

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES, STATE OF LOUISIANA,
REGULAR MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 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, November 25, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.

There were present:

Mayor Ronnie Williams
Councilman Eddie Harrington
Councilman Christopher Petite
Councilman Dale Nielsen
Councilwoman Rosemary Elie

Guest: Christmas Angels and Belles

Absent: Councilwoman At Large Betty Sawyer-Smith

Mayor Ronnie Williams called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone for coming. Mayor Williams led the invocation and Councilman Nielsen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Williams then called for the reading and approval of the minutes for the November 13, 2023 meeting. Councilman Harrington moved that we dispense with the reading of the minutes and approval of same. Seconded by Councilman Petite.

A roll call vote was as follows:

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

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

ORDINANCE NO. 034 OF 2024

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATIVE ENDEAVOR BETWEEN THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES, THE RED RIVER WATERWAY COMMISSION AND THE NATCHITOCHES CONVENTION & VISTORS BUREAU TO PROMOTE THE USE OF THE RED RIVER FOR THE KINGKAT FISHING TOURNAMENT

WHEREAS, the City of Natchitoches (sometimes hereinafter referred to as the “**City**”) the Red River Waterway Commission (sometimes hereinafter referred to as the “**Waterway Commission**”), and the Natchitoches Convention & Visitors Bureau (sometimes hereinafter referred to as the “**CVB**”) are desirous of hosting the KingKat Fishing Tournament to be held on the Red River on July 11-12, 2025, and has proposed that the City enter into an agreement titled Memorandum of Cooperative Endeavor between Red River Waterway Commission and City of Natchitoches and Natchitoches Convention & Visitors Bureau, a copy of which is attached hereto (sometimes hereinafter referred to as “**Agreement**”); and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the KingKat Fishing Tournament will draw fishermen, their families and fans to the City and Parish of Natchitoches for the tournament; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the tournament will have a strong economic impact on the Natchitoches community, benefitting local merchants, providers of services and increasing tax revenues to the City and Parish of Natchitoches; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the tournament will provide publicity to the City of Natchitoches, Louisiana promoting the City of Natchitoches as a destination for tourism as well as recreation; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, having reviewed the attached Agreement, and being of the opinion that the tournament will have a positive effect and will benefit the City of Natchitoches, the City Council of the City of Natchitoches desires to authorize the Mayor to execute the agreement on behalf of the City; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED that the City Council of the City of Natchitoches, in legal session convened, does hereby authorize, empower, and direct the Honorable Ronnie Williams, Jr., Mayor, to execute the “**Agreement**”, between the City of Natchitoches, the **Waterway Commission** and the “**CVB**” wherein the City agrees to host the KingKat fishing tournament in Natchitoches Parish to be held July 11-12, 2025, and further agrees to those obligations set forth in the attached Agreement.

THIS ORDINANCE was introduced on November 12, 2024 and published in the *Natchitoches Times* on November 16, 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, Harrington, Petite
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Smith
ABSTAIN: None

THEREUPON, Mayor Ronnie Williams, Jr., declared the Ordinance passed by a vote of 4 Ayes to 0 Nays this 25th day of November, 2024.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

BETTY SMITH, MAYOR PRO TEMPORE

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

ORDINANCE NO. 035 OF 2024

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE GRANTING OF A RIGHT OF PIPELINE SERVITUDE AND EASEMENT IN FAVOR OF ATMOS ENERGY CORPORATION OVER AND ACROSS PROPERTY OWNED BY THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES, AND LOCATED IN SECTION 84, TOWNSHIP 9 NORTH, RANGE 6 WEST, NATCHITOCHES PARISH, LOUISIANA, APPROVING THE FORM OF THE PIPELINE SERVITUDE AND EASEMENT AND FURTHER AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE THE PIPELINE SERVITUDE AND EASEMENT AND ANY OTHER RELATED DOCUMENTS; AND FURTHER PROVIDING FOR ADVERTIZING

WHEREAS, the City of Natchitoches is the fee title owner of certain property located in Section 84, Township 9 North Range 6 West, Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana, said property being a portion of the Natchitoches Regional Airport (sometimes hereinafter “Property of the City”); and

