

NATCHITOCHEs CITY COUNCIL MEETING

JULY 27, 2009

7:00 P.M.

AGENDA

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **INVOCATION**
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
4. **READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF JULY 13, 2009**
5. **SPECIAL RECOGNITION: Larry Payne - Jameshia Below** - Selected to attend the 63rd American Legion Auxiliary Girls Nation in Washington, D.C.
6. **BIDS – ADVERTISE:**
#082 Mims Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Advertise and Accept Bids for the Rehabilitation of the Grand Ecore Lift Station (Bid #0484)
Committee: Pat Jones, Edd Lee, Larry Payne, Bryan Wimberly, Randal Smoak
7. **PLANNING & ZONING – FINAL:**
#041 Mims Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 64 Of 2001 By Changing Zoning Classification Of Property Described As Follows:

Lot 36 Feet Front East Side Washington Street, North By Lawton, South By Duncelman, From R-1 To R-1, Special Exception, To Operate A Bed And Breakfast (907 Washington Street)
8. **ORDINANCES – INTRODUCTION:**
#043 Nielsen An Ordinance Authorizing The Incurring Of Debt And Issuance Of A Utilities Revenue Bond, Series 2009 In An Amount Not To Exceed \$1,183,000, By The City Of Natchitoches, State Of Louisiana; Employing Bond Counsel, And Providing For Other Matters In Connection Therewith

#044 Morrow An Ordinance Authorizing The City Of Natchitoches, State Of Louisiana, To Borrow Not Exceeding Five Million Dollars (\$5,000,000) Of Utilities Revenue Bonds, Series 2009, For The Purpose Of The Cost Of Constructing And Acquiring Improvements And Extensions To Its Combined Waterworks Plant And System, Electric Power And Light Plant And System, And Sewer System Of Said City; Authorizing The Issuance Of The City's Utilities Revenue Bonds, Series 2009, To Evidence Said Debt; Authorizing The Execution Of A Loan And Pledge Agreement With The Louisiana Department Of Health And Hospitals; Providing For The Sale And Delivery Of Said Bonds To The Louisiana Department Of Health And Hospitals; Prescribing The Form, Fixing The Details And Providing For The Payment Of Principal Of And Interest On Such Bonds And Entering Into Certain Covenants And Agreements In Connection With The Security And Payment Of Said Bonds; And Providing For Other Matters In Connection Therewith
9. **REPORT:**
Financial Report - Pat Jones
10. **RESOLUTIONS:**
#081 McCain Resolution Appointing Alan McMurtry to the Natchitoches Historic District Commission for the City of Natchitoches
11. **OTHER BUSINESS:**
Peggy Glasscock – Animal Shelter
12. **ADJOURNMENT:**

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance, please contact the City Clerk's Office at (318) 352-2772 describing the assistance that is necessary.

If you wish to address the Council, please complete the "Public to Address the Council Meeting" form located on the Clerk's table at the entrance of the meeting room.

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHEs, STATE OF LOUISIANA,
REGULAR MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY, JULY 27, 2009, AT SEVEN O'CLOCK, (7:00) P.M.**

The City Council of the City of Natchitoches met in legal and regular session at the Natchitoches Arts Center, 716 Second Street, Natchitoches, Louisiana, on Monday, July 27, 2009, at 7:00 p.m.

There were present: Councilman at Large, Don Mims, Jr., Councilmen; Jack McCain, Larry Payne, Dale Nielsen and Councilwoman Sylvia Morrow

The Mayor welcomed those in attendance and also the radio audience.

The Mayor asked everyone to rise for the Invocation given by Mr. Michael Braxton, Director of Public Works, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance lead by Mr. Nielsen.

The Mayor then called for the reading of the Minutes. Mr. McCain made a motion to dispense with the Reading of the Minutes, and Ms. Morrow seconded the motion. The roll call vote was as follows:

AYES: McCain, Morrow, Payne, Nielsen, Mims
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None

The Mayor declared the Motion as PASSED.

The Mayor recognized Kathryn Wiggins, granddaughter of Carol Steadman, City Clerk, who was visiting the meeting.

Mr. Larry Payne then introduced Ms. Jameshia Below who recently attended the 63rd American Legion Auxiliary Girls Nation in Washington, D.C., and presented her with a plaque of recognition from the City.

