

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES, STATE OF LOUISIANA,
MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY, MARCH 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, March 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

Guest: Natasha Goston-Employee of the Month

Absent: Councilwoman Rosemary Elie

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 February 24, 2025 meeting. Councilwoman At Large Smith moved that we dispense with the reading of the minutes and approval of same. Seconded by Councilwoman Harrington.

A roll call vote was as follows:

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. 021 OF 2025

PROCLAMATION DECLARING THE MONTH OF MARCH AS WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH IN THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES

WHEREAS, American women of every race, class, and ethnic background have made historic contributions to the growth and strength of our Nation in countless recorded and unrecorded ways; and

WHEREAS, American women have played and continue to play critical economic, cultural, and social role in every sphere of the life of the Nation by constituting a significant portion of the labor force working inside and outside of the home; and

WHEREAS, American women were particularly important in the establishment of early charitable, philanthropic, and cultural institutions in our Nation; and

WHEREAS, American women of every race, class, and ethnic background served as early leaders in the forefront of every major progressive social change movement; and

WHEREAS, American women have served our country courageously in the military; and

WHEREAS American women have been leaders, not only in securing their own rights of suffrage and equal opportunity, but also in the abolitionist movement, the emancipation movement, the industrial labor movement, the civil rights movement, and other movements, especially the peace movement, which created an impartial and just society for all; and

WHEREAS despite these contributions, the role of American women in history has been consistently overlooked and undervalued, in the literature, teaching and study of American history:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MAYOR RONNIE WILLIAMS, Jr., of the City of Natchitoches hereby proclaim, that March is designated as

Women’s History Month

in the City of Natchitoches and I call upon all citizens to observe this month and to invite all citizens to visit www.WomensHistoryMonth.gov to learn more about the vital contribution of women to our Nation’s history.

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

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

THEREUPON, Mayor Ronnie Williams, Jr., declared the Resolution passed by a vote of 4 Ayes to 0 Nays on this 10th day of March, 2025.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

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

ORDINANCE NO. 004 OF 2025

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE
CITY OF NATCHITOCHES, RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., TO ENTER INTO
A BANKING SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH
BANK OF MONTGOMERY
AND APPROVING OF THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS
OF SAME ALL AFTER DUE COMPLIANCE WITH THE LAW AND
FURTHER PROVIDING FOR ADVERTISING AND FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE**

WHEREAS, the City of Natchitoches, Louisiana, (sometimes hereinafter City) is a political subdivision of the State of Louisiana being a Home Rule Charter municipality created pursuant to the Constitution and Revised Statutes of the State of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the City solicited proposals for banking services under RFP # 0321, dated January 28, 2025, and has received and reviewed proposals from City Bank & Trust Co., and Bank of Montgomery; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the proposals have been reviewed by a committee of Clarissa Smith, Ronnie Williams, Jr., Jenna Severance and Edd Lee, who identified the proposal from Bank of Montgomery as the most beneficial to the City; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, after hearing the report of the Committee, the City Council of the City of Natchitoches is of the opinion that it is in the best interest of the City to enter into the Banking Services Agreement with Bank of Montgomery and desires to authorize Ronnie Williams, Jr., Mayor, to execute the banking services agreement and all attachments thereto and any other document that may be required to complete the transaction; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council in regular session convened as follows:

I. That the recommendations of the Committee are accepted, and the City Council of the City of Natchitoches does approve of the proposal submitted on behalf of Bank of Montgomery.

II. That the Honorable Ronnie Williams, Jr., Mayor, be and is hereby authorized and empowered to execute the banking services agreement and all attachments thereto and any other document that may be required to complete the transaction on behalf of the City of Natchitoches, all in accordance with the general terms and conditions set forth in this Ordinance. The said Mayor is hereby given full and complete authority to incorporate in said instrument such terms, conditions, and agreements as may be necessary to protect the interest of the City in substantial compliance with the general terms and conditions set forth in this Ordinance.

III. That if any part of this Ordinance is for any reason held to be unconstitutional or invalid by the Court of competent Jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance, and the invalidity shall be limited to that specific portion so declared to be invalid.

IV. That this Ordinance shall go into effect immediately after publication according to law.

V. That all Ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

VI. That this Ordinance is advertised in accordance with Law.

THIS ORDINANCE was introduced on February 24, 2025 and published in the *Natchitoches Times* on March 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: Nielsen, Smith, Harrington, Petite
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Elie
ABSTAIN: None

THEREUPON, Mayor Ronnie Williams, Jr., declared the Ordinance passed by a vote of 4 Ayes to 0 Nays this 10th day of March, 2025.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

BETTY SMITH, MAYOR PRO TEMPORE

Delivered to the Mayor on the 11th day of March, 2025 at 10:00 A.M.

