

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES, STATE OF LOUISIANA,
REGULAR MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY, APRIL 24, 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 24, 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 Councilwoman Harrington led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Williams then called for the reading and approval of the minutes for the April 10, 2023 meeting. Councilwoman At Large Smith moved that we dispense with the reading of the minutes and approval of same. Seconded by Councilman Nielsen.

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. Harrington and Seconded by Mrs. Smith as follows, to-wit:

ORDINANCE NO. 020 OF 2023

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

(BID NO. 0657)

WHEREAS, Resolution No.012 of 2023 was passed by the Natchitoches City Council on February 13, 2023 authorizing the Mayor to advertise for bids for a Bucket Truck for the Natchitoches Utility Department (Bid No. 0657); and

WHEREAS, this bid was advertised in the *Natchitoches Times* on, February 18, February 25, and March 4, 2023 in accordance with law; and

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

(1) Versalift Southwest, LLC
Waco, TX.....\$192,837.00

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2023 the appointed committee of Clarissa Smith, Finance Director; Edd Lee, Director of Purchasing; Matt Anderson, Utility Director; and Christopher Petite, Councilman, reviewed the bid proposals for bids for a Bucket Truck for the Natchitoches Utility Department (Bid No. 0657); and

WHEREAS, the above appointed committee members unanimously recommend the City award the bid to the only bidder **Versalift Southwest, LLC** in the amount of **\$192,837.00**

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.

THIS ORDINANCE was introduced on March 27, 2023 and published in the *Natchitoches Times* on April 8, 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 24th day of April, 2023.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

BETTY SMITH, MAYOR PRO TEMPORE

Delivered to the Mayor on the 25th day of April, 2023 at 10:00 A.M.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 023 OF 2023

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 059 OF 2011 OF THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES, LOUISIANA, TO REPEAL THE DESCRIPTIONS AND DESIGNATIONS OF EXISTING CITY OF NATCHITOCHES CITY COUNCIL DISTRICTS, ESTABLISH NEW CITY OF NATCHITOCHES CITY COUNCIL DISTRICTS, DESCRIBE THE BOUNDARIES OF EACH NEW DISTRICT AND OTHERWISE PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE ORDINANCE.

WHEREAS, the initial Council Districts of the City of Natchitoches, Louisiana, were established under the transitional provisions of Section 8.01 of the Home Rule Charter of 1975; and

WHEREAS, the Council Districts were altered and rearranged under the provisions of Section 2.02 of the Home Rule Charter by Ordinance No. 48 of 1983, passed by the City Council on December 12, 1983; and

WHEREAS, Districts 3 and 4 were adjusted and the lines between same were clarified by Ordinance No. 15 of 1986, passed by the City Council on June 9, 1986; and

WHEREAS, several annexations have been made to the Corporate Municipal Limits of the City of Natchitoches since the date on which the original Council Districts were established and since the date of the amending ordinances as herein described: and

WHEREAS, by Ordinance No. 14 of 1991, and by Ordinance No. 33 of 1991, the geographical boundary lines of the Council Districts were again restated and redesignated for clarification; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4 were redesignated and their legal descriptions were restated by Ordinance No. 39 of 1991 which also repealed Ordinance No. 33 of 1991; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4 were redesignated and their legal descriptions were restated by Ordinance No. 56 of 2002; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4 were redesignated and their legal descriptions were restated by Ordinance No. 59 of 2011; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the City Council has now redrawn the Council Districts in accordance with the 2020 decennial census following appropriate law to maintain population and racial equality within the Districts; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, these redesignated boundary districts have been reviewed by the City Council and public hearings have been held offering citizens of the City the opportunity to voice their approval or opposition to the new boundary lines of the respective districts.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED AS FOLLOWS:

