

**REGULAR MEETING
JULY 24, 2007**

A Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Natchez, Mississippi, was held in the City Council Chamber at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 24, 2007. Mayor Phillip C. West presided at the meeting, which was opened with prayer by Pastor Leroy White of China Grove Baptist Church.

MAYOR & BOARD PRESENT	ELECTED OFFICIALS ABSENT	CITY OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEADS
Phillip C. West Mayor Joyce Arceneaux-Mathis Alderwoman, Ward 1 Bob Pollard Alderman, Ward 3 J. "Ricky" Gray, Jr. Alderman, Ward 2 Theodore West Alderman, Ward 4 David Massey Alderman, Ward 5 Jake Middleton Alderman, Ward 6		Donnie Holloway, City Clerk Everett Sanders, City Attorney Darlene D. Williams, Dep. City Clerk Sabrena Bartley, Director Senior Center Brett Brinegar, Grants Coordinator Paul Dawes, Building Official Rick Freeman, Traffic Dept. David Gardner, Water Superintendent Patricia Gibson, Personnel Director Temple Hendricks, Secretary to Mayor Paul Johnson, Fire Chief Darlene Jones, Comm. Dev. Director Mike Mullins, Police Chief Eric Smith, Public Works Administrator Francis Ransom, Public Works Manager Anita Smith, Code Enforcement Dennis Story, City Planner Ralph Tedder, Recreation Director Walter Tipton, Convention Center Director Wilbert Whitley, Recreation Department Katie Sthalcup, Natchez Democrat

MINUTES APPROVED

A motion was made by Alderman Pollard to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the regular meeting of July 10, 2007 and approve as submitted. The motion was seconded by Alderman West. The motion carried unanimously.

VISITORS WELCOMED

Mayor West welcomed all visitors to the meeting and asked that all comments be limited to three (3) minutes. He thanked all friends and citizens of Natchez Adams County for attending the meeting.

A. Chief Mike Mullins -Recognition of Officer Nikki Pierce

Mayor West recognized Chief Mullins and requested comments.

Chief Mullins noted that several weeks ago there were approximately seventy (70) windows shot out of businesses, vehicles and homes around town. He said the damage estimate was over thirty-two thousand dollars. Chief Mullins said the department had a general vehicle description and all officers were working the case. He said Officer Nikki Pierce spotted the vehicle which matched the description and proceeded with the investigation and charged two individuals with the crimes of felony malicious mischief because each incident was more than five hundred dollars in damage. He said this was an exceptional job of observation by a new officer of six months.

Chief Mullins thanked Officer Pierce for a job well done.

Mayor West recognized Officer Nikki Pierce and thanked her for a job well done.

B. Keep Natchez/Adams County Beautiful

Mayor West recognized Stephanie Hutchins, Andy Yates and Darlene Jones.

Mrs. Stephanie Hutchins said the presentation was on behalf of an event managed by Keep Natchez Adams County Beautiful, Mayor's Beautification Committee, and the Mississippi Department of Transportation. She said the group undertook the clean-up of Saint Catherine Street with volunteers. Mrs. Hutchins said a young citizen, Chlean Sugar attended the event and sang the Keep America Beautiful song acappella. Mrs. Hutchins thanked Ms. Sugar for the song and her assistance during the event.

Mrs. Darlene Jones said the second presentation was on behalf of the Keep Natchez Beautiful and the Mayor's Beautification Committee. She said TheKeep Natchez Adams County Beautiful Committee was awarded a Five Thousand Dollar (\$5,000) grant that was a partnership with Waste Management and Keep America Beautiful. The area of concentration will be the Bluff area between Roth Hill and Learned Mill Road. Mrs. Jones said the area has been polluted with litter and the problem is due to the lack of proper lighting, display of trash cans and warning signs for littering. She said the group will work with Waste Management, City of Natchez Public Works Department, Entergy, and City of Natchez Traffic Department to make sure the area is addressed.

Mrs. Jones introduced Mr. Yates of Waste Management and asked him to make the presentation to the City of Natchez.

Mr. Yates said he appreciated being a part of the group and he takes pride in the community. He said he is pleased that Waste Management is able to contribute to the community as a partner from year to year.