ORDINANCE NO. 005 OF 2025				
The following Ordinance was Introduced by Mr. Nielsen and Seconded by Mrs. Smith 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
				-
				-
GENERAL FUND EXPENSES	TOTAL	-	-	-
		2024-2025	2024-2025	2024-2025
REVENUE	SPECIAL FUND REVENUE	Original Budget	Adjustments	Revised Budget
311-0000-491-0200	TRANSFERS/UTILITY FUND	400,000	650,000	1,050,000
UTILITY FUND EXPENSES	TOTAL	400,000	650,000	1,050,000
		2024-2025	2024-2025	2024-2025
EXPENSES	SPECIAL FUND EXPENSES	Original Budget	Adjustments	Revised Budget
002-6600-660-4564	TRANSFERS OUT /EMPLOYEE HEALTH FUND	400,000	650,000	1,050,000
SPECIAL FUND EXPENSES	TOTAL	400,000	650,000	1,050,000
THIS ORDINANCE was introduced on February 24, 2025 and published in the Natchitoches Times on March 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: Nielsen, Smith, Harrington, Petite				
NAYES: None				
ABSENT: Elie				
ABSTAIN: None				
THEREUPON, Mayor Ronnie Williams declared the Ordinance passed by a vote of 4 Ayes to 0				
Nays this 11th day of March 2025.				
Ronnie Williams, Jr., MAYOR		Betty Smith, MAYOR PRO TEMPORE		

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

ORDINANCE NO. 006 OF 2025

**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. Joseph W. Rue
3010 Hemphill Park, Apt. C
Austin, TX 78705-2829
Lot 10 & W 600.4 Ft. of Lot 9 Blk 6 of St. Maurice Add. **(214 Sirod St.)**
2. Gloria J. Evans
146 Mary Dr.
Natchitoches, LA 71457
Lot On W Side Duplex St. Having Front of 71 Ft., N By Gongre, S By
Norris, W By Old L&N Rwy.(Being Lot 3 Blk A Of Norris Add. #2) **(220
Duplex St.)**
3. Angel V. Kitishian
320 Keegan Dr.
Natchitoches, LA 71457
Lot 9 Block C of Keegan Addition **(320 Keegan Dr.)**
4. Angelia P. Rachal, et al
305 Scott Loop
Natchitoches, LA 71457
Lot W By John Reuben, E By Mrs. Maude Henry, N By Alley, S By
Cornelia Davis, Between T&P & Old L & NW Rwys. On Continuation W of
Primrose & Lot Cor. of Eagle Pass & 5th St. Having Front of 38 Ft. By 54
Ft. And Lot Bet. T&P & 5th St. On Old L & NW Rwy., N By Reuben, Et
Als, S By Henry Having 50 Ft. Front On The 5th St., Less Lot To Reuben.
///507 & 509 Scott Loop Across The Road From 504 Scott Loop **(509
Scott Loop)**
5. Robert Hamilton
1050 Fish Hatchery Road
Natchitoches, LA 71457
Lot 21 Blk B of Pierson Subd. **(645 Genti St.)**
6. Robert Hamilton
1050 Fish Hatchery Rd.
Natchitoches, LA 71457
Lot 10 Blk A of Pierson Subd. **(613 Genti St)**
7. Cynthia Mandarino
817 Fourth Street
Natchitoches, LA 71457
Lot SE Corner 4th & Buard Streets, E By Green & Hughes, S By Holmes
(817 Fourth St.)

8. Paul Douglas Solomon Family Trust
223 Sewanee St.
Natchitoches, LA 71457
Lot West Side 2nd St., N By Aaron, S By Fixary **(852 Second St.)**
9. Albert Payton, Sr. & Maggie L. Payton
156 Independence Street
Natchitoches, LA 71457
N/2 of Lot 60 of Springville Addition **(1124 Welch St.)**
10. Dwight Davis
892 Hwy 504
Natchitoches, LA 71457
MH On Lot 119 of South Bend MMP **(119 Southbend Dr.)**
11. Dwight Davis
892 Hwy 504
Natchitoches, LA 71457
MH On Lot 123 Located In Southbend MMP **(124 Southbend Dr.)**
12. Rynell Johnson
117 Southbend Dr. Natchitoches, LA 71457
Mobile Home On Lots 117 In Southbend MHP **(117 Southbend Dr.)**
13. TL and JS Properties, LLC
4345 Natchitoches Hwy.
Many, LA 71449
MH On Lot 128 of Southbend M/H Park **(128 Southbend Dr.)**
14. Justin J. Normand
240 Jefferson St.
Natchitoches, LA 71457
Lot SE Cor Demeziere & Nelken Sts. Having Front On Demeziere St. of
120 Ft. E By Alcock, S By Pierson **(115 Demeziere St.)**
15. TL and JS Properties, LLC
4345 Natchitoches Hwy.
Many, LA 71449
Lot 36 (Cont. 3.75 Ac.) of Briarwood Subd., Unit #3 And
Lot In Sec. 70-9-7 Cont. 1.17 Ac. Adjoining Lot 36 of The Briarwood
Subds. Unit #3 Recorded At Map Slide 521b. **(Southbend Dr.)**

