

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES, STATE OF LOUISIANA,
MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY, JULY 10, 2024 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 Wednesday, July 10, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.

There were present:

Mayor Ronnie Williams
Councilwoman At Large Betty Sawyer-Smith
Councilman Eddie Harrington
Councilman Dale Nielsen
Councilman Christopher Petite
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 Elie led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Williams then called for the reading and approval of the minutes for the June 24, 2024 meeting. Councilwoman At Large Smith moved that we dispense with the reading of the minutes and approval of same. Seconded by Councilman Harrington.

A roll call vote was as follows:

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. 056 OF 2024

PROCLAMATION DECLARING JULY 20, 2024 AS NATCHITOCHES-NSU FOLK FESTIVAL DAY IN THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Folklife Center was established at Northwestern State University in 1976 to identify, document, and present Louisiana’s cultural and folk traditions and to provide public access to this material by means of the annual Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival; and

WHEREAS, the Festival has twice been selected as a “Travel Treasure” by AAA Southern Traveler, has been selected three times as a “Top Twenty Event” by the southeast Tourism Society, has received special recognition in 2006 from Lt. Gov. Mitch Landrieu for promoting Louisiana’s culture, and is well attended by Louisianans as well as by many from surrounding states; and

WHEREAS, the Festival will celebrate its 44th anniversary this year on July 20th and will feature high caliber Louisiana traditional artists in the visual and performing arts, with three stages of music, the annual Louisiana State Fiddle Championship, Kidfest, exhibits, Louisiana foods, narrative sessions, music informances, and traditional material culture demonstrations; and

WHEREAS, the Festival provides opportunities for patrons to experience the rich variety of Louisiana’s folkways, validates Louisiana’s traditional arts to a new generation, encourages young people to become involved in the arts by taking up tradition, and strengthens community ties by highlighting traditional cultures;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ronnie Williams, Jr., Mayor, and the Natchitoches City Council, do hereby proclaim July 20, 2024 as Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival Day in the City of Natchitoches, and invite all residents to participate in and enjoy all the festivities and culture the Festival has to offer.

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, 2024.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

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

ORDINANCE NO. 014 OF 2024

**AN ORDINANCE DECLARING CERTAIN BUILDINGS UNSAFE
AND RECOMMENDING THAT SAME BE DEMOLISHED OR PUT INTO
REPAIR TO COMPLY WITH THE BUILDING CODE, AUTHORIZING
NOTICE TO BE SERVED, FIXING HEARING DATE AND APPOINTING
CURATOR TO REPRESENT ABSENTEES**

WHEREAS, the Director of Planning & Zoning and City Building Inspector have filed written reports with the City Council declaring that the buildings listed below are in a dangerous and unsanitary condition which makes them unsafe and endangering the public welfare, and recommending that said buildings be demolished or put in repair to comply with the Building Code, to-wit:

1. Natchitoches Parish School Board
310 Royal St.
Natchitoches, LA 71457

Re: Five Lots 319.6 Ft. Fronting On Alley Connecting Martin Luther King Dr. & High St. And Lots 1, 2, 3 & N 44.2 Ft of Lot 6 Blk C & Lots 2 & 3 Blk B of The S & P Add (**415 & 419 Martin Luther King**)

2. Demitrice Thomas & Catrina Fifer
609 Jackson Dr.
Natchitoches, LA 71457

Re: Lot 3 BLK E of River Road Subd. (**609 Jackson Dr.**)

3. Ophelia Jackson
C/O Charles Wamber Sr.
1235 Holmes St.
Natchitoches, LA 71457

Re: Lot 37 of Trudeau Addition (**506 Hedges St.**)

4. Doffie Benjamin Sr. and Delores L. Benjamin
413 Payne St.
Natchitoches, LA 71457

Re: Lot N ½ of Lots 4 & 5 Blk G of Breda Add. (**1313 St. John St.**)

5. James R. Smith ET AL
C/O Joyce MacMcMilan.
1912 Kiestwood Circle
Plano, TX 75025

Re: Lot On West Side Duplex St. Having Front of 64 Ft, N By Black, S By Smith W By Norris Subd. (**314 & 316 Duplex St.**)

