

**REGULAR MEETING
October 13, 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 11:00 A.M. on Tuesday, October 13, 2009. Mayor Jake Middleton presided at the meeting, which was opened with prayer by Rev. Birdon Mitchell.

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

MINUTES APPROVED

A motion was made by Alderman Fields to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 22, 2009 and the Special call meeting of September 29, 2009. The motion was seconded by Alderman Pollard. The motion carried unanimously.

Alderman Pollard made a motion to go out of order for a public Hearing to discuss the property of 608 Jefferson Street. Seconded by Alderman Fortenbery. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Dawes stated that he has a request to rezone 608 Jefferson Street from B2 to R3 for conducting a Bed & Breakfast. He added that the property owners were granted special permission to operate for the Fall Pilgrimage.

Alderman Fields made a motion to come out of the Public Hearing. Seconded by Alderman Fortenbery. The motion carried unanimously.

Alderman Dillard made a motion to rezone 608 Jefferson Street from a B2 to R3, to allow the Horton's to officially operate a Bed & Breakfast. Seconded by Alderman Fortenbery. The motion carried unanimously.

Alderman Dillard made a motion to go out of order of the Agenda to allow Attorney Walter Brown to speak before the board. Seconded by Alderman Fields. The motion carried unanimously.

Attorney Walter Brown stated that he and Attorney Everett Sanders received notice from the United States Justice Department that the annexation ordinance adopted by the City in October of 2008, has been approved. He added that the two areas involved are located on Hwy 61 South and North Martin Luther King Drive. He added that the letter will be submitted to be spread upon the minutes.

Mayor Pro Tempe Arceneaux-Mathis stated that the information that she has states that litigation can still proceed.

Attorney Walter Brown stated that he is aware that litigation can still proceed.

Attorney Walter Brown stated that Tate Hobdy is serving on the board for the November 3rd ADHOC Recreation Committee. He asked that the board allow Mr. Hobdy to speak.

Alderman Gray made a motion to allow Mr. Tate Hobdy to speak before the board regarding the ADHOC Recreation. Seconded by Alderman Fields. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Hobdy stated that he would like to commend the City of Natchez, Adams County School Board, and the Adams County Board of Supervisors for coming together on recreation. He stated that he would like to invite everyone to an open forum on Monday, October 19th 6:00pm at the Convention Center.

Mayor Pro Tempe Arceneaux-Mathis stated to Attorney Walter Brown that she needs to retrieve a copy of the agreement with the Engineering and Natchez Water Works that was handled by him during the time he was the city's attorney.

Mayor Pro Tempe Arceneaux-Mathis stated that she met at an open forum last night with Senator Dearing and Senator Dearing strongly suggested that they meet with the governor as soon as possible. She added that she mentioned it to the Board of Supervisors. She asked Attorney Walter Brown to get back with the Board of Supervisors on facilitating a meeting.

Attorney Walter Brown stated that he will set it up.

Alderman Dillard made a motion to go back into regular order. Seconded by Alderman Fortenbery. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Boxley stated that he wants to know if the board has any plans to deal with the boundary study about the Forks of the Road becoming eligible to be part of the National Park Service. He added that the study has been complete for about 6 weeks now. He indicated that he is very concerned about this issue.

Mayor Pro Tempe Arceneaux-Mathis read a note indicating that the City is currently working on the DIP Program with Tulane University and that Mrs. Jenkins is waiting for The National Park Service to sign off on the boundary study.

Mr. Holloway stated that they are currently working on the DIP program. He added that Tulane University has the application and there will be a pavilion sketch. He added that he spoke with MDA and they are waiting to get the information back to the city of Natchez so that the City can do a resolution and submit it back to MDA. He further stated that the City could not do it here because they did not know the scale of what the pavilion was going to be.

Mayor Pro Tempe Arceneaux-Mathis suggested to Mr. Boxley that he get in touch with Mrs. Jenkins when she comes back from out of town and to also get with Mr. Peters of Southwest MS Planning. She added that the City will not lose any money.

Alderman Fields thanked Mr. Boxley for speaking. He added that the Forks of the Road will be vital to that area.

VISITORS WELCOMED

Mayor Pro Tempe Arceneaux- Mathis welcomed visitors to the meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NONE

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

POLICE CHIEF, Mike Mullins

Chief Mullins stated that the Natchez Adams School District in partnership with the Natchez Police Department has been awarded a grant from the Secure Our Schools Program in the amount of \$88,863.

Chief Mullins stated that Natchez Police Department has been awarded a \$20,000 grant from the Department of Public Safety for traffic and safety belt enforcement.

Chief Mullins stated that last month they sponsored a 40 hour training course for dispatchers. He added that the training is reimbursed at a 100% by the state.

