

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
OF THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES, STATE OF LOUISIANA,  
REGULAR MEETING HELD ON  
MONDAY, November 22, 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, November 22, 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:** Miss Merry Christmas and Christmas Belles

**Absent:** None

Mayor Ronnie Williams called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone for coming. Pastor Ellis Newman of the River Community Church led the invocation and Councilman Nielsen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Williams then called for the reading and approval of the minutes for the November 8, 2021 meeting. Councilwoman At Large Smith moved that we dispense with the reading of the minutes and approval of same. Seconded by Councilman Harrington.

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>

**PRESENTATION OF MISS MERRY CHRISTMAS AND CHRISTMAS BELLES**

Miss Merry Christmas - Julia Ferrell  
Christmas Belles - Amelia Broadway, Anna C. Coleman, Tinley Durr  
Liliana Geier, Madison Raymond, Natalie Spillman

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

**ORDINANCE NO. 054 OF 2021**

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY  
OF NATCHITOCHES TO AWARD  
THE BID FOR CAUSTIC SODA FOR THE WATER TREATMENT PLANT  
(BID NO. 0642)**

**WHEREAS**, Resolution No.074 of 2021 was passed by the Natchitoches City Council on August 23, 2021 authorizing the Mayor to advertise for bids for Caustic Soda for the Water Treatment Plant (Bid No. 0642); and

**WHEREAS**, this bid was advertised in the *Natchitoches Times* on, August 26, 2021, September 2, 2021 and September 9, 2021 in accordance with law; and

**WHEREAS**, one bid proposal was received and opened as follows:

- (1) Univar Solutions, USA, Inc.,  
Kent, WA ..... \$0.23 cents per pound

**WHEREAS**, the City received one other bid that was not responsive; and

**WHEREAS**, on November 1, 2021 the appointed committee of Jill Raynes, Acting Finance Director; Edd Lee, Director of Purchasing; Matt Anderson, Utility Director; and Christopher Petite, Councilman, reviewed the bid proposals for bids for Caustic Soda for the Water Treatment Plant (Bid No. 0642); and

**WHEREAS**, the above appointed committee members unanimously recommend the City award the bid to the lowest bidder **Univar Solutions, USA, Inc.**, in the amount of **\$0.23 cents per pound**.

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

The following Ordinance was Introduced by Mr. Petite at the City Council meeting as follows:

**THIS ORDINANCE** was introduced on November 8, 2021 and published in the *Natchitoches Times* on November 13, 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 22nd day of November, 2021.

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**RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR**

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**BETTY SMITH, MAYOR PRO TEMPORE**

Delivered to the Mayor on the 23rd day of November 2021, at 10:00 A.M.

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

**ORDINANCE NO. 055 OF 2021**

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY  
OF NATCHITOCHEES TO AWARD  
THE BID FOR LIQUID CHLORINE FOR THE WATER TREATMENT PLANT  
(BID NO. 0643)**

**WHEREAS**, Resolution No.073 of 2021 was passed by the Natchitoches City Council on August 23, 2021 authorizing the Mayor to advertise for bids for Liquid Chlorine for the Water Treatment Plant (Bid No. 0643); and

**WHEREAS**, this bid was advertised in the *Natchitoches Times* on, August 26, September 2, and September 9, 2021 in accordance with law; and

**WHEREAS**, one bid proposal was received and opened as follows:

- (1) DPC Enterprises  
Reserve, LA ..... \$1,376.00 per ton

**WHEREAS**, on November 1, 2021 the appointed committee of Jill Raynes, Acting Finance Director; Edd Lee, Director of Purchasing; Matt Anderson, Utility Department; and Eddie Harrington, Councilman, reviewed the bid proposals for Liquid Chlorine for the Water Treatment Plant, (Bid No. 0643); and

**WHEREAS**, the above appointed committee members unanimously recommend the City award the bid to the one bid received, **DPC Enterprises** in the amount of **\$1,376.00 per ton**.

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

**THIS ORDINANCE** was introduced on November 8, 2021 and published in the *Natchitoches Times* on November 13, 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 22nd day of November, 2021.

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**RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR**

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**BETTY SMITH, MAYOR PRO TEMPORE**

Delivered to the Mayor on the 23rd day of November 2021, at 10:00 A.M.

