

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHEs, STATE OF LOUISIANA,
REGULAR MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY, October 11, 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, October 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. Pastor John Williams led the invocation and Councilwoman Elie led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Williams then called for the reading and approval of the minutes for the October 11, 2021 meeting. Councilwoman At Large Smith moved that we dispense with the reading of the minutes and approval of same. Seconded by Councilwoman Elie.

A roll call vote was as follows:

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

Special Recognition: Mr. Elvin Shields, Louisiana Folklife Tradition Bearer

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

ORDINANCE NO. 052 OF 2021

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

UNIT NUMBER 103 OF THE NAKATOSH CONDOMINIUMS AS SHOWN ON PLAT RECORDED IN CONVEYANCE BOOK 577, PAGE 127 AND ALSO CONTAINS 3.9553 PERCENT OF THE “COMMON AREA”

(584 FRONT ST.)

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission of the City of Natchitoches, State of Louisiana, has recommended at their meeting of **October 5, 2021** that the application of Clay Mayeaux, Mayeaux to rezone the property described above from B-3 Commercial to B-3 commercial with additional B-A zoning, be **APPROVED**.

THIS ORDINANCE was introduced on October 11, 2021 and published in the *Natchitoches Times* on October 14, 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 25th day of October, 2021.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

BETTY SMITH, MAYOR PRO TEMPORE

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

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

ORDINANCE NO. 053 OF 2021

ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHE, LOUISIANA, GRANTING TO SOUTHERN LIGHTS, LLC THE FRANCHISE AND RIGHTS TO LAY, CONSTRUCT, LEASE AND/ OR OPERATE A CABLE OPTICS TRANSMISSION CABLE, WITHIN THE MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES OF THE CITY AND THE RIGHT TO USE THE PRESENT AND FUTURE STREET, ROADS, HIGHWAYS, ALLEYS, BRIDGES, AND PUBLIC WAYS IN SUCH CITY AND OWNED AND CONTROLLED BY SUCH CITY FOR SUCH PURPOSES; PRESCRIBING TERMS AND CONDITIONS TO WHICH SUCH FRANCHISE AND RIGHTS ARE SUBJECT; AND PRESCRIBING THE TERM OF SUCH FRANCHISE AND RIGHTS.

WHEREAS, the City of Natchitoches is authorized under Louisiana Revised Statutes 33:4401, et seq, to grant a non-exclusive franchise, right, and privilege to use and occupy the streets, alleys and public places therein to construct maintain and operates for telephone, telegraph and electric transmission and distribution systems; the right to operate and maintain cable television equipment and systems on, over, under, along, upon, and across all of the present and future streets, roads, highways, alleys, bridges, and public spaces of the City of Natchitoches, subject to applicable zoning and building requirements and obligations provided herein; the right to repair, replace or remove same or any portion thereof; and the right to connect any such facilities to any other facilities for the purpose of distributing or transmitting signals into, through, or beyond the boundaries of the City of Natchitoches; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the City Council of the City of Natchitoches, Louisiana, desires to grant a franchise to Southern Light, LLC, under the terms and conditions as set in the attached Franchise Agreement; and

BE IT THEREFORE ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Natchitoches, Louisiana (hereinafter “the City”) that, subject to the terms and conditions set forth in the attached Franchise Agreement, hereby desires to grant to Southern Light, LLC, doing and authorized to do business in the State of Louisiana, and in the City of Natchitoches, with its principal office in New Orleans, Louisiana (hereinafter “Company”), a non-exclusive franchise, right, and privilege

