

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES, STATE OF LOUISIANA,
MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY, MARCH 23, 2026, AT 5:30 P.M.**

The City Council of the City of Natchitoches met in legal and regular session at the Natchitoches Council Chambers, 716 Second Street, Natchitoches, Louisiana on Monday, March 23, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.

There were present:

Mayor Ronnie Williams
Councilman Eddie Harrington
Councilman Dale Nielsen
Councilwoman Rosemary Elie
Councilman Christopher Petite

Guest: Employee of the Month-Eric Morvan

Absent: Councilwoman At Large Betty Smith-Kirkendoll

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

Mayor Williams then called for the reading and approval of the minutes for the March 9, 2026, meeting. Councilman Nielsen moved that we dispense with the reading of the minutes and approval of same. Seconded by Councilman Harrington.

A roll call vote was as follows:

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. 015 OF 2026

PROCLAMATION DECLARING APRIL 2, 2026, AS WORLD AUTISM DAY AND APRIL 2026 AS AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH IN THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES

WHEREAS, Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is the fastest-growing developmental disability in the United States, affecting **1 in 36 children** and countless families nationwide; and

WHEREAS, Autism Spectrum Disorder is an urgent public health concern that requires greater awareness, education, and resources to support individuals on the spectrum and their families; and

WHEREAS, **Zeta Phi Beta Sorority**, Incorporated has made a profound impact in promoting autism awareness, advocacy, and support, particularly for persons of color affected by ASD, through their initiatives in education, research, and funding; and

WHEREAS, there is currently no identified cause or cure for autism, but early intervention, therapy, and community support can make a significant difference in the lives of individuals with autism and their families; and

WHEREAS, the **Mu Omega Zeta Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.** in Natchitoches, Louisiana, is dedicated to championing autism awareness through initiatives such as **"Autism Awareness Day in the Park"** on **April 11, 2026**, at **Natchitoches City Park**, fostering understanding, inclusion, and support within our community; and

WHEREAS, the City of Natchitoches stands in solidarity with individuals with autism, their families, and organizations working tirelessly to enhance awareness, education, and access to resources;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MAYOR RONNIE WILLIAMS JR., of Natchitoches, Louisiana, do hereby proclaim

April 2, 2026, as World Autism Day and April 2026 as Autism Awareness Month

in the City of Natchitoches. I encourage all citizens, businesses, and organizations to take part in activities that increase understanding, acceptance, and support for individuals with autism and their families.

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

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

THEREUPON, Mayor Ronnie Williams, Jr., declared the Resolution passed by a vote of 4 Ayes to 0 Nays on this 23rd day of March ,2026.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

**NOTICE OF APPEAL
TO THE NATCHITOCHES CITY COUNCIL
OF PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION DECISION**

APPEAL DATE & TIME: Monday, March 23, 2026 – 5:30 P.M.

APPEAL LOCATION: Natchitoches City Council Chambers, 716 Second Street, Natchitoches, LA

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Lot East Side Cypress Avenue North By Deason, South By Mrs. Lelia G. Hawkins Estate and Described As Beginning At An Iron Pipe Which is 274.8 Feet North 25 Degrees 14 Minutes East From The Center of College Avenue on the East Side of Said Cypress Street And Running South 67 Degrees 28 Minutes East 90.4 Feet, Then Run North 23 Degrees 16 Minutes East 34.3 Feet, Thence Run South 68 Degrees 58 Minutes East 160 Feet, Thence Run South 21 Degrees 55 Minutes West 188.6 Feet, Thence Run North 69 Degrees 33 Minutes West 290.6 Feet To the Point of Beginning. (Cypress Avenue)

APPLICANT/OWNER: Heath Nichols

Purpose: **Rezone Request:** Residential R-1 to Residential R-2 To Develop several multifamily Duplexes

A public hearing will be held before the Natchitoches City Council on Monday, March 23, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. at the Natchitoches City Council Chambers, 716 Second Street, Natchitoches, Louisiana. The purpose of the hearing is for the City Council to review a decision of the Natchitoches Planning and Zoning Commission at the March 4, 2026 meeting that denied the application for a rezone request.

The application is available for review at the Planning and Zoning Department 700 Second Street, Natchitoches, LA 71457.

Honorable Ronnie Williams Jr., Mayor
City of Natchitoches
Post Office Box 37
Natchitoches, Louisiana 71457
(318) 352-2772

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

ORDINANCE NO. 009 OF 2026

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

To rezone the following: 34.6 Acres—Lots 2 and 6 of Partition for Heirs of Willie LaCaze in Section 87, Township 9 North-Range 7 West, Shown on Map Slide 242-B (Each Lot Containing 17.3 Acres) and Lot Containing 1.0 Acre of Partition for Heirs of Willie LaCaze in Section 87, Township 9 North – Range 7 West, Being “Old Home Place”, Shown on Map Slide 242-B. (175 Old River Rd lot 2)

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission of the City of Natchitoches, State of Louisiana, has recommended at their meeting of **March 4, 2026** that the application of **Ace Commercial Properties, LLC**, to rezone the property described above from I-A to I-A, Special Exception, To allow for the flexible and responsible development for consistent use of community growth objectives and long-term economic sustainability of the sales, services, rentals, of products and services, be **APPROVED**.

