

**REGULAR MEETING**

**September 23, 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, September 23, 2014. Mayor Larry L. "Butch" Brown presided at the meeting which was opened with prayer by Lay Minister Jim Sanders.

<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		Ed Bowser James Johnston Kevin Kirby
James "Rickey" Gray, Jr. Alderman, Ward 2		Sabrina Bartley David Gardner Justin Dollar
Sarah Carter Smith Alderwoman, Ward 3		Curtis Norton Oliver Stewart Danny White
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 Fortenbery to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the Finance and Regular Meetings of September 9, 2014, and adopt upon legal review. The motion was seconded by Alderman Dillard and carried unanimously.**

**RECEIVE BID**

Bids were received for 6 month supplies for asphalt laydown, pothole patching and stripping.

Bids received were:

Asphalt laydown

1"-1.5" overlay 50-200 tons	Blain \$66.00	Hensley \$48.00
1"-1.5" overlay 200-500 tons	Blain \$38.50	
1"-1.5" overlay 500 and above tons	Blain \$26.50	
1.5"-2" overlay 50-200 tons	Blain \$57.00	Hensley \$48.00
1.5"-2" overlay 200-500 tons	Blain \$35.60	
1.5"-2" overlay 500 and above tons	Blain \$24.50	

Street Stripping

4" Hot Sprayed Thermoplastic (60 mil minimum) Traffic Stripe (skip white) per mile	*TCP \$3,900.00	Lane Lines LLC \$3,000.00
4" Hot Sprayed Thermoplastic (60 mil minimum) Traffic Stripe (cont dlb yellow) per mile	TCP \$6,500.00	Lane Lines LLC \$4,000.00
4" Sprayed Paint Traffic Stripe with beads (Skip White) per mile	TCP \$1,400.00	Lane Lines LLC \$1,600.00
4" Sprayed Paint Traffic Stripe with beads (cont dbl Yellow) per mile	TCP \$2,170.00	Lane Lines LLC \$2,800.00

Street Cut Patching

6" patch (full depth asphalt) 0 sf to 100 sf Cost per square foot	Hensley	\$8.20
6" patch (full depth asphalt) 100 sf & above Cost per square foot	Hensley	\$8.20

4" patch (full depth asphalt) 0sf to 100 sf		
Cost per square foot	Hensley	\$6.25
4" patch (full depth asphalt) 100 sf & above		
Cost per square foot	Hensley	\$6.25

**\*Traffic Control Products**

**Electrical Tie-In for 2CY Compactor**

A bid was received from L. Scott Construction for an electrical tie-in for the 2CY compactor in the amount of \$7,435.00.

Mr. Gardner advised that the bids for asphalt laydown, street striping and street cut patching needed to be awarded tonight. He asked if appropriate for a motion to be made that upon review of the bids, the awards be made to the lowest bidder. Mr. Gardner clarified to Alderman Dillard that Blain would be doing street overlays under the old prices.

**A motion was made by Alderman Fields, with a second by Alderman Dillard, to take the bids under advisement. The motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Gardner reported 21 sites were being addressed with the 2014 overlay project. No Microseal would be done.

**VISITORS WELCOMED**

Stacey McKay and Scoutmaster Paul Meyer appeared with scouts Alton Biggs and Andrew Allen who were working on their communications badge.

Rev. Clifton Marvel spoke about issues at Old Washington and Mascagni which included abandoned vehicles and trailers in the yard, dog breeding as well as excessive dog howling, barking and the smell of dog feces. Rev. Marvel had spoken in March 2014 about the same issues but nothing had been done. Anita Smith clarified that the property in question had not been through the court system recently—she was to inspect the property the next morning. The owner had previously been advised to remove the vehicles and animals. Mayor Brown advised that the issue would be addressed in Municipal Court on October 6<sup>th</sup>.

