

REGULAR MEETING

August 9, 2011

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, August 9, 2011. Mayor Jake Middleton presided at the meeting, which was opened with prayer by Reverend Tapley.

MAYOR & BOARD PRESENT	ELECTED OFFICIALS ABSENT	CITY OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEADS
John ‘Jake’ Middleton Mayor		Donnie Holloway, City Clerk Coretta L. Logan, Deputy Clerk Everett Sanders, City Attorney Sabrena Bartley, Senior Center Saleena Edwards, Recreation Dept. David Gardner, City Engineer Mike Mullins, Police Chief Oliver Stewart, Fire Chief Natchez Democrat
J. “Ricky” Gray, Jr. Alderman, Ward 2	Joyce Arceneaux-Mathis Alderwoman, Ward 1	
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 Dillard to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 26, 2011 and approve with the necessary editing corrections. The motion was seconded by Alderman Gray. The motion carried unanimously.

VISITORS WELCOMED

Presentation of Proclamation

Mayor Middleton presented the proclamation to the Worley family

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Engineering, David Gardner

Mr. Gardner stated that they are in the process of applying for the Transportation Enhancement grant to rehabilitate the Colonnades and the Old Train Station. He added that the properties will have to be on the National Landmark register to qualify. He added that he will need a letter drafted and signed by the mayor to submit along with today's minutes requesting the properties be designated as landmarks with Archives and History.

Alderman Dillard made a motion to allow Mayor Middleton to draft and submit a letter to Archives & History on behalf of the city requesting that the Colonnades and the Old Train Station be designated as eligible historic landmarks. Seconded by Alderman Fields. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gardner stated that he is executing a contract with the low bidder Jeffery Ross for the grass cutting. He recommended adding four small sections to the contract for the remainder of this year. He added that the cost is \$400 per cutting more and will still be less than the second low bidder.

Alderman Dillard made a motion to allow four additional sections to be added to Jeffery Ross' grass cutting contract. Seconded by Alderman Fields. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gardner stated that the Community Alliance is in partnership with the Master Gardeners and will be receiving quotes from landscape contractors. He added that the Community Alliance will meet to take action.

Recreation, Saleena Edwards

Mrs. Edwards stated that all of the summer programs are now finished. She said that the swimming lesson program was a success. She added that all the classes were filled as usual. Mrs. Edwards stated that the tennis program completed with 91 participants. She added that they had a good time with the cook out in spite of the rain.

Mrs. Edwards stated that a special thanks goes to Mr. Yelverton for his sponsorship of the Norman Puckett Annual Junior Golf Championship Tournament.

CITY OFFICIALS' REPORT

ALDERMAN FIELDS, WARD 4

Alderman Fields stated that he and Mayor Middleton met with Mr. John Hilbert from Cable One. He added that they had a great meeting. He indicated that if anyone has a problem with their cable to call 601-442-5418 to speak with a local representative.

Alderman Fields stated that the Minorville Jubilee was a huge success. He added that a lot of his colleagues were there as well. He said a special thanks go to Mr. Bridgewater, Mrs. Moore, and Mrs. Smith for a wonderful event. He further thanked Public Works, Natchez Police Department, Recreation, and everyone that did their part.

Alderman Fields discussed the On the Bus school report published in the newspaper. Alderman Fields stated that it is his suggestion that the Board get on the bus more than once. He added that they should come to the school quarterly to get a true picture of what is really going on in the public school system. He further stated that McLaurin Elementary is classified as a successful school, and because McLaurin is successful, then that means that West Primary and Frazier Elementary are also successful. He further added that the children are special because they are tested through the year. He said that he just asks that they just stop by the schools more than once.

ALDERMAN FORTENBERY – WARD 5

Alderman Fortenbery stated the trash and debris pickup is very time consuming for the Public Works department. He added that they have to pick up trash before they begin to cut the grass and at least one day per week is lost due to trash cleanup.

Alderman Fortenbery asks that everyone think twice before littering our city.

Alderman Fortenbery announced that National Night Out will start today at 4:00pm.

ALDERMAN DILLARD – WARD 6

Alderman Dillard stated that they adopted a revised budget. He stated that we are still in the stretch to get to October 1 without borrowing money. He further stated that if we can get through October 1, then we can begin to borrow against our taxes that are coming in.

