

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES, STATE OF LOUISIANA,
MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY, APRIL 14, 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, April 14, 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: Sharon Durham-Employee of Month
Kallie Christ – Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Acadiana

Absent: None

Mayor Ronnie Williams called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone for coming. Mayor Williams led the invocation and Councilwoman At Large Smith led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Williams then called for the reading and approval of the minutes for the March 24, 2025 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 Mr. Nielsen and Seconded by Mrs. Smith as follows, to –wit:

RESOLUTION NO. 029 OF 2025

**PROCLAMATION DECLARING APRIL 13TH-19TH, 2025 AS
NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATORS WEEK**

WHEREAS, emergencies can occur at any time that require police, fire or emergency medical services; and

WHEREAS, when an emergency occurs the prompt response of police officers, firefighters and paramedics is critical to the protection of life and preservation of property; and,

WHEREAS, the safety of our Officer’s and Firefighters is dependent upon the quality and accuracy of information obtained from citizens who telephone the Natchitoches emergency communications center; and

WHEREAS, Public Safety Telecommunicators are the single vital link for our police officers and firefighters by monitoring their activities by radio, providing them information and ensuring their safety; and

WHEREAS, Public Safety Telecommunicators of the Natchitoches Police Department have contributed substantially to the apprehension of criminals, suppression of fires and treatment of patients; and

WHEREAS, each dispatcher has exhibited compassion, understanding and professionalism during the performance of their job in the past year.

NOW, THEREFORE, be It resolved that the City of Natchitoches declares the week of April 13th through 19th, 2025, to be National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week in Natchitoches, in honor of the men and women whose diligence and professionalism keep our city and citizens safe.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED I, Ronnie Williams, Jr., Mayor, and the Natchitoches City Council, hereby proclaim the week of April 13th through 19th, 2025, as

NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATORS WEEK

in 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 14th day of April, 2025.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

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

RESOLUTION NO. 030 OF 2025

PROCLAMATION DECLARING APRIL 2025 AS NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH IN THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES

WHEREAS, **National Child Abuse Prevention Month** is an annual opportunity to raise awareness about issues surrounding child abuse and neglect and engage community members in the ongoing effort to keep children safe; and

WHEREAS, CASA is one of a group of National Child Abuse Prevention Partner Organizations, selected by the Children’s Bureau to serve as partners in the national child abuse prevention initiative; and

WHEREAS, the work of CASA and volunteers is crucial to preventing child abuse and ensuring that children live in safe and permanent environments where they can thrive; and

WHEREAS, studies have indicated that children with a CASA volunteer are less likely to languish in long-term foster care, more likely to receive needed services and less likely to re-enter the foster care system; and

WHEREAS, child abuse prevention requires partnerships among federal, state, and local governments, faith-based and community-based organizations, schools, law enforcement, social service agencies, parents; and

WHEREAS, during National Child Abuse Prevention Month, and throughout the year, I encourage all citizens of Natchitoches to find ways to cherish our children, strengthen our families, work together to eliminate child abuse and neglect, and strive toward a shared dream in which every child is safe and happy.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ronnie Williams Jr., Mayor, and the Natchitoches City Council, do hereby proclaim April 2025 as:

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

in Natchitoches, and call upon all citizens to increase their participation in our efforts to prevent child abuse, which in turn will strengthen our community in which we live.

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 14th day of April, 2025.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

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

RESOLUTION NO. 031 OF 2025

**PROCLAMATION DECLARING APRIL 2025 AS
FAIR HOUSING MONTH IN THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES**

WHEREAS, the 57th Anniversary of the National Fair Housing Law, Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, during the month of April, is an occasion for all Americans - individually and collectively - to rededicate themselves to the principle of freedom from housing discrimination whenever it exists; and

WHEREAS, fair housing should never be denied to any citizen because of race or color, religion, sex, national origin, familial status, or disability; and

WHEREAS, a fair housing law has been passed by the State of Louisiana, and implementation of the law requires the positive commitment, involvement and support of each of our citizens, and