6. Brenda S. Smith
C/O Kim Smith
416 Jean Marie St.
Natchitoches, LA 71457

Re: Lot 1 Blk N of East Natchitoches (**401 Jean Marie St.**)

7. James M. Clark
159 Caspari St.

Natchitoches, LA 71457

Re: Lot 7 Blk 10 of Bailey Hgts. Annex **(1025 Pavie St.)**

- 8. JB White Properties, LLC
111 Fox Run Dr.
Natchitoches, LA 71457

Re: Lot E Side 3rd St., N By Glover, E By Lieber, S By Hyams **(931 Third St.)**

- 9. Lodis & Irma Johnsonl
1312 Ash St.
Natchitoches, LA 71457

Re: Lots 5 & 12 Blk 3 of Pinecrest Add. **(1312 Ash St.)**

- 10. Bennie R & Bennie P. Holmes, est.
C/O Christopher Carter
436 Prather St.
Natchitoches, LA 71457

Re: Lot 2 Blk 4 of Carver Add **(436 Prather St.)**

- 11. Eleanor Louise Westmoreland
1017 Collins St
Natchitoches, LA 71457

Re: Lot 5 Blk C of Breda Add. **(1221 St. John St.)**

- 12. Sidney Nora, ET. AL
C/O Joyce McMillian
1912 Kiestwood Cir
Plano, TX 75025

Re: N 134 ½ Ft of Lot 9 BLK K of East Natchitoches **(324 E. Third St. & 245 Carver St.)**

THIS ORDINANCE was introduced on May 28, 2024 and published in the *Natchitoches Times* on June 1, 2024.

Mr. Harrington made a motion to table this Resolution 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

THEREUPON, Mayor Ronnie Williams Jr., declared the Ordinance **TABLED** by a vote of 5 Ayes to 0 Nays this 10th day of July, 2024.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR	BETTY SMITH, MAYOR PRO TEMPORE
--	---

Delivered to the Mayor on the 11th day of July, 2024 at 10:00 A.M.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 017 OF 2024

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

WHEREAS, the City of Natchitoches (sometimes hereinafter referred to as the “City”) is a Municipality located in the State of Louisiana, Parish of Natchitoches governed under a Home Rule Charter and a Code of Ordinances adopted by Ordinance No. 5 of 1977; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- 1) \$45,000 for FY June 2024 by May 2025

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THIS ORDINANCE was introduced on June 24, 2024 and published in the *Natchitoches Times* on June 29, 2024.

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 10th day of July, 2024.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR	BETTY SMITH, MAYOR PRO TEMPORE
--	---

Delivered to the Mayor on the 11th day of July, 2024 at 10:00 A.M.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 018 OF 2024

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES ("CITY") AND THE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUBS OF ACADIANA, (" BGC"), WHEREBY BGC WILL OPERATE WITHIN THE BEN JOHNSON AUDITORIUM PROVIDING EDUCATIONAL AND RECREATIONAL PROGRAMMING FOR A PERIOD OF THREE YEARS, PROVIDING FOR FUNDING FROM THE CITY FOR BGC PROGRAMMING, AND PROVIDING FOR OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.

WHEREAS, the Boys and Girls Club of Acadiana, Inc., (hereinafter sometimes referred to as “Club”) is a Louisiana non-profit corporation that proposes to provide activities and education opportunities to the youth of Natchitoches in five areas: character and leadership development, education and career development, health and life skills, the arts, and sports fitness and recreation; and

WHEREAS, the Club has proposed to provide the above activities with the goal of enhancing the development of youth by instilling a sense of competence, a sense of usefulness, a sense of belonging, and a sense of power or influence; and

WHEREAS, the Club intends to provide activities at the Ben Johnson Auditorium, located at 400 MLK Drive, Natchitoches, Louisiana 71457; and

WHEREAS, the City Council is of the opinion that the activities offered by the Club for youth will be beneficial to the health, welfare, and safety of the citizens of the City of Natchitoches; and

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

WHEREAS, the City is interested in, and is empowered to promote recreation and activities of young people through wholesome activities through the Club, which may be contracted for, and the City is particularly desirous of cooperating with the private sector in organizing and running activities for the youth of the City and area; and