The Meeting continued with Bids, as follows:

The following Resolution was Introduced by Mr. Mims and Seconded by Mr. Nielsen as follows, to-wit:

RESOLUTION NO. 082 OF 2009

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO
ADVERTISE AND ACCEPT BIDS FOR THE REHABILITATION
OF THE GRAND ECORE SEWER LIFT STATION**

(BID NO. 0484)

WHEREAS, the City wishes to advertise for Public Bids for the rehabilitation of the Grand Ecore Sewer Lift Station (Bid No. 0484).

WHEREAS, sealed bid proposals for the project will be received until **4:00 P.M.** on **Monday, August 24, 2009** at the office of Edd Lee, Director of Purchasing, **1400 Sabine Street**, Natchitoches, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, upon receipt of bid proposals, the committee of Pat Jones, Director of Finance; Edd Lee, Director of Purchasing; Larry Payne, Councilman; Bryan Wimberly, Utility Director; and Randal Smoak, Engineer, are to review and make a recommendation of the bids received.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Natchitoches, in legal session convened, that the Honorable Wayne McCullen, Mayor, be and is hereby authorized, empowered and directed to order the publication of the above bid.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the above bids will be awarded at a regularly scheduled meeting of the City Council on September 14, 2009.

This Resolution was then presented for a vote, and the vote was recorded as follows:

AYES:	Mims, Nielsen, McCain, Morrow, Payne
NAYS:	None
ABSENT:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

THEREUPON, the Mayor, Wayne McCullen, declared the Resolution passed by a vote of 5 ayes to 0 nays, this the 27th day of July, 2009.


WAYNE McCULLEN, MAYOR

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed proposals shall be addressed to the City of Natchitoches, Office of the Director of Purchasing, P. O. Box 37, Natchitoches, Louisiana 71457, or received at the City of Natchitoches Purchasing Department, 1400 Sabine Street, Natchitoches, Louisiana for the **Rehabilitation of the Grand Ecore Sewer Lift Station (Bid No.0484)** as described in the Specifications and Drawings.

The City of Natchitoches will accept sealed bids for the project until 4:00 P.M. on August 24, 2009, at the office of the Director of Purchasing, 1400 Sabine Street. All bids shall be plainly marked "**SEALED BID No.0484 - REHABILITATION OF THE GRAND Ecore SEWER LIFT STATION.**" Any bid received after closing time will be returned unopened. Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud this same date at the 7:00 P.M. regularly scheduled City Council Meeting at the Natchitoches City Hall, 716 Second Street, Natchitoches, Louisiana.

If a NONRESIDENT CONTRACTOR bidding on public work in the State of Louisiana is domiciled in a state that provides a percentage preference in favor of CONTRACTORS for the same type work, then every Louisiana resident CONTRACTOR shall be granted the same preference over CONTRACTORS domiciled therein whenever the NONRESIDENT CONTRACTOR bids on public work in Louisiana (LA RS 38:2225). A CONTRACTOR who is a NONRESIDENT of the State of Louisiana must attach a copy of their State's law concerning preferential treatment and their State's percentage of bid preference. This information shall accompany CONTRACTOR'S bid proposal.

When a participating political subdivision lets a contract for a public works project that is to be administered by or paid for, in whole or in part, by said political subdivision's funds, the governing authority of the political subdivision may require, as a condition of letting the contract, that not less than eighty percent (80%) of the persons employed in fulfilling that contract be residents of the State of Louisiana (LA RS 38:2225).

Copies of the Specifications and Contract Documents are on file and open to public inspection at the City of Natchitoches, Office of the Director of Purchasing, 1400 Sabine Street, Natchitoches, Louisiana 71457, and AGC Office, Shreveport, Louisiana.

A set of plans and specifications may be obtained from the ENGINEER - COTHREN, GRAFF, SMOAK ENGINEERING, INC., 116 Highway 1 South, #105, Natchitoches, Louisiana 71457 upon receipt of payment in the amount of **FORTY DOLLARS (\$40.00)** per set. Checks should be made payable to CGS ENGINEERING, INC.

Deposits on the first set of documents furnished bona fide prime bidders will be fully refunded upon return of the documents no later than ten days after receipt of bids. On other sets of documents furnished to bidders, the amount of 0 DOLLARS (\$0) (the deposit less the actual cost of reproduction) will be refunded upon return of the documents no later than ten days after receipt of bids. No refund will be made to non-bidders or sub-bidders.

