

**FINANCE MEETING**  
**June 10, 2014**

The Finance Meeting of the City of Natchez met in the Council Chambers on Tuesday, June 10, 2014, at 9:30 a.m.

PRESENT: Mayor Larry L. "Butch" Brown  
Alderman Joyce Arceneaux-Mathis Ward 1  
Alderman Ricky 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  
James Johnston, Planning Department  
Ed Bowser, IT Director  
David Gardner, City Engineer

*David Gardner, Engineering Department*

**Bridge of Sighs**

Mr. Gardner reported on the bid award options for the Bridge of Sighs. Only Dozer, LLC had submitted a bid.

If option #1 was added to the base bid, the project would still be in budget.

Option #1 and the Inspection and Testing added to the base bid would also still be in budget.

Option #2, Lighting and Power System (\$28,800.00), would place the bid over budget as well as would Option #2 Lighting and Power System (\$10,900.00) and Option #3 Lighting and Power System (\$15,400.00).

All options would be \$53,000.00 to be paid out of Capital Improvements.

**Streets**

Mr. Gardner presented the street inventory with the merged list.

He'd received good bids on concrete repairs for pavement repair on Melrose Avenue. The quotes ranged from \$33,715.00 to \$95,000.00. It was decided that the two topped ranked FAU streets would be overlaid. Melrose will be added in and would try to include the removal of the hump on George F. West.

The Microseal project was still on hold with T.L. Wallace in liquidated damages. A discussion was held of ¾ asphalt versus Microseal. Mayor Brown advised that he would contact the owner.

South Pearl Extension and Briel, from Orleans to Canal Street, needs to be overlaid. Mayor Brown also asked that a guardrail be installed at the curve by the horse carriages.

Alderman Carter Smith said that she'd spoken with Supervisor Lazarus about the county contributing to the street overlay program. Mr. Gardner advised, if the county could pay \$25,000.00 for Briel Avenue, that would help. Round up will be sprayed on the kudzu in the area of the proposed guardrail and behind the Children's Home.

**EWP Sites**

Thistledown, 133 Homochitto, George F. West just north of 301 George F. West, Duster Drive, and 122 Jeff Davis were approved. The match will be \$110,275.00 to be paid during the next fiscal year.

Mayor Brown asked that a list of approved and active EWP sites be provided.

592 II-D

Engineering should have something for Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis to look at. She advised that she and Alderman Gray want the project to move as quickly as possible, starting prior to January 1st.

St. Catherine Street

At the end of getting the plans drawn. The plans need to be sent to the state for PS&E assembly.

*James Johnston, Planning Department*

Preservation of Yazoo & MS Valley Railroad Depot

Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) Funding

Mr. Johnston advised that he would be requesting a motion to approve and execute Supplemental Agreement #1 with SSR to incorporate the additional scope of work for the preservation of the depot, subject to concurrence by MDOT. The value of Supplemental Agreement #1 was \$31,426.03. The total value of SSR's contract now \$112,272.01.

MS State Dept. of Health – Originally discussed on 5.27.14

Lead Hazard Control Grant Opportunity

The department was recently contacted by the MS Dept. of Health to see if the City of Natchez, along with the cities of Jackson, Greenville and Greenwood, wanted to (again) participate in a lead hazard intervention program via an application being prepared and submitted to HUD for funding consideration later this year. The program would involve –

- Identification of 100 (versus 80) pre-1978 homes with children less than 6 years of age that live or frequent the home on a regular basis, with the owner/tenant being at or below 80% of median income (adjusted for family size), with 75% of the homes being renter-occupied and 25% being owner-occupied.
- The city would conduct lead and environmental risk assessments using HUD Healthy Housing Rating System. If lead-based paint is found, the home would be abated.
- The city would also provide lead and healthy homes education (Lead Hazard Control & 7 Principles of Healthy Homes); educate the community on the Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act, Lead Safe Housing Rule and Fair Housing Act
- Submit miscellaneous quarterly reports
- Estimated impact in area of program was \$650,000.00; city required to provide 15% match (which will be provided as in-kind service via staff time on project in the form of assessment and inspection services, outreach and education services, office usage, etc.) Alderwoman Carter Smith asked Mr. Johnston to discuss availability of Inspection Department's personnel to provide in kind services with Jody Rutter, Building Inspector. Training will be provided by Hinds and MSU.

The reason for the increase in the number of homes is that one community dropped out of the program. The MS State Department of Health requires a commitment to again participate. The reason for (again) being selected, the city has an abundance of homes built before 1978 and many of these homes have young children living in them. Statistics show that many have elevated levels of lead in their blood streams.