WHEREAS, the City of Natchitoches takes cognizance of the fact that the Club has proposed an excellent program of activities for the youth of our City, which programs will benefit many young people and could not be duplicated for the money by public funds, and further takes cognizance of the fact that the City is interested in promoting wholesome activities which promote the general health, welfare and safety of the citizens of the City of Natchitoches; and the City further being desirous to cooperate with the private sector in organizing and running activities for the youth of our City, and for this consideration and other considerations all of which is more fully set forth in the attached Exhibit “A” attached to the memorandum of understanding; and

WHEREAS, the City of Natchitoches and the Club have negotiated a Memorandum of Understanding for a three-year period with annual contribution from the City to the Club of \$25,000.00 as consideration for the programs and activities for the youth of the City; and

WHEREAS, it shall be a condition of the Memorandum of Understanding and a part of the consideration that the Club will segregate the funds provided by the City and the Club agrees to use the funding provided by the City at the Ben Johnson Auditorium; and

WHEREAS, it shall be a further condition of the Memorandum of Understanding and a part of the consideration that the Club will offer an all-day summer program and after-school program as set forth in the attached Memorandum of Understanding; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED that the Memorandum of Understanding for services, attached hereto, wherein the Club will provide programs and activities for the youth of the City and specifically those services detailed in the Memorandum of Understanding, and as consideration for this contract and the services rendered by the Club, the City of Natchitoches agrees to pay to the Club, the sum of Twenty-Five Thousand and No/100 (\$25,000.00) Dollars, per year for three years is hereby approved.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Natchitoches, Louisiana, that the Mayor is hereby authorized to execute the attached Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Natchitoches and the Boys & Girls Club of Acadiana.

THIS ORDINANCE was introduced on June 24, 2024 and published in the *Natchitoches Times* on June 29, 2024.

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 10th day of July, 2024.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

BETTY SMITH, MAYOR PRO TEMPORE

Delivered to the Mayor on the 11th day of July, 2024 at 10:00 A.M.

ORDINANCE NO. 072 OF 2023

AN ORDINANCE DECLARING BUILDING DILAPIDATED AND/OR IN A DANGEROUS CONDITION AND AN ORDER OF CONDEMNATION AND DEMOLITION OF THE SAME

WHEREAS, the Director of Planning and Zoning and City Building Inspector have filed signed written reports with the City Council recommending that the building(s) located on the listed property description provided below, be demolished, to wit:

1. H-Town Hospitality LLC
14702 South Post Oak Road
Houston, Texas 77045

RE: 5.5 AC-COMM. AT PT."C" AS SHOWN ON PLAT BY A.J. BROUILLETTE, DATED APRIL 27, 1979, WHICH IS THE NE COR. AND SAID PT. SITUATED ON THE SOUTH RIGHT-OF-WAY OF LA HWY. 3110, AND FROM PT. OF BEG., RUN THENCE SOUTH 2 DEG.35 MIN. WEST 208.7. THENCE RUN SOUTH 87 DEG. 25 MIN. EAST 208.7 FT., THENCE RUN SOUTH 2 DEG. 35. EAST 35 FT., THENCE CONTINUE NORTH 2 DEG. 35 MIN. EAST 418 FT. BEING A PT. SITUATED ON THE SOUTH ON THE SOUTH RIGHT-OF-WAY OF LOUISIANA STATE HIGHWAY 3110 AND BEING THE NORTHWEST COR., RUN THENCE SOUTH 87 DEG. 25 MIN. EAST ALONG SOUTH RIGHT-OF-WAY OF LOUISIANA STATE HIGHWAY 3110 418.3 FT. TO PT. OF BEG. IN SECS, 72,73, &74-9-7.

NOTE: CB 549/530 ; 549/638 (7624 HWY. 1 BYPASS).

BE IT ORDAINED that the building(s) located on the aforementioned property described above, is hereby condemned as it is dilapidated, and/or in a dangerous condition which endangers the public welfare;

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that actual demolition of the aforementioned property shall commence on December 14, 2023;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that actual demolition of the aforementioned property shall be completed by January 14, 2024; and

IT IS ALSO HEREBY FOUND that the pertinent provisions of Chapter 8, Article IV, Section 8-70 *et. seq.* of the Natchitoches City Code has been fully complied.

FURTHER MORE THIS ORDINANCE was introduced on November 27, 2023 and published in the *Natchitoches Times* on December 2, 2023.

