

**REGULAR MEETING**  
**January 25, 2010**

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, January 25, 2010. Mayor Jake Middleton presided at the meeting, which was opened with prayer by Pastor Ed Wright.

<b>MAYOR &amp; BOARD PRESENT</b>	<b>ELECTED OFFICIALS ABSENT</b>	<b>CITY OFFICIALS &amp; DEPARTMENT HEADS</b>
<b>John “Jake” Middleton Mayor</b>		Donnie Holloway, City Clerk Coretta L. Logan, Deputy Clerk Oliver Stewart, Fire Chief
<b>Joyce Arceneaux-Mathis Alderswoman, Ward 1</b>		Ralph Tedder, Recreation Director Rick Freeman, Traffic Department Connie Taunton, Visitor’s Center
<b>J. “Ricky” Gray, Jr. Alderman, Ward 2</b>		Darlene Jones, Community Dev. David Gardner, City Engineer Natchez Democrat
<b>Bob Pollard Alderman, Ward 3</b>		
<b>Ernest “Tony” Fields Alderman, Ward 4</b>		
<b>Mark Fortenbery Alderman, Ward 5</b>		
<b>Daniel Dillard Alderman, Ward 6</b>		

**MINUTES APPROVED**

A motion was made by Alderman Fields to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 12, 2010. The motion was seconded by Alderman Pollard. The motion with Alderman Gray opposing.

**WELCOME VISITORS**

Dr. Johnsonne represented for the Natchez Now group. He submitted a presentation to the board of the members and their annual commitment.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

NONE

**DEPARTMENT HEADS**

**SENIORS' CENTER, Sabrena Bartley  
(Report Attached)**

**Alderman Arceneaux-Mathis made a motion to allowing authorization to apply to the Mississippi Department of Transportation on behalf of Natchez Center and Transit System by submitting proposals for the 5310 Elderly and Disabled Grants(Natchez Senior Center), 5317 New Freedom (Natchez Senior Center), 5311 Rural General Public Transportation (Natchez Transit System), and 5316 Job Access Commute Transportation (Natchez Transit System). Seconded by Alderman Fields. The motion carried unanimously.**

**Alderman Fields made a motion to allow permission to advertise, announce, and hold a public hearing concerning these proposals in accordance with application deadlines and authorization for Mayor Middleton and City Attorney Sanders to review and sign necessary documents associated with the application proposal. Seconded by Alderman Fortenbery. The motion carried unanimously.**

**ENGINEERING, David Gardner**

Mr. Gardner stated that he received permission from MDOT to go forward on the Union Street Project. Concurrence has been made by MDOT to award the contract to W.E. Blain. He stated that they will hold a preconstruction conference fairly soon and send out a notice to proceed for the work to begin.

Mr. Gardner stated that they are still waiting from MDOT on the Trails Project and the ARRA project.

**RECREATION, Wilbert Whitley**

Mr. Whitley stated that the basketball program for the youth and the adult has now started. He stated that these are the most impressive athletes that he has seen in a while. He said that he is proud to say that all the athletes that come through the basketball program achieve upper level success in Middle School, High School, and College.

Mr. Whitley stated that there are about 170 that are registered in the program. He stated that the athletes will be playing 16 games that range from four age divisions.

Mr. Whitley stated that he will be coming back to the board sometime in March to invite the board to the closing ceremony and to help pass out awards to the young athletes inside the gym.

**INSPECTION, Pawl Dawes**

Mr. Dawes submitted the Financial Report for the month of December.

**CITY OFFICIALS**

**ALDERMAN POLLARD – WARD 3**

Alderman Pollard stated that the one project that the CVB is working on is the portable ice skating ring. He added that he was part of the group that made the one day trip to Marshall, Texas. He stated that it was very impressive. He added that it will be for six weeks starting at the beginning of December. Alderman Pollard stated that this will be a tremendous effort to put this together for the kids. He added that Marshall Texas makes \$100,000 in six weeks every year and they have been doing this for 17 years.

Alderman Pollard stated that the CVB is asking a closer look at this. He added that they will come with more details at a later date.

#### **ALDERMAN FIELDS – WARD 4**

Alderman Fields stated that he would like an appointment to be set up with him, Mayor Middleton, and the general manager at Cable One. He added that there are some questions that need to be answered.

Alderman Fields stated that he would like to compliment everyone at NAPAC for a wonderful MLK luncheon. He added that the MLK parade was absolutely wonderful as well.

#### **ALDERMAN FORTENBERY – WARD 5**

Alderman Fortenbery stated that there are several residents that are cutting down trees and leaving them at the street. He asked if there were letters that were sent out.

Mr. Gardner stated that letters were sent to all the landscaping contractors.

Alderman Fortenbery stated that we may need to look into placing something into the newspaper as well or a campaign to help educate the public on tree trimming.

Alderman Fortenbery stated to Mr. Gardner that he will get with him on the matter tomorrow.

#### **ALDERMAN DILLARD – WARD 6**

Alderman Dillard stated that he would like the golfers to know that the winter rates for golf are in affect now.

Alderman Dillard stated that our revenues are taking a pretty good hit this first quarter. He added that the board will be working with the City Clerk to make recommendations as to how they feel best to remedy this situation. It is not uncommon in this area and in the state. He said that hopefully the Shop Natchez First will continue and we will find our way back on solid ground.

