

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHEES, STATE OF LOUISIANA,
REGULAR MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2020 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, December 14, 2020 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: 2020 Miss Merry Christmas and Christmas Belles
2020 Natchitoches Christmas Angels

Absent: None

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

Mayor Williams then called for the reading and approval of the minutes for the November 23, 2020 meeting. Mrs. Smith moved that we dispense with the reading of the minutes and approval of same. Seconded by Mr. Petite, a roll call vote was as follows:

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

Mayor Williams presented the 2020 Miss Merry Christmas, Christmas Belles, and Christmas Angel's with plaques in appreciation for being ambassadors for the Christmas season.

The following Ordinance was Introduced by Mr. Harrington at the December 14, 2020 City Council meeting as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 064 OF 2020

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

TO REZONE THE FOLLOWING: Lots 14 & 15 of East Broadmoor Subd., unit # 2 & lot adjacent desc. as. beg. at the NE cor. of lot 14 of the EAST BROADMOOR SUBD., thence s 85 deg. 21 min. east 500 ft., thence S 2 deg. 51 min. est 232.4 ft., thence N 85 deg. 21 min. west 500 ft., thence N 2 deg. 51 min. est 232.3 ft. to the pt. of beg., less 1.59 ac. to Peoples State Bank., less 1,375.9 sq.ft. to hwy. dept. for Commercial use.

(311 Royal St.)

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission of the City of Natchitoches, State of Louisiana, has recommended at their meeting of **December 4, 2020** that the application of **Mike Wolff** to rezone the property described above from R-1 Residential to B-1 Commercial zoning for Commercial use, be **APPROVED**.

Mayor Williams asked Mrs. Roque to explain. She states this property is owned by a church which is R-1 zoning. Mr. Wolf and associates are asking that the property is rezoned to commercial property, which is B-1 zoning in order to compensate use of the building.

The following Ordinance was Introduced by Mrs. Smith at the December 14, 2020 City Council meeting as follows:

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.)

Mayor Williams sought comments from the public, there were no comments.

The following Ordinance was Introduced by Mr. Nielsen at the December 14, 2020 City Council meeting as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 066 OF 2020

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHEs, RONNIE WILLIAMS, TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT OR LEASE OF PUBLIC PROPERTY AND AIRSPACE WITH RED SKY ADVENTURES, LLC, WHEREBY THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHEs AND THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF WATERWORKS DISTRICT NUMBER 1 WILL LEASE PUBLIC GROUND AND AIRSPACE PURSUANT TO THE TERMS OF R. S. 33:4712 AND R. S. 33:4712.1 TO RED SKY ADVENTURES, LLC, TO PROVIDE FOR A PUBLIC HEARING, TO PROVIDE FOR ADVERTISING, AND A SAVINGS CLAUSE.

Mayor Ronnie Williams asked Mariner's owner Mrs. Fidelak to explain the plan for this property. Mrs. Fidelak stated the Island is fifty feet from Mariner's. They will create a walkway from Mariner's to the Island and utilize the island as a Chef's Table by reservation only. The Chef's Table will accommodate eight people at a time. Upon guest request Mariner's will be providing evening sunset boat rides that will serve cocktails and appetizers while transporting guest to the island. The owner's will try to keep the natural landscape of the island and use oyster shells to prevent erosion.

Mr. Nielsen asked what was meant by airspace in the ordinance. Mr. Edd Lee stated he spoke with Tommy Murchison and explained that airspace is from the surface of the water and up, things elevated above the water and that it would not have any impact to the airport.

