

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

Tuesday, January 12, 2021 11:00 AM VIA TELECONFERENCE

Board Secretary, Sevetrius Dillon

1. Call to Order
2. Prayer by Pastor Bernard Mitchell, Zion Hill Missionary Baptist Church
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
 Alderman Benjamin Davis
 Alderman Daniel Dillard (arrived at 11:20 AM)

Absent: Alderwoman Felicia Bridgewater-Irving

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

#01:01/21

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Alderwoman Smith, seconded by Alderman Davis to approve the minutes of the **Special Call Board Meeting held Friday, December 4, 2020. The vote carried with the Board voting as follows:**

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

#02:01/21

#02:01/21

A motion was made by Alderman Davis, seconded by Alderwoman Hall to approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held **Tuesday, December 8, 2020. The vote carried with the Board voting as follows:**

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

#03:01/21

#03:01/21

A motion was made by Alderwoman Hall, seconded by Alderman Davis to approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held **Wednesday, December 9, 2020. The vote carried with the Board voting as follows:**

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

Business of the Month: Davidson Package Store, sponsored by the City of Natchez/Adams County Board of Supervisors, Natchez Business and Civic League, and the Natchez-Adams County Chamber of Commerce. It will be presented in person.

Welcome Visitors

Ruth Powers-Pro Life Natchez/Adams County

#04:01/21

A motion was made by Alderwoman Smith, seconded by Alderwoman Hall to approve the usage of the **Natchez Bandstand Gazebo** on the Bluff. **The vote carried with the Board voting as follows:**

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

Greg West-High School Teams Championship Row – Mr. West ask to install signs on the Bluff to represent High School Teams Championships. Alderwoman Hall voiced her support of the banner but didn't think the Bluff was appropriate. She recommended he submit his plans to Riccardo Giani, Planning Director, for consideration. Mr. Frazier (barely audible) recommended the same and maybe the City and County can come up with a location together. Alderman Frazier recommended the new school may be a good location. Alderwoman Smith asked for a copy of the letter to be sent to her. The Mayor has seen other Cities do this and would like to see it happen. The Mayor restated Alderman Hall's statement that this has to go before the Preservation Commission for approval.

#05:01/21

Patricia Huffines- Fundraiser for Stew Pot

A motion was made by Alderwoman Hall, seconded by Alderman Davis to approve the request of Madison Avenue Street Block of March 7th, 2021 from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. for purpose of the nonprofit fundraiser for Stew Pot Foundation. **The vote carried with the Board voting as follows:**

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

Unfinished Business: None

County Business: None

Department Director's Reports

James Johnston- Community Development

#06:01:21

Regional Recycling Cooperative Grant

MS Dept. of Environmental Quality

Staff is requesting that the Independent Contract Employment Agreement w/Tina Montagnet to serve as the Public Outreach Liaison be extended to December 31, 2021, under the same terms and conditions as the original agreement – 20 hours per week at \$12.50 per hour. Funds are provided by the MS. Dept. of Environmental Quality w/no match from the city.

Motion by Alderwoman Smith, second by Alderman Davis. The vote carried with the Board voting as follows:

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

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

The staff has submitted via our local banking partners our January 2021 SNAP apps, with Concordia Bank & Trust sponsoring ten (10) applications and Home Bank sponsoring four (4). The value of these fourteen apps totals \$79,388.00.

Justin Dollar- Public Works

#07:01/21

A motion was made by Alderwoman Hall, seconded by Alderwoman Smith to accept recommendations, qualified bid from Stribling as being the lowest and best qualified bid, and approve the purchase of an excavator selected through the advertised bid process. **The vote carried with the Board voting as follows:**

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

Chief Robert Arrington- Natchez Fire Department

t#08:01/21

A motion was made by Alderman Davis, seconded by Alderwoman Hall to approve the requirement of a negative COVID test result before returning to work of firefighters due to the residential component of their work detail. **The vote carried with the Board voting as follows:**

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

City Officials' Reports

Alderwoman Hall - The Mayor's Renewal Task Force on Recreation has met and they are assessing our six parks they will report to the City's Recreation Committee at the end of this month. There has also been some concern about vandalism at the building at North Natchez Park which we are also known to call the Youth Center. There is some concern that this building needs to be demolished, but I mentioned to the Mayor that this building has a history at this park. When blacks could not go to Duncan Park, this park was built for the City of Natchez youth and adults. I have mentioned this to the Mayor spoke to Mimi Miller with Carter Burns at the Historic Natchez Foundation to also assess the value of this building before it can be demolished.

