

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

Tuesday, July 25, 2023,

6:00 PM

Council Chambers/Via Facebook

1. Call to Order
2. Prayer: Devin Heath – Visit Natchez
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Roll Call by City Clerk:
Present: Mayor Dan Gibson
Alderwoman Hall
Alderman Frazier
Alderwoman Smith
Alderwoman Irving
Alderman Davis
Alderman Moroney

Board Secretary, Denise Bell

Also Present: Attorney, Bryan Callaway
City Clerk: Megan McKenzie
Chief Deputy Clerk: Denise Bell

Approval of Minutes

- Regular Meeting – June 13, 2023
- A motion was made by Alderwoman Smith, seconded by Alderman Davis to approve the Regular Board Meeting held June 13, 2023, pending attorney's approval.
The motion carried unanimously.

- Special Call Board Meeting – June 20, 2023
- A motion was made by Alderwoman Hall, seconded by Alderwoman Irving to approve the Special Call Board Meeting held June 20, 2023, pending attorney's approval.
The motion carried unanimously.

Public Hearing

- Adjudicated Properties
Alderwoman Hall recused herself @ 6:06 PM

A motion was made by Alderwoman Irving, seconded by Alderman Davis to enter into a Public Hearing to discuss adjudicated properties.
The motion carried unanimously.

Alderwoman Hall returned at 6:10 PM due to the home in reference was removed from the adjudicated list.

Property Owners

1. Charlotte Smith – 701 Madison St.
2. Elaine Griffin – 612 N. Rankin St.
3. Clarence Chatman – 2821 Roselawn Dr.
4. Frederick Todd – 12 Marbleston Rd
5. David Powell – 822 MLK

A motion was made by Alderwoman Smith, seconded by Alderwoman Hall to adjourn the Public Hearing.

The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Hall, seconded by Alderwoman Smith to approve the Resolution of Adjudicating nuisance properties in the City of Natchez, MS and removing 701 Madison St (postponing for 30 days), 640 Maple St, 30 Pernel St, and 2821 Roselawn Dr.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Smith, seconded by Alderwoman Hall to accept documents submitted to the Clerk and place in the official minutes of the Mayor and Board of Alderman.

The motion carried unanimously.

City Business

- Appropriations

A motion was made by Alderwoman Hall, seconded by Alderman Frazier to approve the appropriations – HB 603;2023 for West Stairs Lane drainage, revised estimates for Phase 1 and allocations – HB 603 for portion of Phase 1, Concord & West Stairs Lane.

The motion carried unanimously.

Department Directors’ Reports

James Johnston - Community Development

**Natchez Police Department Renovations
2022 Capital Improvements GOB**

Bids for the referenced project were received at 2:00 PM in the City Clerk’s Office. A summary of the bids received is as follows –

Contractor	
Wilmar	Smith Painting
Base Bid	\$ 109,500.00 \$ 95,900.00
Add Alt #1	\$ 10,900.00 \$ 16,300.00
Add Alt #2	\$ 77,400.00 \$ 76,600.00
Add Alt #3	\$ 46,000.00 \$ 52,000.00
Total	\$ 243,800.00 \$ 240,800.00

Base bid –

- a) Cosmetic Improvements to Front Façade, including landscaping and painting.
- b) New patio w/benches, etc.
- c) Cosmetic improvements to the entrance foyer and public hallway
- a) Flooring, painting, and ceiling in entrance foyer and hallway

Add Alt #1

Cosmetic work to toilet in records room (outside courtroom)

Add Alt. #2

Renovating Executive Offices including enlarging chief's office and adding private toilet

Add Alt #3

Enlarging Investigator's Office (reducing size of men's locker room) and soundproofing walls and Interview Room

Funds allocated to this project total \$113, 800.00, allowing the mayor & board to accept the base bid and Add Alt #1 from Smith Painting & Contracting.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Smith, seconded by Alderwoman Hall to accept the recommendation of staff.

The motion carried unanimously.

Lighting of MS River Bridge

Environmental Coordination, Permitting & Plan Development

HB 1353 of the 2022 Mississippi Legislative Session

Staff is requesting a motion to enter a contract with Volkert, Inc. for the Environmental Coordination, FHWA/MDOT permitting, and plan development for the lighting system on each of the sides (N & S or outer) of the MS River Bridges at Natchez-Vidalia, subject to the review and approval of the city attorney. The lights shall be mounted on the existing outer mounting brackets of each bridge and shall illuminate the exterior of each bridge truss only. The not-to-exceed fee for this work totals \$153,185.00.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Irving, seconded by Alderwoman Smith.