Mayor West thanked Mr. Yates and Waste Management for their assistance. Mayor West said three years ago Ms. Hutchins called him and scheduled a meeting for the Keep Natchez Beautiful committee. Mayor West thanked Ms. Hutchins for being a dedicated volunteer and working with the committee.

C. Attorney Walter Brown - CCA

Mayor West recognized Attorney Brown and requested comments.

Attorney Walter Brown was present to provide an update and requested authorization for the Mayor to act in connection with the project for CCA. He said the project has gotten underway in regard to the site. He said the Mississippi Development Authority gave the authority to CCA to start the construction although they could not give authority to start the infrastructure requirements for Adams County Water Association and Natchez Water Works to start the project. Attorney Brown said this could not be done until August 1, 2007 because there is a statutory deadline to be followed.

Attorney Brown advised the Board that the Delta Regional Authority Grant has been preliminarily approved and thanked Mayor West, City Attorney Sanders, Mr. Gardner, and Ms Brinigar for their assistance with the grant. Attorney Brown said the grant was critical to the project because the grant was in the amount of \$500,000 and the local entities were required to come up with \$125,000. He said the grant was critical in getting the project off the ground and the credit goes to the City of Natchez and it's employees. Attorney Brown said the project is fully funded and on August 1, 2007 the Mississippi Development Authority will sign the contract and overnight it to Natchez. He asked that the Board authorize Mayor West to sign any and all documents necessary in connection with the contract, the contract for engineering services with Jordan Kaiser & Sessions, and Williford-Gearhart & Knight for the wastewater engineering portion of the project. Attorney Brown said on August 23, 2007 there will be a ceremony at the site which will include Governor Barbour, and CCA officials to thank the City of Natchez and others for making the project possible. The proposed completion date will be December, 2008.

Attorney Brown said he asked that the Adams County Board of Supervisors meet prior to August 1, 2007 so the contract can be signed and all entities can start work and not wait an additional week for the regular meeting. He said this would save time and every week is important.

Attorney Brown requested the Board of Aldermen authorize Mayor West to sign the contract with Mississippi Development Authority to allow the engineers to move forward.

Mayor West requested comments.

A motion was made by Alderman Massey and seconded by Alderman Pollard to authorize Mayor West to sign the contract with Mississippi Development Authority and Engineers Jordan, Kaiser & Session /Williford, Gearhart & Knight to start the project. The motion carried unanimously.

Attorney Brown said the Charter Amendment was submitted and approved by the Attorney General of the State of Mississippi and recently submitted to Washington along with the voting rights act requesting that it be approved. He said this is due to the change in the elected office of the Mayor and two Aldermen serving on the Planning Commission. The next process will take approximately sixty (60) days.

Attorney Brown asked the board to think in terms of how to parallel both the adoption of the Development Code and the change in the charter in regard to the composition of the Planning Commission. He asked that the Board and the City Planner meet and discuss the matter at the next work session and make a determination of the time frame since the code and amendment are tied together. Attorney Brown said the document will be placed on the minutes when returned from the justice department. He said the charter amendment will go into effect upon approval by the justice department.

Mayor West thanked Attorney Brown for his assistance in facilitating the location of the project in Natchez.

D. Bruce Moak - Certificate of Need -Taxi Service

Mayor West recognized Mr. Bruce Moak and requested comments.

Mr. Bruce Moak said as a local resident and business owner in Natchez he has realized that there is not a local taxi service. He requested a Certificate of Need to operate a taxi service.

Mayor West requested comments.

Mr. Holloway said there was another application submitted by Mr. Oscar Davis and the board will set a public hearing to hear both request.

Alderman West questioned the length of time necessary for the advertisement for the public hearing.

Mr. Holloway said the public hearing notice must be published two weeks prior to the date of the meeting.

A motion was made by Alderman West and seconded by Alderman Massey to set the public hearing date for August 14, 2007, 11:00 a.m. to hear the request from Bruce Moak and Oscar Davis for individual Certificates of Need for the operation of taxi services. The motion carried unanimously.

Alderman Massey asked that the City Clerk and the City Attorney research the ordinance and provide information to the board regarding the requirement of a taxi service.

