

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

Tuesday, September 22, 2020

6:00 PM

IN-PERSON & TELECONFERENCE
NATCHEZ CONVENTION CENTER

City Clerk, Servia Fortenberry

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

Present: Mayor Dan Gibson
Aldерwoman Valencia Hall
Alderman Billie Joe Frazier
Aldерwoman Sarah Carter-Smith
Aldерwoman Felicia Bridgewater-Irving
Alderman Benjamin Davis
Alderman Daniel Dillard

Also Present: Attorney, Bryan Callaway
Servia Fortenberry- City Clerk

#390:09/20

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Aldерwoman Hall, seconded by Alderman Davis to approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held Tuesday, August 25, 2020. (Editorial change: add Mini Docket motion). **The vote carried unanimously.**

#391:09/20

A motion was made by Alderman Davis, seconded by Aldерwoman Smith to approve the minutes of the Special Call Board Meeting held Tuesday, September 1, 2020. **The motion carried unanimously.**

#392:09/20

A motion was made by Aldерwoman Hall, seconded by Alderman Davis to approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held Tuesday, September 8, 2020. **The motion carried unanimously.**

#393:09/20

A motion was made by Aldерwoman Hall, seconded by Aldерwoman Smith to approve the minutes of the Special Call Board Meeting held Friday, September 11, 2020. (Editorial change: correct the date). **The vote carried unanimously.**

Public Hearing - Property Liens

Anita Smith- Code Enforcement Officer

Nuisance Lot Liens

Walworth St 0 GW; 1024 Dr. M L King St. N; 0 Mascagni, Old Washington Rd Pilgrim Blvd, GW; 1227 Watkins St, GW; 121 Louisiana St. GW; 123 Louisiana St. GW; 0 McIntyre Blvd, GW; 612 State St. GW; 0 Leaf St 0 AV OA TL; 204 Live Oak Dr. GW

#394:09/20

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

#395:09/20

A motion was made by Alderwoman Smith, seconded by Alderwoman Hall to declare all of the properties listed in the staff's 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 Office of the Tax Collector, the Circuit Clerk Office, and the Chancery Clerk Office. **The vote carried unanimously.**

#396:09/20

A motion was made by Alderwoman Smith, seconded by Alderman Davis to close the Public Hearing and return to Regular Session. **The vote carried unanimously.**

Remarks from Visitors:

Presentations-

- Proclamation Honoring the Late Senator Bob M. Dearing
- Presentation to Roy F. King III

Kathleen Bond and Ser Boxley

- Update on Forks of the Road Slave Market District/Natchez National Historic Park

Mona Bates

- Discuss the need for a mental health facility and discuss Zippy's Store on MLK

Carter Burns

- Discussion on the Balloon Festival

#397:09/20

A motion was made by Alderwoman Smith, seconded by Alderwoman Hall to declare July 30th as Bob Dearing Day in the City of Natchez. **The vote carried unanimously.**

#398:09/20

A motion was made by Alderwoman Hall, seconded by Alderwoman Irving to make the Fork of The Road Slave Market District/Natchez National Historic Park a major priority. **The vote carried unanimously.**

Unfinished Business: None

County Business: None

Department Director's Report

Riccardo Giani – Planning Department

#399:09/20

A motion was made by Alderwoman Hall, seconded by Alderwoman Irving to appoint Leonardo Lane as Natchez Preservation Commissioner. **The vote carried unanimously.**

James Johnston- Community Development

#400:09/20

Citywide Water Improvement Project

MDA CDBG PF and MSDH SRF

Staff is requesting a motion to extend this CDBG Public Facilities, from October 26, 2020 to December 31, 2020 to allow the contractor to complete all required work and to allow for the submission of the closeout documents. The reason for the increased time is due to a work stoppage and delay in receiving the necessary equipment, both due to COVID-19.

Motion by Alderwoman Smith to extend the deadline to December 31, 2020 as requested. Second by Alderman Dillard. The vote carried unanimously.

