

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES, STATE OF LOUISIANA,
MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY, AUGUST 25, 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, August 25, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.

There were present:

Mayor Ronnie Williams
Councilwoman At Large Betty-Smith-Kirkendoll
Councilman Eddie Harrington
Councilman Dale Nielsen
Councilman Christopher Petite

Guest: Blaine McCorkle, NSU Head Football Coach

Absent: Councilwoman Rosemary Elie

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

Mayor Williams then called for the reading and approval of the minutes for the August 11, 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: Nielsen, Smith, Harrington, Petite
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Elie
ABSTAIN: None

MOTION TO REMOVE RESOLUTION NO. 067 TO THE AGENDA

Mrs. Smith-Kirkendoll made a motion to remove Resolution No. 067 of 2025 from the agenda, and seconded by Mr. Harrington.

This motion 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 Motion passed by a vote of 4 Ayes to 0 Nays on this 25th day of August, 2025.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

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

RESOLUTION NO. 068 OF 2025

PROCLAMATION DECLARING SEPTEMBER 19 AND 20, 2025

AS NATCHITOCHES MEAT PIE FESTIVAL DAY’S

IN THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES

WHEREAS, Records show that the concept of the meat pie took shape in the mid-1700's in Louisiana by Native Americans and later enhanced by the Spanish; and

WHEREAS, 55 years ago, James Lasyone’s - opened his meat pie kitchen which is still in operation today in Historic Downtown Natchitoches; and

WHEREAS, the recipe of the meat pie has changed slightly from its inception and has been handed down from generation to generation; however, the basic ingredients and the process for creating a meat pie remains the same; and

WHEREAS, with an abundance of excitement in 2002, the Natchitoches Meat Pie Festival was formed to celebrate the noted culinary staple in Natchitoches, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, in 2003, the Natchitoches meat pie was named Louisiana 's official meat pie, and Natchitoches was one of the last cities to not have an identified food festival until 2002; and

WHEREAS, the annual Festival attracts visitors from throughout the state and over a dozen of other states as well each year; and

WHEREAS, the festival has always been a family-oriented, non-admission required event over a two-day period in Downtown Natchitoches, helping to enhance the area's economy with individual activities that can be enjoyed at a small fee; and

WHEREAS, the organizing committee for the Festival is a complete volunteer committee; and

WHEREAS, the Natchitoches Meat Pie Festival is returning by popular demand after a two-year break due to the novel coronavirus.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ronnie Williams, Jr., Mayor, and the Natchitoches City Council, do hereby proclaim September 19 and 20, 2025 as:

NATCHITOCHES MEAT PIE FESTIVAL DAY’S

in the City of Natchitoches, and invite all residents to participate and enjoy the two-day Festival, that will include various bands, fireworks, vendors, children’s performances and play area, and a “how to” workshop will encompass this year’s celebration.

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

AYES:	Nielsen, Smith-Kirkendoll, 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 25th day of August, 2025.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

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

RESOLUTION NO. 071 OF 2025

**PROCLAMATION DECLARING AUGUST 29 AND 30, 2025 AS
THE CANE RIVER ZYDECO FESTIVAL IN THE CITY OF
NATCHITOCHES**

WHEREAS the City of Natchitoches celebrates a rich cultural heritage that is expressed through music, dance, food, and community gatherings; and

WHEREAS, the Magnolia State Peace Officers have continued their tradition of hosting the 26th annual Zydeco Festival, which brings residents and visitors together to experience one of Louisiana’s most treasured art forms; and

WHEREAS the 2025 Zydeco Festival will kick off on **Friday evening** with the dynamic sounds of **DJ Rob Real**, along with line and swing dancing that highlight the joy and togetherness of our community; and

WHEREAS the celebration will continue on **Saturday** with live performances by **Marcus Ardoin and DA Zydeco Legendz**, and will feature the highly acclaimed headliner, **Lil Nate**, ensuring an unforgettable weekend of music and culture; and

WHEREAS festivals such as this promote unity, boost the local economy, and keep alive the traditions that make Natchitoches and Louisiana unique;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ronnie Williams, Jr., Mayor of the City of Natchitoches, on behalf of the City Council and our citizens, do hereby proclaim August 29–30, 2025 as

“Zydeco Festival Weekend” in the City of Natchitoches

and encourage all residents and visitors to join in celebrating the music, dance, and cultural heritage that the Zydeco Festival brings to our community.

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

AYES:	Nielsen, Smith-Kirkendoll, 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 25th day of August, 2025.

**_____
RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR**

The following Ordinance was Introduced by Smith-Kirkendoll and Seconded by Petite as follows, to-wit:

ORDINANCE NO. 028 OF 2025

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES, LOUISIANA, TO ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE NATCHITOCHES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE, WHICH SAID MEMORANDUM PROVIDES FOR SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED BY THE NATCHITOCHES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE., PROVIDING FOR A ONE YEAR TERM, 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 Natchitoches Economic Development Alliance (sometimes hereinafter referred to as “Development Alliance”) is a Louisiana not for profit corporation and has been designated as a 501C-3 entity by the IRS; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the city and the Development Alliance both have an interest in promoting economic growth, commerce and tourism in the City and Parish of Natchitoches, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the Development Alliance is strategically positioned to support the city in its efforts to grow its tax base by aligning resources and tools to foster an expanding and growing business and industrial sector, and the city desires to assist the Development Alliance in its goal to become the voice of economic development for Natchitoches Parish; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the Development Alliance is in need of funds to move forward in its plan to promote economic development in the City and Parish of Natchitoches, and the City desires to provide funds in exchange for the services to be provided by Development Alliance; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the Development Alliance has presented a Memorandum of Understanding between City of Natchitoches and the Natchitoches Economic Development Alliance (sometimes hereinafter “Agreement”) a copy of which is attached hereto; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, under the terms of the Agreement, the Development Alliance will provide to following services to the City:

