

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES, STATE OF LOUISIANA,
REGULAR MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 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, November 9, 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: Stephanie Coleman – Real Estate Redeveloper

Absent: None

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

Mayor Williams then called for the reading and approval of the minutes for the October 26, 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

Stephanie Coleman thanked the City Council for the opportunity to speak tonight. Stephanie stated her company is Perfect Key Home Solutions which is a full service real estate investment firm that buys and sells properties throughout Louisiana. This company specializes in buying distressed homes, renovating them, and then reselling the property to retail home buyers and landlords. They also redeveloped a large number of single family and multi-family homes as well as mobile homes with the intention of revitalizing communities while encouraging home ownership. Stephanie came tonight to let the City know what her company can offer or to direct anyone to them they could possibly help.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 060 OF 2020

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES, RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., TO EXECUTE A LEASE IN FAVOR OF ETIOLE PATRIMONY, LLC, OF LOT 39 OF THE NATCHITOCHES REGIONAL AIRPORT AS SHOWN ON THE AIRPORT LAYOUT PLAN OF OCTOBER 1993, AS REVISED SEPTEMBER 2000, 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 October, 1993 as revised September 2000 (sometimes hereinafter "Layout Plan"), which said lots are available for lease, and more particularly is the owner of Lot 39 as shown and depicted on the Layout Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Airport Manager, Larry Cooper, has negotiated the terms of a lease with Etiole Patrimony, L.L.C., of that property shown and depicted as Lot 39 on the Layout Plan; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the terms of the lease are for a one (1) year period, with consideration ten cents per square foot per year, being One Thousand One Hundred Fifty no/100 (\$1,150.00) Dollars per year, with an option to extend for one year, all as set forth in the attached Lease Agreement by and between the City of Natchitoches, and Etiole Patrimony, L.L.C.; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the City desires to lease that property shown and depicted as Lot 39 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 more fully shown and depicted as Lot 39 on the Airport Layout Plan of October 1993, as revised September 2000, to Etiole Patrimony, L.L.C., for the term of one (1) year, with an option to extend for one year, and with an annual rental of One Thousand One Hundred Fifty no/100 (\$1,150.00) Dollars per year.

(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 Etiole Patrimony, L.L.C., leasing that property shown and described as Lot 39 on the Airport Layout Plan of of October 1993, as revised September 2000, for the term of one (1) year, with an option to extend for one year, and with the annual rental of One Thousand One Hundred Fifty no/100 (\$1,150.00)Dollars.

(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.

THIS ORDINANCE was introduced on October 12, 2020 and published in the *Natchitoches Times* on October 15, 2020, October 22, 2020 and October 29, 2020.

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 9th day of November, 2020.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

BETTY SMITH, MAYOR PRO TEMPORE

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

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

ORDINANCE NO. 061 OF 2020

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY
OF NATCHITOCHES TO AWARD
THE BID FOR LIQUID CHLORINE FOR THE WATER TREATMENT PLANT
(BID NO. 0632)**

WHEREAS, Resolution No.058 of 2020 was passed by the Natchitoches City Council on September 14, 2020 authorizing the Mayor to advertise for bids for Liquid Chlorine for the Water Treatment Plant (Bid No. 0632); and

WHEREAS, this bid was advertised in the *Natchitoches Times* on, August 17, August 24, and October 1, 2020 in accordance with law; and

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

- (1) DPC Enterprises
Reserve, LA \$796.00 per ton
- (2) Brenntag Southwest, Inc.,
Lancaster, TX..... \$800.00 per ton

WHEREAS, on October 19, 2020 the appointed committee of Debbie Miley, Finance Director; Edd Lee, Director of Purchasing; Matt Anderson, Utility Department; and Christopher Petite, Councilman, reviewed the bid proposals for Liquid Chlorine for the Water Treatment Plant, (Bid No. 0632); and

WHEREAS, the above appointed committee members unanimously recommend the City award the bid to the lowest bidder **DPC Enterprises** in the amount of **\$796.00 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 October 26, 2020 and published in the *Natchitoches Times* on October 29, 2020.

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 9th day of November, 2020.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

BETTY SMITH, MAYOR PRO TEMPORE

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

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

ORDINANCE NO. 062 OF 2020

**AN ORDINANCE APPROVING CITY OF NATCHITOCHES
EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT WITH THE CITY
ATTORNEY AND FURTHER AUTHORIZING THE
MAYOR, RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., TO EXECUTE THE
EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY
OF NATCHITOCHES**

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 4.02 of the Charter of the City of Natchitoches, Louisiana, the Mayor of the City of Natchitoches has appointed Mr. Alex Washington. as City Attorney, and the City Council of the City of Natchitoches confirmed the appointment by Resolution No. 071 of 2020, dated October 12, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the City of Natchitoches and Mr. Alex Washington have negotiated and agreed upon the terms and form of Contract to Employ Attorney (sometimes hereinafter referred to as “Employment Contract”); and

WHEREAS, the Employment Contract is attached hereto and the City Council of the City of Natchitoches desires to approves the Employment Contract and authorizes the Mayor to execute same on behalf of the City of Natchitoches, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Natchitoches has reviewed the Employment Contract, approves the form of same, and desires to authorize and direct the Mayor to execute same on behalf of the City of Natchitoches.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Natchitoches, in legal session convened, that it hereby authorizes, empowers, and directs the Honorable Ronnie Williams, Jr., Mayor, to execute the attached Employment Contract, entitled “Contract to Employ Attorney”, between the City of Natchitoches and Mr. Alex Washington, City Attorney.

