

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES, STATE OF LOUISIANA,
MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 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 Monday, September 9, 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 Councilman Harrington led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Williams then called for the reading and approval of the minutes for the August 26, 2024 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 Resolution was introduced by Mrs. Smith and Seconded by Mrs. Elie as follows, to – wit:

RESOLUTION NO. 081 OF 2024

A PROCLAMATION DECLARING SEPTEMBER 2024 AS OVARIAN CANCER AWARENESS MONTH IN THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES

WHEREAS, ovarian cancer is the fifth leading cause of cancer-related deaths among women, and accounts for more deaths than any other gynecologic cancers; and

WHEREAS, The American Cancer Society estimates that 22,440 women are diagnosed with ovarian cancer every year in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, recognition of the warning signs are essential to an early detection and effective treatment; and

WHEREAS, early symptoms of ovarian cancer are commonly overlooked, public awareness and knowledge are essential to getting a diagnosis before the cancer worsens; and

WHEREAS, it is critical that those affected by ovarian cancer have the proper resources and access to health care to prevent, detect, treat, and ultimately defeat ovarian cancer and all cancers; and

WHEREAS, ovarian cancer and the hardship it brings have affected too many lives. This month, the City of Natchitoches stands with everyone who has been touched by this disease, and we recognize all those committed to advancing the fight against this cancer through research, advocacy, and quality care.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ronnie Williams, Jr., Mayor, and the Natchitoches City Council, do hereby proclaim September 2024 as:

OVARIAN CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

in the City of Natchitoches, and encourage all citizens to honor ovarian cancer patients, survivors, their families and caregivers, and remember those who have lost their lives to this devastating disease.

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 9th day of September, 2024.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

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

ORDINANCE NUMBER 023 OF 2024

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND RE-ENACT SECTION 8-4 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES, WHICH SECTION PROVIDES FOR PERMIT FEES FOR PERMITS FOR NEW CONSTRUCTION, ALTERATION, REPAIR AND REMODELING OF STRUCTURES IN THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES, PROVIDING FOR ADVERTISING, FURTHER PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, AND FURTHER PROVIDING FOR A REPEALER AND EFFECTIVE DATE OF ORDINANCE.

WHEREAS, Chapter 8 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Natchitoches provides for the regulation of buildings and building regulations in the City of Natchitoches; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, Section 8.4 of Chapter 8 provides for permit fees for the issuance of permits for new construction, alteration, repair and remodeling of structures in the City of Natchitoches; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, Sections 8-4 of the Code of Ordinances was amended by Ordinance No. 051 of 2021 adopted by the council on October 11, 2021; the Director of Planning and Zoning has now recommended that Section 8-4 be amended to provide for a new schedule of fees; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, Section 8-4 of the Code of Ordinances currently provides as follows, to-wit:

“Section 8-4. - Permit fees generally.

(a) No permit, as required by the code adopted by section 8-1 of this chapter, shall be issued until the fees described in this section shall have been paid; nor, shall an amendment to a permit be approved until the additional fee, if any, due to an increase in the estimated cost of the building or structure, shall have been paid.

(b) There shall be no fee for work less than one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00).

(c) Residential. Seventy-five one-hundredths of one percent (.75 of 1%) of the estimated cost.

(d) Commercial. Seventy-five one-hundredths of one percent (.75 of 1%) of the estimated cost.

(e) Alteration, repair, remodeling, removal or demolition. For a permit for the alteration, repair or remodeling of an existing structure, the fee shall be fixed and graded as follows:

(1) Residential. Seventy-five one-hundredths of one percent (.75 of 1%) of the estimated cost.

(2) Commercial. Seventy-five one-hundredths of one percent (.75 of 1%) of the estimated cost.

(f) Swimming pools. For a permit for the construction of a swimming pool, the fee shall be ten cents (\$0.10) per square foot.

(g) House-moving permit. For a permit for the moving of a house or other structure, the fee shall be fifty dollars (\$50.00) per section.

(h) Mobile home permit. For a permit for the locating or placing of a mobile home, the fee shall be fifty dollars (\$50.00).

(i) The term "estimated cost", as used in this section, means the reasonable value of all services, labor, materials and use of scaffolding and other appliances or devices entering into and necessary to the prosecution and completion of the work ready for occupancy; provided that the cost of excavation or grading, and of painting, decorating or other work that is merely for embellishment or not necessary for the safe and lawful use of the building or structure, is not deemed a part of such estimated cost.

