

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHEs, STATE OF LOUISIANA,
REGULAR MEETING HELD ON
Monday, August 23, 2021 at 5:30 P.M.**

The City Council of the City of Natchitoches met in legal and regular session at the Natchitoches Council Chambers, 716 Second Street, Natchitoches, Louisiana on Monday, August 23, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

There were present:

Mayor Ronnie Williams
Councilwoman At Large Betty Sawyer-Smith
Councilman Eddie Harrington
Councilman Dale Nielsen
Councilwoman Rosemary Elie
Councilman Christopher Petite

Guests: Brandon Rachal signed as an undrafted free agent with Brooklyn Nets Summer League.
Absent: None

Mayor Ronnie Williams called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone for coming. Pastor Steven Harris led the invocation and Councilman Harrington led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Ronnie Williams then called for the reading and approval of the minutes for the August 9, 2021 meeting. Mrs. Smith moved that we dispense with the reading of the minutes and approval of same. Seconded by Mr. Harrington, a roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes:	Elie, Nielsen, Smith, Harrington, Petite
Nays:	None
Absent:	None
Abstain:	None

Councilwoman At Large Smith moved to amend the agenda to include line item 6. Seconded by Councilman Nielsen. To honor and remember Former Councilwoman Sylvia Morrow. Ms. Morrow was the first female Councilmember and served District 3 for 20 years.

a roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes:	Elie, Nielsen, Smith, Harrington, Petite
Nays:	None
Absent:	None
Abstain:	None

Words of Sentiment for the late Sylvia Morrow were expressed by the following:

Gwen Hardision-Antee, Precious Barber, Councilman Harrington, and Councilman Nielsen, followed by a moment of silence in her honor.

Special Recognitions:

- Daryl Walker -1st place Winner Central City BBQ Team
- Track and Field Participants at the 2021 AAU National Meet

The following Ordinance was Introduced by Mr. Petite and Seconded by Mrs. Smith as follows, to-wit:

ORDINANCE NO. 042 OF 2021

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES, RONNIE WILLIAMS, TO EXECUTE A LEASE IN FAVOR OF THE LOUISIANA AGRICULTURAL FINANCE AUTHORITY, OF THAT PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE NATCHITOCHES REGIONAL AIRPORT, DESCRIBED AS LOT 10, AND FURTHER PROVIDING FOR ADVERTISING OF THE LEASE AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City of Natchitoches is the owner of those lots shown on the Airport Layout Plan, which said lots are available for lease, and more particularly is the owner of Lot 10 of the Natchitoches Regional Airport as is shown on a lease map by Alliance Inc. dated October 1993 as revised in April 2001; and

WHEREAS, the Airport Manager has negotiated the terms of a lease to the Louisiana Agricultural Finance Agency, of that property described as Lot 10 of the Natchitoches Regional Airport; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the terms of the lease are for a ten (10) year period with consideration of One Thousand One Hundred Seventy-Four and 30/100 (\$1,174.30) Dollars per year, all as set forth in the attached Lease Agreement by and between the City of Natchitoches, and Louisiana Agricultural Finance Agency; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the City desires to lease lot 10 to Louisiana Agricultural Finance Authority, under the terms set forth above and more particularly set forth in the lease attached hereto.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council in legal session convened as follows:

(1) That after due proceedings and advertisement, the said City does lease Lot 10 of the Natchitoches Regional Airport to Louisiana Agricultural Finance Authority, for the term of ten (10) years with the annual consideration of One Thousand One Hundred Seventy-Four and 30/100 (\$1,174.30) Dollars.

(2) That notice of this proposed ordinance be published three (3) times in fifteen (15) days, one (1) week apart, in the Natchitoches Times, the legal journal for the City, and that ordinance be posted in the City Hall.

(3) That any opposition to this ordinance shall be made in writing, filed with the Clerk for the City of Natchitoches within fifteen (15) days after the first publication of this ordinance, and that a public hearing be held after the advertisements have been completed.