The motion carried unanimously.

Angeletty House

2024 Community Heritage Preservation Grant Program

MS Dept. of Archives & History

MDAH recently announced and released the guidelines for the above-referenced 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% but additional points are given for providing more than the minimum match required.
- There is no maximum or minimum amount 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, but the building MUST be a Mississippi Landmark property. Natchez is a CLG community.
- Again, for a property to be considered eligible, *the building must be a listed Mississippi Landmark property.*
- Funds are historically reimbursed upon project completion, but during past projects reimbursements have been submitted on a reoccurring basis.
- Applications are due on or before the end of September.
- 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, noting this document is recorded at the courthouse.
- Past projects sponsored by the City have included the preservation of the Auburn Kitchen Dependency, the Auburn Water Intrusion Mitigation Project, City Hall Roof Replacement (2020), and Yazoo & MS Valley Railroad Depot Renovation (2023), etc.

Staff would like the board to consider applying for funds to restore the Angelette House, a MS Landmark Property constructed in 1845 and located at 180 St. Catherine Street. This historic structure is in a deteriorated condition and in need of preservation.

Next Step...

Staff is working w/local architect Waycaster & Associates to develop a detailed scope of work and cost estimate, but to proceed w/the development of this application the mayor & board will need to pass a motion authorizing the preparation and submission of this application, pass a motion to allow the mayor to sign all applicable application documents, agree upon and pass a motion pledging the cash match for this preservation project and pass a motion stating that city officials have read and understand the 'Statement of Understanding' form (included in all past applications). IN addition, if awarded, announcements are expected in January, mandatory workshop in February/March, enter contract w/consulting architect to develop P&S, submit to

MDAH and NPC for review and approval and then advertise for a general contractor late summer to early fall 2024.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Irving, seconded by Alderwoman Hall to proceed as presented by Mr. Johnston. The motion carried unanimously.

Natchez City Auditorium

Request for Quote Bids (Bid Package #1) 2022 Convention Center Complex Bond

Staff is requesting a motion to approve an access agreement between the owners of Choctaw and the City of Natchez to grant the city and our contractor's access across a portion of property identified as Parcel #41-111B-29.2 to allow needed heavy equipment to transport materials and supplies onto the roof to allow for the roofing system to be repaired. **A motion was made by Alderwoman Irving, seconded by Alderwoman Hall. The motion carried unanimously.**

Receipt of Bids – One (1) New Four-Wheel Drive Loader Natchez Public Works Department

Bids were received in the Clerk's Office until 10:00 A.M. on Tuesday, July 18, 2023. A summary of the bids is attached. It is the recommendation of the Public Works Superintendent that the city accept the bid price offered by Stribling Equipment Company of \$242,090.20 along w/the five-year buyback price of \$120,000.00 (net cost to city \$122,090.20) which the city would like to exercise (unless an auction company offered to give more at that time).

Discussion on financing options – City Clerk Megan McKenzie.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Irving, seconded by Alderman Davis to accept the recommendation of the Public Works Superintendent. The motion carried unanimously.

Turtle Lane Drainage Improvement Project

MDEQ MS Municipality & County Water Infrastructure Grant

Staff (Dollar & Johnston) are requesting a motion to advertise for a general contractor for the above-referenced drainage improvement project.

A motion was made by Alderman Davis, seconded by Alderwoman Irving to proceed w/advertising. The motion carried unanimously.

Construction of Two (2) New Tennis Courts at Duncan Park 2021 Recreation General Obligation Bond Issue

Staff is requesting a motion to retroactively approve a letter sent to A&M Engineering to allow Stubbs NK Contractors, LLC to proceed w/the following activities –

1. To order and install PP40 poly coated (powder coated) fencing and post in place of the fencing in the specifications.
2. To allow Stubbs NK Contractors, LLC to install the post-tension slab utilizing the needed sub-contractors as requested, which include –
 - a. Total Foundation to perform the post-tension work.
 - b. Foundation Builders to perform the laser screed and finish slab work.
 - c. Stubbs NK (General Contractor) will perform the form work, digging of footings, rock base work, and furnish and place the concrete.

