

REGULAR MEETING
August 25, 2009

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, August 25, 2009. Mayor Jake Middleton presided at the meeting, which was opened with prayer by Reverend Leroy White.

MAYOR & BOARD PRESENT	ELECTED OFFICIALS ABSENT	CITY OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEADS
John ‘Jake’ Middleton Mayor		Donnie Holloway, City Clerk Coretta L. Logan, Deputy Clerk Darlene Jones, Community Development Sabrena Bartley, Senior Center Paul Dawes, Building Official Connie Taunton, Tourism Director David Gardner, Engineering Mike Mullins, Police Chief Oliver Stewart, Fire Chief Natchez Democrat
Joyce Arceneaux-Mathis Alderman, Ward 1		
J. ‘Ricky’ Gray, Jr. Alderman, Ward 2		
Bob Pollard Alderman, Ward 3		
Ernest ‘Tony’ Fields Alderman, Ward 4		
Mark Fortenbery Alderman, Ward 5		
Daniel Dillard Alderman, Ward 6		

MINUTES APPROVED

A motion was made by Alderman Pollard to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 11, 2009. The motion was seconded by Alderman Dillard. The motion carried unanimously.

VISITORS WELCOMED

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

Steven Sumpter

Mayor Middleton presented a proclamation to Mr. Sumpter

Charles Potter

Mayor Middleton presented a proclamation to Mr. Potter. Mr. Potter stated that he would like to thank God, his family, Mayor and Board of Alderman, and the Natchez Police Department for allowing him to provide 34 years of service for the City.

Tourism Advisory Committee

Mrs. Taunton submitted the Marketing Plan for 2009 – 2010 (Revenues Generated from \$2 Room Tax). She added that they will be promoting within a 250 miles radius of Natchez. She added that is their Regional Market and that is an important market. She also stated that they are going to be doing more web-based marketing.

Mayor Middleton read a letter from the Holiday Apartments manager. He stated that the manager could not be at the meeting due to a meeting out of town that he had to attend.

Alderman Gray made a motion to allow Holiday Residents to speak before the board. Seconded by Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis. The motion carried unanimously.

Deborah Martin of 601 Old Washington Road stated that she has lived in Holiday Apartments since 1992. She stated that she has been waiting on her apartment to get painted and her apartment has not been painted since she has been there. She indicated that sometimes the maintenance men cut the residents' grass out of their own pockets. She said that it is a lot that is just not being done.

Mayor Middleton stated that when he was running for Mayor, he sat down with Ms. Martin in her apartment and had a long talk about Holiday Apartments. He said that he promised Ms. Martin that there would be changes at Holiday Apartments. He stated that he thinks that with new management and staff at Holiday Apartments there will be changes.

Alderman Gray stated that there is no possible way that HUD could come to Natchez and Holiday Apartments pass an inspection. He added that the phone conference is not enough and there still needs to be a scheduled meeting for the manager to come before the board.

Mayor Middleton asked Attorney Sanders to look into legal actions on the manager from Holiday Apartments in reference to being served an affidavit to come to board meeting.

Alderman Gray stated that this is a serious matter that involves peoples' lives and the manager does not care enough to show up at the meeting.

Mayor Middleton stated that he will set up another meeting with Mr. Moe and the manager of Holiday Apartments.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NONE

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

ENGINEERING, David Gardner

Mr. Gardner stated that he and Alderman Fortenbery attended the Board of Supervisors meeting and they asked them for their financial participation in the EWP Project. He added that the county is partnering with the City on the project.

Aldermoman Arceneaux-Mathis asked Mr. Gardner if he could meet with her and Mr. Eric Smith to discuss the possibility of another access road to Marblestone through Cemetery Road.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT, Ralph Tedder

Mr. Tedder requested travel approval to attend the Mississippi Recreation and Park Association 2009 State Conference to be held at Percy Quin State Park, McComb, MS, September 21 - 25, 2009. He stated that he has already paid his conference pre-registration fees and the only expenses left to pay will be the reimbursement of (4) nights of hotel stay and (5) days of meal reimbursement totaling an estimated **\$ 550**. These funds are in his FY 2009 / 2010 Budget. He also stated that this will be the only travel expenses for the up coming Fiscal Year, because he is bringing the State MRPA Conference *to Natchez in 2010*.