- I. **IT IS HEREBY ORDAINED** by the City Council of the City of Natchitoches, Louisiana, that Ordinance No. 48 of 1983 (which altered, changed, and rearranged the transitional provisions of Section 8.01 of the Home Rule Charter), and Ordinance No. 15 of 1986, Ordinance No. 14 of 1991, Ordinance No. 39 of 1991, Ordinance No. 56 of 2002, and Ordinance No. 59 of 2011 which further amended same, are hereby amended by redesignating and restating the legal descriptions of Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4, which shall henceforth read as follows:

COUNCIL DISTRICT ONE

Beginning at the point of intersection of 2nd Street and Demeziere Street, and proceeding northerly along 2nd Street to Church Street, and proceeding easterly along Church Street to Front Street, and proceeding northerly along Front Street to Washington Street, and proceeding northerly along Washington Street to stream/river, and proceeding easterly along stream/river to the Natchitoches city line, and proceeding easterly along the Natchitoches city line to Ralph Street, and proceeding southerly along Ralph Street to Keyser Avenue, and proceeding westerly along Keyser Avenue to Pine Street, and proceeding westerly along Pine Street to shoreline, and proceeding southerly along shoreline to unnamed Local road, and proceeding southerly along unnamed Local road to Woodyard Drive, and proceeding westerly along Woodyard Drive to Rapides Drive, and proceeding westerly along Rapides Drive to Fairgrounds Road, and proceeding westerly along Fairgrounds Road to unnamed Local road, and proceeding northerly along unnamed Local road to stream/river, and proceeding easterly along stream/river to Airport Road, and proceeding easterly along Airport Road to Mill Street, and proceeding northerly along Mill Street to railroad, and proceeding northerly along railroad to South Jefferson Street, and proceeding northerly along South Jefferson Street to unnamed Ramp, and proceeding northerly along unnamed Ramp to College Avenue, and proceeding westerly along College Avenue to Cypress Avenue, and proceeding northerly along Cypress Avenue to Pine Street, and proceeding easterly along Pine Street to Percy Street, and proceeding northerly along Percy Street to Demeziere Street, and proceeding westerly along Demeziere Street to the point of beginning. Except for regions outside the corporate limits bounded by the Natchitoches city line.

COUNCIL DISTRICT TWO

Beginning at the point of intersection of Fairgrounds Road and Highway 1, and proceeding northerly along Fairgrounds Road to Rapides Drive, and proceeding southerly along Rapides Drive to Woodyard Drive, and proceeding easterly along Woodyard Drive to unnamed Local road, and proceeding northerly along unnamed Local road to shoreline, and proceeding northerly along shoreline to Pine Street, and proceeding easterly along Pine Street to Keyser Avenue, and proceeding easterly along Keyser Avenue to Ralph Street, and proceeding northerly along Ralph Street to the Natchitoches city line, and proceeding northerly along the Natchitoches city line to Highway 1, and proceeding westerly along Highway 1 to stream/river, and proceeding southerly along stream/river to shoreline, and proceeding westerly along shoreline to stream/river, and proceeding westerly along stream/river to Castleton Street, and proceeding westerly along Castleton Street to Julien Circle, and proceeding northerly along Julien Circle to Arrington Avenue, and proceeding easterly along Arrington Avenue to Hazel Street, and proceeding northerly along Hazel Street to Highway 1, and proceeding westerly along Highway 1 to the point of beginning. Except for regions outside the corporate limits bounded by the Natchitoches city line.

