

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES, STATE OF LOUISIANA,
REGULAR MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY, JUNE 26, 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, June 26, 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

Guest: None

Absent: Councilwoman Rosemary Elie

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

Mayor Williams then called for the reading and approval of the minutes for the June 12, 2023 meeting. Councilwoman At Large Smith moved that we dispense with the reading of the minutes and approval of same. Seconded by Councilman Harrington.

A roll call vote was as follows:

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

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

ORDINANCE NO. 035 OF 2023

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

Lot West Side 5th Street, North by Severe, South by Church Property

(904 5th St.)

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission of the City of Natchitoches, State of Louisiana, has recommended at their meeting of **June 6, 2023** that the application of Trineitta K. Hardison, to rezone the property described above from B-2 Commercial to R-1 Residential, for Single Family residential development (**904 5th Street**), be **APPROVED**.

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 June 12, 2023 and published in the *Natchitoches Times* on June 17, 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 26th day of June, 2023.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

BETTY SMITH, MAYOR PRO TEMPORE

Delivered to the Mayor on the 27th day of June, 2023 at 10:00 A.M.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 036 OF 2023

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

Lot At Sw Cor of Texas & 5th St. Having A Front On Texas St. of 144.9 Ft By A Depth On 5th St. of 80.5 Ft.

(501 Texas Street)

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission of the City of Natchitoches, State of Louisiana, has recommended at their meeting of **June 6, 2023** that the application of Michael Gillie- Bayou Soul, to rezone the property described above from B-2 Commercial to B-3 Commercial with BA zoning, for consumption of high/low alcohol on premises **(501 Texas Street)**, be **APPROVED**.

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 June 12, 2023 and published in the *Natchitoches Times* on June 17, 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 26th day of June, 2023.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

BETTY SMITH, MAYOR PRO TEMPORE

Delivered to the Mayor on the 27th day of June, 2023 at 10:00 A.M.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 037 OF 2023

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES, LOUISIANA, TO ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE NATCHITOCHES COMMUNITY ALLIANCE FOUNDATION D/B/A NATCHITOCHES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE (NEDA), WHICH SAID MEMORANDUM PROVIDES FOR SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED BY THE NATCHITOCHES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE., PROVIDING FOR A ONE YEAR TERM, PROVIDING FOR ADVERTISING, FURTHER PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, AND FURTHER PROVIDING FOR A REPEALER AND EFFECTIVE DATE OF ORDINANCE.

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, the City of Natchitoches is specifically authorized under Section 1.06 of the Charter of the City of Natchitoches to provide for the general welfare, safety, health, peace and good order of the City, and further authorized under Section 1.07 of the Charter of the City of Natchitoches to enter into Joint Service Agreements or Cooperative Efforts with other governmental agencies; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the Natchitoches Economic Development Alliance (sometimes hereinafter referred to as “Development Alliance”) is a Louisiana not for profit corporation and has been designated as a 501C-3 entity by the IRS; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the city and the Development Alliance both have an interest in promoting economic growth, commerce and tourism in the City and Parish of Natchitoches, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the Development Alliance is strategically positioned to support the city in its efforts to grow its tax base by aligning resources and tools to foster an expanding and growing business and industrial sector, and the city desires to assist the Development Alliance in its goal to become the voice of economic development for Natchitoches Parish; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the Development Alliance is in need of funds to move forward in its plan to promote economic development in the City and Parish of Natchitoches, and the City desires to provide funds in exchange for the services to be provided by Development Alliance; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the Development Alliance has presented a Memorandum of Understanding between City of Natchitoches and the Natchitoches Economic Development Alliance (sometimes hereinafter “Agreement”) a copy of which is attached hereto; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, under the terms of the Agreement, the Development Alliance will provide to following services to the City:

- 1) Maintain updated, professional, and useful economic development website for one-stop information
- 2) Be the lead contact for economic development request for proposals and information
- 3) Lead the evaluation and development of business and industrial sites
- 4) Serve as local liaison for business retention and expansion visits in conjunction with LED and NLEP
- 5) Provide expertise, experience, and leadership for special projects and initiatives of the administration

WHEREAS FURTHER, in exchange for the above services the City agrees to the following pay schedule:

1) \$40,000 for FY June 2023 by May 2024

WHEREAS FURTHER, the term of this Agreement is one (1) year; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the Agreement further provides that either party may terminate the Agreement with written notice within 60 days of the date of execution of the Agreement; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, under the general law and the Home Rule Charter of the City of Natchitoches, the City has the right, power, and authority to promote, protect, and preserve the general welfare, safety, health, peace and good order of the City; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the City Council of the City of Natchitoches has reviewed the proposed Agreement, attached hereto, and is of the opinion that the Agreement with the Development Alliance will promote the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the City and Parish of Natchitoches, Louisiana and the City Council desires to authorize the Mayor of the City of Natchitoches to execute same; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the City Council of the City of Natchitoches desires to enter into this Agreement to help encourage and promote economic development in the City and Parish of Natchitoches; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Natchitoches, Louisiana, that the Mayor of the City of Natchitoches, Ronnie Williams Jr. is hereby authorized to execute the attached Memorandum of Understanding Between City of Natchitoches and the Natchitoches Economic Development Alliance, and in the event that the Mayor determines that the agreement should be terminated at the end of the any one year term, the Mayor is further authorized to provide the required notice to terminate the Agreement.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding between City of Natchitoches and the Natchitoches Economic Development Alliance, attached hereto, are approved and accepted by the City Council of the City of Natchitoches, Louisiana.

THIS ORDINANCE was introduced on June 12, 2023 and published in the *Natchitoches Times* on June 17, 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 26th day of June, 2023.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

BETTY SMITH, MAYOR PRO TEMPORE

Delivered to the Mayor on the 27th day of June, 2023 at 10:00 A.M.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 038 OF 2023

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A FRANCHISE AND VENDING CONTRACT IN FAVOR OF LAKE HOUSE PRODUCTIONS, LLC, DBA DARK WOODS ADVENTURES, TO LOCATE A KAYAK KIOSK AT THE BOAT LAUNCH LOCATED ON HIGHWAY 504, AND LEASE KAYAKS FOR USE ON SIBLEY LAKE WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS OF THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES, CONFIRMING THE TERM OF THE FRANCHISE, CONDITIONS, AND CONSIDERATION FOR SAID FRANCHISE AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE THE SAID FRANCHISE AND VENDING CONTRACT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY PROVIDING FOR ADVERTISING, FURTHER PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, AND FURTHER PROVIDING FOR A REPEALER AND EFFECTIVE DATE OF ORDINANCE.

WHEREAS, the City of Natchitoches (sometimes hereinafter "CITY") Waterworks District Number 1 (sometimes hereinafter "WWD1") jointly own that body of water known as Sibley Lake, and further own a tract of ground located on the western right of way of Louisiana Highway 504 which is currently used a boat launch with associated parking lot (sometimes hereinafter "Boat Launch"); and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the CITY, WWD1, and Lake House Productions, LLC dba Dark Woods Adventures (sometimes hereinafter "Lake House") have negotiated a Franchise and Vending Contract, a copy of which is attached hereto (sometimes hereinafter "Agreement"); and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the Agreement allows Lake House to locate a "Kayak Kiosk" at the Boat Launch for the rental of kayaks to be utilized for recreational purposes on Sibley Lake, and allowing use of CITY and WWD1 public places, including parking areas and lake front for its operation; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, pursuant to Louisiana Revised Statute 33:4404, municipalities may grant a franchise to use or occupy the streets or other public places therein for the operation of forms of transportation within the municipal limits of said municipality; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the proposed Agreement has a termination date of December 31, 2025; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, all parties deem it to be in their mutual best interests and advantage to execute a Franchise and Vending Contract which will clearly delineate the respective obligations, covenants, conditions, responsibilities, and considerations under the said Agreement; and

WHEREAS, this Franchise and Vending Contract is permitted and authorized under the authority of Louisiana Revised Statutes 33:4404 and the Home Rule Charter of the City of Natchitoches, Section 2:10, and is compliance with Sections 28-50 et seq, of the Code of Ordinances; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the proposed Franchise Agreement has been reviewed by the City Council and has been approved; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the City Council is of the opinion that the services that Paul’s will offer on Sibley Lake will help promote tourism and will further offer additional recreational opportunities to the citizens of the City; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED that the City Council takes cognizance of and approves the Franchise and Vending Contract, a copy of which is attached hereto, and authorizes the Mayor, Ronnie Williams, Jr., to execute the said Franchise and Vending Contract on behalf of the City of Natchitoches, Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the terms and conditions of the Franchise and Vending Contract are hereby approved by the City Council, including the consideration for the franchise and other considerations.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that all Ordinances or parts of Ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that 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.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that this Ordinance shall go into effect upon publication and in accordance with law.

THIS ORDINANCE was introduced on June 12, 2023 and published in the *Natchitoches Times* on June 17, 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 26th day of June, 2023.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

BETTY SMITH, MAYOR PRO TEMPORE

Delivered to the Mayor on the 27th day of June, 2023 at 10:00 A.M.

