

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES, STATE OF LOUISIANA,
REGULAR MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY, AUGUST 14, 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, August 14, 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 July 24, 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

Councilman Harrington presented Harvey Polk with a special recognition award.

The following Ordinance was Introduced by Mrs. Elie at the August 14, 2023 City Council meeting as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 044 OF 2023

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

**Lot 62 Feet Front East Side Washington St. East by Cane River Lake, North By Poleman,
South by Brown**

(911 Washington St.)

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission of the City of Natchitoches, State of Louisiana, has recommended at their meeting of **August 8, 2023** that the application of Zachary Investments to rezone the property described above from R-1 Residential to R-1 Residential with a special exception for short-term rental, be **APPROVED**.

Shontrell Roque spoke in regards to Ordinance No. 044 of 2023.

The following Ordinance was Introduced by Mr. Nielsen at the August 14, 2023 City Council meeting as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 045 OF 2023

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

Lot East Second St., North by Kaffie, South By Church.

(129 St. Denis)

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission of the City of Natchitoches, State of Louisiana, has recommended at their meeting of **August 8, 2023** that the application of First United Methodist Church to rezone the property described above from R-1 Residential to R-1 Residential with a special exception to operate a business office for the church, be **APPROVED**.

Shontrell Roque spoke in regard to Ordinance No. 045 of 2023

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

ORDINANCE NUMBER 040 OF 2023

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING A POLICY REGARDING THE USE OF MOBILE DEVICES AND TO AMEND AND REENACT THE PERSONNEL POLICIES MANUAL OF THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES TO AMEND A SECTION ENTITLED “MOBILE DEVICE POLICY”, PROVIDING FOR ADVERTISING, FURTHER PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, AND FURTHER PROVIDING FOR A REPEALER AND EFFECTIVE DATE OF ORDINANCE.

WHEREAS pursuant to Sections 1.05 and 1.06 of the Charter of the City of Natchitoches the City may exercise such power and authority not inconsistent with the City Charter or general law; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, 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, the City of Natchitoches has adopted a “Personnel Policies Manual” the latest version dated June 1, 2003, as revised; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the City Council of the City of Natchitoches desires to amend the Personnel Policies Manual to add a section stating the policy of the City of Natchitoches for use of mobile devices, said section to be titled “Mobile Device Policy” to be located in Section 4, “Other Policies”, of the Personnel Policies Manual; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the City Council of the City of Natchitoches desires to amend the Personnel Policies Manual to add a Section which shall be entitled “Mobile Device Policy” which said section shall henceforth read as follows:

“Mobile Device Policy

Accident statistics show that using mobile devices, such as cellular telephones, laptops, personal digital assistants, navigation systems, and portable digital audio and video players, while operating a vehicle, is distracting and can substantially increase the risk of being involved in an accident. To help reduce the possibility of vehicle accidents, the City has adopted the following Mobile Device Policy, which applies to all employees operating a City vehicle at any time, and all employees driving any other vehicle (personal, rented, borrowed, etc.) while conducting City business.

Policy

Subject to the exceptions below, employees shall adhere to the following:

Employees may use hands-free technology to make phone calls while driving, as long as it can be done so safely. However, to avoid any possible distraction, calls should be as brief as possible.

Employees should not use a hand-held mobile device while driving for any purpose, including but not limited to making phone calls, sending or reading text messages or e-mails, viewing videos, etc. Employees should check for messages, and respond to urgent messages, before driving.

Employees may use GPS devices while driving, as long as the navigation is set prior to driving, and the GPS is secured in a safe place that does not obstruct an employee's view.

Employees are not permitted to use headphones while driving.

Exceptions

A. This policy does not apply to law enforcement officers, firefighters, or other employees operating an authorized emergency vehicle, while engaged in the actual performance of their official duties. Such employees must still use mobile devices in a safe manner, at all times.

