

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES, STATE OF LOUISIANA,
REGULAR MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 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, September 28, 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: Concerned Citizens Association of Natchitoches – Johnny Barnes

Absent: None

Mayor Ronnie Williams called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone for coming. Councilwoman at Large Betty Smith led the invocation and Councilman Eddie Harrington led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Williams then called for the reading and approval of the minutes for the September 14, 2020 meeting. Mrs. Smith moved that we dispense with the reading of the minutes and approval of same. Seconded by Mr. Nielsen, a roll call vote was as follows:

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

Mr. Johnny Barnes and others with the Concerned Citizens Association of Natchitoches presented Mayor Williams along with the new members of the City Council with awards congratulating them and thanking them for their service.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 062 OF 2020

A RESOLUTION DECLARING OCTOBER 4 THROUGH OCTOBER 10, 2020 AS FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

WHEREAS, the City of Natchitoches, Louisiana is committed to ensuring the safety and security of all those living in and visiting Natchitoches; and

WHEREAS, fire is a serious public safety concern both locally and nationally, and homes are the locations where people are at greatest risk from fire; and

WHEREAS, home fires killed 2,630 people in the United States in 2017, according to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), and fire departments in the United States responded to 357,000 home fires; and

WHEREAS, cooking is the leading cause of home fires in the United States where fire departments responded to more than 173,200 annually between 2013 and 2017; and

WHEREAS, two of every five home fires start in the kitchen with 31% of these fires resulting from unattended cooking; and

WHEREAS, more than half of reported non-fatal home cooking fire injuries occurred when the victims tried to fight the fire themselves; and

WHEREAS, children under five face a higher risk of non-fire burns associated with cooking than being burned in a cooking fire

WHEREAS, NATCHITOCHEs’ residents should stay in the kitchen when frying food on the stovetop, keep a three-foot kid-free zone around cooking areas and keep anything that can catch fire away from stove tops; and

WHEREAS, residents who have planned and practiced a home fire escape plan are more prepared and will therefore be more likely to survive a fire; and

WHEREAS, working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in reported home fires in half; and

WHEREAS, NATCHITOCHEs’ first responders are dedicated to reducing the occurrence of home fires and home fire injuries through prevention and protection education; and

WHEREAS, NATCHITOCHEs’ residents are responsive to public education measures and are able to take personal steps to increase their safety from fire, especially in their homes; and

WHEREAS, the 2020 Fire Prevention Week theme, “**Serve Up Fire Safety in the Kitchen!**” effectively serves to remind us to stay alert and use caution when cooking to reduce the risk of kitchen fires.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONNIE WILLIAMS JR., Mayor of the City of Natchitoches hereby proclaim October 4 -10, 2020 as

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

in the City of Natchitoches and urge all the citizens of NATCHITOCHEs by checking their kitchens for fire hazards and using safe cooking practices during Fire Prevention Week 2020, and to support the many public safety activities and efforts of NATCHITOCHEs' fire and emergency services.

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 28th day of September, 2020.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

Fire Chief John Wynn accepted the proclamation on behalf of Fire Prevention Week for the City of Natchitoches and thanked the Mayor and the City Council for recognizing this in the city.

The following Ordinance was Introduced by Mr. Nielsen at the September 28, 2020 City Council meeting as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 049 OF 2020

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

TWO LOTS HAVING FRONT OF 300 FEET ON SOUTH SIDE OF KEYSER AVENUE IN SECTION 57 AND SECTION 58, TOWNSHIP 9 NORTH – RANGE 7 WEST, AND 1 SHOWN ON MAP SLIDE 252-B AS TRACT “A” CONTAINING 2.24 ACRES AND TRACT “B” CONTAINING 1.35 ACRES LESS 0.111 ACRE TO HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT FROM B-3 COMMERCIAL TO ADDITIONAL B-A ZONING TO SELL BEVERAGES OF HIGH AND LOW ALCOHOLIC CONTENT FOR CONSUMPTION ON PREMISE.

(1011 Keyser Ave.)