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

**ORDINANCE NO. 056 OF 2021**

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY  
OF NATCHITOCHES TO AWARD  
THE BID FOR RENOVATION OF THE TEXAS AND PACIFIC RAILROAD DEPOT  
(BID NO. 0627)**

**WHEREAS**, Resolution No.064 of 2021 was passed by the Natchitoches City Council on August 9, 2021 authorizing the Mayor to advertise for bids for renovation of the Texas and Pacific Railroad Depot (Bid No. 0627); and

**WHEREAS**, this bid was advertised in the *Natchitoches Times* on, August 14, August 19 and August 26, 2021 in accordance with law; and

**WHEREAS**, one bid proposal was received and opened as follows:

(2) DSW Construction, LLC  
Natchitoches, LA .....\$868,893.00

**WHEREAS**, on November 2, 2021 the appointed committee of Jill Raynes, Acting Finance Director; Edd Lee, Director of Purchasing; Randy LaCaze, Director of Community Development; and Betty Smith, Councilwoman, reviewed the bid proposals for renovation of the Texas and Pacific Railroad Depot (Bid No. 0627); and

**WHEREAS**, the above appointed committee members unanimously recommend the City award the bid to the one bid received to **DSW Construction, LLC** in the amount of **\$868,893.00**.

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

**THIS ORDINANCE** was introduced on November 8, 2021 and published in the *Natchitoches Times* on November 13, 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 22nd day of November, 2021.

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

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**BETTY SMITH, MAYOR PRO TEMPORE**

Delivered to the Mayor on the 23rd day of November 2021, at 10:00 A.M.

Randy LaCaze and Carrie Mardorf, National Parks Superintendent provided explanations for amended lease agreement of Ordinance 056 of 2021.

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

**ORDINANCE NO. 057 OF 2021**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 20 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHEs RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE NATCHITOCHEs FAIRNESS, EQUALITY, AND INCLUSION PROGRAM, AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Natchitoches (the "City") desires to ensure equity and inclusion in its public investments through the creation of the Natchitoches Fairness, Equality and Inclusion Program (the "Program"); and

**WHEREAS**, the initial purpose of the Program will be to identify those entities desiring to transact business with the City that meet the requirements of a socially and economically disadvantaged business, as set forth herein; and

**WHEREAS**, once socially and economically disadvantaged businesses have been identified by the Program, the City desires to implement the main purpose of the Program by using the collected information in a manner that will increase the utilization of socially and economically disadvantaged businesses and services by the City, without prejudicing any entity transacting or desiring to transact business with the City that would not meet the eligibility requirements set forth herein; and

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with Chapter 1, Section 1-7 of the municipal code of ordinances of the City (the "Code"), it is the desire of the City Council of the City of Natchitoches acting as the governing authority of the City (the "Governing Authority") to amend the Code to create the Program.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** that the Code of Ordinances, City of Natchitoches, Louisiana, is hereby amended by adding a section, to be numbered Section 20-82, which said section reads as follows:

In accordance with all applicable State and Federal laws, the City of Natchitoches (the "City") has established the Natchitoches Fairness, Equality, and Inclusion Program to identify small, minority, and female-owned entities or natural persons desiring to do business in our city who have been historically disadvantaged or overlooked. At no time shall any city department, agency, board, commission, or corporation established or controlled by the city, or any entity in which the City has or will have an authoritative or governing interest, exclude any responsive bidder from participation in, deny any person the benefits of, or otherwise discriminate against anyone in connection with, the award and performance of any contract or procurement on the basis of race, color, sex, or national origin.

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED** that the Code of Ordinances, City of Natchitoches, Louisiana, is hereby amended by adding a section, to be numbered Section 20-83, which said section reads as follows:

It shall be the policy of the City of Natchitoches (the "City") to provide opportunities to businesses owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged persons to participate meaningfully in the contracting activities of the City that involve public spending or private projects that utilize public funding or incentives. The provisions of this ordinance should be interpreted liberally to implement the foregoing policy to the maximum extent permissible by law.