FURTHER MORE THIS ORDINANCE was tabled at the December 11, 2023 City Council meeting and taken from the table at the January 22, 2024 meeting.

FURTHER MORE THIS ORDINANCE was tabled at the January 22, 2024 City Council meeting.

The following Ordinance was Introduced by Mr. Harrington at the July 10, 2024 City Council meeting as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 019 OF 2024

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A COOPERATIVE ENDEAVOR AGREEMENT AND INDEMNIFICATION, DEFENSE AND HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT WITH THE CANE RIVER WATERWAY DISTRICT AND THE CANE RIVER NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA TO PROVIDE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND CONSTRUCTION OF IMPROVEMENTS ON THE MILLSTREET DISTRICT RIVERBANK, AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR, RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., TO EXECUTE THE COOPERATIVE ENDEAVOR AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES.

WHEREAS, the City of Natchitoches (sometimes hereinafter “City”) and the Cane River Waterway District (sometimes hereinafter “District”) are mutually desirous of improving developing and promoting Cane River Lake for recreation and tourism; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the City and the District have agreed to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (a copy of which is attached) to jointly meet their mutual goals and intentions, under authority of law, including the authority set forth under the provisions of Article 6, Section 20 of the 1974 Louisiana Constitution which specifically authorizes an Intergovernmental Agreement for the purpose of performing any power and function including financing a duly authorized project; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the City of Natchitoches desires to develop and improve the riverbank adjacent to the Mill Street District which is located on the right descending bank of Cane River Lake between Mill Street and Cane River Lake; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the City has developed a plan for the improvement and development of the riverbank adjacent to the Mill Street District which is located on the right descending bank of Cane River Lake between Mill Street and Cane River Lake (sometimes hereinafter “Project”); and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the City and the District are mutually desirous of developing and improving the Mill Street riverbank in order to provide access to Cane River lake, to increase recreational opportunities for the citizens of the City and Parish of Natchitoches, Louisiana, and developing and promoting Cane River Lake for tourism; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the City has requested that the District assist the City and the Project Manager, Cane River National Heritage Area, with the Project through funding the cost of plans and construction cost of the Project; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the District has indicated that it is of the opinion that the project is of significance to Cane River Lake due to the resulting increase in recreational use of the Lake, and the stabilization of the bank that will result from the construction of a seawall; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, both the City and the District are of the opinion that the Project will draw attention to and encourage the use of Cane River Lake, and provide opportunities to share the history of the Lake and the people who have lived on its shores; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, being of the opinion that its participation in the Project will benefit Cane River Lake and the public who utilize Cane River Lake, the District has agreed to contribute up to the sum of \$350,000.00 towards the cost of the overall Project; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the District will make payments to the CRNHA as draws are requested and approved by the CRNHA, the City, the District and the Project Engineer in accordance with the terms of the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the District also desires to limit its liability for maintenance of all improvements constructed and also limit its liability for any damages or injuries associated with the Project or the facilities constructed as a part of the Project, to the extent possible; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, as consideration for the contribution by the District to the cost of the Project, the City has agreed to maintain the improvements and riverbank and to indemnify, defend and hold harmless the District for any damages or injuries which may arise during construction, and/or the use and operation of the facilities improved or constructed as part of the Project; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, as additional consideration, the City agrees to maintain ownership of the property upon which the improvements are made and keep the property open to the public; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the City, the CRNHA and the District have drafted a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement which includes the terms contemplated herein, and which are approved by the City; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, to this end the City Council of the City of Natchitoches hereby expresses its approval of the Project, approves the attached Cooperative Endeavor Agreement, and

desires to authorize the Mayor, Ronnie Williams, Jr., to execute the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement on behalf of the City; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED in legal session convened the City Council of the City of Natchitoches does hereby approve the attached Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the Cane River National Heritage Area and the Cane River Waterway District, further authorizes the Mayor, Ronnie Williams, to execute the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement on behalf of the City, and further authorize the Mayor to sign any and all other documents that may be necessary and proper in the premises.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any Ordinance 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 of the City of Natchitoches that each separate provision shall be deemed independent of all other provisions herein.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 057 OF 2024

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE A CERTIFICATE OF SUBSTANTIAL COMPLETION TO THE CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES AND REGIONAL CONSTRUCTION FOR THE 2023 STREET REHABILITATION PROGRAM

(BID NO .0663)

WHEREAS, the City of Natchitoches has contracted with Regional Construction for the 2023 Street Rehabilitation Program; and

WHEREAS, this work has been completed; and

WHEREAS, a substantial completion inspection has been performed by the City Engineer, and found 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 Regional Construction.