Mayor West requested a motion to set the Public Hearing date.

A motion was made by Alderman Massey and seconded by Alderman Middleton to set the Public Hearing date for August 14, 2007 at 11:00 am to hear the request for certificates of need for two (2) taxi services. The motion carried unanimously.

E. Bishop Anderson of Universal Mission, Old First Baptist Church

Mayor West asked if there was a representative present.

Alderman Massey asked if Bishop Anderson made the request to be on the agenda.

Mayor West said there was a request from Bishop Anderson to be placed on the agenda.

Alderman Massey asked if the intention was to bring the board up to date on what would be done to the Old First Baptist Church Building on Main Street since the notice of litigation was mailed.

Alderman West asked if there was a response to the notice.

Mayor West said there was not a response received to the notice other than the request to be on the agenda.

A motion was made by Alderman West to proceed with the process of litigation. The motion was seconded by Alderman Pollard. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor West requested comments from Mr. Dawes, Building Official in his report regarding the status of the building in order to move forward.

Alderman Gray requested permission to recognize Mr. Jonathan Norman, a member of the military who was home on leave for two weeks.

A motion was made by Alderman Gray to allow Mr. Norman to address the board. The motion was seconded by Alderman Massey. The motion carried unanimously.

Officer Jonathan Norman, 27 Calvary Brigade, noted that it was an honor and pleasure to be present and to attend the meeting. Officer Norman said he is stationed in Iraq and is serving his second tour of duty.

Alderman Gray thanked Officer Norman for everything he has done in protecting the country.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Community Development / Mayor's Youth Council

Mrs. Darlene Jones noted that due to bad weather the Community Day sponsored by the Mayor's Youth Council was canceled and the re-scheduled date will be Sunday, August 5, 2007 at 3:00 p.m. in Memorial Park. She asked everyone to come out and enjoy the event.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

CONVENTION CENTER, Walter Tipton

Mr. Walter Tipton said there were several events scheduled for the upcoming weeks at the Convention Center.

1. Scrapping on the River - Scrapbook Conference
2. Great River Roads Food Festival
3. Ms/Lou Regional Tourism Summit
4. United States Air Force Band
5. Bowie Knife Show
6. Natchez Markets Food Show
7. Great Southern Outdoor Expo

Mr. Tipton said there are many events scheduled for the month of August.

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, David Gardner

Mr. Gardner said in reference to the Natchez Trails project, the selection committee reviewed the request for proposals from the architects/engineers for work on the project. He said four (4) proposals were received and the selection was narrowed down to two (2) due to the close scores on experience, capacity and the ability to complete the project. Mr. Gardner said additional information was requested from the final two firms to allow the committee the opportunity to make a selection.

Mr. Gardner said a recommendation was made by the committee to select the firm of Weatherford-McDade, Landscape Architects. He said the fees will be provided by the CSP grant. Mr. Gardner asked that the Mayor be allowed to execute the documents authorizing the award of the proposal and enter into contract negotiations.

A motion was made by Alderman Pollard and seconded by Alderman Massey to accept the selection of the firm Weatherford-McDade and authorize the Mayor to execute document to enter into the contract.

Alderman West asked if there were proposals submitted by local firms.

Mr. Gardner said there were advertisements placed in the Natchez Democrat and Clarion Ledger for proposals and four (4) were submitted. He said Weatherford-McDade has partnered with Jordan, Kaiser & Session on the project.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis asked if there was a model of the proposed project.

Mr. Gardner said there is a scope of work and a concept on the project. He said the architect will assist with the design to better fit in with the downtown area. Mr. Gardner said there will be several public hearings scheduled and comments from the selection committee will be taken under consideration to get a project that is acceptable to the whole community. He said there will not be a scaled model because the project will take in a large area. Mr. Gardner said there will be maps and drawings of the planned project.

The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gardner requested authorization to advertise for bids for general supplies for Public Works and Water Works for six months.

Mr. Gardner said the bids will be received on September 11, 2007 for general supplies for six months. He requested permission to advertise and solicit bids for supplies. Mr. Gardner said the bids will be received on September 11, 2007.

