

REGULAR MEETING October 11, 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, October 11, 2011. Mayor Pro Tem Arceneaux-Mathis presided at the meeting, which was opened with prayer by Bishop T.C. McBeth.

MAYOR & BOARD PRESENT	ELECTED OFFICIALS ABSENT	CITY OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEADS
<p>Joyce Arceneaux-Mathis Alderman, Ward 1</p> <p>J. "Ricky" Gray, Jr. Alderman, Ward 2</p> <p>Bob Pollard Alderman, Ward 3</p> <p>Ernest "Tony" Fields Alderman, Ward 4</p> <p>Mark Fortenbery Alderman, Ward 5</p> <p>Daniel Dillard Alderman, Ward 6</p>	<p>John 'Jake' Middleton Mayor</p>	<p>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</p>

MINUTES APPROVED

A motion was made by Alderman Fields to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the Regular & Finance Meeting of September 27, 2011 pending verification of the Mayor Middleton's statement requested by Alderman Dillard. The motion was seconded by Alderman Gray. The motion carried unanimously.

BUSINESS OF THE MONTH

Mayor Pro Tem recognized Taco Bell as the Business of the Month.

VISITORS WELCOMED

Allen Laird - Southwest Mississippi Planning and Development District

Mr. Laird discussed that there is a grant available that will be used for enhancing retail strip mall centers that are entryways into cities.

Mr. Laird said Magnolia Mall is a perfect candidate for this grant. He said he has spoken with the mall owners, and they are willing to go forward with the grant. He added that the owners will have to supply the grant match funds.

The project will not cost the city any money, Mr. Laird said, and all the grant money will flow through the SWMPDD.

Mr. Laird asked that the board adopt a Memorandum of Understanding giving its approval for the application of a \$50,000 retail center revitalization grant from the Mississippi Development Authority.

Mr. Laird stated that he has the Memorandum of Understanding to authorize the Mayor Pro Tem to sign.

Alderman Field made a motion to allow the Mayor Pro Tem to sign and adopt the Memorandum of Understanding approval for the application of a \$50,000 retail center revitalization grant from the Mississippi Development Authority.

Andrew Densing – Waste Pro USA

Mr. Densing stated that he is here to ask to be considered for a commercial waste collectors franchise to do business in the city.

Mr. Densing stated that Waste Pro is really big on giving back to communities they do business in. He discussed that Waste Pro currently operates in seven counties in Mississippi and one in Alabama. The company employs 40 people, offering disposal, recycling, and demolition and collection services for industrial and commercial waste. He discussed that the company provides service to customers in Columbus, Hattiesburg, Jackson, Meridian, Vicksburg, and along the Mississippi Gulf Coast and now Natchez.

He added that they are here to get the city's approval to conduct business.

Alderman Fortenbery made a motion to take the Waste Pro franchise agreement under advisement. Seconded by Alderman Dillard. The motion carried unanimously.

Alderman Fields made a motion to allow Tate Hobdy to speak before the board. Seconded by Alderman Dillard. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Hobdy stated that he will need the Mayor to set up an evening time where the Recreation Committee can meet with the board of Aldermen along with the Shool Board as well as the Board of Supervisors.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Alderman Fields made a motion that the board gets the match money of \$18,000 to the library. Seconded by Alderman Gray. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Pro Tem Arceneaux-Mathis asked Mr. Holloway where we on the match funding for the Margaret Martin are building.

Mr. Holloway stated that the board will have to match \$22,000. He added that more than like there will have to be an interfund loan.

Alderman Pollard stated that the subdivision area situation has been taken care of.

Alderman Dillard stated his concerns about traffic devices such as speed humps and radar signs. He added that the board needs to seriously consider looking into the information that he will distribute so that for the next meeting. He further added that the board may consider a motion to implement a speed control program.

Alderman Dillard stated that he has printed the current animal ordinance. He added that the board needs to have an open discussion to see where we are on it. He further stated that he particularly like the ordinance from East Baton Rouge Parish because it has a way of classifying the dogs without being breed specific.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Planning, Bob Nix

Mr. Nix stated that the oil well on Cemetery Road is going back through the process. He added that they did not advertise a hearing for the board to approve the rezoning. He further stated that he will need 17 days to advertise.

