

**REGULAR MEETING
JULY 22, 2008**

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 22, 2008. Mayor Jake Middleton presided at the meeting, which was opened with prayer by Brother Charles Maco of St. Mary Basilica.

MAYOR & BOARD PRESENT	ELECTED OFFICIALS ABSENT	CITY OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEADS
John ‘Jake’ Middleton Mayor J. “Ricky” Gray, Jr. Alderman, Ward 2 Bob Pollard Alderman, Ward 3 Earnest ‘Tony’ Fields Alderman, Ward 4 Mark Fortenbery Alderman, Ward 5 Daniel Dillard Alderman, Ward 6	Joyce Arceneaux-Mathis Alderwoman, Ward 1	Donnie Holloway, City Clerk Everett Sanders, City Attorney Darlene D. Williams, Dep. City Clerk David Atkins, Asst. City Engineer Brett Brinegar, Grants Coordinator Sabrena Bartley, Senior Center Paul Dawes, Building Official Rick Freeman, Traffic Director David Gardner, Water Superintendent Temple Hendricks, Mayor’s Secretary Darlene Jones, Comm. Dev. Director Wilbert Whitley, Recreation Department Eric Smith, Public Works Oliver Stewart, Interim Fire Chief Dannie White, Police Commander Natchez Democrat

MINUTES APPROVED

A motion was made by Alderman Gray to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 8, 2008 and approve as submitted with the necessary corrections. The motion was seconded by Alderman Pollard. The motion carried unanimously.

A. Bids -- Asphalt Overlay Project

Mayor Middleton requested the opening of the bid for the Asphalt Overlay Project, Martin L. King Jr. Street, Homochitto Street, Main Street and Franklin Street. Mayor Middleton and Attorney Sanders reviewed the bid.

Mayor Middleton noted that the bid was submitted by W.E. Blain & Son in the amount of One Million, Two Hundred Ninety-Eight Thousand, Two Hundred and Eight dollars and Sixty Cents (\$1,298,208.60). He asked that the bid be taken under advisement.

Mayor Middleton requested comments.

A motion was made by Alderman Pollard and seconded by Alderman Fields to take the bid under advisement. The motion carried unanimously.

BUSINESS OF THE MONTH

VISITORS WELCOMED

Mayor Middleton welcomed all visitors to the meeting. He reminded everyone of the policy that allows all visitors to speak for three (3) minutes before the board.

A. Business of the Month - E & T's Bar-B-Q

Mayor Middleton recognized the Business of the Month, E&T's Bar-B-Q. He said the business opened in 2001, and is family owned and operated with five (5) employees. The outstanding menu provides quality food to customers from far and near. In addition, E&T's provides excellent customer service that has kept this business open for the past seven years. They are faithful contributors to many organizations, including the Leukemia Society, and are proud to contribute to local churches and youth organizations.

Mayor Middleton said E&T's looks forward to serving this community for many years to come. Congratulations on being chosen the July 2008 Business of the Month.

Alderman Fields presented the certificate to E&T' Bar-B-Que. He noted that his mother is the proud business owner of the restaurant, she has six college graduates and deserves much more.

Mrs. Ellen Earls thanked the City of Natchez for the honor and without her husband and children nothing would be possible. Mrs. Earls thanked God and her family for giving her the opportunity.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

BUILDING INSPECTION, Paul Dawes

Mr. Dawes noted that the City Auditorium box gutters are in need of being replaced. He said the gutters were installed twenty (20) years ago with a life expectancy of only fifteen (15) years. Mr. Dawes said he received two bids on the replacement of the gutters that are under the amount of \$15,000. He requested permission to accept the lowest and best bid and proceed with the project.

Mayor Middleton requested comments.

A motion was made by Alderman Pollard and seconded by Alderman Gray to accept the lowest and best bid for the replacement of the box gutters at the Natchez City Auditorium.

The motion carried unanimously.