COUNCIL DISTRICT THREE

Beginning at the point of intersection of the Natchitoches city line and State Route 6, and proceeding easterly along the Natchitoches city line to Stevens Circle, and proceeding southerly along Stevens Circle to University Parkway, and proceeding easterly along University Parkway to State Route 6, and proceeding easterly along State Route 6 to College Avenue, and proceeding easterly along College Avenue to Highway 1, and proceeding northerly along Highway 1 to shoreline, and proceeding easterly along shoreline to Highway 1, and proceeding northerly along Highway 1 to stream/river, and proceeding easterly along stream/river to Sanford Street, and proceeding southerly along Sanford Street to Thomas Street, and proceeding easterly along Thomas Street to Howell Street, and proceeding northerly along Howell Street to Trudeau Street, and proceeding easterly along Trudeau Street to North Street, and proceeding southerly along North Street to Amulet Street, and proceeding easterly along Amulet Street to High Street, and proceeding southerly along High Street to Lake Street, and proceeding easterly along Lake Street to Pierson Street, and proceeding southerly along Pierson Street to Bossier Street, and proceeding westerly along Bossier Street to Lee Street, and proceeding southerly along Lee Street to College Avenue, and proceeding westerly along College Avenue to Sam Sibley Drive, and proceeding southerly along Sam Sibley Drive to South Jefferson Street, and proceeding northerly along South Jefferson Street to railroad, and proceeding easterly along railroad to Mill Street, and proceeding southerly along Mill Street to Airport Road, and proceeding westerly along Airport Road to stream/river, and proceeding southerly along stream/river to unnamed Local road, and proceeding southerly along unnamed Local road to Fairgrounds Road, and proceeding southerly along Fairgrounds Road to Highway 1, and proceeding easterly along Highway 1 to Hazel Street, and proceeding southerly along Hazel Street to Arrington Avenue, and proceeding westerly along Arrington Avenue to Julien Circle, and proceeding southerly along Julien Circle to Castleton Street, and proceeding easterly along Castleton Street to stream/river, and proceeding easterly along

stream/river to shoreline, and proceeding easterly along shoreline to stream/river, and proceeding northerly along stream/river to Highway 1, and proceeding easterly along Highway 1 to the Natchitoches city line, and proceeding southerly along the Natchitoches city line to railroad, and proceeding southerly along railroad to the Natchitoches city line, and proceeding westerly along the Natchitoches city line to State Route 6, and proceeding easterly along State Route 6 to the point of beginning. Except for regions outside the corporate limits bounded by the Natchitoches city line.

COUNCIL DISTRICT FOUR

Beginning at the point of intersection of the Natchitoches city line and Stevens Circle, and proceeding northerly along the Natchitoches city line to stream/river, and proceeding southerly along stream/river to Washington Street, and proceeding southerly along Washington Street to Front Street, and proceeding southerly along Front Street to Church Street, and proceeding westerly along Church Street to 2nd Street, and proceeding southerly along 2nd Street to Demeziere Street, and proceeding easterly along Demeziere Street to Percy Street, and proceeding southerly along Percy Street to Pine Street, and proceeding westerly along Pine Street to Cypress Avenue, and proceeding southerly along Cypress Avenue to College Avenue, and proceeding easterly along College Avenue to unnamed Ramp, and proceeding southerly along unnamed Ramp to South Jefferson Street, and proceeding southerly along South Jefferson Street to Sam Sibley Drive, and proceeding westerly along Sam Sibley Drive to College Avenue, and proceeding easterly along College Avenue to Lee Street, and proceeding northerly along Lee Street to Bossier Street, and proceeding easterly along Bossier Street to Pierson Street, and proceeding northerly along Pierson Street to Lake Street, and proceeding westerly along Lake Street to High Street, and proceeding northerly along High Street to Amulet Street, and proceeding westerly along Amulet Street to North Street, and proceeding northerly along North Street to Trudeau Street, and proceeding westerly along Trudeau Street to Howell Street, and proceeding southerly along Howell Street to Thomas Street, and proceeding westerly along Thomas Street to Sanford Street, and proceeding northerly along Sanford Street to stream/river, and proceeding westerly along stream/river to Highway 1, and proceeding southerly along Highway 1 to shoreline, and proceeding westerly along shoreline to Highway 1, and proceeding southerly along Highway 1 to College Avenue, and proceeding westerly along College Avenue to State Route 6, and proceeding westerly along State Route 6 to University Parkway, and proceeding westerly along University Parkway to Stevens Circle, and proceeding northerly along Stevens Circle to the point of beginning. Except for regions outside the corporate limits bounded by the Natchitoches city line.