A motion was made by Alderman Massey and seconded by Alderman Pollard to authorize the advertisement for bids for general supplies for six months. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gardner informed Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis that the draft letter on the Joint Community 592 was prepared. Mr. Gardner said the request will be on the agenda for the Supervisors to discuss in regard to the adoption of a Joint Resolution.

Mr. Gardner said the North Natchez Drainage Project made the cover of the Construction News Magazine. He said the article will help the City in the process of reinstating the 592 programs for the 2008 year.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis asked that Mr. Gardner explain to the public the fact that Canal Street was finished and the project was stopped. She asked if the project had a Phase I and Phase II. Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis said for a matter of record, she asked Mr. Gardner to explain what happened with the 592 funds and the stopping of the overlaying of Canal Street.

Mr. Gardner said the total project was 8 Million dollars and the 592 fund was 6 million with 2 million for gaming. He said the project was split into two phases, the first project was the repairs to the canal because from an engineering standpoint the structure had to be strong enough to accommodate the added water when the drainage phase is constructed. Mr. Gardner said the funding dictated that the repairs be completed first and to get into the program there could not be a 8 million dollar request because funding was limited. He said a smaller portion of funds were requested to get into the funding cycle. Mr. Gardner said the project was split into two phases, 1) Canal repairs; 2) placement of pipe and drainage structure to siphon water from the yard and return to the canal which will drain into Spanish Bayou, St. Catherine Creek and on to the Mississippi River. He said after getting into Phase I, a portion of Phase II was started with survey and design because the goal was to go into the construction phase. Mr. Gardner said Congress did not fund 592 for the fiscal year 2008 in the Water and Entergy Act Appropriation Act. There was a notification that the projects that involved 592 funds would no longer be funded. Mr. Gardner said he made telephone calls and the Corp of Engineers agreed to finish the projects on the books. Construction of anything not under contract will have to wait until Congress funds the program. He said they are asking that funds are provided and waiting for the appropriations from Congress to the Corp of Engineers to fund the 592 programs. This situation was thrown at the cities and it is being dealt with to get the remaining phases completed.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis asked if the match of 2 million dollars that was unused was still holding for the second phase of the project. She said the streets that were reviewed included Buckners Alley, Maple Street, Myrtle, and Wall Streets.

Mr. Gardner said that looking at an ariel map with elevations, you notice the two natural drainage areas from the river to Union Street. He said all water drains from Union Street to Martin L. King Jr. Street or to the river because it is the natural ridge. All areas west of Union Street drain to the canal although it does in two basins. Mr. Gardner said they will go up each basin with new pipes and siphon the water at Myrtle Avenue/Maple Street and the other area is Buckners behind the Children's Home.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis said the letter will get other communities to form a coalition and do lobbying. She said this is a hurtful situation where you promise to get something done and after five years it is not being completed. This is to let the people know why the project was stopped after the matching funds were available.

Mr. Gardner said the risk factor on the project is that it is on an annual basis and unfortunately it extends farther. He said it is a risk that is taken.

Alderman Pollard said in regard to the news update on the Trails Project Committee. He said the committee raised money for the grant and later asked Blue Cross/Blue Shield to partner with the Let's Go Walking Mississippi. Alderman Pollard said the committee members were invited to meet with Blue Cross/Blue Shield in Jackson. Alderman Pollard said Mr. Gardner made a fantastic presentation and requested big money in the amount of \$150,000. Alderman Pollard said he was informed by Mr. Gardner that the grant was funded in full in the amount of \$150,000 for the grant. He said the money that is available through the grant is in place and the Trails Project has met the goal of what should be done. Alderman Pollard commended the Selection Committee, David Gardner and all parties involved.

Mayor West agreed with Alderman Pollard and noted that Mr. Gardner has been the main person carrying the ball. Mayor West said Mr. Gardner deserves special recognition.

Mr. Gardner thanked everyone for their comments and noted that the project could not be completed without the help of the selection committee and everyone. He said Blue Cross/Blue Shield agreed to partner with the Let's go Walking program on Thursday, July 26, 2007. He said the public is invited to participate from 9:00am- 11:00am in the walk. Mr. Gardner invited everyone to participate in the walk for a healthier Mississippi.

