

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

Tuesday, August 25, 2020 6:00 PM Natchez Convention Center

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 Dan Gibson (via virtual)
 - Alderwoman Hall (via virtual)
 - Alderman Frazier
 - Alderwoman Smith
 - Alderwoman Irving
 - Alderman Davis
 - Alderman Dillard

Also Present: Attorney, Bryan Callaway

#344:08/20

Approve Minutes

A motion was made by Alderwoman Irving, seconded by Alderman Frazier to approve the minutes of the Inaugural/Organizational Meeting held Friday, July 24, 2020.

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

The vote carried unanimously.

#345:08/20

A motion was made by Alderwoman Irving, seconded by Alderman Frazier to approve Regular Board Meeting Minutes held Tuesday, July 28, 2020.

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

The vote carried unanimously.

#346:08/20

A motion was made by Alderwoman Irving, seconded by Alderman Davis to approve Regular Board Meeting minutes held Tuesday, August 11, 2020.

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

The vote carried unanimously.

#347:08/20

A motion was made by Alderwoman Hall, seconded by Alderwoman Irving to include the reason why Alderwoman Hall abstained on the approval of minutes – the meeting occurred before her term started.

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

The vote carried unanimously.

#348:08/20

A motion was made by Alderwoman Irving, seconded by Alderman Davis to approve the Budget Retreat minutes held Saturday, August 15, 2020.

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

The vote carried unanimously.

#349:08/20

A motion was made by Alderwoman Irving, seconded by Alderman Davis to approve the minutes of the Special Call Meeting held Monday, August 17, 2020.

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

The vote carried unanimously.

**Public Hearing - Nuisance Properties
Anita Smith -Code Enforcement Officer**

#350:08/20

A motion was made by Alderman Dillard, seconded by Alderwoman Smith to open Public Hearing to discuss nuisance properties.

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

The vote carried unanimously

#351:08/20

A motion was made by Alderwoman Irving, seconded by Alderman Dillard to close Public Hearing to discuss nuisance properties.

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

The vote carried unanimously

A motion was made by Alderwoman Irving, seconded by Alderwoman Hall 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 to allow the liens to be applied to the property taxes and a copy of the resolution be filed in the county clerk's office of the tax collector, the circuit clerk, and the chancery clerk office.

Alderwoman Hall: Aye

Alderman Frazier: Aye

Alderwoman Smith: Aye

Alderwoman Irving: Aye

Alderman Davis: Aye

Alderman Dillard: Aye

The vote carried unanimously

Welcome Visitors

Roy King

- **Donation of computers to Senior Center**

Robert Pernel

- **Census Update**

Jennifer Combs, Lance Harris, & Katie McCabe-NCPC

- **FY21 Budget and FY19 Audit**

Presentation on Depot Project - Mr. Norris & Tate Taylor

A motion was made by Alderwoman Smith, seconded by Alderwoman Irving to move forward with the Depot Project proposed.

Alderwoman Hall: Aye

Alderman Frazier: Aye

Alderwoman Smith: Aye

Alderwoman Irving: Aye

Alderman Davis: Aye

Alderman Dillard: Aye

The vote carried unanimously

DIP application for Project Silver-Chandler Russ

A motion was made by Alderman Dillard, seconded by Alderman Davis to authorize and approve the Mayor on behalf of the City of Natchez, entering into an agreement with the Mississippi Development Authority, in order to receive a grant in the amount not to exceed \$260,000.00, for the purpose of completing infrastructure related to Project Silver and thus enhance the creation of jobs.