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED** that the Code of Ordinances, City of Natchitoches, Louisiana, is hereby amended by adding a section, to be numbered Section 20-84, which said section reads as follows:

Except as otherwise provided and subject to all local, state, and federal laws affecting the City of Natchitoches' (the "City") services or use of funds, this Section shall apply to all contracts of the City, including all departments, agencies, corporations, boards, and commissions, that utilize any City funding, and/or City incentives, including tax credits, payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) incentives or waivers through which the City forgoes its normal taxes and fees.

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED** that the Code of Ordinances, City of Natchitoches, Louisiana, is hereby amended by adding a section, to be numbered Section 20-85, which said section reads as follows:

The Natchitoches Fairness, Equality, and Inclusion Program is a race and gender-neutral program with a goal of ensuring every qualified entity is given fair consideration during any and all processes which allocate the City of Natchitoches' (the "City") resources, including but not limited to, the procuring of goods and services, use of funds, and any and all contracts or private projects that utilize City resources, funding or incentives. Each City department, agency, board, and commission, and each corporation established by the City, shall independently attempt to ensure that its contracts, in the aggregate, are made available for bid, proposal, or any such other methods as may be devised from time to time for the expenditure of City funds, to any and all qualified entities, including, but not limited to, those entities meeting the eligibility requirements set forth below.

A business may be eligible for the Natchitoches Fairness, Equality, and Inclusion Program if it is determined that the firm's ability to compete in the business world has been restricted due to industry practices, limited access to capital and/or restricted credit opportunities that are beyond the firm's control. This determination may be made at the sole discretion of the Mayor of the City of Natchitoches or by meeting the qualifications for Ownership, Business Size, Independence and Control, as set forth below:

Ownership - The firm must be at least 51% owned by a socially and economically disadvantaged person(s), as defined in Title 13 Part 124 of the Electronic Code of Federal Regulations, as follows:

Socially disadvantaged individuals are those who have been subjected to racial or ethnic prejudice or cultural bias within American society because of their identities as members of groups and without regard to their individual qualities. The social disadvantage must stem from circumstances beyond their control.



Economically disadvantaged individuals are socially disadvantaged individuals whose ability to compete in the free enterprise system has been impaired due to diminished capital and credit opportunities as compared to others in the same or similar line of business who are not socially disadvantaged.

Business Size - The firm (including its affiliates) must be a small business as defined by SBA Standards, which may be found in [Title 13 Part 121 of the Electronic Code of Federal Regulations](#).

Independence - The business must not be tied to another firm in such a way as to compromise its independence and control.

Control - A disadvantaged owner seeking certification must possess the power to direct or cause the direction of the management and policies of the firm. The owner must also have an overall understanding of, and managerial and technical competence and experience directly related to, the type of business in which the firm is engaged.

The Natchitoches Fairness, Equality, and Inclusion Program is a race and gender-neutral program that neither presumes, nor makes determinations concerning what constitutes social and economic disadvantage. Each applicant carries the burden of proof regarding their eligibility in establishing their social and economic disadvantage, as set forth herein.

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED** that the Code of Ordinances, City of Natchitoches, Louisiana, is hereby amended by adding a section, to be numbered Section 20-86, which said section reads as follows:

The Purchasing Department is the City of Natchitoches' department that oversees application process, certification, compliance, outreach, training, and capacity building for disadvantaged businesses in the City of Natchitoches, having all necessary powers and authority to implement the Natchitoches Fairness, Equality, and Inclusion Program to the extent allowable under the law.

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

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

**THIS ORDINANCE** was introduced on November 8, 2021 and published in the *Natchitoches Times* on November 13, 2021.

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM:

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City Attorney's Office

Alex Washington addressed concerns pertaining to Ordinance No. 058 of 2021. Alex Washington also asked to amend Ordinance to remove the procurement of goods. Councilwoman At Large Smith made a motion to remove the procurement of goods from this Ordinance, seconded by Councilman Nielsen. A vote recorded as Follows:

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

**THEREUPON**, Mayor Ronnie Williams, Jr., declared the Motion passed by a vote of 5  
Ayes to 0 Nays this 22nd day of November, 2021.

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**RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR**

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**BETTY SMITH, MAYOR PRO TEMPORE**

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 22nd day of November, 2021.

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**RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR**

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**BETTY SMITH, MAYOR PRO TEMPORE**

Delivered to the Mayor on the 23rd day of November, 2021 at 10:00 A.M.