WHEREAS, the department and agencies of the state of Louisiana are to provide leadership in the effort to make fair housing not just an idea, but an ideal for all our citizens; and

WHEREAS, our State is great because of all her citizens have a right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED I, Ronnie Williams, Jr., Mayor, and the Natchitoches City Council, hereby proclaim the month of April 2025, as

FAIR HOUSING MONTH

in 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 14th day of April, 2025.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

The following Ordinance was Introduced by Ms. Elie at the April 14, 2025 City Council meeting as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 010 OF 2025

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

Tract 1 (0.253 Acre) Shown on a Plat by Brandon C. Thornton, Dated June 24, 2024 Recorded at Map Slide 886-A (**524 Front St.**)

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission of the City of Natchitoches, State of Louisiana, has recommended at their meeting of **April 1, 2025** that the application of Natchitoches Picnic Company, to rezone the property described above from B-3 to B-3 with BA zoning to open a Restaurant, Wine Sales and Tastings, be **APPROVED**.

THIS ORDINANCE was introduced on April 14, 2025 and published in the *Natchitoches Times* on April 19, 2025.

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

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 27/100 (\$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.

THIS ORDINANCE was introduced on March 10, 2025 and published in the *Natchitoches Times* on March 15, March 22, and March 29, 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 14th day of April, 2025.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

BETTY SMITH, MAYOR PRO TEMPORE

Delivered to the Mayor on the 15th day of April, 2025 at 10:00 A.M.

The following Ordinance was Introduced by _____ and Seconded by _____ as follows, to-wit:

**ORDINANCE NO. 009 OF 2025
AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE BUDGET FOR THE
CITY OF NATCHITOCHES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR
JUNE 1, 2025 THROUGH MAY 31, 2026**

WHEREAS, the fiscal year of the City of Natchitoches is from June 1 through May 31 of each year; and

WHEREAS, a budget has been prepared by the Finance Director, Clarissa Brown-Smith, and has been submitted by the Mayor, Ronnie Williams, Jr., to the City Council for review and consideration;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it ordained that the Natchitoches City Council does hereby adopt the budget for the fiscal year June 1, 2025 through May 31, 2026.

CITY OF NATCHITOCHES 2025 - 26 FY

General Fund	\$ 22,154,234.00
Proprietary Fund (Utility)	\$ 37,789,685.00
Special and Capital Project Funds	\$ 44,346,557.00

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, in accordance with L.R.S. 39:1305, the following specifies the Mayor’s authority to make budgetary amendments without approval of the governing authority, as well as those powers reserved solely to the governing authority:

The Home Rule Charter of the City of Natchitoches states in part “... at any time during the fiscal year the Mayor may transfer part or all of any unencumbered appropriation balance among programs within a department, office, or agency. Upon written request by the Mayor, the Council may by ordinance transfer part or all of any unencumbered appropriation balance from one department, office, or agency to another...” (Section 5.05 D) Supplemental, emergency, and reductions of appropriations must be submitted to the Council for approval by Ordinance. (Section 5.05 A-C)

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, a motion was made by Mr. Nielsen and seconded by Ms. Smith to amend this ordinance to reflect the following changes:

- General Fund amount from \$22,154,234.00 to \$21,815,076.00
- Special and Capital Project Funds amount from \$44,346,557.00 to \$43,735,793.00

the motion was presented for a vote and the vote was recorded as follows:

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

The following Ordinance was Introduced by Mr. Harrington at the April 14, 2025 City Council meeting as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 011 OF 2025

**AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR SALE OF ADJUDICATED PROPERTIES;
AND, FURTHER PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO.**

WHEREAS, the City of Natchitoches has an interest in the health, safety and welfare of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, numerous properties have been adjudicated to the City for nonpayment of taxes; and

WHEREAS, Act 819 was enacted by the 2008 Legislative Session, revising La. R.S. 47:2121, *et seq.* to establish procedures for the sale of adjudicated properties, and the City of Natchitoches desires to establish and adopt such procedures in order to place such adjudicated properties back into the economic stream of commerce for the benefit of its communities; and

WHEREAS, R.S.47:2201, authorizes a political subdivision to adopt general ordinances governing the public sales and donations of adjudicated property.