Alderwoman Hall: Aye

Alderman Frazier: Aye

Alderwoman Smith: Aye

Alderwoman Irving: Aye

Alderman Davis: Aye

Alderman Dillard: Aye

The vote carried unanimously

Chandler Russ

Remote Worker Incentive Update

A motion was made by Alderwoman Smith, seconded by Alderman Davis to authorize and approve the payment of additional funds to Natchez, Inc. to allow Natchez to retain the governmental affairs services of Gregg Harper and Manning McPhillips, Jr., of Watkins & Eager, which will benefit and promote the City of Natchez by aiding in developing a list of priorities, identifying and securing state and federal funds, assisting in the application and grant award process, providing legislative support, and assistance with logistics, and to allow the Mayor to sign any documentations necessary. This authorization and approval of payment of the additional funds shall be conditioned upon the approval of the proposal and equal participation in the funding by the Adams County Board of Supervisors.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Smith, seconded by Alderman Davis to allow the Mayor to sign any documents necessary.

Alderwoman Hall: 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- Community Development**

2021 EPA Brownfields Assessment Grant Program

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

The Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for this program was released the middle of last week announcing the 2021 grant cycle, program guidelines, etc., with applications due on or before 5:00 P.M. on Wednesday, October 28, 2020. Staff is requesting a motion to prepare and submit a grant application for funding consideration and to also work with PPM Consultants, the environmental consulting firm procured by the city, to assist w/the preparation and provide the required consulting/environmental services for this grant.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Irving, seconded by Alderman Davis to prepare and submit a grant application for funding consideration and to also work with PPM Consultants, the environmental consulting firm procured by the city, to assist w/the preparation and provide the required consulting/environmental services for this grant.

Alderwoman Hall: Aye
Alderman Frazier: Aye
Alderwoman Smith: Aye
Alderwoman Irving: Aye
Alderman Davis: Aye
Alderman Dillard: Aye
The vote carried unanimously

Recall that this past year our coalition partners were Adams County and F.O.R. Natchez. Staff needs to confirm their participation, and if accepted, request a motion authorizing and approving the formation of a coalition for our FY21 application at your next board meeting.

The amount of the grant that will be applied for will not exceed \$600,000.00, with a ZERO match requirement. PPM and staff are working to finalize the project budget at this time.

The target areas (again being) proposed are – Historic Downtown Natchez w/emphasis on the Natchez Bluffs and Dr. MLK 'Triangle' and Adams County Industrial Park. Catalyst sites proposed include Armstrong Tire, former International Paper plant, MLK Triangle Filling Station, etc.

Additional sites may be assessed (Phase I and/or Phase II) depending on the cost of the five primary sites. Other activities may include asbestos inspections, cleanup planning, site reuse assessments, underground storage tank removal (UST), etc.

#357:08/20

Commerce Street Entertainment District Upgrades

2020 MDOT Transportation Alternatives (TA) Program

MDOT announced this past week that it would be accepting applications for its Transportation Alternatives (TA) Program. Included in the *Downtown Master Plan* is the creation of an 'Arts District' on the 100 block of Commerce St. b/n Main & Franklin. To assist in achieving this goal, staff would like the mayor & board to budget for and sponsoring an application to provide the necessary ADA and sidewalk and handicapped improvements along w/ the installation of aesthetic lighting and/or 'bollards' to provide needed lighting to improve the protection and safety of pedestrians and motorists as well as providing electricity for outdoor festivals and other events.

Total cost, including A&E, contingencies, etc. is \$303,379.00. Match requirement is 20% or \$60,675.80.

To proceed w/the submission of this application staff is requesting the following action from the mayor & board –

A motion was made by Alderwoman Smith, seconded by Alderwoman Hall to allow for staff to prepare and submit the 2020 Transportation 'Fast Act' Alternatives Program application.

Alderwoman Hall: Aye

Alderman Frazier: Aye

Alderwoman Smith: Aye

Alderwoman Irving: Aye

Alderman Davis: Aye

Alderman Dillard: Aye

The vote carried unanimously

#358:08/20

A motion was made by Alderwoman Smith, seconded by Alderwoman Hall that the city will commit to the required 20% cash match totaling \$60,675.80.