B. All City employees are authorized to use a hand-held mobile device while driving, when necessary to communicate with City officials or other emergency services to: (1) report a traffic crash, medical emergency, or serious road hazard; (2) report a situation in which the employee believes his or her personal safety is in jeopardy; or (3) report or avert the perpetration or potential perpetration of a criminal act against the employee or another person.

C. This Policy does not apply to the use of the City's communication radios.

Violations

Employees who violate this Mobile Device Policy may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment."

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

SECTION 1. The Personnel Policies Manual of the City of Natchitoches shall be amended and reenacted to add a section to be entitled "Mobile Device Policy", which said section shall read as follows:

"Mobile Device Policy

Accident statistics show that using mobile devices, such as cellular telephones, laptops, personal digital assistants, navigation systems, and portable digital audio and video players, while operating a vehicle, is distracting and can substantially increase the risk of being involved in an accident. To help reduce the possibility of vehicle accidents, the City has adopted the following Mobile Device Policy, which applies to

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C. This Policy does not apply to the use of the City's communication radios.

Violations

Employees who violate this Mobile Device Policy may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment."

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

THIS ORDINANCE was introduced on July 24, 2023 and published in the *Natchitoches Times* on July 29, 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 14th day of August, 2023.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

BETTY SMITH, MAYOR PRO TEMPORE

Delivered to the Mayor on the 15th day of August, 2023 at 10:00 A.M.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 041 of 2023

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 31 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES IN ORDER TO ALLOW FOR THE OPERATION OF RIDE SHARING APPLICATIONS IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE STATUTES AND REGULATIONS OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO.

WHEREAS, the State of Louisiana (“State”) has determined that a statewide framework for ridesharing services benefits communities where rideshare services are not currently available; and

WHEREAS, in furtherance of the stated goal of making ridesharing available throughout the State, the legislature has adopted laws that allow for ridesharing services that meet specific criteria, as set forth in Section 2191 et. seq of Title 48 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended (the “**Ridesharing Act**”); and

WHEREAS, the City of Natchitoches, State of Louisiana (the “**City**”), acting through its City Council as governing authority thereof (the “**Governing Authority**”) has determined that Chapter 31 of the Code of Ordinances of the City (“**Chapter 31**”) dealing with vehicles for hire may be in conflict with the Ridesharing Act; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Governing Authority that any provisions of Chapter 31 that are in conflict with the Ridesharing Act be amended to resolve such conflict.

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 Governing Authority, in legal and regular session convened, that it hereby approves of the terms of the Ridesharing Act.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that section of the Code of Ordinances, City of Natchitoches, Louisiana, is hereby amended by adding Article IV - Ridesharing, as well as Section 31-78 therein which said section reads as follows:

Any company operating a Transportation Network Company (a “**Company**”), as defined in the Ridesharing Act, shall be exempted from the parts of this Chapter 31 that conflict with the terms of the Ridesharing Act, to the limited extent such conflict exists, including, but not limited to, that Article II of this Chapter 31 specifically dealing with taxicabs.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that section of the Code of Ordinances, City of Natchitoches, Louisiana, is hereby amended by adding Article IV - Ridesharing, as well as Section 31-79 therein which said section reads as follows:

Any person acting as a Transportation Network Company Driver (a “Driver”) or operating a Transportation Network Company Vehicle (a “Vehicle”), as defined in the Ridesharing Act, shall be exempted from the parts of this Chapter 31 that conflict with the terms of the Ridesharing Act, to the limited extent such conflict exists, including, but not limited to, that Article II of this Chapter 31 specifically dealing with taxicabs

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that section of the Code of Ordinances, City of Natchitoches, Louisiana, is hereby amended by adding Article IV - Ridesharing, as well as Section 31-80 therein which said section reads as follows:

The exemptions to Chapter 31 provided for in Section 31-78 and 31-79, above, are only applicable to those Companies, Drivers and/or Vehicles that are in full compliance with all aspects of the Ridesharing Act and shall furnish the City of Natchitoches with written guarantees of such compliance prior to beginning operations under those exemptions.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that section of the Code of Ordinances, City of Natchitoches, Louisiana, is hereby amended by adding Article IV - Ridesharing, as well as Section 31-81 therein which said section reads as follows:

In the event it is determined any party relying on such exemptions is not in compliance with the Ridesharing Act, Chapter 31 of the Code of Ordinance of the City shall apply and all fees, fines or other such payments hitherto exempted shall becoming immediately due and payable.

