

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

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**Tuesday, January 26, 2021      6:00 PM      NATCHEZ CONVENTION CENTER  
& VIA TELECONFERENCE**

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Board Secretary, Sevetrius Dillon

1. Call to Order
2. Prayer by Pastor Troy Thomas, Bethel Church (Vidalia, LA)
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 (via conference call)  
                                 Sevetrius Dillon – Chief Deputy City Clerk (via conference call)

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**#23:01/21**

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Alderwoman Smith, seconded by Alderwoman Hall to approve the minutes of the Special Call Board Meeting held Friday, December 18, 2020. **The vote carried unanimously.**

**#24:01/21**

A motion was made by Alderwoman Smith, seconded by Alderman Davis to approve the minutes of the Special Call Board Meeting held Monday, December 28, 2020, with editorial changes. **The vote carried unanimously.**

**#25:01/21**

A motion was made by Alderwoman Irving, seconded by Alderman Davis to open the Public Hearing to discuss nuisance properties. **The vote carried unanimously.**

**Public Hearing – Nuisance Properties**

**Anita Smith- Code Enforcement Officer (James Johnston-Presenter)**

A motion was made by Alderwoman Smith, seconded by Alderwoman Irving to close the Public Hearing of nuisance properties. **The vote carried unanimously.**

A motion was made by Alderwoman Irving, seconded by Alderman Davis to adopt a resolution approving for owners that spoke at the Public Hearing to have more time to bring their property into compliance. **The vote carried unanimously.**

**Welcome Visitors**

Daye Dearing – Alcorn State University, gave an overview on a new Women Business Center at Alcorn State University, Natchez Campus in conjunction with the Small Business Administration. In six months to a year, it will be moved to the main campus in Lorman.

**Unfinished Business: None**

**County Business: None**

**Department Director's Reports**

**James Johnston- Community Development**

**#26:01:/21**

**Designation of Applicant Agent  
MS Emergency Management Agency**

Staff is requesting a motion to appoint myself (James Johnston) as the City's Designated Applicant Agent and Brittany Daniels as Alternate Applicant Agent for the submission of (possible) applications to MEMA/FEMA for the purpose of obtaining and administering certain federal financial assistance under the Disaster Relief Act of 1974 (PL 93-288). This request replaces Mr. Tony Moon and Mrs. Meg Freeman.

***Motion by Alderwoman Hall, second by Alderman Davis. The vote carried unanimously.***

**#27:01/21**

**Request for Bids - Natchez Railroad at Grade Safety Improvement Program  
2016 TIGER**

Staff is requesting a motion to allow the Natchez Railroad, Inc to issue a Request for Bids (RFB) for installing a culvert at MP 131.9 and sheet pile embankment retaining wall bridge MP 144.6.

***Motion by Alderwoman Irving, second by Alderman Davis. The vote carried unanimously.***

**#28:01/21**

**2020 Affordable Housing Program  
Federal Home Loan Bank of Dallas**

Staff is requesting a motion to approve Magnolia Medical Foundation providing the necessary housing counseling services for the two (2) awarded Affordable Housing Programs and to allow the mayor to sign the required Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to submit to the Federal Home Loan Bank for their review and approval.

***Motion by Alderwoman Irving, second by Alderwoman Hall. The vote carried unanimously.***

**#29:01/21**

**Natchez Aquatic Center Pool Upgrades  
2019 Land & Water Conservation Program  
MS Dept. of Wildlife, Fisheries & Parks**

*Depending on the outcome from the Finance Committee Meeting - Staff may request a motion for the following action items to allow this recreation project to move forward –*

- To submit a request to MDWF&P to extend the contract period to May 31, 2022
- To execute the Modified Project Agreement w/MS Department of Wildlife, Fisheries & Parks adding the concrete deck expansion, permanent bleachers, automatic chlorinator, cubbies, and lockers
- Amend the professional services agreement with Waycaster & Associates to incorporate the amended scope of work (from the above-stated MDWF&P amendment), increasing the compensation to \$23,060.00 (from \$17,894.00).
- Once the MDWF&P contract extension has been approved, to allow staff to begin the procurement process, i.e. Request for Quote Bids for the heating system and solar panel cover and Advertisement for Bidders for the shower/locker room addition and remaining items.

***Motion by Alderwoman Hall, seconded by Alderwoman Irving w/friendly amendment that this project proceeds subject to Adams County Board of Supervisors contributing to the one-half cost of the project as determined within the interlocal agreement. The vote carried with the Board voting as follows:***

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

**Cleaning of Illegal Dump Site – Briel Avenue  
Solid Waste Assistance Grant (SWAG)  
MS Dept. of Environmental Quality**

Staff is requesting permission to receive quote bids to clean an illegal dump site on Briel Ave. adjacent to the railroad tracks and owned by the Natchez Railroad.

**Motion by Alderwoman Hall, second by Alderman Davis. The vote carried unanimously.**

Riccardo Giani- Planning Department

#31:01/21

A motion was made by Alderwoman Irving, seconded by Alderman Dillard to reappoint Marsha McCullough to the Planning Commission for another term to beginning February 1, 2021 (Riccardo Giani made the recommendation). **The vote carried unanimously.**

**Justin Dollar- Public Works**

#32:01/21

A motion was made by Alderwoman Irving, seconded by Alderwoman Hall to approve the advertisement for yearly and six (6) month general bids. **The vote carried unanimously.**

**City Officials' Reports**

**Alderwoman Hall**

- Mayor's task force has met and assessed all six (6) city parks, Mr. Richard Burke will compile data for review.
- Tennis Review Board has interviewed applicants for Tennis Pro/Tennis Management Company, recommendation will be brought to the board.
- Comments from Mayor regarding North Natchez Park, evaluation of the building by the Historic Natchez Foundation has been complete, and the building is in sound condition and the porch is original.

