

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES, STATE OF LOUISIANA,
MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2025 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, February 10, 2025, 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: Tyler Turner-Employee of the Month

Absent: None

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

Mayor Williams then called for the reading and approval of the minutes for the January 27, 2025 meeting. Councilwoman At Large Smith moved that we dispense with the reading of the minutes and approval of same. Seconded by Councilwoman Elie.

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. 011 OF 2025

PROCLAMATION DESIGNATING JANUARY 15, 2025 AS AKA DAY IN THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES

WHEREAS, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated the oldest Greek letter organization established in 1908 by 16 African American College educated women committed to sisterhood, scholarship, service, and social action at Howard University in Washington, DC; and

WHEREAS, Alpha Kappa Alpha provides service to the community under Program Initiatives: Empowering Families, Economic Wealth, Enhancing the Environment, Social Justice, and uplifting the local community; and

WHEREAS, Alpha Kappa Alpha currently has more than 360,000 members inn over 1,000 undergraduate and graduate chapters in the United States and twelve nations and territories, and

WHEREAS, On January 15, 1908 founding AKA member Ethel Hedgeman Lyle established AKA in an effort to alleviate deplorable social, political and economic conditions that impeded citizens from becoming productive citizens, and

WHEREAS, Vice President Kamala Harris will forever be known as the first African American and Asian American woman and the first member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated to have become a candidate to run for the position of president of the United States of America. Her commitment was to always speak and act “for the people” of our, and

WHEREAS, U.S. President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., and Vice President Kamala Harris met with the Divine 9 Council of Presidents in the Oval Office in a historic occasion for strategic consultation lead by AKA’s President Danette Anthony Reed in the Fall of 2024 where the president commended the council for the success of HBCU’s, and

WHEREAS, the designation of a day is fitting to commemorate the early days of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority advocacy and the continued impact that Alpha Kappa Alpha advocacy can have on our communities, especially Black communities; and

WHEREAS, the Rho Beta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated was officially chartered August 29, 1987 in Natchitoches, LA and established a wide range of service programs in the community addressing education, health, social justice, economic wealth, voter mobilization, youth initiatives such as Childhood Hunger and Youth Leadership.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that I Mayor Ronnie Williams, Jr. recognize the contributions of the graduate chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Incorporated, and further extend appreciation to Fannie Holden, President, for her extraordinary leadership and to all chapter members for their exemplary dedication to Natchitoches and the surrounding areas and to public service by designating January 15, annually as Alpha Kappa Alpha Day in the City of Natchitoches and urge all residents to explore and participate in social advocacy and dynamic service to all to better our communities

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 February, 2025.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

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

RESOLUTION NO. 017 OF 2025

**A RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2025
AS AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH IN THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES**

WHEREAS, the history of our great country has been written by men and women of every race, religion and ethnic background and African American History Month gives us the opportunity to recognize the extraordinary contributions African Americans have made to the rich cultural history of our nation; and

WHEREAS, we also recognize the courage and tenacity of so many hard-working African Americans whose legacies are woven into the fabric of our country; and

WHEREAS, we as a country must continue to encourage and demand our children to reach for the full measure of their potential and ambitions through education; and

WHEREAS, each February we recognize African American History Month to reflect upon how far we have come as a Nation and community and what challenges remain; and

WHEREAS, each year a national theme is chosen by The Association for the Study of African American Life and History; and

WHEREAS the 2025 Black History month theme is, **“African Americans and Labor”**, focuses on the various and profound ways that work of all kind intersects with the collective experiences of Black people.

WHEREAS, the theme, “African Americans and Labor,” intends to encourage broad reflections on intersections between Black people’s work and their workplaces in all their iterations and key moments, themes, and events in Black history and culture across time and space and throughout the U.S., Africa, and the Diaspora.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MAYOR RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., Mayor of the City of Natchitoches hereby proclaim February 2025 as

AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

in the City of Natchitoches and call upon all the citizens of Natchitoches to honor and respect the significant contributions African Americans have made to our City and Nation.

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 February, 2025.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

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

ORDINANCE NO. 002 OF 2025

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

**LOT WEST SIDE SECOND STREET, NORTH BY FIXARY, SOUTH BY KAFFIE
(840 Second St.)**

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission of the City of Natchitoches, State of Louisiana, has recommended at their Special Call Meeting of **January 14, 2025** that the application of Malcolm Byles, be amended to request to rezone the property described above from R-2 to R-1 Special Exception for operation of a Short Term Rental, be **APPROVED**

THIS ORDINANCE was introduced on January 27, 2025 and published in the *Natchitoches Times* on February 1, 2025.

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 February, 2025.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

BETTY SMITH, MAYOR PRO TEMPORE

Delivered to the Mayor on the 10th day of February, 2025 at 10:00 A.M.