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 July 24, 2023 and published in the *Natchitoches Times* on July 29, 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 14th day of August, 2023.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

BETTY SMITH, MAYOR PRO TEMPORE

Delivered to the Mayor on the 15th day of August, 2023 at 10:00 A.M.

ORDINANCE NO. 042 OF 2023				
The following Ordinance was introduced by Mr. Harrington and seconded by Mrs. Elie as follows, to-wit:				
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2023-2024 BUDGET TO REFLECT ADDITIONAL REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES				
WHEREAS, Louisiana Statute (R.S. 39:1310-1311) requires that the City amend its operating budgets when fund balance is being budgeted, and there is a 5% unfavorable variance in revenues and expenditures.				
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the special funds budget be amended to reflect these additional revenues and expenditures as follows:				
		2023-2024	2023-2024	2023-2024
REVENUE	GENERAL FUND REVENUE	Original Budget	Adjustments	Revised Budget
GENERAL FUND REVENUE	TOTAL	-	-	-
		2023-2024	2023-2024	2023-2024
EXPENSES	GENERAL FUND EXPENSES	Original Budget	Adjustments	Revised Budget
				-
				-
GENERAL FUND EXPENSES	TOTAL	-	-	-
		2023-2024	2023-2024	2023-2024
REVENUE	SPECIAL FUND REVENUE	Original Budget	Adjustments	Revised Budget
SPECIAL FUND REVENUE	TOTAL	-	-	-
		2023-2024	2023-2024	2023-2024
EXPENSES	SPECIAL FUND EXPENSES	Original Budget	Adjustments	Revised Budget
070-000-591-9239	OTHER EXPENSES-RICHARDSON PARK	-	103,000	103,000
070-0000-591-9056	CAPITAL ASSET-DRAINAGE	82,491	(43,000)	39,491
070-000-591-9051	CAPITAL ASSETS-IMPROVEMENTS-BLDG & GRD	1,060,000	(60,000)	1,000,000
072-0000-591-9031	CAPITAL ASSETS-STREETS	650,000	(90,000)	560,000
071-0000-591-2004	CONTRACTUAL SERVICES/CONSULTANTS	227,000	(75,000)	152,000
070-0000-591-2003	CONTRACTUAL SERVICES/ENGINEERING SERVICES	30,000	165,000	195,000
SPECIAL FUND EXPENSES	TOTAL	2,049,491	-	2,049,491
This ordinance was introduced on July 24, 2023 and published in the Natchitoches Times on July 29, 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			
NAYES:	None			
ABSENT:	None			
ABSTAIN:	None			
THEREUPON, Mayor Ronnie Williams declared the Ordinance passed by a vote of <u>5</u> Ayes to <u>0</u> Nays this 14th day of August, 2023.				
Ronnie Williams, Jr., MAYOR		Betty Smith, MAYOR PRO TEMPORE		
Delivered to the Mayor on the 15th day of August, 2023 at 10:00 A.M.				

