

**REGULAR MEETING**

**May 27, 2014**

The Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Natchez, Mississippi, were held in the City Council Chambers at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 27, 2014. Mayor Larry L. "Butch" Brown presided at the meeting which was opened with prayer by Reverend Clifton Marvel.

<u>Mayor &amp; Board Present</u>	<u>Elected Officials Absent</u>	<u>City Officials &amp; Department</u>
Larry L. "Butch" Brown Mayor		Donnie Holloway, City Clerk Hyde Carby, City Attorney Temple Hendricks, Board Sec
Joyce Arceneaux-Mathis Alderwoman, Ward 1		David Atkins for David Gardner Chief Danny White Fire Chief Oliver Stewart
James "Ricky" Gray, Jr. Alderman, Ward 2		Justin Dollar Ed Bowser Justin Dollar
Sarah Carter Smith Alderwoman, Ward 3		James Johnston
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 May 13, 2014, and adopt upon a correction being made and upon legal review. The motion was seconded by Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis and carried unanimously.**

**RECEIVE BIDS**

Bids were received for construction of the Bridge of Sighs. One bid was received which was from Dozer, LLC in the amount of \$696,404.50. The bid was:

ROTH HILL PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE PROJECT  
 FEDERAL PROJECT NO. STP-0001-00(065) / 106345-701000  
 CITY PROJECT NO. 022-11

CERTIFIED BID TABULATION  
 DATE OF BID OPENING: May 27, 2014

				Engineer Estimate		DOZER, LLC	
						P.O. BOX 2031, NATCHEZ MS 39121	
PAY ITEM NO.	PAY ITEM	UNIT	QUANTITY	UNIT COST	TOTAL	UNIT COST	TOTAL
202-A001	REMOVAL OF OBSTRUCTIONS	LS	1	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
202-C001	REMOVAL AND SALVAGE OF ORNAMENTAL IRON FENCE	LF	200	\$30.00	\$6,000.00	\$100.00	\$20,000.00
202-B035	REMOVAL OF CONCRETE SIDEWALK	SY	302	\$10.00	\$3,020.00	\$25.00	\$7,550.00
907-216-B004	SOLID SODDING, BERMUDA	SY	267	\$10.00	\$2,670.00	\$10.00	\$2,670.00
907-225-A001	GRASSING	Acre	0.75	\$3,000.00	\$2,250.00	\$4,000.00	\$3,000.00
234-A001	TEMPORARY SILT FENCE	LF	280	\$6.00	\$1,680.00	\$4.50	\$1,260.00
907-258-PP006	HAND RAIL, 2" STEEL, PER PLANS (Complete in Place)	LF	125	\$85.00	\$10,625.00	\$225.00	\$28,125.00
907-258-PP101	CONCRETE BENCH PADS, PER PLANS	EACH	2	\$650.00	\$1,300.00	\$500.00	\$1,000.00
907-601-8003	CLASS B STRUCTURAL CONCRETE, MINOR STRUCTURES	CY	30	\$1,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$800.00	\$24,000.00
602-A001	REINFORCING STEEL	LBS	1373	\$2.00	\$2,746.00	\$1.50	\$2,059.50
907-602-PP108	ORNAMENTAL IRON FENCE, PER PLANS (Complete in Place)	LF	157	\$300.00	\$47,100.00	\$350.00	\$54,950.00
608-B001	CONCRETE SIDEWALK WITH REINFORCEMENT	SY	328	\$68.00	\$22,304.00	\$85.00	\$27,880.00
907-611-A002	BRICK MASONRY	K	13	\$2,500.00	\$32,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$32,500.00
618-A001	MAINTENANCE OF TRAFFIC	LS	1	\$9,500.00	\$9,500.00	\$8,500.00	\$8,500.00
618-B001	ADDITIONAL CONSTRUCTION SIGNS	SF	1	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$10.00
620-A001	MOBILIZATION	LS	1	\$45,000.00	\$45,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00
907-699-B002	BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION STAKES	LS	1	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
907-821-A100	PREFABRICATED STEEL PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE	LS	1	\$300,000.00	\$300,000.00	\$325,000.00	\$325,000.00
<b>TOTAL BASE ITEMS</b>					<b>\$534,705.00</b>		<b>\$993,504.50</b>
<b>ADD OPTION NUMBER 1</b>							
907-682-G	BRIDGE LIGHTING SYSTEM, ADD OPTION 1	LS	1	\$65,000.00	\$65,000.00	\$47,800.00	\$47,800.00
<b>ADD OPTION NUMBER 2</b>							
907-682-G	LIGHTING AND POWER SYSTEM- ADD OPTION 2	LS	1	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$28,800.00	\$28,800.00
<b>ADD OPTION NUMBER 3</b>							
907-682-G	LIGHTING AND POWER SYSTEM- ADD OPTION 3	LS	1	\$13,500.00	\$13,500.00	\$10,900.00	\$10,900.00
<b>ADD OPTION NUMBER 4</b>							
907-682-G	LIGHTING AND POWER SYSTEM- ADD OPTION 4	LS	1	\$17,500.00	\$17,500.00	\$15,400.00	\$15,400.00
<b>TOTAL OPTION ITEMS</b>					<b>\$131,000.00</b>		<b>\$102,900.00</b>
<b>TOTAL ALL ITEMS</b>					<b>\$665,705.00</b>		<b>\$896,404.50</b>