Note – staff spoke w/Recreation Committee members Ald. Valencia Hall, Ald. Sarah Carter-Smith and Ald. Curtis Moroney as well as City Attorney Callaway before taking this action. **A motion was made by Alderwoman Hall, seconded by Alderwoman Smith. The motion carried unanimously.**

Request for Qualifications for Qualified Environmental Professional (QEP) FY23 EPA Brownfields Cleanup Grant

The City of Natchez received proposals for a QEP in the City Clerk's Office until 10:00 AM on Thursday, July 20, 2023. One proposal was received, and it was from PPM Consultants. Staff is requesting a motion to enter into a professional services agreement w/PPM Consultants, subject to the concurrence of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and review by City Attorney Callaway, to provide the required professional environmental services for this cleanup grant.

Activities to be performed by the Qualified Environmental Professional include but are not limited to –

- Finalizing the ABCA, development of the Cleanup Action Plan (CAP), development of bid plans and specifications, oversight of abatement and cleanup activities, post-cleanup reporting, participation in stakeholder engagement activities, and supporting grant management and reporting activities.
- The Consultant will work under the direction of the City's staff and/or representatives, and will work in collaboration with other project stakeholders, as necessary.
- IN addition, the EPA and the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) will be actively involved in the project including reviewing and approving appropriate documents and providing regulatory oversight throughout the duration of the project.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Hall, seconded by Alderwoman Irving to enter into a contract w/PPM Consultants to serve as the City's Qualified Environmental Professional (QEP for its FY23 EPA Brownfield Cleanup Grant. The motion carried unanimously.

Duncan Park Golf Pro Shop Renovation 2021 Rec GOB & 2022 Capital Improvements GOB

Staff is requesting a motion to rebid this project noting that the following items will be removed from the base bid and listed as Add Alternates –

- Ramps: existing front ramp to remain and remove new ramp on north side.
- Gutters: Remove new gutters and downspouts on the metal buildings that help direct water into storm drains.
- Cornice: Replace the deteriorating wood cornice with new wood on the front building instead of replacing it with fiberglass.
- Changing Rooms: Eliminate the changing rooms.
- Offices: Eliminate the two offices, these areas can be unfinished with a few canned lights and function as pro shop.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Smith, seconded by Alderwoman Hall to proceed w/re-advertising this renovation project and to list the referenced items as 'Add Alternates.'

The motion carried unanimously.

Overlay of Select City Streets 2022 Road General Obligation Bond Issue

Staff is requesting a motion to execute a contract w/JKS Engineers to provide inspection services for this street overlay project. The cost of the services totals \$41,040.00 or \$380.00 per day for an average eight (8) hour workday, for an estimated contract period of 108 working days.

Note – Working days is based on MDOT's 'green book' for the average number of working days in each month for the State of MS. The 108 days cover from mid-August to the end of April 2024. Should the contractor complete the overlay early, the proposed fee for inspection services will be reduced accordingly.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Hall, seconded by Alderman Davis to enter a contract w/JKS Engineers to provide inspection services for the City's Overlay of Select City Streets.

The motion carried unanimously.

Ryan Porter – Interim Recreation Director

- Update on Recreation
 - Controller Upgraded: Recommended for the pool.

A motion was made by Alderman Moroney, seconded by Alderman Davis to approve the purchase of the HCC Cat 4000 Wi-Fi in the amount of \$967.91:

- Remotely controlled and monitored with real time diagnosis.
- Automatically records hourly chemical logs to reduce liability.
- Plug and play compatibility with current system.
- Included test probes and one-year warranty.

The motion carried unanimously.

- Strategies to manage chemical inventory.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Hall, seconded by Alderwoman Smith to purchase the Pulsar Precise System (Model PS-1HC), in the amount of \$4,344.00.

The motion carried unanimously.

City Officials' Reports

Alderwoman Hall

- There was a good turnout at congressman Thompson's Open-House on July 21.
- Pickleball and tennis are going strong. Pickleball is picking up and is looking for more youth for the tennis and pickleball.
- Thank the Housing Board for sending the minutes from last month.
- August 3rd at 10 am, ribbon cutting at North Natchez Park.
- Thanked the Mayor for his remarks at the State of the City.

Alderman Frazier

- Attended the State of the City. I did not agree with everything that was said and I did not appreciate of being called-out about the Youth Center, it should not have been said.
- We still have a long way to have a lot of things to do, and I am committed to working with the rest of the Board.
- Attended Congressman Thompson local office in Natchez. There was a great turnout. He made an announcement concerning the New Beginnings erosion, and \$300k monies available to start on the erosion problems.
- We are fortunate to have a congressman to represent Southwest Mississippi.