Alderman Dillard

Mini docket and claims-A new \$100,000.00 loan appeared from Public Properties to the General Fund. Also \$268,000.00 had been loaned from the Casino Annual Lease Payment Fund. Mr. Holloway said all interfund loans for this administration have been paid back. Alderman Dillard wanted to be sure that a schedule is prepared.

On the last page of the budget report, the year- to-date showed that \$20M had been brought in and \$22M had been spent with a deficit of \$1.5M. Mr. Holloway said that was correct.

Alderman Dillard asked how the city could bring in enough to reconcile the deficit. Mr. Holloway said he'd been discussing ways to bring in money with Mayor Brown—one source being NWW had not paid their insurance. Mr. Gardner said NWW was working on the \$40,000.00. Mayor Brown said that automobile ad valorem taxes were less than budgeted and spending was based on the approved budget. In the meantime, short term loans from one account to another are needed. Alderwoman Carter Smith asked where items are over budgeted--Mr. Holloway said his department is over budget and he'll be getting rid of one, two or three people. The budget is being revised now.

Alderman Dillard said that the property ad valorem taxes were \$500,000.00 under budget and time had passed to collect property taxes.

Alderman Dillard advised, under Insurance Premiums (page 79), \$1,030,000.00 was budgeted but only \$439.97 had been received year to date. Mr. Holloway said that is obviously wrong.

Mayor Brown said when the city changed to United Healthcare, a contingency was set up for the outstanding balance. Mr. Holloway said those charges are done. Randy Hazlip is preparing a statement on what has been paid. Health insurance premiums would've been \$2.1M with BCBS and UHC will be \$1M over a one year period.

Page 87, the numbers are confusing-Casino Fund. It was budgeted at \$0.00 but has spent \$24,000.00. Mr. Holloway said it was funds that were paid for inspections at the casino. Mr. Holloway said the money was transferred into the General fund as that was where the inspections were paid out of. Mr. Holloway said a special account was set up for the casino. Alderman Dillard asked why the inspections were paid out of the General Fund if a separate fund had been set up to pay for the casino.

Mayor Brown asked Alderman Dillard if he was feeling better about the accounting of the city. He said now concerned as a \$1.5M deficit. He said that he hadn't read the responses from the accountant but transfers remain hard to follow if not impossible due to the report format. Alderwoman Carter Smith said that the BOA still needs simpler financial reports-Mayor Brown agreed.

Mr. Holloway said an audit for workman's comp was conducted and payroll had increased over \$400,000.00 from last year so an additional \$15,000.00 has to be paid. Alderwoman Carter Smith asked if budgeted—Mr. Holloway said no. Alderwoman Carter Smith advised that this was why she was asking for clarification on where the city is over budget. Mr. Holloway said that the insurance on the building for the Regional Transit Facility was also being paid. Mr. Holloway responded to Alderman Dillard that there are currently 225 employees.

Mr. Holloway responded to Alderman Dillard that Mrs. Tanksley has advised that she'll have the audited statements from last year completed by the end of the month. She is working at city hall now.

Mayor Brown said if the city is not in compliance on the audit, grant funds can be withheld. The city's source of revenues from grants has increased considerably so the city is watching closely.

The Cobra Baseball team had been chosen to go to the World Series. They're having a catfish dinner fundraiser on June 12<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Carby said there had been a mediation on the MidLa pipeline. The city will be signing a confidentiality agreement. There is another round of mediations to take place on Thursday and Friday.

Mr. Carby said he needed the city to adopt a resolution that authorized the city/county to apply to MDA for the REDA application. The city's contribution would be around 40% of the \$675,000.00 for 17 years. Community Hospital will remain on the tax rolls. Alderman Dillard clarified that looked like the city would be giving up \$5.1M.

Mr. Carby and Mr. Gardner would be asking for authority to ask for request for proposals for pre-event monitoring services.

Mayor Brown said the City of Woodville would like to be considered in Natchez's efforts on the MidLa issue. Mayor Brown asked Mr. Carby to write the mayor of Woodville on what has transpired, the city of Natchez is actively involved and if they'd like to piggyback, and that would be fine.

Mayor Brown asked each of the BOA to submit one name for a person to serve on the advisory board of the Casino Development Fund. Mayor Brown also asked for suggested appointees to the Natchez Convention Promotion Commission as they're having difficulty getting a quorum to hold their meetings. Alderman Gray said that it had been requested that Genny Harrison be reappointed to the Library Board and Barbara Crenshaw to the Natchez Housing Authority.

**Alderman Dillard made the motion to adjourn the Finance Meeting with a second by Alderman Gray. The motion carried unanimously.**

Mayor

Attest:

---

Donnie Holloway, City Clerk