

FINANCE MEETING

April 9, 2013

The Finance Meeting of the City of Natchez met in the Council Chambers on Tuesday, April 9, 2013, at 9:00 a.m.

PRESENT:

Mayor Butch Brown	
Alderman Joyce Arceneaux-Mathis	Ward 1
Alderman Rickey Gray	Ward 2
Alderman Sarah Carter Smith	Ward 3
Alderman Tony Fields	Ward 4
Alderman Mark Fortenbery	Ward 5
Alderman Dan Dillard	Ward 6

ALSO PRESENT:

City Clerk Donnie Holloway
City Attorney Hyde Carby
Temple Hendricks, Board Secretary
David Gardner
James Johnston
Danny White
Eric Junkin

Engineering:

David Gardner asked for a determination on action to take regarding two bids that were tied on the general supplies. Mr. Carby advised to continue as things would proceed as if two companies were in-state.

Mr. Gardner had been advised by MDEQ that you can't be awarded two illegal dumpsite grants in the same year therefore the City will not be able to reapply until October 1st. April 1st and October 1st are the deadlines.

Mr. Gardner advised Mr. Carby that he's not ready for the resolution regarding the lift station; he's waiting for Robin Panches to handle.

Alderman Carter Smith asked Mr. Gardner if he'd heard anything back from B&B, the company the City had contracted with to handle the MDOT lights. Alderman Carter Smith said that the bid was to be per month and per times that B&B had to go out to make a repair—Mr. Gardner said that it was only bid one way.

Mr. Gardner advised Alderman Fields that 90% of the plans for the Bridge of Sighs are complete. The goal is to advertise for bids in August.

Community Development:

Daisy Street CDBG:

A public hearing was held on March 18th for the Daisy Street CDBG. Mr. Johnson will ask for the minutes of the public hearing are spread on the BOA's minutes and the Mayor be allowed to sign the public hearing's minutes.

Mr. Johnston will ask for a resolution to be passed outlining the City's Section 504 responsibilities under the Community Development Act of 1974.

Mr. Johnston will ask for a resolution to be passed that the City has the ability to maintain the proposed street and drainage improvements and that it will continue to budget funds for street and drainage improvements.

NatchHEALTH:

A lunch and learn was held for City employees and it was very successful. More events are planned.

Oak Towers/General Hospital:

The proposed developer, The Brownstone Group, hosted a public hearing two weeks ago and approximately 35 residents from the neighborhood attended. Brownstone is proposing \$5M to be spent on the development and is continuing their negotiations with Pam Gleichman.

Mr. Carby has not heard anything from Jeremy Diamond, attorney for Michael Worley. Michael Worley is to provide a letter of intent. MDAH will probably require a survey.

An emergency purchase of a boiler was made for the City Auditorium. It has not been installed yet. The A/C units have been inadequate. Mayor Brown said there are two boxes and each box contains two 30 tons units. Downstairs are two units that are each four tons. By running the one big unit which is working and the two smaller units overnight, Inspections was able to bring the temperature to 68 degrees. Fred Galler will combine the good compressor and good coil into one unit so that there will be two units which are working. At some point, the City will need to address the air conditioning. Hopefully the City will be able to make it through the summer.

Last year the City had budgeted \$3,000.00 for maintenance of the auditorium. So far the City has spent \$9,000.00.

Mayor Brown encourages the BOA to come Friday and Saturday to events celebrating the 1812 Bicentennial. Over 100 re-enactors will have an encampment at Jefferson College.

On Thursday, Mayor Brown and David Gardner will be making a presentation to the Army Corp of Engineers asking them to do reclamation work that was not done in 1999.

Alderwoman Carter Smith met with Spiller Consulting who conducts utility and telecom audits. About 80% of the time they find that a City is being overcharged. They work on a contingency basis, receiving 50% of what they find. Donnie Holloway said that an audit was conducted before and little was found. Alderman Carter Smith said that she doesn't see a reason for the audit to not be done.

Mayor Brown said that in October of 2011, the BOA passed a motion to rename Concord Park for Theodore "Bubber" West. The motion included adding Minorville Park to the sign but Alderman Fields said that he's fine with leaving it off due to the signage size requirements. It was determined that the current sign will have Theodore "Bubber" West added to the existing sign above Concord Park. The current sign will be lowered with Mr. West's name added to it.

Alderwoman Carter Smith said that she's concerned that the City has spent an additional \$4000.00 per month on marketing which has not been budgeted. She would like for the \$4000.00 to come out of the money that the City gave back to the CVB for marketing. Mayor Brown said that he had hoped that the increase for \$4,000.00 would've been discussed more.

Mr. Holloway said that the \$2.00 tax goes into one account. Alderman Fortenbery said that it does not. Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis asked Mr. Holloway to confirm where the money goes and to see if Warren Reuther's group doesn't keep their \$2.00. The BOA all agreed that the City can change its funding to them. Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis asked that the City give Angela Weathersby a chance. Alderwoman Carter Smith said, as the CVB supported the \$4,000.00 for marketing, the fee should come out of the variable marketing fee that they were just given. Donnie Holloway said that he was just presented a bill for \$24,000.00 from Warren Reuther's company. He advised that we do not have adequate funding to pay for this and the \$60,000.00 variable marketing fee will have to come out of the general fund. Alderman Dillard said that he doesn't believe that the minority can bring the \$4,000.00 funding back up. Alderwoman Carter Smith said that the BOA not discussing the \$4,000.00 per month but how to fund it.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis asked Mayor Brown if the \$1.00 per bus passenger fee was ever reinstated. He advised that it had not. Mayor Brown said that there used to be an idling ordinance.

Mayor Brown stated that the Perkins group has decided not to lease the Auditorium although they will be leasing it for specific events. Mayor Brown had offered them \$1,500.00; he does have someone from out of town that is interested in leasing the Auditorium. He stated that the Auditorium is not being aggressively marketed.

A motion was made by Alderman Gray, seconded by Alderman Fields, to close the meeting to determine whether or not the BOA should declare an Executive Session. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was closed for determination. The BOA returned and stated the reasons to go into Executive Session were to discuss the sale, purchase and lease of property along with a personnel issue at the Police Department. It was determined that sufficient reasons existed to go into Executive Session.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis, seconded by Alderman Fortenbery, to close the open meeting and to go into Executive Session to discuss Margaret Martin, the playground on Madison Street, the Logan Building and a personnel issue at the Police Department. The motion carried unanimously.

After meeting in Executive Session, Alderman Gray made the motion to go out of Executive Session and adjourn to the Regular Meeting of the Board of Aldermen. Alderwoman Carter Smith seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Larry L. "Butch" Brown, Mayor

Attest:

Donnie Holloway, City Clerk