

REGULAR MEETING **October 27, 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, October 27, 2010. Mayor Jake Middleton presided at the meeting, which was opened with prayer by Alderman Fields.

MAYOR & BOARD PRESENT	ELECTED OFFICIALS ABSENT	CITY OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEADS
John ‘Jake’ Middleton Mayor		Donnie Holloway, City Clerk Temple Hendricks, Deputy Clerk Everett Sanders, City Attorney
Joyce Arceneaux-Mathis Alderman, Ward 1		Sabrena Bartley, Senior Center David Gardner, City Engineer Connie Taunton, Tourism Director
J. “Ricky” Gray, Jr. Alderman, Ward 2		Mike Mullins, Police Chief Oliver Stewart, Fire Chief Natchez Democrat
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 Fields to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 12, 2010 and Special Call meeting of October 19, 2010. The motion was seconded by Alderman Pollard. The motion carried unanimously.

VISITORS WELCOMED

Tate Hobdy – Recreation Commission

Mr. Hobdy advised that the Recreation Commission is appearing to update the board on their activities. In the last year, the Recreation Commission has been visiting other towns and meeting with various landscape architects. The Recreation Commission is willing to help in any way as Ralph Tedder has retired.

Alderman Gray asked what the Recreation Commission meant.

Mr. Hobdy stated that they could look at resumes, applications, etc.

Alderman Gray said, as the Recreation Director would be a city employee, that would be the board's responsibility.

Mr. Hobdy discussed status of the HUD grant that will be the city's portion of the funding. He said he had received an e-mail from Mr. Herb Mallette and it is ok to proceed. The county is now good to go and the school board is waiting on an opinion from the Attorney General's office regarding their share of funding. He added that it may take up to 45 days for the school board to receive an opinion.

Alderman Fortenbery made motion to allow the Recreation Commission to use the city's \$11,000. Seconded by Alderman Pollard.

Alderman Dillard asked if the National Park Service can write a statement that their land is available for use for the recreation complex and if they will allow lighting at a 65' height.

Mr. Hobdy stated that the memorandum of understanding is on file at the courthouse and it states that the city can use the NPS land. The memorandum of understand states that there is a 25 year lease with a 25 year extension. He said that Attorney Walter Brown also has a copy of the memorandum of understanding.

Mr. Hobdy said Cam Sholley has advised that there isn't a problem and the Recreation Commission can move forward.

Alderman Dillard said these two questions need to be answered prior to the city expending money on this project.

Alderman Gray said he thought that the agreement stipulated that no permanent structures could be built on the beanfield site.

Mayor Middleton said that was when Wendell Simpson was the superintendent. He added that the 60 day cancellation clause has been dropped from the agreement.

Mayor Middleton said he will call Cam tomorrow to see if the issues regarding the lighting can be taken care of.

Alderman Dillard said that he is behind the recreation complex 100% but he was wondering, in case the school district can't participate, where the money from will.

Mr. Hobdy stated that the city and county money will be enough to cover the landscape design; the school's money was to cover additional items.

Mr. Kaiser said the money would also be used to gather information on what the community wants and for a full master plan.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis said that the plans indicated there would be a swimming pool. She stated that for the record there they have been advised that there are plans for a pool.

The motion carried unanimously.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis made motion to allow Gayle Roberson to speak before the board. Seconded by Alderman Fields. The motion carried unanimously.

Gayle Roberson – 601 Madison Street

Ms. Roberson said that a problem exists with a house downtown where cars are being spray painted, there is trash and she is being threatening.

Mr. Bob Nix said that he has told staff to initiate a zoning code violation for this residential property as currently having an industrial use.

Alderwoman-Arceneaux Mathis stated that for the record this is the first time she has even heard about the matter.

Ms. Roberson said that the police have been called 400 times with complaints about this property but nothing is being done.

Alderman Gray said that no citizen should be threatened.

Alderman Middleton stated he'll get Mr. Danny White or Chief Mike Mullins to address the issue.

Susan Cassagne

Mr. Cassagne reminded the board that the open house for the library's teen room will be tomorrow at 3:30 p.m.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mayor Middleton said there was a meeting last week with Premier Gaming and he has paperwork to hand out which should answer questions that the board had. The paperwork includes information regarding insurance coverage, a letter from Natchez Enterprise authorizing Premier Gaming as their agent and a letter stamped by the MS Gaming Commission.