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

ORDINANCE NO. 007 OF 2025

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY
OF NATCHITOCHES TO AWARD THE BID FOR WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM
IMPROVEMENTS (BRED A TOWN – PHASE 2)**

(BID NO. 0672)

WHEREAS, Resolution No.002 of 2025 was passed by the Natchitoches City Council on January 13, 2025 authorizing the Mayor to advertise for bids Water Distribution System Improvements- Breda Town – Phase 2 (Bid No. 0672); and

WHEREAS, this bid was advertised in the *Natchitoches Times* on, January 16, January 23, and January 30, 2025 in accordance with law; and

WHEREAS, five bid proposals were received and opened as follows:

- (1) CDE Construction, LLC
Keithville, LA\$601,554.20
- (2) ASB Utility Construction
Shreveport, LA..... \$618,237.00
- (3) David Lawler Construction, Inc
Shreveport, LA..... \$621,142.40
- (4) Apeck Construction, LLC
Anacoco, LA..... \$693,921.81
- (5) Wickes Construction, Inc
Shreveport, LA..... \$740,472.70

WHEREAS, on February 24, 2025 the appointed committee of Clarissa Smith, Finance Director; Edd Lee, Director of Purchasing; Bukar Mohammed, Utility Department; and Rosemary Elie, Councilwoman, reviewed the bid proposals for Water Distribution System Improvements- Breda Town – Phase 2 (Bid No. 0672); and

WHEREAS, the above appointed committee members unanimously recommend the City award the bid to the lowest bidder **CDE Construction, LLC** in the amount of **\$601,554.20**.

The following Ordinance was Introduced by Mrs. Smith at the March 10, 2025 City Council meeting as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 008 OF 2025

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES, RONNIE WILLIAMS, TO EXECUTE A LEASE IN FAVOR OF ELLETT PROPERTIES, LLC, OF THOSE 21,785.76 AND 18,007 SQUARE FOOT AREAS SHOWN AND DEPICTED ON A JUNE 8, 1962 SURVEY BY A. J. BROUILLETTE AND ON A SEPTEMBER 17, 2021 SURVEY BY BRANDON THORNTON, AND FURTHER PROVIDING FOR ADVERTISING OF THE LEASE AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City of Natchitoches is the owner of those lots shown on the Airport Layout Plan, which said lots are available for lease, and more particularly is the owner of a 21,785.76 square foot area, more fully shown on a survey by A. J. Brouillette, dated June 8, 1962; and

WHEREAS, the City of Natchitoches is also the owner of a lot located to the east of the above described lot, as is shown and depicted as a 18,007 square foot area on that survey by Brandon C. Thornton, dated September 17, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Airport Manager, Justin Foshee, has negotiated the terms of a lease to Ellett Properties, LLC, of that property described as a 21,785.76 square foot area, more fully shown on a survey by A. J. Brouillette, dated June 8, 1962 and a 18,007 square foot area on that survey by Brandon C. Thornton, dated September 17, 2021; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the terms of the lease are for a twenty five year (25) year period with consideration of Three Thousand Nine Hundred Seventy-Nine and 57/100 (\$3,979.27) Dollars per year, all as set forth in the attached Lease Agreement by and between the City of Natchitoches, and Ellett Properties, LLC, together with an option to renew for an additional twenty five year period; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the City desires to lease that property described as a 21,785.76 square foot area, more fully shown on a survey by A. J. Brouillette, dated June 8, 1962 and a 18,007 square foot area on that survey by Brandon C. Thornton, dated September 17, 2021, to Ellett Properties, LLC, under the terms set forth above and more particularly set forth in the lease attached hereto.

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

(1) That after due proceedings and advertisement, the said City does lease that property described as a 21,785.76 square foot area, more fully shown on a survey by A. J. Brouillette, dated June 8, 1962 and a 18,007 square foot area on that survey by Brandon C. Thornton, dated September 17, 2021, to Ellett Properties, LLC, for the term of twenty five (25) years with an initial annual consideration of \$3,979.27, with an option to extend the lease for an additional twenty five (25) year term.