Alderwoman Smith

- NO REPORT

Alderwoman Irving

- Attended the ribbon cutting for Congressman Bennie Thompson.
- I am grateful to have someone from the delegation here in our community.
- Received an invitation from the Natchez Adams School District to the ribbon cutting on July 31st.
- Macedonia B.C will have a mobile food drive on July 28, 2023, at 9AM.
- I would like to get an update on the meeting to discuss the Short-Term Rental Ordinance, and when will the public know if there will be a meeting in the near future.

Alderwoman's Hall: That discussion cannot take place because the mayor and Alderwoman Smith recused themselves from the original discussion.

- Congratulate the mayor for doing a great job delivering the City's address.
- July 29th, the 33rd Annual Minorville Jubilee will take place.

Alderman Davis

- NO REPORT

Alderman Moroney

- NO REPORT

City Clerk's Report

A motion was made by Alderwoman Hall, seconded by Alderman Davis to approve the 2nd July 2023 Claims Docket

Alderwoman Hall: Aye

Alderman Frazier: Aye

Alderwoman Smith: Aye

Alderwoman Irving: Aye (Abstained from voting on Fire Department's Budget)

Alderman Davis: Aye

Alderman Moroney: Aye

The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Alderman Davis, seconded by Alderwoman Hall to approve the 2nd July 2023 Mini Claims Docket.

Alderwoman Hall: Aye

Alderman Frazier: Aye

Alderwoman Smith: Aye

Alderwoman Irving: Aye (Abstained from voting on Fire Department's Budget)

Alderman Davis: Aye

Alderman Moroney: Aye

The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Hall, seconded by Alderman Davis to approve the following interfund transfers:

1. 7/25/2023 from 113 Senior Center in the amount of \$78,000.00 to transfer funds owed to Transit from Senior Center.
2. 7/25/2023 from the ARPA Account to 630 Payroll Clearing account in the amount of \$118,873.73 for police portion of bi-weekly payroll.
3. 7/25/2023 from the ARPA Account to 630 Payroll Clearing in the amount of \$68,982.28 for fire portion of bi-weekly payroll.
4. 7/25/2023 from General Fund (2) to the 183 Road & Bridge account in the amount of \$1,319,949.53 to transfer the Use Tax funds to Road & Bridge Fund (budgeted account).

The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Smith, seconded by Alderwoman Hall to approve the following interfund loan repayments:

1. 7/25/2023 from General Fund (2) to the 2022 Capital Improvement Bond in the amount of \$184,132.95 for repayment of loans made on 4/6/23, 4/14/23, and 5/11/21.
2. 7/25/2023 from General Fund (2) to the 2022 Road Bond Account in the amount of \$3,605.00 for repayment of loans made on 4/14/2023.

The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Alderman Davis, seconded by Alderwoman Smith to approve the request to have the Letter from BNA Bank that the Convention Center Hotel TIF Bond is paid-in-full as of June 1, 2023, to be included in the July 25, 2023, Mayor and Board of Alderman official minutes.

The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Irving, seconded by Alderwoman Hall to approve the MOU and authorization for the mayor to execute all necessary documents for the receipt of funds in the amount of \$500,000.00 from the State of Mississippi for the Concord Avenue Drainage Improvement Project, which was approved through HB 603, 2023.

The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Irving, seconded by Alderman Davis to give approval for the Mayor and City Clerk to open a new/separate bank a count for the Concord Drainage Project funds by way of a resolution.

The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Hall, seconded by Alderwoman Irving to approve the MOU and authorization for the mayor to execute all necessary documents for the receipt of funds in the amount of \$500,000.00 from the State of Mississippi for the City's various drainage project, which was approved through HB 603, 2023.

The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Hall, seconded by Alderwoman Irving to give approval for the Mayor and City Clerk to open a new/separate bank a count for the Various Drainage Project funds by way of a resolution.

The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Alderman Frazier, seconded by Alderman Davis to approve the Resolution authorizing maintenance of Watkins Street Cemetery.

Alderwoman Hall: Aye

Alderman Frazier: Aye

Alderwoman Smith: Aye

Alderwoman Irving: Aye

Alderman Davis: Aye

Alderman Moroney: Aye

The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Irving, seconded by Alderwoman Smith to approve the resolution authorizing the increase of garbage collections fees due to a CPI increase from \$22.17 per household per month to \$24.15 per household per month.

