

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES, STATE OF LOUISIANA,
REGULAR MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY, APRIL 10, 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, April 10, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.

There were present:

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

Guest: None

Absent: Councilman Dale Nielsen

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

Mayor Williams then called for the reading and approval of the minutes for the March 27, 2023 meeting. Councilwoman At Large Smith moved that we dispense with the reading of the minutes and approval of same. Seconded by Councilwoman Elie.

A roll call vote was as follows:

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. 028 OF 2023

PROCLAMATION DECLARING APRIL 2023 AS NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH IN THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES

WHEREAS, **National Child Abuse Prevention Month** is an annual opportunity to raise awareness about issues surrounding child abuse and neglect and engage community members in the ongoing effort to keep children safe; and

WHEREAS, CASA is one of a group of National Child Abuse Prevention Partner Organizations, selected by the Children’s Bureau to serve as partners in the national child abuse prevention initiative; and

WHEREAS, the work of CASA and volunteers is crucial to preventing child abuse and ensuring that children live in safe and permanent environments where they can thrive; and

WHEREAS, studies have indicated that children with a CASA volunteer are less likely to languish in long-term foster care, more likely to receive needed services and less likely to re-enter the foster care system; and

WHEREAS, child abuse prevention requires partnerships among federal, state, and local governments, faith-based and community-based organizations, schools, law enforcement, social service agencies, parents; and

WHEREAS, during National Child Abuse Prevention Month, and throughout the year, I encourage all citizens of Natchitoches to find ways to cherish our children, strengthen our families, work together to eliminate child abuse and neglect, and strive toward a shared dream in which every child is safe and happy.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ronnie Williams Jr., Mayor, and the Natchitoches City Council, do hereby proclaim April 2023 as:

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

in Natchitoches, and call upon all citizens to increase their participation in our efforts to prevent child abuse, which in turn will strengthen our community in which we live.

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

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

THEREUPON, Mayor Ronnie Williams, Jr., declared the Resolution passed by a vote of 4 Ayes to 0 Nays on this 10th day of April, 2023.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

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

RESOLUTION NO. 029 OF 2023

PROCLAMATION DECLARING SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2023 AS EARTH DAY IN THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES

WHEREAS, Earth Day 2023 we need to act (boldly), innovate (broadly), and implement (equitably). Businesses, governments, and citizens – everyone accounted for, and everyone accountable. A partnership for the plant;

WHEREAS The objective is to recognize our collective responsibility and to help accelerate the transition to an equitable, prosperous green economy for all; and

WHEREAS, all people, regardless of race, gender, income, or geography, have a moral right to a healthy, sustainable environment with economic growth; and

WHEREAS, enhancing and improving our green economy will require cooperation across all sectors of society. We are all caretakers of our planet and have an obligation to combat climate change and environmental degradation to preserve the Earth’s beauty as well as its resources; and

WHEREAS, a green economy can be achieved on the individual level through educational efforts, public policy, and consumer activism campaigns; and

WHEREAS, this obligation extends not only to today’s caretakers but also to future generations who will inherit our planet. April 22, 2023, marks the 53rd Anniversary of Earth Day and the City of Natchitoches is committed to building on the successes we have achieved so far and look to support this issue of environmental protection through local activism and raising local awareness; and

FURTHERMORE, let it be known that the City of Natchitoches, Louisiana hereby encourages its residents, businesses and institutions to use EARTH DAY to celebrate the Earth and commit to building a sustainable and green economy.

FURTHERMORE, Let’s keep our city clean and join others in **Love the Boot Week, April 17-21, 2023** and help organize or participate in litter cleanup or beautification events in our community during love the boot week, **April 20, 2023**, our state’s week-long Earth Day initiative supported by the Governor and Lieutenant Governor.

FURTHERMORE, join us as we commemorate the 53rd anniversary of EARTH DAY! A more sustainable world starts with all of us.