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, 2024.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

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

RESOLUTION NO. 058 OF 2024

A RESOLUTION APPOINTING THE CITY ATTORNEY AND ASSISTANT CITY ATTORNEYS FOR THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES

BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council does hereby take cognizance that Mayor Ronnie Williams, Jr., has re-appointed Alex Washington as City Attorney for the City of Natchitoches, in accordance with Section 4.02 of the Home Rule Charter, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council does hereby authorize the re-appointments of four (4) Assistant City Attorneys, and upon the recommendation of the City Attorney and the Mayor, that Daniel T. Murchison, Jr., Cloyd Benjamin, Jr., Gary Conley, and Steve Oxenhandler are hereby confirmed and approved as Assistant City Attorneys to serve in accordance with the provisions of Section 4.02C of the Home Rule Charter.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council does hereby confirm the said re-appointments.

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, 2024.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

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

RESOLUTION NO. 059 OF 2024

**A RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE CITY
PLANNING COMMISSION FOR THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES**

WHEREAS, the Mayor of the City of Natchitoches has submitted the following names for appointment to the Natchitoches City Planning Commission to-wit:

- 1. **Charles Whitehead, III**
- 2. **Rev. Bobby Claiborne**
- 3. **Michael D. Lewis**
- 4. **Rickey McCalister**
- 5. **Walter Johnson**
- 6. **Isaac Lewis**
- 7. **Alexia Conday**
- 8. **Anita Dubois**
- 9. **Sadie Sawyer**

WHEREAS FURTHER, Section 24-17 of the Natchitoches Code of Ordinances provides that the members of the Commission shall serve at the pleasure of the Mayor, with consent of the Natchitoches City Council.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Natchitoches that they hereby acknowledge the appointment of the above individuals to the City Planning Commission and hereby approve and consent to same.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Commission shall have such powers and duties as are provided in R.S. 33:101, et seq.

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, 2024.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

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

RESOLUTION NO. 060 OF 2024

RESOLUTION RE-APPOINTING HENRY KINBERGER AS MEMBER OF THE NATCHITOCHES FIRE AND POLICE CIVIL SERVICE BOARD

WHEREAS, the term of office of Mr. Henry Kinberger as the College List Board Member of the Natchitoches Municipal Fire and Police Civil Service Board expired May 8, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the Natchitoches City Council wishes to reappoint Henry Kinberger as the College List Board Member on the Fire and Police Civil Service Board; and

WHEREAS, this appointment is for a three-year term beginning May 8, 2024 and expiring May 8, 2027.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Natchitoches does, in legal session convened, hereby appoint Henry Kinberger as 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 10th day of July, 2024.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

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

RESOLUTION NO 061 OF 2024

A RESOLUTION APPOINTING CLARIE PRYMUS TO FILL THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF GARY DEBLIEUX AS A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD OF THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES, LOUISIANA

WHEREAS, the City of Natchitoches, in its endeavors to promote and attract industry, organized the Industrial Development Board of the City of Natchitoches, Louisiana, Inc. (the "IDB"); and

WHEREAS, the Natchitoches City Council affirmed the appointment of the members of the Board of Directors of the IDB by Resolution No. 016 of 2012, adopted on April 23, 2012 and fixed the terms of the Directors of the IDB by Resolution No. 063 of 2014; and

WHEREAS, due to Gary DeBlieux’s resignation from the IDB, there exists a vacancy on such board; and

WHEREAS, The Natchitoches City Council wishes to appoint Clarie Prymus as a member of the Board of Directors of the Industrial Development Board of the City of Natchitoches; and

WHEREAS, this term is to expire on April 23, 2018.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Natchitoches does, in legal session convened, hereby appoint Clarie Prymus to fill the unexpired term of Gary DeBlieux as a member of the Board of Directors of the Industrial Development Board of the City of Natchitoches, for the remainder of the term ending April 23, 2018.