The following Ordinance was Introduced by Mr. Harrington at the February 10, 2025 City Council meeting as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 003 OF 2025

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A CONCESSION AGREEMENT IN FAVOR OF LASYONE’S MEAT PIES, INC., TO HANDLE CONCESSIONS AT PARC NATCHITOCHES INCLUDING RIGHT TO SELL FOOD, BEVERAGES, CONFECTIONS, MERCHANDISE PRODUCTS AND OTHER SIMILAR ITEMS, CONFIRMING THE TERM OF THE AGREEMENT, CONDITIONS, AND CONSIDERATION FOR SAID AGREEMENT AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE THE SAID CONCESSION AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY, 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 “City”) issued a Request for Proposals for Concession Operations at Parc Natchitoches, being RFP #0320, on December 10, 2024 (sometimes hereinafter “RFP”), and

WHEREAS FURTHER, after review of the responses to the RFP, the City selected Lasyone’s Meat Pies, Inc. (Sometimes hereinafter “Lasyone’s) as the successful responder; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the City has drafted a proposed Concession Agreement a copy of which is attached hereto, and which Concession Agreement provides that Lasyone’s will provide concession services at Parc Natchitoches for a five-year term with five one year extensions; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the consideration for the Concession Agreement is the payment by Lasyone’s of 15% of gross revenue to the City; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, both parties, that is, the City and Lasyone’s, deem it to be in their mutual best interests and advantage to execute and enter into the Concession Agreement which will clearly delineate the respective obligations, covenants, conditions, responsibilities, and considerations under the said Concession Agreement; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the proposed Concession Agreement has been reviewed by the City Council and has been approved; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the City Council is of the opinion that the Concession Agreement is in the best interest of the City of Natchitoches and its citizens and will help promote tourism; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED that the City Council takes cognizance of and approves the Concession Agreement, a copy of which is attached hereto, and authorizes the Mayor, Ronnie Williams, Jr., to execute the said Concession Agreement with Lasyone’s.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the terms and conditions of the Concession Agreement are hereby approved by the City Council, including the consideration for the Concession Agreement and other terms.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that all Ordinances 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, the City Council intends that each separate provision shall be deemed independent of all other provisions herein.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that this Ordinance shall go into effect upon publication and in accordance with law.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 012 OF 2025

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE
CHANGE ORDER NO. 2 TO THE CONTRACT BETWEEN
THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES AND ACA MECHANICAL INDUSTRIAL, LLC
FOR HVAC IMPROVEMENTS AT THE NATCHITOCHES EVENTS CENTER**

(BID NO. 0653)

WHEREAS, the City of Natchitoches (CITY) awarded the bid to ACA Mechanical Industrial, LLC (CONTRACTOR) on January 9, 2023 by Ordinance No. 084 of 2022 in the amount of **\$708,500.00** for HVAC Improvements at the Natchitoches Events Center (Bid No. 0653); and

WHEREAS, on **January 9, 2023**, the City Council approved **Change Order No. 1**, (decreased) in the amount of **\$162,000.00** making the revised contract total **\$546,500.00**; and

WHEREAS, on **January 14, 2025** CONTRACTOR issued Change Order No. 2, fully described in Attachment “A”; and

WHEREAS, the contract time will be **increase** by this **Change Order No. 2** in the amount of **328** calendar days and the revised contract time will be **508 days**; and

WHEREAS, the project Engineer, Henry Shuler, has recommended this change order; and

WHEREAS, the CITY is of the opinion that **Change Order No. 2** is in the best interest of the CITY.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Natchitoches, in legal session convened, that the Honorable Ronnie Williams, Jr., Mayor, be and is hereby authorized, empowered and directed to execute the referenced Change Order No. 2 to the agreement between the City of Natchitoches and the contractor, ACA Mechanical Industrial, LLC.

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

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

THEREUPON, Mayor Ronnie Williams, Jr., declared the Resolution passed by a vote of 5 Ayes to 0 Nays on this 10th day of February, 2025.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

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

RESOLUTION NO. 013 OF 2025

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE A CERTIFICATE OF SUBSTANTIAL COMPLETION TO THE CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES AND ACA MECHANICAL/INDUSTRIAL, LLC FOR HVAC IMPROVEMENTS AT THE NATCHITOCHES EVENTS CENTER

(BID NO. 0653)

WHEREAS, the City of Natchitoches has contracted with ACA Mechanical/Industrial, LLC for HVAC improvements at the Natchitoches Events Center; and

WHEREAS, this work has been completed; and

WHEREAS, a substantial completion inspection has been performed by the Engineer and a representative of the City of Natchitoches, and they find the project to be complete.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Natchitoches, in legal session convened, that the Honorable Ronnie Williams, Jr., Mayor, be and is hereby authorized, empowered and directed to execute the referenced Certificate of Substantial Completion for ACA Mechanical/Industrial, LLC.