NOW, THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED, the City of Natchitoches, Louisiana hereby pledges Earth Day, Saturday, April 22, 2023, to support green economy initiatives in the City of Natchitoches and to encourage others to undertake similar actions.

Therefore, I, Ronnie Williams, Jr., Mayor
of the City of Natchitoches, do hereby proclaim

Saturday, April 22, 2023 as

“Earth Day”

in the City of Natchitoches, and strongly encourage all citizens to join us in acknowledging this event and participate suitably in its observance and share how you #LovetheBoot on social media and tag @KeepLouisianaBeautiful

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

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

THEREUPON, Mayor Ronnie Williams, Jr., declared the Resolution passed by a vote of 4 Ayes to 0 Nays on this 10th day of April, 2023.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

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

RESOLUTION NO. 030 OF 2023

**PROCLAMATION DECLARING APRIL 2023 AS
FAIR HOUSING MONTH IN THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES**

WHEREAS, the 55th Anniversary of the National Fair Housing Law, Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, during the month of April, is an occasion for all Americans - individually and collectively - to rededicate themselves to the principle of freedom from housing discrimination whenever it exists; and

WHEREAS, this law guarantees for each citizen that critical, personal element of freedom of choice – selection of the home, and

WHEREAS, a fair housing law has been passed by the State of Louisiana, and implementation of the law requires the positive commitment, involvement and support of each of our citizens, and

WHEREAS, the department and agencies of the state of Louisiana are to provide leadership in the effort to make fair housing not just an idea, but an ideal for all our citizens; and

WHEREAS, barriers that diminish the rights and limit the options of any citizen to freely choose a home will ultimately diminish the rights and limit the options of all.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED I, Ronnie Williams, Mayor, and the Natchitoches City Council, hereby proclaim the month of April 2023, as

FAIR HOUSING MONTH

in the City of Natchitoches.

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

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

THEREUPON, Mayor Ronnie Williams, Jr., declared the Resolution passed by a vote of 4 Ayes to 0 Nays on this 10th day of April, 2023.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

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

RESOLUTION NO. 031 OF 2023

PROCLAMATION DECLARING THE WEEK OF APRIL 10 - 14, 2023 AS NATIONAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WEEK IN THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES

WHEREAS, the Community Development Block Grant Program has operated since 1974 to provide local governments with the resources required to primarily meet the needs of low and moderate income persons; and

WHEREAS, the Community Development Block Grant Program is among the few remaining federal programs available to address the needs of low and moderate income persons and small cities; and

WHEREAS, the Community Development Block Grant Program has provided the state of Louisiana with important and flexible assistance to meet the needs of low and moderate income residents of small cities by funding sewer, water, and street improvements projects, economic development projects, and other public improvement projects; and

WHEREAS, Congress and the nation acknowledge the critical value of the Community Development Block Grant Program and the significant projects that rely on its funds for support; and

WHEREAS, the week of April 10-14, 2023 has been reserved for recognition and appreciation of the Community Development Block Grant Program

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ronnie Williams, Jr., Mayor, and the Natchitoches City Council, do hereby proclaim April 10-14, 2023 as:

NATIONAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WEEK

in the City of Natchitoches

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

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

THEREUPON, Mayor Ronnie Williams, Jr., declared the Resolution passed by a vote of 4 Ayes to 0 Nays on this 10th day of April, 2023.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

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

ORDINANCE NO. 021 OF 2023

AN ORDINANCE EXTENDING THE CITY LIMITS OF THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES ANNEXING A TRACT SITUATED IN SECTION 83, TOWNSHIP 9 NORTH, RANGE 7 WEST, AND SECTION 25 TOWNSHIP 9 NORTH, RANGE 8 WEST, NATCHITOCHES PARISH, LOUISIANA, SAID TRACT LYING SOUTH OF RUE DE GABRIEL AND LOUISIANA HIGHWAY SIX AND ADJACENT TO THE EXISTING MUNICIPAL LIMITS OF THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES, BEING A TOTAL OF 174 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, AND FURTHER PROVIDING FOR THE FIXING OF A PUBLIC HEARING, ADVERTISEMENT, FIXING COUNCIL DISTRICT FOR SAME, FIXING ZONING CLASSIFICATION AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE ORDINANCE.