Mayor West thanked Mr. Gardner for his assistance.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, Francis Ransom, Jr.

Alderman Massey introduced Mr. Francis Ransom, Jr., a member of the management team with the Natchez Public Works Department. Alderman Massey said Mr. Ransom was interviewed and offered the

position. Alderman Massey requested comments from Mr. Ransom.

Mr. Francis Ransom noted that he was employed with Ransom Construction Company and he is well known by many people in the area. He said he graduated from Tuskegee University with a degree in Building Technology and has many years of experience. Mr. Ransom said the job will be a challenge that he will enjoy. He said he served on the Natchez Preservation Commission when he returned to Natchez and works to improve the community because he believes in the youth. Mr. Ransom thanked everyone for the privilege of serving Natchez.

Alderman Massey noted that the Public Works Department is excited about having Mr. Ransom on board.

CITY OFFICIALS' REPORTS

ALDERWOMAN ARCENEUX-MATHIS

Aldermwoman Arceneux-Mathis requested an update on the Zoa Street project from Mr. Story or Mr. Gardner. She said she received information regarding the start of the project.

Mr. Story, City Planner said he talked with the James Smith, Project Manager, and requested updated information on the project.

Aldermwoman Arceneux-Mathis said she received information that the contract was signed by Mayor West and the pre-construction conference is being scheduled. She said she is trying to make sure the CDBG grant is completed so it will not stop the city from applying for another grant. Aldermwoman Arceneux-Mathis asked if there were any other hold ups other than the utility concerns.

Mr. Gardner said he is not being notified of the progress of the project. He said the bid was advertised and awarded and should be get started.

Aldermwoman Arceneux-Mathis asked Mr. Story to stay on top of the CDBG projects and keep her informed of the start date. She said she noticed that there was no progress in the area of Zoa Street.

Aldermwoman Arceneux-Mathis said she presented a copy of the lobbying report on behalf of Alderman Gray and her. Aldermwoman Arceneux-Mathis said they did go to Washington, D.C July 16-19, 2007 to lobby. She said a copy of the report was provided for review. The pages of the report are numbered with information of the trip.

ATTACHMENT

Aldermwoman Arceneux-Mathis said while in Senator Cochran's office he was given a breakdown on the information requested from the March, 2007 visit to Washington regarding the United States Post Office. The information received from Mr. Bill Farrior, Str. Postmaster of Natchez. She said the attached process was used to get information to take to Washington with a finalization from Mr. Kyle from the

Jackson area office who provided information on needs for a new postal facility in Natchez.

ATTACHMENT

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis asked that the Police Department and Traffic Department assist in providing information regarding the potential problem in the area of the Canal Street Post Office. She said the information is necessary to lobby for funds. Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis said it was explained that the matter was on the bottom of the list but it was something that the Senator had asked for, so she wanted to provide him with the information that was ascertained from the postal system in the area.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis said it is very important to get to know the scheduler in the offices. She said there are schedulers who work with you and allow you to be in line when the Congressmen are available.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis said that was the report from the lobbying effort. She said she wished she could provide a check for the 592 funds, the 1.6 million dollars, and the Trails project. She said every item that was discussed previously was discussed again in July. Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis said everyone will have to continue the lobbying.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis said she was going to yield her discussion and allow Alderman Gray to continue.

Alderman Gray said he was not sure of the name of the individual working in Congressman Taylor's office but she is the daughter of the lady who donated \$50,000 to the Martin School. He said this is another contact who could assist in getting some of the request through.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis said she asked Wilson to give her a contact for Mr. Hawks, T.A. Hawks father who she talked with on several occasions. Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis noted that Mr. Hawks is no longer associated with the U.S.D.A. but he is in a Law Firm in Washington, D.C. She said it would behoove the City to contact Mr. Hawks at some point to quickly resurrect some of the other situations. Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis said that the information on the lobbying.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis said it was a personal privilege to apologize to the citizens of Ward 1 for the neglect of the City of Natchez. She said the City was charged with making sure that citizens live in safe and healthy environments. Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis presented photographs of areas in the Zoa Street, and Pogo Street where houses were completely overgrown. The houses had been burned and there was no closure to the structures. There were snakes running in the area with children riding bikes. Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis said she was glad everyone is in place at Public Works and thanked Mr. Smith for meeting her. She said the area is a deplorable situation and the City is not providing citizens in Ward 1 with a safe environment or a healthy one. She said if there was a cigarette thrown in the area the property would ignite, not only across the street but there are tree branches hanging across the street. Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis said the city will have to address absentee landowners and people who are not taking care of their property. It is ridiculous for citizens in the city to pay taxes and maintain their property and not be allowed to enjoy the area without looking at the rear of building with grass is growing