INSPECTION DEPARTMENT, Paul Dawes

Mr. Dawes submitted the financial report for the month of September.

ENGINEERING, David Gardner

Mr. Gardner stated that Natchez Water Works is now furnishing the sewer treatment at the CCA Prison and the contract is now complete. He added that he would like for the board to allow the mayor to sign the documents to close the CCA project. He added in order for the project to be closed there has to be a formal contract and have a notice in the newspaper that the contract between the City of Natchez and Gilco Construction Company has been completed.

Alderman Dillard made a motion to allow the mayor to sign and authorize notice in the newspaper and sign off documents to close the CCA Project. Seconded by Alderman Fields. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gardner stated that he wanted to give the board an update on the projects that he is working on. He said that there were 3 projects that were under a federal deadline, The Trails Project, Union Street Overlay Project, and the ARRA Overlay Project, which all have met the deadline. He added that now they are waiting for the federal review to take place.

Mr. Gardner stated that the North Natchez Drainage Project is still working on right of ways. He added that hopefully it should be completed in October.

Mr. Gardner stated that he needs permission from the board to ratify CBDG funds through Gustav in the amount of 1.2 million dollars to further work on the 592 project.

Alderman Gray made a motion to allow Mr. Gardner to ratify CBDG funds through Gustav in the amount of 1.2 million dollars to further work on the 592 project. Seconded by Alderman Fields. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gardner stated that all 5 NRCS sites have been approved and are now in the design phase. He added that they are getting it shovel ready.

Mr. Gardner stated that the Daisy Street Application was denied by the state. He added that it was submitted by the deadline of May 21st; however the rankings did not score as a high priority. He also stated that there will be a letter to reapply next year.

TOURISM DEPARTMENT, Connie Taunton

Mrs. Taunton thanked Alderman Fortenbery and Public Works for trimming the trees and cleaning up the median. She stated that it looks great. She added that they are gearing up for the balloon race.

Mrs. Taunton stated that they have a bid on Christmas lighting and what it would cost. She added that right now, the bid is around \$3,800. She said that she met with another electrician that has a pole and may consider donating the wire to the City.

She reminded everyone that there will be a MML reception on November 4th at the Visitors Centers. She added that they had a great turnout for the anniversary of the National Park Service and the Visitors Center.

Mrs. Taunton stated that they now have NAPAC Museum brochures. She stated that she would like to issue them to the City Officials so when they go out of town they can pass out the brochures to invite people to come and see the Finely Collection.

Connie Taunton stated that she would like to request permission to use up to \$1,800 from the Public Properties for the electrical expenses of the Christmas decoration.

Alderman Pollard made a motion to allow the Visitors Center to use up to \$1,800 from Public Properties for the electrical expenses of the Christmas decoration. Seconded by Alderman Fields. The motion carried unanimously.

Alderman Fields stated that for the next board meeting, he would like for Mr. Holloway to provide a balance report of the Public Properties Account.

YOUTHBUILD, Don Smith

Natchez Board of Aldermen Meeting
October 13, 2009

Greetings:

Natchez YouthBuild recently had a sight visit from Department of Labor's Regional Field office, in Atlanta. We are pleased to report that there were no findings. The few suggestions made by the Federal Project Officer have either been implemented or are in progress.

NYB is a three Year program that is funded to service 41 participants. We began program activities in March of this year with an enrollment of 22. We expect to begin the second class of 19 or more in the not-so-distant future.

Out of the 22 participants enrolled: 1 has moved out of town with his family and 5 others are on suspension. (It is important to note that: the one participant that left town received his GED and enrolled in an on-line course before leaving. Participants who are suspended do not receive their

stipend but are still serviced through our Counseling and Mentoring program.)

Two of the main components of YouthBuild are Education and Construction:

EDUCATION:

GED: Seventeen YouthBuild participants enrolled in the GED Program provided through Colin Community College. Since enrollment four or (24 %) of the participants have received their GED Certification. Another Five or (34%) of them have successfully passed five of six parts of the GED test. According to Post-TABE and GED Testing, 79 % of our participants (not including the graduates) have shown Significant Advanced Knowledge Gain since enrolling in Natchez YouthBuild.

Several of our participants will be testing tomorrow and we expect additional successes there.

Educational Enhancement: 5 NYB participants had their GED upon entering the program; these individuals and those who recently receive their GED get advance education and life skill training through our YouthBuild Educational Enhancement Instructor.

CONSTRUCTION:

NYB participants provided about 35% of the labor during site preparation and construction of the Habitat for Humanity House located at Smith/Claiborne Street in Natchez. The House is over 90% complete and 15-20 days ahead of their normal construction schedule because of NYB's contribution. YouthBuild's Construction Manager also provided additional expertise, skills and tools needed to assure quality construction.