Mrs. Morrow asked what type of boat would be used. Mrs. Fidelak stated it will probably be a pontoon boat.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 079 OF 2020

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER
INTO A CONTRACT WITH MIDWEST EMPLOYERS CASUALTY
COMPANY FOR THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION EXCESS
COVERAGE POLICY FOR THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHE

WHEREAS, the Insurance Committee has reviewed the proposals submitted by Midwest Employers Casualty Company, for the handling of the worker's compensation excess coverage policy for the City of Natchitoches; and

WHEREAS, the annual premium for this contract is **\$75,054.00** for the period **January 1, 2021** through **January 1, 2022**; and

WHEREAS, it is the recommendation of the committee that the contract be awarded to Midwest Employers Casualty Company.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Honorable Ronnie Williams, Mayor, is hereby authorized and 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 14th day of December, 2020.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

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

RESOLUTION NO. 080 OF 2020

**A RESOLUTION APPOINTING THE ASSISTANT CITY ATTORNEYS FOR
THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHEs**

BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council does hereby take cognizance that Mayor Ronnie Williams, Jr., does hereby authorize the appointment of seven (7) Assistant City Attorneys, and upon the recommendation of the City Attorney and the Mayor, that Daniel T. Murchison, Jr., Cloyd Benjamin, Jr., Gary Conley, Alex Lyons, Jonathan Blake, Joe Stamey and Steve Oxenhandler are hereby confirmed and approved as Assistant City Attorneys to serve in accordance with the provisions of Section 4.02C of the Home Rule Charter.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council does hereby confirm the said appointments.

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 14th day of December, 2020.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

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

RESOLUTION NO 081 OF 2020

**A RESOLUTION APPOINTING GLEN MOFFETT TO FILL THE
UNEXPIRED TERM OF ED DRANGUET AS A MEMBER OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT
BOARD OF THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHE, LOUISIANA**

WHEREAS, the City of Natchitoches, in its endeavors to promote and attract industry, organized the Industrial Development Board of the City of Natchitoches, Louisiana, Inc. (the "IDB"); and

WHEREAS, the Natchitoches City Council affirmed the appointment of the members of the Board of Directors of the IDB by Resolution No. 016 of 2012, adopted on April 23, 2012 and fixed the terms of the Directors of the IDB by Resolution No. 063 of 2014; and

WHEREAS, due to Ed Dranguet's resignation from the IDB, there exists a vacancy on such board; and

WHEREAS, The Natchitoches City Council wishes to appoint Glen Moffett as a member of the Board of Directors of the Industrial Development Board of the City of Natchitoches; and

WHEREAS, this term is to expire on April 23, 2022.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Natchitoches does, in legal session convened, hereby appoint Glen Moffett to fill the unexpired term of Ed Dranguet as a member of the Board of Directors of the Industrial Development Board of the City of Natchitoches, for the remainder of the term ending April 23, 2022.

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 14th day of December, 2020.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

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

RESOLUTION NO. 082 OF 2020

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE
CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 TO THE CONTRACT BETWEEN
THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES AND DSW CONSTRUCTION
FOR BUILDING RENOVATIONS AT 720 SIXTH STREET**

(BID NO. 0625)

WHEREAS, the City of Natchitoches (CITY) awarded the bid to DSW Construction (CONTRACTOR) on July 13, 2020 by Ordinance No. 042 of 2020 in the amount of \$617,979.00 for building renovations at 720 Sixth Street (Bid No. 0625); and

WHEREAS, on December 7, 2020 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 \$43,893.43 and the revised contract total will be \$663,872.43; and

WHEREAS, the contract time will be increased by twenty-seven (27) days, from the date of approval for all items; and

WHEREAS, the project Engineer, Bob Kempkes, 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.

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 14th day of December, 2020.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

Mrs. Roque inquired if anyone were present to represent the condemnations on file? Property owner Jacqueline Parker of 420 Julia Street was present and stated that the residence roof and windows had been replaced. Renovations will resume in a couple of weeks. Mrs. Roque requested that the owner contact her about the property.

Mayor Williams announced that for the first time The City of Natchitoches will be hosting the LHSAA Prep Classic, December 27th-30th at Harry Turpin Stadium. Covid-19 guidelines will be followed.

The next scheduled City Council meeting will be **January 11, 2021**.

There **will not** be a City Council meeting on **Monday, December 28, 2020**.

The City of Natchitoches offices will be closed **Thursday, December 24th, Friday, December 25, 2020** for the Christmas Holidays and **Thursday, December 31, 2020 & Friday, January 1, 2021** for New Years.

With no further discussion, Mayor Williams made a motion for adjournment and all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

BETTY SMITH, MAYOR PRO-TEMPORE