WHEREAS FURTHER, Atmos Energy Corporation (sometimes hereinafter “Atmos”) has requested a right of way and easement across the property of the City for the placement of a gas pipeline in order to provide service to customers, and has presented the City of Natchitoches (sometimes hereinafter “City”) a proposed Pipeline Servitude and Easement, a copy of which is attached hereto; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the proposed right of way and easement is shown and depicted on a survey by Randy A. Denmon dated October 25, 2024, a copy of which is attached hereto; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the Airport Commission has reviewed the Pipeline Servitude and Easement and has approved the form of same; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the City Council of the City of Natchitoches desires to authorize the Mayor of the City of Natchitoches, Ronnie Williams, to execute the proposed Pipeline Servitude and Easement, attached hereto as Exhibit “A”, and to further take any other steps necessary and proper in the premises; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the City Council of the City of Natchitoches finds that the servitude will allow gas service to tenants at the Natchitoches Regional Airport and will benefit the City of Natchitoches and its tenants; and

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

SECTION I: That the City Council of the City of Natchitoches, Louisiana, does hereby authorize and direct the Mayor, Ronnie Williams, to execute the Pipeline Servitude and Easement, attached hereto as Exhibit “A”, and to further execute any other documents necessary to create and establish a right of way and easement across a tract of land owned by the City of Natchitoches, said tract located in Section 84, Township 9 North Range 6 West, Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana, and said easement more fully shown and depicted on the survey by Denmon, attached Exhibit “B”.

SECTION II: That the Mayor, or his assignee, be and he is hereby authorized to do all things necessary and proper to establish the easement, servitude and right of way for passage.

SECTION III: That all other ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict are hereby revoked.

SECTION IV: THIS ORDINANCE shall take effect after publication in accordance with law.

SECTION V: 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 effect 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 provision herein.

THIS ORDINANCE was introduced on November 12, 2024 and published in the *Natchitoches Times* on November 16, 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, Harrington, Petite**
NAYS: **None**
ABSENT: **Smith**
ABSTAIN: **None**

THEREUPON, Mayor Ronnie Williams, Jr., declared the Ordinance passed by a vote of 4 Ayes to 0 Nays this 25th day of November, 2024.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

BETTY SMITH, MAYOR PRO TEMPORE

Delivered to the Mayor on the 26th day of November, 2024 at 10:00 A.M.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 036 OF 2024

AN ORDINANCE REVOKING THE DEDICATION OF A PORTION OF TRUDEAU STREET, AND A PORTION OF TOULINE STREET WHICH ARE SITUATED IN SECTIONS 44 AND 48, TOWNSHIP 9 NORTH, RANGE 7 WEST, CITY AND PARISH OF NATCHITOCHES, DECLARING THAT THE SAID PORTION OF TRUDEAU STREET AND THE SAID PORTION OF TOULINE STREET ARE ABANDONED AND THE DEDICATIONS REVOKED, PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE ORDINANCE, AND SAVINGS CLAUSE

WHEREAS, an application has been made to the City of Natchitoches by Watkins and Eager, PLLC, on behalf of The Natchitoches-Thomas Apartments, Inc., requesting the revocation of the dedication of a portion of a street known as Trudeau Street and a portion of a street known as Touline Street, but limited to the portions of Trudeau Street and Touline Street as shown on a survey captioned “Thomas Apartments Street Closure and Abandonments and Dedications” prepared by Matthew P. Caraway, registered professional land surveyor, (sometimes hereinafter referred to as “Caraway Survey”) a copy of which is attached hereto (sometimes hereinafter referred to as “Caraway Survey”); and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the Caraway Survey depicts existing dedicated rights of way and proposed rights of way in the vicinity of property owned by the Natchitoches Thomas Apartments, which said property is bounded on the West by Howell Street on the South by the Jackson Square Cemetery, on the East by North Street or 9th Street and on the North by property of the City of Natchitoches; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the Caraway Survey depicts areas that are proposed to be dedicated as rights of way in dark lines and labeled “herein dedicated”, and depicts rights of way to be abandoned in cross hatch and labeled “herein closed and abandoned; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the City has made an examination of the matter and has determined that the portion of Trudeau Street depicted in cross hatch but not in dark line, is not used by the public, has not been used by the public for many years, and is not needed by the public for any public purpose, and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the City has made an examination of the matter and has determined that the portion of Toulaine Street depicted in cross hatch but not in dark line, is not used by the public, has not been used by the public for many years, and is not needed by the public for any public purpose, and