WHEREAS, a petition has been filed in accordance with Revised Statutes 33:172, et. seq., by Evans Family, L.L.C and Sibley Lake Realty Corporation, requesting that the boundaries of the City of Natchitoches be enlarged so as to include the following described parcel or tract of land, to-wit:

That certain tract of land, together with all buildings and improvements located thereon, situated in Section 83, Township 9 North, Range 7 West and 25, Township 9 North Range 8 West, and being more particularly described as follows:

Commencing at the Southwest corner of Section 25, Township 9 North, Range 8 West, as shown and depicted on a survey by Glen L. Cannon, recorded at Conveyance Book 594, page 214, thence North 89 degrees 35 minutes 21 seconds East a distance of 330.03 feet to a found Concrete Post, being the Point of Beginning; thence from the Point of Beginning North 0 degrees 6 minutes 0 seconds West a distance sufficient to intersection the current corporate limits of the City of Natchitoches, Louisiana, which said point is 200 feet, more or less, South of the Right of Way of Louisiana Highway 6; thence in an easterly direction along the existing corporate limits of the City of Natchitoches a distance sufficient to intersect the westerly right of way of Limekiln Road; thence in a southerly direction, along the westerly right of way of Lime Kiln Road and along the current corporate limits of the City of Natchitoches, Louisiana, a distance of 1,168 feet, more or less, to a point where the existing corporate limits of the City of Natchitoches runs to the East; thence in an easterly direction along the existing corporate limits of the City of Natchitoches a distance sufficient to intersect the Southwest corner of a ten acre tract owned by Cane River Children's Services, as depicted on that survey by Glen L. Cannon, dated January 27, 2005, and recorded with that instrument at Conveyance Book 591, page 691, of the records of Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana; thence leaving the current corporate limits of the City of Natchitoches, North 89 degrees 41 minutes 31 seconds East a distance of 690.57 feet to the Southeast corner of the ten acre tract owned by Cane River Children's Services and being a point on the East line of Section 83, Township 9 North, Range 7 West; thence in a southerly direction, along the East line of Section 83, Township 9 North, Range 7 West a distance of 1,240 feet, more or less to the southern property line of Evans Family, L.L.C., thence in a westerly direction a distance sufficient to intersect to West line of Section 83 Township 9 North, Range 7 West and that corner shared by Sections 25 and 40 Township 9 North Range 8 West; thence in a westerly direction along the southern line of Section 25 Township 9 North Range 8 West a distance sufficient to intersect the Point of Beginning.

WHEREAS, the petitioners, Evans Family, L.L.C. and Sibley Lake Realty Corporation are the sole owner of the property described above as is reflected in the attached certificate from the Assessor's Office of the Parish of Natchitoches, Louisiana which was filed with the petition for annexation; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, attached to the petition is a certificate from the Tax Assessors's Office of the Parish of Natchitoches, Louisiana, certifying that the requirements of Louisiana R.S. 33:172 have been complied with, said certificate being dated April 6, 2023; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the matter was considered by the City Council for the City of Natchitoches, Louisiana, and a public hearing was called for on the 10th day of April, 2023, at which time the public was allowed to express opinions concerning this annexation; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the notice of filing of the petition has been published in The Natchitoches Times, legal journal of the City of Natchitoches, Louisiana, on the 30th day of March, 2023; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the property to be annexed is currently timber land with no residents living thereon and no structural improvements situated thereon; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, an opportunity has been given to all interested person in accordance with Louisiana R. S. 33:172, et. seq., on the 10th day of April, 2023; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the property is contiguous to the City of Natchitoches, Louisiana;

NOW THEREFORE, be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Natchitoches, in legal session assembled as follows:

Section 1. The boundaries of the City of Natchitoches are hereby enlarged so as to include the following described property, to-wit:

