

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES, STATE OF LOUISIANA,
MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 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, September 8, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.

There were present:

Mayor Ronnie Williams
Councilwoman At Large Betty-Smith-Kirkendoll
Councilman Eddie Harrington
Councilman Christopher Petite
Councilwoman Rosemary Elie

Guest: Jerecus Anderson - Employee Of The Month:
Gloria Ibn-Mohammed - LNC 1972 Basketball MVP.

Absent: Councilman Dale Nielsen

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

Mayor Williams then called for the reading and approval of the minutes for the August 25, 2025, meeting. Councilwoman At Large Smith-Kirkendoll moved that we dispense with the reading of the minutes and approval of same. Seconded by Councilwoman Petite.

A roll call vote was as follows:

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. 074 OF 2025

A PROCLAMATION DECLARING SEPTEMBER 2025 AS NATIONAL SICKLE CELL AWARENESS MONTH IN THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES

WHEREAS, September is National Sickle Cell Awareness Month. The observance, unanimously passed by Congressional resolution in 1983, was endorsed through presidential proclamation, which spoke to the national progress that had been made to diagnose and treat sickle cell disease (SCD).

WHEREAS, the proclamation also cited the success of Comprehensive Sickle-Cell Centers across the United States in establishing programs of research, training, and community service to address SCD, a blood disorder causing abnormalities in hemoglobin, leading to the telltale sickle shape in sufferers’ red-blood cells.

WHEREAS, In the past decade, there has been substantial progress in research on sickle-cell disease. Diagnostic procedures have been greatly improved. Measures to ameliorate excruciatingly painful sickle-cell crises have been introduced for those afflicted with the disease.

WHEREAS, sickle cell disease (SCD) presents grave health challenges for an estimated 100,000 Americans. For some, it triggers intermittent episodes of pain, difficulty with vision, and serious fatigue. Other survivors experience this disease more acutely—SCD can cause infections, strokes, and even organ failure.

WHEREAS, for almost everyone impacted, coping with inherited red blood cell disorders means putting plans on pause, living with excruciating pain, paying for expensive treatments, and hoping for a day when medications and doctor visits no longer interrupt life.

WHEREAS, during National Sickle Cell Awareness Month, we recognize the perseverance of SCD patients, and we recommit to working with our partners in State and local government, the nonprofit space, and the private sector to develop treatments and cures for this debilitating disease.

WHEREAS, SCD affects our population unevenly. Black and Brown Americans are disproportionately affected. About 1 in 13 Black children tests positive for the sickle cell trait, and about 1 in 365 Black Americans develops the disease over the course of their lifetime. Due to persistent systemic inequities in our health care system, these same patients are also often the last to get help.

WHEREAS, as we continue research to find a cure for sickle cell disease, let us celebrate the strides our health experts have made in understanding and treating this condition. Let us continue to offer support to those battling its effects today.

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

NATIONAL SICKLE CELL AWARENESS MONTH

in the City of Natchitoches, and call upon the residents of the Natchitoches, Louisiana to learn more about the progress we are making to reduce the burden of this disease on our fellow residents.

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

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

The following Ordinance was Introduced by Mr. Nielsen at the September 8, 2025, City Council meeting as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 031 OF 2025

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

Lot 69 Feet Front on West Side Williams Avenue, North by Philp, South by Lemoine, West by Cane River Lake. From: R-1 to R-1 Special Exception. Reason: Operation of Short-Term Rental. **(434 Williams Ave.)**

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission of the City of Natchitoches, State of Louisiana, has recommended at their meeting of **September 2, 2025** that the application of John Marston Fowler, to rezone the property described above from R-1 to R-1 Special Exception to operate a Short-Term Rental be **APPROVED**

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

RESOLUTION NO. 072 OF 2025

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES, RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., TO EXECUTE AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO THE MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT, INCLUDING MOWING AND LITTER PICKUP, WITH THE STATE OF LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND DEVELOPMENT, FOR ADDITIONAL STATE FUNDS FOR MAINTENANCE OF DOTD RIGHT-OF –WAY STATEWIDE.

