

**REGULAR MEETING**  
**June 8, 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 11:00 A.M. on Tuesday, June 8, 2010. Mayor Jake Middleton presided at the meeting, which was opened with prayer by Mrs. Sabrena Bartley.

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

**MINUTES APPROVED**

A motion was made by Alderman Fields to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 25, 2010 and approve as submitted. The motion was seconded by Alderman Pollard. The motion carried unanimously.

**RECEIVE BIDS – NRCS Sites**

**Mayor Middleton opened and acknowledged bids from:**

Midway Construction	Roxie, MS	\$151,367.00
Dozer Inc	Natchez, MS	\$147,074.50
Camo Construction	Vidalia, LA	\$112,517.00
W.E. Blain & Sons	Natchez, MS	\$176,916.50
RW Delaney	Natchez, MS	\$181,404.49

**Alderman Fields made a motion to take the bids under advisement. Seconded by Alderman Gray. The motion carried unanimously.**

**VISITORS WELCOMED**

## **Connor Burns**

Mr. Burns stated that the retaining wall next to the Natchez Community Center is not up to standards. He added that in 2003, the City promised that they would fix it. He added that on yesterday, he finally saw a crew working on the retaining wall.

Mr. Burns stated that his problem is that it took the City 7 years to address the problem. He added that he spent too much of his time trying to get the City to live up to their responsibility.

Alderman Gray stated that he just received the packet today, and this was the first time he heard of the situation. He added that he would like to be notified about problems on the front in end and not on the back end.

Mr. Burns stated that he apologizes to Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis for not notifying her. He added that his intentions were to work with an individual that told him that it was a problem and that the City would fix it, and to not involve a lot of people. He further stated that he should have come to Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis sooner, but it came to a point where he was completely frustrated.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis stated that she will help any constituent that comes to her with a problem. She added that had she known that there was a problem; she would have done her best to assist him.

Alderman Fields stated that it should not have taken this long and he apologizes for any inconvenience that it may have caused Mr. Burns.

## **Allen Laird – Southwest MS Planning & Development**

Mr. Laird stated that he is here in regards of the potential home application that would be filed through the Mississippi Development Authority to reconstruct / rehab potentially up to five homes in the City of Natchez.

Mr. Laird asked the board to pass a resolution authorizing Southwest MS Planning & Development District to complete and submit the application to MDA and to authorize Mayor Middleton to sign off on all related documents, and to hold a public hearing.

## **RESOLUTION**

### **STATE OF MISSISSIPPI CITY OF NATCHEZ**

### **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING THE FILING OF APPLICATIONS FOR A HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP GRANT WITH THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

**WHEREAS**, the State of Mississippi has accepted the responsibility of administering the State's Fiscal Year 2010 allocations of HOME Investment Partnership Grant Funds; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Mississippi will grant such funds to eligible cities and counties on a competitive basis; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Natchez desires to obtain Fiscal Year 2010 funds for its betterment of its citizens; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the City of Natchez, Mississippi, as follows:

1. That Jake Middleton, as Mayor of the City of Natchez, is authorized to execute and file an application for HOME Investment Partnership Grant funds; and

2. That Jake Middleton, as Mayor of the City of Natchez, is authorized to furnish on behalf of the City such additional information as the State of Mississippi may require in connection with such applications; and

3. That should any such grant funds be awarded Jake Middleton, as Mayor of the City of Natchez, is hereby authorized to execute grant agreements with the State of Mississippi on behalf of the City of Natchez; and

4. That the City of Natchez engage the services of the Southwest Mississippi Planning and Development District to assist the County in the preparation of the City's applications for Fiscal Year 2010 HOME Investment Partnership Grants; and

5. That should grant funds be awarded as a result of these applications, the City of Natchez will utilize the professional services of the Southwest Mississippi Planning and Development District for the administration of such funding.

**ADOPTED**, by the City of Natchez, this the 8th day of June, 2010.

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Jake Middleton, Mayor  
City of Natchez

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

**Alderman Gray made a motion to pass the resolution authorizing Southwest MS Planning & Development District to complete and submit the application to MDA and to authorize Mayor Middleton to sign off on all related documents, and to hold a public hearing. Seconded by Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis. The motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Laird stated that application has to be very low income, the larger the family the better and the lower the income the better. They must have owned the house for at least 1 year. This can be proved with proof of the deed and there cannot be multiple names on the deed. They must also show the last 12

months of utility bills proving that someone has been living in the home. You have to currently reside in the home, verify your income with statements or check stubs. The home has to be in deplorable condition.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis asked Mr. Freeman to explain the situation about Elm and Union Street.

Mr. Freeman stated near the corner of the West Side of Union Street there is a home there and there really is nowhere for a car to park off the street. So, the cars are parked in the lane of traffic. He added that he contacted Chief Mullins to take a look at the area.

Chief Mullins stated that they will contact the owners and notify them that they cannot park there.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis asked Mr. Freeman to also check into the traffic where the Thrift Shop is on Union Street.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis stated that there are several complaints that the residents are still parking on both sides of the street. She added that she has a request that Maple Street become a One Way Street.