Alderman Dillard stated that he has 54 questions regarding the development of the Roth Hill site.

Alderman Dillard said that he wants to know who the lease was closed with, who authorized the advertisement in the paper, etc. He added that he believes this agreement

was built around an option and he has a concern that the city has entered a lease without the board's resolution. He further stated that he doesn't think the city has a valid lease. Alderman Dillard stated that he wants to know that the finances have been secured by Premier Gaming. June 1, 2009 is the lease date and it was never brought to the board.

A motion was made by Alderman Dillard that a Special Call Meeting be held November 2nd at 5 pm to discuss Natchez Enterprise and Premier Gaming including a Natchez Enterprise representative. The motion was seconded by Alderman Gray. The motion carried with Alderman Pollard opposing.

Bob Pollard made the motion for fees for plots be returned to the Natchez Cemetery Association retroactive to October 1, 2010 which was seconded by Fields. The motion carried unanimously.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

PUBLIC WORKS, David Atkins

Mr. Atkins David Atkins asked for permission to advertise and receive bids for a truck and pot hole patching machine.

Alderman Fortenbery made a motion to allow permission to advertise and receive bids for a truck and pot hole patching machine. Seconded by Alderman Dillard. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. David Atkins addressed the cutting of adjudicated lots. \$12,000 was approved by the board for lot cutting and the city has spent around \$6000 to cut approximately 32 lots. The board advised Mr. Atkins to continue to get adjudicated lots from Bob Nix and continue to have lots cut until the \$12000 is spent.

Alderman Fields asked Mr. Atkins to get him a cost estimate to make repairs to Lafayette Street and also Fourth Street and Rawls Street.

Alderman Fields asked if the city's drinking water is safe as people have expressed concern per a recent letter which Natchez Water Works mailed out.

Mr. Atkins assured the citizens of Natchez that the city's water is safe.

CITY OFFICIALS' REPORT

ALDERMAN FORTENBERY – WARD 5

NO REPORT

ALDERMAN DILLARD – WARD 6

Alderman Dillard asked that Sam Gwin be reappointed to the Housing Authority. He added that he will place paperwork in the aldermen's boxes for them to review.

ALDERWOMAN ARCENEAUX-MATHIS, Ward 1

(Filled in for Mayor Middleton)

ALDERMAN GRAY, Ward 2

Alderman Gray asked Mr. Holloway if he received any information regarding giving some of the police department employees raises. Mr. Holloway stated that he did not.

Alderman Gray stated that he received a letter from Judge Blough saying that a judge pro tempore is his responsibility to appoint. He added that the Mississippi Code states that it is the board's responsibility.

Alderman Gray asked Attorney Sanders to look into the judge pro tempore situation.

Alderman Gray made a motion for the Mayor to have the owners of Holiday Apartments attend the next evening meeting. The motion was seconded by Mark. The motion carried unanimously.

Alderman Gray asked for an update on McIntyre.

Mr. Bob Nix said that the four properties will be addressed in the two Regular Board meetings in November.

Alderman Gray stated that the monthly personnel dept. reports that are placed in the aldermen's boxes need to be made part of the minutes.

Alderman Gray stated that our personnel procedures and policies conflict.

Alderman Gray stated that injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.

ALDERMAN POLLARD – WARD 3

No Report

ALDERMAN FIELDS – WARD 4

Alderman Fields stated that everyone should consider getting a flu shot. He added that this shot includes the H1NI in it as well.

Alderman Fields reminded everyone about the upcoming activities in Natchez.

Alderman reminded everyone that Halloween will be observed in Natchez on Saturday.

CITY CLERK'S REPORT, DONNIE HOLLOWAY

No Report

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT, Everett Sanders

No Report

MAYOR PRO TEMPE'S REPORT

Mayor Pro Tempe stated that on November 16th, the alliance will be visiting to tour the Wards of Natchez.

NEW BUSINESS

No New Business

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Alderman Fields, seconded by Alderman Dillard to Adjourn the Regular Meeting of October 27, 2010. The motion carried unanimously.

