

**REGULAR MEETING**

**September 9, 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 Tuesday, September 9, 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 "Butch" Brown Mayor		Donnie Holloway, City Clerk Hyde Carby, City Attorney Temple Hendricks, Board Sec
Joyce Arceneaux-Mathis Alderwoman, Ward 1		James Johnston Fire Chief Oliver Stewart Curtis Norton
James "Rickey" Gray, Jr. Alderman, Ward 2		Ed Bowser Justin Dollar Creda Stewart
Sarah Carter Smith Alderwoman, Ward 3		Chief Danny White David Gardner
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 Corrected Regular Meetings of August 12, 2014, the Finance and Regular Meetings of August 26, 2014, and adopt the minutes upon legal review. The motion was seconded by Alderman Fields and carried unanimously.**

Mayor Brown was not present for the first part of the meeting. The meeting was presided over by Mayor Pro Tempore Joyce Arceneaux-Mathis.

**WELCOME VISITORS**

Meg Freeman, former Engineering Department employee, received Employee of the Month.

Alderman Fields recognized Robert Green of the St Catherine Street Reunion Committee who asked that the BOA consider building bathrooms and provide water at Jack Waite Park. Alderman Fields asked that this be addressed in this budget funding cycle. Alderman Fields said that he'd requested quotes but had not received anything in writing.

Mayor Pro Tempore Arceneaux-Mathis asked, as Mayor Brown had to leave to attend another meeting but would be returning, that the NWW Board's presentation be moved to the Mayor's Report section later in the meeting.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

**DEPARTMENT HEADS' REPORTS**

*Chief Danny White, Police Department*

Chief White presented his report for August.

*James Johnston, Planning Department*

**A motion was made by Alderman Gray, with a second by Alderman Fields, that the BOA waive the building and other related city fees associated with the SNAP Program. The motion carried unanimously.**

*David Gardner, Engineering Department:*

**A motion was made by Alderman Fields, with a second by Alderman Fortenbery, to grant permission for Mr. Gardner to advertise the close out of the Microseal project. The motion carried unanimously.**

**A motion was made by Alderman Fields, with a second by Alderman Fortenbery, for the city to enter into an agreement with Ridgepoint Consultants to obtain 9 easements for the NRCS projects on Thistledown, Duster Drive, Jeff David Boulevard, George F. West and Homochitto not to exceed \$25,650.00. The motion carried unanimously.**

**A motion was made by Alderman Fields, with a second by Alderwoman Carter Smith, to appoint a selection committee for the Debris Monitoring program. The ad hoc committee would be composed of David Gardner, Donnie Holloway, James Johnston, Tony Fields and Justin Dollar. The motion carried unanimously.**

**A motion was made by Alderman Fortenbery, with a second by Alderman Fields, to approve Supplemental Agreement #2 to increase the monthly payment to Jeffrey Ross Industry Services from \$3,300.00 to \$3,650.00 for grass cutting on certain state highways to include the scales area and the agreement to be executed by the mayor.** Under discussion, the current agreement was set to expire February 2015. Currently \$3,300.00 a month and the supplemental agreement would increase the payment by \$350.00 which would cover Mr. Ross maintaining an additional 8 acres (parcel by the old scales) due to MDOT no longer cutting. Supplemental Agreement #2 would also provide, if contract renewed like last year, for the cost to go from \$3,650.00 to \$4,000.00 a month for a 12 month period which would cover certain state highways.

Mayor Pro Tempore Arceneaux-Mathis asked Mr. Carby if the increase to \$4,000.00 should be covered in another motion. Alderman Gray said that other people would like to have a chance to bid on mowing city property other than just automatically going to Mr. Ross in February 2015. Mr. Carby said that grass cutting was not subject to bid laws. Alderman Fortenbery reminded the BOA how time consuming it was to get bids as city employees took potential grass cutters around. Mr. Gardner said the other option would be to continue through this growing season and end the contract. The increase to \$4,000.00 would be addressed in February 2015 when the current contract expires.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

The BOA agreed to wait to address the increase to \$4,000.00 per month for grass cutting along certain state highways with Jeffrey Ross Industry Services when the contract is up in February 2015.