#401:09/20

Natchez Railroad at Grade Safety Improvement Program 2016 TIGER

Staff is requesting a motion to approve Reimbursement #19 to the Natchez Railroad as stated below, to allow the mayor to sign the Request for Advance or Reimbursement form to draw down funds from the Federal Railroad Administration, and to authorize the city clerk to issue a check upon receipt of the requested funds –

Payee	Federal Funds	NRR/Local	Total Request
Natchez Railroad	\$38,970.73	\$12,990.24	\$51,960.97

Motion by Alderwoman Hall to allow the mayor to sign the Request for Advance or Reimbursement form to draw down fund from the Federal Railroad Administration and authorize the Clerk to issue a check as requested. Second by Alderwoman Irving. The vote carried unanimously.

Justin Dollar- Public Works

#402:09/20

Mr. Dollar appeared before the Board and informed the Board that it was time to request general bids, again.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Irving, seconded by Alderman Davis to the award of the low bidders on the 6 month general bids. **The vote carried unanimously.**

#403:09/20

Mr. Dollar appeared before the Board and discussed EWP projects on MLK and Wheeler Drive.

A motion was made by Alderman Davis, seconded by Alderman Dillard to approve EWP Projects to extend the time of the project. (Alderwoman Smith ask for an opinion from the AG's Office in regards to going onto private property). **The vote carried unanimously.**

City Officials' Reports

Alderwoman Hall – Thanked everyone for their prayers during her Covid illness. She informed everyone of the blocked traffic on Miller Street due to the pipelines being changed out. She is in support of the Marble Stone Project.

Alderwoman Irving – Apologized for not being in attendance due to her surgery, she thanked everyone for the calls and prayers. She thanked the department directors and reported on how well the Neighborhood Garden is doing.

Alderman Frazier – Commented on the work at Titan Tire, he thinks it would make a good green space. Devereux Drive is looking nice, people need to pick up paper.

Alderwoman Smith – Litter is out of hand. She asked people not to litter, and for the business owners to keep their lots clean.

City Clerk's Report

#404:09/20

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

Alderwoman Hall: Aye

Alderman Frazier: Aye

Alderwoman Smith: Aye

Alderwoman Irving: Abstain

Alderman Davis: Aye

Alderman Dillard: Aye

#405:09/20

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

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

#406:09/20

A motion was made by Alderwoman Hall, seconded by Alderman Davis to approve the City Clerk Servia Fortenberry's travel to attend the Fall Master Municipal Clerk and Committee Academy in Ridgeland, MS, October 21-23, 2020, and reimbursement of expenses incurred by the City Clerk. **The vote carried unanimously.**

City Attorney's Report

Attorney Callaway gave an update on Riverbend Landfill.

#407:09/20

Attorney Callaway informed the Aldermen that specially appointed Judge Vollar has appointed a special prosecutor in Municipal Court, and the Clerk needs authority to pay the special Prosecutor the \$250.00 per hour Ordered by the Judge. A motion was made by Alderwoman Smith, seconded by Alderwoman Hall to approve Judge Vollar's order appointing a special prosecutor and ordering the City of Natchez to pay said prosecutor, \$250.00 per hour. **The vote carried unanimously.**

Mayor's Report

The Mayor gave an update on **Covid-19.**

#408:09/20

A motion was made by Alderman Davis, seconded by Alderwoman Hall to ratify the Mayor's signature and adopt a Bank Resolution with Home Bank regarding signatures on Bank Accounts for the City of Natchez (Remove Denise Bell, add Pamela Patterson) **The vote carried unanimously.**

The Mayor gave a report regarding **ticket sales** at the **Natchez Visitors Center.**

#409:09/20

A motion was made by Alderwoman Smith, seconded by Alderwoman Hall to renew the **golf contract** with **Greg Brooking (MGM)**. An amended motion was made by Alderwoman Irving, seconded by Alderman Frazier to discuss this matter in Close Determination, **motion failed** by the following vote, with the Mayor breaking the tie:

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

On the **original motion** by Alderwoman Smith, seconded by Alderwoman Hall to renew the golf contract with Greg Brooking (MGM). **The vote carried with Board-members voting as follow:**

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

The approval of **Remote Worker Incentive Program** – Chandler Russ/ Natchez Inc. was delayed until the next Board Meeting to be held on Tuesday, October 13, 2020.

Discussion: Open Container Ordinance: No open containers on streets and no consumption on private property.

#410:09/20

A motion was made by Alderwoman Hall, seconded by Alderman Davis to approve the advertisement and begin the search process for a new Police Chief. **The vote carried unanimously.**

Update: The Mayor gave an update on the Depot Project.