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

**ORDINANCE NO. 058 OF 2021**

**AN ORDINANCE FURNISHING THE MARSHAL OF THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHEs, STATE OF LOUISIANA, WITH SUITABLE OFFICE FACILITIES AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO.**

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Section 1889 of Title 13 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended, the City of Natchitoches (the “City”) is required to furnish the Marshal of the City of Natchitoches (the “Marshal”) with suitable office facilities; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 2.10 of Article 1 of the Charter of the City requires that any conveyance or leasing of City property must be done by ordinance of the City Council of the City, acting as the governing authority thereof (the “Governing Authority”); and

**WHEREAS**, it is the desire of the City and its Governing Authority to allow the Marshal to occupy the facilities at 450 Fifth Street, Natchitoches, Louisiana to be used as its office facilities; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** that the City Council of the City of Natchitoches, State of Louisiana (the “City”), acting as the governing authority for the City, does hereby authorize the Mayor of the City of Natchitoches to take any and all actions, including but not limited to executing any documents or authentic acts, approved as to form by the Office of the City Attorney of the City, to effectuate the provision of office facilities for the Marshal of the City at the property owned by the City located at 450 Fifth Street, Natchitoches, Louisiana.

**THIS ORDINANCE** was introduced on November 8, 2021 and published in the *Natchitoches Times* on November 13, 2021.

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM:

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City Attorney’s Office

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 22nd day of November, 2021.

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**RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR**

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**BETTY SMITH, MAYOR PRO TEMPORE**

Delivered to the Mayor on the 23rd day of November, 2021 at 10:00 A.M.

Marshal Randy Williams spoke in reference of Ordinance No. 058 of 2021.

The following Ordinance was Introduced by Mr. Petite on November 22, 2021 as follows:

**ORDINANCE NO. 059 OF 2021**

**AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AN 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, NATCHITOCHEs, 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**, at the request of the National Park Service, an amendment to the Lease was approved by Ordinance Number 055 of 2020, in order to comply with certain new federal budget guidelines (sometimes hereinafter referred to as “First Lease Amendment”); and

**WHEREAS FURTHER**, the Lease was amended a second time, as approved by Ordinance No. 66 of 2021, said amendment being made to amend the commencement date of the lease (sometimes hereinafter referred to as “Second Lease Amendment”); and

**WHEREAS FURTHER**, the National Park Service and the City have now agreed to further amend the Lease Agreement in order to remove a requirement for the installation of a sprinkler system in the depot building (sometimes hereinafter referred to as “Third Lease Amendment”); and

**WHEREAS FURTHER**, a copy of the proposed Third Lease Amendment, with all attachments is attached as Exhibit "A"; and

**WHEREAS FURTHER**, the City Council reaffirms the prior stated opinion that the proposed use of the Depot and Eagle Distributing Property by the National Park Service will be beneficial to the City of Natchitoches and its citizens; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED** that Ronnie Williams, Jr., Mayor of the City of Natchitoches, be and he is hereby authorized and empowered to enter into the Third Lease Amendment with the United States of America, acting by and through the designated representative of the National Park Service for the lease of the Depot and the Eagle Distributing Property all in substantial compliance with the Third Lease Amendment, a copy of which is attached hereto.

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED** That notice of this proposed ordinance be in accordance with law, in the Natchitoches Times, the legal journal for the City, and that ordinance be posted in the City Hall.

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED** that any opposition to this ordinance shall be made in writing, filed with the Clerk for the City of Natchitoches, and that a public hearing is to be held after the advertisements have been completed.

**THIS ORDINANCE** was introduced on November 22, 2021 and published in the *Natchitoches Times* on December 2, 2021.

Randy Lacaze explain in detail Ordinance No. 059 of 2021.

Potential Finance Director Stephen Hickman joined the City Council Meeting by Zoom. Mr. Hickman introduced himself and answered questions from the Council Members.



Announcements:

- City of Natchitoches Office will be closed Thursday November 25<sup>th</sup> and Friday November 26<sup>th</sup> in honor of the Thanksgiving holiday
- Next City Council Meeting Monday December 13, 2021 at 5:30pm

With no further discussion, Mayor Williams made a motion for adjournment and all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 6:02 p.m.

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**RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR**

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**BETTY SMITH, MAYOR PRO-TEMPORE**