That certain tract of land, together with all buildings and improvements located thereon, situated in Section 83, Township 9 North, Range 7 West and 25, Township 9 North Range 8 West, and being more particularly described as follows:

Commencing at the Southwest corner of Section 25, Township 9 North, Range 8 West, as shown and depicted on a survey by Glen L. Cannon, recorded at Conveyance Book 594, page 214, thence North 89 degrees 35 minutes 21 seconds East a distance of 330.03 feet to a found Concrete Post, being the Point of Beginning; thence from the Point of Beginning North 0 degrees 6 minutes 0 seconds West a distance sufficient to intersection the current corporate limits of the City of Natchitoches, Louisiana, which said point is 200 feet, more or less, South of the Right of Way of Louisiana Highway 6; thence in an easterly direction along the existing corporate limits of the City of Natchitoches a distance sufficient to intersect the westerly right of way of Limekiln Road; thence in a southerly direction, along

the westerly right of way of Lime Kiln Road and along the current corporate limits of the City of Natchitoches, Louisiana, a distance of 1,168 feet, more or less, to a point where the existing corporate limits of the City of Natchitoches runs to the East; thence in an easterly direction along the existing corporate limits of the City of Natchitoches a distance sufficient to intersect the Southwest corner of a ten acre tract owned by Cane River Children's Services, as depicted on that survey by Glen L. Cannon, dated January 27, 2005, and recorded with that instrument at Conveyance Book 591, page 691, of the records of Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana; thence leaving the current corporate limits of the City of Natchitoches, North 89 degrees 41 minutes 31 seconds East a distance of 690.57 feet to the Southeast corner of the ten acre tract owned by Cane River Children's Services and being a point on the East line of Section 83, Township 9 North, Range 7 West; thence in a southerly direction, along the East line of Section 83, Township 9 North, Range 7 West a distance of 1,240 feet, more or less to the southern property line of Evans Family, L.L.C., thence in a westerly direction a distance sufficient to intersect to West line of Section 83 Township 9 North, Range 7 West and that corner shared by Sections 25 and 40 Township 9 North Range 8 West; thence in a westerly direction along the southern line of Section 25 Township 9 North Range 8 West a distance sufficient to intersect the Point of Beginning.

Section 2. Be it further ordained that the City of Natchitoches takes cognizance of the fact that this ordinance was introduced at a regular session of the City Council on the 27th day of March, 2023, after receiving the petition signed by the property owners, and that a public hearing was held on the 10th day of April, 2023;

Section 3. Be it further ordained that the above and foregoing property be and is hereby annexed to the City of Natchitoches, declared to be included in Council District No. 3, all in accordance with Section 2.03B of the HomeRule Charter of the City of Natchitoches, Louisiana.

Section 4. Be it further ordained by the City Council that the above described property be, and it is hereby annexed into the corporate limits of the City of Natchitoches, with a zoning classification of IA, being the same zoning classification as assigned by the Parish Planning and Zoning Commission.

Section 5. Be it further ordained by the City Council that this ordinance shall go into effect thirty (30) days after the publication of this ordinance in accordance with Louisiana Revised Statute 33:173.

This ordinance was introduced on March 27, 2023, was duly advertised with law, and a public hearing had on same on the 10th day of April, 2023, after advertisement.

THIS ORDINANCE was introduced on March 27, 2023 and published in the *Natchitoches Times* on March 30, 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, Smith, Harrington, Petite
NAYS: None

ABSENT: Nielsen
ABSTAIN: None

THEREUPON, Mayor Ronnie Williams, Jr., declared the Ordinance passed by a vote of 4 Ayes to 0 Nays this 10th day of April, 2023.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

BETTY SMITH, MAYOR PRO TEMPORE

Delivered to the Mayor on the 11th day of April, 2023 at 10:00 A.M.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 024 OF 2023

**AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE BUDGET FOR THE
CITY OF NATCHITOCHES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR
JUNE 1, 2023 THROUGH MAY 31, 2024**

WHEREAS, the fiscal year of the City of Natchitoches is from June 1 through May 31 of each year; and

WHEREAS, a budget has been prepared by the Finance Director, Clarissa Brown-Smith, and has been submitted by the Mayor, Ronnie Williams, Jr., to the City Council for review and consideration;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it ordained that the Natchitoches City Council does hereby adopt the budget for the fiscal year June 1, 2023 through May 31, 2024.