**A motion was made by Alderman Gray, with a second by Alderman Dillard, to adopt the resolution for the city to abandon the unopened alleyway at MLK, N. Rankin and Madison (adjacent to 603 N. Rankin) with Jacqueline Smith's lawyer to prepare a Quit Claim Deed. The motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Gardner advised that the plans and specifications on the St. Catherine Street Trails project have been submitted. Engineering should receive word in the next two or three weeks to advertise for the project.

*Fire Chief Oliver Stewart, Fire Department*

Chief Stewart reported that 73% of calls were inside the city and 12% percentage was outside.

*Walter Tipton-New Orleans Hotel Consultants*

Mr. Tipton provided an update on upcoming events.

*Justin Dollar, Public Works Department*

Mr. Dollar said that he'd made a site visit to 1 Spruce Street and curb and gutter or a trench drains would be needed to correct drainage issues—he suggested that it be made a part of a large infrastructure project in the future. In response to Alderman Fields, Mr. Dollar had inspected 83.5 Brenham and there is erosion at both corners of the house next to the bayou—piping and a headwall were suggested. Mr. Dollar said not something that the city can do but something for the homeowner to address which would be an easy fix. Alderman Fields said he'd be talking to Mr. Dollar.

*Ed Bower, ITS Department*

**A motion was made by Alderman Dillard, with a second by Alderman Gray, for the city to provide a website redesign and relocation to assist the Chamber of Commerce not to exceed \$3,500.00 which will be paid back in installments as they move through their budget cycle.** Under discussion, Mr. Carby said that this would be viewed as similar donations made to organizations for the promotion of Natchez due to the unique nature of the Chamber of Commerce.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

*Creda Stewart, Interim Tourism Director*

Mrs. Stewart presented her report and Alderwoman Carter Smith thanked her for a job well done as CVB Interim Director.

#### **PUBLIC OFFICIALS**

**Alderman Gray made a motion that the city attorney develop a domestic violence for employees. A second was made by Alderman Fortenbery.** Under discussion, Alderman Fortenbery asked Mr. Carby if there was something in the existing policy to address domestic violence. Mr. Carby said that in the current policy there are penalties for misdemeanors and penalties but he will see if feasible and if so, he'll bring a policy to the BOA.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

Alderman Gray reported:

- Habitat for Humanity handed the keys to 1016 MLK to the Rachel family on August 31<sup>st</sup>.
- he asked Mr. Johnston to contact the county, AFJC and city of Natchez to see if duplicating services as residents are in dire need of services.
- he asked the status of the bean field property. Alderman Fortenbery discussed that the city would need to maintain. Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis asked that the BOA have a discussion in October or November, prior to the legislature going into session, about thoughts of the use of the bean field.
- the grass needed to be cut along the sidewalks on Wilson Lane going to MLK towards the middle school. He asked Mr. Dollar to contact MDOT about cutting the grass.
- residents on Randall had complained about snakes at an abandoned house—it is on the list to be demolished. Mr. Johnston will get the address to Anita Smith.
- would be beneficial to the city to open up insurance bids to other companies.
- he expressed sympathy to Sabrena Bartley and the family of Bernard Riley.

Alderwoman Carter Smith reported that CableOne will have a price increase which would be a sports surcharge. She reminded the audience that AT & T Uverse available.

Alderwoman Carter Smith had spoken with Frankie Legaux for clarification on what an owner of a large property is to do to maintain—some tracts are wooded. An owner with a large property was just fined \$300-the owner left court unclear on what to do. Frankie Legaux will look at how she can write something for the Development Code. Alderman Fortenbery said some people have properties that are 30 and 40 acres inside the city--you can't make people clear cut—there has got to be a way to work out with the owner on how to use as a green space. Alderwoman Carter Smith said suggested if a vacant property next to a neighborhood, perhaps a 20' easement be cut. She asked that the minutes reflect that the BOA had been invited to attend the NWW's Board Meeting on September 16<sup>th</sup> at 5:15 p.m. or have a Special Call Meeting.

**A motion by Alderwoman Carter Smith that BOA was invited by the NWW Board to have a Special Call meeting or attend the NWW board's next meeting which would be on September 16<sup>th</sup> at 5:15 p.m. A second was made by Alderman Fields and carried unanimously.**

Alderman Fields reported that two requests had been made in the Finance Meeting to possibly purchase property adjacent to Concord/Theodore West Park for parking and address the railroad hump. In the Regular Board meeting Robert Green had spoken about restrooms and a water fountain needed at Jack Waite Park. Cost estimates would be received on both.