- II. **IT IS FURTHER ORDAINED** that the City Council takes cognizance of the fact that this is an adjustment, amendment, and restatement of the present City Council Districts, amending Ordinance No. 48 of 1983, as amended by Ordinance No. 15 of 1986, Ordinance No. 14 of 1991 and Ordinance No. 39 of 1991, as amended by Ordinance No. 056 of 2002, as amended by Ordinance No. 059 of 2011, and shall be effective henceforth.

- III. **IT IS FURTHER ORDAINED** that the City Council takes cognizance that public hearings have been held and declares that this Ordinance shall go into effect upon the first day of qualifying for the Spring primary election of 2024.
- IV. **IT IS FURTHER ORDAINED** that this Ordinance is passed in accordance with Section 2.02 of the Home Rule Charter and is intended to amend and restate the present existing City Council Districts as originally set forth in Section 8.01 of the Home Rule Charter.
- V. **THIS ORDINANCE** was introduced on March 27, 2023 and published in the *Natchitoches Times* on April 8, 2023.

Public Hearings were held on this Ordinance on March 27, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. and April 24, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

Ordinance No. 023 was introduced and read in its entirety on March 27, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. at a meeting.

Ordinance No. 023, in its entirety, was advertised in *The Natchitoches Times* on April 8, 2023, in accordance with the law.

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 24th day of April, 2023.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

BETTY SMITH, MAYOR PRO TEMPORE

Delivered to the Mayor on the 25th day of April, 2023 at 10:00 A.M.

The following Ordinance was Introduced by Mr. Nielsen and Seconded by Mr. Petite 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.

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: Nielsen, Smith, Harrington, Petite

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Elie

ABSTAIN: None

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

ORDINANCE NO. 025 OF 2023

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A FRANCHISE IN FAVOR OF PAUL’S PARTY BOAT, TO OPERATE A TOUR BOAT BUSINESS 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 AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY PROVIDING FOR ADVERTISING, FURTHER PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, AND FURTHER PROVIDING FOR A REPEALER AND EFFECTIVE DATE OF ORDINANCE.

WHEREAS, 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 City of Natchitoches (sometimes hereinafter "CITY") and Paul’s Party Boat, L.L.C. (sometimes hereinafter “Paul’s”) entered into a Franchise Agreement and Lease dated November 21, 2018, which was renewed and amended in 2021 (sometimes hereinafter “Existing Agreement”); and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the CITY and Paul’s have negotiated a renewal of the Existing Agreement, for the purpose of continuing to allow Paul’s to operate a business offering tours on Cane River Lake and allowing use of CITY public places, including parking areas and river front for its operation; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the proposed extension of the franchise is for a period of one year, with an option for one additional one- year term; and

WHEREAS, both parties, that is, the CITY and Paul’s, deem it to be in their mutual best interests and advantage to execute a Franchise Agreement which will clearly delineate the respective obligations, covenants, conditions, responsibilities, and considerations under the said Franchise; and

WHEREAS, this Franchise Agreement 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 Cane River Lake will continue to 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 Agreement, a copy of which is attached hereto, and authorizes the Mayor, Ronnie Williams, Jr., to execute the said Franchise Agreement with Party Boat.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the terms and conditions of the Franchise Agreement 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.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 034 OF 2023

**RESOLUTION APPOINTING RASUL KARIM ABDULLAH
AS A MEMBER OF THE
NATCHITOCHES FIRE AND POLICE CIVIL SERVICE BOARD**

WHEREAS, the terms of office of William Finical as the Governing Authority Board Member of the Natchitoches Municipal Fire and Police Civil Service Board will expire May 8, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Natchitoches City Council wishes to appoint Rasul Karim Abdullah as the Governing Authority Board Members on the Fire and Police Civil Service Board.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Natchitoches does, in legal session convened, does hereby appoint Rasul Karim Abdullah as a member of the Natchitoches Municipal Fire and Police Civil Service Board for the City of Natchitoches.

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 24th day of April, 2023.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- The next scheduled City Council meeting will be **May 8, 2023**.

With no further discussion, Mayor Williams made a motion for adjournment and all were in favor.
The meeting was adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

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

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