

**City of Natchez**  
**Minutes**  
**Mayor and Board of Aldermen**  
**Special Call Board Meeting**

---

Monday, June 28, 2021

4:30 PM

**COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
& VIA TELECONFERENCE**

---

Board Secretary, Sevetrius Dillon

1. Call to Order
2. Moment of Silence in Honor of Mr. Lee Nelson
3. Prayer by Mayor Gibson
4. Pledge of Allegiance
5. Roll Call by City Clerk:

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

Absent: Alderman Sarah Carter-Smith

Also Present: Attorney, Walter Brown  
Servia Fortenberry- City Clerk

---

**#284:06/21**

A motion was made by Alderman Davis, seconded by Alderman Irving to dedicate the meeting in memory of Lee Earl Nelson. **The vote carried with the Board voting as follows:**

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

**#285:06/21**

A motion was made by Alderman Hall, seconded by Alderman Dillard to approve the process of filing civil judgements to include attorney fees for \$200 per case on twenty-six (26) dilapidated properties. Proceedings will be handled by Attorney Timothy Cotton. **The vote carried with the Board voting as follows:**

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

**#286:06/21**

A motion was made by Alderman Hall, seconded by Alderman Smith to approve the resolution of directing the Adams County Tax Collector to sale property or collect all tax, penalties and liens filed by the City of Natchez. **The vote carried with the Board voting as follows:**

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

**Other City Business**

**#287:06/21**

A motion was made by Alderman Davis, seconded by Alderwoman Irving to table the discussion for consideration of offer by The Towers to purchase General Hospital property from the City and allow City Attorney time to research Request for Proposal and/or receiving of Bids process. **The vote carried with the Board voting as follows:**

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

**Unfinished Business: None**

**County Business:**

- County Supervisor Rickey Gray ask that both County and City attorneys meet together to determine the use of the American Recovery Act money that can be used to demolish dilapidated properties and maintenance properties.

**Department Director's Reports**

**James Johnston- Community Development**

**#288:06/21**

- **Marin Avenue Retaining Wall EWP**

**Natural Resource Conservation Service**

The City of Natchez received quote bids on Friday, June 11, 2021 at 11:00 to address the punch list items for the above project. Two (2) quote bids were received and taken under advisement. Staff is recommending that the two quote bids be rejected. **On a motion by Alderman Dillard, seconded by Alderman Frazier. The vote carried as follows:**

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

**#289:06/21**

- **Reroofing of Natchez City Hall**

**2020 Community Heritage Preservation Grant Program (#2020-002)**

**MS Department of Archives & History**

Staff, in cooperation w/the project architect are requesting permission to solicit and receive construction bids for the above-referenced project. **On a motion by Alderwoman Irving, seconded by Alderman Frazier. The vote carried as follows:**

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

**#290:06/21**

- **Project Silver**

**Development Infrastructure Program (DIP #427)**

**MS Development Authority**

Staff is requesting a motion to pay Construction Estimate #4, totaling \$16,905.55, with the entire sum being paid by the benefitting business, Loss Prevention Services, LLC and Waycaster & Assoc., totaling \$975.00 w/the DIP reimbursing the City of Natchez.

	<b>City of Natchez</b>	<b>Loss Prevention Services, LLC</b>
<b>Stubbs NK Contracting</b>	<b>\$ -0-</b>	<b>\$16,905.55</b>
<b>Waycaster &amp; Assoc.</b>	<b>\$975.00</b>	<b>\$ -0-</b>

**On a motion by Alderwoman Hall, seconded by Alderman Davis. The vote carried as follows:**

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

**#291:06/21**

▪ **Natchez Railroad At-Grade Safety Improvement Program**

**2016 TIGER**

Natchez Railroad is requesting concurrence and approval of Change Order #2 with Neel Shaffer and decrease said contract by \$7,000.00 to \$111,600.00 due to a change in scope of work. *Note – this is associated w/the culvert near MP 131.9.* **On a motion by Alderwoman Irving, seconded by Alderman Davis. The vote carried as follows:**

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

**#292:06/21**

▪ **2021 American Rescue Plan Local Fiscal Recovery Funds**

**US Department of the Treasury**

Staff is requesting a motion for the board to approve and the mayor to sign the documents required to submit to the MS Dept. of Finance & Administration (DFA) to allow for the City of Natchez to request said funds. The forms needing approval are –

Award Terms & Conditions (as provided by the Treasury)

Assurances of Compliance w/Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. **On a motion by Alderwoman Irving, seconded by Alderman Davis. The vote carried with the Board voting as follows:**

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

**#293:06/21**

Mayor will be signing these documents. In addition, staff is asking the board to allow the city clerk to establish a new bank account for these funds. **On a motion by Alderwoman Irving, seconded by Alderman Davis. The vote carried with the Board voting as follows:**

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

**#294:06/21**

▪ **Memorandum of Agreement B/N Adams County, Friends of the Riverfront and Adams County**

