

FINANCE MEETING
January 8, 2013

The Finance Meeting of the City of Natchez met in the Council Chambers on Tuesday, January 8, 2013, at 9:00 a.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
Sabrena Bartley
Curtis Norton
Connie Taunton

David Gardner presented the speed hump policy. The policy will require that a petition be signed by 75% of the people in the block to approve. This is only applicable in a residential area. Minimum average of 400 vehicles per day must pass on the street but the City can adjust that number downward. A working committee composed of traffic, public works and engineering will meet to see if the street meets the criteria for speed humps. If needed, a speed analysis can be done. In closing, Mr. Gardner said the reason to have a speed hump policy in place is to have guidelines for uniformity and to limit tort liability.

Per Alderman Dillard, a speed hump design can have a flat top or a round top, applicable to its location.

Alderman Fortenbery recommended that two police officers be hired to monitor neighborhoods writing speeding violations versus installing more speed humps.

Alderwoman Carter Smith asked if a speed hump already in place can be addressed if not installed properly. Mayor Brown advised that he prefers the name speed calming device. Mayor Brown asked the Traffic Department to clean up the speed indication device and install it in various locations around town.

Mayor Brown stated that a Natchez firm has offered to give Segways to the Police Department for officers to patrol neighborhoods to provide speed calming.

Mr. Gardner advised Alderman Gray that speed humps cannot exist on an FAU route. You can use a speed calming device on an FAU route but not a speed hump.

Curtis Norton advised that the last part of the draft states that the BOA will give final approval after the evaluation is done. A committee will be appointed and the Mayor will suggest members.

David Gardner advised that he will be asking the BOA to award the bid for contractor to Midway and CE& I for construction to Volkert on the North Natchez Drainage 592 II-B Project. He will be recommending that the City advertise for general bids for the year.

Kathleen Jenkins, National Park Service, presented plans for Fort Rosalie. Riverboat gambling and the NPs are in conflict over the same parcel of land. Documents show that the City made a commitment to donate Little Mexico to the NPS by 2012. She didn't come to the BOA to ask for action but only for them to understand how we've come to this situation. Alderman Dillard asked if there are any plans to develop an interpretative center on Canal Street. Mrs. Jenkins advised at this point, as dealing with a smaller parcel of land, the NPS is going to Plan B.

Mayor Brown said that the pumping station, sewage, along with other services provided to the Isle of Capri are located in the Little Mexico area. There has been talk about a newer type facility at Natchez Under-The-Hill pending investment criteria, MDAH approval, HNF permission. The tenants at the location are trying to address some of those issues regarding parking. Alderman Dillard said that although the City owns Little Mexico, it appears that it is being held hostage until something happens to obtain these other parcels.

Peter Dale appeared to ask for the City's commitment for funding of the Metro to Metro program, an aerial photography program. Alderwoman Carter Smith advised that she will ask for a motion in the Regular Board meeting for the City to provide \$10,000.00 for the Metro to Metro program.

Nichole Lyles appeared regarding the adjudication of 505 North Union. Per Mayor Brown who had previously met with Ms. Lyles, she has purchased the property. She is wanting to remove the damaged part of the property and rehab the other part. Mayor Brown asked that she be allowed to proceed with her rehab of the property. Ms. Lyles said that she is getting a permit for demolition and construction to begin.

Mayor Brown said that Mr. Scott had contacted the him about connecting two properties. Mayor Brown asked that the BOA be allowed to get more information before the City adjudicates the property.

James Johnston handed out a summary of the projects that he's working on. 20 applications have been submitted to the SNAPs program. Many applications are for replacing roofs.

A Houston investor is looking at, and doing due diligence, for Brumfield and Oak Towers.

Mr. Johnston also discussed the Home Loan Plus, Home Buyer Education Program and MDEQ Recycling Program. He also advised that the tax abatement program for downtown business owners is still in existence as well as a first time homeowner assistance program.

Sabrena Bartley stated that she will be asking for authorization to seek funding through MDOT for funding for the operation of her department. She will also be asking for some rolling stock to be declared surplus property. In an update, the Regional Transit Facility construction is two weeks behind schedule due to bad weather. The Natchez Senior Center is 100 years old and Ms. Bartley will be meeting with James Johnston to discuss applying for funds for weatherization of the building.

A motion was made by Alderman Fields, seconded by Alderman Dillard, to go into Executive Session. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Alderman Fields to remain in Executive Session to discuss personnel, economic development and litigation. Alderman Gray seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

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

Larry L. "Butch" Brown, Mayor

Attest:

Donnie Holloway, City Clerk