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, 2024.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

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

RESOLUTION NO. 062 OF 2024

**RESOLUTION APPOINTING J'REL WEST AS A MEMBER OF
THE NATCHITOCHES FIRE AND POLICE CIVIL SERVICE BOARD**

WHEREAS, Northwestern State University has submitted a list of nominees for the Fire and Police Civil Service Board; and

WHEREAS, the Natchitoches City Council wishes to appoint J'Rel West as the College List Board Member 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, hereby appoint J'Rel West as 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 10th day of July, 2024.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

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

RESOLUTION NO. 063 OF 2024

**A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING FRIDAY, JULY 5, 2024
AS AN OFFICIAL HOLIDAY FOR THE EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY
OF NATCHITOCHES FOR THE YEAR 2024.**

WHEREAS, Governor Jeff Landry signed a Proclamation on June 24th declaring Friday, July 5, 2024 as a Legal State Holiday in the State of Louisiana and shall be observed as a day of public rest; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council of the City of Natchitoches appreciate the hard work of the Natchitoches City Employees and the City Council ratifies the action of the Administration to recognize July 5, 2024 as a legal holiday; and

WHEREAS, to show appreciation for the dedicated efforts of our City Employees, the Mayor and Natchitoches City Council wish to declare, Friday, July 5, 2024 as an official City Holiday for 2024.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by Mayor Ronnie Williams, Jr., that Friday, July 5, 2024 be declared Official Holidays for the City of Natchitoches Employees.

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

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

THEREUPON, Mayor Ronnie Williams, Jr., declared the Resolution passed by a vote of 5 Ayes to 0 Nays on this 10th day of July, 2024.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

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

RESOLUTION NO. 064 OF 2024

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES
AUTHORIZING PROVISION OF LOCAL MATCH FUNDING TO
RAPIDES AREA PLANNING COMMISSION
FOR FTA SECTION 5311 (49 U.S.C. SECTION 5311)**

WHEREAS, the U. S. Department of Transportation is authorized to make grants to states through the Federal Transit Administration to support capital/operating assistance projects for non-urbanized public transportation systems under Section 5311 of the Federal Transit Act; and

WHEREAS, the Rapides Area Planning Commission (RAPC) requests local matching funds to support the continued provision of rural transit service for the general public in the City of Natchitoches; and

WHEREAS, the contract for Section 5311 financial assistance includes the provision by it of the local share of project costs; and

WHEREAS, it is the goal of the applicant to provide the best transit system that can be provided with the funds available; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor is authorized to execute grant agreement(s) on behalf of the City of Natchitoches with the Rapides Area Planning Commission (RAPC) for aid in the financing of Section 5311 assistance; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Natchitoches City Council does hereby authorize the Mayor to provide requested local matching funds to aid in the financing of Section 5311 federal financial assistance and execute agreements with the Rapides Area Planning Commission for capital/operating assistance projects pursuant to Section 5311 of the Federal Transit Act (FTA C 9040.1G), as amended; and be it further

RESOLVED that the Mayor or his/her designee is authorized to approve the request for local matching funds from the RAPC for the Section 5311 project(s).

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, 2024.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

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

RESOLUTION NO. 065 OF 2024

**A RESOLUTION TO APPOINT DON CUMMINS TO FILL THE
UNEXPIRED TERM OF JACK MCCAIN AS COMMISSIONER ON THE
NATCHITOCHES AIRPORT ADVISORY COMMISSION FOR THE CITY OF
NATCHITOCHES**

WHEREAS, the Airport Advisory Commission shall consist of seven (7) members and are appointed by the mayor, at his pleasure; and

WHEREAS, of the recommendation of Mayor Williams, Jr., that Jack McCain be replaced with Don Cummins to serve on the Airport Advisory Commission;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council does hereby take cognizance of the recommendation of Mayor Ronnie Williams, Jr., that Don Cummins be and hereby is appointed as a member of the Natchitoches Airport Advisory Commission beginning immediately.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council hereby confirms the said appointment.

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, 2024.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- The next scheduled City Council meeting will be **Monday, July 22, 2024.**

With no further discussion, Mayor Williams, Jr., made a motion for adjournment and all were in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

/s/
RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

/s/
BETTY SMITH, MAYOR PRO-TEMPORE