(j) When a building or structure is constructed by the owner and no contract is involved, the building permit fee shall be based on the valuation of average current building costs per square foot, multiplied by thirty-five hundredths of one percent (.75 of 1%).

(k) A double permit fee shall be paid for all construction, alteration, repair or remodeling of a building or structure if work is begun before first securing a permit from the building official as provided for in this chapter.”

WHEREAS FURTHER, the City Council of the City of Natchitoches is of the opinion that the changes to the schedule of fees for building permits should be updated as recommended by the Director of Planning and Zoning; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the City Council of the City of Natchitoches has reviewed the proposed amendment to Section 8-4 of the Code of Ordinances, and agrees that the amendments are advisable and in the best interest of the City of Natchitoches and its citizens; and

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

SECTION 1. Section 8-4 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Natchitoches is hereby amended to provide as follows:

“Section 8-4. - Permit fees generally.

(a) No permit, as required by the code adopted by section 8-1 of this chapter, shall be issued until the fees described in this section shall have been paid; nor, shall an amendment to a permit be approved until the additional fee, if any, due to an increase in the estimated cost of the building or structure, shall have been paid.

(b) For work less than one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) the permit fee shall be fifty dollars (\$50.00).

(c) Residential. Seventy-five one-hundredths of one percent (.75 of 1%) of the estimated cost.

(d) Commercial. Seventy-five one-hundredths of one percent (.75 of 1%) of the estimated cost.

(e) Alteration, repair, remodeling, removal or demolition. For a permit for the alteration, repair or remodeling of an existing structure, the fee shall be fixed and graded as follows:

(1) Residential. Seven Dollars and fifty cents (\$7.50) per One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) of the estimated cost.

(2) Commercial. Seven Dollars and fifty cents (\$7.50) per One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) of the estimated cost.

(f) Swimming pools. For a permit for the construction of a swimming pool, the fee shall be fifty cents (\$0.50) per square foot.

(g) House-moving permit. For a permit for the moving of a house or other structure, the fee shall be one hundred dollars (\$100.00) per section.

(h) Mobile home permit. For a permit for the locating or placing of a mobile home, the fee shall be one hundred dollars (\$100.00).

(i) The term "estimated cost", as used in this section, means the reasonable value of all services, labor, materials and use of scaffolding and other appliances or devices entering into and necessary to the prosecution and completion of the work ready for occupancy; provided that the cost of excavation or grading, and of painting, decorating or other work that is merely for embellishment or not necessary for the safe and lawful use of the building or structure, is not deemed a part of such estimated cost.

(j) When a building or structure is constructed by the owner and no contract is involved, the building permit fee shall be based on the valuation of average current building costs per square foot, multiplied by seventy-five hundredths of one percent (.75 of 1%).

(k) A double permit fee shall be paid for all construction, alteration, repair or remodeling of a building or structure if work is begun before first securing a permit from the building official as provided for in this chapter.

(l) All permits for construction, alteration, repair or remodeling are subject to inspection and re-inspection fees. The number of required inspections shall be determined by the Building Official. The fees for inspections shall be Seventy-Five Dollars (\$75.00) per inspection.

(m) The fee for the issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy shall be Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00).

(n) There shall be the following fees for residential new construction or additions:

Plan review fee - \$150.00

Driveway Drainage - \$50.00”

(o) Builds over the Two Million-Dollars (\$2,000,000) threshold will be permitted as follows:

(1) \$5.50 per thousand of the first Two Million-Dollars (\$2,000,000) of the fair market value

(2) \$3.50 per thousand fair market value thereafter

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

THIS ORDINANCE was introduced on August 26, 2024 and published in the *Natchitoches Times* on August 31, 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 9th day of September, 2024.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

BETTY SMITH, MAYOR PRO TEMPORE

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

ORDINANCE NO. 024 OF 2024					
The following Ordinance was Introduced by Mrs. Elie and Seconded by Mr. Nielsen as follows, to-wit:					
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2024-2025 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:					
		2024-2025	2024-2025	2024-2025	
REVENUE	GENERAL FUND REVENUE	Original Budget	Adjustments	Revised Budget	
GENERAL FUND REVENUE	TOTAL	-	-	-	
		2024-2025	2024-2025	2024-2025	
EXPENSES	GENERAL FUND EXPENSES	Original Budget	Adjustments	Revised Budget	
001-5800-580-9261	RAPIDES AREA PLANNING COMMISSION	-	40,000	40,000	
001-5800-580-9260	HOMELESS COALITION	-	25,000	20,000	
001-5800-580-9242	FAUNA	-	10,000	10,000	
				-	
GENERAL FUND EXPENSES	TOTAL	-	75,000	70,000	
		2024-2025	2024-2025	2024-2025	
REVENUE	SPECIAL FUND REVENUE	Original Budget	Adjustments	Revised Budget	
SPECIAL FUND REVENUE	TOTAL	-	-	-	
		2024-2025	2024-2025	2024-2025	
EXPENSES	SPECIAL FUND EXPENSES	Original Budget	Adjustments	Revised Budget	
072-0000-591-1009	CAPITAL ASSETS-STREETS	650,000	(75,000)	575,000	

