

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES, STATE OF LOUISIANA,
REGULAR MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2023 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, February 13, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.

There were present:

Mayor Ronnie Williams
Councilwoman At Large Betty Sawyer-Smith
Councilman Eddie Harrington
Councilman Christopher Petite
Councilman Dale Nielsen
Councilwoman Rosemary Elie

Guest: None

Absent: None

Mayor Ronnie Williams called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone for coming. Mayor Williams 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 January 23, 2022 meeting. Councilwoman At Large Smith moved that we dispense with the reading of the minutes and approval of same. Seconded by Councilman Petite.

A roll call vote was as follows:

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

Jason Dewitt candidate running for District 25 spoke briefly in reference to areas in Natchitoches Parish that are located in his district.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 016 OF 2023

**A RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2023
AS AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH IN THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES**

WHEREAS, the history of our great country has been written by men and women of every race, religion and ethnic background and African American History Month gives us the opportunity to recognize the extraordinary contributions African Americans have made to the rich cultural history of our nation; and

WHEREAS, we also recognize the courage and tenacity of so many hard-working African Americans whose legacies are woven into the fabric of our country; and

WHEREAS, we as a country must continue to encourage and demand our children to reach for the full measure of their potential and ambitions through education; and

WHEREAS, each February we recognize African American History Month to reflect upon how far we have come as a Nation and community and what challenges remain; and

WHEREAS, each year a national theme is chosen by The Association for the Study of African American Life and History; and

WHEREAS, the 2023 national theme is, “Black Resistance,” explores how African Americans have addressed historic and ongoing disadvantage and oppression, as evidenced by recent events; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MAYOR RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., Mayor of the City of Natchitoches hereby proclaim February 2023 as

AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

in the City of Natchitoches and call upon all the citizens of Natchitoches to honor and respect the significant contributions African Americans have made to our City and Nation.

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 13th day of February, 2023.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

Mr. J ohhny Barnes received Proclamation No. 016 of 2023.

Jessica Broadway: Audit Presentation

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

ORDINANCE NO. 005 OF 2023

AN ORDINANCE, UPON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FINANCE DEPARTMENT, THAT THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES ENTER INTO A LEASE OF A 29.7 ACRE TRACT IN THE INDUSTRIAL PARK FOR HAY OPERATIONS WITH M & M FARMS OF CANE RIVER, L.L.C., AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR, RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., TO EXECUTE SAID LEASE ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES, AND TO PROVIDE FOR ADVERTISING.

WHEREAS, the City of Natchitoches currently leases a 29.7-acre tract South of Industrial Drive in the Industrial Park, for hay to M & M Farms of Cane River, L.L.C. (sometimes hereinafter “M & M”); and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the Finance Department and Purchasing Department has reviewed the current lease and is of the opinion that M & M has satisfactorily fulfilled its obligations under the lease in the past, and is of the opinion that the lease should be renewed for a three-year term with M & M; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the Finance Department and Purchasing Department has recommended to the City Council of the City of Natchitoches that the lease be renewed with M & M for an additional three-year term; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, a lease has been prepared setting forth the term, conditions, and consideration for the proposed hay field lease a copy of which said lease is attached hereto; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, under the provisions of Louisiana R. S. 33:4712, any property owned by the City can be leased to any person after due advertisement and compliance with the law;

WHEREAS FURTHER, the City Council is of the opinion that the hay field rights are not needed by the City for any public purpose, but are a potential source of revenue if leased;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Natchitoches, in legal session convened, that the recommendations of the Purchasing Department are hereby approved; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that Ronnie Williams, Jr., Mayor of the City of Natchitoches, be and he is hereby authorized and empowered to enter into a lease agreement with M & M, for hay field operations, all in substantial compliance with the lease agreement, a copy of which is attached hereto and approved by the Finance Department and Purchasing Department.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED 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.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED 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.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED 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.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the City takes cognizance of the fact that the rights to the property described above is not needed for public purposes by the City.

THIS ORDINANCE was introduced on January 23, 2023 and published in the *Natchitoches Times* on January 26, February 2, and February 9, 2023.

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 13th day of February, 2023.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

BETTY SMITH, MAYOR PRO TEMPORE

Delivered to the Mayor on the 14th day of February, 2023 at 10:00 A.M.

Edd Lee spoke about Ordinance No. 5,7, and 8, of 2023. Percy Powell inquired about the proceeds of the lease in Ordinance No. 005 of 2023, to which Edd Lee responded.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 007 OF 2023

AN ORDINANCE, UPON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FINANCE DEPARTMENT, THAT THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES ENTER INTO A LEASE OF A 25 ACRE TRACT IN THE INDUSTRIAL PARK FOR HAY OPERATIONS WITH JAMES R. STACY, AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR, RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., TO EXECUTE SAID LEASE ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES, AND TO PROVIDE FOR ADVERTISING.

WHEREAS, the City of Natchitoches currently leases a 25-acre tract North of Industrial Drive in the Industrial Park, for hay to James Russell Stacy; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the Finance Department and Purchasing Department has reviewed the current lease and is of the opinion that Mr. Stacy has satisfactorily fulfilled his obligations under leases in the past, and is of the opinion that the lease should be renewed for a three-year term with Mr. Stacy; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the Finance Department and Purchasing Department has recommended to the City Council of the City of Natchitoches that the lease be renewed with James Russell Stacy for an additional three-year term; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, a lease has been prepared setting forth the term, conditions, and consideration for the proposed hay field lease a copy of which said lease is attached hereto; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, under the provisions of Louisiana R. S. 33:4712, any property owned by the City can be leased to any person after due advertisement and compliance with the law; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the City Council is of the opinion that the hay field rights are not needed by the City for any public purpose, but are a potential source of revenue if leased;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Natchitoches, in legal session convened, that the recommendations of the Finance Department and Purchasing Department are hereby approved; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that Ronnie Williams, Jr., Mayor of the City of Natchitoches, be and he is hereby authorized and empowered to enter into a lease agreement with

James R. Stacy, for hay field operations, all in substantial compliance with the lease agreement, a copy of which is attached hereto and approved by the Director of Finance and Purchasing Department.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED 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.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED 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.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED 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.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the City takes cognizance of the fact that the rights to the property described above is not needed for public purposes by the City.