Each bidder must deposit with his/her bid, security in the amount, for and subject to the conditions provided in the *Information for Bidders*. Sureties used for obtaining bonds must appear as acceptable on the Department of Treasury Circular 570.

The City of Natchitoches reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any informalities in the bidding.

CITY OF NATCHITOCHEs

By: /s/ Wayne McCullen
Title: Mayor

PUBLISH:

July 31, 2009

August 7, 2009

August 14, 2009

* * * * *

The meeting continued with Planning and Zoning, as follows:

The following Ordinance was Introduced by Mr. Mims and Seconded by Mr. Payne as follows, to-wit:

ORDINANCE NO. 041 OF 2009

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 64 OF 2001 BY CHANGING ZONING CLASSIFICATION OF PROPERTY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

LOT 36 FEET FRONT EAST SIDE WASHINGTON STREET, NORTH BY LAWTON, SOUTH BY DUNCKELMAN, FROM R-1 TO R-1, SPECIAL EXCEPTION, TO OPERATE A BED AND BREAKFAST

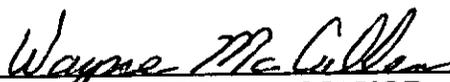
(907 WASHINGTON STREET)

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission of the City of Natchitoches, State of Louisiana, has recommended at their meeting of July 8, 2009 that the request of Dr. Steve Brown to rezone the property described above from **R-1** to **R-1, SPECIAL EXCEPTION**, (variance requested of one (1) of the required (4) off-street parking spaces) to operate a Bed and Breakfast, be **APPROVED**.

The above Ordinance was Introduced by Mr. Mims on the 13th day of July, 2009 and having been duly advertised in accordance with law and a public hearing had on same, was put to a vote by the Mayor and the vote was recorded as follows:

AYES: Mims, Payne, Nielsen, McCain, Morrow
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

THEREUPON, the Mayor declared the Ordinance **PASSED** this 27th day of July, 2009 by a vote of 5 ayes to 0 nays.


WAYNE McCULLEN, MAYOR


DON MIMS, MAYOR PRO TEMPORE

Delivered to the Mayor on the 28th day of July, 2009 at 10:00 A.M.

The meeting continued with Ordinances, as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 043 OF 2009

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE INCURRING OF DEBT AND
ISSUANCE OF A UTILITIES REVENUE BOND, SERIES 2009 IN AN
AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$1,183,000, BY THE CITY OF
NATCHITOCHEs, STATE OF LOUISIANA; EMPLOYING BOND
COUNSEL, AND PROVIDING FOR OTHER MATTERS IN
CONNECTION THEREWITH**

ORDINANCE NO. 044 OF 2009

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHEs, STATE OF LOUISIANA, TO BORROW NOT EXCEEDING FIVE MILLION DOLLARS (\$5,000,000) OF UTILITIES REVENUE BONDS, SERIES 2009, FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE COST OF CONSTRUCTING AND ACQUIRING IMPROVEMENTS AND EXTENSIONS TO ITS COMBINED WATERWORKS PLANT AND SYSTEM, ELECTRIC POWER AND LIGHT PLANT AND SYSTEM, AND SEWER SYSTEM OF SAID CITY; AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF THE CITY'S UTILITIES REVENUE BONDS, SERIES 2009, TO EVIDENCE SAID DEBT; AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A LOAN AND PLEDGE AGREEMENT WITH THE LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HOSPITALS; PROVIDING FOR THE SALE AND DELIVERY OF SAID BONDS TO THE LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HOSPITALS; PRESCRIBING THE FORM, FIXING THE DETAILS AND PROVIDING FOR THE PAYMENT OF PRINCIPAL OF AND INTEREST ON SUCH BONDS AND ENTERING INTO CERTAIN COVENANTS AND AGREEMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE SECURITY AND PAYMENT OF SAID BONDS; AND PROVIDING FOR OTHER MATTERS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH

Mr. Pat Jones presented the Finance Report, a copy of which is attached.