WHEREAS, the City of Natchitoches approved Resolution No. 058 of 2025 on June 23, 2025 for the Maintenance Agreement, including mowing and litter pickup, with the State Of Louisiana, Department of Transportation and Development, Office of Engineering beginning July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, additional state funds have become available for maintenance of DOTD right-of-way statewide; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, DOTD proposes to make some of the funds available to the City of Natchitoches to offset in part additional maintenance cycle completed by the City of Natchitoches during Fiscal Year 2026; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the City of Natchitoches desires to accept the offer to make supplemental funding available to the City and agrees to perform additional maintenance cycle to remove litter and mow vegetation on certain state right-of-way within the jurisdiction of the City; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the City of Natchitoches and the State of Louisiana DOTD agree to AMEND Article II of the referenced Contract to increase the stipulated minimum number of maintenance cycles in Fiscal Year **2026** from **4** to **5**.

WHEREAS FURTHER, the City Council of the City of Natchitoches, Louisiana has reviewed and approved the attached Amendment No. 1, and desires to authorize Mayor Ronnie Williams, Jr., to execute same; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESLOVED, 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 Amendment No. 1 to the Maintenance Agreement, including mowing and litter pickup with the State of Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development.

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

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

THEREUPON, Mayor Ronnie Williams, Jr., declared the Resolution passed by a vote of 4 Ayes to 0 Nays on this 8th day of September 2025.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

CITY OF NATCHITOCHES

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 073

Date: September 8, 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-Kirkendoll:

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 reimbursement of General Aviation Maintenance Expenses; 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 GA Maintenance 2025 and reimburse the sponsor up to \$9,009.79 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.016467, 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: Elie, Smith-Kirkendoll, Harrington, Petite
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Nielsen

WHEREUPON, Mayor Ronnie Williams, Jr., declared the resolution passed by a vote of 4 Ayes to 0 Nays this 8th day of September, 2025.

CITY OF NATCHITOCHES

BY: _____
(Signature)

(Typed or Printed Name)

TITLE: _____

ATTEST: _____
(Signature)

TITLE: _____

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

RESOLUTION NO. 075 OF 2025

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE
CHANGE ORDER NO. 2 TO THE CONTRACT BETWEEN
THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES AND LEMOINE COMPANY, LLC FOR WATER
TREATMENT FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS (PHASE 1)**

(BID NO. 0667)

WHEREAS, the City of Natchitoches (CITY) awarded the bid to Lemoine Company, LLC (CONTRACTOR) on May 28, 2024, by Ordinance No. 011 of 2024 in the amount of **\$9,217,000.00** for Water Treatment Facility Improvements, Phase 1 (Bid No. 0667); and

WHEREAS, on **December 9, 2024**, the City Council approved **Change Order No. 1**, in the amount of **\$16,815.00** making the revised contract total **\$9,233,815.00**; and

WHEREAS, on **September 3, 2025**, CONTRACTOR issued Change Order No. 2, fully described in Attachment “A”; and

WHEREAS, the **contract sum** will be **increased** by this **Change Order No. 2** in the amount of **\$55,614.00** and the revised contract total will be **\$9,289,429.00**; and

WHEREAS, the **contract time will be increased** by this **Change Order No. 2** from Four Hundred Ninety-Five (495) calendar days to Five Hundred Two (502) calendar days; and

WHEREAS, the project Engineer, Andrew Verner, has recommended this change order; and

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

WHEREAS, the approval of Change Order No. 2 is contingent on approval by the Office of Community Development/Water Sector Program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Natchitoches, in legal session convened, that the Honorable Ronnie Williams, Jr., Mayor, be and is hereby authorized, empowered and directed to execute the referenced Change Order No. 2 to the agreement between the City of Natchitoches and the contractor Lemoine Company, LLC. This Resolution was then presented for a vote, and the vote was recorded as follows:

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

THEREUPON, Mayor Ronnie Williams, Jr., declared the Resolution passed by a vote of 4 Ayes to 0 Nays on this 8th day of September 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. 076 OF 2025

A RESOLUTION APPOINTING SPECIAL COUNSEL FOR THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES

WHEREAS, Steven Oxenhandler has offered his resignation as Special Counsel for the City of Natchitoches Workers Compensation Cases; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 4.02 of the Charter of the City of Natchitoches, State of Louisiana (The “**City**”), Ronnie Williams Jr., the Mayor of the City (the “**Mayor**”) has appointed MATTHEW L. NOWLIN to serve as Special Counsel (hereinafter, “**Special Counsel**”) for the purpose of providing legal services related to City of Natchitoches Workers Compensation cases; and

WHEREAS, the City and Special Counsel have negotiated and agreed upon the terms and form of a Fee Agreement and Authority to Represent, to employ Special Counsel (sometimes hereinafter referred to as (the “**Fee Agreement and Authority to Represent**” or “**Agreement**”)); and

WHEREAS, the Agreement is attached hereto as **EXHIBIT “A”** in its general form, subject to such non-substantive changes as may be necessary at the Mayor’s discretion, and the Governing Authority desires to approve the Employment Contract and to further authorize the Mayor to execute same on behalf of the City; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Authority has reviewed the Agreement, approves the form and substance of same, and desires to authorize and direct the Mayor to execute said Agreement on behalf of the City and thereby bind and obligate the City to the terms thereof.

BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council does hereby take cognizance that Mayor Ronnie Williams, Jr., has appointed Matthew L. Nowlin as Special Counsel for the City of Natchitoches, in accordance with Section 4.02(D) of the Home Rule Charter, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council does hereby authorize the appointment of Matthew L. Nowlin as Special Counsel, and upon the recommendation of the City Attorney and the Mayor Ronnie Williams, Jr., that Matthew L. Nowlin is hereby confirmed and approved as Special Counsel to serve in accordance with the provisions of Section 4.02(D) of the Home Rule Charter.

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

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

THEREUPON, Mayor Ronnie Williams, Jr., declared the Resolution passed by a vote of 4 Ayes to 0 Nays on this 8th day of September, 2025.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

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

RESOLUTION NO. 077 OF 2025
(FP&C PROJECT #50-MK9-23-01)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES TO COVER ALL CONSTRUCTION COSTS INCLUDING CHANGE ORDERS OVER STATE FUNDING OF \$1,800,000 FOR THE CAPITAL OUTLAY GRANT FROM THE STATE OF LOUISIANA FOR THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES FIRE STATION – UNIVERSITY PARKWAY (LA HWY 6), PLANNING AND CONSTRUCTION

WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of Louisiana, through the Office of Facility Planning and Control of The Division of Administration, approved funding for the Natchitoches Fire Station, University Parkway (La Hwy 6) Planning and Construction, in the sum of One Million Eight Hundred Thousand Dollars and No/100 (\$1,800,000); and

WHEREAS, the City Council approved Resolution No. 080 of 2023 on August 28, 2023 authorizing Mayor Ronnie Williams, Jr., to execute a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between the State of Louisiana and the City of Natchitoches for the Natchitoches Fire Station – University Parkway, Planning and Construction; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of Louisiana requires that the City of Natchitoches cover all construction costs including change orders over state funding; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Mayor Ronnie Williams, Jr., of the City of Natchitoches does hereby agree to cover all construction costs including change orders over state funding of \$1,800,000 for the Natchitoches Fire Station-University Parkway (LA Hwy 6) – Planning and Construction.

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

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

THEREUPON, Mayor Ronnie Williams, Jr., declared the Resolution passed by a vote of 4 Ayes to 0 Nays on this 8th day of September 2025.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

MOTION TO ADD RESOLUTION NO. 078 TO THE AGENDA

Mrs. Smith-Kirkendoll made a motion to add Resolution No. 078 of 2025 to the agenda, and seconded by Ms. Elie.

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

AYES: Nielsen, Smith, Harrington, Petite

NAYS: Elie

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

THEREUPON, Mayor Ronnie Williams, Jr., declared the Motion passed by a vote of 4 Ayes to 0 Nays on this 8th day of September, 2025.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 078 OF 2025

**A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE LANGUAGE ACCESS PLAN FOR THE 2023
LCDBG PUBLIC FACILITIES GRANT**

WHEREAS, the State of Louisiana Office of Community Development has awarded the City of Natchitoches with a 2023 LCDBG Public Facilities Grant; and,

WHEREAS, the State of Louisiana requires certain actions to be taken by the City in order to be in compliance with HUD regulations; and,

WHEREAS, as part of its Citizen Participation Plan to reach out and inform its citizens, the City has developed a language access plan to inform its citizens who may not understand or speak English.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the City of Natchitoches on the **8th** day of **September**, 2025, that it hereby adopts the Language Access Plan.

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

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

THEREUPON, Mayor Ronnie Williams, Jr., declared the Resolution passed by a vote of 4 Ayes to 0 Nays on this 8th day of September 2025.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- The next scheduled City Council meeting will be **Monday**, September 22, 2025.

With no further discussion, Mayor Williams made a motion for adjournment, and all were in favor.
The meeting was adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

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

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