(4) That the Mayor, Ronnie Williams, be and he is hereby authorized, after due proceedings had, and after the legal delays have run, to execute a lease in favor of Louisiana Agricultural Finance Authority, leasing Lot 10 of the Natchitoches Regional Airport for the term of Ten (10) years.

(5) That the City Clerk be authorized to advertise this proposed lease in accordance with law, i.e., three times in fifteen days, one week apart and to report to the City Council if any opposition is made in writing prior to the time of final adoption.

(6) That the City takes cognizance of the fact that the property described above is not needed for public purposes by the City.

THIS ORDINANCE was introduced on July 26, 2021 and published in the *Natchitoches Times* on July 29, August 5 and August 12, 2021.

The above Ordinance having been duly advertised in accordance with law and public hearing had on same, was put to a vote by the Mayor and the vote was recorded as follows:

AYES:	Elie, Nielsen, Smith, Harrington, Petite
NAYS:	None
ABSENT:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

THEREUPON, Mayor Ronnie Williams, Jr., declared the Ordinance passed by a vote of 5 Ayes to 0 Nays this 23rd day of August, 2021.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

BETTY SMITH, MAYOR PRO TEMPORE

Delivered to the Mayor on the 24th day of August, 2021 at 10:00 A.M.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mrs. Elie and Seconded by Mrs. Smith as follows, to –
wit:

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 072

Date: August 23, 2021

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Title 2 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950 provides that cities, towns, parishes, and other political subdivisions of this State may separately or jointly acquire, establish, construct, expand, own, lease, control, equip, improve, maintain, operate, regulate, and police airports and landing fields for the use of aircraft; and,

WHEREAS, the State of Louisiana, Department of Transportation and Development, Division of Aviation (formerly the LA DOTD-OAPT) is charged by Title 2 with the responsibility for the development of aviation facilities within the State to foster air commerce and to safeguard the interests of those engaged in all phases of the aviation industry and of the general public; and,

WHEREAS, the *City of Natchitoches*, hereinafter referred to as “Sponsor”, has completed an FAA and DOTD approved Master Plan, Action Plan, and/or Airport Layout Plan which outlines the specific future development of the Natchitoches Regional Airport; and, the Sponsor is desirous of implementing a portion of the approved Plan recommendations which provide for the critically needed improvements as stated below to substantially improve the safety and usability of the Airport, but does not have sufficient funds of its own required for completing the needed improvements; and,

WHEREAS, the LA DOTD, Division of Aviation is authorized by Title 2 to expend funds for the construction or enlargement of airports for the safety and advancement of aeronautics;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

SECTION I.

That the Sponsor does hereby formally request that the LA DOTD, Division of Aviation provide funds required to complete the airport improvements at the Natchitoches Regional Airport specifically as described in the Capital Improvement Program Application for State Financial Assistance dated August 23, 2021:

SECTION II.

That the said LA DOTD, Division of Aviation be and is hereby assured that all necessary servitudes, rights-of-way, rights of ingress and egress and means thereof will be furnished by the Sponsor and the titles thereto will be valid and indefeasible, and that the Sponsor will assume ownership, financial reporting, and complete responsibility for the maintenance and upkeep of the airport after completion of said improvement.

SECTION III.

That the Sponsor will save and hold the said LA DOTD, Division of Aviation, its officers, agents, and employees harmless from any liability or claim for damages arising out of the project, including death or injuries to third parties including, but not limited to, liability or claim for damages out of the negligence of said LA DOTD, Division of Aviation, its officers, agents, or employees, and expressly agrees to defend any suit of any nature brought against the LA DOTD, Division of Aviation as a result of this project.

SECTION IV.

That the *Mayor* of the Sponsor be and is hereby authorized and directed to evidence this agreement by affixing his signature at the place provided therefore on this resolution and on subsequent related documents/agreements as required by the rules and regulations of the Federal Aviation Administration and the State of Louisiana and the Clerk is hereby authorized to attest said execution.

