

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES, STATE OF LOUISIANA,
MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY, AUGUST 11, 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 11, 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
Councilwoman Rosemary Elie

Guest: Blaine McCorkle, NSU Head Football Coach

Absent: None

Councilwoman At Large Betty Smith-Kirkendoll called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone for coming. Councilman Petite led the invocation, and Councilman Harrington led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilwoman At Large Betty Sawyer-Smith then called for the reading and approval of the minutes for the July 28, 2025, meeting. Councilman Harrington 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-Kirkendoll, Harrington, Petite
NAYS:	None
ABSENT:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

The following Ordinance was introduced by Mr. Harrington and seconded by Mrs. Smith-Kirkendoll as follows, to-wit:

ORDINANCE NO. 027 OF 2025

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY
OF NATCHITOCHES TO AWARD THE BID FOR EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT,
SLUDGE THICKNER NO.1, CITY OF NATCHITOCHES WASTEWATER
TREATMENT PLANT
(BID NO. 0674)

WHEREAS, Resolution No.053 of 2025 was passed by the Natchitoches City Council on June 9, 2025 authorizing the Mayor to advertise for bids for Equipment Replacement, Sludge Thickner No. 1, Wastewater Treatment Plant (Bid No. 0674); and

WHEREAS, this bid was advertised in the *Natchitoches Times* on, June 12, June 19, and July 3, 2025 in accordance with law; and

WHEREAS, one bid proposal was received and opened as follows:

- (1) McInnis Brother Construction, Inc.
Minden, LA.....\$987,000.00

WHEREAS, on July 22, 2025 the appointed committee of Clarissa Smith, Finance Director; Edd Lee, Director of Purchasing; Tim Tousek, Utility Director; and Betty Smith Councilwoman at Large, reviewed the bid proposals for Equipment Replacement, Sludge Thickner No. 1, Wastewater Treatment Plant (Bid No. 0674); and

WHEREAS, the above appointed committee members unanimously recommend the City award the bid to the only bidder **McInnis Brother Construction, Inc.**, in the amount of **\$987,000.00**.

THIS ORDINANCE was introduced on July 28, 2025 and published in the *Natchitoches Times* on August 2, 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-Kirkendoll, 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 11th day of August, 2025.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR BETTY SMITH-KIRKENDOLL, MAYOR PRO TEMPORE

Delivered to the Mayor on the 12th day of August, 2025 at 10:00 A.M.

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.

MOTION TO REMOVE ORDINANCE NO. 029 FROM THE AGENDA

A Motion Was Made By Mrs. Smith To Remove Ordinance No. 029 Of 2025 From The Agenda
And Seconded By Mr. Nielsen.

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

AYES: Elie, Smith-Kirkendoll, Nielsen, Smith, Petite
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

THEREUPON, Mayor Ronnie Williams, Jr., declared the Motion passed by a vote of 5
Ayes to 0 Nays on this 11th day of August 11, 2025.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Petite and seconded by Smith-Kirkendoll as follows, to-wit:

RESOLUTION NO. 064 OF 2025

**A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING FRIDAY, AUGUST 29, 2025
AS AN OFFICIAL HOLIDAY FOR THE EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY
OF NATCHITOCHES FOR THE YEAR 2025.**

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council of the City of Natchitoches appreciate the hard work of the Natchitoches City Employees; and

WHEREAS, to show appreciation for the dedicated efforts of our City Employees, the Mayor and Natchitoches City Council wish to declare, Friday, August 29, 2025 as an official City Holiday for 2025.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by Mayor Ronnie Williams, Jr., that Friday, August 29, 2025 be declared an Official Holiday for the City of Natchitoches Employees.

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

AYES:	Elie, Nielsen, Smith-Kirkendoll, 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 11th day of August, 2025.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

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

RESOLUTION NO. 065 OF 2025

**RESOLUTION APPROVING THE EXECUTION OF THE CONTRACT
BY AND BETWEEN THE STATE OF LOUISIANA, DIVISION OF
ADMINISTRATION, OFFICE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT,
AND THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES FOR THE FY '2024-2025' LOCAL
GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LGAP) FOR THE
AMOUNT OF \$50,000.00 FOR RENOVATIONS TO ESSENTIAL GOVERNMENTAL
BUILDINGS AND POLICE PROTECTION**

WHEREAS, the State of Louisiana, Office of Community Development, through the Louisiana Local Government Assistance Program (LGAP), provides funding for needed infrastructure and long-term capital improvements; and

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

WHEREAS, Governor Jeff Landry approved the FY '2024-2025' Louisiana Local Assistance Program's (LGAP) application by the City of Natchitoches in the amount of **\$50,000.00** to conduct repairs and renovations to its Criminal Investigation Division office building located at 200 Rapides Dr. to create a functional interview space that is critical in conducting interviews. Funding will be used to create a new expanded space for the cyber forensics division, and provide for a controlled space for evidence storage and collection; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary and proper that a Contract by and between the Division of Administration and the City of Natchitoches be executed between the parties establishing the terms and conditions of the grant.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Honorable Ronnie Williams, Jr., Mayor, is hereby authorized, empowered and directed to sign any and all documents necessary for the execution of this contract.