THIS ORDINANCE was introduced on January 23, 2023 and published in the *Natchitoches Times* on January 26, February 2, and February 9, 2023.

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 13th day of February, 2023.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

BETTY SMITH, MAYOR PRO TEMPORE

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

ORDINANCE NO. 008 OF 2023

AN ORDINANCE, UPON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FINANCE DEPARTMENT AND THE AIRPORT COMMISSION, THAT THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES AUTHORIZE A LEASE OF THAT AREA UNDER FENCE AT THE NATCHITOCHES REGIONAL AIRPORT FOR HAY OPERATIONS WITH JAMES RUSSELL STACY, AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR, RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., TO EXECUTE SAID LEASE ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES, AND TO PROVIDE FOR ADVERTISING.

WHEREAS, the City of Natchitoches currently leases its area under fence at the Natchitoches Regional Airport, for hay to James Russell Stacy; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the Finance Department and Purchasing Department has reviewed the current lease and is of the opinion that Mr. Stacy has satisfactorily fulfilled his obligations under leases in the past, and is of the opinion that the lease should be renewed for a three-year term with Mr. Stacy; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the Finance Department and Purchasing Department has recommended to the City Council of the City of Natchitoches that the lease be renewed with James Russell Stacy for an additional three-year term; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, a lease has been prepared setting forth the term, conditions, and consideration for the proposed hay field lease;

WHEREAS FURTHER, under the provisions of Louisiana R. S. 33:4712, any property owned by the City can be leased to any person after due advertisement and compliance with the law;

WHEREAS FURTHER, the City Council is of the opinion that the hay field rights are not needed by the City for any public purpose, but are a potential source of revenue if leased; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the Airport Commission has reviewed the proposed lease and has approved same;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Natchitoches, in legal session convened, that the recommendations of the Finance Department and Purchasing Department are hereby approved; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that Ronnie Williams, Jr., Mayor of the City of Natchitoches, be and he is hereby authorized and empowered to enter into a lease agreement with James Russell Stacy, for hay field operations, all in substantial compliance with the lease agreement, a copy of which is attached hereto.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED 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.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED 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.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED 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.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the City takes cognizance of the fact that the rights to the property described above is not needed for public purposes by the City.

THIS ORDINANCE was introduced on January 23, 2023 and published in the *Natchitoches Times* on January 26, February 2, and February 9, 2023.

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 13th day of February, 2023.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

BETTY SMITH, MAYOR PRO TEMPORE

Delivered to the Mayor on the 14th day of February, 2023 at 10:00 A.M.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 009 OF 2023

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES, RONNIE WILLIAMS, TO EXECUTE AN AGRICULTURAL LEASE FROM THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES IN FAVOR OF JOHN DANLEY AND SALLY DANLEY OF THAT PROPERTY LOCATED BETWEEN THE SOUTH LOUISIANA HIGHWAY 1 BY-PASS AND WATERWELL ROAD BEING TRACTS "B" AND "D" AS SHOWN ON A SURVEY BY GLEN L. CANNON, DATED OCTOBER 2005 AND RECORDED AT MAP SLIDE 569-B OF THE RECORDS OF NATCHITOCHES PARISH, LOUISIANA, AND FURTHER PROVIDING FOR ADVERTISING OF THE LEASE, A PUBLIC HEARING AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS John Danley and Sally Danley (sometimes hereinafter "Danley") submitted a response to a Request For Proposal #0303, which requested proposals for the agricultural lease of two tracts of land located in Section 88, Township 9 North, Range 7 West and Section 57, Township 8 North, Range 7 West, Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana, said property being more fully being shown and depicted as Tracts "B" and "D" on a survey by Glen L. Cannon, dated October 2005 and recorded at Map Slide 569-B of the records of Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana; and

January 1, 2023 and terminating December 31, 2025; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, understanding the City of Natchitoches acquired the property for industrial development and acknowledging that the property may need to be made available to a developer during the term of the lease or some extension thereof, the parties have agreed that the City may terminate the lease early if the property is needed for industrial development, and if the lease is canceled during its term, the City will reimburse Danley for the fair market value of the crop at the time that the lease is cancelled; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, there will be no reimbursement to Danley if the lease is canceled during the period from September 16 through April 14; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the property which is the subject of the proposed lease is currently not being used for any purpose, and the City of Natchitoches desires to create a source of income for the City of Natchitoches until such time that the property is needed for industrial development; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, a lease has been prepared setting forth the term, conditions, and consideration for the proposed agricultural lease; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the City Council is of the opinion that the property shown and depicted as Tracts "B" and "D" on a survey by Glen L. Cannon, dated October 2005 and recorded at Map Slide 569-B of the records of Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana, are not currently needed by the City for any public purpose, but are a potential source of revenue if leased;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Natchitoches, in legal session convened, that Ronnie Williams, Mayor of the City of Natchitoches, be and he is hereby authorized and empowered to enter into an agricultural lease agreement with John and Sally Danley, all in substantial compliance with the lease agreement, a copy of which is attached hereto.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED 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.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED 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.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED 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.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the City takes cognizance of the fact that the rights

to the property described above is not currently needed for public purposes by the City.