Alderman Dillard made a motion that the board directs the City Attorney and the City Planner to draft an ordinance to be presented to the Board for consideration which defines the requirements for ownership of potentially dangerous animals within the City. Seconded by Alderman Fields. The motion carried unanimously.

Alderman Dillard discussed the appearance of the city and how important it is to help in not littering. He indicated that he will not be satisfied until he sees fines placed on individuals for littering.

Alderman Dillard made a motion that the Board directs the City Engineer to instruct Public Works to include the following scope of work to their maintenance of the following streets of the City of Natchez.

That the curbs and gutters be swept and vacuumed at least four times per year, and that they remove all grit, sand and debris for the following through fares:

- 1. John R Junkin Drive**
- 2. Sgt. Prentiss Drive**
- 3. Devereaux Drive**
- 4. Liberty Road – from Natchez Trace Parkway to Shields Lane**

Seconded by Alderman Fortenbery. The motion carried unanimously.

Alderman Dillard asked if the if board has heard any information on the Premiere Gaming being in the agenda for the MS Gaming Commission.

Attorney Sanders stated no, however there was some discussion about them making the September agenda.

Alderman Dillard made a motion that the Board direct the City Attorney and the Mayor to contact Premier Gaming, an agent for Natchez Enterprises, an affiliate the Lane Company and request, an exact copy of the development proposal that they intend to submit to the MS Gaming Commission. This proposal shall be exactly the same in every way.

It shall include all drawings and specifications of the proposed development.

The proposal shall be delivered to the City Planner the same time they submit it to the Mississippi Gaming Commission. Seconded by Alderman Fortenbery. The motion carried with Alderman Pollard opposing.

Alderman Dillard made a motion to allow the City Clerk to access the funds for the pool renovations and the replacement of a pump at the Duncan Park Golf facility. He added that the pump is 20 years old. He added that the pump is not only a necessity but a requirement as well. Seconded by Alderman Fortenbery. The motion carried unanimously.

ALDERWOMAN ARCENEUX-MATHIS – WARD 1

Absent

ALDERMAN GRAY, WARD – 2

Alderman Gray read the Police report for the month of July.

Alderman Gray discussed his concerns for utilizing the evaluation forms for the department heads.

Alderman Gray stated that he is still concerned about the Martin Luther King sidewalk. He added that the city needs to find funds to replace the sidewalk.

Alderman Gray also stated that Southwest MS Planning District will hold a Municipal meeting at the Eola Hotel on Monday, August 15th at 12:00pm and lunch will be provided. You will receive three credits for attending.

Alderman Gray stated that the Robert Lewis Middle School is seeking individuals to join the mentoring team. He added that if anyone is interested, they can come to the Robert Lewis Middle School on Monday at 8:00am.

Alderman Gray read a summary from the Natchez Democrat. He said that the worst thing a human being can do is mislead another human being.

Alderman Gray stated that his condolences go out to the Fleming, Lewis, McCullen, and Johnson families.

Alderman Gray stated that injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. He thanked his family and friends for helping him in running for the 94th district seat.

ALDERMAN POLLARD – WARD 3

Alderman Pollard asked the fire chief when we can expect delivery of the new fire truck.

Chief Stewart stated that he will go to inspect the fire truck on August 22nd.

Alderman Pollard stated that we are the premiere tourism industry in the state of Mississippi and he does not feel that there should be any negative discussion in the media. He added that he wants to thank Mrs. Taunton and her staff for a job well done.

CITY CLERK'S REPORT, DONNIE HOLLOWAY

Mr. Holloway asked the Board to approve docket #7630 – #7902 and #7202 - #7620.

Alderman Fields made a motion to approve docket #7630 – 7902 and #7202 – #7620. Seconded by Alderman Fortenbery. The motion carried unanimously.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT, EVERETT SANDERS

No Report

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Middleton stated that the city of Natchez has an appointment to the Southwest Rail Road Authority and he would like to nominate Mr. Terry Estes to that board.

Alderman Gray made a motion to appoint Mr. Terry Estes to the Southwest Railroad Authority. Seconded by Alderman Pollard. The motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

No New Business.

ADJOURN

A motion was made by Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis seconded by Alderman Fields to adjourn the meeting of August 9, 2011. The motion carried unanimously.

**JAKE MIDDLETON
MAYOR**

ATTEST:

**DONNIE HOLLOWAY
CITY CLERK**