Alderman Fortenbery made a motion to allow a the Mayor to conduct a Special Call evening meeting November 1for Drayco Oil Company. Seconded by Alderman Fields. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Nix stated that the other Oil Well that is going in at Arlington needs to go through the same process unless he receives the necessary documentation from them. He added that he and the City Attorney is currently working on the project.

Engineering, David Gardner

Mr. Gardner stated the possibility of the City applying for a landfill grant. He added that it is a 100% grant that is funded by the stated through the EPA. He further stated that it will pay for the study to go in and indentify potential industrial sites that have possible contamination.

Mr. Gardner stated that he would like the board to authorize the Engineering Company to submit the application for the grant.

Alderman Fields made a motion to allow the Engineering department to submit an application to the Eco Systems Incorporated for the Brownfield grant. Seconded by Alderman Pollard. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gardner stated that he needs the city to ratify the action of the City Engineer where he advertised for the construction and overlay of Brenham Avenue, Liberty Road, and Ratcliff Street. He added that they ran the advertisement in the Natchez Democrat and The Clarion Ledger because it has to run in a statewide newspaper.

Alderman Fortenbery made a motion to ratify the action of the City Engineer where he advertised for the construction and overlay of Brenham Avenue, Liberty Road, and Ratcliff Street. Seconded by Alderman Fields. The motion carried unanimously.

Municipal Court, Debbie Owens

Mrs. Owens submitted the municipal report to be made a part of the minutes.

Senior Center, Sabrena Bartley

Mrs. Bartley stated that the Senior Center department is on target and that they are anticipating on possibly starting a bidding process in later December.

CITY OFFICIALS' REPORT

ALDERMAN GRAY, WARD 2

Alderman Gray stated his concerns to Mr. Atkins about getting the throughways cleaned coming into the city and leaving out of the city. He added that if we can deal with the tall grass and abandoned properties that will be a start in cleaning up the city.

Alderman Gray stated that the City of Biloxi drop their rates to save city funds. He added that they dropped their interest rate on municipal bonds. He asked Mr. Holloway if we have looked into do anything similar.

Mr. Holloway stated that we do not have any bonds that we can refund at the present time. He added that he will check into it.

Alderman Gray stated that there are citizens in the area that are concerned about the crime that has been happening. He added that it is praying time. He further added that there will be a prayer day set up in the community.

Alderman Gray stated that he noticed that the Mississippi Rural Water Association Board training meeting will be on November 17th. He added that it would be a good idea for the water board members to attend because it will help them to do their job better.

Alderman Gray stated that he will need the Code Enforcement Officers to help him in Ward 2 to reorganize some of the neighborhood watch areas. He added that in order to make change.

Alderman Gray stated that his sympathy goes out to Mr. Allen Young and Mr. Mose Woods.

ALDERMAN POLLARD – WARD 3

Alderman Pollard stated this weekend is the Balloon Race weekend. He added that we need to get out and support it. He further added that everyone involved has been working diligently for the event.

Alderman Pollard stated that he wants to thank everyone involved. He added that it is important that everyone come out to enjoy the festivities and support the city.

ALDERMAN FIELDS – WARD 4

Alderman Fields read a letter from Cable One to be placed in the minutes.



This letter is to inform you that effective Oct 17, 2011 CableONE's office hours will change. We will continue to be open on Monday through Friday from 8 am until 5 pm with the exception of Wednesday. We will also continue to be open on Wednesdays from 9 am until 5 pm for training purposes. Considering that we no longer accept payments at any of our locations at CableONE, the need for visiting our offices have decreased tremendously. We currently have only 1 full time associate and a temporary associate at our Natchez location. This has caused us to adjust our daily office schedule to accommodate lunch and breaks for these associates. We will be closing our office from 12:30 pm until 1:30 pm in order for these individuals to be free for lunch. Our service department and our call center will remain, as usual, open 24 hours a day. Customers will continue to have the option of calling us at 601-442-5418 with any issues they may have.

Listed below are different methods of payment that our customers can also use in order to make sure all payments are expedited in a timely manner.

Below is a list of alternative CableOne payment methods:

Payment Method	Form of Payment Accepted	Fee
Mail	Check / Money Order / Cashier Check	Postage
Direct Pay	Check / Debit / Credit	-
Website	Check / Debit / Credit	-
3 rd Party	Cash	\$1.50-\$2.50
Phone – Agent	Check / Debit / Credit	-
Phone – Automated	Debit /Credit	-
Drop Box	Check / Money Order / Cashier Check	-
Bank Auto Bill Pay	Contact Financial Institution	-

Thank you for your time and understanding as we remain committed to your community through continual customer service improvements.