THIS ORDINANCE was introduced on January 23, 2023 and published in the *Natchitoches Times* on January 26, February 2, and February 9, 2023.

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 13th day of February, 2023.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

BETTY SMITH, MAYOR PRO TEMPORE

Delivered to the Mayor on the 14th day of February, 2023 at 10:00 A.M.

Edd Lee provided information pertaining to Ordinance No. 009 of 2023.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 010 of 2023

AN ORDINANCE TO DESIGNATE FUNDS FROM THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN TO ASSIST WITH THE WATER TREATMENT PROJECT IN THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES THAT ARE ESSENTIAL TO PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO.

WHEREAS, the City of Natchitoches (sometimes hereinafter referred to as the “**City**”) is a Municipality located in the State of Louisiana, Parish of Natchitoches governed under a Home Rule Charter and a Code of Ordinances adopted by Ordinance No. 5 of 1977; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, Section 1310 of Title 39 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended (La. R.S. 39:1310) requires that when “there has been a change in operations upon which the original adopted budget was developed, the governing authority shall adopt a budget amendment in an open meeting to reflect such change;” and

WHEREAS FURTHER, Section 2.10 of the Charter of the Home Rule Charter of the City, approved by the charter commission of the city on July 7, 1975 and the voters at the election of November 1, 1975, requires that any appropriation of funds by the City be enacted by an ordinance of the City Council of the City, acting as the governing authority thereof (the “**Governing Authority**”); and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, enacted by the 117th Congress of the United States of America (“**ARPA**”), appropriated One Million Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$1,250,000.00) to the State of Louisiana, which was then appropriated to the City (the “**ARPA Water Treatment Funding**”) for the purpose of financing improvements to the water treatment system in the City of Natchitoches, including rehabilitation or maintenance, renovation, removal and remediation of environmental contaminants, demolition or deconstruction (the “**Projects**”); and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the Office of the Mayor of the City of Natchitoches is the proper recipient of the ARPA Water Treatment Funding as the instrument of the City most capable of managing the Projects; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, it is the desire of this Governing Authority to appropriate the ARPA Water Treatment Funding to the Office of the Mayor of the City, to be expended by the Mayor of the City, or the administrative designee of the Mayor (the “**Finance Director**”), pursuant to the guidelines published by the United States Department of the Treasury in its final rule implementing the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund and the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund established under the American Rescue Plan Act, effective April 1, 2022 (the “**ARPA Guidelines**”).

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED that the defined terms in the recitals of this ordinance (the “**Ordinance**”) are incorporated herein; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, by the Natchitoches City Council, in legal and regular session convened, that it hereby appropriates the ARPA Water Treatment Funding to Office of the Mayor of the City, to be expended at the direction of the Mayor or the Finance Director, pursuant to the ARPA Guidelines; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, if necessary, that the budget of the City be amended to reflect the receipt of the ARPA Water Treatment Funding and its designation for expenditure by the Mayor or the Finance Director, for the purposes of properly distributing for the Projects or such other purposes qualifying as Projects; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that this Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon adoption; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that if any provision 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 severable; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that all Ordinances or parts thereof in conflict herewith are repealed.

THIS ORDINANCE was introduced on January 23, 2023 and published in the *Natchitoches Times* on January 26, 2023.

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 13th day of February, 2023.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

BETTY SMITH, MAYOR PRO TEMPORE

Delivered to the Mayor on the 14th day of February, 2023 at 10:00 A.M.

Carl Sias made an inquiry in reference to Ordinance No. 010 of 2023 to which Mayor Ronnie Williams and Matt Anderson responded.

The following Ordinance was Introduced by Mr. Nielsen at the February 13, 2023 City Council meeting as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 011 OF 2023

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE ACQUISITION OF A WATER FOUNTAIN FOR PLACEMENT IN CANE RIVER LAKE, AND FURTHER AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES, LOUISIANA, TO ENTER INTO A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH THE CANE RIVER WATERWAY DISTRICT RELATED TO THE ACQUISITION OF THE WATER FOUNTAIN, AND TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL OTHER RELATED DOCUMENTS THAT MIGHT BE NECESSARY AND PROPER, TO PROVIDE FOR ADVERTISING, AND A SAVINGS CLAUSE

WHEREAS FURTHER, the City of Natchitoches (CITY) and the Cane River Waterway Commission (Commission) are mutually desirous of improving, developing and promoting Cane River Lake for both recreation and tourism; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, under a prior Agreement in 2002, the Commission assisted the CITY with the purchase of a water fountain which was placed in Cane River Lake in the downtown area, and

WHEREAS FURTHER, both parties are pleased with the prior arrangement and desire to acquire and place an additional fountain in the downtown area (sometimes hereinafter “Project”); and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the CITY has approached the Commission to obtain approval of the Project and to further request financial support of the Project; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the Commission has indicated that it approves of the Project and further agreed to provide financial support for the Project as it will increase access to and use of Cane River Lake; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, both the CITY and the Commission are of the opinion that the Project will draw attention to and encourage the use of Cane River Lake and are mutually desirous of developing and promoting Cane River Lake for both recreation and tourism; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, being of the opinion that its participation in the Project will enhance Cane River Lake, the Commission has agreed to contribute up to \$45,000.00 towards the cost of the acquisition and placement of an additional water fountain in the area of the downtown river bank; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the Commission also indicated its desires to limit its liability for maintenance of any facilities associated with the Project and also limit its liability for any damages or injuries associated with the Project or the facilities constructed as a part of the Project, to the extent possible; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, as further consideration for the contribution by the Commission to the cost of the Project, the CITY has agreed to maintain the fountain and to indemnify, defend and hold harmless the Commission for any damages or injuries which may arise during acquisition, placement, and/or the use and operation of the fountain; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the CITY and the Commission have agreed to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (a copy of which is attached) to jointly meet their mutual goals and intentions, under authority of law, including the authority set forth under the provisions of Article 6, Section 20 of the 1974 Louisiana Constitution which specifically authorizes an Intergovernmental Agreement for the purpose of performing any power and function including financing a duly authorized project; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, to this end the City Council of the City of Natchitoches desires to approve the project and authorize its Mayor to enter into said agreement with the Commission by Ordinance; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the Mayor and City Council have studied the matter and have concluded that the acquisition of the water fountain is in the best interest of the City, its citizens, and the general public; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the City Council of the City of Natchitoches, Louisiana desires to authorize the Mayor to execute the attached Cooperative Endeavor Agreement by and between the City of Natchitoches, Louisiana and the Cane River Waterway District, said Cooperative Endeavor Agreement to include an Indemnification, Defense and Hold Harmless Agreement in favor of the Cane River Waterway District; and

