

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

Tuesday, July 13, 2021

11:00 AM

**COUNCIL CHAMBERS
& VIA TELECONFERENCE**

Board Secretary, Sevetrius Dillon

1. Call to Order
2. Prayer by Reverend Ernest Ford, Sr.
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 (joined meeting at 11:20 AM)

Also Present: Attorney, Walter Brown
Servia Fortenberry- City Clerk
Sevetrius Dillon – Chief Deputy City Clerk

#306:07/21

Mayor announced that an executive session was needed to address a litigation matter with an attorney that had travelled to meet with the Board. A motion was made by Alderwoman Smith, seconded by Alderwoman Hall enter into Executive Session to discuss potential litigation matters. **The vote carried unanimously.**

#307:07/21

A motion was made by Alderwoman Irving, seconded by Alderman Davis to return to Open Session. **The vote carried unanimously.**

The Mayor reported that Board received a report from the attorney. General discussion occurred, but no formal action was taken by the Board.

Presentation of Key to the City

- Former City of Natchez Mayor, Butch Brown, 2012-2016

#308:07/21

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Alderwoman Smith, seconded by Alderwoman Hall to approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held Tuesday, May 11, 2021, pending final revisions from city attorney. **The vote carried unanimously.**

#309:07/21

The Hon. Peyton Prospere appeared and discussed status and progress of the \$2,000,000 General Obligation bond issuance, and presented the Board of Aldermen and Mayor a Resolution Of The Mayor And Board Of Aldermen Of The City Of Natchez, Mississippi, Authorizing And Directing The Issuance of General Obligation Bonds, Series 2021 (City Of Natchez Parks Projects), Of The City Of Natchez, Mississippi, In The Principal Amount Of Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000) To Provide Funds For The Purpose Of (A) Constructing, Improving, And Repairing Parks And Recreational Facilities, Including

Duncan park, North Natchez Park, And Other City Parks, And (B) Constructing, Improving, Or Paving Streets; Prescribing The Form And Incidents Of The Bonds; Providing For The Sale Of The Bonds; Making Provision For Maintaining The Tax-Exempt Status Of The Bonds; Approving And Authorizing The Distribution Of A Preliminary Official Statement; Authorizing The Execution And Distribution Of An Official Statement Pertaining To The Sale Of The Bonds; Authorizing The Execution Of A Continuing Disclosure Agreement Of The Bonds; Acknowledging And Authorizing The Execution of Post Issuance Compliance Procedures; And For Related Purposes. Alderwoman Hall moved for adoption of the Resolution, and Alderwoman Irving seconded the motion. **Following a discussion of the Resolution, the vote carried with the Board voting as follows:**

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

The motion having received the affirmative vote of a majority of the members present, the Mayor declared the motion carried and the resolution adopted.

#310:07/21

A motion was made by Alderman Davis, seconded by Alderwoman Hall to schedule the second July Board Meeting on July 30th due to conflicts related the 2021 Summer MML Conference. **The vote carried unanimously. (This note was out of Order)**

Welcome Visitors

Shirley Brown & Rhonda Shirley, MS Tobacco Free Coalition

- Discussion on Smoke-Free Ordinance for City of Natchez and Adams County

#311:07/21

A motion was made by Alderwoman Hall, seconded by Alderman Frazier to remove discussion of Smoke-Free Ordinance from the table. **The vote carried unanimously.**

#312:07/21

A motion was made by Alderwoman Hall, seconded by Alderman Davis direct the city attorney to work Ms. Shirley Brown with MS Tobacco Free Coalition on developing a Smoke-Free Ordinance for the City of Natchez. **The vote carried unanimously.**

- Approval of Annual Appropriation for Watkins St. Cemetery

#313:07/21

Following a presentation by Ms. Dorothy Sanders regarding the Historic Watkins Street Cemetery, a motion was made by Alderman Frazier, seconded by Alderwoman Irving, to approve an annual appropriation of \$7,500 plus an additional one-time appropriation of \$9,000 to remove immediate dangerous conditions and damage currently existing in the cemetery caused by the ice storm. **The vote carried unanimously. (This was not in the correct order in the minutes)**

Other City Business

Unfinished Business: None

County Business: None

Department Director's Reports

James Johnston- Community Development

2021 Emergency Bridge & Road Program (ERBR)
MS Department of Transportation

#314:07/21

MDOT recently announced it will again be accepting applications for its 2021 ERBR until 5:00 P.M. August 6, 2021. Staff (Dollar & Johnston) along w/consulting engineer JKS are requesting a motion to submit for funding consideration repair work for the Old Providence Road Bridge. The updated cost estimate totals \$413,363.00. Though local match is not required, it is strongly encouraged by MDOT. A 10% match totals \$41,336.30; a 20% match totals \$82,672.60.

If the board wants to proceed staff is requesting a motion authorizing the preparation and submission of a 2021 ERBR to make necessary repairs to the Old Providence Road Bridge, to utilize the services of Jordan, Kaiser & Sessions and Hayden Kaiser as the project engineer.

