportunities for the City of Natchez.

MOTION was made by Alderwoman Carter Smith and SECONDED by Alderman Frazier to approve Proclamation for My Brother's Keeper.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

8. Unfinished Business – Go Cup Ordinance

Riccardo Giani came before the board to discuss the provide presentation and discuss Go Cup Ordinance.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis thanked Mr. Giani for his presentation and the addendum. She stated it's a good addendum and thanked him for the addition work being done. She also noted a few editorial changes that needed to be done.

Mr. Giani mentioned he received a call from Lee Edward Scott who felt, since the downtown area got a public hearing, the Franklin St. area residents should be allowed the same. Mayor Grennell agreed.

Alderwoman Carter Smith asked how special events would get permission. Mr. Giani stated, if an event is outside of the district, the business owner would have to get special permission from the Mayor and board.

Alderman Dillard commented that the intent is to drive economic tourist and destinations, however he expressed concerns about spreading this too far.

Alderman Frazier stated he is for including different areas because different tourists come to town and he wants to include the African American aspect.

Mr. Giani discussed the possibility of expansion, if this is managed properly. Alderman Dillard agreed and stated to start small and make it bigger, if it works.

Mayor Grennell stated he and Mr. Giani discussed there not being a rush, to get this done.

Mr. W.C. Curtis, owner of Club Paradise and House of Styles, came before the board. He stated he was representing bar owners. He mentioned his support this law and said this is good for the city of Natchez. He expressed his concern with the boundaries at River to MLK. Mr. Curtis said they want to be included in the success in Natchez, not excluded.

The Go Cup Ordinance discussion was deferred until a later date.

Proclamation Honoring the Life of Kendrick Fells

MOTION was made by Alderwoman Irving and SECONDED by Alderman Davis to approve Proclamation honoring the life of Kendrick Fells.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

9. Department Head Reports

Justin Dollar – Public Works

Mr. Dollar came before the board with information on speed humps for Fatherland Dr. He stated a petition has been filled out and a traffic study was done. They met the 75 % signatures that were required, however not all criteria were met.

Alderwoman Carter Smith expressed concerns about the approval, if all the criteria aren't met. Alderwoman Irving stated that they should stick with the standards and not change.

No action was taken.

Mr. Dollar brought forth a request for a name change of Old Bluff Alley and Taylors Alley, to Clifton Alley. This would help with the emergency response time. He stated over 75 % of the residents have signed the petition.

MOTION was made by Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis and SECONDED by Alderwoman Carter Smith to rename Old Bluff Alley and Taylors Alley to Clifton Alley.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mr. Dollar asked for board's approval to allow Mayor Grennell to execute authorization for agreements with NRCS. The properties for construction are included are 112 Gordon Dr., Learned Mill Rd., 1241 Daisy St., Bob Lee Williams Ln., 105 Louisiana St., & 109 ½ McIntyre Blvd. The city's 25% portion is \$128,087.50.

MOTION was made by Alderwoman Carter Smith and SECONDED by Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis to allow Mayor Grennell to authorize and execute the NRCS agreement.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mr. Dollars asked for approval for Lea Ann Mingee to be reappointed as the FEMA MEMA liaison.

MOTION was made by Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis and SECONDED by Alderwoman Irving to reappoint Lea Ann Mingee as the FEMA MEMA liaison.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

James Johnston – Community Development

My Brother's Keeper, Inc.

Friendly reminder that this Saturday marks the opening of the Downtown Natchez Farmer's Market, which will be open every Saturday from 8:00 A.M. to 12:00 PM, (initially) through the end of August!

Eddie Burkes is the market coordinator, with funding for his wages and the roadside being funded through a grant from My Brother's Keeper, Inc.

The farmers market will be located on Commerce Street, between Main & State.

Mr. Burkes has secured several sponsors for the Downtown Natchez Farmer's Market. They are title sponsor Home Bank, the Natchez Democrat, United Mississippi Bank and Home Hardware. Efforts to obtain additional sponsors are ongoing.

