

**REGULAR MEETING**  
**August 23, 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 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 23, 2011. Mayor Jake Middleton presided at the meeting, which was opened with prayer by Reverend Brewer.

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 Sabrena Bartley, Senior Center David Gardner, City Engineer Connie Taunton, Tourism Director Mike Mullins, Police Chief Oliver Stewart, Fire Chief Natchez Democrat
<b>Joyce Arceneaux-Mathis</b> Aldерwoman, 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 & Finance Meeting of August 9, 2011. The motion was seconded by Alderman Dillard. The motion carried unanimously.**

**A motion was made by Alderwoman-Arceneaux Mathis to go out of regular order for a public hearing. Seconded by Alderman Fields. The motion carried unanimously.**

**PUBLIC HEARING**

Bob Nix requested submitted as list of locations recommended for demolition: 2 Purnell Street; 820 N. Rankin Street; 583 W. Steirs Lane; 1236 Watkins Street, 0 Parker St. (a/k/a: 2 Old Mimosa Lane); 57 Oak Street; 53 Minor Street; 1133 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Street; 126 Oakland Drive; 268 West Steirs Lane; 710 Pearl Street; 31

Beaumont Street; 319 North Broadway Street; 0 Parker St. (a/k/a: 6 Old Mimosa Lane); 7 Grinnell Street; and 806 State Street

**Staff Findings:** The staff recommends the priority of demolition should be as shown on the attached priority list. The staff recommends that adjudication of these buildings should not be delayed or withheld for any reason. We always work with sincere property owners who act immediately to either completely repair a structure or remove it. These are particularly hazardous buildings, all of which should be removed as quickly as possible. A spreadsheet is attached that outlines the specific findings regarding each of these buildings.

The house at 820 N. Rankin Street does not need to be completely demolished. Staff recommends that the front porch and the addition, both of which are collapsing, should be immediately removed and the building should be secured to prevent entry. The building should also be cleaned and fumigated. Minimum cost of these operations is estimated to be between \$7,000 and \$10,000.

The remaining buildings on the list should be immediately demolished.

**Alderman Fields made a motion to close the public hearing. Seconded by Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis. The motion carried unanimously.**

**Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis made a motion to go back into regular session. Seconded by Alderman Fields. The motion carried unanimously.**

**Alderman made a motion to declare all of the properties listed as locations in the Staff Memorandum as properties containing dangerous structures which create public nuisances that violate the Mississippi Code 1972, and to adopt the Resolutions recommended by staff.**

## **VISITORS WELCOMED**

**Dr. David Timm**

Dr. Timm discussed his complaints to the board regarding opposing the operation of the school based clinic at the Robert Lewis Middle School.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Alderman Gray asked what the status of the redistricting was.

Mr. Holloway stated that he sent out three RFP's but only one came back. He asked what the pleasure of the board was.

**Alderman Fortenbery made a motion to deny the RFP and resend them again. Seconded by Alderman Dillard. The motion carried unanimously.**

## **DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS**

### **Engineering, David Gardner**

Mr. Gardner stated that he would like to recommend that the board authorize the city to advertise the Municipal Roof grant project pending the MDHA review process and approval from the state. He added that the design is finished.

**Alderman Gray made a motion to authorize the city to advertise the Municipal Roof grant project pending the MDHA review process and approval from the state. Seconded by Alderman Fields. The motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Gardner stated that on behalf of Southwest MS Planning and Development, there has been a request for cash #3 in the amount of \$6,865 for Salmon Architects.

**Alderman Fields made a motion to approve Southwest MS Planning and Development request for cash #3 in the amount of \$6,865 for Salmon Architects. Seconded by Alderman Gray. The motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Garner stated that he would like to appoint an Ad-Hoc committee which will consist of himself, Mr. Holloway, Tony Moon, Amelia Salmon, Allen Laid, Joyce Mathis, Dan Dillard, and Ricky Gray.

**Alderman Fields made a motion to appoint an Ad-Hoc committee which will consist of Mr. Gardner, Mr. Holloway, Tony Moon, Amelia Salmon, Allen Laid, Joyce Mathis, Dan Dillard, and Ricky Gray. Seconded by Alderman Fortenbery. The motion carried unanimously.**

### **Planning, Bob Nix**

Mr. Nix presented a list of renovations for the Margaret Martin Gym.

