

**City of Natchez**  
**Minutes**  
**Mayor and Board of Aldermen**  
**Regular Board Meeting**

---

Tuesday, August 11, 2020

11:00 AM

Natchez Convention Center

---

Board Secretary, Denise Bell

1. Call to Order
2. Moment of Silent Prayer
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Roll Call by City Clerk:

Present: Mayor Dan Gibson  
Alderwoman Hall  
Alderman Frazier  
Alderwoman Smith  
Alderwoman Irving  
Alderman Davis  
Alderman Dillard

Also Present: Attorney, Bryan Callaway

---

**#315:08/20**

**Approve Minutes**

A motion was made by Alderwoman Irving, seconded by Alderwoman Smith to approve the Special Call Board Meeting Minutes held Thursday, June 18, 2020.

Alderwoman Hall: Abstain (Was not a member of the Board at the time of the meeting)

Alderman Frazier: Aye

Alderwoman Smith: Aye

Alderwoman Irving: Aye

Alderman Davis: Aye

Alderman Dillard: Aye

**The vote carried.**

**#316:08/20**

A motion was made by Alderwoman Irving, seconded by Alderman Frazier to approve the Regular Board Meeting Minutes held Tuesday, June 23, 2020, pending a correction.

Alderwoman Hall: Abstain (Was not a member of the Board at the time of the meeting)

Alderman Frazier: Aye

Alderwoman Smith: Aye

Alderwoman Irving: Aye

Alderman Davis: Aye

Alderman Dillard: Aye

**The vote carried.**

**#317:08/20**

A motion was made by Alderwoman Smith, seconded by Alderman Frazier to approve the Regular Board Meeting minutes held Tuesday, July 14, 2020.

Alderwoman Hall: Abstain (Was not a member of the Board at the time of the meeting)

Alderman Frazier: Aye

Alderwoman Smith: Aye

Alderwoman Irving: Aye

Alderman Davis: Aye

Alderman Dillard: Aye

**The vote carried.**

#318:08/20

A motion was made by Alderwoman Irving, seconded by Alderman Davis to approve the Special Call Board Meeting Minutes held Wednesday, July 22, 2020.

Alderwoman Hall: Abstain (Was not a member of the Board at the time of the meeting)

Alderman Frazier: Aye

Alderwoman Smith: Aye

Alderwoman Irving: Aye

Alderman Davis: Aye

Alderman Dillard: Aye

**The vote carried.**

### **The business of the Month- Old South Trading Post**

#319:08/20

#### **Public Hearing - Property Liens**

**Anita Smith- Code Enforcement Officer**

#### **Nuisance Lot Liens**

**Ward 1.** Maple St 733, \$825.00, Lem St 27, \$1538.00; Parker St 115 \$883.00; Reynolds St 14, \$825.00; Maple St 704, \$825.00; Parker St \$485.00; Union St N 911, \$1,745.00; Joiner St 110 \$585.00

**Ward 2.** Rickman St 25, \$585.00; Rickman 23, \$1,160.00; West Stiers Lane 498, \$1,650.00; Watkins St. 1454 \$1,005.00; Wallace Court 6, \$775.00; Oak St E 96 \$725.00; Old Wilson Lane 13, \$650.00

**Ward 3.** Hurricane Rd 305, \$908.00

**Ward 4.** Fletcher St 6,\$825.00; Lincoln St 11, \$825.00; Minor St 51, \$1,750.00; Spring St 2, \$825.00; Dr. MLK 1139, \$1,208.00; Minor St 21, \$525.00; Concord St N 52, \$575.00; Claiborne St 22, \$583.00; Dr. MLK 1024 \$1,210.00; dR. mlk 1124, \$1,785.00; South Concord 51, \$825.00; Woods St 109, \$825.00; William St 23, \$1660.00; St. Catherine St 85, \$485.00; Purnell St 24, \$690.00; Prince St 105, \$585.00; Caddo St 3, \$750.00  
Prince 200, \$825.00; Claiborne St 13 \$595.00, Minor St 19, \$725.00; Dr. ML King N 1037, \$575.00; Lincoln St 3, \$625.00; Minor St 29, \$825.00; Williams St 28, \$1,830.00: William St 22, \$825.00; Oak St E 63 \$585.00; Oak St E 96, \$825, Oak St E 33, \$485.00; ; Oak St 66, \$1,925.00; Dr. MLK N 815, \$3,130; Lincoln St 4, \$925.00;; Dr. MLK N 1141, \$575.00