Sincerely,

John Hilbert
General Manager

Alderman Fields stated that this month is breast cancer awareness month. He asked that everyone show their support for the survivors and those that have passed away from breast cancer.

Alderman Fields asked for an update on the lighting issue of 302 West Vidal Street and 7 Fletcher Street.

Mr. Freeman stated that the addresses had been reported to Entergy.

Alderman Fields stated that it is important to follow through with Entergy.

Alderman Fields stated that his condolence goes out to the Cedric Morgan family.

Alderman Fields stated that he believes in prayer, but he also believes that faith without works is dead. He further stated that he is asking the young African American brothers to stop the senseless violence. He stated to the Police to break up any loitering that is going on.

Mayor Pro Tem stated that there will be a walk against violence and the committee will be chaired by Jackie Marsaw. She added that they will have a meeting on Wednesday evening.

ALDERMAN FORTENBERY – WARD 5

Alderman Fortenbery made a motion to have a meeting with the bar owners again at the next work session. Seconded by Alderman Fields. The motion carried unanimously.

Alderman Fortenbery stated that Public Works have rented the Bobcat ditch machine for a month. He added that they are currently cleaning out ditches. He further added if there is anything that the Aldermen needs while Public Works has the machine, to please contact either him or Public Works.

Alderman Fortenbery stated that the Public Works department has been detailing the grounds to prepare for the Balloon Race this weekend. He stated that he is asking the residents to please not litter and to throw your trash in the trash bins this weekend and to help keep our community clean.

Alderman Gray stated to Alderman Fortenbery that there are limbs that are in residents' yards that have turned different colors that need to be picked up. He added that it looks bad and something needs to be done about it.

Alderman Dillard stated that there should be an ordinance where the city will pick up the limbs debris but there will be a fee attached to your garbage bill.

Alderman Fields stated that they need to specify storm limbs and not limbs that are just being cut down.

Alderman Fortenbery made a motion to allow a special exception for limb pickup pending approval from Robbie Dollar and Mr. Atkins. Seconded by Alderman Gray. The motion carried unanimously.

ALDERMAN DILLARD – WARD 6

Alderman Dillard stated his concerns about the motion that was made for Public Works to maintain the main entrances into the city. He added that there was some discussion about waiting until the grass contractor cut and then follows behind him. He added that it is better to start early rather than wait for something else to occur.

Alderman Dillard stated that his main concerns are Canal Street and Homochitto Street. He added that there is little grass in those areas but lots of consumer debris. He added that he liked to an accretive effort from Public Works on those entry points.

Alderman Dillard stated that we will need to trade a cutting from the median to getting edgework done on the medians, since the grass will slow down on growing. He added that he would like the Public Works Director to work this out with the contractor; trade a cutting for an edging. He further added that it would make significance in appearance.

Alderman Dillard stated that they have set aside funds in the budget for an IT department. He added that they will be bringing back to us a recommendation for a bid for interested parties to serve as an IT Director.

Alderman Dillard discussed the FAU Street overlay for Brenham, Park Place, and Liberty Road, He added that the Engineer came to them and said that it has advertised. He further added that it is very important to get the funds secured because it is difficult to get these funds.

Alderman Dillard asked the Public Works director to look into seeing if there is an ordinance in regards to repairs in the street. He added that the areas are at Park Place and Winchester and Miller and Itasca.

Alderman Dillard stated that the Balloon Race is this weekend and he would like to receive a report after the Balloon Race to see what went right and what did not.

CITY CLERK'S REPORT, Donnie Holloway

Mr. Holloway asked the board to approve docket 101 – 383 and 8579 – 9050.

**Alderman Pollard made a motion to approve docket 101 – 383 and 8579 – 9050.
Seconded by Alderman Fields.**

Alderman Dillard discussed concerns about #8714 from capitol funds / Entergy.

Mr. Holloway stated that was from Broadway Street's utilities. He added that this amount was the remainder of the bill that the city owed Entergy.

Alderman Dillard stated that is requesting supporting information from this activity. He added that he is objecting to the Entergy expenditure.

Alderman Dillard asked if there are any expenditures or warrants that are in the pay docket that were not scheduled and were not budgeted for this fiscal year.