NOW THEREFORE:

I. ADMINISTRATION

Natchitoches City Council hereby establishes the Natchitoches City Adjudicated Property Program, which shall be administered by the Natchitoches City Council (hereinafter "NCC" or "City" or "City Council"). The City shall either handle the process internally or shall contract with a third party administrator or management company (hereinafter "Management Company") to administer the sale or donation of adjudicated properties in the City.

The NCC hereby authorizes, pursuant to La. R.S.47:2196, the public sale of all properties adjudicated to the City since January 1, 1975, and for a period of at least three (3) years. The sale of said properties shall be governed by the laws of the State of Louisiana and this Ordinance.

II. PUBLIC INFORMATION AND DISCLOSURE

Forms and instructions shall be accessible to the public from the web site or printed publication produced and provided by Natchitoches City for such purposes, to include the following:

- A. Listing of all properties adjudicated to the City with links to the Parish Assessor's online database, if possible.
- B. Notice to Buyers, which shall contain instructions, disclosure of rights, and contact information.
- C. Persons questioning the status of their property taxes shall be instructed to contact the City Tax Collector's office.
- D. Copy of City Ordinance regulating policies and procedures for sale of adjudicated properties.
- E. Definitions and citation to Louisiana Revised Statutes.
- F. Offer to Purchase Form with instructions for completion and assistance.

III. PRE-BIDDING PROCESS

A. Initiation of Sale

The Parish Assessor shall make best efforts to annually compile a list of names and addresses of adjudicated properties from the tax roll records and make such list available to the public. The Parish Assessor shall also forward such list to the Management Company.

Pursuant to La. R.S 2203, the sale of such adjudicated property may be prompted by individual interest (whether it be a natural person or juridical person) or at the request of the City or City Council, at any time.

An individual submitting a request for the sale of specific property shall submit an application with a certified check or money order in the amount of \$1,000.00 for each piece of property, payable to *E&P Consulting Services, LLC*. This fee is an administrative fee for the work performed by the Management Company to prepare and sell the identified adjudicated property. It shall be fully refundable to the interested purchaser until a Written Offer to Bid has been signed.

Upon receipt of application and fee, the Management Company shall conduct a preliminary investigation to confirm that the property has been adjudicated, has not been redeemed and has not been determined as needed for a public purpose. The Management Company shall communicate as necessary with the office of the tax collector and tax assessor for the purpose of calculating the Minimum Bid (set forth in (3) below) and shall prepare and provide the interested purchaser with a written Offer to Bid containing the minimum bid figure. In the event that the interested Purchaser rejects the minimum bid offer, he/she shall receive a full refund of the administrative fee.

If the written minimum bid offer is accepted, the Management Company shall:

1. Conduct Title Research - Title research shall include copies of all documents from the public record. If necessary, surrounding properties may be researched to ascertain the physical location and boundaries of subject properties. Management Company shall utilize abstracting services of insured abstractors at its discretion. Said title search shall include tax certificates obtained from the Natchitoches Parish Tax Collector, mortgage certificates obtained from Natchitoches Clerk of Court, and any records obtained from Parish Assessor's office. Copies of surveys and maps of record may also be provided.
2. Effect Public Notice - The public sale by auction shall be advertised at least twice in the official journal for the City of Natchitoches once at least thirty days prior to the date of the public sale, and once no more than seven days prior to the date of the public sale. The notice shall provide for the minimum bid, the latest date written bids will be accepted, the time and date of in-person bidding, if any, and any other terms of sale.
3. Other Administration and Determination of Minimum Bid Amount – The Management Company shall prepare reports, send statutory notices to all interested parties, and confirm the minimum bid price, based upon total amount of liens and taxes due, and acquisition costs. Pursuant La. R.S. 47:2202, Natchitoches City hereby establishes that there is no minimum bid at the public sale of an adjudicated property; however, unless circumstances demand otherwise, recommended bidding to ensure equivalent value shall not be less than the lesser of:
 - a) The total amount for which the property was adjudicated, including all interest, costs, penalties, and the amount of any state, parish, city, levee district charges and all subsequent taxes and other local improvement or code enforcement charges or

- b) Two-thirds of the assessed value.