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission of the City of Natchitoches, State of Louisiana, has recommended at their meeting of **August 4, 2020** that the application of Doug and Cathy Collins to rezone the property described above from B-3 Commercial to additional B-A zoning to sell beverages of high and low alcoholic content for consumption on premise (**1011 Keyser Ave**) was **DENIED**.

The property owners of Parkway Cinema, Doug and Cathy Collins attended the meeting and answered questions regarding the rezoning being introduced tonight. The application was denied at the Planning and Zoning Commission Meeting and the Collins' are asking that decision be reversed to allow them to sell beverages of low alcoholic content at their establishment. Both Councilman Harrington and Councilman Nielsen stated their desire to see this business stay open amongst all the economic hardship that has occurred during the pandemic.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 046 OF 2020

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY
OF NATCHITOCHES TO AWARD
THE BID FOR CAUSTIC SODA FOR THE WATER TREATMENT PLANT**

(BID NO. 0628)

WHEREAS, Resolution No.049 of 2020 was passed by the Natchitoches City Council on July 27, 2020 authorizing the Mayor to advertise for bids for Caustic Soda for the Water Treatment Plant (Bid No. 0628); and

WHEREAS, this bid was advertised in the *Natchitoches Times* on, July 30, 2020, August 6, 2020 and August 13, 2020 in accordance with law; and

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

- (1) Premier Chemicals and Services
Baton Rouge, LA \$0.1175 cents per pound
- (2) Brenntag Southwest, Inc.,
Lancaster, Tx..... \$0.1268 cents per pound
- (3) Harcross Chemicals, Inc.,
Shreveport, LA..... \$0.1285 cents per pound

WHEREAS, on September 8, 2020 the appointed committee of Debbie Miley, Finance Director; Edd Lee, Director of Purchasing; Charles Brossette, Utility Director; and Dale Nielsen, Councilman, reviewed the bid proposals for bids for Caustic Soda for the Water Treatment Plant (Bid No. 0628); and

WHEREAS, the above appointed committee members unanimously recommend the City award the bid to the lowest bidder **Premier Chemicals and Services** in the amount of **\$0.1175 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.

THIS ORDINANCE was introduced on September 14, 2020 and published in the *Natchitoches Times* on September 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 Lee Posey declared the Ordinance passed by a vote of 5 Ayes to 0 Nays this 28th day of September, 2020.

**RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR
TEMPORE**

BETTY SMITH, MAYOR PRO

Delivered to the Mayor on the 29th day of September, 2020 at 10:00 A.M.

The following Ordinance was introduced by Mr. Harrington and seconded by Ms. Smith as follows:

**ORDINANCE 047 OF 2020
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2020-2021 BUDGET
TO REFLECT ADDITIONAL REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES**

WHEREAS, L.R.S. 39:1310 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 request by the Mayor, the Council may by ordinance transfer part or all of any unencumbered appropriation balance from one department, office, or agency to another..."(Section 5.05 D) Supplemental, emergency, and reductions in appropriations must be submitted to the Council for approval by ordinance. (Section 5.05 A-C)

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

FUND 001 (General Fund)		2020-2021	2020-2021	2020-2021
		Original Budget	Increase/(Decrease)	Proposed Amended Budget
REVENUE				
001-0000-432-12-00	Cares Act	\$ 58,750	\$ 1,800,000	\$ 1,858,750
TOTAL		\$ 58,750	\$ 1,800,000	\$ 1,858,750

FUND 001 (General Fund)

		Original Budget	Increase/ (Decrease)	Proposed Amended Budget
EXPENSE				
001-0000-491-0100	Transfer Out to Utility	\$ -	\$ 1,800,000	\$ 1,800,000
TOTAL		\$ -	\$ 1,800,000	\$ 1,800,000

Fund 002 (Utility)

		Original Budget	Increase/ (Decrease)	Proposed Amended Budget
REVENUE				
002-0000-491-0200	Transfer in from General Fund	\$ -	\$ 1,800,000	\$ 1,800,000
TOTAL		\$ -	\$ 1,800,000	\$ 1,800,000

Fund 002 (Utility)