Alderman Fortenbery made a motion to allow Mr. Tedder to travel to the Recreation Conference in McComb September 20th – 25th. Seconded by Alderman Dillard. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Tedder stated that last year after a successful bid, the *City of Natchez* was selected to be the host of the **2010 Mississippi Recreation and Park Association State Conference**. The MRPA Board of Directors required the Conference Host of the Next Year's Conference to serve on the current year's Conference Program Planning Committee. He stated that under his responsibilities for the 2009 Conference, he has organized speakers for (2) educational sessions for the 2009 Conference and his attendance is required. At the end of the conference, he will also have to attend the MRPA Board of Director's Meeting, to plan for the 2010 Natchez MRPA Conference.

Mr. Tedder stated that when the **2010 Mississippi Recreation and Park Association State Conference** is held next year in Natchez it will bring in *200 visitors* to spend money in our community at an estimated **\$80,000 Economic Impact**. This *2010 Mississippi Recreation and Park Association State Conference* will be the **3rd time** that he has have been able to bring the MRPA State Conference to Natchez .

2005 MRPA Conference in Natchez; at an **\$80,000 Economic Impact**.

2001 MRPA Conference in Natchez; at an **\$80,000 Economic Impact**.

CITY OFFICIALS' REPORT

ALDERMAN FORTENBERY - WARD 5

No Report.

ALDERMAN DILLARD – WARD 6

Alderman Dillard stated that he would like Public Works to look at the overgrowth on Winchester and Wheeler. He indicated that 2932 Miller Avenue and Roselawn need a half load of dirt. He indicated that on 124 Wood Avenue he would like for an investigation of erosion.

Alderman Dillard stated that he would like to express his condolences to the family of Terry Farmer.

Alderman Dillard stated that the judge has issued citations for 903 Westwood regarding Health & Sanitation and Abandoned vehicles. He added that they have not been able to get in touch with the property owner but he is confident that it will soon come to pass.

ALDERWOMAN ARCENEAUX-MATHIS - WARD 1

Aldermwoman Arceneaux-Mathis stated that she was glad to have the meeting with Mr. Peterson, Mrs. Brinegar, and Mr. Gardner. She added that she was concerned that the applications for projects were accepted only by invitations. She added that she does not understand why she did not receive an invitation while she was in Washington. She indicated that the projects were in the representatives' hands on January 21st.

Aldermwoman Arceneaux-Mathis stated that Mayor Middleton did a good job of introducing Senator Wicker. She stated that she submitted the Marblestone, West Steirs Lane, and 592 project. She added that she asked them to look at the DVD and take note of the West Nile virus case that came from Buckner's Alley.

Aldermwoman Arceneaux-Mathis made a motion to allow Mayor Middleton to secure a meeting with Senator Wicker, Senator Cochran, and Congressman Harper while they are here. Seconded by Alderman Gray. The motion carried unanimously.

ALDERMAN GRAY, Ward 2

Alderman Gray stated that members from the Krewe of Mer wanted to know why the citizens of Natchez cannot use the parking lot across from the Natchez Community Center.

Mayor Middleton stated that the parking lot is private property.

Alderman Gray stated that it is budget time and the board has not had a budget hearing yet.

Mr. Holloway stated that there will be a budget meeting Monday, August 31, 2009 at 4:00pm.

Alderman Dillard stated that he would like to state for the record that the board has not received the budget and it is to be approved by September 15th. He added that prior to the budget being approved, there has to be a public hearing and it has to be published.

Mr. Holloway stated that the assessed values were just approved in July.

Alderman Gray stated that it the crime throughout the city also concerns him.

Alderman Gray stated his condolences go out to the Farmer, Green, Lyles, Prater, & Woodfork families.

Alderman Gray stated that Natchez High retired Larry Brown Jr.'s jersey number 59.

ALDERMAN POLLARD - WARD 3

No Report

ALDERMAN FIELDS - WARD 4

Alderman Fields stated that he would like to thank Mayor Middleton, Anita, Willie B. Jones, Dawes, and Attorney Sanders. He added that he had a phone conversation with the managers and owners of Cedar Hurst and Brumfield Apartments. He stated that his point in doing the phone conference was that he wants to have all the dialogue that he possibly can have with them so that some of the problems can be addressed.