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

I. That the purchase of a water fountain for placement in Cane River Lake is approved, and the Honorable Mayor, Ronnie Williams, Jr., be and he is hereby given full and complete authority to acquire said fountain

II. That the Mayor, Ronnie Williams, Jr., be and he is hereby authorized to execute a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement by and between the City of Natchitoches, Louisiana and the Cane River Waterway District, said Cooperative Endeavor Agreement to include an Indemnification, Defense and Hold Harmless Agreement in favor of the Cane River Waterway District.

III. That the Mayor be and he is hereby authorized to have all of the necessary legal documents and instruments prepared at once and that this transaction be closed as soon as this Ordinance is final.

IV. That if any part of this Ordinance is for any reason held to be unconstitutional or invalid, by a Court of competent Jurisdiction, such decision shall not effect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance, and the invalidity shall be limited to that specific portion so declared to be invalid.

V. That this Ordinance shall go into effect immediately after publication according to law.

VI. That all Ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

VII. That this Ordinance be advertised in accordance with law.

VIII. That this Ordinance be declared **INTRODUCED** at a Regular Meeting of the City Council on this the _____ day of _____, 2023, and that a public hearing be called for at the next regular meeting of the City Council which will be held on the _____ day of _____, 2023.

Randy LaCaze, Matt Anderson, and Edd Lee commented on Ordinance No. 011 of 2023.

following Ordinance was Introduced by Mr. Harrington at the February 13, 2023 City Council meeting as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 012 OF 2023

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATIVE ENDEAVOR BETWEEN THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES, THE RED RIVER WATERWAY COMMISSION AND THE NATCHITOCHES CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU TO PROMOTE THE USE OF THE RED RIVER FOR THE 2023 MR. CRAPPIE INVITATIONAL QUALIFIER

WHEREAS, the City of Natchitoches (sometimes hereinafter referred to as the “**City**”) the Red River Waterway Commission (sometimes hereinafter referred to as the “**Waterway Commission**”), and the Natchitoches Convention & Visitors Bureau (sometimes hereinafter referred to as the “**CVB**”) are desirous of hosting the 2023 Mr. Crappie Invitational Qualifier to be held on the Red River on April 27-29 2023, and has proposed that the City enter into an agreement titled Memorandum of Cooperative Endeavor between Red River Waterway Commission and City of Natchitoches and Natchitoches Convention & Visitors Bureau, a copy of which is attached hereto (sometimes hereinafter referred to as “**Agreement**”); and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the 2023 Mr. Crappie Invitational Qualifier will draw fishermen, their families and fans to the City and Parish of Natchitoches for the tournament; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the tournament will have a strong economic impact on the Natchitoches community, benefitting local merchants, providers of services and increasing tax revenues to the City and Parish of Natchitoches; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the tournament will provide publicity to the City of Natchitoches, Louisiana promoting the City of Natchitoches as a destination for tourism as well as recreation; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, having reviewed the attached Agreement, and being of the opinion that the tournament will have a positive effect and will benefit the City of Natchitoches, the City Council of the City of Natchitoches desires to authorize the Mayor to execute the agreement on behalf of the City; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED that the City Council of the City of Natchitoches, in legal session convened, does hereby authorize, empower, and direct the Honorable Ronnie Williams, Jr., Mayor, to execute the “**Agreement**”, between the City of Natchitoches, the **Waterway Commission** and the “**CVB**” wherein the City agrees to host the 2023 Mr. Crappie Invitational Qualifier in Natchitoches Parish to be held April 27-29, 2023 and, further agrees to those obligations set forth in the attached Agreement.

THIS ORDINANCE was introduced on February 13, 2023 and published in the *Natchitoches Times* on _____.

The following Ordinance was Introduced by Mr. Nielsen at the February 13, 2023 City Council meeting as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 013 OF 2023

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY
OF NATCHITOCHES TO AWARD
THE BID FOR A BUCKET TRUCK (USED) FOR THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES
UTILITY DEPARTMENT**

(BID NO. 0656)

WHEREAS, Resolution No.004 of 2023 was passed by the Natchitoches City Council on January 9, 2023 authorizing the Mayor to advertise for bids for a Bucket Truck (used) for the Natchitoches Utility Department (Bid No. 0656); and

WHEREAS, this bid was advertised in the *Natchitoches Times* on, January 14, January 21, and January 28, 2023 in accordance with law; and

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

- (1) Altec Industries, Inc.,
St. Joseph, MO\$125,000.00

WHEREAS, on February 7, 2023 the appointed committee of Clarissa Smith, Finance Director; Edd Lee, Director of Purchasing; Matt Anderson, Utility Director; and Eddie Harrington, Councilman, reviewed the bid proposals for bids for a Bucket Truck (used) for the Natchitoches Utility Department (Bid No. 0656); and

WHEREAS, the above appointed committee members unanimously recommend the City award the bid to the only bidder **Altec Industries, Inc.**, in the amount of **\$125,000.00**

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.