**A motion was made by Alderman Fields for the Casino Development Fund Advisory Board to be composed of Phillip West, Duncan McFarlane, David Paradise, Kevin Preston, Mary Toles, Tony Heidelberg and Mayor Larry "Butch" Brown and the advisory board to serve through the duration of the current BOA's term. A second was made by Alderman Gray.** Under discussion Alderman Dillard said that one of first things needed would be that bylaws be developed as delegating BOA's duties to an advisory board, etc. He felt that final ratification of any expenditure of funds would come back before the BOA.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

Alderman Fortenbery asked the City Clerk if a date had been chosen to advertise for the budget. Mr. Holloway said the advertisement would run in the paper this week.

Alderman Dillard said part of the budget adoption process was the advertisement of the millage and important that when advertised, the millage be broken down into various components-General Fund which was 22.608, bond and interest, pension, capital improvements, etc. When doing that, the funds are dedicated for those expenditures. His concern was that on the list there were no funds set aside for the upkeep and maintenance of public properties. He would like to see at least 1 mill set aside for public properties.

**A motion was made by Alderman Dillard that the City Clerk advertise the city millage in the format that would be spread on the minutes showing the distribution of items per the millage listed. A second was made by Alderman Fields and carried unanimously.**

Alderwoman Carter Smith advised that she felt that the BOA needed a work session to discuss the 1 mill dedication for public properties as well as other items.

**A motion was made by Alderwoman Carter Smith that a Special Call Budget Work Session be held on Monday, September 15<sup>th</sup> with the time to be determined. A second was made by Alderman Dillard and carried unanimously.**

Alderwoman Arceneaux-Mathis advised that the building that was being removed had provided the south barrier of Madison Street Park. She asked Mr. Dollar to check into another means to enclose the south side of the park.

**A motion was made by Alderman Dillard to confirm the appointment of Kevin Kirby as the CVB Director. A second was made by Alderman Fields and carried unanimously.**

#### **CITY CLERK**

**A motion was made by Alderman Fortenbery, with a second by Alderman Fields, to approve docket #5348-6081.** Under discussion, Alderman Dillard asked Mr. Holloway why +/- \$5,000 for the repair of an ice machine for the Fire Department was taken out of Public Properties versus being taken out of the department's budget as they have unspent funds in their budget. Mr. Holloway said it would be corrected.

**The motion carried with Alderman Dillard voting nay.**

**A motion was made by Alderman Fortenbery for the premium for workman's compensation insurance to be funded through First Insurance to finance \$276,399.00 at 3.8% interest rate. A second was made by Alderman Dillard.** It was clarified that this is the mechanism whereby the workman's comp insurance premium is financed.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**CITY ATTORNEY**

None

Mayor Brown resumed presiding over the meeting.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Humana and Chelsea Clinton's Foundation have teamed up to improve MS health by 20% by 2020. Natchez will be an area that will be included nationally.

**A motion was made by Alderman Dillard, with a second by Alderman Gray, for Mayor Brown to travel to Little Rock as well as a conference in Moline, IL. The expenses for the Moline trip will be an all-expense paid trip. The motion carried with Alderman Fortenbery voting nay.**

A copy of the new Building Permit Fee Structure will be placed in the BOA's boxes and addressed at the next meeting.

Delores Vines, Chairman of the NWW Board, asked that the BOA consider an ordinance to readjust the water and sewer rates. A few needed projects are: Expansion south, a new water tank in the port area for firefighting purposes, treatment of industrial high strength waste water, the need to collect storm water overflow at Highland Blvd., and replacement of old infrastructure. She recognized fellow board commissioners Ken Whittington, Melvin Davis, and Pam Murphy who were in attendance.

**NEW BUSINESS**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

**A motion was made by Alderman Gray, seconded by Alderman Fortenbery, to adjourn the meeting of September 9, 2014. The motion carried unanimously.**

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Larry L. "Butch" Brown  
Mayor

ATTEST:

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Donnie Holloway, City Clerk