IV. BIDDING AND PUBLIC SALE

Except as otherwise provided in this ordinance, or by La. R.S. 47:2121 *et seq.*, the auction shall be governed by R.S. 9:3151 *et seq.* Following notice of sale being published in the official journal of the City of Natchitoches, the following shall occur:

A. Public Auction

Public auction of adjudicated property shall be held at the Natchitoches City Council office located at 700 2nd Street, Natchitoches, LA 71457 and shall be handled by the office of City Secretary/Treasurer. All bid amounts are subject to final approval by the City. The City is hereby authorized to accept and/or reject any or all bids, and to execute any and all documents necessary to finalize the sale of properties sold pursuant to these procedures. If in any event a property is not sold at such public auction, the property shall remain adjudicated to the City.

B. Terms for Sale of Adjudicated Property

All Acts of Sale of adjudicated property shall contain provisions, acceptable in form and substance to the City, which provide that all such sales shall be for cash and shall be without warranty of title and without any warranty of merchantability or fitness; shall be "as is, where is"; that it shall be the obligation of the purchaser to obtain title insurance, if it is desired; that all such sales shall be subject to such encumbrances, liens, mortgages, real charges or other burdens reflected in the public records; and that the Act of Sale for such adjudicated property shall contain a condition which shall require the purchaser of such property to improve/renovate/make use of the tract, to the satisfaction of the administration, within 365 days of the passage of the Act of Sale and that, if the purchaser fails to timely comply with this provision, the City Council shall have the right to rescind, dissolve or cancel the sale.

C. Notice to Tax Debtor and Tax Parties

(a) The Management Company, on behalf of the City for the benefit of the potential purchaser, shall give notice to any tax sale party whose interest that a prudent purchaser would intend to terminate, as determined by the Management Company, in its discretion, that he has until the later of the following to redeem the property or otherwise challenge in a court of competent jurisdiction the potential sale: (i) depending on the date of adjudication, either six months or the sixty days from the date of the notice provided in this Subsection; or (ii) the filing of the act of sale transferring the property.

(b) The Management Company, on behalf of the City for the benefit of the potential purchaser, shall cause to be published in the official journal of City of Natchitoches a notice that any tax sale party whose interest that a prudent purchaser would intend to terminate has until the later of the following to redeem the property or otherwise challenge in a court of competent jurisdiction, the potential sale of the property: (i) Sixty (60) days or six (6) months from the first publication of the notice provided for in this Subsection; or (ii) The filing of the sale or donation transferring the property.

(c) The Management Company shall make available during business hours to any potential bidder, upon reasonable request, the notices, the publication and the results of such notification and publication.

(d) The Management Company on behalf of the Parish for the benefit of the potential purchaser or the successful bidder may file with the recorder of mortgages of Natchitoches Parish

a copy of one of the notices that was sent to the tax debtor or the current owner. A transfer, mortgage, lien, privilege, or other encumbrance filed after the filing of the notice shall not affect the property. Pursuant to the provisions of La. R.S. 47:2206(C), the recorder of mortgages or recorder of conveyances shall cancel, erase, terminate, or release the acts upon the request of the Management Company or the successful bidder.

D. Closing Transaction

Within 10 business days of the six (6) month or the sixty (60) day period set forth in the notices provided above, closing of the transactions should occur. Such date may be extended by mutual agreement of the Management Company, acting on behalf of the City, and the potential purchaser or based on the Management Company determination that the closing should occur at a later date in the best interest of the City Council. On the day of closing, and immediately prior to closing, Management Company will confirm that the property to be purchased has not been redeemed.