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

AYES:	Elie, Nielsen, Smith-Kirkendoll, 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 11th day of August, 2025.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

The following Resolution was introduced by Mrs. Elie and seconded by Mrs. Smith-Kirkendoll as follows, to-wit:

RESOLUTION NO. 066 OF 2025

A RESOLUTION APPROVING A TEMPORARY SITE LICENSE WITH NEW CINGULAR WIRELESS PCS AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES, RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., TO EXECUTE SAME ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES, LOUISIANA

WHEREAS, the City of Natchitoches has negotiated a Temporary Site License (sometimes hereinafter “Agreement”) with New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC (sometimes hereinafter “Cingular”), which will allow Cingular to temporarily locate communications transmitting and receiving equipment on property of the City of Natchitoches, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the Agreement would provide for improved communications for citizens of and visitors to the City of Natchitoches during a period of increased tourism from October 3, 2025 through January 9, 2026; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the City Council of the City of Natchitoches is of the opinion that the Agreement will be beneficial to the citizens of the City of Natchitoches as well as visitors to the City as the increase in effective cellular communication will result in an increase safety of citizens and visitors as well as convenience to citizens and visitors; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the City Council of the City of Natchitoches, Louisiana has reviewed and approved the attached Temporary Site License, has approved same and desires to authorize the Mayor, Ronnie Williams, Jr., to execute same; and

NOW THEREFORE be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Natchitoches, that the attached Temporary Site License is approved and that the Mayor of the City of Natchitoches, Ronnie Williams, Jr., is hereby authorized to execute the attached Temporary Site License.

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

AYES:	Elie, Nielsen, Smith-Kirkendoll, 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 11th day of August, 2025.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

MOTION TO ADD RESOLUTION NO. 067 TO THE AGENDA

Mrs. Smith-Kirkendoll made a motion to add Resolution No. 067 of 2025 to the agenda, and seconded by Ms. Elie, the motion to add Resolution No. 077 was presented for a vote, and the vote was recorded as follows:

AYES: Elie, Nielsen, Smith-Kirkendoll, Harrington, Petite
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None

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

RESOLUTION NO. 067 OF 2025

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT FOR THE SALE OF POWER AND ENERGY AT AN INDUSTRIAL (CONTRACT) RATE BETWEEN THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES, LOUISIANA AND CERTAIN INDUSTRIAL SERVICE CUSTOMERS

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

WHEREAS the City provides transmission and distribution services within and without the city limits, to Industrial (CONTRACT) service customers including **Pilgrims Pride Corporation, Natchitoches Regional Medical Center, Northwestern State University, and Alliance Compressor Company**; and

WHEREAS, the City has negotiated Power and Supply Agreements with these customers, reflecting economic development rate adjustments, as authorized and provided by Natchitoches Code of Ordinances, Article II, Section 30-18 (6), (7) and (9); and

WHEREAS, these agreements have been reviewed and approved and are attached hereto; and

WHEREAS, the City Council believes that agreements are in the best interest of the City and further agree that the agreements should be accepted; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desire to approve the Power Supply Agreements, and further desire to authorize the Mayor, Ronnie Williams, Jr., to execute same on behalf of the City of Natchitoches, Louisiana; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council in legal session convened that the said Power Supply Agreements be and the same are hereby approved.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor, Ronnie Williams, Jr., is hereby authorized to execute the Power Supply Agreements, which are attached hereto and made a part of this Resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council approves the Mayor or his appointee to grant the City Attorney the power to make minor, non-substantive changes to the Power Supply Agreements after the initial approval of this Resolution.

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

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

AYES:	Elie, Nielsen, Smith-Kirkendoll, 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 11th day of August, 2025.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- The next scheduled City Council meeting will be **Monday**, August 25, 2025.

With no further discussion, Mayor Williams made a motion for adjournment, and all were in favor.
The meeting was adjourned at 6:24 p.m.

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

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