WHEREAS FURTHER, as further clarification, those portions of Trudeau Street and Toulaine Street shown in both cross hatch and within dark lines are not to be included in this abandonment but will remain as dedicated rights of way; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the City Council is of the opinion that the property will not be needed for any public purposes in the foreseeable future, and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the rights of way which will be abandoned are of no value to anyone except the adjoining property owner, and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the above described rights of way are not currently developed, are not being used for public access, and the City Council is of the opinion that above described rights of way, should be abandoned and the dedication revoked;

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

SECTION I: That the portion of Trudeau Street depicted in cross hatch but not in dark line, on the attached Caraway Survey is not used by the public, has not been used by the public for many years, and is not needed by the public for any public purpose and is hereby declared to be abandoned.

SECTION II: That the portion of Toulaine Street depicted in cross hatch but not in dark line, on the attached Caraway Survey is not used by the public, has not been used by the public for many years, and is not needed by the public for any public purpose and is hereby declared to be abandoned and no longer needed for public purposes whatsoever

SECTION III: That the above described portions of Trudeau Street and Toulaine Street are to be abandoned.

SECTION IV: The right of way associated with above described portions of Trudeau Street and Toulaine Street are hereby declared to be abandoned, and insofar as same may have been dedicated as a public way, said dedications are hereby declared revoked.

SECTION V: Under the provisions of Louisiana Revised Statutes 48:701, the City Council declares that the soil embracing the former right-of-way of the above described portions of the

rights of way of Trudeau Street and Toulaine Street shall, and do hereby revert to the present owners of the land contiguous thereto, in accordance with law.

SECTION VI: It is understood that this Revocation applies only to the portions of Trudeau Street and Toulain Street above described.

SECTION VII: That a copy of this Ordinance be recorded in the Conveyance Records of Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana.

SECTION VIII: That all other ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict are hereby revoked.

SECTION IX: **THIS ORDINANCE** shall take effect after publication in accordance with law.

SECTION X: 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 effect 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 provision herein.

THIS ORDINANCE was introduced on November 12, 2024 and published in the *Natchitoches Times* on November 16, 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, Harrington, Petite
NAYS:	None
ABSENT:	Smith
ABSTAIN:	None

THEREUPON, Mayor Ronnie Williams, Jr., declared the Ordinance passed by a vote of 4 Ayes to 0 Nays this 25th day of November, 2024.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

BETTY SMITH, MAYOR PRO TEMPORE

Delivered to the Mayor on the 26th day of November, 2024 at 10:00 A.M.

The following Ordinance was Introduced by Mr. Harrington at the November 25, 2024 City Council meeting as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 037 OF 2024

AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING AND APPROVING THE POWER SUPPLY AGREEMENT FOR SALE OF POWER AND ENERGY BETWEEN LOUISIANA ENERGY & POWER AUTHORITY (LEPA) AND THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES, LOUISIANA AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE THE POWER SUPPLY AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY

WHEREAS, the City of Natchitoches operates a municipal electric utility for the purpose of providing electric power to its residential, governmental, commercial and industrial customers; and

WHEREAS, the City provides transmission, and distribution services within and without the city limits; and

WHEREAS, the City and LEPA, have negotiated the Power Supply Agreement, which said agreement has been reviewed and approved by the City, and said agreement is attached hereto; and

WHEREAS, the City Council believes that the said Power Supply Agreement is in the best interest of the City and further agrees that the Power Supply Agreement should be accepted; and.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council in legal session convened, that the said Power Supply Agreement for Sale of Power and Energy Between LEPA and the City of Natchitoches be and the same is hereby approved.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the Mayor, Ronnie Williams, Jr., is hereby authorized and empowered to represent the City of Natchitoches and to execute said Agreement on behalf of the City, a copy of which Power Supply Agreement is hereby attached and made a part of this Ordinance.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the Mayor, Ronnie Williams, Jr., is hereby authorized and empowered to do all other things necessary or proper in the premises to implement and place this Power Supply Agreement in effect.