Closings shall be conducted or overseen or arranged by the Management Company to be held at the offices of Management Company or at the Natchitoches City Council office. However, purchaser may execute the documents at a more agreeable location, at purchaser's expense.

At closing, the purchaser shall pay the net purchase price for the property as well as all fees to be charged by the Clerk of Court.

All sales are made without warranties whatsoever, except for warranty against eviction based on prior alienation by the political subdivision. Purchaser has the right to obtain title insurance, if available, at its sole cost and expense. All minerals and mineral rights shall be reserved by the City if allowed by law. Cash Sales may contain additional reservations, requirements, restrictions, rights of way, and servitudes imposed by the City.

Upon recordation of the sale, disbursement of funds shall occur by Management Company to the City/Parish Tax Collector with instructions from the City/Parish Tax Collector. All proceeds after the deduction of costs shall be paid pro rata to holders of statutory impositions and governmental liens, unless otherwise agreed. Any excess amount shall be paid to the City or shall be dispersed as determined appropriate by the mutual agreement of the governmental entities.

E. Purchaser's Affidavit

1) Contemporaneously with or subsequent to the filing of the sale or donation of adjudicated property, the acquiring person, his successors, or assigns, at his own additional expense may file with the recorder of mortgages of Natchitoches Parish indicating how the tax sale parties whose interest the acquiring person, his successors, or assigns, intends to be terminated were identified, how the address of each tax sale party was obtained, how the written notice was sent, the results of sending the written notice, and the dates of publication. The affidavit may also contain a statement of the interest to which the purchaser or done takes subject. The recorder of mortgages shall index the affidavit only under the names of the owner filing the affidavit and the tax debtor, as mortgagors. The affidavit shall conform to La. R.S. 47:2208(A).

2) With respect to a sale, the filing of the affidavit provided in Subsection (1) of this Section shall operate as a cancellation, termination, release, or erasure of record of all statutory impositions of all political subdivisions then due and owing, of all governmental liens, and of all interests, liens, mortgages, privileges, and other encumbrances recorded against the

property sold and listed in the affidavit.

3) Upon filing of the affidavit, the recorder of mortgages or the recorder of conveyances shall treat as canceled, terminated, released, or erased, all those liens, privileges, mortgages or other encumbrances canceled, terminated, released or erased under Subsection (2) of this Section, only insofar as they affect the property.

4) Purchaser shall be responsible for recording and paying any other recording fees, including, without limitation, fees for recording any affidavits.

5)
V. LOT NEXT DOOR PROGRAM

Natchitoches City Council hereby further authorizes the City to sell any eligible adjudicated property to any adjoining landowner for any price set by the City without public bidding. In the event that there is more than one adjoining landowner interested in purchasing the property, preference will be given to the landowner that establishes that he or she has maintained the adjudicated property for a period of one year prior to the sale. In the event that more than one adjoining land owner has maintained the property for a period of more than one year, the landowner whose adjoining property has homestead exemption status shall be given the first opportunity to acquire the eligible adjudicated property. Such a sale shall be deemed a public sale, pursuant to La R.S. 47:2202(B). Additionally, in situations involving a property with percentages of the tax bill being taxed to different individual(s)/entity(ies) because of a past tax sale can be considered a Lot Next Door Owner if the adjudication sale will result in a larger percentage of the property being taxed to one owner for the future.

VII. DONATION OF PROPERTY

The Natchitoches City Council hereby further authorizes the City, to the extent allowed by the Louisiana Constitution, to donate any eligible adjudicated property to be used only for purposes allowed by the Louisiana Constitution.

SEVERABILITY

If any provision contained in this ordinance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions which can be given effect without the invalid provision, and to this end, the provisions established herein are declared severable.

This ordinance becomes effective in accordance with dates set forth herein and five (5) days after publication in the Official Journal.

THIS ORDINANCE was introduced on April 14, 2025 and published in the *Natchitoches Times* on April 19, 2025.