Alderwoman Hall: Aye

Alderman Frazier: Aye

Alderwoman Smith: Aye

Alderwoman Irving: Aye

Alderman Davis: Aye

Alderman Dillard: Aye
The vote carried unanimously

#359:08/20

A motion was made by Alderman Dillard, seconded by Alderwoman Irving that the city will maintain these improvements and budget accordingly per the guidelines of the 2020 Transportation 'Fast Act' Alternatives Program.

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

The vote carried unanimously

#360:08/20

A motion was made by Alderman Dillard, seconded by Alderwoman Irving that there are no foreseeable legal impediments that would prohibit the completion of the project and that the project comply w/applicable codes, standards, and/or other regulations required for completion.

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

The vote carried unanimously

Community Heritage Preservation Grant Program, Round 14

HB 1730, Laws of MS 2020

MS Dept. of Archives & History

MDAH recently released the application and guidelines for this preservation program. IN summary –

- **Applicants can be state agencies, local governments, 501.c.3 organizations, etc.**
- **As in past funding rounds, the minimum match requirement is 20%**
- **There is no maximum or minimum that can be applied for, though there are limited funds available, and MDAH will attempt to spread funds geographically around the entire state.**
- **Certified Local Government (CLG) communities can use grant funds to apply for projects other than courthouses or schools. Natchez is a CLG community.**
- **For a property to be considered eligible, the building must be a listed Mississippi Landmark property.**
- **Funds are historically reimbursed upon project completion during past projects reimbursements have been submitted on a recurring basis.**
- **Applications are due on or before October 2, 2020**
- **All preservation work must adhere to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties**

- The execution and recording of a 25-year Preservation & Maintenance Covenant is again required to ensure the maintenance and preservation of the building.
- Past projects sponsored by the City have included the preservation of the Auburn Kitchen Dependency, the Auburn Water Intrusion Mitigation Project and Margaret Martin School.

Staff would like the board to again consider applying for funds to replace the deteriorated modified bitumen roofing system atop the Natchez City Hall with a new TPO or thermoplastic polyolefin roofing system! The Natchez City Hall roofing system is 30+ years old, worn, many times patched, and has several active leaks. Photographs provided depict the existing condition of the roofing system.

Replacing the existing roofing system at Natchez City Hall is an eligible project under the program guidelines because –

Scope of Work & Cost Estimate

Breakdown for Requested Match

To move forward...

In order to precede w/the preparation and submission of this application staff is requesting the following:

#362:08/20

A motion was made by Alderman Dillard, seconded by Alderwoman Hall authorizing the preparation and submission of requested MDAH preservation program application.

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

The vote carried unanimously

#363:08/20

A motion was made by Alderman Dillard, seconded by Alderwoman Irving to allow the mayor to sign all applicable application documents.

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

The vote carried unanimously

#364:08/20

A motion was made by Alderwoman Hall, seconded by Alderwoman Smith to agree upon and pass a motion pledging the 35% cash match, or \$84,567.75 for this preservation project.

- Alderwoman Hall: Aye
- Alderman Frazier: Aye
- Alderwoman Smith: Aye
- Alderwoman Irving: Aye

Alderman Davis: Aye
Alderman Dillard: Aye
The vote carried unanimously

#365:08/20

A motion was made by Alderwoman Hall, seconded by Alderman Frazier stating that city officials have read and understand the 'Statement of Understanding' form

Alderwoman Hall: Aye
Alderman Frazier: Aye
Alderwoman Smith: Aye
Alderwoman Irving: Aye
Alderman Davis: Aye
Alderman Dillard: Aye
The vote carried unanimously

City Official Reports

Alderman Dillard

Kristy Williams-Linden Antebellum Home

#366:08/20

Walter Armstrong- Natchez Police Chief

A motion was made by Alderman Frazier, seconded by Alderwoman Hall to allow a filming documentary company from London to use camera footage to highlight the success of the camera installation through Project Nola.

Alderwoman Hall: Aye
Alderman Frazier: Aye
Alderwoman Smith: Aye
Alderwoman Irving: Aye
Alderman Davis: Aye
Alderman Dillard: Aye
The vote carried unanimously

City Clerk's Report-Servia Fortenberry

#367:08/20

A motion was made by Alderman Dillard, seconded by Alderwoman Smith to approve the Claims Docket.