		Original Budget	Increase/ (Decrease)	Proposed Amended Budget
EXPENSE				

002-6300-630-3301	Major Storm Expense	\$ -	\$ 1,800,000	\$ 1,800,000
TOTAL			\$ 1,800,000	\$ 1,800,000

Fund 148 (Eagle Building)

REVENUE		Original Budget	Increase/ (Decrease)	Proposed Amended Budget
148-0000-481-0900	State -Rent payment	\$ -	\$ 130,000	\$ 130,000
TOTAL			\$ 130,000	\$ 130,000

Fund 148 (Eagle Building)

EXPENSE		Original Budget	Increase/ (Decrease)	Proposed Amended Budget
148-0000-591-2013	Construction	\$ -	\$ 619,970	\$ 619,970
TOTAL			\$ 619,970	\$ 619,970

Fund 70 (Sales Tax Rededication)

EXPENSE		Original Budget	Increase/ (Decrease)	Proposed Amended Budget
070-0000-591-9024	Intersection of Texas & Second Street	\$ -	\$ 81,156	\$ 81,156
070-0000-591-2615	Bayou Jacko Sewer Main Relocation	\$ -	\$ 77,220	\$ 77,220
TOTAL			\$ 158,376	\$ 158,376

This Ordinance was introduced at the September 14, 2020 City Council meeting and published in the Natchitoches Times on September 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
 NAYES: None
 ABSENT: None
 ABSTAIN: None

THEREUPON, Mayor Ronnie Williams, Jr., declared the Ordinance passed by a vote of 5 Ayes to 0 Nays this 28th day of September, 2020.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, Jr., MAYOR

BETTYS SMITH, MAYOR PRO TEMPORE

Delivered to the Mayor on the 29th day of September, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

Debbie Miley, Finance Director, explained how these funds are being received from the CARES Act and will be transferred to Utility to cover expense incurred during Hurricane Laura. This also covers the expenses needed to remodel the Eagle Building and the rent on that.

The following Ordinance was Introduced by Ms. Smith at the September 28, 2020 City Council meeting as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 050 OF 2020

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHEs, RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., TO EXECUTE A LEASE IN FAVOR OF MARC MILLICAN, OF THAT 21,785.76 SQUARE FOOT AREA SHOWN AND DEPICTED AS LOT 4 OF THE NATCHITOCHEs REGIONAL AIRPORT AS SHOWN ON THE AIRPORT LAYOUT PLAN OF APRIL 12, 1994, AND FURTHER PROVIDING FOR ADVERTISING OF THE LEASE AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City of Natchitoches is the owner of those lots shown on the Airport Layout Plan of April 12, 1994 (sometimes hereinafter "Layout Plan"), which said lots are available for lease, and more particularly is the owner of Lot 4 as shown and depicted on the Layout Plan, said Lot 4 being approximately a 21,785.76 square foot area; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor of the City of Natchitoches, Ronnie Williams, Jr., has negotiated the terms of a lease to Marc Millican, of that property shown and depicted as Lot 4 on the Layout Plan; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the terms of the lease are for a ten (10) year period, with consideration ten cents per square foot per year, being Two Thousand One Hundred Seventy-Eight no/100 (\$2,178.57) Dollars per year, with annual cost of living increases, all as set forth in the attached Lease Agreement by and between the City of Natchitoches, and Marc Millican; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the City desires to lease that property shown and depicted as Lot 4 on the Layout Plan, under the terms set forth above and more particularly set forth in the lease attached hereto.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council in legal session convened as follows:

(1) That after due proceedings and advertisement, the said City does lease that property shown and described as a 21,785.76 square foot area, more fully shown and depicted as Lot 4 on the Airport Layout Plan of April 12, 1994, to Marc Millican, for the term of ten (10) years, with an annual rental of Two Thousand One Hundred Seventy-Eight no/100 (\$2,178.57) Dollars per year, with annual cost of living increases.

(2) That notice of this proposed ordinance be published three (3) times in fifteen (15) days, one (1) week apart, in the Natchitoches Times, the legal journal for the City, and that ordinance be posted in the City Hall.