The following Ordinance was Introduced by Mr. Petite at the April 14, 2025 City Council meeting as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 012 OF 2025

AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE AMENDMENT OF THE PERSONNEL POLICIES MANUAL TO ALTER THE ORGANIZATIONAL CHART OF THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES TO RELOCATE MAIN STREET FROM FINANCE TO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, 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”) is permitted and authorized under the authority of Section 4.09 of the Charter of the City of Natchitoches, Louisiana to create City Departments and reallocate the functions, powers, duties and responsibilities of Departments; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, a proposal has been made to relocate Main Street from its current location under the Finance Department to the Community Development Department, so that Main Street will be under the direction of the Community Development Department; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the relocation of Main Street on the organizational chart will further require that the Personnel Policies Manual be amended to provide for an altered organizational chart; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the City Council of the City of Natchitoches has reviewed the proposed change to the organizational chart and agrees that the relocation of Main Street to the Community Development Department is 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: The City Council of the City of Natchitoches does hereby approve the relocation of Main Street to the Community Development Department.

SECTION 2: The City Council of the City of Natchitoches does hereby authorize the amendment of the Personnel Policies Manual of the City of Natchitoches to provide for a new organizational chart, and that the organizational chart as set forth on page XII of the current Personnel Policies Manual be amended to relocate Main Street under Community Development.

SECTION 3. All Ordinances or parts of Ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

SECTION 4. 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 5. This Ordinance shall go into effect upon publication and in accordance with law.

THIS ORDINANCE was introduced on April 14, 2025 and published in the *Natchitoches Times* on April 19, 2025.

The following Ordinance was Introduced by Ms. Smith at the April 14, 2025 City Council meeting as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 013 OF 2025

AN ORDINANCE RENAMING WEST THIRD STREET AS MISS MOFFETT DRIVE, PROVIDING FOR A PUBLIC HEARING, PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE ORDINANCE, PROVIDING FOR PROCEDURE IN REMARKING STREET, AND PROVIDING FOR DESIGNATION OF NAME CHANGE ON PUBLIC RECORDS

WHEREAS, West Third Street is a dedicated public Right-of -Way which runs from its intersection with Texas Street in a northeasterly direction through its intersection with Sabine Street and continuing to the Northeast for another block to its terminus, and

WHEREAS FURTHER, Zelma Moffett, and members of her family, have operated several businesses at or close to the intersection of Texas Street and West Third Street, and the City Council desires to rename West Third Street in order to honor Zelma Moffett, and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the City Council is of the opinion that West Third Street should be renamed Miss Moffett Drive in order to honor Zelma Moffett;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED as follows, to-wit:

Section A. BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and the City Council of the City of Natchitoches in legal session convened, that West Third Street is hereby renamed "Miss Moffett Drive".

Section B. BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that a Public Hearing is hereby called for the 28th day of April, 2025, to consider this name change.

Section C. BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that after the Public Hearing, and upon adoption of this ordinance, that the City Clerk be authorized and instructed to file a copy of the Ordinance with the Clerk for Natchitoches Parish.

Section D. BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that appropriate street signs be installed to designate the name change.

Section E. BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that West Third Street be redesignated and changed to Miss Moffett Way.

Section F. BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that this Ordinance shall go into effect upon publication as provided by law.

This Ordinance was introduced at a regular meeting of the City Council on the 14th day of April, 2025.

THIS ORDINANCE was introduced on April 14, 2025 and published in the *Natchitoches Times* on April 19, 2025.