CITY OF NATCHITOCHES 2023 - 24 FY

General Fund	\$ 20,590,175.00
Proprietary Fund (Utility)	\$ 49,038,082.00
Special and Capital Project Funds	\$ 26,090,876.00

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, in accordance with L.R.S. 39:1305, the following specifies the Mayor’s authority to make budgetary amendments without approval of the governing authority, as well as those powers reserved solely to the governing authority:

The Home Rule Charter of the City of Natchitoches states in part "... at any time during the fiscal year the Mayor may transfer part or all of any unencumbered appropriation balance among programs within a department, office, or agency. Upon written request by the Mayor, the Council may by ordinance transfer part or all of any unencumbered appropriation balance from one department, office, or agency to another..." (Section 5.05 D) Supplemental, emergency, and reductions of appropriations must be submitted to the Council for approval by Ordinance. (Section 5.05 A-C)

THIS ORDINANCE was introduced on April 10, 2023 and published in the *Natchitoches Times* on April 13, 2023.

Mr. Nielsen made a motion to table this Ordinance which was seconded by Mrs. Smith, the motion to table was presented for a vote and the vote was recorded as follows:

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

THIS ORDINANCE WAS TABLED by a vote of 5 Ayes to 0 Nays this 24th day of April, 2023.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 032 OF 2023

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES, RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., TO EXECUTE A ‘FOURTH AMENDMENT TO LEASE FOR WATER TOWER SPACE’ TO THAT LEASE AGREEMENT FROM THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES TO VERIZON ENTITY TO INSTALL ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT.

WHEREAS, Landlord and Alltel Communications Wireless, Inc. d/b/a Verizon Wireless (“Alltel”), entered into that certain Lease Agreement dated November 1, 1998 (the “Lease”); which was amended by that certain First Lease Amendment dated December 21, 2012, and by that Second Lease Amendment dated October 31, 2016, and by that Third Lease Amendment dated April 26, 2017. All terms used but not defined herein shall have the meaning ascribed to them in those Leases; and

WHEREAS, Landlord and Tenant desire to enter into this Amendment to allow Tenant to install additional equipment on the Leased Premises specifically identified on the Exhibit "C-3" attached hereto and incorporated herein. Exhibit "C-2" to the Lease is hereby deleted in its entirety and replaced with Exhibit "C-3" attached hereto. Exhibit "C" to the Lease is hereby supplemented with Exhibit "C-3". All equipment on the water tower must be painted to match; and

WHEREAS, there is no rent increase associated with this Fourth Amendment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Natchitoches, Louisiana, is of the opinion that it is in the best interest of the City to execute the Fourth Amendment to Lease for Water Tower Space by and between Alltel, and that Mayor Ronnie Williams, Jr., is hereby authorized to execute the Fourth Amendment to Lease for Water Tower Space on behalf of the City of Natchitoches.

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

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

THEREUPON, Mayor Ronnie Williams, Jr., declared the Resolution passed by a vote of 4 Ayes to 0 Nays on this 10th day of April, 2023.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