(2) That notice of this proposed ordinance be published three (3) times in fifteen (15) days, one (1) week apart, in the Natchitoches Times, the legal journal for the City, and that ordinance be posted in the City Hall.

(3) That any opposition to this ordinance shall be made in writing, filed with the Clerk for the City of Natchitoches within fifteen (15) days after the first publication of this ordinance, and that a

public hearing be held after the advertisements have been completed.

(4) That the Mayor, Ronnie Williams, be and he is hereby authorized, after due proceedings had, and after the legal delays have run, to execute a lease in favor of **Ellett Properties, LLC**, leasing that property described as a 21,785.76 square foot area, more fully shown on a survey by A. J. Brouillette, dated June 8, 1962 and a 18,007 square foot area on that survey by Brandon C. Thornton, dated September 17, 2021, for the term of Twenty five (25) years, with an option to extend for an additional twenty five (25) year term.

(5) That the City Clerk be authorized to advertise this proposed lease in accordance with law, i.e., three times in fifteen days, one week apart and to report to the City Council if any opposition is made in writing prior to the time of final adoption.

(6) That the City takes cognizance of the fact that the property described above is not needed for public purposes by the City.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 020 OF 2025

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING MAYOR RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR.
TO EXECUTE A COOPERATIVE ENDEAVOR AGREEMENT WITH
THE STATE OF LOUISIANA, DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY,
FOR THE RESURFACING OF BARCLAY DRIVE**

WHEREAS, Act 776 of the 2024 Regular Legislative Session appropriated \$100,000.00 to the City of Natchitoches for street improvements; and

WHEREAS, the appropriated funds are being administered by the State of Louisiana, Department of the Treasury, designated herein as “State;” and

WHEREAS, the City of Natchitoches must execute a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the State in order to receive said funds; and

WHEREAS, the current condition of Barclay Drive and the recurring costs for maintenance of this street make it a high priority for resurfacing; and

WHEREAS, the estimated cost for the rehabilitation of Barclay Drive fits within the appropriated funding amount;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Natchitoches City Council hereby authorizes Mayor Ronnie Williams, Jr., to execute a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the State of Louisiana, Department of the Treasury, for the resurfacing of Barclay Drive, and to comply with all provisions thereof.

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

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

THEREUPON, Mayor Ronnie Williams, Jr., declared the Resolution passed by a vote of 4 Ayes to 0 Nays on this 10th day of March, 2025.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

Motion was made by Councilwoman At Large Betty Smith to add Resolution No. 022 of 2025 to the Agenda and Seconded by Councilman Nielsen

The motion was put to a vote as follows:

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

THEREUPON, Mayor Ronnie Williams, Jr., declared the Motion passed by a vote of 4 Ayes to 0 Nays on this 10th day of March, 2025.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

CITY OF NATCHITOCHES

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 022

Date: March 10, 2025_____

The City of Natchitoches of the Parish of Natchitoches met in regular session on this date. The following resolution was offered by Mr. Petite and seconded by Mrs. Smith.

R E S O L U T I O N

A resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an Agreement with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LA DOTD) for improvements at the Natchitoches Regional Airport.

WHEREAS, Act 451 of the 1989 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature authorized the financing of certain airport improvements from funds appropriated from the Transportation Trust Fund; and

WHEREAS, the City of Natchitoches has requested funding assistance from the LA DOTD to/for **Replace Airfield Signage and Lights**; and

WHEREAS, the stated project has been approved by the Louisiana Legislature and the LA DOTD is agreeable to the implementation of this project and desires to cooperate with the City of Natchitoches according to the terms and conditions identified in the attached Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the LA DOTD will provide the necessary funding for the Replace Airfield Signage and Lights and reimburse the sponsor up to \$476,029.00 of project cost.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City of Natchitoches that it does hereby authorize the Mayor to execute an Agreement for the project identified as SPN H.015676, more fully identified in the Agreement attached hereto, and to execute any subsequent related documents, including, but not limited to, amendments to said agreement.

This resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its adoption.

The aforesaid resolution, having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: Nielsen, Smith, Harrington, Petite

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Elie

WHEREUPON, the resolution was declared adopted on the 10th day of March, 2025._____

CITY OF NATCHITOCHEs

BY: _____
(Signature)

(Typed or Printed Name)

TITLE: _____

ATTEST: _____
(Signature)

TITLE: _____

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- The next scheduled City Council meeting will be **Monday, March 24, 2025**.

With no further discussion, Mayor Williams made a motion for adjournment and all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

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

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