

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

Tuesday, August 24, 2021

6:00 PM

**COUNCIL CHAMBERS
& VIA TELECONFERENCE**

Board Secretary, Sevetrius Dillon

1. Call to Order-Mayor Pro Tem
2. Prayer by Executive Director Sabrina Bartley, Natchez Transit & Senior Citizens Center
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Roll Call by City Clerk:

Present: Mayor Pro Tempo Daniel Dillard
Alderwoman Valencia Hall
Alderman Billie Joe Frazier
Alderwoman Sarah Carter-Smith
Alderwoman Felicia Bridgewater-Irving
Alderman Benjamin Davis

Also Present: Bryan Callaway-City Attorney
Servia Fortenberry- City Clerk
Sevetrius Dillon – Chief Deputy City Clerk

#368:08/21

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Alderwoman Smith, seconded by Alderman Davis to approve the minutes of the Special Call Board Meeting for June 15, 2021. **The vote carried unanimously.**

#369:08/21

A motion was made by Alderman Davis, seconded by Alderwoman Hall to approve the minutes of the Special Call Board Meeting for June 23, 2021. **The vote carried unanimously.**

#370:08/21

A motion was made by Alderwoman Smith, seconded by Alderman Davis to approve the minutes of the Special Call Board Meeting for June 28, 2021. **The vote carried unanimously.**

Welcome Visitors

Anita Smith-Code Enforcement
Nuisance Properties

A motion was made by Alderman Davis, seconded by Alderwoman Smith, to open the meeting for public discussion. **The vote carried unanimously.**

Nuisance Lots

24 Beaumont Street, 25 Buckners Avenue, 40 East Woodlawn Avenue, 5 Pelican Court, 1227 Daisy Street, 201 Dr. Martin L. King S, 31 South Concord Avenue, 3 Bud Scott Lane, 702 Lindberg Avenue, 29 Maplewood Lane

No public discussion of the proposed properties in question was offered.

#371:08/21

A motion was made by Alderwoman Smith, second by Alderwoman Irving close the public discussion. **The vote carried unanimously.**

#372:08/21

A motion was made by Alderwoman Smith, second by Alderman Davis to declare 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 motion is to list 40 East Woodlawn Avenue in Ward 1, it is not in Ward 4. **The vote carried unanimously.**

Welcome Visitors

Michael Gray

- Discussion about parking on 100 block of N. Union Street

#373:08/21

A motion was made by Alderwoman Smith, and seconded by Alderwoman Irving, for the street committee to review the unloading zone located on Union Street, to assess whether the loading zone should be smaller to provide additional parking on Union Street. **The vote carried unanimously.**

Other City Business

Devin Heath-NCPC/Visit Natchez Executive Director

- Budget Presentation

#374:08/21

A motion was made by Alderwoman Smith, seconded by Alderwoman Hall to accept budget presentation and to add presentation in to minutes. **The vote carried unanimously.**

Elisa Rushing, Representative- Natchez City Cemetery

- Annual Appropriation Request

Unfinished Business: None

County Business: None

Department Director's Reports

James Johnston- Community Development

Commerce Street Entertainment District Upgrades

2021 Transportation Alternative Program (TAP)

MS Department of Transportation

MDOT announced this past week that it would be accepting applications for its Transportation Alternatives (TA) Program. Included in the Downtown Master Plan is the creation of an 'Arts District' on the 100 block of Commerce St. b/n Main & Franklin. To assist in achieving this goal, staff would like the mayor & board to budget for and sponsoring an application to provide the necessary ADA and sidewalk and handicapped improvements along w/ the installation of aesthetic lighting and/or 'bollards' to provide needed lighting to improve the protection and safety of pedestrians and motorists as well as providing electricity for outdoor festivals and other events. Total budgeted cost, including A&E, contingencies, etc. is **\$520,282.50**. Match requirement is **\$134,202.50**.

To proceed with the submission of this application staff is requesting the following action from the mayor & board

1. Motion to again utilize the services of A & M Engineering, LLC (i.e. David Atkins & Jared Monceaux)
2. Motion to allow staff to prepare and submit 2021 Transportation 'Fast Act' Alternatives Program application
3. Motion that the city will commit to the required cash match totaling \$134,202.50
4. Motion that the city will maintain these improvements and budget accordingly per the guidelines of the 2021 Transportation 'Fast Act' Alternatives Program
5. Motion that there are no foreseeable legal impediments that would prohibit the completion of the project and that the project complies with applicable codes, standards, and/or other regulations required for completion

#375:08/21

A motion was made by Alderwoman Smith, seconded by Alderman Davis to proceed with the submission the application for 2021 Transportation Alternative Program and accept actions as outlined. **The vote carried unanimously.**

**2021 Solid Waste Assistance Grant
MS Dept. of Environmental Quality**

Staff is requesting a motion to prepare and submit a SWAG application for funding consideration by MDEQ. Possible sites to clean may include 1227 Daisy Street and others to be determined. If members of the board have illegal dumpsites for us to inspect let us know.

