

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHEs, STATE OF LOUISIANA,
REGULAR MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY, JULY 27, 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, July 27, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.

There were present:

Mayor Lee Posey
Councilwoman At Large Betty Sawyer-Smith
Councilman Eddie Harrington
Councilman Dale Nielsen
Councilwoman Sylvia Morrow
Councilman Lawrence Batiste

Guests: None

Absent: None

Mayor Lee Posey called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone for coming. Councilwoman Sylvia Morrow led the invocation and Councilman Lawrence Batiste led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Posey then called for the reading and approval of the minutes for the July 13, 2020 meeting. Ms. Smith moved that we dispense with the reading of the minutes and approval of same. Seconded by Ms. Morrow, a roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes:	Batiste, Nielsen, Smith, Harrington, Morrow
Nays:	None
Absent:	None
Abstain:	None

Mayor Posey encouraged everyone to continue taking the safety measures against COVID-19. We are starting to see the numbers decline across the state over the last three weeks and need to keep moving in that direction. We need to encourage people to wear a mask, socially distance, wash your hands, and wipe things down. We cannot afford to go back to Phase 1 as this is hurting our businesses.

Mayor Posey welcomed Ms. Betty Sawyer-Smith tonight as she has been sworn at councilwoman-at-large for the City of Natchitoches and congratulated her along with Mr. Nielsen and Mr. Harrington on their positions.

The following Ordinance was Introduced by Mrs. Smith at the July 27, 2020 City Council meeting as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 043 OF 2020

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY
OF NATCHITOCHEs TO AWARD
THE BID FOR THE WATER TREATMENT RENOVATION, BACKWASH EFFLUENT
TRANSFER SYSTEM
(BID NO. 0626)**

WHEREAS, Resolution No.007 of 2020 was passed by the Natchitoches City Council on February 10, 2020 authorizing the Mayor to advertise for bids for the Water Treatment Renovation, Backwash Effluent Transfer System (Bid No. 0626); and

WHEREAS, this bid was advertised in the *Natchitoches Times* on, February 20, February 27, and March 5, 2020 in accordance with law; and

WHEREAS, five bid proposals were received and opened as follows:

- (1) ASB Utility Construction, LLC
Shreveport, LA.....\$682,400.00
- (2) Dixie Overland Construction, LLC Construction
Sibley, LA.....\$742,860.00
- (3) Womack and Sons Construction Group, LLC
Harrisonburg, LA.....\$763,175.00
- (4) David Lawler Construction
Shreveport, LA.....\$793,000.00
- (5) Pulley Construction, Inc.,
Bossier City, LA.....\$835,176.00

WHEREAS, on July 13, 2020 the appointed committee of Debbie Miley, Finance Director; Edd Lee, Director of Purchasing; Charles Brossette, Utility Director; and Eddie Harrington, Councilman, reviewed the bid proposals for the Water Treatment Renovation, Backwash Effluent Transfer System (Bid No. 0626); and

WHEREAS, the above appointed committee members unanimously recommend the City award the bid to the lowest bidder **ASB Utility Construction** in the amount of **\$682,400.00**.

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. 049 OF 2020

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

(BID NO. 0628)

WHEREAS, the City wishes to advertise for Caustic Soda for the Water Treatment Plant (Bid No. 0628).

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 Thursday, August 27, 2020 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 Thursday, August 27, 2020 held at the above mentioned Office of the Director of Purchasing; and

WHEREAS, upon receipt of proposals, the committee members consisting of Debbie Miley, Finance Director; Edd Lee, Director of Purchasing; Charles Brossette, Director of Utilities; and Dale Nielsen, Councilman, 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 Lee Posey, 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: Batiste, Nielsen, Smith, Harrington, Morrow
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

THEREUPON, Mayor Lee Posey declared the Resolution passed by a vote of 5 Ayes to 0 Nays on this 27th day of July, 2020.

LEE POSEY, MAYOR

Ms. Morrow stated in the Natchitoches Times it states most recently Natchitoches was voted the Best Historical City in the south and I think that is commendable because we have a lot going on in Natchitoches. She stated she served on the Tourist Commission for five year and tourist is at an all time high now. We have economic development going on and then over at the workforce development we have some things in line for job creation and job training.

Mr. Harrington stated he is proud of what our council has done so far and what the Mayor's office has accomplished. We have gotten more certified industrial site than we ever have in the City of Natchitoches and rezoned more property for industrial use. He stated this isn't an easy job and what a lot of people don't realize is we have to compete with other municipalities for these higher paying jobs that we will continue to fight to bring to Natchitoches.

Ms. Morrow stated we have worked over 30 years to make the depot a African-American museum and this is an accomplishment we are proud to finally see this come to fruition.

Mayor Posey stated the depot project will be completed in two phases which will consist of administrative offices, a learning center, and then the museum area which will tie in the African-American history.

Ms. Morrow also stated there will also be a learning center at the new Parc Natchitoches and this park will be for all people. She stated this facility is for all and it is encouraging to ride out there and see all colors enjoying the park and its facilities.

Mr. Harrington stated it isn't just for local teams; he brings his family out there to take part in the walking trails, pond, soccer fields, etc. Some families have even been seen having picnics and like Ms. Morrow said, it is being utilized by all people.

Mayor Posey stated the learning center will be located near the Grady Erwin Nature Trails that will be sponsored by a couple of local entities. Mayor Posey then asked if Mrs. Smith had any comments she would like to make since tonight was her first meeting.

Mrs. Smith stated she is happy to be here and excited to get her feet wet tonight. She stated she is looking forward to working with the Mayor and the council members that are here.

Mr. Batiste stated tonight is his second to last meeting and he has enjoyed his time as council member. He has been proud to be a part of this and see government develop. It has been a tremendous feeling to participate in the local government. He stated that was a goal of his to volunteer on behalf of his community. He thanked everyone and congratulated Mrs. Smith on her win. He concluded with thanking the City of Natchitoches for the opportunity of this experience to add to his belt.

Mrs. Smith then stated she wanted to thank everyone who went out and voted entrusting their vote to her. She stated she is here to serve all citizens of Natchitoches. She is your councilwoman-at-large and here to serve everyone. Thank you again for your votes.

Mayor Posey thanked Mrs. Smith and Mr. Batiste for their comments. He stated we all have enjoyed working with Mr. Batiste for the past four years and wish you all the best.

The next scheduled City Council meeting will be **Monday, August 10, 2020.**

With no further discussion, Mayor Posey made a motion for adjournment and all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 5:36 p.m.

LEE POSEY, MAYOR

BETTY SMITH, MAYOR PRO-TEMPORE