GRANTS COORDINATOR, Bret Brinigar

Ms. Brinigar presented the draft document in response to the letter received on June 24, 2008 from the Mississippi Department of Transportation requiring the submittal of the final resolution on June 30, 2008. She said the document is one that the Mississippi Department of Transportation and the Federal Department of Transportation will require all sub-recipients of highway or road funds to have in place, Title 6 Compliance documents. Ms. Brinigar said the document will show that the City of Natchez is conforming to the Civil Rights Legislature.

Ms. Brinigar requested adoption of the resolution subject to review by the City Attorney. She said the questionnaire would be submitted as requested prior to the extended deadline.

Mayor Middleton requested comments.

A motion was made by Alderman Gray and seconded by Alderman Fields to adopt the Resolution in regard to the Title 6 compliance document indicating that the City of Natchez is conforming to the Civil Rights Legislature. The motion carried unanimously.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR, Darlene Jones

Mrs. Jones noted that she had great news to present to the board. She said the City of Natchez was approved for funding for the Youth Bill Grant in the amount of \$674,000. Mrs. Jones said the grant application was submitted during the summer of 2007. The Mississippi Department of Labor chose Natchez as a fund recipient.

Mrs. Jones presented information to the board.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT, Wilbert Whitley

Mr. Whitley noted that the Recreation Department has solved the problem of golfers jacking up the governor cable on the Golf Carts. All of the Golf Carts governors have been adjusted up to the proper operating speed. He said the golf cart fleet's governor's were originally set at a very slow speed at the request of the former Duncan Park Golf Pro.

Mr. Whitley said the Girls Softball Complex on the Natchez High School Campus is operated through a joint management that is coordinated by the Natchez Recreation Department. Because this facility is on the High School property and because this facility is used by the summer girls softball league and local school fast pitch and slow pitch teams throughout the year, the authority of use has to be organized and communication has to be coordinated. Mr. Whitley said he, Mr. Tedder, and Alderman Fortenbery met with the new High School Athletic Director, Fred Butcher to establish his authority with the high school teams and their use of the facility during the Fall and Spring of the year. Mr. Whitley said the responsibility will fall back to the Recreation Department following the seasons.

Mr. Whitley thanked Adams County Supervisor Mike Lazarus for the assistance with the Duncan Park Road pot holes and crumbling road edges have been filled in with the County's hot tar and crushed rock road sealant materials. Mr. Whitley said the Adams County Board of Supervisors is now assisting the Natchez Recreation Department in some of our needs for the many years of rebuilding, maintaining, and preparing the ballfields for play at the County owned Frazier School Property.

Mr. Whitley said the 2008 Bill McKinney Memorial Duncan Park City Championship Golf tournament will be held July 26th - 27th. The City Championship tournament will include two days of green fees, cart fees, lunch and beverages on both Saturday and Sunday. The tournament play will have (5) flights based on the entry numbers. The pre-registration tournament fee will be \$85.00 per person up through July 23, 2008. The Tournament Fee from July 24 till July 26, 2008 will be \$100.00 per person. Registration takes place at the Duncan Park Golf Pro Shop. Mr. Whitley invited everyone to participate.

PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT, Patricia Gibson

Personnel report was submitted for the month of June, 2008 to be made a part of the minutes.

MUNICIPAL COURT, Judge Jim Blough

Municipal Court report was submitted for the month of July, 2008 to be made a part of the minutes

CITY OFFICIALS' REPORTS

ALDERWOMAN ARCENEUX-MATHIS

Not present

ALDERMAN GRAY

Alderman Gray reminded the Public Works Department about the cleanup for the Minorville Jubilee to be held on Saturday, August 26, 2008.

Alderman Gray thanked the ERA Reunion for bringing more than 500 people to Natchez for the celebration. He said it was a great economic impact for the City of Natchez. The next event will be recognized with a welcome banner. Alderman Gray mentioned the other groups that were in town for class reunions and events.