to use and occupy the streets, alleys and public places therein to construct maintain and operates for telephone, telegraph and electric transmission and distribution systems; the right to operate and maintain cable television equipment and systems on, over, under, along, upon, and across all of the present and future streets, roads, highways, alleys, bridges, and public spaces of the City of Natchitoches, subject to applicable zoning and building requirements and obligations provided herein; the right to repair, replace or remove same or any portion thereof; and the right to connect any such facilities to any other facilities for the purpose of distributing or transmitting signals into, through, or beyond the boundaries of the City of Natchitoches.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that the Franchise Agreement shall be in the form as the attached agreement.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that all other ordinances of the City or portions thereof that are in conflict or inconsistent with any of the terms of this ordinance shall be repealed are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict or inconsistency.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that nothing in this ordinance granting a non-exclusive franchise or this non-exclusive Franchise shall be construed as superseding, repealing, canceling, modifying, or in any way affecting any of the rights enjoyed by any other entity having a franchise in the City.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, nothing herein shall be construed to constitute the grant of a franchise for the provision of any service other than as set forth in the Franchise Agreement.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that this Ordinance and the Franchise and rights granted herein may be amended only by written agreement of the City and the Company to such amendment.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that in the event any part of this Ordinance is determined to be invalid or illegal for any reason whatsoever, such invalidity or illegality shall not affect the validity or legality of this Ordinance as a whole or any parts thereof.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the Mayor of the City of Natchitoches, Ronnie Williams, Jr., be authorized and empowered to execute the attached Franchise Agreement on behalf of the City of Natchitoches, Louisiana.

THIS ORDINANCE was introduced on October 11, 2021 and published in the *Natchitoches Times* on October 14, 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 25th day of October, 2021.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

BETTY SMITH, MAYOR PRO TEMPORE

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. 087 OF 2021

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A ONE-TIME
SALARY SUPPLEMENT PAYMENT TO THE
CITY OF NATCHITOCHEES EMPLOYEES**

WHEREAS, the City of Natchitoches recognizes the need to increase the compensation of its employees; and

WHEREAS, due to the City employees maintaining a safe work environment and not utilizing the Worker’s Compensation Fund throughout the year, there exists a sufficient surplus in the Worker’s Compensation fund of the City of Natchitoches to make a one-time salary supplement payment of \$500.00 to the regular full time employees actively working and \$250.00 to the regular part-time employees actively working (non-seasonal); and

WHEREAS, because the source of this salary supplement would be an accumulated surplus in the Worker’s Compensation Fund, and not a recurring revenue source, it would not be fiscally responsible to make this payment anything other than a one-time event for this fiscal year only, and which payment would not become a part of any employee’s base salary or salary schedule; and

WHEREAS, this one-time salary supplement is not a bonus for work already performed, but is intended as future earned compensation for the remainder of this fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, this payment is for personnel employed as of November 1, 2021 and will be prorated based on the length of service for the previous twelve months.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that this salary supplement shall be a one-time payment this fiscal year only; and not an annual event, and shall not become a part of any employee’s base salary or salary schedule.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this one-time payment is not a bonus for work already performed, but is intended as future earned compensation for the remainder of this fiscal year.

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 25th day of October, 2021.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

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

RESOLUTION NO. 088 OF 2021

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE
CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 TO THE CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CITY OF
NATCHITOCHEES AND DSW CONSTRUCTION, LLC FOR THE LWCF GRANT
IMPROVEMENTS AT PARC NATCHITOCHEES**

(BID NO. 0614)

WHEREAS, the City of Natchitoches (CITY) awarded the bid to DSW Construction, LLC (CONTRACTOR) on April 26, 2021 by Ordinance No. 020 of 2021 in the amount of \$557,775.00 for the LWCF Grant Improvements at Parc Natchitoches (Bid No. 0614); and

WHEREAS, on October 7, 2021 CONTRACTOR issued Change Order No. 1, fully described in Attachment “A”; and

WHEREAS, the contract sum will be increased by this Change Order No. 1 in the amount of \$7,495.70 and the revised contract total will be \$565,270.70; and

WHEREAS, the project Architect, Michael Cullen has recommended this change order; and

WHEREAS, the CITY is of the opinion that Change Order No. 1 is in the best interest of the CITY.

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 execute the referenced Change Order No. 1 to the agreement between the City of Natchitoches and the contractor, DSW Construction, LLC.