## **RENOVATIONS FOR MARGARET MARTIN**

<b>Work to be Done</b>	<b>Estimated Cost</b>
Roofing Repairs	\$25,000.00
Lighting for Front Exterior	\$5,500.00
Repair & Replace Exterior Windows and Window Panels	\$ 7,500.00
Refurbish Four (4) Restrooms (Provide Heating & Cooling, New Plumbing Fixtures were Required, Handicapped Accessible, New Electrical Fixtures, Toilet Accessories, Patch Flooring, Repair Deteriorated Wall Conditions).	\$47,500.00
Refurbish Area (A) (Providing Separate Electrical Service, Heating and Air, New Electrical Fixtures, and Flooring Carpentry).	\$ 37,000.00
Refurbish Area B (Providing Separate Electrical Service, Heating and Air, New Electrical Fixtures, and Flooring Carpentry).	\$ 57,000.00
Refurbish Area C (Providing Separate Electrical Service, Heating and Air, New Electrical Fixtures, and Flooring Carpentry).	\$ 37,000.00
Refurbish Area D (Providing Separate Electrical Service, Heating and Air, New Electrical Fixtures, and Flooring Carpentry).	\$ 57,000.00
Refurbish Area E (Providing Separate, Electrical Service, Heating and Air, New Electrical Fixtures, and Flooring Carpentry).	\$ 37,000.00
Refurbish Area F (Providing Separate, Electrical Service, Heating and Air, New Electrical Fixtures, and Flooring Carpentry).	\$ 57,000.00
Refurbish Area G (Providing Separate Electrical Service, Heating and Air, New Electrical Fixtures, and Flooring Carpentry).	\$ 37,000.00

Refurbish Area H (Providing Separate Electrical Service, Heating and Air, New Electrical Fixtures, and Flooring Carpentry).	\$ 57,000.00
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## **CITY OFFICIALS' REPORT**

### **ALDERMAN FORTENBERY – WARD 5**

Alderman Fortenbery stated that the trash in the city is getting out of hand. He added that residents are having trash out for several days and are not being cited for it. He further added that there are so many residents that have abandoned cars and are not taking care of their properties.

Alderman Fortenbery stated that the city and its workers cannot do it all by themselves. He asked that all residents take the time to pick up their trash and take pride in their city.

### **ALDERMAN DILLARD – WARD 6**

Alderman Dillard asked if there had been any progress on the potentially dangerous animals motion that was passed last board meeting.

Attorney Sanders stated that he has been soliciting for ordinances from other municipalities. He added that there will be a potential ordinance for the next board meeting.

Alderman Dillard stated that the board needs to look into a nuisance animal ordinance. He added that in his opinion, he would like to see an ordinance that will require responsible pet owners have their pets spade or neutered.

Alderman Dillard discussed his concerns for the accounting software not possibly making it in October. He indicated that we are trying to run a 34 million dollar business. He added that the city has appropriated the funds, made the motions, and still cannot get it in place. He further added that it gets to a point where if you are not part of the solution, then you are part of the problem.

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

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis discussed her concerns regarding id requirements. She added that not only will candidates have to go door to door to solicit votes, but they will also have to make sure that the voters have a valid Mississippi identification card.

**Alderman Arceneaux-Mathis made a motion that this board goes on record opposing voter id requirements. Seconded by Alderman Gray.**

**Roll call vote**

**Alderman Arceneaux-Mathis: yea**

**Alderman Gray: yea**

**Alderman Pollard: nay**

**Alderman Fields: yea**

**Alderman Fortenbery: nay**

**Alderman Dillard: nay**

**Mayor Middleton voted nay to break the tie. The motion failed.**

Alderman Arceneaux-Mathis stated that at the MML, they discussed dilapidated properties but did not fully address the state owned dilapidated properties. She added that if the state is not going to do anything with them, they need to give them to the city, so that the city can try to sell it or donate it to Habitat for Humanities.

Alderman Arceneaux-Mathis stated that according to the MML, The governor has called for the commission to study the PERS and the 13<sup>th</sup> check.