- 1) Maintain updated, professional, and useful economic development website for one-stop information

- 2) Be the lead contact for economic development request for proposals and information
- 3) Lead the evaluation and development of business and industrial sites
- 4) Serve as local liaison for business retention and expansion visits in conjunction with LED and NLEP
- 5) Provide expertise, experience, and leadership for special projects and initiatives of the administration

WHEREAS FURTHER, in exchange for the above services the City agrees to the following pay schedule:

- 1) \$45,000 for FY June 2025 by May 2026

WHEREAS FURTHER, the term of this Agreement is one (1) years; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the Agreement further provides that either party may terminate the Agreement with written notice within 60 days of the date of execution of the Agreement; 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 has reviewed the proposed Agreement, attached hereto, and is of the opinion that the Agreement with the Development Alliance will promote the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the City and Parish of Natchitoches, Louisiana and the City Council desires to authorize the Mayor of the City of Natchitoches to execute same; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the City Council of the City of Natchitoches desires to enter into this Agreement to help encourage and promote economic development in the City and Parish of Natchitoches; 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 Jr. is hereby authorized to execute the attached Memorandum of Understanding Between City of Natchitoches and the Natchitoches Economic Development Alliance, and in the event that the Mayor determines that the agreement should be terminated at the end of the any one year term, the Mayor is further authorized to provide the required notice to terminate the Agreement.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding between City of Natchitoches and the Natchitoches Economic Development Alliance, attached hereto, are approved and accepted by the City Council of the City of Natchitoches, Louisiana.

THIS ORDINANCE was introduced on August 11, 2025 and published in the *Natchitoches Times* on August 16, 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-Kirkendoll, 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 25th day of August, 2025.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

BETTY SMITH-KIRKENDOLL, MAYOR PRO TEMPORE

Delivered to the Mayor on the 25th day of August, 2025 at 10:00 A.M.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 069 OF 2025

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING THE CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES AND MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS, INC., FOR ACQUISITION OF NEW COMMUNICATIONS CONSOLES AND PORTABLES UNDER A PIGGY BACK CONTRACT AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR, RONNIE WILLIAMS, TO EXECUTE THE LEASE-PURCHASE AGREEMENT WITH MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS, INC., AND ANY OTHER DOCUMENTS NECESSARY AND PROPER IN THE PREMISES.

WHEREAS, the City of Natchitoches (CITY) desires and has determined that a true and very real need exists for the lease/and or acquisition of new communications consoles and portables for the City of Natchitoches Police Department, described in the Lease between City of Natchitoches (Lessee) and Motorola Solutions, Inc. (Lessor).

WHEREAS FURTHER, the Parish of Ascension, Louisiana, has an existing and viable contract with Motorola Solutions, Inc., and the Parish of Ascension, Louisiana, has consented to and approved of the CITY utilizing the contract which the Parish of Ascension, Louisiana entered into with Motorola Solutions, Inc.; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, a copy of the Letter of Consent from Ascension Parish approving the Contract is attached hereto; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, pursuant to Louisiana Revised Statutes 33:1321, et seq., 38:2212.1 F and/or 39:1701, the City desires to “piggy-back” onto the existing contract between Ascension Parish and Motorola Solutions, Inc., and

WHEREAS FURTHER, having reviewed the attached Lease-Purchase Agreement between the City and Motorola Solutions, Inc., and approving same, the City Council of the City of Natchitoches desires to authorize the Mayor Ronnie Williams, Jr., to execute agreement on behalf of the CITY and the Council shall ratify and adopt any previous agreement signed to secure this contract and interest rate.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED 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 Equipment Lease-Purchase Agreement between Motorola Solutions, Inc., and the City of Natchitoches.

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

AYES:	Nielsen, Smith-Kirkendoll, 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 25th day of August, 2025.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

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

RESOLUTION NO. 070 OF 2025

**A RESOLUTION TO APPOINT STEVE BYONE TO FILL THE
UNEXPIRED TERM OF JANICE BOLTON AS COMMISSIONER ON THE
NATCHITOCHES AIRPORT ADVISORY COMMISSION FOR THE CITY OF
NATCHITOCHES**

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

WHEREAS, upon the resignation of Janice Bolton, the Natchitoches City Council wishes to show its support and approval of Steve Byone for appointment to the Natchitoches Airport Advisory Commission.

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

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

AYES:	Nielsen, Smith-Kirkendoll, 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 25th day of August, 2025.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

Financial Update: Clarissa Smith

Blaine McCorkle, NSU Head Football Coach

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- The next scheduled City Council meeting will be **Monday, September 8, 2025**.
- The City of Natchitoches offices will be closed on **Friday, August 29, 2025**, for Employee Appreciation Day and **Monday, September 1, 2025**, in honor of Labor Day.

With no further discussion, Mayor Williams made a motion for adjournment, and all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

/s/
RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

/s/

BETTY SMITH, MAYOR PRO-TEMPORE