Tyler Blalock, 35 Orange Avenue, advised that he felt that he was being harassed by the Animal Control Officer. He had previously sent correspondence to the mayor's office. His two dogs were missing on the 17<sup>th</sup> and both were at the Humane Society where he paid a \$70.00 fine to retrieve them. He filed a report with the Sheriff's Office on that date. Mr. Blalock advised that it was his understanding that his dogs were OK as long as they were on his property and not biting anyone. Mr. Blalock had installed a wireless fencing system with shock collars on his two dogs. With the previous shock collars, he'd had property stolen. With the new shock collar system, he has not had any theft at his home. Both dogs still has their shock collars on when retrieved from the Humane Society.

Alderman Fields said he'd spoken with Mr. Blalock over the last several months, thought that the issue had been resolved and it was Mr. Fields understanding that the mailman was afraid to go to Mr. Blalock's house. Mr. Blalock said that once he'd introduced his dogs to a mailman, there was no longer a problem. Alderman Fields said that due to break-ins in the neighborhood, Mr. Blalock needed the dogs to protect his property—Alderman Fields asked Police Chief White to beef up patrols in the area. Alderwoman Carter Smith asked Mr. Blalock to place his mailbox on a post at the curb. Mayor Brown asked if Animal Control leaves a citation when picking up an animal—Mr. Blalock replied that Animal Control does not. Mayor Brown and Alderwoman Carter Smith said that they'll address the issue with the Animal Control Officer.

Jim Sanders advised that he'd called Animal Control but had been told that he cannot go on private property to pick up a deal animal.

Alderman Dillard asked Mr. Carby to look at the city having all pet owners having their animals spayed or neutered and breeders to have a breeder's license. Alderman Gray said that it's already illegal to breed animals in the city limits.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

A motion was made by Alderwoman Carter Smith, with a second by Alderman Gray, to approve the Permit Fee Schedule. The new fee schedule approved was:  
*(attach permit schedule when received)*

The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Alderman Fields, with a second by Alderman Gray, for the city to purchase the Hall property next to Theodore West/Concord Park to provide for future parking per plans provided by the city's Engineer's office. During discussion, Alderman Fortenbery felt that this action was setting a bad precedent --if someone had a home that needed to be demolished which had been adjudicated or abandoned, the property could be sold to the city and the owner's problem had been taken care of. He also felt that Concord Park was a neighborhood park and people would be walking to the park. Alderman Fields said that Concord was a well utilized park and safe with citizens driving to the park— Concord becomes dangerous with all the parked cars. Alderman Fortenbery said 15 parking places would be provided therefore that would be \$1,000.00 per spot—he asked if 15 parking places were going to make that much of a difference. Alderman Fields said that parking could be expanded into the park using a form of artificial turf so as to not jeopardize the integrity of the park. It was discussed that funds would come from Public Properties—Alderwoman Carter Smith asked Alderman Dillard for his thoughts. Alderman Dillard said it sounded like a safety issue on Concord and as Alderman Fields was only asking for \$5,000.00 to purchase the property at this time, that money was in the budget for Public Properties. Alderman Dillard said his priority was to make repairs to the Council Chambers but the price for the Hall property is low. Mr. Carby stated that the property would have to be appraised and he would initiate the appraisal process.

Alderman Fields amended the motion for the city to purchase the Hall property, adjacent to Concord Park, to create parking for the park pending the property appraising for an amount not to exceed \$5,000.00. A second was made by Alderman Gray and carried with Alderman Fortenbery voting nay.

**DEPARTMENT HEADS' REPORTS**

A motion was made by Alderman Fortenbery, with a second by Alderman Dillard, to award the following bids:

***Asphalt laydown***

<i>1"-1.5" overlay 50-200 tons</i>	<i>Hensley</i>	<i>\$48.00</i>
<i>1"-1.5" overlay 200-500 tons</i>	<i>Blain</i>	<i>\$38.50</i>
<i>1"-1.5" overlay 500 and above tons</i>	<i>Blain</i>	<i>\$26.50</i>
<i>1.5"-2" overlay 50-200 tons</i>	<i>Hensley</i>	<i>\$48.00</i>
<i>1.5"-2" overlay 200-500 tons</i>	<i>Blain</i>	<i>\$35.60</i>
<i>1.5"-2" overlay 500 and above tons</i>	<i>Blain</i>	<i>\$24.50</i>