(3) That any opposition to this ordinance shall be made in writing, filed with the Clerk for the City of Natchitoches within fifteen (15) days after the first publication of this ordinance, and that a public hearing be held after the advertisements have been completed.

(4) That the Mayor, Ronnie Williams, Jr., be and he is hereby authorized, after due proceedings had, and after the legal delays have run, to execute a lease in favor of Marc Millican, leasing that property shown and described as Lot 4 on the Airport Layout Plan of April 12, 1994, for the term of ten (10) years, with the annual rental of Two Thousand One Hundred Seventy-Eight no/100 (\$2,178.57) Dollars and an annual cost of living increase.

(5) That the City Clerk be authorized to advertise this proposed lease in accordance with law, i.e., three times in fifteen days, one week apart and to report to the City Council if any opposition is made in writing prior to the time of final adoption.

(6) That the City takes cognizance of the fact that the property described above is not needed for public purposes by the City.

Mr. Millican addressed the council and is requesting his lease be extended at the Natchitoches Regional Airport for 10 years.

Mr. Nielsen asked for clarification on the lease requested by Mr. Millican where there is documentation that states Mr. Millican does not own the building.

Mr. Millican stated he is the owner of the building, the hangar, and the lease.

Mr. Harrington asked if they could hear from the legal counsel on the lease as he is aware of some issues in the past.

Mr. Corkern stated all the airport wants is a good neighbor and Mr. Millican has not been that at least in the last five years that he has been involved. Mr. Millican has cost the city a significant amount of money in legal expenses. He then stated Mr. Millican sold the hangar a year ago and may have bought it back since then, but according to the conveyance records you he sold the hangar to a Thomas Pitre and Ingrid Keel in May 2019. The new owners would need a lease with the City in order to access their hangar yet the City was never made aware of the sell. Over the years, Mr. Millican has made changes to the hangar along with hosted parties at the hangar giving guest access to the gate code to get into the runway area. The terms of the lease require insurance of which at one time Mr. Corkern was notified the insurance had been cancelled. Mr. Corkern went on to make comments regarding Mr. Millicans' bill of sale on the lots as well as complaint filed with the FAA who found those complaints without merit. Mr. Corkern's recommendation is if the council is inclined to grant a lease, then grant a lease with a shorter term.

The council then heard from Mr. Millican's legal counsel, Edwin Bird, who stated his involvement with the matter and disputes much of what was said. Since the allegation regarding the party Mr. Corkern referenced, there has been no activity out at the airport and therefore the litigation hasn't really gone further. He then stated the insurance issue has been addressed and Mr. Millican is looking to get a lease that is reasonable. Mr. Bird stated we need to look at the merit and he doesn't have comments about the length of the lease, but is confident there won't be any difficulty between the City and Mr. Millican. He is asking since there is a new administration, there should be a new effort to work with Mr. Millican and get the lease done.

Mr. Harold Bayonne addressed the council as a citizen and stated after hearing the information that has been presented to night, he is in favor of a short term lease at the most.

Mr. Harrington asked, if a lease is not awarded what will happen to the hangar at the airport?

Mr. Cooper, Airport Manager, stated by the lease Mr. Millican would have 60 days to move his hangar. If he did not, the city would probably have it appraised and offer Mr. Millican the appraised value of the hangar. Mr. Cooper then stated he and Mr. Millican have been through a lot over the years resulting in a legal battle.

Mrs. Elie asked was there anything not resolved to not give Mr. Millican a lease. Mr. Cooper stated he has met with the Mayor and Mr. Millican and has agreed to put the past in the past, but we also have to move the Airport forward.