THIS ORDINANCE was introduced on October 26, 2020 and published in the *Natchitoches Times* on October 29, 2020.

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 9th day of November, 2020.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

BETTY SMITH, MAYOR PRO TEMPORE

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

The following Ordinance was Introduced by Harrington at the November 9, 2020 City Council meeting as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 063 OF 2020

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY
OF NATCHITOCHES TO AWARD THE BID FOR THE NATCHITOCHES REGIONAL
AIRPORT FURNISH MK20A LOCALIZER (EQUIPMENT ONLY)**

(BID NO. 0631)

WHEREAS, Resolution No.066 of 2020 was passed by the Natchitoches City Council on September 28, 2020 authorizing the Mayor to advertise for the Natchitoches Regional Airport Furnish MK20A Localizer (equipment only), Bid No. 0631; and

WHEREAS, this bid was advertised in the *Natchitoches Times* on, October 8, 2020, and October 15, 2020; and

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

- (1) Thales USA, Inc.,
 Overland Park, KS\$212,717.00

WHEREAS, on October 29, 2020 the appointed committee of Debbie Miley, Finance Director; Edd Lee, Director of Purchasing; Larry Cooper, Airport Manager; and Rosemary Elie, Councilwoman, reviewed the bid proposals for bids for the Natchitoches Regional Airport Furnish MK20A Localizer (equipment only), Bid No. 0631; and

WHEREAS, the above appointed committee members unanimously recommend the City award the bid to the only bidder **Thales USA, Inc.**, in the amount of **\$212,717.00**.

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.

Councilwoman at Large Betty Smith made a motion to add Resolution #078 of 2020 to the agenda, seconded by Councilman Harrington. A roll call vote was recorded as follows:

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

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

RESOLUTION NUMBER 078 OF 2020

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE OPERATION OF WATERCRAFT IN THE FIREWORKS DISPLAY FALLOUT AREA UNTIL 5:00 PM ON CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL DAY, DECEMBER 5, 2020, IN LIGHT OF THE AMENDED PLANS FOR CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL DAY DUE TO THE IMPACT OF THE CORONA VIRUS.

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Natchitoches amended Section 22-36 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Natchitoches by Ordinance Number 40 of 2018 in order to provide for the control and exclusion of watercraft on Cane River Lake in the fireworks display fallout area for specified time periods; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the goal of this section of the Code of Ordinances is to provide for safety of boaters and property during fireworks display that occurs in downtown Natchitoches; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, subsections (b) and (c) of section 22-36 of the Code of Ordinances provide as follows:

(b) It shall be unlawful for any person to operate or use a watercraft for any purpose whatsoever or leave any watercraft moored or docked on Cane River Lake within the designated area as marked with buoys or other appropriate signs, symbols or other markings identifying the limits of the designated area, on the first Saturday of December of each year, during that time period beginning at 3:30 p.m. and continuing until the area has been declared safe by the Fire Marshall, or his designee, on the day commonly referred to as "Christmas Festival Day". It being the intention of this section to prohibit the operation, use, mooring or docking of any and all watercraft, whatsoever, within such designated area of the corporate limits of the city, for the time period set forth above, on Christmas Festival Day.

(c) It shall be unlawful for any person to operate or use a watercraft for any purpose whatsoever or leave any watercraft moored or docked on Cane River

Lake within the designated area as marked with buoys or other appropriate signs, symbols or other markings identifying the limits of the designated area, on any day when a fireworks display occurs in downtown Natchitoches, during that time period beginning at 6:00 p.m. and continuing until the area has been declared safe by the Fire Marshall, or his designee. It being the intention of this section to prohibit the operation, use, mooring or docking of any and all watercraft, whatsoever, within such designated area of the corporate limits of the city for the time period set forth above, during any fireworks display; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, due to the corona virus the plans for Christmas Festival day festivities have been modified so that activities on Christmas Festival Day will be very similar to activities on other weekends during the Christmas season and the number of admission tickets to the Christmas Festival will be greatly reduced; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, in light of the changes to the activities and reduction in crowd, the City Council of the City of Natchitoches, Louisiana, is of the opinion that the time period for watercraft exclusion from the fireworks exclusion zone can be safely pushed back to begin at 5:00 P.M. rather than 3:30 P.M.; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Natchitoches, Louisiana, that the Chief of Police, or his designee, shall allow watercraft within the designated area as marked with buoys or other appropriate signs, symbols or other markings identifying the limits of the designated area, on December 5, 2020, until 5:00 P.M. rather than the usual cutoff time of 3:30 p.m.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Natchitoches, Louisiana, that other than the above modification, Section 22:36 shall be enforced as written, in its entirety.

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 9th day of November, 2020.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

David Kingsley addressed the council regarding trespassing as it relates to vehicles parking in front of his property and others along Second Street during the Christmas season. Last year when he called the police department to remove someone from his property, he was told this was a civil matter and was told to call a towing company however when he called the towing company he was directed to call the police department. Mr. Kingsley is addressing the council tonight to get guidance on how to deal with this matter in the future and asked if the City would require the police and sheriff's department to adhere to the trespassing laws for this year's Christmas Festival and future festivals.

Mayor Williams stated he would take Mr. Kingsley's comments into consideration and will look further into what can and should happen.

The next scheduled City Council meeting will be **November 23, 2020**.

The City of Natchitoches offices will be closed **Thursday, November 26** and **Friday, November 27, 2020** for the Thanksgiving Holidays.

With no further discussion, Mayor Posey made a motion for adjournment and all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 5:51 p.m.

/s/
RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

/s/
BETTY SMITH, MAYOR PRO-TEMPORE