Matt Anderson spoke in reference to Ordinance No. 013 of 2023.

The following Ordinance was Introduced by Ms. Smith at the February 13, 2023 City Council meeting as follows:

ORDINANCE NUMBER 014 OF 2023

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 16.1-1 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES, TO PROVIDE FOR AN ENLARGED “LOCAL NATCHITOCHES HISTORIC DISTRICT”, WHICH SECTION IS LOCATED IN CHAPTER 16.1 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, ENTITLED HISTORIC DISTRICT,, PROVIDING FOR ADVERTISING, FURTHER PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, AND FURTHER PROVIDING FOR A REPEALER AND EFFECTIVE DATE OF ORDINANCE.

WHEREAS, the limits of the Local Natchitoches Historic District are set forth in Section 16.1-1 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Natchitoches; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, after a review by the Office of the Mayor, a recommendation has been made that the limits of the Local Historic District be amended to include an additional area; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the recommendation is that the limits of the Local Historic District be enlarged to include an area to the Northwest of the exiting limits, including areas along Texas Street and Breda Avenue; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the City Council of the City of Natchitoches has reviewed the proposed changes and agrees that the adoption is advisable and in the best interest of the City of Natchitoches and its citizens; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the City Council of the City of Natchitoches, Louisiana, desires to amend the Code of Ordinances of the City of Natchitoches in order to amend and re-enact Section 16.1-1 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Natchitoches; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Natchitoches, Louisiana, as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 16.1-1 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Natchitoches is hereby amended and re-enacted to read as follows:

“Sec. 16.1-1. Definition of historic district.

(a) The Historic District of the City of Natchitoches shall include the area recognized as a national landmark, as well as an area lying outside of the national landmark, which area are more fully defined in the following two (2) paragraphs. The Natchitoches Historic District shall be comprised of both areas.

(b) The following area of the City of Natchitoches is hereby designated as the "Natchitoches Historic District, A National Landmark":

Beginning at the corner of Texas and Washington Streets in the City and Parish of Natchitoches, Louisiana, and thence running southerly along Washington Street to its intersection with Pavie Street and thence running westerly along Pavie Street to Third Street; thence southerly along Third Street to Church Street; thence westerly along Church Street to its intersection with Fourth Street; thence southerly along Fourth Street to its intersection with Amulet Street; thence easterly along Amulet Street to New Second Street; thence southerly along New Second Street to its intersection with College Avenue; thence easterly along College Avenue to a point where College Avenue as extended would intersect Cane River Lake; thence up Cane River Lake in a northerly direction to the wooden bridge and thence easterly along Keyser Avenue to its intersection with Williams Avenue; thence northerly along Williams Avenue to a point where Texas Street, if extended, would intersect Williams Avenue; thence westerly across Cane River to the point of beginning. The historic district above designated shall include all building sites or lots and all structures, houses, or other buildings facing any of the streets on the perimeter of the area.

(c) The following areas of the City of Natchitoches are hereby designated as the “Local Natchitoches Historic District,” being that area of the historic district outside of the landmark district:

(1) Beginning at the corner of Keyser Avenue and Williams Avenue in the City and Parish of Natchitoches, Louisiana, and thence northerly along Williams Avenue to its intersection with the downtown or Church Street bridge; thence westerly across the downtown or Church Street bridge to its intersection with Cane River Lake; thence southerly along Cane River Lake to its intersection with the wooden bridge; thence easterly along the wooden bridge and Keyser Avenue to its intersection with Williams Avenue, the point of beginning. The historic district above designated shall include all building sites or lots and all structures, houses, or other buildings facing any of the streets on the perimeter of the area.

(2) Beginning at corner of Third Street and Buard Street in the City and Parish of Natchitoches, Louisiana, and thence running westerly along Buard Street to its intersection with Fifth Street; thence southerly along Fifth Street to its intersection with Lafayette Street; thence westerly along Lafayette Street to its intersection with Sixth Street; thence southerly along the right-of-way of Sixth Street to its intersection with St. Denis Street; thence westerly along the right-of-way of St. Denis Street to its intersection with the right-of-way of the Texas and Pacific Railroad; thence southerly along the right-of-way of the Texas and Pacific Railroad to its intersection with Trudeau Street; thence easterly along Trudeau Street to its intersection with Fifth Street; thence Southerly along Fifth Street to its intersection with Touline Street; thence easterly along Touline Street to its intersection with Fourth Street; thence northerly along Fourth Street to its intersection with Church Street; thence easterly along Church Street to its intersection with Third Street; thence northerly along third Street to its intersection with Buard Street, the point of

beginning. The historic district above designated shall include all building sites or lots and all structures, houses, or other buildings facing any of the streets on the perimeter of the area.

(3) Beginning at the corner of Texas and Washington Streets in the City and Parish of Natchitoches, Louisiana, and thence northerly along Washington Street to its intersection with Highland Park Drive; and thence easterly to the water's edge of Cane River Lake; thence southerly along the water's edge of Cane River Lake to a point where Texas Street, if extended, would intersect the water's edge of Cane River Lake; thence westerly to the point of beginning. The historic district above designated shall include all building sties or lots and all structures, houses, or other buildings facing any of the streets on the perimeter of the area.