The aforesaid resolution, having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was follows:

YEAS: Elie, Nielsen, Smith, Harrington, Petite

NAYS: None

ABESENT: None

WHEREUPON, the Resolution was declared adopted on the 23rd day of August, 2021.

CITY OF NATCHITOCHEs

BY: _____
(Signature)

Ronnie Williams, Jr.
(Typed or Printed Name)

TITLE: Mayor

ATTEST:

(Signature)

TITLE: Clerk

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Nielsen and Seconded by Mrs. Smith as follows, to –wit:

RESOLUTION NO. 073 OF 2021

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR
TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR LIQUID CHLORINE
FOR THE WATER TREATMENT PLANT**

BID NO. 0643

WHEREAS, the City wishes to advertise for bids for Liquid Chlorine for the Water Treatment Plant, Bid No. 0643; and

WHEREAS, sealed proposals shall be addressed to the City of Natchitoches, Office of the Director of Purchasing, City of Natchitoches Purchasing Department, 1400 Sabine Street, Natchitoches, Louisiana, 71457; and

WHEREAS, the City of Natchitoches will accept sealed and electronic bids for the project until 2:00 pm on Monday, September 27, 2021 at the Office of the Director of Purchasing, 1400 Sabine Street; and

WHEREAS, bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at 2:00 pm, on Monday, September 27, 2021 held at the above mentioned Office of the Director of Purchasing; and

WHEREAS, upon receipt of proposals the committee of Debbie Miley, Director of Finance; Edd Lee, Director of Purchasing; Eddie Harrington, Councilman; and Matt Anderson, Utility Director, 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 Ronnie Williams, Jr., Mayor, be and is hereby authorized, empowered and directed to order the publication of the above bid.

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

AYES:	Elie, Nielsen, Smith, Harrington, Petite
NAYS:	None
ABSENT:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

THEREUPON, Mayor Ronnie Williams, Jr., declared the Resolution passed by a vote of 5 Ayes to 0 Nays on this 23rd day of August, 2021.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

The following Resolution was introduced by Mrs. Smith and Seconded by Mr. Nielsen as follows, to –wit:

RESOLUTION NO. 074 OF 2021

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR
TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR CAUSTIC SODA
FOR THE WATER TREATMENT PLANT**

BID NO. 0642

WHEREAS, the City wishes to advertise for bids for Caustic Soda for the Water Treatment Plant, Bid No. 0642; and

WHEREAS, sealed proposals shall be addressed to the City of Natchitoches, Office of the Director of Purchasing, City of Natchitoches Purchasing Department, 1400 Sabine Street, Natchitoches, Louisiana, 71457; and

WHEREAS, the City of Natchitoches will accept sealed and electronic bids for the project until 2:00 pm on Monday, September 20, 2021 at the Office of the Director of Purchasing, 1400 Sabine Street; and

WHEREAS, bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at 2:00 pm, on Monday, September 20, 2021 held at the above mentioned Office of the Director of Purchasing; and

WHEREAS, upon receipt of proposals the committee of Debbie Miley, Director of Finance; Edd Lee, Director of Purchasing; Christopher Petite, Councilman; and Matt Anderson, Utility Director, 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 Ronnie Williams, Jr., Mayor, be and is hereby authorized, empowered and directed to order the publication of the above bid.