[illegible]

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

RESOLUTION NO. 082 OF 2024

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ADVERTISE
AND ACCEPT BIDS CONSISTING OF REPLACE AIRFIELD SIGNAGE AND
LIGHTS, AT THE NATCHITOCHES REGIONAL AIRPORT
STATE PROJECT NO. H.015676**

(BID NO.0670)

WHEREAS, the City wishes to advertise for Public Bids Consisting of Replace Airfield Signage And Lights, At The Natchitoches Regional Airport, State Project NO. H.015676; and

WHEREAS, sealed proposals shall be addressed to the City of Natchitoches, Office of the Director of Purchasing, P. O. Box 37, Natchitoches, Louisiana 71458 or received at the City of Natchitoches Purchasing Department, 1400 Sabine Street, Natchitoches, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the City of Natchitoches will accept sealed and electronic bids for the project until 2:00 pm on Tuesday, October 15, 2024 at the Office of the Director of Purchasing, 1400 Sabine Street; and

WHEREAS, bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at 2:00 pm, on Tuesday, October 15, 2024 held at the above mentioned Office of the Director of Purchasing; and

WHEREAS, upon receipt of proposals, the committee members consisting of Clarissa Brown-Smith, Finance Director; Edd Lee, Director of Purchasing; Justin Foshee, Airport Manager; and Councilman Dale Nielsen, are to review and make a recommendation of the bids received.

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 order the publication of the above bid.

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 9th day of September, 2024.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

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

RESOLUTION NO. 083 OF 2024

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE
CHANGE ORDER NO. ONE TO THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN
THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES AND REGIONAL CONSTRUCTION, LLC
CONSISTING OF AG RAMP/WASH RACK AIRPORT IMPROVEMENTS,
STATE PROJECT NO. H. 015663 NATCHITOCHES REGIONAL AIRPORT
LA DOTD PROJECT NOS. H.014026.**

(BID NO. 0665)

WHEREAS, the City of Natchitoches (CITY) awarded the bid to **Regional Construction, LLC** (CONTRACTOR) by Ordinance No. 001 of 2024 in the amount of **\$279,700.00** Consisting Of Ag Ramp/Wash Rack Airport Improvements, State Project No. H. 015663 Natchitoches Regional Airport La DOTD Project Nos. H.014026; and

WHEREAS, on September 3, 2024 CONTRACTOR issued Change Order No. One fully described in attached Exhibit C.O. - One; and

WHEREAS, the contract sum will be **decreased** by this Change Order No. One in the amount of **\$11,975.00** and the revised contract total will be **\$267,725.00**; and

WHEREAS, the contract time will be **increase** by this Change Order No. One in the amount of **28 calendar days** and the revised contract time will be **78 calendar days**; and

WHEREAS, the project engineer, Jonathan Farmer of KSA Engineers, Inc. has recommended this change order; and

WHEREAS, the City is of the opinion that Change Order No. One 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. One to the agreement between the City of Natchitoches and the Contractor.

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 9th day of September, 2024.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

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

RESOLUTION NO. 084 OF 2024

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, 2024 through January 10, 2025; 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 9th day of September, 2024.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

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

RESOLUTION NO. 085 OF 2024

**A RESOLUTION TO APPOINT DEAN LEMOINE TO FILL THE
UNEXPIRED TERM OF SAM PARKER AS COMMISSIONER ON THE
NATCHITOCHES AIRPORT ADVISORY COMMISSION FOR THE CITY OF
NATCHITOCHES**

WHEREAS, Sam Parker has offered his resignation as a member of the City of Natchitoches Airport Advisory Commission; and

WHEREAS, upon the resignation of Sam Parker, the Natchitoches City Council wishes to show its support and approval of Dean Lemoine for appointment to the Natchitoches Airport Advisory Commission.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Dean Lemoine be and hereby is appointed as a member of the Natchitoches Airport Advisory Commission beginning immediately.

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 9th day of September, 2024.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- The next scheduled City Council meeting will be **Monday, September 23, 2024.**

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

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

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