

REGULAR MEETING

March 13, 2014

The Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Natchez, Mississippi, was held in the City Council Chambers at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 13, 2014. Mayor Larry L. "Butch" Brown presided at the meeting which was opened with prayer by Sabrena Bartley.

<u>Mayor & Board Present</u>	<u>Elected Officials Absent</u>	<u>City Officials & Department</u>
Larry L. "Butch" Brown Mayor	Joyce Arceneaux-Mathis Alderwoman, Ward 1	Donnie Holloway, City Clerk Hyde Carby, City Attorney Temple Hendricks, Board Sec Justin Dollar Curtis Norton James Johnston Chief Stewart Chief White Sabrena Bartley
Sarah Carter Smith Alderwoman, Ward 3	James "Ricky" Gray, Jr. Alderman, Ward 2	
Ernest "Tony" Fields Alderman, Ward 4		
Mark Fortenbery Alderman, Ward 5		
Daniel Dillard Alderman, Ward 6		

MINUTES APPROVED

With a quorum present, a motion was made by Alderman Fields to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the Finance and Regular Meetings of February 25, 2014, and adopt upon legal review. The motion was seconded by Alderman Fortenbery and carried unanimously.

RECEIVE BID

Bids for general supplies were received by the ad hoc committee made up of Meg Freeman and Donnie Holloway. A list of those companies that submitted bids and those that were awarded the bids are an attachment to these minutes.

A motion was made by Alderman Dillard to award the bids for general supplies to those companies recommended by the ad hoc committee. A second was made by Alderwoman Fortenbery and carried unanimously.

VISITORS WELCOME

Ron Brumfield, manager of the Eola Hotel, appeared regarding the recent article in The Democrat about a shooting on Main Street and presented his manager's reports regarding disturbances on Main Street—problems largely on Fridays and Saturdays. The article reported that the developments are recent but Mr. Brumfield advised, not true. He presented an article from The Democrat in 2011 whereby the BOA was going to address the bar situation—the bar owners set up an association but the problems have continued. He recommended that the bars be closed at 2:00 a.m.

Mayor Brown advised that he'll update himself on what the "resort status" statute says—the time has come to deal with the issues surrounding certain bars. Alderman Dillard said that some businesses have come to think that they're entitled to operate 24 hours a day and the city doesn't have jurisdiction over what they do—the actions of a few are adversely affecting the many. Mr. Carby reported that resort status states that local governments have the power to control the sale of on premises consumption of alcohol and control what time bars close. Mayor Brown reminded the audience that a meeting would be held at 2:00 p.m. that afternoon with stakeholders, two ABC agents, a judge, city prosecutors, etc.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

DEPARTMENT HEADS

Justin Dollar, Public Works Department

Mr. Dollar had obtained information on Old Providence Road Bridge—he will present to Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis when she returns.

The city will be running an article twice a year about limbs and debris pick up info and what can and cannot be picked up. Mr. Dollar gave a summary on what will and will not be picked up. Mayor Brown said that a spring clean will be held whereby Waste Pro will provide extra pick up. Paint cans and other hazardous material can be removed on the spring clean. Mr. Dollar's notice was to be made a part of the minutes.

Tuesday night Public Works started sweeping all the major intersections in preparation for Pilgrimage. Alderman Dillard asked that MDOT be contacted to see if they can brush the curbs on the major thoroughfares. CCA is refurbishing the trash cans in the downtown area. Public Works has been working at Duncan Park, rehabbing bleachers, repairing fencing, removing trees and debris on the ball fields. PW has done all the work at Bowlin Field. Alderman Dillard asked that the stump in the parking lot at Bowlin Field be addressed and the vegetation along the RR track be bush hogged back. The city thanked Public Works for its hard work during the ice storm, Pilgrimage and at Duncan Park. Alderwoman Carter Smith encouraged citizens to do their part in picking up trash.

Chief Danny White, Police Department

A motion was made by Alderman Fortenbery, with a second by Alderman Dillard, that Employee 2349 and 2845 be suspended for 24 hours each. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Brown asked Chief White to bring by paperwork regarding Joe Belling's cell phone bill.

Frankie Legaux, City Planner

Mrs. Legaux presented her report regarding the various types of cases and permits that come before her department. There'd been an increase in cases especially rezonings as some areas are starting to change as 15 years out from the last Comprehensive Plan. Variance requests are going down which is good—the majority of variances are in the historic district and with the new development code, there are going to be two sets of setbacks which will alleviate the variance applications. There's now a booklet with photos of fences that can be administratively approved and a good increase in the number of people getting permits for banners. The steering committee had gone over changes with Phil Walker and the code is now being reviewed. Mrs. Legaux suggested that the colors on the city zoning map correspond to colors on Emaps. Alderwoman Carter Smith commended Mrs. Legaux saying that she'd received word that Mrs. Legaux is easy to work with.

Fire Chief Oliver Stewart, Fire Department

Chief Stewart presented his February report advising that 56% of calls were inside the city and 43% were outside. Mayor Brown, in response to a question from Alderman Dillard, reported that progress needs to be made in implementing the Fire Interlocal Agreement. The county is applying for a grant for a fire truck but the Interlocal Agreement said that the truck will be in place by October. Mr. Holloway responded that the county has been paying their increase and they're current on their payments. It was reported that the county hasn't been successful in recruiting volunteers and they're in the process of applying for a grant for turnout gear and a truck.