THIS ORDINANCE was introduced on November 25, 2024 and published in the *Natchitoches Times* on December 30, 2024.

The following Ordinance was Introduced by Mr. Nielsen at the November 25, 2024 City Council meeting as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 038 OF 2024

**AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A HYDROPOWER
POOLING AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN LOUISIANA
ENERGY AND POWER AUTHORITY AND CITY OF
NATCHITOCHES, AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF
THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES, RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR.,
TO EXECUTE SAME**

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Entergy and Power Authority (**LEPA**) was created pursuant to Chapter 10-A of Title 33 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950 (the “Act”) to provide a means for those Louisiana cities which are members of **LEPA** to secure an adequate, reliable and economical supply of electric power and energy for their present and future needs; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, **LEPA** is empowered by the Act, The Local Services Law (hereinafter defined) and other constitutional and statutory authority supplemental thereto to: (i) acquire and construct facilities for the generation and transmission of electric power and energy, or to acquire an interest in an such facilities; (ii) purchase, sell, transmit or otherwise use electric power and energy within or without the State of Louisiana; and (iii) do all acts and things necessary to carry out the purposes and to exercise the powers granted to **LEPA** under the Act; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the City of Natchitoches (**CITY**) has authority under the Act, Sub-Part A, Part VII, Chapter 2 of Title 33 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended (“The Local Services Law”), Sub-Part A, Part 1, Chapter 10 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended, and other constitutional and statutory authority supplemental thereto, to undertake and implement the provisions of this Agreement; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the **CITY** owns and operates an electric utility system, is a member of **LEPA** and is authorized under the Act and the laws of the State of Louisiana to contract and buy from **LEPA** power and energy required for its present and future requirements; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, in order to secure an adequate, economical and reliable supply of electric energy for the **CITY**’s municipal electric system, **LEPA** and the **CITY** have determined that **LEPA** will sell to the **CITY**, and the **CITY** will purchase from **LEPA**, all of the electric power and energy and transmission services required by the **CITY** for service to its native retail load on

the terms and conditions set forth in the Full Requirement Service Agreements (as defined in the agreement); and

WHEREAS FURTHER, LEPA has negotiated a Power Sales Contract dated and commencing on January 1, 2004, with the Southwestern Power Administration of the U. S. Department of Energy (“Southwestern”) under which **LEPA** coordinates and pools the interest of the CITY and certain other cities in the State of Louisiana in hydroelectric power and energy allocations from reservoir projects constructed and operated by the U. S. Corps of Engineers as such power and energy becomes available; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the term of the Power Sales Contract (as defined in the agreement) is to continue in full force and effect until midnight, May 31, 2028, unless terminated earlier pursuant to the provisions set forth therein; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, power and energy available by reason of the Power Sales Contract will be utilized by **LEPA**, together with other supply resources, to meet the obligations of its Full Requirement Service Agreements for service to its Participating Members (as defined in the agreement); and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the City Council of the City of Natchitoches has determined that it is in the best interest of the CITY to designate **LEPA** as its agent and representative in negotiating with Southwestern concerning the CITY’s entitlement to its allocation of hydroelectric power and energy and to subordinate the CITY’s interest in its Hydro Entitlement to **LEPA**; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, a copy of the proposed Hydropower Pooling Agreement by and between Louisiana Energy and Power Authority and City of Natchitoches, Louisiana is attached hereto as Exhibit “A”; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the City Council of the City of Natchitoches desires to continue its relationship with **LEPA**, approve the Hydropower Polling Agreement with **LEPA** and authorize the Mayor of the City of Natchitoches, Ronnie Williams, Jr., to execute same; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Natchitoches, Louisiana, in legal session convened, that the City of Natchitoches does hereby approve the Hydropower Pooling Agreement by and between Louisiana Energy and Power Authority and City of Natchitoches, Louisiana attached hereto as Exhibit “A” and does further authorize and direct the Mayor of the City of Natchitoches, Louisiana, Ronnie Williams, Jr., to execute the Hydropower Pooling Agreement by and between Louisiana Energy and Power Authority and City of Natchitoches, Louisiana, on behalf of the City of Natchitoches.

THIS ORDINANCE was introduced on November 25, 2024 and published in the *Natchitoches Times* on December 30, 2024.