Through Classroom instruction, Shop Exercises and Supervised Construction, NYB participants have received several job related certifications and most of them will receive their nationally recognized NCCER Certification within the next few weeks.

Our next construction-related project will be the demolition of an abandoned house located on Irving Street in Natchez.

Other Components

Our young people are also giving back to their community through several ongoing Community Service Projects.

Two component of our program not discussed today include the Leadership and Graduate Resources components.

We thank the City Officials, Employees and our Volunteers for their support of NYB.

Anyone desiring additional information on NYB may contact me at 601-442-5962.

CITY OFFICIALS' REPORT

ALDERMAN DILLARD – WARD 6

Alderman Dillard stated that during the budget process, one of the things they became aware of was the out of date software that they City Clerk's Office is operating with. He added that the City Clerk is in the process of getting with the auditor and they are going to be looking at the available software for municipal accounting. He added that if you can get up to date software, then you can provide information in a timely manner.

Alderman Dillard stated that they compared the City of Natchez's departments and how they compare to departments in other cities. He added that we have quite a number of departments. He also stated that by bringing these departments closer together, we can bring about a certain amount of efficiency in the execution of services.

Alderman Dillard stated that they are looking at different groups that provide resource CDBG type applications for grants. He added that this is a very complicated and demanding process.

Alderman Dillard also stated that he is excited to say that they have been contacted by interested Planners for the Planning Department. He added that it is very encouraging and they are looking forward to presenting this information to the public soon.

Alderman Dillard stated that as to the recreation grass cutting bids, it seems this will be a very competitive process. He added that it is very encouraging.

Alderman Dillard said that he would like the property owners downtown to improve their areas for the tourists and asked property owners to unchain their parking areas to accommodate the tourists that come in town for the balloon race.

ALDERMAN GRAY, Ward 2

Alderman Gray stated that he strongly feels that the city needs to hire another Personnel Director. He said that he thinks the city needs to consider hiring a Personnel director.

Alderman Gray asked Mr. Dawes the status of 22 Claiborne Street.

Mr. Dawes stated that the YouthBuild group has not made it to that area yet to demolish the property.

Alderman Gray stated to Mr. Gardner to get with Mr. David Atkins to see how soon they can begin on the project to alleviate the East Steirs Lane flooding problem.

Alderman Gray stated that the Daisy Street CBDG application was turned down. He added that he would like to thank Natchez Water Works for working numerous hours on Bishop Street to alleviate a problem. He added that he called Mrs. Tracy Giles regarding the CBDG application and the reason it was turn down. He stated that she told him budget problems, engineering costs too high, poorly put together, and cost estimate problems. He added that he was very disappointed that the application was turned down.

Alderman Gray stated that he would like to congratulate Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis for being elected as the second Vice President of the MBC-LEO.

Alderman Gray stated that a prayer should be said for Mrs. Darlene Jones for traveling grace & for her sick mother. He added that his sympathy goes out to Mr. John Henderson & Sgt. 1st class Christopher Shaw. He added that the board needs to a proclamation for Mr. Shaw.

Alderman Gray made a motion for the board to do a proclamation for Sgt. 1st class Christopher Shaw in his honor. Seconded by Alderman Fields. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Pro Tempe Arceneaux-Mathis read a biography on Sgt. 1st class Christopher Shaw.

Alderman Gray stated that the services are tomorrow at the Convention Center at 11:00am.

Alderman Gray stated that they had their first Neighborhood Watch meeting at Holiday Apartments and it was a positive experience. He added that there will be another one this month. He said that he wants the residents to know that they care about the quality of life in Holiday Apartments.

Alderman Gray stated that he has serious concerns about crime in the area. He added that he will get with Chief Mullins to discuss it with him.

Alderman Gray stated that he had a positive experience at the conference in Hattiesburg. He said that they were asked to describe their community with one word and he said the word he chose was "divided." He added that we need to do more to come together. He stated that we should have unity in the community.

Alderman Gray asked Attorney Sanders to look over the Organization chart to make sure that the city is abiding by the chart. He added that the citizens' of Natchez are the boss because they are at the top of the chart.

Alderman Gray read the dismissal policy of a City employee. He added that he wants Attorney Sanders to make sure that what we are doing is in line with the policy.

Alderman Gray stated that we would like to thank Public Works for what they do, and at this time, he cannot support the privatizing of the grass cutters. He added that he cannot support anyone else losing their job.

ALDERMAN POLLARD – WARD 3

Alderman Pollard stated that the Natchez Fire Department had their annual Fish Fry on Saturday and it was a big success.

Alderman Pollard read the Fire Department report for the month of September.

Alderman Pollard stated that the Balloon Race will begin this week.