The following Ordinance was Introduced by Mr. Nielsen at the September 28, 2020 City Council meeting as follows:

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

ORDINANCE NO. 051 OF 2020

WHEREAS, L.R.S. 39:1310 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 request by the Mayor, the Council may by ordinance transfer part or all of any unencumbered appropriation balance from one department, office, or agency to another..."(Section 5.05 D) Supplemental, emergency, and reductions in appropriations must be submitted to the Council for approval by ordinance. (Section 5.05 A-C)

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

FUND 071 (Capital Improvements/Special)

EXPENSE		Original Budget	Increase/ (Decrease)	Proposed Amended Budget
071-0000-591-9053	Capital Assets- Improvements-Monroe Drive	\$ -	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000
	TOTAL	\$ -	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000

FUND 071 (Capital Improvements/Special)

EXPENSE		Original Budget	Increase/ (Decrease)	Proposed Amended Budget
071-0000-591-9052	Capital Assets- Improvements-Bayou Jacko/Winona Crossing	\$ -	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000
	TOTAL	\$ -	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000

FUND 071 (Capital Improvements/Special)

EXPENSE		Original Budget	Increase/ (Decrease)	Proposed Amended Budget
071-0000-591-9051	Capital Assets- Improvements-Texas & Second Street	\$ -	\$ 81,500	\$ 81,500
	TOTAL	\$ -	\$ 81,500	\$ 81,500

Debbie Miley, Finance Director, stated this is for introduction on Monroe Drive to take care of the road the other two funds listed are a correction to the previous ordinance amending the budget.

The following Ordinance was Introduced by Mr. Petite at the September 28, 2020 City Council meeting as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 052 OF 2020

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY
OF NATCHITOCHEES TO AWARD
THE BID FOR PHASE 3 STREET REHABILITATION**

(BID NO. 0629)

WHEREAS, Resolution No.051 of 2020 was passed by the Natchitoches City Council on August 10, 2020 authorizing the Mayor to advertise for Phase 3 Street Rehabilitation (Bid No. 0629); and

WHEREAS, this bid was advertised in the *Natchitoches Times* on, August 13, August 20, and August 27, 2020 in accordance with law; and

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

(1) Regional Construction, LLC Natchitoches, LA	\$499,719.25
(2) Earnest Contracting, LLC Shreveport, LA.....	\$541,375.70
(3) T.L. Construction, LLC Alexandria, LA	\$584,144.62

WHEREAS, on September 15, 2020 the appointed committee of Debbie Miley, Finance Director; Edd Lee, Director of Purchasing; Fred Bernstine, Public Works Department; and Dale Nielsen, Councilman, reviewed the bid proposals for Phase 3 Street Rehabilitation, (Bid No. 0629); and

WHEREAS, the above appointed committee members unanimously recommend the City award the bid to the lowest bidder **Regional Construction, LLC** in the amount of **\$499,719.25**

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.

Mrs. Juanita Fowler stated she is here tonight as a concerned citizen in reference to Pierson Subdivision also referred to as Pan Am and how it relates to Phase 3 of this project. She along with other property owners, tenants and concerned citizens of this subdivision are here to share their concern regarding the condition of the streets in this subdivision. She stated in 2019 a petition of signatures was presented to Mayor Posey and the City Council to address the issues regarding streets, drainage ditches and other concerns, but tonight she will just address the condition of the streets. Ms. Fowler stated the subdivision was developed in 1946 with over 60 lots that to her knowledge have never been overlaid. The three streets of Railroad, Hill and Genti are all dead end and the driving surface is practically gone. She stated they too are taxpayers that contribute to the tax base of the city and know you all are aware of the conditions of the streets in this area. Ms. Fowler hopes the council will reevaluate the resolution and consider adding these streets to Phase 3 of this project.

Many council members had questions in regards to this subdivision Mrs. Fowler was able to answer.

Mayor Williams stated he has walked these streets mentioned tonight and rode out to Monroe Drive, Von Orange, and Johnson Lane. There are streets within the city already where property owners pay taxes and the thought that these streets should be prioritized over those in his opinion needs further review.

Gloria Young, a resident of Pan Am, stated this is her third time to come before the council in reference to these streets and mentioned it is a neighborhood she loves, but this is embarrassing. She is here tonight to beg to please fix the streets in this subdivision.

Sylvia Morrow stated during the same meeting Mrs. Fowler had mentioned earlier, she submitted streets that needed rehab in District 3 and she has since passed those on to Councilman Petite.

Councilman Harrington stated the condition of Genti is embarrassing and to know there are other streets in Natchitoches like this, this must be addressed.