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

RESOLUTION NO. 033 OF 2023

A RESOLUTION PROVIDING NOTICE OF INTENTION TO LEVY AND COLLECT A TWO PERCENT (2%) SALES AND USE TAX UPON THE SALE AT RETAIL, THE USE, THE LEASE OR RENTAL, THE CONSUMPTION AND STORAGE FOR USE OR CONSUMPTION, OF TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY AND ON SALES OF SERVICES IN THE NATCHITOCHES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT F, STATE OF LOUISIANA (the “*DISTRICT*”) AND A HOTEL OCCUPANCY TAX OF TWO PERCENT (2%) UPON THE FEE OR RENT FOR OCCUPANCY OF HOTEL ROOMS LOCATED WITHIN THE DISTRICT COMMENCING ON OCTOBER 1, 2023, IN ACCORDANCE WITH AND AS AUTHORIZED BY PART II, CHAPTER 27 OF TITLE 33 OF THE LOUISIANA REVISED STATUTES OF 1950, AS AMENDED; AND AUTHORIZING THE PUBLICATION OF A NOTICE OF INTENTION TO LEVY AND COLLECT SUCH SALES AND USE TAX AND HOTEL OCCUPANCY TAX; AND PROVIDING FOR OTHER MATTERS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH.

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 “**EDD Act**”) authorizes municipalities, parishes and certain other local governmental subdivisions to create economic development districts to carry out the purposes of the EDD Act, which economic development districts are political subdivisions of the State of Louisiana and possess such power and authority and have such duties as provided by the EDD Act and other law; and

WHEREAS, the Section 33:9038.39 of the EDD Act permits economic development districts to levy sales and use taxes and hotel occupancy taxes for authorized purposes in addition to any other sales and use taxes and hotel occupancy taxes then in existence or permitted to be in existence therein, and provided that in the event there are no qualified electors in the district in question, as certified by the Registrar of Voters, no election shall be required prior to the levy of such sales and use and hotel occupancy taxes; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the EDD Act, this City Council, acting as the governing authority of the City of Natchitoches, State of Louisiana (the “**City**”), adopted an ordinance on February 27, 2023, which created the Natchitoches Economic Development District F, State of Louisiana (the “**District**”), in accordance with La. R.S. 33:9038.32; and

WHEREAS, this City Council, acting as the governing authority of the District (the “**District Governing Authority**”), intends to levy in the District, effective October 1, 2023, an additional sales and use tax of two percent (2%), upon the sale at retail, the use, the lease or rental, the consumption, and the storage for use or consumption, of tangible personal property and on the sales of services in the District, as defined by law (the “**District Sales Tax**”); and

WHEREAS, this District Governing Authority, intends to levy in the District, effective October 1, 2023, a hotel occupancy tax of two percent (2%), upon the fee or rent for occupancy of hotel rooms located within the District (the “***District Hotel Occupancy Tax***” and, together with the District Sales Tax, the “***District Tax***”); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to La. R.S. 33:9038.39, this City Council, acting as the governing authority of the District, desires to give notice of intention relative to the aforesaid action.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Natchitoches, State of Louisiana, acting as the governing authority of the District, that:

SECTION 1. **Intention to Levy District Tax.** In accordance with the EDD Act, and particularly La. R.S. 33:9038.39, this City Council, in its capacity as governing authority of the District, does hereby give notice of its intention to levy and collect the District Tax within the District.

SECTION 2. **Notice of Intention.** The City Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to publish a notice of intention, in substantially the following form, which notice shall be published in two consecutive weekly issues of the City’s official journal, starting at least fourteen (14) days before the date when this City Council, acting as the governing authority of the District, will meet in open and public session to hear any objections to the aforesaid actions:

* * * * *

NATCHITOCHEs ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

DISTRICT F, STATE OF LOUISIANA

PURSUANT TO LA. R.S. 33:9038.39

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO LEVY SALES & USE AND HOTEL OCCUPANCY TAXES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council of the City of Natchitoches, State of Louisiana (the “***City Council***”), acting as the governing authority of Natchitoches Economic Development District F, State of Louisiana (the “***District***”) will meet at its meeting place, Natchitoches Council Chambers, 716 Second Street, Natchitoches, Louisiana, 71457 on May 8, 2023 at 5:00 p.m., at which time the District intends to take action regarding the levy and collection of a two percent (2%) sales and use tax upon the sale at retail, the use, the lease or rental, the consumption and storage for use or consumption, of tangible personal property and on sales of services in the District and a hotel occupancy tax of two percent (2%) upon the fee or rent for occupancy of hotel rooms located within the District commencing on October 1, 2023, all in the manner and subject to the provisions and terms of those portions of Title 47 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended, applicable to sales and use taxes and hotel occupancy taxes levied by the District for the purposes of funding construction of, acquisition of, and upgrades to economic development projects and any and all authorized purposes under the applicable provisions of Part II, Chapter 27, Title 33 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended (La. R.S. 33:9038.31, *et seq.*).