#411:09/20

A motion was made by Alderman Dillard, seconded by Alderman Davis to approve Fred Parker as the agent of record for Health Related Insurance Policies. **The vote carried unanimously.**

#412:09/20

Mayor discussed the reduced fee arrangement with Watkins & Eager regarding services they will provide the City, and presented the Aldermen with a Joint Resolution and Joint Agreement drafted by Mr. Callaway and Attorney Slover.

A motion was made by Alderman Davis, seconded by Alderman Dillard to approve the revised agreement w/ former Congressman Gregg Harper/Watkins & Eager for lobbyist services to the City of Natchez in partnership with Adams County, approve and authorize the Mayor to sign the Joint Resolution and Joint Agreement on behalf of the City. **The vote carried unanimously.**

#413:09/20

The renewal of the Worker's Compensation Insurance was discussed with the Board, including the reduction in rates this year.

A motion was made by Alderman Dillard, seconded by Alderman Davis to approve the renewal of the **Workers' Compensation Insurance** under Mississippi Municipal Service Company report on savings and approve premium finance agreement. **The vote carried unanimously.**

#414:09/20

A motion was made by Alderwoman Smith, seconded by Alderwoman Hall to approve authority of the Mayor to enter into a run-out contract with Performance Health. **The vote carried unanimously.**

#415:09/20

Discussion of the need for a vehicle for the Mayor was discussed with the Alderman, and the Mayor presented the Board with a proposal from Natchez Ford for a Ford Explorer. Mr. Frazier inquired as to whether purchasing laws were complied with, and the Clerk informed the Board that the purchasing regulation were complied with.

A motion was made by Alderman Davis, seconded by Alderwoman Hall to approve the purchase of a vehicle for the Mayor (2020 Ford Explorer). **The vote carried unanimously.**

New Business

Financing of the Health Care premium was discussed with the Board, and the Mayor informed the Board that a local bank, the United Mississippi Bank, had agreed to finance the premium with substantially the same terms as were proposed by a foreign financing company. Alderwoman Smith informed the Board that she would need to abstain because of work with the Bank.

#416:09/20

A motion was made by Alderman Dillard, seconded by Alderman Davis to approve a resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute a promissory note with the United Mississippi Bank to finance the BCBS health insurance premium. **The vote carried with Board-members voting as follow:**

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

#417:09/20

A motion was made by Alderman Hall, seconded by Alderman Davis to form a 5 member committee to look at point of sales at the Golf Shop, the final decision will be at the next Board Meeting. An amended motion was made by Alderman Smith, seconded by Alderman Hall to add a point-of-sale at the Golf Pro Shop and at Visit Natchez. **The vote carried with Board-members voting as follow:**

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

#418:09/20

A motion was made by Alderman Irving, seconded by Alderman Hall to return in two weeks with a plan for Take a Stand and Beautification Projects using funds from insurance savings. **The vote carried unanimously.**

#419:09/20

A motion was made by Alderman Smith, seconded by Alderman Irving to enter into a closed determination. The vote carried unanimously.

Upon return from the closed determination, A motion was made by Alderman Smith, to enter into **Executive Session Personnel Matter and Pending Litigation involving the City.** The Motion was seconded by Alderman Irving. **The vote carried unanimously.**

A motion was made by Alderman Davis, seconded by Alderman Hall to return from Executive Session and into its open meeting.

#420:09/20

A motion was made by Alderman Hall, seconded by Alderman Davis to approve Dustin Hinkle from a part-time employee to a full-time employee and increasing his salary from \$30,000 annually to \$45,000 annually. The vote was as follow:

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

#421:09/20

The Board discussed the opening created in the Clerk's office by the recent departure of a deputy Clerk. The Clerk informed the Board that she need to replace the vacant position as soon as possible to keep up with the workload in the office.

A motion was made by Alderman Dillard, seconded by Alderman Smith to appoint Sevetrius Dillon as Chief Deputy City Clerk for the City of Natchez. **The vote carried unanimously.**

A motion was made by Alderwoman Smith, seconded by Alderwoman Hall to advertise for a Personnel Officer for the City of Natchez. **The vote carried unanimously.**

Adjourn

A motion was made by Alderman Davis, seconded by Alderwoman Hall to adjourn the Regular Board Meeting of September 22, 2020.



DAN M. GIBSON, MAYOR

ATTEST:



SERVIA FORTENBERRY, CITY CLERK