#376:08/21

A motion was made by Alderwoman Smith, seconded by Alderwoman Irving to approve the preparation and submission of 2021 Solid Waste Assistance Grant (SWAG) application. **The vote carried unanimously.**

**Approval of Reimbursement #25
Natchez Railroad at Grade Safety Improvement Program
2016 TIGER Federal Railroad Administration**

Staff is requesting a motion to approve Reimbursement #25 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 –

<u>Payee</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>NRR/Local</u>	<u>Total Request</u>
Natchez Railroad	\$348,515.59	\$116,171.86	\$464,687.45

#377:08/21

A motion was made by Alderwoman Smith, seconded by Alderman Davis to approve Reimbursement #25 for 2016 TIGER Federal Railroad Administration draw and authorization of payment request. **The vote carried unanimously.**

Justin Dollar – Public Works

- Approval to proceed with treatment for bark scale on Crepe Myrtle trees.

After a discussion of the status of Crepe Myrtle trees located on City property, the Board felt that it would be best to treat the trees that are in danger of dying this Fall, and then proceed with a Contract to treat all of the Crepe Myrtle trees in the Spring, which is the optimal time to apply the chemical necessary to treat the bark scale.

#378:08/21

A motion was made by Alderwoman Smith, seconded by Alderwoman Irving, to proceed with a contract to treat the Crepe Myrtle Trees that currently must be treated in order to save those trees. **The vote carried unanimously.**

Chief Joseph Daughtry- Natchez Police Department

- Discussion of radios and radars for new vehicles
- Approval of contract with grant writing consultant through December 31, 2021.

#379:06/21

A motion was made by Alderwoman Smith, seconded by Alderwoman Irving to approve contract with Stover Developments, LLC for grant writing consultant services through December 31, 2021 pending approving by City Attorney. **The vote carried unanimously.**

City Officials' Reports

**Alderwoman Hall
Alderman Frazier
Alderwoman Smith
Alderwoman Irving**

Alderman Davis
Alderman Dillard

Servia Fortenberry - City Clerk's Report

#380:08/21

A motion was made by Alderwoman Hall, seconded by Alderman Davis to approve the **Claims Docket. The vote carried unanimously.**

#381:08/21

A motion was made by Alderwoman Hall, seconded by Alderwoman Smith to approve the **Mini Claims Docket. The vote carried unanimously.**

#382:08/21

A motion was made by Alderwoman Smith, seconded by Alderman Davis to approve and adopt the **Ad Valorem Millage for Fiscal Year 2021-2022. The vote carried unanimously.**

City Attorney's Report

- Approval of Drug Paraphernalia Ordinance

#383:08/21

A motion was made by Alderwoman Hall, seconded by Alderwoman Smith to approve **Drug Paraphernalia Ordinance. The vote carried with the Board voting as follows:**

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

- Approve and adopt resolution authorizing sale of .96 acres having an address of 0 Triumph Lane, located near Highway 555/Pilgrim Blvd. needed by MDOT to repair Highway 555 erosion.

#384:08/21

A motion was made by Alderman Frazier, seconded by Alderman Davis to approve and adopt resolution authorizing the sale of .96 acres having an address of 0 Triumph Lane, located near Highway 555/Pilgrim Blvd. to Mississippi Department of Transportation to repair Highway 555 erosion. **The vote carried unanimously.**

- Approval of Balloon Festival Permit

#385:08/21

A motion was made by Alderwoman Smith, seconded by Alderwoman Hall to approve issuance of Balloon Festival permit. **The vote carried unanimously.**

Mayor's Report

- Approval of funding request from Natchez, Inc.
 - Taken under advisement

#386:08/21

A motion was made by Alderwoman Smith, seconded by Alderwoman Hall, to enter into a closed determination regarding two personnel matters. **The vote carried unanimously.**

#387:08/21

A motion was made by Alderwoman Hall, seconded by Alderwoman Irving, to enter Executive Session for two personnel matters. **The vote carried unanimously.**

#388:08/21

A motion was made by Alderwoman Smith, seconded by Alderman Davis, to return to regular meeting and terminate Executive Session. Following executive session, the Mayor reported that two personnel matters were discussed regarding the Police Department and Fire Department.

#389:08/21

A motion was made by Alderwoman Smith, seconded by Alderman Frazier, to ratify and terminate employee #302877. The vote carried unanimously.

#390:08/21

A motion was made by Alderman Davis, and seconded by Alderwoman Hall, to ratify and terminate Fire Department employee #303046. The vote carried unanimously.


Adjourn

A motion was made by Alderman Davis, seconded by Alderwoman Smith, to adjourn the Regular Board Meeting of August 24, 2021.



DAN M. GIBSON, MAYOR

ATTEST:



SERVIA FORTENBERRY, CITY CLERK



A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF NATCHEZ, ADAMS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI, FIXING THE MUNICIPAL AD VALOREM TAX LEVY FOR THE YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2021 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2022.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Natchez, Adams County, Mississippi, the following tax rate or levy for said municipality for ad valorem taxes to be collected upon each dollar of valuation upon the assessment rolls of said municipality is as follows, to wit:

GENERAL FUND	<u>33.560</u> Mills
BOND & INTEREST RETIREMENT FUNDS	<u>0.900</u> Mills
PARKS & RECREATION	<u>2.000</u> Mills
FIREMAN & POLICEMEN'S RELIEF & DISABILITY	<u>3.900</u> Mills
ARMSTRONG LIBRARY	<u>2.575</u> Mills
NATCHEZ-ADAMS EDA	<u>0.813</u> Mills
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT	<u>1.250</u> Mills
PUBLIC PROPERTIES	<u>1.734</u> Mills
TOTAL	<u>46.732</u> MILLS

SO RESOLVED, this the 24th day of August, 2021

DAN M. GIBSON, MAYOR

ATTEST:

SERVIA FORTENBERRY, CITY CLERK