CITY OF NATCHITOCHEES
GENERAL FUND BUDGET REPORT
AS OF MAY 09

	CURRENT MONTH				YEAR TO DATE			
	TOTAL BUDGET 08/09 FY	MONTHLY BUDGET *1	ACTUAL	(OVER) UNDER BUDGET	YTD ACTUAL	ENCUMBRANCES	UNREALIZED AVAILABLE BALANCE	PERCENT RECEIVED/ EXPENSED
REVENUE	12,462,580	1,038,548	1,510,123	471,574.85	11,965,544		497,036	96.01%
EXPENDITURES								
DEPARTMENT:								
CITY HALL / FINANCE	491,055	40,921	81,958	(41,036.78)	481,869		9,186	98.13%
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	494,307	41,192	90,617	(49,424.34)	498,041		(3,734)	100.76%
PLANNING & ZONING	185,499	15,458	31,803	(16,344.89)	180,850		4,649	97.49%
FIRE DEPARTMENT	2,145,068	178,756	246,270	(67,514.60)	2,148,785		(3,717)	100.17%
POLICE DEPARTMENT	3,525,845	293,820	375,328	(81,508.01)	3,365,377		160,468	95.45%
ANIMAL SHELTER	121,175	10,098	12,798	(2,700.43)	103,008		18,167	85.01%
PURCHASING	311,396	25,950	44,581	(18,631.19)	229,356		82,040	73.65%
CITY GARAGE	195,984	16,332	27,024	(10,692.49)	216,283		(20,299)	110.36%
RECREATION *2	977,539	81,462	153,628	(72,166.42)	1,040,363		(62,824)	106.43%
PUBLIC WORKS	1,658,831	138,236	214,887	(76,650.99)	1,569,328		89,503	94.60%
INDIRECT EXPENSE	2,212,476	184,373	191,498	(7,125.43)	1,893,967		318,509	85.60%
PROGRAMMING & PROMOTIONS	143,405	30,677	30,677	0.00	229,563		(86,158)	160.08%
TOTAL GENERAL FUND	12,462,580	1,038,548	1,501,071	(462,522.22)	11,956,790	0	505,790	95.94%

FOOTNOTES:

*1 - 1/12th OF TOTAL BUDGET

*2 - SEASONAL ACTIVITY

% BUDGET YEAR ELAPSED 100%
% BUDGET EXPENDED 96%

CITY OF NATCHITOCHES
UTILITY (PROPRIETARY) FUND BUDGET REPORT
AS OF May 31, 2009

	CURRENT MONTH				YEAR TO DATE			
	TOTAL BUDGET 08/09 FY	MONTHLY BUDGET *1	ACTUAL	(OVER) UNDER BUDGET	YTD ACTUAL	ENCUM- BRANCES	UNREALIZED / AVAILABLE BALANCE	PERCENT RECEIVED/ EXPENSED
REVENUE	37,737,980	3,144,832	1,910,071	(1,234,760.18)	33,790,007		3,947,973	89.54%
EXPENDITURES								
DEPARTMENT:								
UTILITY ADMINISTRATION	326,516	27,210	30,590	(3,380.65)	285,691		40,825	87.50%
WATER	1,613,249	134,437	123,064	11,373.86	1,335,890		277,359	82.81%
SEWER	1,411,514	117,626	116,142	1,484.22	1,377,785		33,729	97.61%
ELECTRIC	25,304,423	2,108,702	2,416,581	(307,879.02)	22,277,930		3,026,493	88.04%
UTILITY BILLING	735,065	61,255	85,969	(24,713.48)	893,674		(158,609)	121.58%
INDIRECT	8,347,213	695,601	847,113	(151,512.14)	7,894,134		453,079	94.57%
TOTAL UTILITY FUND	37,737,980	3,144,832	3,619,459	(474,627.22)	34,065,104	0	3,672,876	90.27%

FOOTNOTES:

*1 - 1/12th OF TOTAL BUDGET

% BUDGET YEAR ELAPSED 100%
 % BUDGET EXPENDED 90%

The meeting continued with Resolutions, as follows:

The Following Resolution was Introduced by Mr. McCain and Seconded by Mr. Mims as follows, to-wit:

RESOLUTION NO. 081 OF 2009

**A RESOLUTION APPOINTING ALAN McMURTRY TO THE
NATCHITOCHES HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
FOR THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES**

WHEREAS, the Mayor of the City of Natchitoches has submitted Alan McMurtry for appointment to the Natchitoches Historic District Commission as follows, to-wit:

WHEREAS FURTHER, Ordinance No. 31 of 1986 of the Natchitoches Code of Ordinances provides that the members of the Commission shall serve at the pleasure of the Mayor with consent of the Council

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Natchitoches that they hereby acknowledge the appointment of Alan McMurtry to the Natchitoches Historic District Commission and hereby approve and consent to same.