Alderman Fields stated that the phone conversation was not enough and the owners and mangers still need to come before the board.

Alderman Fields stated to everyone to please take good care of yourself. He added that you should practice good hand washing, good hygiene, and when you cough, cover up properly, and if you are sick, stay away from others.

Alderman Fields thanked the water board for being obedient and giving their report in Executive Session.

CITY CLERK'S REPORT, DONNIE HOLLOWAY

Mr. Holloway stated that the Budget Hearing will be Monday, August 1st at 4:00 pm

CITY ATTORNEY

Attorney Sanders stated that he has a resolution for the Mayor and Board of Aldermen Authorizing the condemnation of two parcels of property owned by W.W.P.B. Real Estate Holding Company, LLC and one parcel owned by the John Elliot and Smith Estates. He added that the properties are necessary for the completion of the North Natchez Water Storm Project.

Alderman Arceneaux-Mathis made a motion to move forth with the condemnation of the W.W.P.B. Real Estate Holding Company, LLC properties. Seconded by Alderman Fields. The motion carried unanimously.

Alderman Arceneaux-Mathis stated that she received a call from the property owner of the John and Elliot Smith Estates. She requested that the board wait until Friday at the recessed meeting before acting on the property.

Attorney Sanders stated that he is requesting that the board allow him to associate Attorney Walter Brown to assist with the process.

Alderman Fields made a motion to allow Attorney Walter Brown to work with Attorney Sanders on the process of condemnation of the discussed properties. Seconded by Alderman Pollard. The motion carried unanimously.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Middleton stated that there are two new appointees for the Saint Catherine Creek Committee Board. He added that the Dr. Moses and Mr. Gandy both have relocated. The replacements are Mr. Donnell Newsome and Mr. Steve Newman. This is to reaffirm the committee so that the documents can be spread upon the minutes.

Mayor Middleton requested permission to travel Southern Association for State Highway and Transportation Officials for a two day Conference.

Alderman Gray made a motion to allow Mayor Middleton to travel to the Southern Association Conference for two days. Seconded by Alderman Arceneaux-Mathis. The motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Donna Woodfork stated that she is speaking on behalf of her grandmother Mary Lou Ivory of 109 ½ McIntyre Boulevard. She stated that the erosion that is in the McIntyre area is beginning to wear on her 98 year old grandmother's mind. She added that the Planning & Zoning department could not confirm who the bayou belongs to. She indicated that the bayou surrounds her grandmother's property.

Ms. Woodfork stated that her grandfather has paid property taxes, maintained the land for at least 40 years and they have nothing to show for it. She added that the sewage has not been maintained.

Ms. Woodfork stated that she wants this issue to be taken care as soon as possible. She added that she is requesting a temporary measure to stabilize the soil.

Mayor Middleton stated that he will get the department heads together to determine what entity is responsible for the property and what can be done to correct the matter.

Alderman Gray stated that the piece of property was in the county and then it was annexed into the city. He added that he would like the City Engineer and Public Works to go out to the site to see what can be done.

Mayor Middleton stated that he will do his best to get the matter taken care of.

Alderman Gray made a motion to allow Mrs. Bruce of 106 Jackson Street to speak before the board. Seconded by Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Jackson stated that she has been on Jackson Street for 28 years and now it is like a dungeon. She added that the garbage is being dumped on the front of the street and Waste Management will not pick it up because it is not in a bag. She stated that there are three garbage cans that have not been dumped in four months.

Alderman Fortenbery stated that the debris must be placed either in a bag or a container with a lid. He added that he will make a call to Waste Management in the morning to see if he can get the problem taken care of.

Alderman Gray stated that he has a problem with the way the citizens have to get placed on the agenda. He added that some of the citizens cannot write and some do not have access to a fax machine.

Mayor Middleton stated that if they cannot write and don't have the proper equipment then they can make arrangements, but they will have to explain what it is in regards to.

RECESSED

A motion was made by Alderman Fields, seconded by Alderman Pollard to recessed the Regular Meeting of August 25, 2009 until August 28, 2009 at 3:00pm The motion carried unanimously.

**JAKE MIDDLETON
MAYOR**

ATTEST:

**DONNIE HOLLOWAY
CITY CLERK**