#315:07/21

A motion was made by Alderwoman Hall, seconded by Alderman Frazier to authorize the preparation and submission of a 2021 ERBR to make necessary repairs to the Old Providence Road Bridge, to inquire whether Adams County will contribute a match towards the project, and utilize the services of Jordan, Kaiser & Sessions and Hayden Kaiser as the project engineer. The vote carried unanimously.

Facilities Assistance Grant Program
United States Tennis Association (USTA)

Staff is requesting permission to prepare and submit an application to USTA for funding consideration. The application will assist with costs associated with the overlay of the existing courts/construction of new courts at Duncan Park and overlay of courts at North Natchez Park. The application will be for up to \$50,000.00.

#316:07/21

A motion was made by Alderwoman Hall, seconded by Alderman Dillard, to authorize the preparation and submission of an application to the of USTA for funding consideration to assist with costs associated with the overlay of the existing courts/construction of new courts at Duncan Park and overlay of courts at North Natchez Park. The vote carried unanimously.

Raising of Silver Street

Staff is requesting approval to pay the first pay application from Volkert for engineering services performed through June 30, 2021. The invoice totals \$2,128.52.

#317:07/21

A motion was made by Alderwoman Hall, seconded by Alderwoman Smith, to authorize the payment of \$2,128.52 for engineering services performed through June 30, 2021. The vote carried unanimously.

Cemetery Road EWP
Natural Resource Conservation Service

G. Rayborn Contracting, LLC has Pay Application #2 totaling \$1,020,334.84 on the docket for payment today. Should there be insufficient monies in the General Fund to cover this invoice there is a provision in the MS Code (MS Code 21-33-326) that allows for a municipal government to borrow in anticipation of a confirmed federal grant or loan. Should the board pursue this avenue a motion would be required to negotiate a rate from a local bank, execute the agreement, receive the funds and issue payment to the contractor. The short term loan would be repaid when the reimbursement is received.

#318:07/21

A motion was made by Alderwoman Smith, seconded by Alderwoman Hall, to authorize the City to negotiate a loan with a local bank in accordance with MS Code 21-33-326 in anticipation of the confirmed federal grant, authorizing the Mayor to execute any documents necessary and authorizing the City to receive the funds and issue payment to the contractor. The vote carried unanimously.

Estimate 1	\$325,434.66	Paid
Estimate 2	\$1,020,334.84	Pending payment (7.13.21)
Estimate 3	\$250,885.50	Balance not invoiced (based on contract value)
ESTIMATED NRCS share		\$1,317,240.38 (Amount outstanding/not paid)
ESTIMATED city share		\$ 279,414.63

**Architectural Services –
2021 Recreation General Obligation Bond
Duncan Park Golf Pro Shop**

Belinda Stewart Architects proposes to provide full architectural services including schematic design, bidding/contract negotiations and construction administration for 12% of the \$500,000.00 construction budget; this fee is broken down as schematic design, design development & construction documents for a fee of 7% and bidding/contract negotiations and construction administration for a fee of 5%; \$15,000.00 to utilize the services of Feltus Hawkins Design for golf club consultant services, and \$2,990.00 for the 3-D photo rendering of the clubhouse.

#319:07/21

A motion was made by Alderwoman Hall, seconded by Alderman Frazier, to negotiate and enter of a contract with Belinda Stewart Architects, with the assistance of the City Attorney, and authorizing the City to utilize the services of Feltus Hawkins, as requested. The vote carried unanimously.

North Natchez Park Youth Center

Waycaster & Assoc. proposes to provide full architectural services for a flat rate fee of \$43,800.00, which is based on a construction budget of \$365,000.00 that includes items normally considered as reimbursable expenses, but note the exception for the cost of an asbestos test and lead-based paint testing, survey, etc.

#320:07/21

A motion was made by Alderwoman Hall, seconded by Alderwoman Smith, to enter into a contract with Waycaster & Assoc. to provide full architectural services for a flat rate fee of \$43,800.00, which is based on a construction budget of \$365,000.00, that includes items normally considered as reimbursable expenses, noting the exception for the cost of an asbestos test and lead-based paint testing, survey, etc. The vote carried unanimously.

Chief Joseph Daughtry- Natchez Police Department

- Reports on Hank Williams, Jr. concert and Fourth of July Weekend
- Discussion of Zippy’s Convenient Store on Dr. MLK Jr. Street

#321:07/21

A motion was made by Alderwoman Smith, seconded by Alderwoman Irving to approve travel and per diem for Chief of Police Conference in Biloxi, MS June 13th-18th, 2021, to include reimbursement of expenses incurred. **The vote carried unanimously.**

- Update on Mudbug Festival
- Update on Hank Williams, Jr. Concert (July 4th)

- Announcement: August 3, 2021, Ride Around in connection with neighboring departments will take place beginning at 1:00 PM. October 5, 2021, National Night Out will be held in Natchez more details to follow.
- Discussion of the operations of Zippy's Convenient Store on Dr. MLK Jr. Street

#322:07/21

A motion was made by Alderwoman Smith, seconded by Alderwoman Hall to instruct the Police Chief to work with the District Attorney, City Attorney and Adams County Sheriff to seek a hearing before a judge to declare Zippy's a public nuisance. **The vote carried as follows with Mayor breaking the tie in favor of Aye.**

**Alderwoman Hall-Aye
Alderman Frazier-Nay
Alderwoman Smith-Aye
Alderwoman Irving-Nay
Alderman Davis-Nay
Alderman Dillard-Aye**

Mayor voted Aye breaking the tie and declared the Motion carried.