over the top. The property is located on Irving Lane and asked Anita Smith, Code Enforcement Official if the properties had been adjudicated. Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis said the city must come up with money to assist Public Works with the situation and if the staff is not readily available there will have to be something done because the property issue has not been addressed in two years. She said that was during the Katrina disaster. She said this is the third, fourth, fifth time to identify houses that are delapidated, falling down, and there was a motion made to have the properties boarded up. Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis requested comments from Mr. Smith, Public Works Director.

Mr. Smith said upon meeting with Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis and Alderman Gray in the Zoa Street area, they found that the sites visited were in deplorable condition. Mr. Smith said he agreed to start on the properties immediately. He said the area residents are having to look from their porches seeing the property that is overgrown, and falling down. Mr. Smith said there are several properties in the area to be addressed.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis said there are properties on Irving Lane that you can not see the structure, and the rear of Pogo is in the same deplorable condition. She said there are two houses on October Street that should be addressed because they were identified two or three years ago. Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis said the city is constantly fussing but there are constituents that look at the board, they do not look at staff. She said the staff is greatly appreciated. The citizens of Natchez will not hold any employee responsible for the concerns. She said she is telling the citizens that their concerns are being reported and they know nothing is being done. Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis said if the problem is money in the Public Works Department budget, she will inquire from Mr. Holloway about available funds in public properties. If there is a plan in place to state the amount of money necessary to have a private company come in and take care of the violations it will have to be considered. Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis said to review the agenda and see that the board is concerned with the beautification of Natchez and then ride and see the property that is overgrown.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis asked Mr. Dawes, Building Official what process is being used to identify houses that should be demolished; and then the houses that were damaged from a fire.

Mr. Dawes said the properties are placed on a list when there is a complaint the owners are contacted and they are responsible for cleaning up the property. He said the owners are given ample time to respond. Mr. Dawes said the house Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis is referring to have been boarded up in the past and no additional instructions were issued.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis said when there is a house fire is there a mechanism used in the city to visit the sites and make a determination as to what could be done with the property.

Mr. Dawes said there are times when the question of arson comes in to place and the structure has to remain standing until the investigation is complete. He said at that point it may appear that nothing is being done. Mr. Dawes said the property owner is responsible for cleaning up the mess or renovating the building. He said there was a permit issued for the renovation of the property on College Street where the fire consumed one building completely and damaged the adjacent building. The one building was renovated

and he is waiting for the next project to start.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis said she did visit the site and there is another building that she is waiting to have renovated. There is a house on Zoa Street that was approved last fall to have the city board up the property and the recent visit showed that the house is opened, with the roof collapsed and there are no boards on the house. She said there was a motion made last fall to start the process for demolition at 12 Zoa Street. Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis said 12-14-16 Irving Lane should all be demolished. She said that if the money is not available the city will have to find a way to address the problem, there is a hazard. The houses can not be allowed to have rats, roaches, snakes, and mosquitos, that may be carrying west Nile remain in the neighborhoods.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis to

1. Identify the properties as noted and other major problems in the City of Natchez to have immediate action taken, demolition or grass cutting;
2. Authorize funds to be provided as needed from public properties;
3. Authorize Mayor to approve demolition provided that the legal process has been followed while Board is out of session.

Mayor West requested comments.

Mr. Dawes said there were several properties that were addressed and permits taken out.

Alderman West said there were motions made in the past regarding the demolition of properties. He asked how would the demolition of properties be handled within a reasonable time.

Alderman Gray said the permit was issued for 22 Claiborne Street on May 1, 2007 and the site is still not cleaned.

Alderman West said an ordinance should be drafted to change the time allotted between the issuance of a demolition permit and the completion of the project.