Clarissa Brown-Smith spoke in reference to Ordinance No. 042 of 2023.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 043 of 2023

AN ORDINANCE TO DESIGNATE FUNDS FROM THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN TO COMPLETE THE CONSTRUCTION OF CERTAIN PROPERTIES 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 Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000.00) to the State of Louisiana, which was then appropriated to the City (the “**ARPA Building Funding**”) for the purpose of financing improvements to vacant and abandoned properties, including rehabilitation or maintenance, renovation, removal and remediation of environmental contaminants, demolition or deconstruction, and greening/vacant lot cleanup (the “**Rehabilitation Projects**”); and

WHEREAS FURTHER, this Governing Authority has previously appropriated Five Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$550,000.00) for the repair and complete construction of properties that are in a dangerous and unsanitary condition which makes them unsafe and a danger to the public welfare (the “**John Deere Building**”); and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the Office of the Mayor of the City of Natchitoches is the proper recipient of the ARPA Building Funding as the instrument of the City most capable of managing Rehabilitation Projects for the John Deere Building; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, it is the desire of this Governing Authority to appropriate the ARPA Building 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 Building 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 Building Funding and its designation for expenditure by the Mayor or the Finance Director, for the purposes of properly distributing for Rehabilitation Projects within the John Deere Building or such other purposes qualifying as Rehabilitation 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 July 24, 2023 and published in the *Natchitoches Times* on July 29, 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 14th day of August, 2023.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

BETTY SMITH, MAYOR PRO TEMPORE

Delivered to the Mayor on the 15th day of August, 2023 at 10:00 A.M.

Edd Lee and Councilman Petite spoke in reference to Ordinance No. 043 of 2023.

The following Ordinance was Introduced by Mr. Petite at the August 14, 2023 City Council meeting as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 046 OF 2023

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A FRANCHISE FOR THE OPERATION OF HORSELESS CARRIAGE BUSINESS WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS OF THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES, IN FAVOR OF BOTH, L.L.C., CONFIRMING THE TERMS OF THE FRANCHISE, CONDITIONS, AND CONSIDERATIONS FOR SAID FRANCHISE, AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE THE SAID FRANCHISE AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY.

WHEREAS FURTHER, the City of Natchitoches (hereinafter “City”) and Both, L.L.C. (hereinafter “Both”) have negotiated a franchise agreement for the operation of battery powered horseless carriages on the public rights of way of the City of Natchitoches; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, both parties, that is, the City and Both, 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; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, this franchise agreement is permitted and authorized under the authority of Louisiana Revised Statutes 33:4404, the Home Rule Charter of the City of Natchitoches, Section 2:10 and Section 28-50, et seq., of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Natchitoches; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the proposed franchise agreement has been reviewed by the City and has been approved; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the City Council takes cognizance of the fact that it is in the best interest of the City and its tourist promotion and trade to facilitate the operation of a battery powered horseless carriage businesses in the City and more specifically, within the Historic District;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED that the City Council desires to enter into a Franchise Agreement with Both, L.L.C., a copy of which is attached hereto, and authorizes the Mayor, Ronnie Williams, to enter into and execute the said Franchise Agreement with Both.

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

THIS ORDINANCE was introduced on the ____th day of August, 2023, at a regular meeting of the City Council.

The following Ordinance was Introduced by Mr. Harrington at the August 14, 2023, City Council meeting as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 047 OF 2023

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE TERMS AND FORM OF A LEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES, STATE OF LOUISIANA AND KTBS, LLC, A LOUISIANA LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION THEREOF BY THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES, STATE OF LOUISIANA AND FURTHER PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO.

WHEREAS FURTHER, 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 (the “Charter”) and a Code of Ordinances adopted by Ordinance No. 5 of 1977; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the City is authorized under Section 1.05 of the Charter to “have and exercise such other powers, rights, privileges, immunities, authority and functions not inconsistent with this charter as may be conferred on or granted to a local governmental subdivision by the constitution and general laws of the state;” and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the City wishes to enter into a Lease Agreement (the “Agreement”) with KTBS, LLC, a Louisiana Limited Liability Company (“KTBS”), for the purposes of facilitating the installation of a video camera on City property, which is a public purpose; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the City Council of the City of Natchitoches, acting as the governing authority thereof (the “Governing Authority”) has reviewed the Agreement, which is attached hereto as an exhibit; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Natchitoches, in due, legal, and regular session convened, that the attached Lease Agreement between the City of Natchitoches and KTBS is approved; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that Ronnie Williams, Jr., Mayor, be and is hereby authorized to execute, for and on behalf of the City of Natchitoches, a Lease Agreement between the City of Natchitoches and KTBS, substantially in accordance with the draft thereof attached hereto as Exhibit “A”.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that if any provisions or item 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.