* * * * *

SECTION 3. Public Hearing. At the date, time, and place mentioned in the aforesaid Notice of Intention, or at such other time and place as may be determined by the Mayor and properly advertised, this City Council, acting as the governing authority of the District, will meet in open and public session, to hear any objections to the levy and collection of the District Tax within the boundaries of the District, as described above.

SECTION 4. Authorization of Officers. The Mayor, Mayor Pro Tempore, and the City Clerk are hereby authorized, empowered, and directed to do any and all things necessary and incidental to carry out the provisions of this Resolution.

[The remainder of this page is intentionally left blank.]

Said Resolution having been read and considered by a quorum of the City Council, acting as the governing of the District, on motion to adopt by Mr. Harrington, seconded by Mrs. Smith a record vote was taken and the following result was had:

YEAS: Elie, Smith, Harrington, Petite

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Nielsen

WHEREUPON, the presiding officer declared the above Resolution duly adopted in full on this, the 10th day of April, 2023.

Ronnie Williams, Jr., Mayor

Betty Sawyer-Smith, Mayor Pro Tempore

Stacy McQueary, City Clerk

STATE OF LOUISIANA

PARISH OF NATCHITOCHES

I, **STACY MCQUEARY**, certify that I am the duly qualified and acting City Clerk of the City Council of the City of Natchitoches, State of Louisiana, acting as the governing authority of Natchitoches Economic Development District F, State of Louisiana (the “*District*”).

I further certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution of the City Council of the City of Natchitoches, State of Louisiana, acting as the governing authority of the District, adopted on April 10, 2023, entitled:

A RESOLUTION PROVIDING NOTICE OF INTENTION TO LEVY AND COLLECT A TWO PERCENT (2%) SALES AND USE TAX UPON THE SALE AT RETAIL, THE USE, THE LEASE OR RENTAL, THE CONSUMPTION AND STORAGE FOR USE OR CONSUMPTION, OF TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY AND ON SALES OF SERVICES IN THE NATCHITOCHES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT F, STATE OF LOUISIANA (the “*DISTRICT*”) AND A HOTEL OCCUPANCY TAX OF TWO PERCENT (2%) UPON THE FEE OR RENT FOR OCCUPANCY OF HOTEL ROOMS LOCATED WITHIN THE DISTRICT COMMENCING ON OCTOBER 1, 2023, IN ACCORDANCE WITH AND AS AUTHORIZED BY PART II, CHAPTER 27 OF TITLE 33 OF THE LOUISIANA REVISED STATUTES OF 1950, AS AMENDED; AND AUTHORIZING THE PUBLICATION OF A NOTICE OF INTENTION TO LEVY AND COLLECT SUCH SALES AND USE TAX AND HOTEL OCCUPANCY TAX; AND PROVIDING FOR OTHER MATTERS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH.

IN FAITH WHEREOF, witness my official signature and the impress of the official seal of said City of Natchitoches, State of Louisiana, on this, the 10th day of April, 2023.

Stacy McQueary, City Clerk

(Seal)

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- The next scheduled City Council meeting will be **April 24, 2023**.
- A **Public Hearing** on the City of Natchitoches **Budget** for the fiscal year June 1, 2023 through May 31, 2024 will be held on **Monday, April 24, 2023 at 4:30 PM**, at the Natchitoches City Council Chambers, 716 Second Street, Natchitoches, LA 71457.

With no further discussion, Mayor Williams made a motion for adjournment and all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 6:33 p.m.

/s/
RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

/s/
BETTY SMITH, MAYOR PRO-TEMPORE