Alex Washington made the comment that the lease terminates in 2025 instead of 2035 in reference to Ordinance No. 038 of 2023.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 062 OF 2023

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE
CHANGE ORDER NO. 2 TO THE CONTRACT BETWEEN
THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES AND ASB UTILITY CONSTRUCTION, LLC., FOR
THE WATER DISTRIBUTION AND PRODUCTION SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS;
POWHATAN CONNECTION (CONTRACT II, WATER MAINS AND SITE WORK);
LCDBG FY 2020-2021 POTABLE WATER IMPROVEMENTS
SCC PROJECT NO. 3080**

(BID NO. 0652)

WHEREAS, the City of Natchitoches (CITY) awarded the bid to ASB Utility Construction, LLC., (CONTRACTOR) on September 26, 2022 by Ordinance No. 052 of 2022 in the amount of **\$1,839,788.00** for the Water Distribution and Production System Improvements; Powhatan Connection (Contract II, Water Mains and Site Work); (Bid No. 0652); and

WHEREAS, on **September 26, 2022**, the City Council approved **Change Order No. 1**, decreasing the amount of **\$249,510.00** making the revised contact total **\$1,590,278.00**; and

WHEREAS, on June 6, 2023 CONTRACTOR issued **Change Order No. 2**, fully described in Attachment “A”; and

WHEREAS, the contract sum will be **increase** by this **Change Order No. 2** in the amount of **\$36,290.00** and the revised contract total will be **\$1,626,568.00**; and

WHEREAS, the contract time will be **increased** by **forty-five (45) days**, from the date of approval for all items; and

WHEREAS, the project Engineer, Henry Shuler, has recommended this change order; and

WHEREAS, the CITY is of the opinion that Change Order No. 2 is in the best interest of the CITY; and

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. 2 to the agreement between the City of Natchitoches and the contractor, ASB Utility Construction, LLC.

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 26th day of June, 2023.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

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

RESOLUTION NO. 063 OF 2023

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PREPARATION AND SUBMITTAL OF AN APPLICATION TO THE LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (LDH), OFFICE OF PUBLIC HEALTH, (OPH) AGENCY FOR THE DRINKING WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND ("DWSRF") LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT LOAN

WHEREAS, the City of Natchitoches is eligible to receive funding from the United States Environmental Protection Agency for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Lead Service Line Replacement Loan; and

WHEREAS, funding is available for the complete service line replacement which is an eligible DWSRF expense with said funding being provided from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law which has invested \$3 billion dollars towards Lead Service Line Replacement; and

WHEREAS, Ronnie Williams, Jr., Mayor of the City of Natchitoches, Louisiana is further authorized to furnish such additional information as may reasonably be required in connection with the Loan Application; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor, the City Council of the City of Natchitoches authorize and direct EJES to make proper application to the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) Office of Public Health (OPH) Agency for the Lead Service Line Replacement funding and further, that.

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that:

1. The Mayor, the City Council of the City of Natchitoches authorize EJES as the official designee and applicant's agent, and authorize them to make proper on-line application to the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) Office of Public Health (OPH) and that Loan Administrator and/or the designee be authorized to assist with the application; and
2. The Mayor, and the City Council of the City of Natchitoches be authorized to accept the EPA funding, if awarded; and
3. The Mayor, the City Council of the City of Natchitoches be authorized to execute said funding offer, funding agreement, and other documents that may of necessity, be executed in the implementation of this initiative and that the Administrator and/or the designee be authorized to administer and implement the funding.

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 26th day of June, 2023.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

Councilwoman At Large Smith motioned to amend the agenda to add Resolution No. 064 of 2023.
Seconded by Councilman Harrington.

This Motion 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 Motion to amend the Agenda passed by a vote of 5 Ayes to 0 Nays on this 26th day of June, 2023.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

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

RESOLUTION NO. 064 OF 2023

**A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING MONDAY, JULY 3, 2023
AS AN OFFICIAL HOLIDAY FOR THE EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY
OF NATCHITOCHES FOR THE YEAR 2023.**

WHEREAS, Governor John Bell Edwards signed a Proclamation declaring Monday, July 3, 2023 as a Legal State Holiday in the State of Louisiana and shall be observed as a day of public rest; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council of the City of Natchitoches appreciate the hard work of the Natchitoches City Employees; and

WHEREAS, to show appreciation for the dedicated efforts of our City Employees, the Mayor and Natchitoches City Council wish to declare, Monday, July 3, 2023 and Tuesday, July 4, 2023 as an official City Holiday for 2023.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by Mayor Ronnie Williams, Jr., that Monday, July 3, 2023 and Tuesday, July 4, 2023 be declared Official Holidays for the City of Natchitoches Employees.

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 26th day of June, 2023.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- The next scheduled City Council meeting will be **July 10, 2023**.
- The City of Natchitoches offices will be closed **Monday, July 3rd and Tuesday, July 4th, 2023** in observance of Independence Day.

With no further discussion, Mayor Williams made a motion for adjournment and all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 5:56 p.m.

_____/s/
RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

_____/s/
BETTY SMITH, MAYOR PRO-TEMPORE