(4) Beginning at a point where College Avenue (now known as University Parkway) as extended to the East would intersect Cane River Lake, thence down Cane River Lake in a southerly direction to a point due East of the Northeast corner of the intersection of Rapides Drive (also known as Mill Street) and the Union Pacific Railroad, thence westerly to the Northeast corner of the intersection of Rapides Drive (also known as Mill Street) and the Union Pacific Railroad, thence westerly to the Northeast corner of Lot 31 of University Terrace Subdivision, thence westerly along the northern boundary of Lot 31, 30 and 24B of University Terrace Subdivision to the right of way of University Drive, thence westerly along the right of way of University Drive to the Southwest corner of Lot 1A of University Terrace Subdivision, thence northerly along the western boundary of Lot 1A of University Terrace Subdivision to the southerly bank of Chaplin's Lake, thence easterly along the southern bank of Chaplin's Lake to the earthen dam, thence back to the point of beginning.

(5) Beginning at a point where the South right of way of Texas Street intersects the West right of way of Washington Street, thence westerly along the southern right of way of Texas Street to its intersection with Breda Avenue, thence northerly across Texas Street to the northeast corner of the intersection of Texas Street and Breda Avenue, thence continuing northerly along the eastern right of way of Breda Avenue to the northern property line of Lot 5 of Jacoville Addition to the City of Natchitoches, thence easterly along the northern property line of Lot 5 of Jacoville Addition to the City of Natchitoches to the western right of way of the _____ Railroad, thence southerly along the western right of way of the _____ Railroad to the southern right of way of Winona Street, thence easterly along the southern right of way of Winona Street to the eastern right of way of Sixth Street, thence northerly along the eastern right of way of Sixth Street to the southern right of way of Winona Street, thence Easterly along the southern right of way of Winona Street to its intersection with Washington Street, thence southerly to that point where the South right of way of Texas Street intersects the West right of way of Washington Street, being the point of beginning.

SECTION 2. All Ordinances or parts of Ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

SECTION 3. If any portion of this Ordinance is declared to be invalid or unconstitutional in any manner, the invalidity shall be limited to that particular section or provision, and shall not affect the remaining portions of the ordinance, which shall remain valid and enforceable, it being the intention of the City Council that each separate provision shall be deemed independent of all other provisions herein.

SECTION 4. This Ordinance shall go into effect upon publication and in accordance with law.

Dr. Steve Horton vice chairman of the Natchitoches Historic Commission among other titles spoke in reference to Ordinance No. 014 of 2023 and answered questions from Council. Alex Washington made remarks in reference to Ordinance No. 014 of 2023.

The following ordinance was introduced by Mr. Harrington at the City Council Meeting of the City of Natchitoches on February 13, 2023, and laid over for publication. A public hearing on this ordinance shall be held on February 27, 2023, after which the City Council will consider adoption of this ordinance.

ORDINANCE NO. 015 of 2023

AN ORDINANCE OF THE NATCHITOCHES CITY COUNCIL CREATING AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT WITHIN THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES TO BE NAMED THE “NATCHITOCHES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT F, STATE OF LOUISIANA” (THE “*DISTRICT*”); DEFINING THE BOUNDARIES THEREOF FROM WHICH CERTAIN AREA LOCAL AND POTENTIALLY STATE SALES AND USE TAX INCREMENTS WILL BE DETERMINED AND USED TO FINANCE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS WITHIN THE DISTRICT, ALL AS AUTHORIZED BY PART II OF CHAPTER 27 OF TITLE 33 OF THE LOUISIANA REVISED STATUTES OF 1950, AS AMENDED (THE “*ACT*”); AND PROVIDING FOR OTHER MATTERS IN CONNECTION WITH THE FOREGOING.

BE IT ORDAINED by the City of Natchitoches City Council that:

WHEREAS, the City of Natchitoches desires to promote economic development within its jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, Part II, Chapter 27, Title 33 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended (La. R.S. 33:9038.31, *et seq.*) (the “*Act*”) authorizes municipalities, parishes and certain other local governmental subdivisions to create economic development districts to carry out the purposes of the Act, which economic development districts are political subdivisions of the State of Louisiana (“*State*”) and possess such power and authority and have such duties as provided by the Act and other law; and

WHEREAS, the City Council (the “*Council*”), as governing authority of the City of Natchitoches (the “*City*”), desires to avail itself of the Act to create an economic development district to be named the “**Natchitoches Economic Development District F, State of Louisiana**” (the “*District*”), in accordance with La. R.S. 33:9038.32; from which area local and State sales and use tax (if the use of State sales and use tax is approved by the State) increments are expected to be determined and used to finance economic development projects within the District; and

WHEREAS, La. R.S. 33:9038.34(O) provides that the Council may create a special trust fund for the furtherance of economic development projects, as defined in the Act, into which the incremental increases in such area local and State sales and use taxes (if the use of the State sales and use tax is approved by the State) shall be deposited and loaned, granted, or pledged in furtherance of economic development projects as defined in the Act; and

WHEREAS, the City of Natchitoches may use its sales and use tax increment on a cash basis, reimbursement basis, or with revenue bonds to provide funds needed to finance economic

development projects within the District; and

WHEREAS, the City currently levies and collects a one percent (1%) sales and use tax authorized at elections held on January 11, 1966, and July 23, 1968, and a one half of one percent (0.50%) sales and use tax authorized at an election on November 18, 1995, within the District (the “**Existing Tax**”); and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Council to pledge and dedicate the revenues collected in excess of the Annual Local Base (defined below) generated by the City’s Existing Tax collected by the City within the boundaries of the District (the “**S&U Increment**”) to finance said economic development project costs; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the City Council to require the baseline sales and use tax collection rate of the **Existing Tax** in the District to be certified forthwith by the City’s Finance Director as required under Section 33:9038.34 of the Act; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Act, the City may enter into agreements as deemed necessary or convenient to implement economic development projects as determined by the District, or otherwise authorized by law; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Act, particularly La. R.S. 33:9038.32(B) the Council has given notice of its intention and notice that it will hold a public hearing relative to the proposed creation of the District, including the boundaries of the District, which notice has been published twice in the City’s official journal; and

WHEREAS, on this date this Council did hold a public hearing pursuant to the aforesaid notice of intention, at which public hearing _____ objections were received with respect to the creation of the District.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED by the City of Natchitoches City Council, that:

SECTION 1. Preamble. The foregoing whereas clauses are hereby adopted as set forth in the preamble to this Resolution.