Alderman Gray said there are many problems with abandoned properties in Ward 2 that should be addressed immediately. He asked that Mr. Dawes meet with him after the meeting to discuss the properties that are burned and what should be done. Alderman Gray said there should be something in place to eliminate the situation of burned sites that are not cleaned up. He said there should be a time limit on the cleanup process.

Alderman Gray noted that the West Stiers Lane Neighborhood Watch Group has concerns with the situation of North Street and the need for additional lighting along West Stiers Lane.

Alderman Gray presented the July 2008 monthly report for the Natchez Fire Department.

ALDERMAN POLLARD

Alderman Pollard said there is a vacancy on the Natchez Convention Promotion Commission due to the resignation of Angela Singleton. Alderman Pollard said at the request of the commission the replacement nominee is Robert McNeely.

A motion was made by Alderman Pollard and seconded by Alderman Gray to appoint Robert McNeely to the vacant position on the Natchez Convention Promotion Commission. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Robert McNeely was present to accept the appointment.

Alderman Pollard said the Mississippi Magazine had an article regarding the Best in Mississippi in 2008 and Natchez won first place in three (3) categories.

- | | | |
|----|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. | Best Cornbread | Cock of the Walk Restaurant |
| 2. | Best Bed & Breakfast | Monmouth Plantation |
| 3. | Best Day Trip | Natchez |

ALDERMAN FIELDS

Alderman Fields said everyone is excited about the Minorville Jubilee that will take place on Saturday, August 26, 2008. The celebration will start with a parade from the corner of Martin L. King to Macedonia Baptist Church for the Amos Polk Gospel Hour. He said there will be lots of fun for the children and adults. Alderman Fields thanked Burnett Bridgewater, Katie Moore, and Carolyn Smith for the hard work and dedication to the event. Alderman Fields invited the Mayor and Board of Aldermen to participate in the celebration.

Alderman Fields said all departments were contacted about the event and asked them to take care of their duties prior to the date. He asked that they all make him look good in his ward.

ALDERMAN FORTENBERY

Alderman Fortenbery reminded everyone of the National Night Out event to be held on Tuesday, August 5, 2008. The program will start at 2:00 p.m. and he asked that all Neighborhood Watch Programs are visible.

Alderman Fortenbery congratulated the area baseball teams on their accomplishments. He said there are some that are still playing in championship games. He is looking forward to Natchez hosting some of the future tournaments.

ALDERMAN DILLARD

Alderman Dillard said there was no official report. He said he is looking forward to studying the budget and working with the appointed committees.

CITY CLERK'S REPORT, DONNIE HOLLOWAY

Mr. Holloway requested the adoption of the resolution for the Tax Anticipation Note with the low bidder, United Mississippi Bank in the amount of 3.875 %.

Mayor Middleton requested comments.

A motion was made by Alderman Gray and seconded by Alderman Fields for the adoption of the resolution for the Tax Anticipation Note with United Mississippi Bank in the amount of 3.875%. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Holloway said the legislature passed a bill where active Reserve, National Guard and Military personnel serving in Iraq will receive exemptions from advalorem tax from the City and County in the amount of \$50.00. Mr. Holloway requested a motion to accept the legislation.

Mayor Middleton requested comments.

A motion was made by Alderman Gray and seconded by Alderman Fields to accept the legislation that passed a bill where active Reserve, National Guard and Military personnel serving in Iraq will receive exemptions from advalorem tax from the City and County in the amount of \$50.00. The motion carried unanimously.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT, EVERETT SANDERS

No Report

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Middleton noted that due to the resignation of a city appointed School Board Member the City will accept resumes to fill the position. He said resumes will be accepted in the Office of the Mayor until Tuesday, August 5, 2008.

Mayor Middleton said after three weeks they have selected the Committee Chairpersons and Aldermen who will serve on each. He said the committees will be set up for the first two years of the term. Mayor Middleton presented the information and noted that he looked forward to working with each Chairperson.