The following Ordinance was Introduced by Mr. Nielsen at the April 14, 2025 City Council meeting as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 014 OF 2025

AN ORDINANCE RENAMING AMULET STREET AS AMULET STREET, JOE DUMARS LANE, PROVIDING FOR A PUBLIC HEARING, PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE ORDINANCE, PROVIDING FOR PROCEDURE IN REMARKING STREET, AND PROVIDING FOR DESIGNATION OF NAME CHANGE ON PUBLIC RECORDS

WHEREAS, Amulet Street is a dedicated public Right-of -Way which runs from its intersection with Jefferson Street to the West past its intersection with Julia Street, and continuing for another one hundred ten feet to the West beyond its intersection with Julia Street to its terminus, and

WHEREAS FURTHER, Joe Dumars played high school basketball at Natchitoches Central High School, and eventually spent many successful years in the National Basketball Association both as a player and in other roles, and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the City Council of the City of Natchitoches desires to rename Amulet Street in order to honor Joe Dumars, and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the City Council is of the opinion that Amulet Street should be renamed Amulet Street, Joe Dumars Lane in order to honor Joe Dumars;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED as follows, to-wit:

Section A. BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and the City Council of the City of Natchitoches in legal session convened, that Amulet Street is hereby renamed "Amulet Street, Joe Dumars Lane".

Section B. BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that a Public Hearing is hereby called for the 28th day of April, 2025, to consider this name change.

Section C. BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that after the Public Hearing, and upon adoption of this ordinance, that the City Clerk be authorized and instructed to file a copy of the Ordinance with the Clerk for Natchitoches Parish.

Section D. BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that appropriate street signs be installed to designate the name change.

Section E. BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that Amulet Street be redesignated and changed to Amulet Street, Joe Dumars Lane.

Section F. BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that this Ordinance shall go into effect upon publication as provided by law.

THIS ORDINANCE was introduced on April 14, 2025 and published in the *Natchitoches Times* on April 19, 2025.

The following Ordinance was Introduced by Mr. Petite at the April 14, 2025 City Council meeting as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 015 OF 2025

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES, LOUISIANA, TO ENTER INTO A COOPERATIVE ENDEAVOR AGREEMENT WITH THE HISTORIC DISTRICT BUSINESS ASSOCIATION INC., PROVIDING FOR AN AUTOMATIC ANNUAL RENEWAL, PROVIDING FOR ADVERTISING, FURTHER PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, AND FURTHER PROVIDING FOR A REPEALER AND EFFECTIVE DATE OF ORDINANCE.

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

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

WHEREAS FURTHER, the Historic District Business Association, Inc. (sometimes hereinafter “HDBA”) is a non-profit Louisiana corporation that currently coordinates and manages several events in the Natchitoches Historic District, including the Festival of Lights celebration and the Antique Car Show; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the City currently has a vacancy in its position for Main Street Director, and has determined that it will be more cost effective to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (sometimes hereinafter “CEA”) with the HDBA wherein the HDBA will undertake and fulfil the responsibilities of a full time Main Street Director; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, under the terms of the CEA, the HDBA will continue to manage and coordinate the following events that are currently handled through Main Street:

Bloomin’ on the Bricks,
Summer Splash, and
Witch Way to Main Street
; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, under the terms of the CEA, the HDBA will also undertake the following responsibilities:

- Oversee all hires within the Main Street Office,
- Oversee the Miss Merry Christmas scholarship program,
- Provide Main Street quarterly reporting,
- Attend Main Street quarterly meetings,
- monitor and oversee Union Pacific Grant,
- Manage and coordinate Riverbank / Beau Jardin rental and promotion, including booking logistics and working events in Beau Jardin and the Riverbank,

- Coordinate with the Community Development Department and Public Works Department on all downtown events,
- participate in and manage Good Day Cenla and other radio promotions,
- seek and apply for grants for additional funding, and
- take necessary steps to retain Main Street Certification, including attendance at required meetings and providing necessary reports

; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the HDBA will provide the above services through its Director of Festivals and Events; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, in exchange for the services provided by the HDBA, the City has agreed that it will provide the following:

- monthly payment of \$1,000.00 to HDBA, to manage the Main Street Office,
- provide furnished office space in the old Chamber building,
- provide payment of \$40,000.00 salary, together with benefits, for a full time employee,
- continue to provide current office staff for Main Street offices, to include a paid intern or part time employee (paid hourly) to support the office, and
- reimburse expenses related to promotion of Riverbank and Beau Jardin, and maintaining Main Street certification

; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the City compensated full time employee shall have as a part of their responsibilities, the following:

- Booking, logistics and working events in Beau Jardin,
- Booking, logistics and working events on Downtown Riverbank,
- Oversee Miss Merry Christmas Scholarship Program, and
- Oversee Main Street events, to include Witch Way to Main Street, Summer Splash and Bloomin' on the Bricks

; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the City compensated intern or part time employee shall have as a part of their responsibilities, the following:

- Assist with weekend events and bookings,
- Assist with logistics for Beau Jardin and Downtown Riverbank, and
- Assist with weekly duties as assigned

; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the City and the HDBA have agreed to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement under which the City and HDBA will each assume the above duties and responsibilities; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the CEA further provides for an automatic annual extension provided that neither party notifies the other, in writing, of its intention to terminate the agreement within thirty days of the renewal date of the CEA; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the City Council of the City of Natchitoches has reviewed the attached Cooperative Endeavor Agreement and has approved the terms of 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 CEA with the HDBA will promote the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the City and Parish of Natchitoches, Louisiana, and will result in a monetary savings to the City; 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, is hereby authorized to execute the attached Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the Historic District Business Association, Inc.

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

THIS ORDINANCE was introduced on April 14, 2025 and published in the *Natchitoches Times* on April 19, 2025.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 028 OF 2025

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE CHANGE ORDER NO. ONE TO THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES AND F&W ELECTRIC CONTRACTOR, INC., TO REPLACE AIRFIELD SIGNAGE AND LIGHTS AT THE NATCHITOCHES REGIONAL AIRPORT STATE PROJECT NO. H.015676

(BID NO. 0670)

WHEREAS, the City of Natchitoches (CITY) awarded the bid to **F&W Electric Contractors, Inc.** (CONTRACTOR) by Ordinance No. 031 of 2024 in the amount of **\$425,000.00** to replace Airfield Signage and Lights, State Project No. H. 015676, Natchitoches Regional Airport (Bid No. 0670); and

WHEREAS, on March 25, 2025 CONTRACTOR issued Change Order No. One fully described in attached Exhibit C.O. - One; and

WHEREAS, the contract sum will be **increased** by this Change Order No. One in the amount of **\$1,588.75** and the revised contract total will be **\$426,588.75**; 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 14th day of April, 2025.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

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

RESOLUTION NO. 032 OF 2025

**A RESOLUTION APPOINTING AND DESIGNATING
RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., AS THE REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES TO THE LOCAL
ITEP COMMITTEE PURSUANT TO LOUISIANA
ADMINISTRATIVE CODE 13:549**

WHEREAS, under authority of Louisiana Administrative Code 13:529, et seq., the State of Louisiana provided for the Louisiana Industrial Ad Valorem Tax Exemption Program (Sometimes referred to as “ITEP”); and

WHEREAS FURTHER, ITEP calls for the establishment of Local ITEP Committees pursuant to Title 13:549 and further provides for election of representatives from each local governmental entity by majority vote at a public meeting; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the City Council of the City of Natchitoches desires to elect Mayor Ronnie Williams, Jr., as the representative of the City of Natchitoches to the Local ITEP Committee; and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor, Ronnie Williams, Jr., is hereby elected by majority vote of the City Council of the City of Natchitoches to serve as the representative of the City of Natchitoches on the Local ITEP Committee in accordance with Louisiana Administrative Code 13:549.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council does hereby confirm the said election and appointment of Ronnie Williams, Jr. as the representative of the City of Natchitoches on the Local ITEP Committee in accordance with Louisiana Administrative Code 13:549.

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 14th day of April, 2025.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- The next scheduled City Council meeting will be **Monday, April 28, 2025**.
- The offices of the City of Natchitoches will be closed **Friday, April 18, 2025** for Good Friday.

With no further discussion, Mayor Williams made a motion for adjournment and all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

/s/

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

/s/

BETTY SMITH, MAYOR PRO-TEMPORE