**Alderman Frazier**

- Comments regarding vandalism and damage at Natchez Youth Center, request/recommendation to find grants or funds to restore or rehab building for the purpose to regain use of the Natchez Youth Center.
- Clarification of vote taken on November 10, 2020, regarding Finance Meetings. According to the minutes' vote determined that no finance, the meeting would take place before each board meeting.

**Alderwoman Smith**

- As past Chairperson of Utilities Committee would like to give an update on Schneider Energy Program for saving throughout the city replace interior and exterior lighting with LED technology at city-owned properties, replace city-owned streetlights. Entergy Savings \$77,370.75.
- Thank you, Mr. Joel (Jody) Rutter, Building Inspector
- Recipient of 2020 Energy Efficient Program of the Year
- Safe City Task Force, Police Chief, Sheriff Dept, in attendance at the meeting. Addressed issues related to getting evidence to the State Crime Lab, increase awareness in Natchez, making community members feeling comfortable and safe with speaking with our police department and their representative.
- Citizens, please have no doubts that our Police Department and Sheriff Department are working together as a team.

**Alderwoman Irving**

- Concord Drainage Improvement Program was voted to be a priority but has not been mention. This project affects 130 residents. Request that erosion problems are mention when meetings with lobbyists for funding in phases.
- Thanks to Mr. Johnston for project detailing, Mr. Dollar, and every department head in person and online for everything you all do.

**Alderman Davis**

- No Report

**Alderman Dillard**

- Beautification project, demolition candidate in Ward 6, 2724 Roselawn Dr. made improvements request consideration to change candidate to 21 Linden

#33:01/21

A motion was made by Alderman Dillard, seconded by Alderwoman Irving to approve the change request for demolition candidate for Ward 6. The candidate at 2724 Roselawn is excluded due to proper improvement completed and will be replaced with the candidate at 21 Linden Drive. **The vote carried unanimously.**

- Public Properties is under this Mayor's Report, will yield.

#### Servia Fortenberry - City Clerk's Report

#34:01/21

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: Abstain  
Alderman Davis: Aye  
Alderman Dillard: Nay

#35:01/21

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: Abstain  
Alderman Davis: Aye  
Alderman Dillard: Aye

#36:01/21

A motion was made by Alderwoman Hall, seconded by Alderwoman Irving to approve City Clerk Servia Fortenberry and Deputy City Clerk Pam Patterson to attend the 75<sup>th</sup> Annual International Institute of Municipal Clerks Conference (IMMC) in Grand Rapids, MI, May 9-13, 2021, to include reimbursement of expenses incurred. (Grant requirement: Applicants must show proof from their municipality that they are authorized to attend the Conference and provide for the accommodations, transportation, and meal expenses, in order to apply for a grant.) **The vote carried unanimously.**

#37:01/21

A motion was made by Alderwoman Irving, seconded by Alderman Davis to approve the Mayor, Board of Aldermen, and City Clerks to attend the 90<sup>th</sup> Annual MS Municipal League (MML) Conference in Biloxi, MS July 26-28, 2021, to include reimbursement of expenses incurred. **The vote carried unanimously.**

#38:01/21

A motion was made by Alderwoman Smith, seconded by Alderwoman Irving to approve the advertisement of the depositories to serve the City of Natchez for a two-year term. (The selected depositories must pledge certain securities to secure deposits and should outline their services and fees.) **The vote carried unanimously.**

#### City Attorney's Report

#39:01/21

A motion was made by Alderwoman Irving seconded by Alderwoman Hall to approve the adoption of the Mississippi Department of Labor Consolidated Appropriation Act (CCA) 2021, extended employer tax credits for paid sick leave, and expanded family and medical leave voluntarily provided to employees until March 31, 2021. **The vote carried unanimously.**

**Mayor's Report**

- Discussion of COVID-19 concerns
- Discussion of funding for Armstrong Library and Natchez, Inc.

#40:01/21

A motion was made by Alderman Dillard, seconded by Alderman Davis to approve the funding of \$52,903.00 to Armstrong Library to be paid from fund 176. **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

#41:01/21

A motion was made by Alderman Davis, seconded by Alderwoman Smith to approve the funding of \$12,079.00 to Natchez-Adams EDA to be paid from fund 177. **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

- Discussion of final swimming pool improvements
- Discussion of Depot lease
- Schneider Lighting Update
- Update on cruise ships, docks, and Silver Street
- Update on Workforce Development
- Legislative Report
- Approval of the Transit Fund 9/30/19 Audit Draft

#42:01/21

A motion was made by Alderwoman Hall, seconded by Alderwoman Smith to approve the Transit Department Fund Single Audit Draft for Fiscal Year Ending 09/30/2019. **The vote carried unanimously.**

#42:01/21

A motion was made by Alderwoman Smith, seconded by Alderwoman Hall to enter Executive Session for a personnel and litigation matter. **The vote carried unanimously.**

The Mayor announced that no actions were taken.

#43:01/21

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

**Adjourn**

#44:01/21

A motion was made by Alderman Davis, seconded by Alderwoman Hall to adjourn the Regular Board Meeting of January 26, 2021.

  
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 DAN M. GIBSON, MAYOR

ATTEST:

  
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 SERVIA FORTENBERRY, CITY CLERK