BOARD OF ALDERMEN COMMITTEES

July 8, 2008

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mayor Jake Middleton, Chair
Joyce Arceneaux-Mathis (Mayor Pro Tempore, effective July 2008)
James 'Rickey' Gray
Robert 'Bob' Pollard
Ernest 'Tony' Fields
Mark Fortenbery
Dan Dillard

HEALTH & UTILITIES COMMITTEE

Ernest 'Tony' Fields-Chair
Dan Dillard
Joyce Arceneaux-Mathis

STREET COMMITTEE

Mark Fortenbery-Chair
Joyce Arceneaux-Mathis
Robert 'Bob' Pollard

PUBLIC PROPERTIES COMMITTEE

Joyce Arceneaux-Mathis-Chair
Mark Fortenbery
Dan Dillard

POLICE & TRAFFIC COMMITTEE

James 'Rickey' Gray-Chair
Robert 'Bob' Pollard
Ernest 'Tony' Fields

FIRE COMMITTEE

Robert 'Bob' Pollard-Chair
James 'Rickey' Gray
Ernest 'Tony' Fields

**RECREATION, EDUCATION &
ORDINANCE COMMITTEE**

Dan Dillard-Chair
James 'Rickey' Gray
Mark Fortenbery

NEW BUSINESS

BID - ASPHALT OVERLAY PROJECT

Mayor Middleton requested comments from Mr. Gardner, Water Superintendent / City Engineer.

Mr. Gardner said the bid was reviewed and everything was in place, the bid bond, the Corporate Affidavit has been signed and the exterior of the bid package was proper. He said the bid received was within the budget allocated amount of funds. Mr. Gardner recommended that the award be made to W.E. Blain and Sons in the amount of \$1,298,208.60.

A motion was made by Alderman Gray and seconded by Alderman Dillard for the award of the Asphalt milling and overlay project to W.E. Blain and Sons in the amount of \$1,298,208.60 for the following streets

- Homochitto Street from Martin L. King Jr. Street to State Maintenance**
- Martin L. King Jr. Street from State Maintenance to Homochitto Street**
- Franklin Street**
- St. Catherine Street**

Mayor Middleton requested comments.

Alderman Pollard asked if the project funding would take care of the possible cost increase of materials.

Mr. Gardner said the project would be for the milling and overlay of the following:

Homochitto Street from Martin L. King Jr. Street to State Maintenance

Martin L. King Jr. Street from State Maintenance to Homochitto Street

Franklin Street

St. Catherine Street

Alderman Pollard questioned the start date of the project.

Mr. Gardner said the project start date will be scheduled for September 1, 2008 with a contract of 120 days.

Mr. Holloway noted that the total fund amount would be \$1,300,000 and asked if there would be a management contractor for the project.

Mr. Gardner said the project cost could be trimmed and stay within the budget or take it from the Capital Improvement Account which is set up for these properties.

Mr. Holloway asked if the Capital Improvements fund would be used for another project.

Mr. Gardner said the funds would be used for the Union Street Project. He said he would like to review the numbers and discuss it with Mr. Holloway. Mr. Gardner said he would not be short on either project.

Mayor Middleton requested a vote on the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

Alderman Gray asked if the grass cutting orders from the Planning Department would be addressed. He said the orders were placed on the desk.

Mayor Middleton determined that everyone did not receive a copy of the grass cutting orders and there was no representative from the Planning Department present. He requested a motion to table the discussion until the next scheduled meeting.

A motion was made by Alderman Dillard and seconded by Alderman Pollard to table the discussion of the grass cutting orders until the next scheduled meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Alderman Pollard and seconded by Alderman Gray to Adjourn the Regular Meeting of July 22, 2008. The motion carried unanimously.

**JAKE MIDDLETON
MAYOR**

ATTEST:

**DONNIE HOLLOWAY
CITY CLERK**