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 25th day of October, 2021.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

Randy Lacaze spoke in reference to Resolution 088 of 2021.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 089 OF 2021

**RESOLUTION APPROVING THE EXECUTION OF THE CONTRACT
BY AND BETWEEN THE STATE OF LOUISIANA, DIVISION OF
ADMINISTRATION, OFFICE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT,
AND THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHEES FOR THE
FY 2021 LOUISIANA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT – CV HVAC
FOR THE AMOUNT OF \$1,000,000.00 TO REPLACE THE HVAC SYSTEM IN THE
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., RECREATION CENTER AND
THE NATCHITOCHEES EVENT CENTER.**

WHEREAS, the State of Louisiana, Office of Community Development, Division of Administration (LCDBG) provides funding for needed infrastructure and long-term capital improvements; and

WHEREAS, Governor John Bel Edwards approved the FY '2021 CARES-CV HVAC application for the City of Natchitoches in an amount up to \$1,000,000 to replace the HVAC system in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Recreation Center and the Natchitoches Event Center in an effort to reduce the spread of COVID – 19; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary and proper that a Contract by and between the Division of Administration and the City of Natchitoches be executed between the parties establishing the terms and conditions of the grant.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Honorable Ronnie Williams, Jr., Mayor, is hereby authorized, empowered and directed to sign any and all documents necessary for the execution of this contract.

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 25th day of October, 2021.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

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

RESOLUTION NO. 090 of 2021

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHE (HEREIN REFERRED TO AS THIS “GOVERNMENTAL UNIT”) TO JOIN WITH THE STATE OF LOUISIANA AND OTHER LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL UNITS AS A PARTICIPANT IN THE *LOUISIANA STATE-LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPIOID LITIGATION MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING* (THE “MOU”) AND ANY SUBSEQUENT FORMAL AGREEMENTS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE MOU, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE SUBDIVISION SETTLEMENT PARTICIPATION FORM(S) IN EXHIBIT K OF THE *DISTRIBUTOR SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT* AND THE *JANSSEN SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT*.¹

WHEREAS, the City of Natchitoches has suffered harm from the opioid epidemic;

WHEREAS, the City of Natchitoches recognizes that the entire State of Louisiana has suffered harm as a result from the opioid epidemic;

WHEREAS, the State of Louisiana has a pending action in state court, and a number of Louisiana Cities and Parishes have also filed an action *In re: National Prescription Opiate Litigation*, MDL No. 2804 (N.D. Ohio) (the “Opioid Litigation”) and the City of Natchitoches is a litigating participant in that action;

WHEREAS, the State of Louisiana and lawyers representing certain various local governments involved in the Opioid Litigation have proposed a unified plan for the allocation and use of prospective settlement dollars from opioid related litigation;

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Memorandum of Understanding (the “MOU”) sets forth sets forth a framework of a unified plan for the proposed allocation and use of opioid settlement proceeds and it is anticipated that formal agreements implementing the MOU will be entered into at a future date; and,

¹ Available at <https://nationalopioidsettlement.com/>

WHEREAS, participation in the MOU by a large majority of Louisiana cities and parishes will materially increase the amount of funds to Louisiana and should improve Louisiana's relative bargaining position during additional settlement negotiations;

WHEREAS, failure to participate in the MOU will reduce funds available to the State, the City of Natchitoches and every other Louisiana city and Parish;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THIS GOVERNMENTAL UNIT:

SECTION 1. That this Governmental Unit finds that participation in the MOU would be in the best interest of the Governmental Unit and its citizens in that such a plan ensures that almost all of the settlement funds go to abate and resolve the opioid epidemic and each and every City and Parish receives funds for the harm that it has suffered.

SECTION 2. That this Governmental Unit hereby expresses its support of a unified plan for the allocation and use of opioid settlement proceeds as generally described in the MOU, attached hereto as Exhibit "A."

SECTION 3. Michael G. Stag, Alex J. Washington are hereby expressly authorized to execute the MOU in substantially the form contained in Exhibit "A."