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

AYES:	Elie, Nielsen, Smith, Harrington, Petite
NAYS:	None
ABSENT:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

THEREUPON, Mayor Ronnie Williams, Jr., declared the Resolution passed by a vote of 5 Ayes to 0 Nays on this 23rd day of August, 2021.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Harrington and Seconded by Mr. Petite as follows, to –wit:

RESOLUTION NO. 075 OF 2021

A RESOLUTION APPROVING A TEMPORARY SITE LICENSE WITH NEW CINGULAR WIRELESS PCS AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHEES, RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., TO EXECUTE SAME ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHEES, LOUISIANA

WHEREAS, the City of Natchitoches has negotiated a Temporary Site License (sometimes hereinafter “Agreement”) with New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC (sometimes hereinafter “Cingular”), which will allow Cingular to temporarily locate communications transmitting and receiving equipment on property of the City of Natchitoches, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the Agreement would provide for improved communications for citizens of and visitors to the City of Natchitoches during a period of increased tourism from October 18, 2021 through January 10, 2022; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the City Council of the City of Natchitoches is of the opinion that the Agreement will be beneficial to the citizens of the City of Natchitoches as well as visitors to the City as the increase in effective cellular communication will result in an increase safety of citizens and visitors as well as convenience to citizens and visitors; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the City Council of the City of Natchitoches, Louisiana has reviewed and approved the attached Temporary Site License, has approved same and desires to authorize the Mayor, Ronnie Williams, Jr., to execute same; and

NOW THEREFORE be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Natchitoches, that the attached Temporary Site License is approved and that the Mayor of the City of Natchitoches, Ronnie Williams, Jr., is hereby authorized to execute the attached Temporary Site License.

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

AYES: Elie, Nielsen, Smith, Harrington, Petite
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

THEREUPON, Mayor Ronnie Williams, Jr., declared the Resolution passed by a vote of 5 Ayes to 0 Nays on this 23rd day of August, 2021.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

Edd Lee explained need and use for a Temporary Site during the Christmas Festival season to provide cellular service on an otherwise crowded network during this time.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Petite and Seconded by Mrs. Smith as follows, to –
wit:

RESOLUTION NO. 076 OF 2021

**A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE MAYOR’S APPOINTMENT
FOR CHIEF OF POLICE FOR THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES**

WHEREAS, Section 4.04 of the Home Rule Charter provides that the head of the Police Department shall be the Police Chief, who shall be appointed by the Mayor, subject to confirmation by the Council, in accordance with applicable state law; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, The City Council desires to confirm the appointment and promotion of Captain Nikeo K. Collins as Police Chief upon the recommendation of the Mayor.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council in legal session convened, that the promotion and appointment of Captain Nikeo K. Collins to the position of Police Chief for the City of Natchitoches is hereby approved.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the duties of the Chief of Police shall be those duties as set forth in Section 4.04 of the Home Rule Charter.

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

AYES: Elie, Nielsen, Smith, Harrington, Petite
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

THEREUPON, Mayor Ronnie Williams, Jr., declared the Resolution passed by a vote of 5 Ayes to 0 Nays on this 23rd day of August, 2021.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

Interim Captain Nikeo Collins introduced himself and provided background on his 27 years of service to the City Natchitoches Police Department.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Petite and Seconded by Mrs. Elie as follows, to –wit:

RESOLUTION NO. 077 OF 2021

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING MAYOR RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., TO HIRE CAROLLO ENGINEERS, MAVA ENGINEERING, LLC, EJES INC., AND SHULER CONSULTING COMPANY FOR GRANT APPLICATION SUBMITTED TO THE LOUISIANA DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION FOR FUNDING UNDER WATER SECTOR PROGRAM.

WHEREAS, the City of Natchitoches is desirous of submitting an application to the Louisiana, Division of Administration for funding under Water Sector Program; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the application is to seek grant funding and/or revenue for rehabilitation of Water Plant 3 and development of Water Plant 4; and

WHEREAS, the necessary scope of work to be implemented by, Carollo Engineers (lead engineer) and assisted by, MAVA Engineering, LLC EJES Inc., and Shuler Consulting Company included but not limited to as follows:

1. Breakdown of Total Grant Request between activities, i.e. construction, acquisition, etc.
2. A detailed cost estimate identifying all project costs, sources of funding, items addressing identified resiliency issues, etc.
3. Co-development of a financial strategy, as well as workforce development plan for sustainability of new system.
4. Completed preliminary engineering report
5. Documentation of system violations, issues, and complaints from users
6. List of system violations and issues that will be addressed by completion of proposed project
7. Review/update system improvement plan as appropriate.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Natchitoches has hired Carollo Engineers, MAVA Engineering, LLC EJES Inc., and Shuler Consulting Company to provide engineering services relative to the Water Sector Program Grant.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Natchitoches offers its full support of a grant application submitted by the City of Natchitoches to the Louisiana Division of Administration for funding under the Water Sector Program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Mayor Ronnie Williams, Jr., is hereby authorized to sign the grant application on behalf of the City of Natchitoches.