SECTION 2. Creation of District. Under the authority of La. R.S. 33:9038.32 there is hereby created an economic development district within the boundaries of the City named the “**Natchitoches Economic Development District F, State of Louisiana,**” having the specific geographical boundaries set forth in **Exhibit A** attached hereto, which **Exhibit A** is hereby incorporated herein and made a part of this ordinance. As provided by the Act, the governing authority of the District shall be the City of Natchitoches City Council (the “**District Governing Authority**”). The “**Annual Local Base**” shall be the aggregate amount of the Existing Tax

collected by the City within the District during the most recently completed Fiscal Year prior to the establishment of the District. The District shall possess such powers and authority and have such duties as provided in the Act and other law.

SECTION 3. Creation of Trust Fund There is hereby created a special trust fund entitled the “**Natchitoches Economic Development District F, State of Louisiana, Trust Fund**” (the “*Trust Fund*”) under the authority of the District the purpose of which will be to fund economic development projects within the District. The Trust Fund shall be maintained as a separate fund, apart from other funds and accounts of the City of Natchitoches or other entities, and shall be used henceforth for the purposes set forth herein and in the Act.

SECTION 4. Dedication of Revenues. The Council hereby pledges and dedicates the S&U Increment collected within the boundaries of the District to finance economic development project costs in the District, as such term is defined in Section 33:9038.36 of the Act. Such dedication and pledge also constitutes a designation of the local sales and use taxes which are to be used in determining the sales and use tax increment and the initial annual baseline collection rate for the sales tax area, all as defined in Section 33:9038.34(C) of the Act.

SECTION 5. Authorization of Officers. The Mayor, his or her staff, and the Clerk are hereby authorized, empowered and directed to do any and all things necessary and incidental to carry out the provisions of this ordinance.

SECTION 6. Severability. If any provision of this ordinance shall be held to be illegal or invalid, such illegality or invalidity shall not affect any other provision of this ordinance, but this ordinance shall be construed and enforced as if such illegal or invalid provisions had not been contained herein. Any constitutional or statutory provision enacted after the date of this ordinance which validates or makes legal any provision of this ordinance which would not otherwise be valid or legal, shall be deemed to apply to this ordinance.

SECTION 7. Repealer. All ordinances or resolution, or parts thereof, in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

SECTION 8. Publication; Effective Date. This ordinance shall become effective ten (10) days after publication in the Natchitoches Times.

SECTION 9. Professional Services A real necessity is hereby found for the employment of special counsel in connection with the establishment of the District and financing of associated economic development projects, and accordingly the firm of Butler Snow LLP, Special Counsel, is hereby employed and requested to do and perform comprehensive legal and coordinate professional work for

the purposes stated hereinabove. The Mayor is authorized to execute an engagement letter with Special Counsel for the purposes stated hereunder.

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Mike Busada spoke in reference to and answered questions from the Council about Ordinance No. 015 of 2023. Randy LaCaze spoke in reference to Ordinance No. 015 of 2023.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 010 OF 2023

**A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT BAYOU STATE TRAIL
INFRASTRUCTURE INITIATIVE WITH ITS BOUNDARIES
IN COLLABORATION WITH THE BSTA (BAYOU STATE
TRAIL ASSOCIATION)**

WHEREAS, the City of Natchitoches is committed to supporting issues and programs for the good of its citizens, city and state, the expansion proposed by the Bayou State Trail Association provides opportunities that manifest themselves economically, socially, and physically, through an official hiking trail for public benefit and tourism.

WHEREAS, the BSTA has requested from the City of Natchitoches the adoption of a resolution to officially support the Bayou State Trail, a statewide hiking trail that is in the process of development access several municipalities and parishes across the State of Louisiana, including the City of Natchitoches.

WHEREAS, the BSTA is firmly dedicated to the development of the said trail, which will serve as the State’s first long-distance trail set to run in excess of 300 miles from St. Mary Parish to the Arkansas State line and will provide future economic, social and health improvement opportunities to Louisiana residents and particularly the citizens of Natchitoches Parish and the City of Natchitoches.

WHEREAS, said trail will attract hikers from across the United States and internationally as an opportunity for them to uniquely experience the beauty, geographic and cultural diversity offered by Louisiana. In that communities can be spotlighted along the trail, the BSTA firmly believes that the City of Natchitoches will be a community that will provide an especially positive experience for hikers of the Bayou State Trail.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Natchitoches officially adopts the request to route the Bayou State Trail though the incorporated areas of the City of Natchitoches and following adoption, the BSTA will formulate with the appropriate designated officials of the City of Natchitoches to recommend the official route for passage by or through the City of Natchitoches along with any recommended infrastructure upgrades and/or additions and related financial estimates needed for funding by BSTA and/or the City of Natchitoches.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Natchitoches, in legal session convened, does hereby authorize, empower, and direct the Honorable Ronnie Williams, Jr., Mayor, to adopt the Bayou State Trail Infrastructure Initiative with the Bayou State Trail Association.