Councilman Nielsen said he agrees with Mrs. Fowler and whatever it takes we need to move in a direction to get these streets done.

The following Ordinance was Introduced by Mrs. Elie at the September 28, 2020 City Council meeting as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 053 OF 2020

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY
OF NATCHITOCHEs TO AWARD
THE BID FOR A 35 TON DETACHABLE GOOSENECK SPRING RIDE TRAILER**

(BID NO. 0630)

WHEREAS, Resolution No.052 of 2020 was passed by the Natchitoches City Council on July 10, 2020 authorizing the Mayor to advertise for bids for a 35 Ton Detachable Gooseneck Spring Ride Trailer (Bid No. 0630); and

WHEREAS, this bid was advertised in the *Natchitoches Times* on, August 13, August 20, and August 27, 2020 in accordance with law; and

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

- | | | |
|-----|--|-------------|
| (1) | Kaufman Trailers
Lexington, NC..... | \$39,715.00 |
| (2) | Holden Industries, Inc.,
South West City, MO..... | \$51,272.00 |
| (3) | Scott Equipment
Alexandria, LA | \$62,475.00 |

WHEREAS, on September 15, 2020 the appointed committee of Debbie Miley, Finance Director; Edd Lee, Director of Purchasing; Matt Anderson, Utility Department; and Betty Smith, Councilwoman, reviewed the bid proposals for a 35 Ton Detachable Gooseneck Spring Ride Trailer, (Bid No. 0630); and

WHEREAS, the above appointed committee members unanimously recommend the City award the bid to the lowest bidder **Kaufman Trailers** in the amount of **\$39,715.00**

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.

The following Ordinance was Introduced by Mr. Harrington at the September 28, 2020 City Council meeting as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 054 OF 2020

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHEs, RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., TO EXECUTE AN AMENDMENT TO THAT LEASE IN FAVOR OF AIR DATA SOLUTIONS OF A PORTION OF LOT 1A OF THE NATCHITOCHEs REGIONAL AIRPORT AS SHOWN ON THE AIRPORT LAYOUT PLAN OF APRIL 27, 2001, TO PROVIDE FOR AN UPDATED MAILING ADDRESS FOR TENANT.

WHEREAS, the City of Natchitoches (sometimes hereinafter “City”) entered into a lease with Air Data Solutions, L.L.C. (sometimes hereinafter “Air Data”) for the lease of a portion of Lot 1A of the Natchitoches Regional Airport, as said lot is shown on the Airport Layout Plan of April 27, 2001 (sometimes hereinafter “Layout Plan”) said lease recorded at Mortgage Book 1104, page 6 of the records of Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, Air Data has requested that the above described lease be amended to provide for an updated address for Air Data; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the City Council has reviewed and approved the attached proposed Amendment to Lease and desires to approve same.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council in legal session convened as follows:

(1) That after due proceedings and advertisement, the said City does approve the Amendment to Lease Agreement between the City of Natchitoches and Air Data Solution, L.L.C. which said Amendment to Lease Agreement provides for an updated mailing address for Air Data Solutions, L.L.C..

(2) That the Mayor, Ronnie Williams, Jr., be and he is hereby authorized, after due proceedings had, and after the legal delays have run, to execute the Amendment to Lease Agreement on behalf of the City of Natchitoches.

(3) That the City Clerk be authorized to advertise this proposed lease amendment in accordance with law.

THIS ORDINANCE was introduced on this the 28th day of September, 2020.

A motion to amend the agenda to add Ordinance 055 of 2020 was made by Ms. Smith, seconded by Mr. Nielsen. The vote was recorded as follows:

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

The following Ordinance was Introduced by Mr. Nielsen at the September 28, 2020 City Council meeting as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 055 OF 2020

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, NATCHITOCHE, 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.

CITY OF NATCHITOCHEs

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 063

Date: September 28, 2020

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

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/ Rehabilitate Airfield Drainage – Phase III (Construction); 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 Rehabilitate Airfield Drainage – Phase III (Construction) and reimburse the sponsor up to \$150,000 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 and SPN H.014447, 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, Harrington, Petite

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

WHEREUPON, the resolution was declared adopted on the 28th day of September, 2020.