**Ward 5.** Oakland Dr 126, \$583.00

**Ward 6.** Roselawn Dr. 2724, \$755.00; Circle Dr. S 11, \$625.00

#320:08/20

A motion was made by Alderman Davis, seconded by Alderwoman Irving to open the Public Hearing to discuss nuisance properties.

**The vote carried unanimously.**

#321:08/20

A motion was made by Alderwoman Smith, seconded by Alderwoman Hall to declare all of the properties listed in the staff's memorandum as properties harboring nuisance conditions that violate the Mississippi Code of 1972 and to adopt the Resolutions recommended by the staff to allow the liens to be applied to the property taxes and a copy of the resolution be filed in the County Clerk Office of the Tax Collector, the Circuit Clerk Office, and the Chancery Clerk Office. **The vote carried unanimously.**

#322:08/20

A motion was made by Alderwoman Irving, seconded by Alderman Davis to close the Public Hearing and return to Regular Session.

**The vote carried unanimously.**

**Welcome Visitors**

**Barry Bequette - Discussion on mask mandate**

**Department Director's**

**Fay Minor - Recreation Department**

- **Natchez Adams County Recreation Commission (NACRC)**

• **#323:08/20**

**Chief Armstrong - Police Department**

- **Permission to hire Crossing Guards**

A motion was made by Alderman Frazier, seconded by Alderwoman Smith to allow the Police Chief to hire seven crossing guards. **The vote carried unanimously.**

**FYI: 4 recruits will be graduating from Police Academy this week.**

**#324:08/20**

**James Johnston- Community Development**

**Citywide Water Improvement Project**

**CDBG PF & SRF**

**Staff is *requesting a motion* to approve payment for the following invoice(s) from our consulting engineer and contractor –**

<b>Vendor</b>	<b>Invoice #</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<b>WGK</b>	<b>50138</b>	<b>\$4,900.00</b>

**Note - Natchez Water Works pays the invoices for the consulting engineer w/proceeds from the State Revolving Loan Program.**

A motion was made by Alderwoman Irving, second by Alderman Frazier, to approve payment of invoice 50138 from WGK.

**The vote carried unanimously.**

**#325:08/20**

**Solid Waste Assistance Grant**

**MS Dept. of Environmental Quality**

Staff is asking members of the board if they know of any illegal dumpsites in their respective wards, and if so, to provide me w/the address. Once sites are identified Justin Dollar & I (James Johnston) will tour the identified sites to determine which are feasible to obtain quote bids from area contractors to submit to MDEQ for funding consideration by October 1, 2020. Sites already identified include Ouachita Street and 117 Merrio Street.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Hall, second by Alderwoman Irving.

**The vote carried unanimously.**

**#326:08/20**

**Natchez Railroad at Grade Safety Improvement Program**

**2016 TIGER**

Staff is requesting a motion to approve Reimbursement #18 to the Natchez Railroad as stated below, to allow the mayor to sign the Request for Advance or Reimbursement form to draw down funds from the Federal Railroad Administration, and to authorize the city clerk to issue a check upon receipt of the requested funds –

<b>Payee</b>	<b>Federal Funds</b>	<b>NRR/Local</b>	<b>Total Request</b>
<b>Natchez Railroad</b>	<b>\$233,852.18</b>	<b>\$77,950.72</b>	<b>\$311,802.90</b>

A motion was made by Alderwoman Irving, second by Alderman Davis, to approve the reimbursement and authorize the Mayor to sign the Request for Advance or Reimbursement, as requested.