City Officials' Reports

Alderwoman Hall

#323:07/21

A motion was made by Alderwoman Hall, to accept the offer made by The Towers to purchase General Hospital with two (2) appraisals. Motion was not honored due to discussion being tabled at June 28, 2021 Special Call Board Meeting. Mayor noted that a Motion was made at the prior meeting and tabled and that Motion would have to be dispensed with prior to entertaining Alderwoman Hall's Motion.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Irving, seconded by Alderwoman Smith, to remove discussion regarding General Hospital RFP Bid process from the table. **Alderwoman Irving withdrew her motion.**

#324:07/21

A motion was made by Alderwoman Smith, seconded by Alderwoman Hall, to remove discussion regarding General Hospital RFP Bid process from the table so that it can be discussed. **The vote carried as follows, with the Mayor breaking the tie.**

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

#325:07/21

Discussion was held on Alderwoman Irving's Motion to Request RFP for sale of General Hospital that was removed from the table. Alderwoman Hall called question and Alderwoman Smith seconded. **The vote carried as follows, with the Mayor breaking the tie.**

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

A motion was made by Alderwoman Hall, seconded by Alderwoman Smith to consider the offer to purchase the General Hospital submitted by The Tower by obtaining two appraisals – one to be paid for by the City of Natchez and one to be paid for by the Towers. **The vote carried as follows, with the Mayor breaking the tie.**

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

- Spoke with the owners of Carpenter School Apartments. They are aware of what the City expects going forward.
- Interviews for Recreation Director will begin next week. The Recreation Committee has received many well qualified applicants.
- Thank you to Master’s Gardeners for volunteering to assist with the community garden at Osceola Park and the work they have completed around the City of Natchez.

Alderman Frazier

- Thank you to the Police Chief for the hard work during the Hank Williams, Jr. concert and would like to applauded him on the use of connections from neighboring departments and resources.
- Comments of racial tension and need of community to come together.

Alderwoman Smith

- Appreciates comments Mr. Frazier. Comments on creating opportunities for citizens, and doing what is best for citizens of Natchez.

Alderwoman Irving

- Need for communication, need to be more inclusive and diverse, and need to unite community.
- Need to ensure minority contractors are included, and potential motion to ensure minority contractors are included.
- Repairs needed to Jack Waite Park.

Alderman Davis

-

Alderman Dillard

- Concurs with Alderwoman Irving
- When we agree, let’s stop arguing and move forward.

Servia Fortenberry - City Clerk’s Report

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

A motion was made by Alderwoman Hall, seconded by Alderwoman Smith to approve the **Mini 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

A motion was made by Alderwoman Smith, seconded by Alderwoman Hall to approve City Clerk Servia Fortenberry and Deputy City Clerk Sevetrius Dillon to travel to Madison, MS on August 12-13, 2021, to meet with the city's consultant, Wallace Collins of Collins, Barr & Hembree, Ltd., CPA, regarding preparation for the adoption of FY21-22 Budget/Tax Levy and review of third quarter financials for the City of Natchez, and further approve reimbursements for travel and expenses incurred. **The vote carried unanimously.**

City Attorney's Report - No Further Report

Mayor's Report

- Announced first State of the City Speech to be held in one week on Friday, July 23rd at the band stand on the Bluff, followed by a party the Mayor is throwing at Rolling River Reloaded to celebrate.
- Announced special call meeting this Thursday at 4:00 regarding Project Phoenix to accept the donation to the City.
- Update of Civil Judgments. Met with Mr. Tim Cotton and he is developing a strategy to address properties.

#330:07/21

Motion by Alderwoman Hall to approve the Employment Report, second by Alderwoman Smith. The vote carried unanimously.

#331:07/21

A Motion was made by Alderwoman Smith, seconded by Alderman Davis, to donate \$500.00 to the Minorville Jubilee. Alderwoman Smith expressed desire to approve annual appropriation. The vote carried unanimously.

Second Executive Session

#332:07/21

Mayor announced that an executive session was needed to address a discipline matter at the Police Department. Alderwoman Smith moved to enter into executive session, Alderwoman Irving seconded the Motion. The vote carried unanimously.

#333:07/21

A motion was made by Alderwoman Irving, seconded by Alderman Davis to return to Open Session. **The vote carried unanimously**

#334:07/21

Police Chief Daughtry reported that he suggested that the Board adhere to his recommendation regarding employee #2973. Alderwoman Smith moved to accept recommendation of Chief Daughtry, Alderman Davis seconded the Motion. The motion carried unanimously.


Adjourn

A motion was made by Alderman Davis, seconded by Alderwoman Irving to adjourn the Regular Board Meeting of July 13, 2021.



DAN M. GIBSON, MAYOR

ATTEST:



SERVIA FORTENBERRY, CITY CLERK