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. 072 OF 2023

**A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2023
AS AN OFFICIAL HOLIDAY FOR THE EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY
OF NATCHITOCHES FOR THE YEAR 2023.**

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, Friday, September 1, 2023 as an official City Holiday for 2023.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by Mayor Ronnie Williams, Jr., that Friday, September 1, 2023 be declared an Official Holiday 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 14th day of August, 2023.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

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

RESOLUTION NO. 073 OF 2023

**RESOLUTION DESIGNATING RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR MAYOR
AS THE OFFICIAL PROJECT REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE LEAD
SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT LOAN THROUGH THE
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (LDH), OFFICE OF
PUBLIC HEALTH (OPH), AGENCY FOR THE DRINKING WATER
STATE REVOLVING FUND (DWRLF)**

WHEREAS the City of Natchitoches is in need of improvements pertaining to its Lead Service Line Replacement and is requesting funding from the Louisiana Drinking Water Revolving Loan fund (DWRLF) through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Lead Service Line Replacement Program.

WHEREAS the Mayor and The Council of the **City of Natchitoches** deem it in the best interest of the **City of Natchitoches** and its citizens to seek and apply for the Loans.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Ronnie Williams Jr, Mayor is hereby designated as the Official Project Representative and is hereby given signature authority for all relative documents for the City of Natchitoches for any project that may result from the submission of the Loan Application Form 100A and accompanying documents. Furthermore, Ronnie Williams Jr, Mayor representing the City of Natchitoches is hereby given the power and authority to do all things necessary to implement, maintain, amend, and renew such documents relative to any such project.

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that:

1. The Mayor and The 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 Council of the **City of Natchitoches**, Louisiana, be authorized to accept the EPA funding, if awarded; and
3. The Mayor and The Council of the **City of Natchitoches**, Louisiana 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 Loan 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 14th day of August, 2023.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

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

RESOLUTION NO. 074 OF 2023

A RESOLUTION APPROVING A TEMPORARY SITE LICENSE WITH NEW CINGULAR WIRELESS PCS AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES, RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., TO EXECUTE SAME ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES, LOUISIANA

WHEREAS, the City of Natchitoches has negotiated a Temporary Site License (sometimes hereinafter “Agreement”) with New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC (sometimes hereinafter “Cingular”), which will allow Cingular to temporarily locate communications transmitting and receiving equipment on property of the City of Natchitoches, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the Agreement would provide for improved communications for citizens of and visitors to the City of Natchitoches during a period of increased tourism from October 15, 2023 through January 10, 2024; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the City Council of the City of Natchitoches is of the opinion that the Agreement will be beneficial to the citizens of the City of Natchitoches as well as visitors to the City as the increase in effective cellular communication will result in an increase safety of citizens and visitors as well as convenience to citizens and visitors; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the City Council of the City of Natchitoches, Louisiana has reviewed and approved the attached Temporary Site License, has approved same and desires to authorize the Mayor, Ronnie Williams, Jr., to execute same; and

NOW THEREFORE be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Natchitoches, that the attached Temporary Site License is approved and that the Mayor of the City of Natchitoches, Ronnie Williams, Jr., is hereby authorized to execute the attached Temporary Site License.

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 14th day of August, 2023.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- The next scheduled City Council meeting will be **August 28, 2023**.

With no further discussion, Mayor Williams made a motion for adjournment and all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 6:13 p.m.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

BETTY SMITH, MAYOR PRO-TEMPORE