

FINANCE MEETING
January 22, 2013

The Finance Meeting of the City of Natchez met in the Council Chambers on Tuesday, January 22, 2013, at 4:30 p.m.

PRESENT:

Mayor Butch Brown	
Alderwoman Joyce Arceneaux-Mathis	Ward 1
Alderman Rickey Gray	Ward 2
Alderwoman 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
Connie Taunton

Connie Taunton appeared to ask for Nancy Best to be appointed to fill the position on the Natchez Convention Promotion Commission being vacated by Tammi Gardner. Alderman Gray advised that he didn't have an issue with appointing Ms. Best, but he thought that proper procedure should be followed. Alderwoman Carter Smith asked that the BOA be given a copy of Ms. Best's resume. Mayor Brown advised that resumes of other nominees can be turned into the BOA. Ms. Taunton will bring Ms. Best and any other nominees up at the February 12th BOA meeting.

James Johnston advised that only 5% of City employees take full advantage of the Wellness You benefit. To encourage participation, it is recommended that employees be given one day off for their Wellness You visit and present proof of a doctor's visit upon returning to work. Alderman Fortenbery stated that a full day is too much time off work. Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis suggested that employees be given half a day minimum. Alderwoman Carter Smith asked Hyde Carby to look into the legality of giving employees half a day for wellness visits. Alderman Dillard said that department heads should demand that employee take half a day to handle their wellness visit. Mayor Brown said that the directive could be given and the employee will be docked time off from their sick leave. Mayor Brown will meet with Brenda Cantu to discuss possible solutions.

Mayor Brown and James Johnston asked that the City enter into an agreement with MS Smoking Coalition. The smoke cessation program is free.

The City is working with diverse groups for a comprehensive development plan of the bluff area. A grant application for the Depot with MDOT has a deadline of February 15th. The MDOT grant requires a 20% match and the TAP match would be up to \$125,000.00. Mr. Johnston will be asking for a motion for the grant to be submitted for MDOT. Upon discussion, the estimated cost for the rehab of the Depot will be \$1.2M to \$1.5M. USDA funds, which do not require a match, could be utilized. MSU is being brought into the project as the Adams County Extension Office can be housed in the Depot. The USDA grant, funded to Alcorn University, should be \$500,000.00-\$700,000.00 and will be used to build the railroad platform and farmers' market. MDOT TAP grant will be used to renovate the Depot as it's a transportation project. It is hoped that Alcorn and the Adams County Extension Office will maintain the facility. Upon discussion, it was not determined what funds are in the capital improvements fund. Alderwoman Carter Smith asked Donnie Holloway to report to the BOA at the work session on January 24th what exact funds are in capital improvements. Mr. Johnston will be asking for a vote to submit the grant to MDOT, which would require a 20% match, and he'll need a resolution.

Mr. Holloway said \$153,640.00 is in capital improvements for the Depot and the colonnades but it was not utilized therefore would be available for this project.

Discussion was held regarding the budget report dated 12-31-12:

Alderman Dillard asked Mr. Holloway, on page 32 under public properties, to address what is labeled miscellaneous. Mayor Brown stated that \$54,000.00 was for insurance for Brumfield. Mr. Holloway advised that the \$50,000.00 inter-fund loan at the bottom of page 32 is casino lease money.

Alderman Dillard asked about \$9,000.00 expensed under Convention Center. Mr. Holloway said for air conditioning. Alderman Dillard asked if those expenses were not covered by a grant. Mayor Brown said while waiting for a/c repair, the sole unit broke so it was replaced.

Under CVB-roof replacement, Mr. Holloway said the multi municipal buildings roof replacements were carried over from a previous year.

Inter-fund loan of \$10,000.00 on page 37—Mr. Holloway not sure where those funds came from.

Alderman Dillard advised that Casino Lease Fund II shows \$400,000.00 in this period. Page 44 shows an inter-fund loan of \$149,000.00 and it appears that this fund loaned money to someone. City Clerk said, more than likely, that money went to the general fund. Alderman Dillard asked about professional services of \$17,532.00 under this fund. Mr. Holloway said for legal fees and Alderman Dillard advised not correct. Mr. Holloway advised that he will provide more detail on future reports. Mr. Holloway will provide answer to Mr. Dillard's financial questions in the Thursday work session.

Mayor Brown asked Mr. Holloway to get estimates of oil and gas revenues from Grover Yelverston regarding the DRAYCO well.

Mayor Brown advised that although not presented during the budgeting period, \$5,000.00 has been pledged to the Master Gardeners. He will be asking to make a donation, amend the budget or make an inter-fund loan to provide the Master Gardeners, through Community Alliance, these funds.

Mayor Brown has had a meeting with Natchez Inc. regarding the MS Main Street Association program. Natchez Inc. is taking the program under consideration.

A motion was made by Alderman Fields, seconded by Alderman Dillard, to go out of Finance and adjourn to the Regular Meeting of the Board of Aldermen. The motion carried unanimously.

Larry L. "Butch" Brown, Mayor

Attest:

Donnie Holloway, City Clerk