**The vote carried unanimously.**

**Community Heritage Preservation Grant Program, Round 14**

**HB 1730, Laws of MS 2020**

**MS Dept. of Archives & History**

This past week MDAH released the application and guidelines for this preservation program. IN summary –

- Applicants can be state agencies, local governments, 501.c.3 organizations, etc.
- As in past funding rounds, the minimum match requirement is 20%
  
- No maximum or minimum can be applied for, though there are limited funds available, and MDAH will attempt to spread funds geographically around the entire state.
- Certified Local Government (CLG) communities can use grant funds to apply for projects other than courthouses or schools. Natchez is a CLG community.
- For a property to be considered eligible, the building must be a listed Mississippi Landmark property.
- Funds are historically reimbursed upon project completion during past projects reimbursements have been submitted on a recurring basis.
- Applications are due on or before October 2, 2020
- All preservation work must adhere to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties
- The execution and recording of a 25-year Preservation & Maintenance Covenant is again required to ensure the maintenance and preservation of the building.
- Past projects sponsored by the City have included the preservation of the Auburn Kitchen Dependency, the Auburn Water Intrusion Mitigation Project, and Margaret Martin School.

Staff would like the board to again consider applying for funds to replace the deteriorated modified bitumen roofing system atop the Natchez City Hall with a new TPO or thermoplastic polyolefin roofing system! The Natchez City Hall roofing system is 30+ years old, worn, many times patched, and has several active leaks. Photographs provided depict the existing condition of the roofing system.

Replacing the existing roofing system at Natchez City Hall is an eligible project under the program guidelines because –

- Natchez City Hall is owned by the City of Natchez
- Natchez City Hall is an MS Landmark property (9.11.02)
- Natchez City Hall is a contributing structure in the Natchez On Top of the Hill Historic District (9.17.79)
- Natchez City Hall provides continued public benefit to the residents of Natchez-Adams County because of the numerous municipal services provided – mayor & clerk's office, IT, Engineering Services, Inspection, Planning, storing of records, etc.
- Replacing the old, worn, many times patched roof would be a complete project (which is a requirement of the program).
- The need exists to replace the roofing system and is the highest of three (3) needs categories in the guidelines – Stabilization & Immediate Need!!
- A small patching job was performed by L. Scott Construction in August 2012 at \$3,400.00.
- The last significant patchwork was performed by Rowell Roofing in September 2015 at a cost shy of \$5,000.00 that included the 30 x 30 patch as seen on the aerial photo

Aerial photographs of the existing roofing system courtesy of Curtis Moroney and his drone!

## Scope of Work & Cost Estimate

### A breakdown for Requested Match

#### Next Step...

In order to proceed the mayor & board will need to pass a motion authorizing the preparation and submission of this application, pass a motion to allow the mayor to sign all applicable application documents, agree upon and pass a motion pledging the cash match for this preservation project and pass a motion stating that city officials have read and understood the 'Statement of Understanding' form.

#328:08/20

#### Mayor Dan M. Gibson

- **Natchez - Vidalia Mississippi River Bridge Lighting Project**

A motion was made by Alderwoman Irving, seconded by Alderman Davis to approve the submission of a letter from the Mayor to Mrs. Melinda McGrath, Executive Director, Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT), supporting the Natchez-Vidalia Mississippi River Bridge Lighting Project. **The vote carried unanimously.**

#### Department Director's Report

#329:08/20

#### Justine Dollar-Public Works

- **Requesting approval to allow the Mayor to execute the pre-award package for 1 Cemetery Rd. (Weymouth Hall). The NRCS construction estimate is \$131,000.00.**

A motion was made by Alderwoman Smith, seconded by Alderwoman Irving to take this matter under advisement. **The vote carried unanimously.**

#### City Official Reports

#330:08/20

#### Alderwoman Hall- Ward 1

- **Establishing a Tennis Review Committee to assist with the hiring of personnel.**

A motion was made by Alderwoman Hall, seconded by Alderwoman Smith to establish a tennis review committee to assist Fay Minor, Recreation Director, with the hiring of personnel.

