

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
OF THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHEs, STATE OF LOUISIANA,  
REGULAR MEETING HELD ON  
Monday, January 25, 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, January 25, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

There were present:

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

Guests: None

Absent: None

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

Councilwoman At Large Betty Smith then called for the reading and approval of the minutes for the January 11, 2021 meeting. Mrs. Smith moved that we dispense with the reading of the minutes and approval of same. Seconded by Mr. Neilson, a roll call vote was as follows:

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

A motion was made by Mrs. Smith to amend the agenda to add the May 31, 2020 Audit Report, Seconded by Mr. Harrington, and the vote was recorded as follows:

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

**The Audit Report** was presented by Jessica Broadway (May 31, 2020 Audit Report) Jessica Broadway reviewed Audit findings.

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

**ORDINANCE NO. 065 OF 2020**

**AN ORDINANCE DECLARING CERTAIN BUILDINGS UNSAFE AND RECOMMENDING THAT SAME BE DEMOLISHED OR PUT INTO REPAIR TO COMPLY WITH THE BUILDING CODE, AUTHORIZING NOTICE TO BE SERVED, FIXING HEARING DATE AND APPOINTING CURATOR TO REPRESENT ABSENTEES**

**WHEREAS**, the City Building Inspector and the Director of Planning & Zoning have filed written reports with the City Council declaring that the buildings listed below are in a dangerous and unsanitary condition which makes them unsafe and endangering the public welfare, and recommending that said buildings be demolished or put in repair to comply with the Building Code, to-wit:

1. Freddy L Bonner  
1003 Clarence Dr.  
Natchitoches, LA 71457  
**Lot 30 of Briarwood Subd. Unit #3 (1003 Clarence Dr.)**
2. Bridget Michelle Demars  
1114 Grayson  
Natchitoches, LA 71457  
**Lot 10 Block F of Natchitoches HGTS. (606 Sabine Alley)**
3. Patrice J. Shepherd  
3362 Oak Drive SE  
Conyers, GA 30013  
**Lot 11 Block C of Pinehurst Addition (421 Julia)**
4. Jacqueline Parker  
816 Levy St.  
Natchitoches, LA 71457  
**Lot 5 & 6 Block D & Lot 12 Block C of Pinehurst Addition (420 Julia)**
5. Marvin C. Rachal  
1120 Welch Street  
Natchitoches, LA 71457  
**Lot 9 Block 1 of Lincoln Add. (1413 Dixie St.)**

**THIS ORDINANCE** was introduced on December 14, 2020 and published in the *Natchitoches Times* on December 17, 2020.

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 25th day of January, 2021.

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**RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR**

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**BETTY SMITH, MAYOR PRO TEMPORE**

Delivered to the Mayor on the 26<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2021 at 10:00 A.M.

Shontrell Roque, Director of Planning and Zoning, provided an update on the properties listed in Ordinance No. 065 of 2020.

Councilman Harrington motioned to amend the agenda for the policy and procedure of ordinance 001of 2021, seconded by Councilwoman at Large Betty Smith, and a roll call vote was as follows:

<b>Ayes:</b>	<b>Elie, Nielsen, Smith, Harrington, Petite</b>
<b>Nays:</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>Absent:</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>Abstain:</b>	<b>None</b>

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

**ORDINANCE NO. 001 OF 2021**

**AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE POLICY AND PROCEDURE FOR APPLICATIONS FOR REBATE OF SALES AND USE TAXES FOR NATCHITOCHEs ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT A AND C, STATE OF LOUISIANA, PROVIDING FOR ADVERTISING, FURTHER PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, AND FURTHER PROVIDING FOR A REPEALER AND EFFECTIVE DATE OF ORDINANCE.**

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Ordinance Number 46 of 2019, adopted November 12, 2019, the City Council of the City of Natchitoches, acting as the governing authority of the “Natchitoches Economic Development District A, State of Louisiana, (“District A”) levied a one percent sales and use tax (“District A Sales and Use Tax”) in District A to finance economic development projects in accordance with La. R.S. 33:9038.39; and

**WHEREAS FURTHER**, pursuant to Ordinance Number 23 of 2019, adopted September 23, 2019, the City Council of the City of Natchitoches, acting as the governing authority of the “Natchitoches Economic Development District C, State of Louisiana, (“District C”) levied a one percent sales and use tax (“District C Sales and Use Tax”) in District C to finance economic development projects in accordance with La. R.S. 33:9038.39; and

**WHEREAS FURTHER**, both Ordinance Number 23 of 2019 and Ordinance Number 46 of 2019 authorize the Natchitoches Tax Commission to collect the District A Sales Tax and the District C Sales Tax, and

**WHEREAS FURTHER**, during the course of the public meetings a concern was raised that the additional one cent use tax could discourage future investment, renovations and construction in both District A and District C; and