The following Ordinance was Introduced by Mr. Harrington at the November 25, 2024 City Council meeting as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 039 OF 2024

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES, LOUISIANA, APPROVING THAT INSTRUMENT TITLED COOPERATIVE ENDEAVOR AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES AND DAVID L. DAUZAT, SHERIFF OF THE PARISH OF AVOYELLES WHICH AGREEMENT PROVIDES FOR COST FOR HOUSING OF MALE AND FEMALE PRE-TRIAL INMATES IN ACCORDANCE WITH LA. R.S. 15:706; PRESCRIBING TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR SAID AGREEMENT, AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES, RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR. TO EXECUTE SAME.

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, David L. Dauzat is the elected Sheriff of Avoyelles Parish, and currently operates the detention center located on Edwina Street in Natchitoches, Louisiana, as well as other detention facilities; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, Sheriff Dazuat has presented the City of Natchitoches with a Cooperative Agreement which provides for the housing of male and female pre-trial inmates in facilities operated by Sheriff Dauzat, a copy of which is attached hereto; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the Cooperative Agreement provides for a daily per diem rate of \$26.39, further provides medical care and transportation of inmates, and further provides for billing; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the City Council of the City of Natchitoches desires to provide for the detention of pre-trial inmates and has reviewed the proposed Cooperative Agreement between Sheriff Dauzat and the City of Natchitoches and approves same; 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 is of the opinion that the Cooperative Agreement with Sheriff Dauzat, will promote the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the City and Parish of Natchitoches, Louisiana; 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, and Chief of the City of Natchitoches Police Department, Nikeo Collins, are hereby authorized to execute the attached Cooperative Agreement with Sheriff of Avoyelles Parish, David L. Dauzat.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the terms of the Cooperative Agreement, attached hereto, are approved and accepted by the City Council of the City of Natchitoches, Louisiana.

THIS ORDINANCE was introduced on November 25, 2024 and published in the *Natchitoches Times* on December 30, 2024.

The following Ordinance was Introduced by Mr. Petite at the November 25, 2024 City Council meeting as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 040 OF 2024

AN ORDINANCE TO DESIGNATE FUNDS FROM THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN FOR USE BY THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES TO ASSIST THE HISTORIC DISTRICT BUSINESS ASSOCIATION WITH FUNDING FOR ADDITIONAL SECURITY FOR THE 2024 CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL SEASON; AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO PROPERLY EFFECTUATE SUCH PURCHASES; AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING 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, Ten Thousand Dollars (**\$10,000.00, not to exceed this amount**) to the State of Louisiana, which was then appropriated to the City (the “**ARPA Revenue Replacement Funding**”) for the purpose of providing funding for government services that may have seen a shortfall of revenue funding them due to the COVID-19 pandemic, including, but not limited to, funding projects up to the amount of the City’s revenue loss (“**to assist the Historic District Business Association with funding for additional security for the 2024 Christmas Festival Season**”); and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the Office of the Mayor of the City of Natchitoches is the proper recipient of the ARPA Revenue Replacement Funding as the instrument of the City most capable of properly distributing (“**to assist the Historic District Business Association with funding for Additional Security for the 2024 Christmas Festival Season**”); and

WHEREAS FURTHER, it is the desire of this Governing Authority to appropriate the ARPA Revenue Replacement 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 Revenue Replacement 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, that the budget of the City be amended to reflect the receipt of the ARPA Revenue Replacement Funding and its designation for expenditure by the Mayor or the Finance Director, for the purposes of properly distributing **to assist the Historic District Business Association with funding for additional security for the 2024 Christmas Festival Season**”); 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 November 25, 2024 and published in the *Natchitoches Times* on December 30, 2024.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 101 OF 2024
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR
TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR FY 2023 LCDBG STREET IMPROVEMENTS

(BID NO. 0671)

WHEREAS, the City of Natchitoches was awarded \$1,142,566.00 for FY 2023 Louisiana Community Development Block Grant Street Improvements; and

WHEREAS, these improvements are to be made to the following streets located in low to moderate income areas: Brahma Drive, J.C. Deblieux Drive, Myrtle Drive, Ouida Drive, and Virginia Avenue; and

WHEREAS, construction plans and specifications have been completed by the City Engineer for these improvements; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Office of Community Development has advised they soon will authorize the City to advertise for bids.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Natchitoches City Council hereby authorizes Mayor Ronnie Williams, Jr., to advertise for bids for the FY 2023 LCDBG Street Improvements project.