She asked the Board to allocate \$1,500 to remove concrete on Oak Street in Ward 1. She asked Mr., Hinkle to display the pictures (which he did). Homes have been built on hills, homeowner use this area to access their homes. The concrete is breaking, it is broken in many sites. This is a dangerously precarious situation, some homeowners are fearful of leaving their homes because of the danger of this area. It doesn't affect just one family, it affects multiple families. Mr. Dollar has gone to the site and assessment of \$1,500 to remove the concrete. Mr. Dollar thinks this has been on this site for forty years or more. I think it will also be a precarious situation for first responders to access anyone back in this area.

#09:01/21

A motion was made by Alderwoman Hall, seconded by Alderwoman Smith, to allocate \$1,500 from the General Fund to remove and repair concrete. **The vote carried with the Board voting as follows:**

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

Alderman Frazier - Everyone needs to stay safe and take precautions due to COVID.

#10:01/21

A motion was made by Alderman Frazier, seconded by Alderman Davis to approve the Hire/Fire report for October 2020, November 2020, and December 2020. **The vote carried with the Board voting as follows:**

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

Alderwoman Smith - No Report

Alderwoman Irving-Absent

Alderman Davis - No Report

#11:01/21

Alderman Dillard- A motion was made by Alderwoman Smith, seconded by Alderman Dillard to have a Special Call Board Meeting for a budget review in two weeks a 4:00 p.m. **The vote carried with the Board voting as follows:**

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

Servia Fortenberry - City Clerk's Report

#12:01/21

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: Absent
Alderman Davis: Aye
Alderman Dillard: Nay

#13:01/21

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

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

#14:01/21

A motion was made by Alderman Frazier, seconded by Alderwoman Hall to approve the purchase of two (2) vehicles for the Inspections Department and approving a budget amendment in the amount of \$21,242.00 to add to the \$18,000 that was budgeted. **The vote carried with the Board voting as follows:**

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

City Attorney's Report

#15:01/21

A motion was made by Alderwoman Hall seconded by Alderman Dillard to approve the Great River Utility Operating Company Stipulation in docket no. 2020-UA-143 and 144. **The vote carried with the Board voting as follows:**

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

Mayor's Report

- Discussion of COVID-19 concerns
- Schneider Lighting Update
- Approval to extend the contract for security on the Bluff until January 30th

#16:01/21

A motion was made by Alderwoman Smith, seconded by Alderwoman Hall, to approve the extension of the security contract on the Bluff until January 30, 2021. **The vote carried with the Board voting as follows:**

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

- Discussion of funding for Armstrong Library and Natchez, Inc. - Skipped
- Discussion of Depot lease
- Update on Shift South (Remote Worker Program)
- Approval of renewal for City of Natchez Commercial Insurance

#17:01/21

A motion was made by Alderwoman Hall, seconded by Alderman Davis, to approve the renewal of the Commercial Insurance finance through United Mississippi Bank. **The vote carried with the Board voting as follows:**

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

#18:01/21

A motion was made by Alderman Davis, seconded by Alderwoman Smith, to approve the renewal of the Key Benefits Administrators program provided through Ross & Yerger. **The vote carried with the Board voting as follows:**

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

- Discussion of open NCPC Board position
- Discussion of final swimming pool improvements

#19:01/21

A motion was made by Alderwoman Hall, seconded by Alderman Davis, to approve a temporary contract for rapid COVID testing with (Southstar) Total Urgent Care of Vidalia, Louisiana for all City employee and their dependents at a cost of \$55.00 per test. **The vote carried with the Board voting as follows:**

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

#20:01/21

A motion was made by Alderman Davis, seconded by Alderwoman Hall to enter into Executive Session for a personnel and litigation matter. **The vote carried with the Board voting as follows:**

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

The Mayor announced that no actions were taken in Executive Session.

#21:01/21

A motion was made by Alderwoman Alderman Davis, seconded by Alderwoman Hall to adjourn Executive Session and return to open meeting. **The vote carried with the Board voting as follows:**

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

Adjourn

#22:01/21

A motion was made by Alderman Davis, seconded by Alderwoman Smith to adjourn the Regular Board Meeting of January 12, 2021, at 2:18 P.M. **The vote carried with the Board voting as follows:**

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



DAN M. GIBSON, MAYOR

ATTEST:



SERVIA FORTENBERRY, CITY CLERK