**WHEREAS FURTHER**, in response to those concerns and in an attempt to provide incentive for additional investment, renovation and construction in both District A and District C, the Natchitoches Tax Commission (“Tax Commission”) was requested to develop a program and policy for the rebate of the one percent sales/use tax under certain conditions; and

**WHEREAS FURTHER**, in response to the request from the City of Natchitoches, the Tax Commission developed a policy and procedure entitled “Natchitoches Economic Development District A and C, State of Louisiana, 1% Abatement Program, City of Natchitoches Sales/Use Tax Rebate” (“Rebate Program”), a copy of which is attached hereto; and

**WHEREAS FURTHER**, the Rebate Program provides that the City of Natchitoches will accept claims and issue rebates for District A Sales and Use Tax and District C Sales and Use Tax paid on supplies, materials, machinery, and equipment purchased during the rebate period to be used on the approved site as indicated on a planning/zoning permit report; and

**WHEREAS FURTHER**, the City Council of the City of Natchitoches desires to approve the rebate of sales and use taxes paid under District A Sales and Use Tax and District C Sales and Use Tax described above, and further approve the Rebate Program developed by the Tax Commission; and

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED**, that the City Council of the City of Natchitoches finds that a rebate program for certain sales and use taxes paid under Ordinance Number 23 of 2019 and Ordinance Number 46 of 2019 is necessary in order to encourage development in District A and District C.

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED**, that the program to allow for the rebate or abatement of sales and use taxes paid for District A Sales and Use Tax and District C Sales and Use Tax as developed by the Tax Commission be approved.

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED**, that the policy and procedure for applications for rebate of sales and use taxes attached hereto be approved and adopted.

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED** that all Ordinances or parts of Ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED** that if any portion of this Ordinance is declared to be invalid or unconstitutional in any manner, the invalidity shall be limited to that particular section or provision, and shall not affect the remaining portions of the ordinance, which shall remain valid and enforceable, it being the intention of the City Council that each separate provision shall be deemed independent of all other provisions herein.

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED** that this Ordinance shall go into effect upon publication and in accordance with law, but its application shall be retroactive to the date that the Tax Commission began collecting taxes under Ordinance Number 23 of 2019 and Ordinance



Number 46 of 2019.

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 25th day of January, 2021.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**BETTY SMITH, MAYOR PRO TEMPORE**

Delivered to the Mayor on the 26<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2021 at 10:00 A.M.

Tax Commissioner, Mr. McWherter explained the Tax Rebate and the new amended amount of the Rebate. Taxes will have to be paid in full in order to receive the rebate. A vote to amend the policy and procedure document in terms of dollar amount reduced by half from \$10,204 to \$5,102.

The amendment was offered and adopted.

The following Ordinance was introduced by Mr. Nielsen and seconded by Mr. Harrington at the as follows:

**ORDINANCE NO. 005 OF 2021**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2020 - 2021 BUDGET TO REFLECT ADDITIONAL REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES**

**WHEREAS**, Louisiana Statute (R.S. 39:1310-1311) requires that the City amend its operating budgets when fund balance is being budgeted, and there is a 5% unfavorable variance in revenues and expenditures and

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with L.R.S. 39:1305, the following specifies the Mayor's authority to make budgetary amendments without approval of the governing authority, as well as those powers reserved solely to the governing authority.

**The Home Rule Charter of the City** of Natchitoches states in part "...at any time during the fiscal year the Mayor may transfer part or all of any unencumbered appropriation balance among programs within a department, office or agency upon written request by the Mayor, the Council may by ordinance transfer part or all of any unencumbered appropriation department, office or agency to be submitted to the Council for approval by ordinance. (Section 5.05 A-C)

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the fund budget be amended to reflect these additional revenues and expenditures as follows:

<b>Fund 002</b>	<b>Utility Indirect</b>			
<b>Expense</b>				
002-6600-660-4571	Capial Projects	\$ 300,000	\$ (100,000)	\$ 200,000
002-6600-660-3521	Christmas Festival	\$ 75,000	\$ (50,000)	\$ 25,000
002-6600-660-4501	General Fund	\$ 4,821,000	\$ (50,000)	\$ 4,771,000
	Auto Mall Capital Project			
002-6200-620-9208		\$ -	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 5,196,000</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 5,196,000</b>

THIS ORDINANCE was introduced on January 11, 2021 and published in the Natchitoches Times on January 16, 2021.

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

**AYES: Elie, Smith, Petite, Nielsen, Harrington**

**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 25th day of January, 2021.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Ronnie Williams, Jr., Mayor**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Betty Smith, Mayor Pro Tempore**

**Delivered to the Mayor on the 26th day of January, 2021 at 10:00 A.M.**

Finance Director, Debbie Miley explained Ordinance 005 where funding was moved to cover storm cost. Once Fema funds are received, funds will be returned to General Funds.

