

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES, STATE OF LOUISIANA,
REGULAR MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY, JULY 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, July 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
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 Petite led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 039 OF 2023

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY
OF NATCHITOCHES TO AWARD THE BID FOR
PROFESSOR M. RICHARDSON PARK IMPROVEMENTS**

(BID NO. 0661)

WHEREAS, Resolution No.041 of 2023 was passed by the Natchitoches City Council on May 22, 2023 authorizing the Mayor to advertise for bids for Professor M. Richardson Park Improvements (Bid No. 0661); and

WHEREAS, this bid was advertised in the *Natchitoches Times* on, May 25, June 1, and June 15, 2023 in accordance with law; and

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

- (1) Regional Construction, LLC
Natchitoches, LA\$503,978.00
- (2) Martin Metal Construction, LLC
Natchitoches, LA..... \$657,860.00

WHEREAS, awarding of this contract is contingent upon the approval of the Office of Louisiana Community Development; and

WHEREAS, on July 5, 2023 the appointed committee of Clarissa Smith, Finance Director; Edd Lee, Director of Purchasing; Kevin Warner, Recreation Director; and Christopher Petite, Councilman, reviewed the bid proposals for bids for Professor M. Richardson Park Improvements (Bid No. 0661); and

WHEREAS, the above appointed committee members unanimously recommend the City award the bid to the lowest bidder **Regional Construction, LLC.**, in the amount of **\$503,978.00.**

THIS ORDINANCE was introduced on July 10, 2023 and published in the *Natchitoches Times* on July 15, 2023.

Councilmen Petite and Harrington, along with Kevin Warner provided comments in reference to Ordinance No. 39 of 2023.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 065 OF 2023

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE
CHANGE ORDER NO. 2 FOR THE PURCHASE OF A 47’ SHEAVE HEIGHT DIGGER
TRUCK FOR THE UTILITY DEPARTMENT
(BID NO. 0639)**

WHEREAS, the City of Natchitoches (CITY) awarded the bid to Lonestar Truck Group on September 27, 2021 by Ordinance No. 045 of 2021 in the amount of **\$234,502.00** for a 47’ Sheave Height Digger Truck for the Utility Department (Bid No. 0639); and

WHEREAS, on **May 9, 2023**, the City Council approved **Change Order No. 1**, in the amount of **\$17,864.00** making the revised contract total **\$252,366.00**; and

WHEREAS, on June 29, 2023 Lonestar Truck Group issued an invoice, hereinafter referred to as “**Change Order No. 2**”; and

WHEREAS, the contract sum will be increase by this **Change Order No. 2** in the amount of **\$21,320.87** and the revised contract total will be **\$273,686.87**; and

WHEREAS, the Utility Director, Matt Anderson and the Purchasing Director, Edd Lee 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.

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 Lonestar Truck Group.

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 10th day of July, 2023.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

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

RESOLUTION NO. 066 OF 2023

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE A CERTIFICATE OF SUBSTANTIAL COMPLETION TO THE CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES AND WILLIAMS EQUIPMENT SERVICES, LLC FOR 2021-22 STREET REHABILITATION PROGRAM, PHASE 1

(BID NO. 0641)

WHEREAS, the City of Natchitoches has contracted with Williams Equipment Services, LLC for 2021-22 Street Rehabilitation Program, Phase 1

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 Williams Equipment Services, 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 10th day of July, 2023.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

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

RESOLUTION NO. 067 OF 2023

**RESOLUTION ADDRESSING ADMINISTRATIVE
ASPECTS OF THE PROPOSED APPLICATION
ASSISTANCE FOR GRANT SUBMITTED FOR FUNDING
TO THE LCDBG CLEARANCE GRANT PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the City of Natchitoches is desirous of submitting an application to the CDBG Clearance Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the application is to seek grant funding and/or revenue for funding for several blighted and demolished properties throughout the City of Natchitoches; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to acknowledge that employees of the City of Natchitoches will be administering the CDBG Clearance Grant Program to receive two bonus points, should funding become available.

WHEREAS, the City of Natchitoches Administrative Employees have extensive back ground experience with the Louisiana Community Development Block Grant (LCDBG) program that is comparable to the Clearance Grant Program.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Natchitoches offers its full support of a grant application submitted by the City of Natchitoches for funding to the CDBG Clearance Grant Program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Mayor Ronnie Williams, Jr., is hereby authorized to sign the grant application and all other administrative documents on behalf of 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 10th day of July, 2023.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

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

RESOLUTION NO. 068 OF 2023

**A RESOLUTION ADDRESSING LEGAL ASPECTS OF THE
PROPOSED APPLICATION ASSISTANCE FOR GRANT
SUBMITTED FOR FUNDING TO THE LOUISIANA CDBG
CLEARANCE GRANT PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the City of Natchitoches is desirous of submitting an application to the Louisiana CDBG Clearance Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the application is to seek grant funding for the clearance of blighted properties throughout the City of Natchitoches; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to acknowledge that employees of the City of Natchitoches will pay for any associated legal fees to receive two bonus points, should funding become available.

WHEREAS, the City of Natchitoches legal staff has extensive experience with the Louisiana Community Development Block Grant (LCDBG) Program.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Natchitoches offers its full support of a grant application submitted by the City of Natchitoches for funding to the LCDBG Clearance Grant Program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Mayor Ronnie Williams, Jr., is hereby authorized to sign the grant application and all other administrative documents on behalf of 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 10th day of July, 2023.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

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

RESOLUTION NO. 069 OF 2023

A RESOLUTION APPROVING SELECTION OF THE FIRM OF VOLKERT, INC., AND AUTHORIZATION FOR MAYOR TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH THIS FIRM, FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THE COMPREHENSIVE SAFETY ACTION PLAN FOR THE “SAFE STREETS FOR ALL” (SS4A) FEDERAL GRANT PROGRAM.

WHEREAS, the City of Natchitoches was recently granted \$280,000 by the U.S. Department of Transportation for development of a Comprehensive Safety Action Plan under the “Safe Streets for All” program; and

WHEREAS, the City of Natchitoches has committed to providing the required 20% local matching funds for this project, in the amount of \$70,000; and

WHEREAS, the City of Natchitoches has recently executed the project agreement with the U.S. Department of Transportation through the Federal Highway Administration; and

WHEREAS, on June 19, 2023, the City of Natchitoches advertised and distributed a Request for Proposals for consultant services for development of the Comprehensive Safety Action Plan; and

WHEREAS, on July 5, 2023, the City of Natchitoches received four proposal submittals; and

WHEREAS, upon review and evaluation of the proposals received, the Proposal Review Team consisting of the Mayor, Finance Director, Purchasing Director, Grants Manager, and City Engineer, has recommended selection of the firm of Volkert, Inc. to perform these services; and

WHEREAS, Volkert, Inc. has proposed a lump sum fixed fee that fits within the established project budget of \$350,000 (Federal funds plus local match);

NOW THEREFORE HEREBY BE IT RESOLVED, that the Natchitoches City Council in regular session held on July 10, 2023, does approve the selection of Volkert, Inc., to perform these services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Natchitoches City Council hereby authorizes Mayor Ronnie Williams, Jr., to execute a contract with Volkert, Inc., for these services.

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 10th day of July, 2023.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- The next scheduled City Council meeting will be **July 24, 2023**.

With no further discussion, Mayor Williams made a motion for adjournment and all were in favor.
The meeting was adjourned at 6:03 p.m.

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

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