Mr. Holloway stated no other than the Entergy transaction.

Alderman Dillard stated that he would have liked this information to be brought to the board's attention rather than being found in the docket.

Alderman Gray stated that his concern on the docket was two different towing companies with two different prices when the same thing was being towed.

Alderman Gray asked about the cameras placed at Duncan Park. He added that he never heard anything about surveillance for Duncan Park.

Mrs. Edwards stated that the cameras were budgeted for. She added that it was budgeted under equipment.

The motion carried with Alderman Dillard opposing.

Mr. Holloway stated that he needs the board to approve and adopt the Municipal Compliance questionnaire. He added that it was in the box

Alderman Pollard made a motion to approve the municipal compliance questionnaire. Seconded by Alderman Fortenbery. The motion carried with Alderman Gray opposing.

Mr. Holloway stated that he needs the board to approve a resolution with Trustmark Bank in the amount of \$400,000 with the interest rate of 1.8%. He added that this is for the tax anticipation loan.

Alderman Fields made a motion to approve the resolution with Trustmark Bank in the amount of \$400,000 with the interest rate of 1.8% for the tax anticipation loan. Seconded by Alderman Dillard. The motion carried unanimously.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT, Everett Sanders

Attorney Sanders stated that he has a resolution to require redistricting in accordance with the voting rights act and pursuant to the 2010 Census. He added that he recommends that the board suspend the rules of reading the resolution, adopt, allowing the Mayor Pro Tem to sign.

Alderman Fields made a motion to suspend the rules of reading the resolution, adopt, allowing the Mayor Pro Tem to sign the resolution to require redistricting in accordance with the voting rights act and pursuant to the 2010 Census. Seconded by Alderman Pollard. The motion carried unanimously.

Attorney Sanders stated that they need to conduct a second public hearing. He recommends that it is done on October 18, 2011 at 6:00pm. He added that a final hearing will need to take place and he suggest that it be October 27, 2011 at 6:00pm, He further stated that in between those two hearing dates there will need to be a meeting with the consultant. He added that he recommends a Special meeting on October 25, 2011 at 3:00pm with the consultant, which will be before the Finance meeting. He said that all plans need to be submitted by October 18th.

Alderman Fields made a motion to adopt the Special Call meeting scheduled by Attorney Sanders. Seconded by Alderman Dillard. The motion carried unanimously.

MAYOR PRO TEM ARCENEUX-MATHIS, WARD 1

Mayor Pro Tem Arceneaux-Mathis asked for an update on the concerns of Canal Street.

Mr. Freeman stated that he has spoken with Mr. Gardner about it briefly. He added that they will get back with her on the matter.

Mayor Pro Tem Arceneaux-Mathis stated that since Public Works has the Bobcat ditching machine, she would like for them to repair Hictober, Old Smith Lane, Old Providence Road, Cemetery Road, and Buckner's Alley.

Mayor Pro Tem Arceneaux-Mathis stated that on Union Street and Washington Street, there is a stop sign that is being covered up by tress. She asked for Mr. Freeman to correct to the matter.

Mayor Pro Tem Arceneaux-Mathis stated that Halloween will be observed on Monday, October 31, 2011.

Mayor Pro Tem Arceneaux-Mathis stated that she will need a motion to approve travel to Vicksburg for MML Small town conference on November 17th and November 18th.

Alderman Gray made a motion to approve travel to Vicksburg for MML Small town conference on November 17th and November 18th. Seconded by Alderman Fields. The motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Alderman Dillard stated that in the 2007 for the Soil Conservation Service Special audit the fund showed a balance of a positive \$24,487. He added that this passed audit in 2009 shows a negative balance of \$78,654. He further stated that he has asked Mr. Holloway to explain this information.

Alderman Dillard asked Mr. Holloway is there anything that he can add regarding these figures in the audit report.

Mr. Holloway stated that the \$73,000 difference is our matching funds.

Alderman Dillard stated that his problem is that it shows a negative \$78,654 as if this fund owes someone. He added that he is trying to understand who the fund owes. He added that he would like for Mr. Holloway to bring the information to the board to give them a chance to look at it.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Alderman Fortenbery, seconded by Alderman Pollard to Adjourn the Regular Meeting of October 11, 2011. The motion carried unanimously.

**JAKE MIDDLETON
MAYOR**

ATTEST:

**DONNIE HOLLOWAY
CITY CLERK**