Alderman Fields asked what is the status of the demolition and cleanup on Franklin and Martin Luther King.

Mr. Dawes stated he contacted the property owner and he sent a relative that is in the contracting business to take out a demolition permit to finish cleaning up the property.

Alderman Fields stated that Mr. Dawes will need to contact the property owner again and give them a specific deadline date.

## **DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS**

### **ENGINEERING, David Gardner**

Mr. Gardner stated that the low bidder was Camo Construction Company. He added that the bid amount of \$112,517.00 was incorrect and the correct amount of the bid is \$113,117.00. He added that all the documents have been submitted. He recommended that the low bidder to Camo Construction Company be awarded contingent upon the Natural Resources Conservation Service's approval.

**Alderman Fortenbery made a motion to award Camo Construction Company the contract, contingent upon the Natural Resources Conservation Service's approval. Seconded by Alderman Fields. The motion carried unanimously.**

### **INSPECTION, Paul Dawes**

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

Alderman Dillard asked for information on 22 & 24 South Circle Street.  
Mr. Dawes stated that it is grass and weeds as well as property violation.

Mr. Dillard stated that he would like Mayor Middleton to talk with Judge Blough about getting a policy on abandoned vehicles being stored on property addressed.

Alderman Fields asked if individuals have obtained a permit to do the work that they are doing at the property on Old Washington Road.

Mr. Dawes stated that they have not and he has not been able to catch anyone there but he will continue to pursue.

## **CITY OFFICIALS' REPORT**

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

**Alderman Arceneaux-Mathis made a motion that the board makes Maple Street into a One Way Street to be determined by Traffic which way it should be turned. Seconded by Alderman Gray.**

Alderman Fortenbery asked if anyone has checked with the Police and Traffic Department to see if they were comfortable with this.

Alderman Arceneaux-Mathis stated that the problem is that heavy vehicles are coming through the street. She added that there is a problem on Maple Street with traffic. She further added that she started with this over a year ago and the residents are still having the same problems. She stated that a child was hit on Maple Street and a cat hit on Linton Street and there are speed humps on Linton and nothing on Maple Street. She asked where our priorities are.

Mr. Freeman stated that the problem on Maple Street occurred when the speed humps were placed on Linton Avenue. He added that if they make Maple Street a One Way street then half of the traffic will go to another street and they will be faced with the same problem again.

Mr. Gardner stated that you must be careful because what you do on one street will impact other streets.

Alderman Arceneaux-Mathis stated that we have impacted Maple Street by what we have done to Linton Street. She added that if we make Maple Street a one way it will spread out the impact over several streets.

Role Call Vote:

**Alderman Arceneaux-Mathis: aye**

**Alderman Gray: aye**

**Alderman Pollard: aye**

**Alderman Fields: aye**

**Alderman Fortenbery: naye**

**Alderman Dillard: aye**

**The motion carried with 5 to 1 vote.**

Alderman Arceneaux-Mathis stated that she received information concerning a fire at Susie B. West Apartments where allegedly glass was thrown against the rear door of an apartment that was occupied by a police officer. She added that she has contacted the City Attorney as well as Commander White.

She further added that Susie B. West continues to be a problem and she's assures the citizens that they are looking into the matter.

Commander White stated that they are still investigating the matter.

Alderman Gray stated that he would like to say that the City will not tolerate people making threats to anyone, especially law enforcement. He added that we need to take this very serious.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis stated that Vicksburg has a project called Street Ball and it is for the summer to help curb team crime and provide positive alternatives for youth. She added that Chief may want to check into it.

#### **ALDERMAN GRAY, WARD – 2**

**Alderman Gray made a motion that the officer with badge number 301290 be relieved of patrol duties and be assigned to duties at the police station pending an investigation received by the Personnel Department & the City Attorney. Seconded by Alderman Fields. The motion carried unanimously.**

Alderman Gray stated that he received an invitation from the Farmer's Market, regarding an opening on Saturday, June 12, 2010 at 199 St. Catherine Street.

Mr. Gardner stated that he was notified by some residents that there is a crack on Martin Luther King Street in front of his shop and there is a small hole developing by Mr. Ransom's house.

Alderman Gray stated that he went to speak encouraging words to the YouthBuild group and he had a good time. He added that the YouthBuild Program will be a win-win situation for the kids.

Alderman Gray stated that there is a hole on Smith Lane, and it needs to be checked into.

**Alderman Gray made a motion to allow the Board of Aldermen, City Clerk, City Attorney, and Mayor Middleton to attend the MML Summer Conference in Biloxi. Seconded by Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis. The motion carried unanimously.**

Alderman Gray stated that he attended the Southwest Mississippi Educators' Summer Conference. He added that they had a class dealing with the review of Robert Rules of Order that was very education. He further added that he will make copies for the rest of the board members, the mayor, and the City Attorney.

#### **ALDERMAN POLLARD – WARD 3**

NO REPORT

#### **ALDERMAN FIELDS, WARD 4**

Alderman Fields stated that there is a good plan that Water Works will be using to patch the holes that they cut in the street. He added that it is cost effective and very efficient.