Alderwoman Hall: Aye

Alderman Frazier: Nay

Alderwoman Smith: Aye

Alderwoman Irving: Nay

Alderman Davis: Aye

Alderman Dillard: Aye

**The vote carried.**

#### Alderman Frazier- Ward 2

- Drive-by dinner giveaway.
- Grants to repair the Youth Center and the Red House

#### Alderwoman Smith- Ward 3

- Discuss creating a Tennis Review Team

#### Alderwoman Irving- Ward 4

- Discuss creating a Tennis Review Team
- Distribution of food boxes in Ward 4

City Clerk's Report-Servia Fortenberry

#331:08/20

A motion was made by Alderwoman Hall, seconded by Alderman Davis to approve the **Claims Docket**. (Note: For all future request for reimbursement from the Recreation Department, the invoice must have receipts attached before reimbursements can be paid).

Alderwoman Hall: Aye

Alderman Frazier: Aye

Alderwoman Smith: Aye

Alderwoman Irving: Abstain

Alderman Davis: Aye

Alderman Dillard: Aye

**The vote carried.**

#332:08/20

A motion was made by Alderwoman Smith, seconded by Alderman Davis to **ratify the Mayor's signature approving the City Clerk's travel** to Madison, MS on August 3-4, 2020, to meet with the city's consultant, Wallace Collins of Collins, Barr, & Hembree, Ltd., CPA, regarding preparation for the adoption of FY20-21 Budget and Tax Levy for the City of Natchez, and reimbursement of expenses incurred by the City Clerk.

**The vote carried unanimously.**

#333:08/20

A motion was made by Alderman Dillard, seconded by Alderwoman Irving to approve City Clerk Servia Fortenberry and Deputy City Clerk, Denise Bell's travel to Madison, MS on August 12-13, 2020, to meet with the city's consultant, Wallace Collins of Collins, Barr, & Hembree, Ltd., CPA, regarding preparation for the adoption of FY20-21 Budgeted and Tax Levy for the City of Natchez.

**The vote carried unanimously.**

**Bryan Callaway - City Attorney**

#334:08/20

Discussed efficiency of allowing prior City Attorney, Bob Latham, to assist in litigation Mr. Latham was involved before Mr. Callaway became City Attorney.

A motion was made by Alderman Frazier, seconded by Alderman Dillard to retain the prior City Attorney, Bob Latham.

**The vote carried unanimously.**

**Mayor's Report**

- **COVID-19 Update - Combining the City's Task Force with Natchez Adams County.**
- **Mississippi Bridge Update-covered earlier in the meeting**
- **Shop Local**
- **Approve to hire Richard Burke, Executive Assistant, and Brian Marvel, Community Liaison.**

**Executive Session**

#335:08/20

A motion was made by Alderwoman Smith, seconded by Alderwoman Irving to enter into Executive Session. **The vote carried unanimously.**

**Return to Open Session**

**#336:08/20**

A motion was made by Alderwoman Hall, seconded by Alderwoman Irving to return to open session. **The vote carried unanimously.**

**#337:08/20**

A motion was made by Alderwoman Hall, seconded by Alderwoman Irving to approve the hiring of Richard Burke, Executive Assistant & Brian Marvel, Community Liaison. **The vote carried unanimously.**

**Adjourn**


A motion was made by Alderwoman Irving, seconded by Alderman Davis to adjourn the Regular Board Meeting on August 11, 2020. **The vote carried unanimously.**



---

DAN M. GIBSON, MAYOR

ATTEST:



---

SERVIA FORTENBERRY, CITY CLERK