Alderwoman Hall: Aye

Alderman Frazier: Aye

Alderwoman Smith: Aye

Alderwoman Irving: Aye

Alderman Davis: Aye

Alderman Moroney: Aye

The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor's Report

- Depot Renovations

A motion was made by Alderwoman Hall, seconded by Alderwoman Irving to proceed with the preparations of an RFP for the north end of the Depot.

The motion carried unanimously.

- Travel to Takeoff Nort America Conference in Atlantic City, NJ

A motion was made by Alderman Davis, seconded by Alderwoman Irving to approve the mayor to travel to Atlantic City, NJ to the Takeoff North America Conference.

The motion carried unanimously.

- Travel to MS Horizons in Flowood, MS

A motion was made by Alderman Davis, seconded by Alderwoman Irving to approve the mayor to travel to the MS Horizons Conference in Flowood, MS.

The motion carried unanimously.

Closed Determination

A motion was made by Alderman Davis, seconded by Alderwoman Hall to go into a closed determination to discuss contracts and personnel matters.
The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Alderman Davis, seconded by Alderwoman Hall to adjourn the closed determination and return to Regular Session.
The motion carried unanimously.

Closed Determination Report

City Attorney – Report/Closed Determination.

- There is a personnel matter regarding performance that needs to be discussed in an Executive Session. The other matters will be best discussed in open session.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Hall, seconded by Alderman Moroney to enter into a contract with Deborah L Hudson Germany to research grants for the City of Natchez on the Phase 1 Research Grant Proposal, that would allow her to research grant opportunities for the city, in the following areas: police, fire, public safety, recreation, animal control, community garden, and cultural enrichment, in the amount of \$3,500.00.

The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Smith, seconded by Alderman Moroney to enter into a 2-year contract with Bruce Video Productions at \$150.00 per hour and a minimum of \$300.00 per meeting.

The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Hall, seconded by Alderwoman Smith to enter into a 1-year contract with Imaginary Company with a monthly auto renewal after the 1st year, at \$3k a month.

The motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session

A motion was made by Alderwoman Hall, seconded by Alderwoman Smith to enter into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters within the Recreation Department.
The motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session started @ 8:36 PM

- Discussion of personnel issues in regard to the Recreation Director
- A motion was made by Alderwoman Hall, seconded by Alderman Davis to go into an Executive Session to discuss personnel issues in regard to the Parks and Recreation Director
The motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session ended @ 8:56 PM

Mayor Pro-Temp presided over the meeting.

A motion was made by Alderman Davis, seconded by Alderwoman Smith to adjourn Executive Session and return to Regular Session.
The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Alderman Davis, seconded by Alderwoman Irving to return to Open Session.

The motion carried unanimously.

Report

Discussed matters related to personnel and performance within the Recreation Department.
No action was taken.

Adjourn

A motion was made by Alderman Davis, seconded by Alderman Frazier to adjourn the Regular Board Meeting, July 25, 2023.

The motion carried unanimously.



DAN M. GIBSON, MAYOR

ATTEST:



MEGAN MCKENZIE, CITY CLERK

**City of Natchez, Mississippi
Mayor & Board of Aldermen
Small Claim Docket (Non-Payroll Related Disbursements)**

Date Prepared: JULY 21, 2023	
Claim #	Payee / Description
20110	BNA BANK- GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND SERIES 2021 PRINCIPAL, INTEREST, AGENT FEE
10111	DAN GIBSON -REIMB TIRE REPAIR/ REIMB FOR HOTEL STAY IN BILOXI, MS
20112	BILLY POWE- CITY OF NATCHEZ LEGENDS CELEBRATION
20113	JOHN WAHLBORG- FINL PAYMENT OF SERVICES @ DUNCAN PARK TENNIS DEPT
20114	CAROLINE GREEN- REIMBURSEMENT FOR REPLACEMENT OF TIRE ON NPD CHIEF'S TRUCK
20115	MISSISSIPPI ASSOCIATION OF SELF INSURERS FALL CONF FOR DEASON, GIBSON, MCKENZIE
20170	ROBERT ARRINGTON- EXECUTIVE OFFICER CLASS 7/10-7/13 MML 6/25-6/29 MEAL REIMBURS
20171	JOSHUA BRUCE- FIRE FIGHTER 1001 I-II COURSE 8/21/2023 ANS 10/12/2023
	\$99,076.10

Accounts Payable
Voucher Approval Document



User: Tiffany Hauer
Printed: 07/21/2023 - 1:49PM
Batch: 00019.07.2023 - Tiffany's July 2023 Docket

This Docket of Claims listed herein, have been presented to the Board of Aldermen of the City of Natchez, Mississippi.