IN ADDITION, the roadside stand is arriving Thursday morning. Based on conversation with Natchez Public Works the vendor desires to deed the stand to the city at that time. MOTION was made by Alderwoman Irving and SECONDED by Alderman Dillard to allow permission to sign the deed and other paperwork on behalf of the city and then have the paperwork spread upon the city minutes.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Diabetes & Heart Disease Intervention Program 2017
Humana Foundation**

The board has been provided a copy of the Baseline Evaluation Report, prepared by Monique White, PhD, MPH for you to read at your convenience.

Approximately 100 residents have enrolled in the program. Classes are being conducted at Copiah Lincoln Community College, Natchez campus Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evening beginning at 5:30. The senior class is being conducted only on Tuesday evening.

The board is more than welcome to visit to observe the class!

**Joint Operations & Maintenance of Natchez Visitor Reception Center FY18
US Dept. of the Interior (National Park Service & Natchez National Historical Park)**

The time is again approaching for the City of Natchez to submit its FY18 Cooperative Agreement to the National Park Service for funding consideration. This cooperative agreement is part of the original five year cooperative agreement approved in FY15 for a performance period from October 1, 2014 to September 30, 2019. This agreement sets out the 52.45% NPS/47.55% City 'shared' cost for use of the building by the National Park Service.

The amount of funds being requested from the National Park Service totals \$120,105.00 with the City of Natchez providing \$108,884.00 in in-kind services.

Please find provided for your review a copy of the original FY15 agreement as well as the proposed FY18 budget, which is modeled after previous year's budget(s).

Also attached is a summary of the costs that are charged to the NPS Cooperative Agreement.

The goal of the cooperative agreement is to promote, facilitate and improve the public's understanding of the cultural and historic significance of the City of Natchez, MS by providing the public with a jointly operated and maintained visitor reception center by the National Park Service and the City of Natchez.

Motion will be requested to submit to the National Park Service the FY18 application for funding consideration.

Note that this is the proposed budget being submitted to the National Park Service. The NPS may receive a cut in funds for FY18; if so our request may be reduced as well.

Deferred until next board meeting.

**Bulletproof Vest Application
US Department of Justice**

MOTION was made by Alderwoman Irving and SECONDED by Alderman Frazier to allow staff permission to work with Natchez Police Department to prepare and submit a Bulletproof Vest Program application for up to twelve (12) vests. The program provides fifty percent (50%) of the cost of a vest. Each vests cost approximately \$685.00. These vests will be purchased for new police officers.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Regional Recycling Cooperative Grant
MS Department of Environmental Quality**

MOTION was made by Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis and SECONDED by Alderman Davis to allow staff permission to extend this grant, from June 30, 2017 to June 30, 2018 to continue the regional recycling efforts in the City of Natchez, City of Brookhaven and Wilkinson County. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Blight Elimination Program
MS Home Corporation**

Work on this potential application is continuing. Met with one potential blight partner last week and meeting with another next week.

Have spoken to several blighted property owners to explain the program and to see if they are willing to participate.

Spoken to Secretary of State's Office about both tax deeds and land patent's; will need to speak with Mr. Latham to address.

Properties being considered for participation in the program are either owned by the State of Mississippi, come with a tax deed or are privately owned. Streets where some of these properties are located are Garden Street, N. Union Street, West Stiers, Beaumont Street, Dr. ML King, Bowman, etc. Note – this is not an inclusive list. Just a sampling.

Interim Chief Shawn King – Natchez Police Department

Interim Chief King stated for the month of May, there were 126 citations issued, 9 DUI arrests and 73 crashes or accidents.

He mentioned there will be a probationary police officer test on June 30th and academy in September.

Civil Service interviews were going to be held the upcoming Wednesday.

He went on to say that he is informing everyone about the proactive process, at neighborhood watch meetings.

He wants everyone, if you see something, say something.

Chief Wesley – Natchez Fire Department

Chief Wesley stated he and Tony Moon had a meeting and will be testing hydrants. This has to be done every five years, so expect cloudiness of water. He stated water supply counts for 40% of our fire ratings.

Mr. Moon said the discoloration is organic settlements, but wouldn't recommend anyone to drink. He suggested running water for a little while and it should clear up.

Chief Wesley mention an accident that occurred in Franklin County.

Franklin County has no extrication device, so Chief Wesley got permission from Mayor Grennell to respond and assist.

Chief Wesley stated there is not agreement in place for them to respond outside of Adams County and he asked that some type of agreement be established in case this happens again.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis suggested this issue be turned over to City Attorney.