CITY OF NATCHITOCHEs

BY: _____
(Signature)

(Typed or Printed Name)

TITLE: _____

ATTEST: _____
(Signature)

TITLE: _____

CITY OF NATCHITOCHEs

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 064

Date: September 28, 2020

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

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 Install New Perimeter Fence and Repair Existing Fence - Phase II; 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 Install New Perimeter Fence and Repair Existing Fence - Phase II and reimburse the sponsor up to \$220,280 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.014450, 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, Harrington, Petite

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

WHEREUPON, the resolution was declared adopted on the 28th day of September 2020.

CITY OF NATCHITOCHEs

BY: _____
(Signature)

(Typed or Printed Name)

TITLE: _____

ATTEST: _____
(Signature)

TITLE: _____

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

RESOLUTION NO. 065 OF 2020

A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF MATT ANDERSON AS THE UTILITY DIRECTOR FOR THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHEs

WHEREAS, Section 4.07 of the Home Rule Charter provides that the Utility Director shall be appointed consistent with the provisions of the Home Rule Charter, subject to confirmation by the City Council.

WHEREAS FURTHER, the position for Utility Director is vacant; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, The City Council desires to confirm the appointment of Matt Anderson as Utility Director upon the recommendation of the Mayor.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council in legal session convened, that the appointment of Matt Anderson to the position of Utility Director is hereby approved.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the duties of the Utility Director shall be those duties as set forth in Section 4.07 of the Home Rule Charter.

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 28th day of September, 2020.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

Mayor Williams read aloud Mr. Anderson qualifications for the job and stated he has been with the city over 20 years. He stated he most recently worked closely with Mr. Anderson on Hurricane Laura and he has been a pleasure to work with.

Matt Anderson thanked Mayor Williams for the opportunity to serve as Utility Director. He stated he currently serves as Assistant Utility Director working on budget review, five year capital outlay and working alongside engineers on funding for city projects. He stated the certifications he currently holds in the State of Louisiana.

Mr. Harrington stated we are very fortunate that policy and precedence within the city allowed this position to be filled from within and had someone with the qualifications like Mr. Anderson did.

Mr. Nielsen congratulated Mr. Anderson on his promotion as he knows he has worked and studied hard to get where he is today.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 066 OF 2020

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR

**TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR THE NATCHITOCHEs REGIONAL AIRPORT
CONSISTING OF FURNISH MK20A LOCALIZER (EQUIPMENT ONLY)**

BID NO. 0631

WHEREAS, the City wishes to advertise for bids for the Natchitoches Regional Airport consisting of Furnish MK20A Localizer (Equipment only), Bid No. 0631; and

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 10: a.m. on Tuesday, October 27, 2020 at the Office of the Director of Purchasing, 1400 Sabine Street; and

WHEREAS, bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at 10:00 a.m., on Tuesday, October 27, 2020 held at the above mentioned Office of the Director of Purchasing; and

WHEREAS, upon receipt of proposals the committee of Debbie Miley, Director of Finance; Edd Lee, Director of Purchasing; Rosemary Elie, Councilwoman; and Larry Cooper, Airport Manager, 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 Ronnie Williams, Jr., 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: 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 28th day of September, 2020.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 067 OF 2020
A RESOLUTION APPOINTING NICOLE GRAY
AS CHIEF OF STAFF FOR THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES**

BE IT RESOLVED, the Chief of Staff is to be responsible for assisting the Mayor of the City of Natchitoches to meet his responsibilities and duties; and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, the position for Chief of Staff is vacant; and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, Mayor Ronnie Williams, Jr., desires to appoint Nicole Gray as Chief of Staff for the City of Natchitoches.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council does hereby take cognizance that Mayor Ronnie Williams, Jr., appoint Nicole Gray as Chief of Staff for the City of Natchitoches.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council does hereby confirm the appointment of Nicole Gray as the Chief of Staff for the City of Natchitoches.