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

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

THEREUPON, Mayor Ronnie Williams, Jr., declared the Resolution passed by a vote of 4 Ayes to 0 Nays on this 25th day of November, 2024.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

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

RESOLUTION NO. 102 OF 2024

A RESOLUTION TO SUBSTITUTE AN ASSOCIATE COUNSEL WITH CONSENT OF THE CITY ATTORNEY FOR THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES

BE IT RESOLVED, from time to time the Assistant City Attorneys will need to substitute counsel or add counsel from their firm with experience to assist in a matter; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Council does hereby desire to allow for substitution of counsel or assistance for counsel within the firm upon the consent of the City Attorney.

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

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

THEREUPON, Mayor Ronnie Williams, Jr., declared the Resolution passed by a vote of 4 Ayes to 0 Nays on this 25th day of November, 2024.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

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

RESOLUTION NO. 103 OF 2024

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES TO ENTER INTO ADDENDUMS AND AN AMENDMENT TO THE JOINT AGREEMENT WITH THE NATCHITOCHES PARISH SCHOOL BOARD AND NATCHITOCHES PARISH GOVERNMENT

WHEREAS, Louisiana R.S. 33:337.14 allows for the collection of taxes by a single tax collector, and

WHEREAS, every political subdivision levies one or more sales, use tax, and/or fees in Natchitoches Parish: and

WHEREAS, a contract agreement between and among the political subdivisions for joint collection, enforcement, administration, etc. is allowed under Louisiana R.S. 33:337.14; and

WHEREAS, political subdivisions are authorized to create a tax commission as outlined in the law and have done so thorough the Joint Agreement being entered in 1989.

WHEREAS, there are proposed Addendums and an Amendment to the Joint Agreement which are needed;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Natchitoches, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby approve for the Mayor to sign the document giving effect to the Addendums and Amendment to the Joint Agreement;

The above Resolution having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereupon was recorded as follows, to-wit:

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

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

THEREUPON, Mayor Ronnie Williams, Jr., declared the Resolution passed by a vote of 4 Ayes to 0 Nays on this 25th day of November, 2024.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

MOTION TO AMEND THE AGENDA TO ADD RESOLUTION NO. 104

Mr. Harrington made a motion to add Resolution No. 104 of 2024 to the agenda and seconded by Ms. Elie, the motion to add Resolution No. 104 was presented for a vote and the vote was recorded as follows:

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. 104 OF 2024

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING MAYOR RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., TO AUTHORIZE THE USE OF LOCAL FUNDS FOR ENGINEERING COSTS AND HIRE BALAR ENGINEERS FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES RELATED TO THE FY25 LCDBG PUBLIC FACILITIES PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the City of Natchitoches is submitting an application to the FY2025 LCDBG Public Facilities; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the application is to seek grant funding for repairs to the City of Natchitoches Sewer Treatment Plant; and

WHEREAS, the necessary scope of work to be implemented by BALAR Engineers is for the design and engineering services required to construct the stated improvements requested to be funded; and

WHEREAS, the commitment for this scope of work is projected to be in the amount of one hundred seventy-nine thousand, one hundred seventy-five (\$179,175.00) and is subject to being approved for funding under the stated program;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Natchitoches has hired BALAR to provide design and engineering services subject to successful funding relative to the FY 2025 LCDBG Public Facilities Program.

The above Resolution having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereupon was recorded as follows, to-wit:

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

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

THEREUPON, Mayor Ronnie Williams, Jr., declared the Resolution passed by a vote of 4 Ayes to 0 Nays on this 25th day of November, 2024.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- The next scheduled City Council meeting will be **Monday, December 9, 2024.**
- The City of Natchitoches offices will be closed **Thursday, November 28th** and **Friday, November 29, 2024** for the Thanksgiving Holidays.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:21 p.m.

_____/s/
RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

_____/s/
BETTY SMITH, MAYOR PRO-TEMPORE