Mr. Dawes said he will check on the date of the permit and the status of the Claiborne Street project.

Mayor West requested a vote on the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor West asked Alderman Gray if he would like to make a motion to include 22 Claiborne Street to the list for immediate demolition.

A motion was made by Alderman Gray and seconded by Alderman West to include 22 Claiborne Street to the list for immediate demolition provided that the legal process is properly addressed. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor West said it was now his duty together with Mr. Dawes, Building Official; Mr. Story, City Planner; and Mr. Smith, Public Works Director to make sure the properties discussed are legally in the position to be demolished and if not have them placed in a legal state to be demolished by the City as soon as possible.

1. 12 Zoa Street
2. 12 Irving Lane
3. 14 Irving Lane
4. 16 Irving Lane
5. 22 Claiborne Street

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis asked that a report be furnished from Mr. Dawes, Mr. Story and Mr. Smith. She said the situation can not continue for the next three (3) years.

Alderman West noted that there was money placed in the budget for demolition.

Mayor West said there was money placed in the budget for demolition of property. He asked that Mr. Dawes, Mr. Story and Mr. Smith meet and discuss the status of properties and provide the information to him within ten (10) days as it relates to the properties they should deal with immediately verses the property that will address to be moved forward and the approximate cost for dealing with the properties.

ALDERMAN GRAY

Alderman Gray asked Mr. Gardner to check on the Water Works problem in the Martin Lane area. Alderman Gray said the new drainage project on Martin Lane has caused serious problems in the area. He said there is water holding in the center of the street which appears to be a water puddle but it is a large hole. He asked that Mr. Gardner give the situation his immediate attention.

Alderman Gray said there are several properties he would like to add to the list for immediate demolition.

Mayor West asked Alderman Gray to submit the list to his office to be reviewed.

Alderman Gray provided updated information to the Board from the MML Conference he attended in July, 2007.

Attachment

Alderman Gray said the Mississippi Fire Academy Seminar will be held on September 24, 2007 between the hours of 8:00 am - 4:00 pm.

Alderman Gray said there was a problem on Phillips Lane with a house fire on last week. He said there was a break at the fire hydrant on Ray Street which required the firefighters to run hoses from a Martin L. King Jr. Street hydrant. Alderman Gray said in the past the residents requested the installation of

a fire hydrant on the top of the hill on Phillips Lane because the hydrant on Ray Street is approximately 120 feet from Phillips Lane. He asked Chief Johnson to research the installation of a hydrant at the bottom of the hill because there would not be adequate water supply on the hill top.

Chief Johnson said he talked with Mr. Gardner about the situation and was told that it would cost more money to move the hydrant than to install a new one at the bottom of Phillips Lane.

Mr. Gardner said there must be a six inch line to accommodate a fire hydrant and Phillips Lane will not be adequate. He said the Ray Street fire hydrant is within the limits of the Fire Department for serving the area.

Chief Johnson said there was a problem with the plug on the Ray Street hydrant. He said the plug broke when the firefighters were trying to connect the hose. Chief Johnson said the department provided 2,000 feet of hose which was enough supply line to take care of fire fighting on Phillips Lane.

Mr. Gardner said when there is a problem with a fire hydrant it is taken care of immediately.

Alderman Gray asked if the fire hydrants throughout the city should be checked on a more regular basis.

Chief Johnson said the plugs are inspected, opened and flushed during the year.

Alderman Gray said the problem came because the firefighters were tired from running hoses for the long distance before starting the rescue/fire fighting process.

Mr. Gardner said unfortunately the fire hydrant plug broke when the firefighters were making the connection. He said it is impractical to check the hydrants more often than scheduled. Mr. Gardner said the fire hydrant on Ray Street is within the limits to provide adequate protection in the area. The repairs were made immediately.

Mayor West requested information on the age of the hydrants and the number of malfunctions over the past five (5) years.

Chief Johnson said there were three problems with the hydrants in the past five (5) years. He said when hydrants are checked and there are necessary repairs the Water Works Department are notified immediately.

Mayor West asked what could be done to help relieve the fear of the residents about the malfunctions of the fire hydrants. He asked what could be done to assist with the fear factor of what happened with the Phillips Lane fire. Mayor West suggested that letters are mailed to residents in the area explaining the situation and assuring them that the problem was corrected.