Alderman Pollard stated the Phat Water Challenge has turned into a huge success. He added that they had 161 entries. He said that The New York Times was there to do an article on the event. He said that we need to continue because it is a big event for the city.

ALDERMAN FIELDS – WARD 4

Alderman Fields stated that there were very tough decisions to make during the budgeting process, yet very necessary. He added that the city must do its best at

consolidating department and services and stop duplicating, and become more efficient. He added that the board is just trying to do what is best for everyone.

Alderman Fields stated that there are some luxuries that the city has and that the city cannot afford to have. He added that they are trying to cut down on borrowing for next year to take care of this year. He added that this board is trying to put a stop to it.

Alderman Fields stated that he is highly qualified to do his day job according to the State of Mississippi, but he also has to work for and with people. He added that that if he can't do that his qualifications mean absolutely nothing. He further stated that the citizen's of Natchez deserve a better type of behavior from its highly qualified employees.

Alderman Fields stated that the board is not just flying off by the seat of their pants. They are doing what they have to do and what is in the best interest of the citizens of Natchez.

Alderman Fields stated that this month is Breast Cancer Awareness month, so please support the research of breast cancer and all cancer research and pray for those who have been affected by breast cancer.

ALDERMAN FORTENBERY – WARD 5

Alderman Fortenbery stated that he would like to thank those that have stepped up to help support the city at this time in different areas of the city.

Alderman Fortenbery stated that if you were to walk in the shoes of the Aldermen, and see what the city's budgets are, you will see that it's not there. He added that there will be more tough decision to make and this is not an easy job.

Alderman Fortenbery stated that he asks for the public to continue their support because it could get a lot worse.

CITY CLERK'S REPORT, DONNIE HOLLOWAY

Mr. Holloway asked the board to approve the municipal compliance questionnaire that is done on an annual basis.

He added that this is mandatory by the State. Alderman Gray stated that he would like the City Attorney to look over it.

Alderman Fields made a motion that the board receives a copy of the municipal compliance questionnaire and that the attorney review it and then postpone voting on it until the next board meeting. Seconded by Alderman Gray. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Holloway stated that he would like for the board to approve Pam Patterson to travel to Jackson, Mississippi four times a year for training. He added that it has been budgeted for.

Alderman Gray made a motion to allow Pam Patterson to travel to Jackson, Mississippi four times a year for training. Seconded by Alderman Pollard. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Holloway asked the board to approve docket number 8864 – 9021 and claims docket number 101 – 414.

Alderman Fields made a motion to approve docket number 8864 – 9021 and claims docket number 101 – 414. Seconded by Alderman Dillard.

Alderman Gray stated that he is opposing vendor # 356157 on the docket.

The motion carried unanimously.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT, Everett Sanders

NONE

MAYOR PRO TEMPE'S REPORT,

Mayor Pro Tempe Arceneaux-Mathis stated that she would like to thank Alderman Gray for announcing that she was elected seconded vice president of the MBC-LEO. She added that she hopes that the position will assist in getting Natchez's voice more into MML. She added that she is happy that Alderman Gray was able to get the small town conference here, which will be on November 4th.

Mayor Pro Tempe Arceneaux-Mathis stated that she attended the Board of Supervisors meeting concerning Marblestone Road. She added that she was there asking for assistance because the City of Natchez is in Adams County. She added that Mr. Gardner and Mr. Atkins can go out there just to what they can do.

Mayor Pro Tempe Arceneaux-Mathis stated that there was a workshop done on branding your community. She stated that maybe we should ride our ingresses and egresses and see what other people see when they first come to Natchez.

Mr. Gardner stated that MDA had a booklet called first impressions and he can contact Mrs. Webber about obtaining some.

Mayor Pro Tempe Arceneaux- Mathis stated that she attended the Lewis Drive Neighborhood Watch meeting and it was very good. She added that Mr. Fells also attended the meeting. She said that Mr. Fells is doing a lot of good work. She added that he has started a tutorial program and is seeking to get equipment for the playground.

Mayor Pro Tempe Arceneaux-Mathis stated that she spoke with Senator Dearing and suggested that the board jump on this immediately. She stated that he said that he would speak with the governor to try to get the board a meeting.

Alderman Gray made a motion to allow the board to travel to meet the governor, once an appointment date is set. Seconded by Alderman Fortenbery. The motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Alderman Gray made a motion to allow the ad volrem funds to go into the Public Works account to deal with streets. The motion failed due to the lack of a second.

Alderman Gray stated that he just wants the citizens to know he is trying to have a way to deal with the streets because there is no street program.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Alderman Fields, seconded by Alderman Pollard to Adjourn the Regular Meeting of October 13, 2009. The motion carried unanimously.

**JAKE MIDDLETON
MAYOR**

ATTEST:

**DONNIE HOLLOWAY
CITY CLERK**