This Resolution was then presented for a vote, and the vote was recorded as follows:

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

THEREUPON, Mayor Ronnie Williams, Jr., declared the Resolution **FAILED** by a vote of 2 Ayes to 3 Nays on this 28th day of September, 2020.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

Mayor Williams gave an introduction for Nicole Gray stating her qualifications and experience as to his desire to appoint her as the City's Chief of Staff as well as the many organizations she is currently involved in. He stated back in 2013, there was an ordinance passed by the City Council creating the position of Chief of Staff stating the Chief of Staff is responsible for assisting the mayor in his responsibilities and duties as mayor as well as other duties outlined in the document set forth. He stated he believes Nicole Gray will be an awesome asset here to the City as she is going to promote growth and ideas with her experience from around the country. After much consideration, this is who the Mayor is presenting before the council tonight to implement the vision that was voted upon in the election.

Nicole Gray approached the podium and addressed the council. She stated she has been a business professional for over 25 years and dedicated her free time to serving this community. Ms. Gray stated her life has been about service and when Mayor Williams asked her to serve as she stated she is happy to serve at the pleasure of the mayor as a Chief of Staff.

Mr. Nielsen stated when the position was created in 2013 he thought it needed to be full-time, but it's definitely a part-time position. He stated he has heard a money amount when right now there is a stipend pay for it and its \$5000.

Mrs. Elie stated pay could not be discussed tonight only Ms. Gray's appointment as Chief of Staff.

Mr. Harrington asked Mr. Corkern for his opinion on this and Mr. Corkern stated since the Mayor is creating this position he can assume nothing was budgeted for this position. At some point in time the council will have to authorize that payment.

Ms. Gray stated she has not negotiated a salary with anyone. No one has arrived at a salary amount and it has not been discussed between her and Mayor Williams.

Comments and questions were asked of the council from various members of the audience regarding this position and how the hiring process is handled. Mr. Harrington addressed those questions as they related to appointments by the mayor and the rules stated in the city's Home Rule Charter.

Ms. Elie asked if Edd Lee was asked to step down as Chief of Staff. Mr. Lee stated yes, just the duties of Chief of Staff that were assigned to me. He stated he as far as he knows he will retain his other job responsibilities.

Ms. Gray asked were there any other questions regarding her credentials and Mr. Harrington stated the council has not been giving anything with her credentials. Discussion was had on the proper procedure for relaying or sending resumes, applications, or other correspondence to the City Council for matters such as this. Ms. Smith nor Mr. Nielsen noted they did not receive the information as well.

Mr. Harrington stated the job was appointed to Mr. Edd Lee along with his other roles within the city for \$5000 per year as a part-time position and asked the Mayor would he like to clarify or elaborate on the number that has been thrown out there. Mayor Williams stated it was an employer/employee matter and he would not discuss the salary at this time. He stated the amended budget would have to come back before the council, so if it is a number you are not please with we would go from there. Tonight we are voting on appointment, not salary.

Mr. Harrington asked if it would be considered a full time position. Ms. Gray stated that has been discussed and it would depend on the scope of those responsibilities.

Robert Jackson addressed the council and mayor regarding the charter and a decision that was made at the last City Council meeting. He stated the charter outlines that the mayor has the power to appoint certain employees and his observation is that there is an organized effort to not allow the appointments the mayor would like to implement.

Sylvia Morrow and Harold Bayonne also addressed the council regarding the discussion held tonight regarding this position and the way the position is being handled in tonight's meeting.

Mayor Williams stated this meeting has been far spent and it was time to put the resolution to a vote.

Debbie Miley, Finance Director, presented the Council with the Finance Report. The General Fund summary as of June 2020 stated the revenues were at 4.66% and expenditures at 3.72%, with 8% of the budget year elapsed. The Utility Fund revenues were at 6.72% and expenditures at 5.70%. Sales Tax Collections were up 10.81% for August. The TIF for August was down 10.76%.

The next scheduled City Council meeting will be **October 12, 2020.**

With no further discussion, Mayor Posey made a motion for adjournment and all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

BETTY SMITH, MAYOR PRO-TEMPORE