Chief Johnson said there is a schedule setup to inspect the fire hydrants. He said if additional

inspections are scheduled, the firefighters will be doing nothing other than inspections.

Alderman West asked if smoke detectors would be an extra assurance of the safety of the residents in the area. He requested information on the cost factor for the replacement of the fire hydrants within the city.

Alderman Gray said the fear was out of control because the next available hydrant was down the street.

Alderman Gray asked about the minority participation involving contracts. He asked if the state level is 20% and if the city is anything less than the state.

Attorney Sanders said with the 20%, the minority company must bid on the 20%. He said the City could adopt a policy for minority set asides.

Alderman Gray asked if there is a state policy regarding minority bids.

Attorney Sanders said he will research the information.

Mayor West asked Attorney Sanders to look into the state policy and other municipalities. He said the city must be in compliance with the law.

Alderman Gray asked if a policy is in place regarding grass cutting. He asked that Attorney Sanders research the information regarding the adjudication of 25% to the taxes or fine individuals.

Alderman Gray noted that the National Night Out is scheduled for the election night.

Chief Mullins said the National Night Out date is the same nationwide.

Alderman Gray requested information regarding Seals Lane.

Mr. Ransom, Public Works Manager said he approached Mrs. Russell and informed her of what would be done on the site. Mr. Ransom said the site where the grate will be installed is not on the Russell property. Mr. Ransom said he is currently researching the area and it appears that the pipe will run on the Seals property and not on the Russell property.

ALDERMAN POLLARD

Alderman Pollard said there are problems with large vehicles parking on the parkin glot of the Visitors Center over night.

A motion was made by Alderman Pollard and seconded by Alderman West to authorize the placement of signs at the Visitor Reception Center prohibiting commercial vehicle parking on the

property. The motion carried unanimously.

ALDERMAN WEST

Alderman West said the Minorville Jubilee will be held on Saturday, July 28, 2007. He asked that Mrs. Katie Ruth Moore be allowed to speak on the event.

A motion was made by Alderman West and seconded by Alderman Gray to allow Mrs. Katie Ruth Moore to speak. The motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Katie Ruth Moore, Event Coordinator said the event will start with the Unity March to the Macadonia Baptist Church for the Amos Polk Gospel Hour. She said the festival will start following the gospel hour. Mrs. Moore invited everyone to come out and celebrate. She said the theme for the Jubilee will be "The Home of the Brave."

ALDERMAN MASSEY

No Report

ALDERMAN MIDDLETON

Alderman Middleton said there are concerns with establishments that stay open late in the night. He said the Board worked hard with the Police Chief to close many businesses that were located in residential neighborhoods. Alderman Middleton said he wanted to let the public know that there are problems with the late night establishments. He said the problems at the site cause problems outside in the street. The board will not tolerate the problems. Alderman Middleton said the problem will be addressed until it is resolved.

CITY CLERK'S REPORT, DONNIE HOLLOWAY

No Report

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT, EVERETT SANDERS

No Report

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor West said a work session will be held on August 1, 2007 at 4:00 p.m. to consider filling the vacant positions on the various Boards and Commissions.

Mayor West recommended the appointment of Woody Allen to the Economic Development Authority Board.

A motion was made by Alderman Middleton and seconded by Alderman Pollard to reappoint Woody Allen to the Economic Development Authority. The motion carried unanimously.

Alderman West encouraged individuals to subject resumes if they are interested in serving in any vacant position on the Boards.

Alderman Gray recognized Mr. Wilbert Whitley, Recreation Department for participating in the All Star Games as a referee.

Mayor West requested additional comments.

NEW BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Alderman Gray asked that the meeting be adjourned with a moment of silence in honor of a city employee, Mr. Michael Hamilton.

A motion was made by Alderman Gray and seconded by Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis to adjourn the Regular Meeting of July 24, 2007 with a moment of silence in honor of Mr. Michael Hamilton. The motion carried unanimously.

**PHILLIP C. WEST,
MAYOR**

ATTEST:

DONNIE HOLLOWAY, CITY CLERK