This Resolution was then presented for a vote, and the vote was recorded as follows:

AYES: McCain, Mims, Morrow, Payne, Nielsen
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

THEREUPON, the Mayor, Wayne McCullen, declared the Resolution passed by a vote of 5 ayes to 0 nays, this the 27th day of July, 2009.


MAYOR WAYNE McCULLEN

The Mayor asked if there was any further business to be brought before the Council.

Several local citizens addressed the meeting regarding concerns over the animal shelter. Ms. Peggy Glascock said that she has been out recently, and there are many animals per cage and the conditions were deplorable. She recommended changing the type of food. She said that there needs to be more help for care of the animals. She said she understands that the sheriff has offered detention center labor, but it has been turned down, and that he has offered to give land, build a building, and staff a new animal shelter with detention center labor, and they would like to see this done. She asked the Mayor to publish in the paper where the money comes from for the shelter and what fund grants go in. She asked that new runs be built, or that the detention center take it over so the conditions can be better.

Ms. Breanna Magee addressed concerns regarding a dog they had adopted from the shelter that had worms and other health problems to the point that he had to be euthanized. She said she just wants these animals to have a good home, and you can't even go out there because there are dead animals, and others are fighting for food. She said she was willing to head a fundraising effort. The Mayor said he would welcome any assistance.

Ms. Nina Magers, long-time Humane Society member, said she understands that the Sheriff has offered to give land, build a building, and staff it, so there could be more space to take care of the growing population of stray animals, and she would certainly be for that. She said she understands that the local shelter turned down help from the local detention center, and she doesn't know why that happened, but we need a bigger shelter, and she would be in favor of what the Sheriff is willing to do.

Ms. Paige Peoples said the shelter is rampant with disease and parasites, and there are many people who are willing to volunteer for the shelter, but are told no. She said these are people who can help, free of charge to the City, by cleaning, feeding, administering medicines, and interacting with the animals. She said she has tried three times to volunteer, but has been turned away, mostly recently, because the City's attorney would not approve a volunteer form that she could sign so she could not sue the City should she be hurt. She asked why the attorney can't draft a form for the shelter. She said she does know that there are animals suffering in a very unnecessary way, with cats and kittens being kept in an area that has no ventilation, mange-infested dogs that are roaming freely in the shelter fence, and every animal being infested with fleas. She said calls made to the Police Department are met with confusion and indifference, and no one seems to know who is in charge of the maintenance to the grounds. She said she was speaking in hopes that the City and the Police Department will put forth the effort to place the animal shelter in a higher priority.

Ms. Juanita Murphy then addressed the Council, noting that she had spearheaded a campaign to get citizens to vote for our shelter during last year's Shelter Challenge, winning \$2,000.00, and again, this year, winning \$1,000.00 for first place shelter in the state. She stated that during the second contest, she began receiving numerous negative e-mails about the shelter. She said some people stated that they would no longer support the shelter because of the conditions there. She said she has personally seen horrible things at the shelter, and she has reported them to the appropriate people, but has not seen any action to benefit these animals. She said she has contacted everyone she can who has authority over the shelter, and that Don Mims, Councilman, was kind enough to take the time to tour the shelter with her and Kate Pullen with the National ASPCA, and that Kate Pullen helps shelters all over the country. She said she hopes the City will take action in improving the conditions of our shelter because it is outdated, in need of repair, and more often than not, more dangerous to the animals than life on the streets. She said the shelter has become unable to provide adoptable animals because they are in such bad shape, physically, they often die after they are adopted, or people have to spend so much money getting them well that they won't want to adopt from the shelter again. She asked that the City consider Sheriff Victor Jones' offer to have inmates help and lighten the load of the understaffed facility, and also to consider his offer to consolidate the city shelter with a parish shelter to be operated at the detention center.

Mr. Ron Brown commented that he has very limited association with the shelter, but he has been out there a number of times, and it was always satisfactory until their trip in either February or March of this year. He said the situation was deplorable, and they could not stay very long because of the stench. He said the animals were in pitiful condition, and he is all in favor of something being done there. He said he highly recommends using detention center labor as manpower for, hopefully, a new shelter.

The Mayor asked Ms. Tammy Hamm, Shelter Director, if she wished to make any comments. She said she did not at this time.