Alderwoman Hall: Aye
Alderman Frazier: Aye
Alderwoman Smith: Aye
Alderwoman Irving: Abstain
Alderman Davis: Aye
Alderman Dillard: Aye
The vote carried.

#368:08/20

A motion made by Alderman Davis, seconded by Alderwoman Hall to approve the Mini Claims Docket.

Alderwoman Hall: Aye
Alderman Frazier: Aye
Alderwoman Smith: Aye
Alderwoman Irving: Abstain
Alderman Davis: Aye
Alderman Dillard: Aye
The vote carried.

Bryan Callaway - City Attorney

#369:08/20

A motion was made by Alderman Dillard, seconded by Alderwoman Irving to approve an engagement letter with Silas Simmons for bank reconciliations at a cost of \$95 per hour for the following accounts in preparation for FY18-19 Audit.

- Fund #001- General Fund
- Fund #113 - Senior Center
- Fund #125- Transportation
- Fund #126- Recreation
- Fund #135- Visitor Center
- Fund #606- Victory Tax Withholding
- Fund #630- Payroll Clearing

Alderwoman Hall: Aye

Alderman Frazier: Aye

Alderwoman Smith: Aye

Alderwoman Irving: Aye

Alderman Davis: Aye

Alderman Dillard: Aye

The vote carried unanimously.

#370:08/20

A motion was made by Alderman Dillard, seconded by Alderman Davis to allow the Mayor to continue to contract with Waste Management for garbage disposal until Arrow Disposal can resume continue hauling to the Riverbend Environmental Services Landfill.

Alderwoman Hall: Aye

Alderman Frazier: Aye

Alderwoman Smith: Aye

Alderwoman Irving: Aye

Alderman Davis: Aye

Alderman Dillard: Aye

The vote carried unanimously.

#371:08/20

A motion was made by Alderwoman Smith, seconded by Alderman Hall to allow Eileen Schaffer to assist Mr. Callaway, in helping to recover expenses used to obtain Waste Management services, at \$200 per hour, if it is economical and efficient for the City to pursue those funds.

Alderwoman Hall: Aye

Alderman Frazier: Aye

Alderwoman Smith: Aye

Alderwoman Irving: Aye

Alderman Davis: Aye

Alderman Dillard: Aye

The vote carried unanimously.

#372:08/20

A motion was made by Alderman Dillard, seconded by Alderman Davis to allow the Mayor to sign a Declaration of Emergency in preparation for bad weather and damage resulting from Hurricane Laura.

Alderwoman Hall: Aye

Alderman Frazier: Aye

Alderwoman Smith: Aye

Alderwoman Irving: Aye

Alderman Davis: Aye

Alderman Dillard: Aye

The vote carried unanimously.

Alderwoman Hall is no longer attending via teleconference (call).

Mayor's Report

- Declare vacancy and appoint Interim Fire Chief
- Visit Natchez- Ticket Sales

#373:08/20

A motion was made by Alderman Smith, seconded by Alderman Dillard to authorize the Mayor to begin negotiations with Visit Natchez in an effort to enter into an agreement whereby promotions and ticket sales for attractions and events in the City of Natchez can be consolidated and centralized for our citizens, visitors and tourists.

Alderwoman Hall: No vote

Alderman Frazier: Aye

Alderwoman Smith: Aye

Alderwoman Irving: Aye

Alderman Davis: Aye

Alderman Dillard: Aye

The vote carried unanimously

Adjourn

A moment of silence for Mrs. Katie Moore.

A motion was made by Alderman Frazier, seconded by Alderwoman Smith to adjourn Regular Board Meeting August 25, 2020 in memory of Katie Moore.



DAN M. GIBSON, MAYOR

ATTEST:



SERVIA FORTENBERRY, CITY CLERK