The following Ordinance was Introduced by Mr. Harrington at the January 25, 2021 City Council meeting as follows:

**ORDINANCE NO. 006 OF 2021**

**AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A ‘SECOND AMENDMENT TO THAT LEASE ENTERED INTO WITH THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT’ FOR THE LEASE ALL OR A PORTION OF THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 607 TRUDEAU STREET/DEPOT STREET AND 720 SIXTH STREET, NATCHITOCHEES, LOUISIANA, AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF THE LEASE AMENDMENT BY THE MAYOR, RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., AFTER DUE COMPLIANCE WITH THE LAW, AND FURTHER PROVIDING FOR ADVERTISING OF THE LEASE AMENDMENT AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Natchitoches (sometimes hereinafter referred to as “City”) entered into a lease agreement with the National Park Service for the lease of a tract of land situated in the City of Natchitoches, situated in that block bounded on the East by Sixth Street, on the South by Trudeau Street, on the West by Railroad right of way and on the North by St. Denis Street, upon which tract is located the Texas and Pacific Railway Depot (sometimes hereinafter referred to as “Depot”) and that of ground located to the North of the Depot from Eagle Distributing of Shreveport, Inc., upon which tract is located an office and cold storage facility (sometimes hereinafter referred to as “Eagle Distributing Property”); and

**WHEREAS FURTHER**, the Lease was approved by the City Council by Ordinance Number 34 of 2019; and

**WHEREAS FURTHER**, this Lease was amended by Ordinance Number 055 of 2020 at the request of the National Park Service to comply with certain new budget guidelines (sometimes hereinafter referred to as “First Lease Amendment”); and

**WHEREAS FURTHER**, the City and the National Park Service desire to enter into this Second Lease Amendment to amend the commencement date of this lease from September 13, 2019 to February 1, 2021 (sometimes hereinafter referred to as “Second Lease Amendment”); and

**WHEREAS FURTHER**, a copy of the proposed amended lease agreement, with all attachments is attached as Exhibit “A”; and

Mr.Randy Lacaze of Community Development explained Ordinance No. 006.

**CITY OF NATCHITOCHEs**

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 008

Date: January 25, 2021

The City of Natchitoches of the Parish of Natchitoches met in regular session on this date. The following resolution was offered by Mrs. Smith and seconded by Mr. Harrington.

\_\_\_\_\_.

**R E S O L U T I O N**

A resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an Agreement with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LA DOTD) for improvements at the Natchitoches Regional Airport.

**WHEREAS**, Act 451 of the 1989 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature authorized the financing of certain airport improvements from funds appropriated from the Transportation Trust Fund; and

**WHEREAS**, the CITY OF NATCHITOCHEs has requested funding assistance from the LA DOTD to/for Obstruction Removal Runway 7 Approach - Phase I (Design); and

**WHEREAS**, the stated project has been approved by the Louisiana Legislature and the LA DOTD is agreeable to the implementation of this project and desires to cooperate with the CITY OF NATCHITOCHEs according to the terms and conditions identified in the attached Agreement; and

**WHEREAS**, the LA DOTD will provide the necessary funding for the Obstruction Removal Runway 7 Approach - Phase I (Design) and reimburse the sponsor up to \$13,475.00 of project cost.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the City of Natchitoches that it does hereby authorize the Mayor to execute an Agreement for the project identified as SPN H.014589, more fully identified in the Agreement attached hereto, and to execute any subsequent related documents, including, but not limited to, amendments to said agreement.

This resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its adoption.

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

**YEAS:** Elie, Nielsen, Smith, Petite, Harrington

**NAYS:** None

**ABSENT:** None

**WHEREUPON**, the resolution was declared adopted on the 25th day of January, 2021.

**CITY OF NATCHITOCHEs**

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Typed or Printed Name)

TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)

TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

Purchasing Director, Edd Lee explained Resolutions No. 008 as an obstruction removal study, done with a drone primarily on the west side of the airport. It is a study only that will analyze and identify what needs to be removed. The study is done by LADOTD and an airport consultant.



Debbie Miley, Finance Director, presented the Council with the Finance Report. The report shows a comparison between budget and actual.

The next scheduled City Council meeting will be **Monday, February 8, 2021**.

Mayor Williams and the City Council of the City of Natchitoches, will hold the Annual State of the City Address on **Monday, February 1, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.** The State of the City address will be livestreamed and can be accessed by visiting the city's website link at <https://www.natchitochesla.gov/content/2021-state-city-address> The media and public are encouraged to watch online.

With no further discussion, Mayor Williams made a motion for adjournment and all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

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**RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR**

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**BETTY SMITH, MAYOR PRO-TEMPORE**