The Mayor then asked Chief Micky Dove to comment. He said that he has met with several of the people from the Humane Society at different times, and he realizes that they are trying to do a good thing, and trying to help the animals. He noted that the City is like anybody else, and has budget crunches and situations they have to deal with on a regular basis. He stated that the problem with inmates attempting to assist is that it requires some type of guard, and Tammy cannot do it because she's not a commissioned officer. He said that would require an off-duty officer or somebody sitting there, watching these prisoners. He said he has delivered paperwork to Tommy Murchison, City Attorney, on the volunteer program, for him to look at just for liability purposes. He said we have to look to the City's interest as well because you never know what might happen. He advised that Tammy comes and gets the Wal-Mart card from the Police Department weekly to go and buy the dog food

for the dogs. He also said that he has gone out to the shelter and done spot inspections, and when he's gone out there, the cages have been clean.

The Mayor advised that he was meeting with the Sheriff the next morning, and he would explore some of these options just to see what can be done from his standpoint, and what he's willing to do to partner with the City of Natchitoches to see if something can be done, maybe on a parish basis to relieve some of the burden. He said he is aware that there are more animals at the shelter than they have ever had, and with more animals, the conditions are going to become deplorable. He said they will do everything they can to give Tammy the tools and support to make this shelter something to be proud of. He said he is not sure what the obstacles will be from a liability standpoint for volunteers, but they will work to try to resolve any issues for volunteers. He said, personally, he would welcome anyone helping.

The Mayor asked that a couple of people be appointed from the group of citizens in attendance to work with him and the Council to look at some of the issues and what can be done to resolve some of those issues. The Mayor commended the Humane Society for their efforts, and encouraged them to keep the commitment they have had, and the City will try to work with them to a greater extent.

Ms. Sue Hatley, Humane Society President, addressed the meeting, saying she has met with Chief Dove, and they discussed a lot of problems. She advised that the Humane Society has expended about \$50,000.00 in the last year and a half, with a large portion of that going to spaying and neutering. She said there are a lot of people who want their animals spayed and neutered, and that is the only key, because there are more and more animals coming in every day and there is no way to take care of them with the facilities we have.

The Mayor said he hopes that everyone understands the challenge the City has because people are bringing pets in from out in the parish, trying to drop them off, and even other parishes calling, asking us to take their animals. He said the City is just limited in personnel, the facility, and the capability to do that, but they are certainly going to work within their parameters to try to improve that situation.

Ms. Morrow commended the group for coming out, and said she takes prudence of what has been said. She said they do care about the animals in Natchitoches, and something does need to be done.

Mr. Nielsen said it has been a while since he's been to the shelter, but he did notice when he was out there in September that there were an awful lot of dogs for the facility, and it's very difficult to maintain the shelter and go out and pick them up. He said the City is certainly willing to do their part, and thanked the group for coming.

Mr. Mims said he has had an opportunity to go to the shelter on a couple of occasions, and he knows that Tammy is doing the best she can, under the situation. He then asked the members of the Council to go out there and see what is being discussed, because it is truly deplorable for the animals. He said he is in 100 percent support of what the group is trying to do. He said he hoped they could work together with the Sheriff and come to a city/parish type organization because more money would be available and they could build a bigger facility.

Mr. Nielsen announced National Night Out on August 4th, and invited everyone to get out and meet their neighbors.

Ms. Morrow voiced concerns about the delays in funding for the Ben D. Johnson Park, and asked for six basketball goals because there has not been any recreation in that area for the last three years for the students. She said they have to have recreation in the neighborhood for the students. She asked Mr. Randy LaCaze, Director of Community Development, for a timeline on completion of the park, if he had any information. Mr. LaCaze said he thinks that things are still two and three years behind normal schedule following Katrina and Rita. He said the most recent Capital Outlay Bill that came out of the Legislature shows how slim the funding was on a lot of stuff in North Louisiana, and he feels that we are in line for funding, and when it flows, we will get some money.

Ms. Morrow voiced an additional concern about a person who has worked for the City Police Department for over 25 years, and they have not been promoted or given a raise warranted by recent testing for promotion. She asked Chief Dove to get back with her and let her know what is going to be done about this matter.

There being no further business, Mr. Mims made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Mr. McCain seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.


MAYOR WAYNE McCULLEN


MAYOR PRO TEMPORE