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 13th day of February, 2023.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

Edd spoke in reference to Resolution No. 010 of 2023.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 011 OF 2023

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER
INTO A CONTRACT WITH TRAVELERS CASUALTY AND
SURETY COMPANY OF AMERICA FOR THE PUBLIC OFFICIAL
SCHEDULE BOND FOR THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES**

WHEREAS, the proposals submitted for the Public Officials Bond for the City of Natchitoches have been reviewed and it is recommended the City award the contract to Travelers Casualty and Surety Company of America for the period February 1, 2023 through February 1, 2024 for the bond premium of \$3,497.00.

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 13th day of February, 2023.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

Edd Lee explained Resolution No. 011 of 2023.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 012 OF 2023

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ADVERTISE AND ACCEPT
BIDS FOR THE PURCHASE OF A BUCKET TRUCK FOR THE CITY OF
NATCHITOCHES UTILITY DEPARTMENT**

BID NO. 0657

WHEREAS, the City wishes to advertise for public bids for the purchase of a Bucket Truck for the Natchitoches Utility Department (Bid No. 0657); and

WHEREAS, sealed proposals shall be addressed to the City of Natchitoches, Office of the Director of Purchasing, 1400 Sabine Street, Natchitoches, Louisiana 71457 or received at the City of Natchitoches Purchasing Department, 1400 Sabine Street, Natchitoches, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the City of Natchitoches will accept sealed and electronic bids for the project until 2:00 PM on Wednesday, March 15, 2023 at the office of the Director of Purchasing, 1400 Sabine Street; and

WHEREAS, bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at the location and time herein above; and

WHEREAS, upon receipt of proposals, the committee members consisting of Clarissa Brown-Smith, Director of Finance; Edd Lee, Director of Purchasing; Matt Anderson, Utility Director and Christopher Petite, 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 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 13th day of February, 2023.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

Matt Anderson spoke in reference to Resolution No. 012 of 2023.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 013 OF 2023

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE
CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 FOR WEST NATCHITOCHES WATER MAIN
REPLACEMENT, PHASE I
(BID NO. 0648)**

WHEREAS, the City of Natchitoches (CITY) awarded the bid to Pulley Construction on August 8, 2022 by Ordinance No. 045 of 2022 in the amount of \$669,000.00 for West Natchitoches Water Main Replacement, Phase I (Bid No. 0648); and

WHEREAS, on January 30, 2023 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 **\$52,810.00** and the revised contract total will be **\$721,810.00**; and

WHEREAS, the contract time will be increased by this Change Order No. 1 from **Ninety (90)** calendar days to **One Hundred Twenty-Seven (127)** calendar days; and

WHEREAS, the project Engineer, Henry Shuler, 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 Pulley Construction, Inc.

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 13th day of February, 2023.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

Matt Anderson answered questions from Council and spoke in reference to Resolution No. 013 of 2023.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 014 OF 2023

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE A CERTIFICATE OF SUBSTANTIAL COMPLETION TO THE CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES AND PULLEY CONSTRUCTION, INC., FOR WEST NATCHITOCHES WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT, PHASE I

(BID NO. 0648)

WHEREAS, the City of Natchitoches has contracted with Pulley Construction for West Natchitoches Water Main Replacement, Phase I; and

WHEREAS, this work has been completed; and

WHEREAS, a substantial completion inspection has been performed by the Engineer and a representative of the City of Natchitoches, and they find the project to be complete.

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 Certificate of Substantial Completion for Pulley 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 13th day of February, 2023.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

CITY OF NATCHITOCHES

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 015

Date: February 13, 2023_____

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

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 IV (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 IV (Construction) and reimburse the sponsor up to \$110,218.00 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.015167, 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 13th_ day of _February, 2023_____.

CITY OF NATCHITOCHES

BY:_____

(Signature)

(Typed or Printed Name)

TITLE:_____

ATTEST:_____

(Signature)

TITLE:_____

Edd Lee spoke in reference to Resolution No. 015 of 2023.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 017 OF 2023

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING MAYOR RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE LOUISIANA OFFICE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FOR THE 2021 - 2022 COMMUNITY WATER ENRICHMENT FUND GRANT APPLICATION (CWEF) FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE NATCHITOCHES WATER SYSTEM

WHEREAS, the Community Water Enrichment Fund (CWEF) was established in the 2008 Louisiana regular legislative session by way of HB 926 (Act 513). Its intent is to provide a source of funding to aid units of local government solely for the purpose of rehabilitation, improvement, and construction projects for community water systems to provide safe and clean drinking water; and

WHEREAS, the City of Natchitoches desires to provide its citizens safe and clean drinking water; and

WHEREAS, the City of Natchitoches has been awarded a Community Water Enrichment Grant for \$50,000.00, to construct 2,550 feet of water mains and reconnect to existing meter assemblies along Francis and Chester Streets.

WHEREAS FURTHER, having reviewed the attached agreement between the Louisiana Office of Community Development and the City of Natchitoches and approving same the City Council of the City of Natchitoches desires to authorize the Mayor, Ronnie Williams, Jr., to execute the agreement on behalf of the CITY;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES HEREBY

1. Approves the Execution of the Agreement with the Louisiana Office of Community Development for the FY 2021 - 2022 Community Water Enrichment Fund (CWEF) in the amount of \$50,000.00, to construct 2,550 feet of water mains and reconnect to existing meter assemblies along Francis and Chester Streets.
2. to Authorizes Mayor Ronnie Williams, Jr., to sign the attached agreement and all related documents.

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 13th day of February, 2023.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

Matt Anderson spoke in reference to Resolution No. 017 of 2023.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- The next scheduled City Council meeting will be **February 27, 2023**.

With no further discussion, Mayor Williams made a motion for adjournment and all were in favor.
The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

_____/s/_____
RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

_____/s/_____
BETTY SMITH, MAYOR PRO-TEMPORE