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

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

THEREUPON, Mayor Ronnie Williams, Jr., declared the Resolution passed by a vote of 5 Ayes to 0 Nays on this 10th day of February, 2025.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

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

RESOLUTION NO. 014 OF 2025

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE A CERTIFICATE OF SUBSTANTIAL COMPLETION TO THE CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES AND DIXIE OVERLAND CONSTRUCTION, LLC FOR WASTEWATER COLLECTION SYSTEM REHABILITATION GRAND ECORE AND MILL STREET LIFT STATIONS, LDEQ-CWSRF

(BID NO. 0646)

WHEREAS, the City of Natchitoches has contracted with Dixie Overland Construction, LLC for Wastewater Collection System Rehabilitation Grand Ecore and Mill Street Lift Stations, LDEQ-CWSRF; and

WHEREAS, this work has been completed; and

WHEREAS, a substantial completion inspection has been performed by the Engineer and a representative of the City of Natchitoches, and they find the project to be complete.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Natchitoches, in legal session convened, that the Honorable Ronnie Williams, Jr., Mayor, be and is hereby authorized, empowered and directed to execute the referenced Certificate of Substantial Completion for Dixie Overland Construction, LLC.

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

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

THEREUPON, Mayor Ronnie Williams, Jr., declared the Resolution passed by a vote of 5 Ayes to 0 Nays on this 10th day of February, 2025.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

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

RESOLUTION NO. 015 OF 2025

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE
CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 (FINAL) TO THE CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CITY OF
NATCHITOCHES AND McINNIS BROTHERS CONTSTRUCTION, LLC
FOR
EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT
SLUDGE THICKENER #2
CITY OF NATCHITOCHES WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

(BID NO. 0662)**

WHEREAS, the City of Natchitoches (CITY) awarded the bid to McInnis Brothers Construction, LLC on September 11, 2023 by Ordinance No. 048 of 2023 in the amount of \$756,000.00 for the Equipment Replacement, Sludge Thickener #2, City of Natchitoches Wastewater Treatment Plant Project; and

WHEREAS, CONTRACTOR has requested, and Engineer has reviewed, prepared and recommends Change Order No. 1 (Final), fully described in Attachment “A”; and

WHEREAS, the contract sum will not change for this Project; and

WHEREAS, the **contract time will be increased** by this **Change Order No. 1** (Final) from Two Hundred Twenty-Five (225) calendar days to Four Hundred Eighty-Eight (488) calendar days; and

WHEREAS, the project Engineer, Nassif Engineering & Architecture, LLC, has recommended this change order; and

WHEREAS, the CITY is of the opinion that Change Order No. 1 (Final) 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. 1 (Final) to the agreement between the City of Natchitoches and McInnis Brothers Construction, LLC.

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

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

THEREUPON, Mayor Ronnie Williams, Jr., declared the Resolution passed by a vote of 5 Ayes to 0 Nays on this 10th day of February, 2025.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

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

RESOLUTION NO. 016 OF 2025

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE A CERTIFICATE OF SUBSTANTIAL COMPLETION TO THE CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES AND McINNIS BROTHERS CONSTRUCTION LLC FOR EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT SLUDGE THICKENER #2 CITY OF NATCHITOCHES WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

(BID NO. 0662)

WHEREAS, the City of Natchitoches has contracted with McInnis Brothers Construction, LLC for the Equipment Replacement, Sludge Thickener #2, City of Natchitoches Wastewater Treatment Plant Project; and

WHEREAS, this work has been completed; and

WHEREAS, a substantial completion inspection has been performed by the Engineer and a representative of the City of Natchitoches, and they find the project to be complete.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Natchitoches, in legal session convened, that the Honorable Ronnie Williams, Jr., Mayor, be and is hereby authorized, empowered and directed to execute the referenced Certificate of Substantial Completion for McInnis Brothers Construction, LLC.

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

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

THEREUPON, Mayor Ronnie Williams, Jr., declared the Resolution passed by a vote of 5 Ayes to 0 Nays on this 10th day of February, 2025.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

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

RESOLUTION NO. 018 OF 2025

A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR A GRANT APPLICATION SUBMITTED TO THE LOUISIANA OFFICE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, FOR THE FY 2024 -2025 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Local Government Assistance Program (LGAP) assists units of local government with funding for needed infrastructure and long-term capital improvements; and

WHEREAS, eligible activities funded through the LGAP Program include renovations to essential governmental buildings and police protection; and

WHEREAS, the Natchitoches Police Department is in need of conducting renovations to its Criminal Investigations Division building to improve its operational capabilities and desires to submit an application for the FY 2024-2025 Local Government Assistance Program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Natchitoches offers its full support of a grant application submitted by the Natchitoches Police Department to the Louisiana Office of Community Development, for the 2024 – 2025 Local Government Assistance Program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Mayor Ronnie Williams, Jr., is hereby authorized to sign the grant application on behalf of the City of Natchitoches.

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

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

THEREUPON, Mayor Ronnie Williams, Jr., declared the Resolution passed by a vote of 5 Ayes to 0 Nays on this 10th day of February, 2025.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- The next scheduled City Council meeting will be **Monday, February 24, 2025.**
- The offices of the City of Natchitoches will be closed Monday, February 17, 2025, in honor of President’s Day.

With no further discussion, Mayor Williams made a motion for adjournment and all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

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

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