MOTION was made by Alderman Davis and SECONDED by Alderwoman Irving to allow City Attorney to see there is an agreement that can assist with Natchez Fire Department assisting neighboring counties, when needed.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

10. City Official's Report

Alderman Dillard – No report

Alderman Davis

Mentioned his community meeting has been canceled and would advise a date later.

Alderwoman Irving

Announced neighborhood watch meeting at 6 pm at Macedonia B.C. on Minor St.

All Ward 4 are invited.

She thanked Interim Chief King, and staff and Brad Bradford and staff.

Alderwoman Carter Smith

Thanked Mr. Moon for his work with the Natchez Cemetery, with getting it comped.

She stated she also hope to look at their budget at the budget meetings.

Alderman Frazier

Mentioned Homewood Park on Birdwood Court drainage ditches needs to be cleaned and one of the culverts is open.

Mr. Woods (George F. West) called him about speeding and requested speed bumps because he is concerned about a bad accident happening there.

He said the grass as Titan Tire needs to be cut.

Expressed wanting the spray park spray park up and running.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis

Read Resolution and asked the board for approval.

MOTION was made by Alderwoman Carter Smith and SECONDED by Alderman Frazier to adopt and authorize Mayor to sign Resolution to request and seek assistance of our Mississippi Delegation of US Senator and Representatives to ensure continued funding of vitally needed initiatives.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Stated she wants to look at sending out RFP, for specific use, for the old Pro Shop.

She asked for a list of upcoming bonds that will be paid off and what accounts will they go into.

Last, she asked the county lets them know when pool bids are opened.

11. City Clerk's Report

MOTION was made by Alderman Dillard and SECONDED by Alderman Davis to increase the reimbursement for city employee physicals from \$55 to \$75.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis abstained.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOTION was made by Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis and SECONDED by Alderwoman Irving for partial repayment of \$25,000 from Auburn Maintenance to General Fund.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOTION was made by Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis and SECONDED by Alderman Frazier to approve June Claims docket.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOTION was made by Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis and SECONDED by Alderman Davis to approve June mini-docket.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

12. City Attorney's Report

MOTION was made by Alderwoman Carter Smith and SECONDED by Alderman Davis to approve Mayor Grennell to sign lease, in the amount of \$1,500, between City of Natchez and Concordia Bank and Trust for 8 parking spaces behind NAPAC Museum. The lease term is July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOTION was made by Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis and SECONDED by Alderman Dillard to Mayor Grennell to execute agreement of Memorandum of Agreement between the MS Development Authority and the City of Natchez supporting operation of the Natchez Visitor Reception Intermodal Transportation Center. There will be a date change (from 2016 to 2017) and indemnification clause removed.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Attorney Latham stated the Attorney General Opinion did not address the issue concerning the request submitted pertaining to the old General Hospital.

The AG stated the RFP used by the city is not set forth in the statute and they only opine on matters set forth in a statutory manner.

Attorney Latham stated the board continue to keep the proposal under consideration.

Attorney Latham stated Ms. Rosa Newman's appeal for special exception to the residential zoning of 722 N. Rankin St., was heard and upheld.

Attorney Latham stated no information pertaining to the bids being submitted, opened or reviewed was given to them (Mayor and Board).

He stated the city would have to review the bids before committing to funds to the pool.

MOTION was made by Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis and SECONDED by Alderman Frazier to meet with Board of Supervisors prior to next board meeting, to discuss the pool.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

13. Mayor's Report

MOTION was made by Alderman Davis and SECONDED by Alderwoman Irving to execute Proclamation commemorating the 242nd Birthday of the Army and to declare June 14, 2017 as US Army Day.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

14. New Business

MOTION was made by Alderwoman Irving and SECONDED by Alderman Davis to move to closed determination for Executive Session.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

No action was taken.

MOTION was made by Alderwoman Carter Smith and SECONDED by Alderman Davis to approve the Hire and Termination Report.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOTION was made by Alderwoman Irving and SECONDED by Alderman Davis to adjourn Regular Meeting in memory of Mr. Al Ater and Mr. Fred Callon.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Darryl V. Grennell, Mayor

ATTEST:

Megan Edmonds, Interim City Clerk