*David M. Gardner*  
 David M. Gardner, City Engineer  
 LPA ENGINEER



*06-03-2014*  
 Date

**A motion was made by Alderman Gray, with a second by Alderman Fields, to take the bid from Dozer LLC under advisement. The motion carried unanimously.**

### **VISITORS WELCOME**

The Natchez High School Lady Bulldog’s Basketball Team who had won the state championship appeared and were presented a plaque from the city.

Judge Mary Lee Davis Toles appeared to voice her concerns about the lack of progress on the recreation issue, especially the construction of a swimming pool. She asked that the city not wait on the county to do something. She requested that the city consider the swimming pool a gift to the people of Natchez for the Tricentennial.

Amos James, 1 Country Squire Road, appeared speaking on behalf of concerned citizens to ask the BOA to make the school board elected.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis read from two sets of minutes in which then City Attorney Walter Brown, in response to an inquiry by Alderman “Bubber” West, advised that the matter of an elected school board had died in the legislature due a deadline and would have to be submitted during the next legislative session. Alderman West suggested that a non-binding election be held which might help the effort and asked that this issue be discussed in the next meeting. She advised that every year, for four years, there had been a motion made to submit a request to the legislature to have an elected school board—she asked Mr. Carby to research if the BOA can call in its appointees to the school board. Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis reported that the BOA was going on record in support of an elected school board.

**A motion was made by Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis, seconded by Alderman Gray, that the Board of Aldermen supported an elected school board.** Alderman Dillard suggested that a discussion would need to be held with the county on pursuing an elected school board as the county appoints two members to the school board (the city appoints three members). Alderman Gray pointed out that the charter school group has their separate board and not sure how that board was assembled.

A roll call was asked for:

<b>Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis</b>	<b>aye</b>
<b>Alderman Gray</b>	<b>aye</b>
<b>Alderwoman Carter Smith</b>	<b>aye</b>
<b>Alderman Fields</b>	<b>aye</b>
<b>Alderman Fortenbery</b>	<b>aye</b>
<b>Alderman Dillard</b>	<b>aye</b>

**The motion carried unanimously.**

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Alderman Dillard made the motion that the Board of Aldermen authorize the City Attorney present the following request to the Board of Supervisors of Adams County at their next regularly scheduled meeting:**

**If the City agrees to all the terms and conditions of the Interlocal Agreement concerning recreation, meaning that the City would turn over all of its recreational revenues, including golf revenues which this year are a little over \$1,000,000.00 and agrees to turn over all of its equipment and all of its personnel currently assigned to recreation, at the disposal to the Recreation Commission, and agrees to the additional demands by the Adams County Board of Supervisors that the City hire a Director as a City employee and pay all his benefits and provide him with a vehicle - would the County Board of Supervisors commit \$5,400,000.00 to Capital Improvements funds as publicized? If not, how much would the County Board of Supervisors commit to the Capital Improvement funds for recreation? A second was made by Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis.**

During discussion, Alderman Fortenbery said that he didn’t like the “how much” statement. Alderman Dillard said that he would accept that as a friendly amendment. Alderman Dillard clarified to Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis that as the city was "all in" and had agreed to all the terms and additional terms, would the county commit \$5,400,000.00 which was much publicized. The city was going to move forward on this issue—the city was asking if the county would commit to recreation or not.

