

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

Tuesday, July 30, 2021

11:00 AM

**COUNCIL CHAMBERS
& VIA TELECONFERENCE**

Board Secretary, Sevetrius Dillon

1. Call to Order
2. Prayer by Reverend Robert Wallace, Community Chapel Church of God
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: Bryan Callaway-City Attorney
Servia Fortenberry- City Clerk
Sevetrius Dillon – Chief Deputy City Clerk

#335:07/21

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Aldерwoman Smith, seconded by Aldерwoman Hall to approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held Tuesday, June 8, 2021. **The vote carried unanimously.**

#336:07/21

A motion was made by Aldерwoman Hall, seconded by Alderman Davis to approve the minutes of the Special Board Meeting held Tuesday, July 8, 2021. **The vote carried unanimously.**

#337:07/21

A motion was made by Aldерwoman Smith, seconded by Alderman Davis to approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held Tuesday, July 13, 2021. **The vote carried unanimously.**

Welcome Visitors

Presentation by Tim Cotton

- Dilapidated and abandoned properties, postponed until August

Other City Business

- Monroe Sago, Discussion of Crepe Myrtle Bark Scale Disease Control

Unfinished Business: None

County Business: None

- Opening of Two Million (\$2,000,000) General Obligation Bond Bids, Series 2021 (City of Natchez Parks Project)
- Waiver of conflict of interest for Watkins & Eager to represent city

#338:07/21

A motion was made by Alderman Dillard, seconded by Aldерwoman Hall to approve to accept and approve waiver of conflict of interest for Watkins & Eager to represent the City of Natchez in the

recreational bond matter. **The vote carried unanimously.**

Department Director's Reports

James Johnston- Community Development

#339:07/21

- Approval of Environmental Consulting Services Contract w/PPM Consultants (w/T. Hess) 2021 Brownfields Coalition Assessment Grant US Environmental Protection Agency
Motion Made by Alderwoman Irving, seconded by Alderwoman Hall to approve the consulting contract with PPM as requested. The vote carried unanimously.
- Approval of Reimbursement #24 Natchez Railroad at Grade Safety Improvement Program 2016 TIGER Federal Railroad Administration

#340:07/21

Motion Made by Alderwoman Smith, seconded by Alderwoman Irving to approve the requested reimbursement of \$. The vote carried unanimously.

- Clarification of Local Match Request 2021 Emergency Bridge & Road Program (ERBR) MS Department of Transportation

#341:07/21

Motion by Alderwoman Hall, seconded by Alderwoman Smith, to provide a 15% match to repair Providence Road bridge for application for ERBR program. The vote carried unanimously.

Justin Dollar- Public Works Director

- Seeking permission to advertise for 6 month general bids

#342:07/21

A motion was made by Alderwoman Irving, seconded by Alderman Frazier to approve to approve the advertisement for six month general bids for Public Works. **The vote carried unanimously.**

City Officials' Reports

Alderwoman Hall

- Announced the hiring of new Recreation Director in near future

Alderman Frazier

- Great MML Conference in Gulfport. Infrastructure update

Alderwoman Smith

- Successful MML Conference, great information for public knowledge and lobbying.

Alderwoman Irving

- Reminder that the Minorville Jubilee will be held from 10am until 2pm on Saturday, July 31, 2021. There will be a school supply drive, vaccination drive, and partners with MS Organized will be bring information.

Alderman Davis

- Enjoyed conference

Alderman Dillard

- Trees down at Duncan Park needs immediate assistance

Servia Fortenberry - City Clerk's Report

#343:07/21

A motion was made by Alderwoman Hall, seconded by Alderwoman Smith to approve the **Claims Docket. Alderwoman Irving recused herself from matter. The vote carried with the Board voting as follows:**

Alderwoman Hall: Aye

Alderman Frazier: Aye

Alderwoman Smith: Aye

Alderwoman Irving: Recused

Alderman Davis: Aye

Alderman Dillard: Nay

City Attorney's Report

- Lease extension for City Counter at Natchez Visitor's Center

#344:07/21

A motion was made by Alderwoman Smith, seconded by Alderwoman Irving to approve to approve a four (4) month lease extension for City Counter at Natchez Visitor's Center from July 2021 through October 2021. **The vote carried unanimously.**

- Approve resolution approving sale and award of General Obligation Bonds; and actions incident thereto

#345:07/21

A motion was made by Alderwoman Smith, seconded by Alderwoman Irving to approve the resolution of the sale and award of General Obligation Bonds; and actions incident thereto. **The vote carried unanimously.**

- Approval of security contract with Magnolia Bluffs Casino
 - Taken under advisement to refer to Police Committee; should be identified on a case by case basis.

Mayor's Report

- Approval to waive Natchez Adams School District to use Auditorium on Friday, July 30th for school opening convocation
 - Event postponed, no action needed
- Update on Covid 19/Delta Variant
- Report on 90th Annual MML Convention
 - Congratulations to Arrick Simmons on being elected as the third African American President of Mississippi Municipal League.
- Other General Updates
- Margaret Martin Issues

Mayor announced that an Executive Session is needed for the following matters:

- 1. Strategy session regarding prospective litigation involving employee claiming a reimbursement and threat of litigation that has been brought to the City Attorney's attention**
- 2. Discussion/interview of new employee position regarding Director of Parks and Recreation. Three prospective candidates will be interviewed.**
- 3. Discussion of personnel matter in the City Clerk's Office.**

#346:07/21

A motion was made by Alderwoman Smith, seconded by Alderwoman Hall to approve to enter Executive Session for discussion of described topics. **The vote carried unanimously.**

#347:07/21

A motion was made by Alderwoman Hall , seconded by Alderwoman Irving , to terminate the Executive Session and return to the regular meeting. The vote carried unanimously.

Mayor reported that the Board discussed the dispute, threat of litigation and employee of the City's claim to reimbursement, but more research will be conducted on the matter. Board interviewed three candidates for Director of Parks and Recreation, and discussed a personnel matter regarding an employee of the City Clerk's Office, but no action was taken by the Board in the Executive Session.

#348:07/21

A motion was made by Alderwoman Hall, seconded by Alderman Dillard, to hire Michell Burrell as Director of Parks and Recreation. **The vote carried with the Board voting as follows:**

Alderwoman Hall: Aye
Alderman Frazier: Nay
Alderwoman Smith(via teleconference): Aye
Alderwoman Irving: Aye
Alderman Davis: not present
Alderman Dillard: Aye

Adjourn

A motion was made by Alderwoman Hall, seconded by Alderman Dillard to adjourn the Regular Board Meeting of July 30, 2021.



DAN M. GIBSON, MAYOR

ATTEST:



SERVIA FORTENBERRY, CITY CLERK