This Docket of Claims listed herein, have been presented to the Board of Aldermen of the City of Natchez, Mississippi and have been duly audited and allowed in the amount as shown. You are hereby authorized and directed to pay each of the listed claimants the amount allowed upon the claim appearing opposite the Vendor name.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand as City Clerk of the City of Natchez, Mississippi this _____ day of _____, 20__.

Megan McKenzie, City Clerk
City of Natchez, Mississippi

Fund	Description	Amount
001	GENERAL FUND	254,551.46
103	PUBLIC PROPERTIES FUND	22,397.79
105	CITY AUDITORIUM MAINT FUND	951.33
106	AUBURN MAINTENANCE FUND	225.00
108	SPECIAL FIRE FUND	6,901.01
113	SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER FUND	799.83
125	NTZ TRANSPORTATION-SR CTR	9,697.91
126	RECREATION COUNCIL FUND	3,932.34
134	RECREATION DEPT - DONATIONS	1,200.00
183	ROAD & BRIDGE FUND	11,347.00
348	2021 RECREATION G.O. BOND	114,883.00
351	2022 CONV CNTR COMPLEX BOND	4,403.64
352	2022 CAPITAL IMP G.O. BOND	69,520.25
	Report Total:	500,810.56

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING MAINTAINANCE OF WATKINS
STREET CEMETERY

WHEREAS, the Watkins Street Cemetery is one of the oldest African American cemeteries in the State of Mississippi, and is located in the 1300 Block of Watkins Street within the boundaries of the City of Natchez, Mississippi; and,

WHEREAS, the Watkins Street Cemetery is a historically significant cemetery as it contains the gravesites of veterans of foreign wars, persons who were born during the time of slavery, and mass and private gravesites of persons who perished in the Rhythm Night Club fire; and

WHEREAS, the crepe myrtle trees located in the Watkins Street Cemetery need to be trimmed and treated to prevent bark scale blight and the death of said trees; and

WHEREAS, an organization of volunteers known as the Worthy Women of Watkins Street Cemetery Association was formed to help maintain the Watkins Street Cemetery, but membership and volunteers for the organization have declined and the Association has been unable to meet the demands necessary to maintain the Cemetery; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Dorothy Sanders, on behalf of the Worthy Women of Watkins Street Cemetery Association, has appeared before the Mayor and Board of Aldermen on multiple occasions to request assistance with maintenance of this important Cemetery, and conditions at the Cemetery continue to deteriorate; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Board of Aldermen have previously found that the Watkins Street Cemetery meets the definition of an “abandoned cemetery” as defined in §21-37-21 of the Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Board of Aldermen find that assisting with the maintenance of this historical cemetery is in the best interest and welfare of the citizens of Natchez, and improvements to the Cemetery will draw visitors to the area and highlight the opportunities and benefits available in our community;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Natchez, Mississippi, as follows, to-wit:

1. That the matters, facts, and things recited in the Preamble hereto are hereby adopted as the official findings of the Governing Authority.
2. That the Mayor and Board of Aldermen hereby find that currently the Worthy Women of Watkins Street Cemetery Association is not physically or financially capable of maintain and treating the crepe myrtle trees located in the Cemetery, and no other person or entity can be found who is legally responsible and financially capable of such upkeep in the Cemetery.
3. An estimate for trimming and treating the Crepe Myrtles within the Cemetery has been received, and Mr. Monroe Sago has estimated the total cost to be \$495.00.
4. The Mayor and Board of Aldermen hereby find that \$495.00 should be allocated and budgeted to pay the invoices of Mr. Monroe Sago for trimming and treating the crepe myrtle trees.

Following the reading of the foregoing Resolution, Alderwoman Frazier moved the adoption of the foregoing Resolution authorizing the City of Natchez to assist in the expense and treating and trimming the crepe myrtle trees located in the Watkins Steet Cemetery up to the amount of \$495.00. Alderman Davis seconded the Motion for its adoption. The matter was then put to a roll call vote and the results were as follows:

Alderwoman Hall: aye
Alderman Frazier: aye
Alderwoman Smith: aye
Alderwoman Irving: aye
Alderman Davis: aye
Alderman Moroney: aye

Whereupon the Mayor declared the Resolutions approved and adopted, on the 24th day of July 2023.

CITY OF NATCHEZ, MISSISSIPPI

By: _____
Dan M. Gibson, Mayor

ATTEST:

By: _____
Megan McKenzie, City Clerk

(SEAL)