Mayor Brown said with expansions in businesses at the port and CCA increasing their bed count by 500, there needs to be a real discussion of training for chemical fires and spills. A volunteer firefighter is not trained for chemical fires and spills, response time is slow and equipment inadequate. It was discussed that the county should be encouraged to develop a station in the port area. Chief Stewart said a meeting was held with Elevance yesterday.

Curtis Norton, Traffic Department

Traffic had set up for the Mardi Gras parades and Hensley will begin installation of 7 speed humps on Old Washington Road and 3 on South Union Street in the next couple of weeks. 3 of the 4 light poles that were hit during the recent ice storms have been reinstalled.

James Johnston, Planning Department

A motion was made by Alderman Dillard, seconded by Alderman Fields, to approve the execution of the Memorandum of Agreement w/MDAH for the Auburn Kitchen Dependency Restoration. The grant totals \$157,688.00 and the local match totals \$47,101.00 for a total project budget of \$204,789.00.

The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Alderman Dillard to approve the execution and recording of a Preservation and Maintenance Covenant for a 25 year period. The motion was seconded by Alderman Fields and carried unanimously.

PUBLIC OFFICIALS

Alderman Fields asked Justin Dollar and Alderwoman Carter Smith, Utilities Chairman, to see if the utility companies can install asphalt in their street cuts.

A town hall meeting will be held on March 18th at 6:00 pm in the NHS auditorium to discuss restructuring the school district. He wished the Lady Bulldogs good luck in the state tournament.

Alderman Fortenbery asked for the BOA's direction in making repairs to the baseball facilities. Alderman Dillard replied that there should be funding available in the recreation budget to repair the fields—he suggested spending \$5,000.00 at each of the three facilities. It was discussed that volunteers had repaired Frazier Field. Alderman Dillard pointed out that Frazier Field and the softball fields belong to the school district yet the city continues to maintain. Alderman Fields asked that TM Jennings be given some consideration.

A motion was made by Alderman Fortenbery that the BOA approve the purchase of up to 40 gallons of Natchez green paint, 5 gallons of yellow paint, and provide some paint for Frazier Field with paint to be purchased from Sherwin Williams for repairs at the city's ball fields. Volunteers will supply labor and other supplies such as rollers and scrapers. A second was made by Alderman Fields and carried unanimously.

Volunteers will contact Mr. Holloway for authorization to purchase the paint from Sherwin Williams.

Mayor Brown advised that city employees will paint the two bathroom facilities and have the facilities working.

Mayor Brown said that the city takes a stand that the city will address the facilities right after the ball season. Alderman Fortenbery advised that he and Alderman Fields will work to have TM Jennings and Dixie Youth meet to use the same facilities versus spreading play over three fields.

A motion was made by Alderman Fortenbery, with a second by Alderman Dillard, that all ball fields at Duncan Park and Frazier will be locked for security reasons during ball season and a contact number will be displayed at the facilities should someone need to use. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Brown responded to Alderman Fortenbery that he will take care of the Mountaineer.

Alderman Dillard asked that his questions that were presented in the Finance session be spread on the minutes.

Those highlighted were:

10/18/13 the City Clerk transferred \$67,808.00 from Payroll to Isaac fund.

Two weeks after that, \$27,812.00 was transferred from Isaac to Margaret Martin for reroofing.

1/6/14 \$10,900.00 transferred from Isaac, a fund which doesn't exit, to Gustav fund, which shouldn't exit, which was sent to reroof MM which wasn't included in this year's budget.

On the February monthly report, Community Development shows miscellaneous revenue of \$21,222.00. Mr. Holloway replied that he wasn't sure what the fund source was but he'd check into. There was a miscellaneous expenditure of \$20,610.00--It was later determined that the money was for a Dodge van. Alderman Dillard stated that the \$333,333.00 from the casino should be deposited annually in the Community Development fund which has special obligations. The \$225,000.00 has even more restrictions. Although funds were spent out of that fund for a Caravan, the funds had been paid back.

CITY CLERK

A motion was made by Alderman Fortenbery, with a second by Alderman Fields, to approve docket #2190 to 2429. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Alderman Fields, with a second by Alderman Fortenbery, to spread the personnel report for Hiring and Termination for February on the minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

CITY ATTORNEY

A motion was made by Alderman Fields, with a second by Alderwoman Carter Smith, to approve the contract with BCI for Microsoft exchange. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Bowser replied to Mr. Fortenbery that it can be set up that some departments would not have long distance service. Mr. Bowser will provide the BOA a list of who the city provides cell phones for.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis, with a second by Alderman Gray, that the City Attorney be authorized to file suit against the Cock of the Walk. The motion carried unanimously.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Brown asked Alderwoman Carter Smith and David Gardner to prioritize a list of street for paving for this spring. Alderwoman Carter Smith said that the BOA needs to do an appropriation again.

A motion was made by Alderman Dillard, with a second by Aldermen Fields, to adopt a resolution declaring April 1st Mayor's Day. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Brown stated that Universal Studios have reimbursed all the amounts that they were invoiced by the city.

Mr. Holloway responded to a question from Alderman Dillard that the city had paid back the \$600,000.00 tax anticipation loan.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Alderman Fields and seconded by Alderman Dillard to adjourn the meeting of March 13, 2014. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting ended in a moment of silence for the recovery of Nikki Worthy and the family of Tyler Brumfield.

Larry L. "Butch" Brown, Mayor

ATTEST:

Donnie Holloway, City Clerk