***Street Stripping***

<i>4" Hot Sprayed Thermoplastic (60 mil minimum) Traffic Stripe (skip white) per mile</i>	<i>Lane Lines LLC</i>	<i>\$3,000.00</i>
<i>4" Hot Sprayed Thermoplastic (60 mil minimum) Traffic Stripe (cont dbl yellow) per mile</i>	<i>Lane Lines LLC</i>	<i>\$4,000.00</i>
<i>4" Sprayed Paint Traffic Stripe with beads (Skip White) per mile</i>	<i>TCP</i>	<i>\$1,400.00</i>
<i>4" Sprayed Paint Traffic Stripe with beads (cont dbl Yellow) per mile</i>	<i>TCP</i>	<i>\$2,170.00</i>

***Street Cut Patching***

<i>6" patch (full depth asphalt) 0 sf to 100 sf Cost per square foot</i>	<i>Hensley</i>	<i>\$8.20</i>
<i>6" patch (full depth asphalt) 100 sf &amp; above Cost per square foot</i>	<i>Hensley</i>	<i>\$8.20</i>
<i>4" patch (full depth asphalt) 0sf to 100 sf Cost per square foot</i>	<i>Hensley</i>	<i>\$6.25</i>
<i>4" patch (full depth asphalt) 100 sf &amp; above Cost per square foot</i>	<i>Hensley</i>	<i>\$6.25</i>

The motion carried unanimously.

**A motion was made by Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis, with a second by Alderman Fields, to award the bid for the electrical tie in for 2CY Compactor to L. Scott Construction. The motion carried unanimously.**

**PUBLIC OFFICIALS' REPORTS**

**A motion was made by Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis, with a second by Alderman Fields, to appointment Bettye Bowser to the Library Board of Trustees. The motion carried unanimously.**

**A motion was made by Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis, with a second by Alderman Fortenbery, to reappoint Eileen Maher to the Natchez Housing Authority Board. The motion carried unanimously.**

**A motion was made by Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis for Public Works and Park employees to install fencing along the southern boundary of Madison Street Park. A second was made by Alderman Fields.** It was discussed that PW can use the black, galvanized fencing that the city already owns.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis reported that she and Alderman Fortenbery had met with Drayco and Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis requested that the City Clerk provide her records of the royalty payments received from the two existing wells—a third well would be drilled. A lower amount was budgeted for 2014-2015 due to production trending down.

Alderman Gray said the owner on the corner of Laird, where a EWP project was proceeding, needed to have trench dug to alleviate water. Regarding Alderman Gray asked about grass cutting needed on Pilgrim Boulevard, Justin Dollar clarified to Alderman Gray that he'd spoken with James of MDOT that MDOT was currently completing its third and final cut of the year on Lynda Lee Drive. Mr. Dollar said that MDOT cuts with bush hogs, not lawnmowers, and they do not weed eat edges. Mayor Brown clarified that the area being discussed was between Jiffy and the school and felt that the school district had some responsibility of providing a safe, clean area for the kids to talk to school. As MDOT ROW, the city would contact MDOT and see if they could clean the grass off the sidewalks.

Alderwoman Carter Smith said an opening had come up on the NWW Board.

**A motion was made by Alderwoman Carter Smith, with second by Alderman Fortenbery, to reappoint Ken Whittington to the NWW Board.** Mr. Carby would provide Alderman Dillard the info on what terms the NWW Board members serve. It was clarified that Mr. Whittington had served about three terms and Alderman Dillard suggested that board members be rotated off once having served two or three terms.

**A roll call was called for:**

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

Mayor Brown said as the city was currently in contractual negotiations with NWW, NWW was requesting a rate increase and the city hadn't had a discussion with Mr. Whittington on his views on a rate hike, that any appointments be delayed. Mayor Brown asked that the motion be withdrawn and handled at a later date. Alderwoman Carter Smith said she felt that Mr. Whittington would bring a wealth of knowledge to the board, a crucial time and should be reappointed. Mayor Brown said questions had come up regarding allegiances for all board appointees—should they represent the BOA or serve independently.