Alderwoman Carter Smith asked Alderman Dillard if he wanted the city or the Recreation Commission to do the hiring—Alderman Dillard said however they want to handle it. Alderwoman Carter Smith said it was clear on who they wanted to handle the hiring. Alderman Dillard said he wanted to hear something from the county on the Capital Improvement funds.

***The amended motion was:***

**Alderman Dillard made the motion that the Board of Aldermen authorize the City Attorney to present the following request to the Board of Supervisors of Adams County at their next regularly scheduled meeting:**

**If the City agrees to all the terms and conditions of the Interlocal Agreement concerning Recreation, meaning that the City would turn over all of its recreational revenues including golf which this year was a little over \$1,000,000.00 and agreed to turn over all of its equipment and all of its personnel currently assigned to recreation, at the disposal to the Recreation Commission, and agreed to the additional demands by the Adams County Board of Supervisors that the City would hire a Director as a City employee and pay all his benefits and provide him with a vehicle – would the County Board of Supervisors commit \$5,400,000.00 to Capital Improvements funds as publicized?**

Alderman Fortenbery stepped out of the meeting.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**DEPARTMENT HEADS**

*James Johnston, Planning Department*

**A motion was made by Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis, with a second by Alderman Fields, to give Mr. Johnston permission to work with Concordia Bank & Trust and Home Bank on the 2014 SNAP grant, July cycle, and the city to waive any and all fees associated with this program. The motion carried unanimously.**

**A motion was made by Alderman Dillard, with a second by Alderman Gray, to grant Mr. Johnston permission to allow the mayor to sign the grant agreement for the MDEQ Regional Recycling Cooperative Grant and to allow the department to begin implementing the grant. The motion carried unanimously.**

Lead Hazard Control Grant Opportunity

The department was recently contacted by the MS Dept. of Health to see if the City of Natchez, along with the cities of Hattiesburg, Greenville and Greenwood wanted to participate in the program.

**A motion was made by Alderman Gray, with a second by Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis, to work with the MS State Department of Health to apply for monies to abate lead in homes in Natchez. The motion carried unanimously.**

*Ed Bowser, IT Department*

**A motion was made by Alderman Fields, with a second by Alderman Dillard, to authorize the mayor to execute a contract with Civicplus for the city's website redesign in the amount of \$19,051.34 this year and the next two years and after that, with an upgrade the fourth year. The motion carried unanimously.**

*Chief Oliver Stewart, Fire Department*

Chief Stewart reported that the Fire Department would begin testing fire hydrants on June 1st. The Fire Department would notify Natchez Water Works of what areas were being tested—NWW would notify its customers. Alderman Fortenbery suggested that NWW also contact the radio stations.

*David Atkins, Engineering Department*

Mr. Atkins recommended that the contract for construction of the Bridge of Sighs be awarded to Dozer LLC upon review of City Attorney, MDOT and successful negotiations.

**A motion was made by Alderman Dillard, with a second by Alderman Fortenbery, to award the contract for construction of the Bridge of Sighs to Dozer LLC upon review by the City Attorney, MDOT**

and successful negotiations with the contract not to exceed the allocated funding. The motion carried unanimously.