Alderman Fields asked about the status of the speed study on Old Washington Road.

Mr. Freeman stated that he has not gotten to it yet. He added that will be a couple of weeks.

Alderman Fields congratulated Mrs. Moore for receiving her diploma from Alcorn State University.

Alderman Fields stated that he and the City Engineer need to ride on Purnell Hill because there is an easement situation that needs to be resolved.

Alderman Fields stated that he would like the parents and kids to utilize our parks that we have.

Alderman Fields stated that he would like to thank the Make A Wish Foundation. He added that they have granted his son a Disney Trip. He added that he would like the Mayor to excuse him for the week of the 21<sup>st</sup>.

#### **ALDERMAN FORTENBERY – WARD 5**

Alderman Fortenbery stated that he would like the general public to know that there are a lot of projects that are going on in the city. He added that he and the other Aldermen have received a copy of the Public Works projects that have been completed and the projects that are currently being worked. He further added that he wants everyone to know that the Public Works crew works hard everyday.

#### **ALDERMAN DILLARD – WARD 6**

Alderman Dillard stated that he wanted to thank Public Works for the great work done at Duncan Park and on Miller Avenue. He added that they took care of the serious erosion problem.

Alderman Dillard stated that the Water Works is moving toward getting the patches and cuts repaired by an outside entity. He added that was a smart move to handle the patching of the streets.

Alderman Dillard stated that he would like to encourage all young golfers to participate in the Norman Puckett Junior Golf Tournament. He added that if we can make this a success, then this can be another venue that we can bring people to Natchez to share with them.

Alderman Dillard stated that the Dixie Youth will have their upcoming tournament at the park. He added that we have a special place at Duncan Park.

Alderman Dillard asked Mayor Middleton to follow up with Mrs. Jones on the Tennis Shop repairs By the YouthBuild group.

Alderman Dillard stated that he has asked the City Engineer to conduct a study on Sherwood Drive to see if it can be included as a FAU street. He added that the street will need the FAU type of assistance.

Alderman Dillard stated that every new home built inside the city goes to improve the value of the city as a whole.

**Alderman Dillard made a motion to allow the City Attorney advertise to sell the parcel on Park Place. Seconded by Alderman Fortenbery. The motion carried unanimously.**

Alderman Dillard stated littering is costing the city a lot of money. He added that by the next meeting he would like know the prices for the city to purchase cameras.

## **CITY CLERK'S REPORT, DONNIE HOLLOWAY**

Mr. Holloway asked the board to approve docket # 6050 – 6334 and #5626 – 6043.

**Alderman Pollard made a motion to approve docket # 6050 – 6334 and docket #5626 – 6043. Seconded by Alderman Gray.**

Alderman Gray stated that he needs to see a copy of the contract for vendors # 355714 & 356157.

Alderman Dillard stated that claim number 5632 for the Blain Companies shows that has been drawn out of Capitol Improvements, but he feels it should be drawn out of the ARRA Street Overlay.

Alderman Dillard stated that Mr. Holloway needs to make sure that claims docket #5626 has not shown up twice.

Alderman Fortenbery asked Mr. Holloway to look into #5641 as well.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

## **CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT, EVERETT SANDERS**

Attorney Sanders presented an Interlocal Agreement between the City of Natchez and the Adams County Board of Supervisors in connection with the continuation of the Metro Narcotics Division for a one year renewal.

**Alderman Pollard made a motion to enter into an Interlocal Agreement between the City of Natchez and the Adams County Board of Supervisors in connection with the continuation of the Metro Narcotics Division for a one year renewal. Seconded by Alderman Gray. The motion carried unanimously.**

Attorney Sanders presented a resolution regarding the abandonment of a portion of property at the end of Chickasaw Street which has never been used by the city, authorizing the mayor to convey the property to Kaiser Lake Farm which owns the property on both sides and in exchange they will give the city an easement for whatever purpose the city needs.

**Alderman Pollard made a motion adopting the resolution regarding the abandonment of a portion of property at the end of Chickasaw Street which has never been used by the city, authorizing the mayor to convey the property to Kaiser Lake Farm which owns the property on both sides and in exchange they will give the city easement for whatever the city needs. Seconded by Alderman Dillard. The motion carried unanimously.**

## **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Middleton stated that the response has been overwhelming in Natchez's welcoming visitors to the city. He added that he spoke with Mississippi Medical Association last week. He further stated that people come back to Natchez because of our hospitality and the way we treat our visitors.

Mayor Middleton stated that the Recreation Commission has been meeting and he has been sitting in on the meetings. He added that everybody is very positive and moving forward.



**NEW BUSINESS**

Alderman Gray stated that he would like the board to look into compensating employees that further their education and get a degree.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**A motion was made by Alderwoman Fortenbery seconded by Alderman Pollard to adjourn the meeting until June 22, 2010. The motion carried unanimously.**

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**JAKE MIDDLETON  
MAYOR**

**ATTEST:**

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**DONNIE HOLLOWAY  
CITY CLERK**