#### **ALDERWOMAN ARCENEAUX-MATHIS – WARD 1**

Alderwoman Mathis stated that Robert Austin Beaudreaux with the American Winn Symphony Orchestra came and met with the board on January 14<sup>th</sup> and he met with Anna Byrne from the Visitor Center Bureau and Mrs. Schmeig from the Opera Festival. She added that he brought quite a bit of information concerning the American Winn Symphony Orchestra. Alderwoman Mathis added that today Mr. Beaudreaux met with Mayor Copeland, Mr. Dale Young, and Mr. Walter Tipton. She further stated that hopefully Mr. Beaudreaux will be bringing back a presentation that the board will adopt.

Alderwoman stated that it is a traveling vessel that opens up with an orchestra playing. It will be a dual concept between Mississippi and Louisiana as it will be along both sides of the river. She added that this would be a great for Natchez to be involved in. She added the possible date will be the first week in June.

## **ALDERMAN GRAY – WARD 2**

Alderman Gray stated that in one of his classes in Jackson, the topic was about poverty in Mississippi and methods that were going to be used to address it. He added that he feels that the city needs to get on board and get a plan together on how to deal with the poverty situation that we have within our community because it is not going to go away.

Alderman Gray stated that Southwest Mississippi has a weatherization program that is designed to reduce energy costs for eligible clients by making their home more energy efficient. He added that for Adams County residents you may call 601-442-8681, there is an application that must be completed and the program is based on your income.

Alderman Gray stated that we are having a real problem with our streets in Natchez. He added that there needs to be a plan in place, so when funds become available, there will already be a plan.

Alderman Gray stated that he has some erosion problems on Downing Road. He added that the foundation is cracking.

Alderman Gray stated that one of his constituent's driveway is always blocked by her neighbors on Williams street. He stated that he will get with Chief Mullins and Mr. Freeman to address the problem.

Alderman Gray reminded everyone to complete and submit the Census 2010 forms. He stated that its 10 questions for 10 minutes that will last for 10 years. He added that there are plenty of jobs available with the Census Bureau.

Alderman Gray congratulated Dr. Edney for being named interim president for Alcorn State University.

## **CITY CLERK – DONNIE HOLLOWAY**

NO REPORT

## **CITY ATTORNEY, EVERETT SANDERS**

Attorney Sanders stated that there was a proposed joint resolution that was passed by the Board of Supervisors relating to the economic development authority.

Attorney Sanders read the joint resolution between the Board of Alderman and the Board of Supervisors.

**Alderman Pollard made a motion to accept the joint resolution between the Board of Aldermen and the Board of Supervisors as read by Attorney Sanders. Seconded by Alderman Dillard. The motion carried unanimously.**

## **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Middleton stated that last week he traveled to Tupelo Mississippi to look at their Economic Development make up. He added that there was a very good mix of people and they had a very good time there. He said the trip was very eye opening.

Mayor Middleton stated that they will try to create a regional marketing plan for Concordia Parish and Adams County. He added that the two groups got a chance to talk with each other and discuss problems on both sides of the river. He said that we need to market our region.

Mayor Middleton stated that he, City Clerk Donnie Holloway, Alderman Gray, and Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis will be in Jackson at the MML Mid Winter Conference Tuesday through Thursday. He added that hopefully they can meet with the Legislators to bring to them things that the municipal league is interested in having for their cities.

Mayor Middleton stated that on February 9<sup>th</sup> he and Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis will be in Washington, therefore Alderman Gray will be conducting the meeting that day.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Alderman Fields stated that we are experiencing a lot of erosion in this town and we do not need to ignore it. He added that you see the erosion over Brenham Avenue, Concord, East Oak Street, LaSalle Street, and West Steirs Lane. He further stated that NRCS did a study and gave a report in the early 90's.

**Alderman Fields made a motion that the City Engineer must draft a letter to NRCS to ask them to update their study and recommendations that they have made. Seconded by Alderman Gray. The motion carried unanimously.**

**Alderman Pollard made a motion to appoint Bradley Harrison to the preservation Commission. Seconded by Alderman Fields. The motion carried unanimously.**

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis stated that she would like to close the meeting in memory of Mrs. Ozell Fischer Mr. Daryl White's mother.

Alderman Fortenbery stated that he would like to also include the two girls that died in the car accident Miss Barnes and Miss Henson.

**Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis made a motion that the city of Natchez lobby for the following three projects the completion of full funding for the 592 project, the West Steirs Marblestone project, and recreation. Seconded by Alderman Gray.**

Alderman Dillard stated that he would like the STIP Funds to be included in the lobbying efforts as well.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis made a motion that the Mayor be authorized to sign the cooperative agreement between the city of Natchez and the United States Corp of**

**Engineers. Vicksburg district on the 592 project phases A & B. Seconded by Alderman Gray. The motion carried with Alderman Fortenbery opposing.**

**Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis made a motion that Mayor Middleton, Attorney Sanders, and Mr. Gardner formulate an appeal to MDA Community Development Block Grant Program Supplement Disaster Recovery Funds Grant. Seconded by Alderman Fields. The motion carried unanimously.**

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis stated that she would like the Police and Traffic Department to monitor the number of motorize wheel chairs that are traveling on the city streets. She added that at some point in March, she would like for them to bring that information back to the board so that the board can make some type of determination.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis stated that she would like to see Allen Laird to begin attending the board meeting sow that he can be aware of the discussions that are going forth and he may be able to pick up on other grants and information that the city can benefit from.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**A motion was made by Alderman Pollard, seconded by Alderman Fortenbery to Adjourn the Regular Meeting of January 25, 2010. The motion carried unanimously.**

**ATTEST:**

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**DONNIE HOLLOWAY  
CITY CLERK**