## PUBLIC OFFICIALS

A motion was made by Alderman Dillard that the Board of Aldermen authorize the City Planner to prepare an amendment to add an article to The Code of the City of Natchez under Chapter 86 Advertising, Section 86-79 Business Districts which shall be entitled "Casino Gaming Signage Only." This shall apply ONLY to Casino Gaming entities. It shall allow for the erection of one sign per gaming entity to be installed along Broadway Street on City property along the Bluff Park where both Silver Street and Roth Hill Landing Road intersect Broadway. The type, configuration and appearance of the sign shall be similar and near same to the National Park signs along Melrose-Montebello Parkway. These signs shall be allowed to be illuminated by one in-ground fixed, upward directed on the sign lighting fixture not to exceed 150 watts. The Planner shall inform the Consultant under contract with the City to revise the City Development Code of such amendment. A second was made by Alderman Fortenbery. During the discussion, Alderwoman Carter Smith asked that the city also consider installing signage at the top of Silver Street providing information for businesses, other than the casino, located on Silver Street. Alderman Dillard said that perhaps the City Planner can address this additional signage at a later date. Alderman Dillard advised that the Preservation Commission interprets the ordinances but the BOA is the governing authority to determine policy and procedure. Mr. Carby said that the Preservation Code states that off-premise signs are not allowed in the Historic District although it can be changed. He also said that the use of City property for these businesses should be considered. Alderman Dillard advised that the City Attorney is capable of handling these issues.

A roll call was asked for:

<b>Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis</b>	<b>aye</b>
<b>Alderman Gray</b>	<b>aye</b>
<b>Alderwoman Carter Smith</b>	<b>aye</b>
<b>Alderman Fields</b>	<b>aye</b>
<b>Alderman Fortenbery</b>	<b>aye</b>
<b>Alderman Dillard</b>	<b>aye</b>

**The motion carried unanimously.**

Alderman Fortenbery stated that he'd like to see some progress regarding Recreation. He will meet with Wilbert Whitley regarding replacement of a door at Sprague-Gousette in Duncan Park.

**A motion was made by Alderman Fields that \$500,000.00 be appropriated for street asphalt overlay for the next round. A second was made by Alderman Fortenbery and carried unanimously.**

Alderwoman Carter Smith commended the people that held the Memorial Day Service and she attended Chamber After Hours at Natchez Water Works.

Alderman Ricky Gray expressed his concern that veterans' can't find their military records. He congratulated all graduates including the class of 1994 and 2004. He asked about the status of a camera for litter surveillance. Ed Bowser said that he and Curtis Norton have installed two game cameras. Alderman Dillard asked about cameras for the parks—Mr. Bowser said they were \$7,000.00 each. Alderman Gray advised that the children have outgrown Margaret Martin gym—he would like to utilize the schools' gyms. Mayor Brown said that the school district had passed a resolution to use their gyms. Alderman Gray expressed his sympathy to the Leonard Ford family (Mr. Ford was on the Housing Authority Board) and to Mary Stanton for her mother's passing. He recognized Thelma Newsome who was in the audience.

**Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis made the motion to appoint Alderman Gray as the voting delegate at the summer MML conference, Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis as the first alternate and Alderwoman Carter Smith as the second alternate. A second was made by Alderman Fields and carried unanimously.**

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis asked Mr. Dollar about a dangerous property on Zoa Street—Mr. Dollar will check with Code Enforcement Officer Nicki Johnson to see if the property has been adjudicated.

Alderman Gray advised that E-911 operators held a conference In Natchez and he would place a handout in the mailboxes regarding consolidation of dispatchers.

**CITY CLERK**

None

**CITY ATTORNEY**

None

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

**A motion was made by Alderman Dillard to donate \$5,000.00 for fireworks for the Fourth of July. Alderman Fortenbery made a second which carried unanimously.**

The meeting of June 24<sup>th</sup> has been cancelled due to a lack of quorum as members will be attending MML conference in Biloxi.

**A motion was made by Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis, with a second by Alderman Gray, to approve travel for Mayor Brown to go to the US Conference of Mayors in Dallas in June and MML. The motion carried unanimously.**

**A motion was made by Alderman Fields, with a second by Alderman Gray, to hire Jennifer Ogden Combs as Director of the Tricentennial for planning and staging. Her salary will be paid by donations—no city funds. She will be under contract.**

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**A motion was made by Alderman Fields and seconded by Alderwoman Carter Smith to adjourn the meeting of May 27, 2014. The motion carried unanimously.**

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Larry L. "Butch" Brown, Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Donnie Holloway, City Clerk