**Mayor Brown voted nay and the motion failed.**

Alderman Fields said that he was still inquiring about the installation of restrooms at Jack Waite Park and removing the hump where the RR track was located on Concord.

Alderman Fortenbery said the BOA had made a motion previously to obtain bids to redo cart paths in Duncan Park with asphalt or concrete. He advised that the fellow had been out of town but would be supplying those bids to Greg Brooking.

Alderman Dillard reported that the budget process had been ongoing and had hoped that the city would've learned over the last two years to start the process at an earlier date next year. He also felt that the budget wasn't conservative enough and asked that revenues be conservatively budgeted.

Alderman Dillard addressed Mr. Holloway that there should've been \$1,416,000.00 in the Casino Community Development Fund and the City Clerk showed \$858,000.00—asked that the City Clerk make the correction.

Regarding the Casino Annual Lease Fund revenues of \$2M, \$275,000.00 was spent the first year and \$550,000.00 since then—that should leave a balance of \$1,725,000.00 with the city to receive another \$1M in December. The clerk had \$1,523,000.00 budgeted but \$2,175,000.00 was the correct amount. He asked that the City Clerk correct the amount budgeted.

Silas Simmons had not been able to be fully engaged as waiting on the audit from Gillon & Company.

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis said that she and Alderman Fortenbery had met with Drayco. There was a problem with production on the first well but production is now up. A second directional well was drilled and should be in production.

#### **CITY CLERK'S REPORT**

**A motion was made by Alderman Fortenbery, with a second by Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis, to spread the Hire and Termination Report on the minutes. The motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Holloway, James Johnston and Mayor Brown had looked at the health insurance--\$18,000.00 had been saved over the 2013-2014 budget and \$167,000.00 would be saved in 2015.

**A motion was made by Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis, with a second by Alderman Fields, for the city to enter into a contract with United Healthcare for health insurance for the city.** During discussion, Alderwoman Carter Smith asked the City Clerk if the city bids out health insurance. He replied yes, BC&BS did not bid, Humana came in higher than UHC and they would not cover out of network charges. Alderwoman Carter Smith asked if other insurance agents were given an opportunity to bid so that the city is getting the best price—Mr. Holloway replied that other insurance agents were not given an opportunity to bid. He would allow other agents to bid in the future.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

#### **CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

Mayor Brown responded to Mr. Carby that the Casino Development Fund Advisory Board had met.

Mr. Carby said regarding Alderman Gray's request about the city changing its domestic violence policy, Mr. Carby had spoken to the AG's office. Civil Service's rules had some limits as to what could be addressed. He'd continue to have talks to be sure that the city was participating in the domestic violence protection order data base.

The charter amendment to make the city clerk's position appointed would be going to the Governor this week as soon as advertised.

**A motion was made by Alderman Dillard, with a second by Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis, instructing the city attorney to draw up a resolution officially recognizing the Tricentennial Executive Committee. The motion carried unanimously.**

#### **MAYOR'S REPORT**

**A motion was made by Alderman Fields, with a second by Alderman Gray, to recognize October 2014 as Racial Reconciliation Month as proposed by Mission MS. The motion carried unanimously.**

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting ended in a moment of silence in remembrance of Glenn Henderson and Freddie Voss. School Board member Thelma Newsome was recognized in the audience.

Kevin Kirby reminded the BOA of the groundbreaking for the Bridge of Sighs, the ribbon cutting for the gazebo renovation and the kick off for the Tricentennial on October 9<sup>th</sup> from 4:30-6:00 p.m.

**A motion was made by Alderman Gray and seconded by Alderman Fields to adjourn the meeting of September 23, 2014. The motion carried unanimously.**

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Larry L. "Butch" Brown, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Donnie Holloway, City Clerk