SECTION 4. That Mayor Ronnie Williams Jr., is hereby authorized to execute any formal agreements implementing a unified plan for the allocation and use of opioid settlement proceeds that is not substantially inconsistent with the MOU and this Resolution including but not limited to the Subdivision Settlement Participation Form(s) in the *Distributor Settlement Agreement* and the *Janssen Settlement Agreement*.

SECTION 5. That the Clerk be and hereby is instructed to record this Resolution in the appropriate record book upon its adoption.

SECTION 6. The Clerk of this Governmental Unit is hereby directed to furnish a certified copy of this Ordinance/Resolution to:

Attorney General Jeff Landry

c/o Bill Stiles

Post Office Box 94005

Baton Rouge, LA 70804

SECTION 7. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

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 25th day of October, 2021.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

Adopted this day of, October 25, 2021.

ATTEST: _____

City Attorney Alex Washington explained the terms of Resolution 090 of 2021.

STATE OF LOUISIANA

Line/project identification: N2357 Cane River NERC UG

PARISH OF NATCHITOCHES

CEA C6MD202615 WR 13350578

Underground
RIGHT-OF-WAY INSTRUMENT

ENTERGY LOUISIANA, LLC

In consideration of One Dollar (s), cash, receipt of which is acknowledged, and the benefits which will accrue to the property by the availability of electric service, I (we) **City of Natchitoches, Louisiana**, whose permanent address is P.O. Box 37, Natchitoches, LA (referred to collectively, whether one or more, as ‘Grantor’) hereby grant unto Entergy Louisiana, LLC its successors and/or assigns, the right and servitude to construct, operate, improve, maintain and remove underground electric distribution facilities consisting of conduits and cables with the necessary appurtenances for the distribution of electric current, (together with overhead poles, wires and other appurtenances if such is required in connection with the underground electric facilities) with the right of access to the facilities for maintenance, repair and operation thereof, together with Rights of Way, all as hereinafter set forth, upon, over, under and across the property which I (we) own, or in which I (we) have an interest in the Parish of Natchitoches, State of Louisiana, and more particularly described as follows:

A certain tract of land in located within the irregular sections of Section 104 Township 9N Range 7W

The right of way herein granted is 10 feet in width, 5 feet each way from the centerline as constructed.

The approximate location of said centerline and of the right of way herein granted is as shown on attached sketch hereto and made a part hereof.

The right is hereby granted to cut down and remove or trim trees or shrubs that interfere with any of the facilities of Entergy Louisiana, LLC. No buildings or other structures (except fences) shall be placed on or across the servitude herein granted and such buildings or other structures constructed adjoining said servitude will maintain required distances from the wires and facilities of Entergy Louisiana, LLC all as provided for in the provisions of the National Electrical Safety Code.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, Grantor has executed this Right-of-Way Instrument on this _____ day of October, 2021.

WITNESSES:

GRANTOR:

(Sign) _____
Louisiana

Business City of Nstchitoches,

(Print Name) _____

(Sign) _____

(Sign) _____

(Print Name)

(Print Name) _____

(Title) _____

CORPORATE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

STATE OF LOUISIANA

PARISH OF _____

On this _____ day of October, 2021, before me personally appeared _____, to me personally known, who, being by me duly sworn, did say that she is the duly authorized President, of the City of Natchitoches, Louisiana., and that said instrument was signed on behalf of the Corporation, by authority of its Board/ Members, and the said _____, acknowledged said instrument to be the free act and deed of the City of Natchitoches, Louisiana.

Appearer

My Commission Expires: _____

Notary Public

Print Name:

BarRoll# or Notary

ID: _____

Grantee's Permanent Mailing Address

2901 Cypress Street, West Monroe, LA 71291

FORM 743-P2167 (UG)

Rev. 8/18 (LLC)

Matt Anderson explained Resolution 091 of 2021. Moving overhead power lines to underground by Entergy.

Randy Lacaze spoke about Resolution 089 of 2021. He acknowledged John Barr from Senator John Kennedy's office and Lee Turner with Representative Mike Johnson's office for their role in this Resolution.