**US EPA 2021 Brownfield Coalition Assessment Grant**

Staff is requesting a motion to approve the provided MOA between said parties that outlines the management of said cooperative agreement and compliance with statutes and regulations. **On a motion by Alderwoman Hall, seconded by Alderman Davis. The vote carried as follows:**

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

**Justin Dollar- Public Works Director**

- Discussion of Traffic Accident Claim on June 5, 2021 that damaged street light

Mr. Dollar presented a claim for damages caused by two drivers running into each other on Devereaux Drive that damaged a city street light. Mr. Dollar explained that the insurance Companies are claiming the other company is responsible for the accident and neither will Pay for the damage caused by their insureds. Mr. Dollar stated that he has done all he can to Recoup the damages and a lawsuit would be the next step in the process.

**#295:06/21**

A motion was made by Alderwoman Hall, seconded by Alderman Dillard to approve and authorize Attorney Callaway to pursue a lawsuit against both drivers seeking damages against the drivers for City street light that was damaged and destroyed as a result of the accident. **The vote carried as follows:**

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

**City Officials' Reports**

**Alderwoman Hall  
Alderman Frazier  
Alderwoman Smith  
Alderwoman Irving  
Alderman Davis  
Alderman Dillard**

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

**#296:06/21**

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: Absent  
Alderwoman Irving: Abstain  
Alderman Davis: Aye  
Alderman Dillard: Aye

**#297:06/21**

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

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

**City Attorney's Report**

- Update on Great river purchase of Oakland Water.

**#298:06/21**

A motion was made by Alderwoman Irving, seconded by Alderwoman Hall to approve the Great River purchase of Oakland Water and add Orders from the Public Service Commission regarding water and waste disposal to final minutes. **The vote carried with the Board voting as follows:**

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

- Update on sale of Margaret Martin property. Discussion of missing deed to back 15 acres of property sold to WG Properties sold by City , and request of Dunleith Investors to obtain quitclaim Deed to 15 acres plus the new acreage being sold to Dunleith Investors to clear Break in chain of title. Dunleith Investors in process of purchasing the Worley property in Bankruptcy.

#299:06/21

A motion was made by Alderwoman Hall, seconded by Alderwoman Irving to approve granting a Quitclaim Deed to Dunleith Investors that includes a description of all property conveyed in the missing deed and the new property being purchased by Dunleith Investors. **The vote carried with the Board voting as follows:**

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

- Approval of temporary interim golf cart contract.

#300:06/21

A motion was made by Alderwoman Hall, seconded by Alderman Dillard to approve the temporary interim golf cart contract for use at City of Natchez, Duncan Park Golf Course, while the City waits for the new golf carts that have been delayed by COVID to be delivered. **The vote carried with the Board voting as follows:**

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

**Mayor's Report**

- Update on Recreation Inter-local Agreement with Adams County to continue partnership with pool and soccer fields.
- Approval to file civil actions for judgements against "Top Twenty-Five" repeat offenders of city ordinance against dilapidated property.
- Approval to prepare a list of properties currently owned by the city because of tax forfeiture to sale to the public.
- Approval to advertise for Entertainment Manager or Management Company for City-Owned Venues.

#301:06/21

A motion was made by Alderwoman Hall, seconded by Alderman Dillard to advertise for an Entertainment Manager or Management Company for City-Owned Venues. **The vote carried with the Board voting as follows:**

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

- Approval of ordinance against the sale of drug paraphernalia related to the use of Crystal Meth, Crack Cocaine, and other illicit and illegal substances. Taken under advisement until July 13, 2021 meeting.
- Acknowledgement of Juneteenth as Federal Holiday.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Hall, seconded by Alderwoman Irving to acknowledged and observed Juneteenth as a Federal Holiday and to urge State Legislators to add as a State Holiday. **The vote carried with the Board voting as follows:**

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

- Other updates.

**Executive Session**

Mayor announced that an executive session was needed to discuss a personnel matter regarding an employee performance and pay disagreement.

#303:06/21

A motion was made by Alderman Davis, seconded by Alderwoman Irving to enter Executive Session regarding a Personnel matter. **The vote carried with the Board voting as follows:**

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

A motion was made by Alderman Davis, seconded by Alderman Dillard to return to regular session. **The vote carried with the Board voting as follows:**

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

**Report on Executive Session**

- Discussed a matter regarding personnel but no action was taken in Executive Session.

#304:06/21

A motion was made by Alderman Davis, seconded by Alderwoman Irving to provide retro pay for Employee Number 302014 and Employee Number 302193 for nine (9) days of service. **The vote carried with the Board voting as follows:**


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

**Adjourn**

A motion made by Alderman Davis, seconded by Alderman Frazier to adjourn the Special Call Board Meeting of June 28, 2021 at 6:51 PM.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
DAN M. GIBSON, MAYOR

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
SERVIA FORTENBERRY, CITY CLERK