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

AYES: Elie, Petite
NAYS: Smith, Harrington, Nielsen
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

THEREUPON, Mayor Ronnie Williams, Jr., declared the Resolution **FAILED** by a vote of 2 Ayes to 3 Nays on this 23rd day of August, 2021.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

Paul Walker and Victor Winston spoke on behalf of their respective firms in regards to Resolution No. 077 of 2021.

Matt Anderson explained that the water plants are operating above capacity. There are several things that could go wrong to cause the water plant to fail.

Randy LaCaze spoke in reference to the Water Sector Program and Grants.

Nicole Gray gave information on Grant and Proposal Management scoring criteria requires a Preliminary Engineering Report and System Improvement Plan.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Harrington and Seconded by Mr. Nielsen as follows, to –wit:

RESOLUTION NO. 078 OF 2021

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHEES, STATE OF LOUISIANA, PROVIDING FOR THE CREATION OF A MASTER PLAN FOR THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHEES IN COOPERATION WITH THE PARISH OF NATCHITOCHEES, TO THE EXTENT THE PARTIES ARE ABLE TO AGREE UPON A COST-SHARING STRUCTURE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION THEREOF, AND PROVIDING FOR OTHER MATTERS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH.

WHEREAS, the City of Natchitoches (the “City”) desires to produce a master plan for economic development in cooperation with the Parish of Natchitoches (the “Parish”) through the employment of Tipton Associates (the “Consultant”); and

WHEREAS, the Consultant is an expert in the field of economic planning and can provide good and valuable services to assist the City in developing a master plan to promote economic development; and

WHEREAS, in the event the Parish is unable to reach an agreement with the City regarding the production of a master plan, the City desires to proceed on its own with employment of the Consultant; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of this Governing Authority to approve the initial employment of the Consultant pursuant to the terms and conditions of a written contract attached hereto as Exhibit “A”;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Natchitoches, in due, regular and legal session convened that the Mayor is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement on behalf of the City of Natchitoches (the “City”) with Tipton Associates (the “Consultant”) and/or the Parish of Natchitoches (the “Parish”) to develop a master plan for economic development for the City and/or Parish, substantially in accordance with the terms and conditions of the draft thereof attached hereto as Exhibit “A”.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if any provision or item of this resolution or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items or applications of this resolution which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items or applications, and to this end, the provisions of this resolution are hereby declared to be severable.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all resolutions or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM:

City Attorney’s Office

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

AYES: Elie, Nielsen, Smith, Harrington, Petite
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

THEREUPON, Mayor Ronnie Williams, Jr., declared the Resolution passed by a vote of 5 Ayes to 0 Nays on this 23rd day of August, 2021.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

Merchant McIntyre & Associates. LLC update provided by Mayor Ronnie Williams Jr.

Financial Report by Debbie Miley

Announcements:

- Next Scheduled City Council meeting will be **Monday, September 13, 2021.**
- The City of Natchitoches offices will be closed on **Friday, September 3, 2021** for Employee Appreciation Day and **Monday, September 6, 2021** in honor of Labor Day.
- Run for Burt **October 2nd, at 10AM**
- Kiwanis 5K Color Run **October 9th, at 8AM**

With no further discussion, Mayor Williams made a motion for adjournment and all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

_____/s/_____
RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

_____/s/_____
BETTY SMITH, MAYOR PRO-TEMPORE