Alderman Arceneaux-Mathis stated that Mr. Jim Magnum is in need of 5 houses to be eligible for the home grant with Southwest MS Development. She added that the deadline is September and the household income cannot exceed \$15,000.

Alderman Arceneaux-Mathis stated that she would like the water drainage project walkthrough be spread across the minutes on July 18<sup>th</sup>.

## **ALDERMAN GRAY, WARD 2**

Alderman Gray discussed his concerns regarding the speeding cars on Purnell Hill. He added that Mr. Rick Freeman recommend that the speed limit needed to be reduced to 15 miles per hour.

**Alderman Gray made a motion that the speed limit on Purnell Hill be reduced from 25mph to 15mph. Seconded by Alderman Fields. The motion carried unanimously.**

Alderman Gray stated that he had a neighborhood watch meeting in West Steirs Lane. He added that they want to get the paved road finished from where the city left off in 2004 is carried out to Martin Luther King. He also stated that they are requesting more police presence in the area as well.

Alderman Gray discussed that we need to find a way to build mixed areas and not just projects. He added that he is for housing but not just all low income housing.

Alderman Gray stated that school has started back. He stated that the officers need to enforce the school curfew during the day because there are kids are walking around during the day.

Alderman Gray asked Mr. Holloway about the department head evaluation forms.

Mr. Holloway stated that the department head evaluation forms will be out next week.

Alderman Gray stated that his condolences go out to the Flowers & Matthews families.

### **ALDERMAN POLLARD – WARD 3**

Alderman Pollard stated that if you see someone litter, do not hesitate to contact Chief Mike Mullins at the Natchez Police department. He added that Chief Mullins will take care of the mater personally.

Alderman Dillard stated that he would like to thank Mr. Rick Freeman for assisting with the speeding problem on Union Street. He added that the residents her very thankful that the speed detector was placed in the area.

### **ALDERMAN FIELDS – WARD 4**

Alderman Fields stated that the Water Works department has about 13 areas that are currently getting patched. He added that the department is working quickly to complete all the areas.

Alderman Fields asked Mr. Willie B. Jones for an update on the residents of Old Washington Road in regards to the home grant.

Mr. Willie B. Jones stated that he was able to get the deed for the home and he will be getting an application to help the home owner complete.

Alderman Fields discussed that his support for the city getting an IT person. He added that social media is very important and Natchez doesn't have a presence on social media. He further added that getting an IT person would be a great way to promote the city as well as tourism.

### **CITY CLERK'S REPORT, Donnie Holloway**

Mr. Holloway stated that he and Mayor Middleton met with the department heads. He added that the board has a copy of the budget and he would like to try to meet with the board on Thursday if possible to go over what has been presented.

### **CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT, Everett Sanders**

Attorney Sanders stated that they have worked out the terms agreement with Mike Biglane in regards to the oil lease. He added that there were some corrections that had to be made in terms of the description.

Attorney Sanders stated that he spoke with Mississippi Department of Archives and History in connection with the Watkins Street Cemetery and at this time, the cemetery is classified as abandoned. He further added that the purpose of it being classified as abandoned is to allow local funds to be used for upkeep and maintenance to the cemetery. He indicated that Mississippi Archives and History will be sending forms so that the city can make application for historical destination.

Attorney Sanders read a proposed ordinance to amend Chapter 120 of Article 4 of the Water Works in regards to city installed water utility service.

**Alderman Fields made a motion that the board does a moratorium on all water wells inside the city. Seconded by Alderman Gray. The motion carried unanimously.**

## **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Middleton stated that there will be a meeting at the USDA office of Friday.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Alderman Arceneaux-Mathis made a motion to allow Mayor Middleton, Alderman Gray, and Mr. Holloway to travel to MML meeting on September 23<sup>rd</sup>. Seconded by Alderman Gray. The motion carried unanimously.**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**A motion was made by Alderman Fields, seconded by Alderman Dillard to Adjourn the Regular Meeting of August 23, 2011. The motion carried unanimously.**

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**JAKE MIDDLETON  
MAYOR**

**ATTEST:**

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**DONNIE HOLLOWAY  
CITY CLERK**