THIS ORDINANCE was introduced on March 9, 2026, and published in the *Natchitoches Times* on March 19, 2026.

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, Harrington, Petite**
NAYS: **None**
ABSENT: **Smith-Kirkendoll**
ABSTAIN: **None**

THEREUPON, Mayor Ronnie Williams, Jr., declared the Ordinance passed by a vote of 4 Ayes to 0 Nays this 23rd, day of March 2026.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

BETTY SMITH-KIRKENDOLL, MAYOR PRO-TEMPORE

Delivered to the Mayor on the 24th day of March 2026 at 10:00 A.M.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 008 OF 2026

AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT A HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION AND REPORTING POLICY FOR THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES PERSONNEL POLICIES MANUAL AND TO PROVIDE FOR RELATED MATTERS.

WHEREAS, human trafficking—whether for labor or commercial sexual purposes—is unlawful under Louisiana Revised Statutes § 14:46.2 and constitutes a grave violation of human rights;

WHEREAS, the City of Natchitoches finds it necessary to establish standards and reporting requirements for personnel related to the prevention, recognition, and reporting of human trafficking in City operations; and

WHEREAS, the City Council wishes to adopt the attached formal policy consistent with applicable Louisiana and federal law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Natchitoches, Louisiana, in regular session assembled:

SECTION 1. **Policy Adoption.**

The Human Trafficking Prevention and Reporting Policy attached hereto as Exhibit A and incorporated herein by reference is hereby adopted as official policy of the City of Natchitoches and shall be included in the City’s Personnel Policies Manual.

SECTION 2. **Applicability.**

This policy shall apply to all City employees, elected and appointed officials, volunteers, interns, contractors, subcontractors, consultants, and vendors as set forth in the policy.

SECTION 3. **Reporting Obligations.**

All covered individuals shall comply with the reporting procedures and responsibilities set forth in the policy, including reporting suspected human trafficking to appropriate City officials or law enforcement.

SECTION 4. **Training.**

The City Administrator or designee is authorized to implement training and awareness programs to ensure understanding of this policy.

SECTION 5. **Enforcement.**

Violation of this ordinance or the attached policy may result in disciplinary action, contract termination, and referral for prosecution under applicable law.

SECTION 6. **Severability.**

If any section or provision of this ordinance is declared invalid, such declaration shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of the ordinance.

SECTION 7. **Effective Date.**

This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

THIS ORDINANCE was introduced on March 9, 2026, and published in the *Natchitoches Times* on March 19, 2026.

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, Harrington, Petite
NAYS:	None
ABSENT:	Smith-Kirkendoll
ABSTAIN:	None

THEREUPON, Mayor Ronnie Williams, Jr., declared the Ordinance passed by a vote of 4 Ayes to 0 Nays this 23rd, day of March 2026.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

BETTY SMITH-KIRKENDOLL, MAYOR PRO-TEMPORE

Delivered to the Mayor on the 24th day of March 2026 at 10:00 A.M.

The following Ordinance was Introduced by Mrs. Elie at the March 23, 2026 City Council meeting as follows:

ORDINANCE NUMBER 010 OF 2026

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO LEASE A TRACT OF LAND TOGETHER WITH IMPROVEMENTS LOCATED ON THE EAST SIDE OF NORTH STREET TO NATCHITOCHES COALITION ON HOMELESSNESS, SETTING THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SAME, AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF THE LEASE BY THE MAYOR, RONNIE WILLIAMS, AFTER DUE COMPLIANCE WITH THE LAW, AND FURTHER PROVIDING FOR ADVERTISING OF THE LEASE AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City of Natchitoches (City) is the owner of certain property situated on the East right of way of North Street, bears municipal address of 319 North Street, and is more particularly described as follows, to-wit:

Those five (5) certain lots of ground described as Lots K, L, M, N and O on a plat of survey recorded in Map Book 116, page 86 and being the same property acquired by the City of Natchitoches from Nita C. and George C. Sutton by deed dated March 1, 1941 and recorded at Conveyance Book 186, page 506 of the Records of Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana, said lots having originally been purchased from I. Semmelson.

LESS AND EXCEPT: A lot off the Southern portion of said tract sold to Winnfield Life Insurance Company pursuant to Ordinance No. 953, said deed dated November 21, 1969 and recorded at Conveyance Book 289, page 425 of the Records of Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana, said lot recited to measure 100 feet by 160 feet and being the same property described on a plat of survey purportedly attached to a lease from the City of Natchitoches to the Police Jury of Natchitoches, Louisiana, recorded in Mortgage Book 246, page 27.

(Sometimes hereinafter referred to as “Subject Property”); and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the Subject Property has been used as a part of the Head Start program in the City of Natchitoches in the past and has been leased to Head Start but that lease has been terminated due to lack of funding; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the City desires to make the Subject Property available for use by the Natchitoches Coalition on Homelessness (sometimes hereinafter “Coalition”), which is a Louisiana not for profit organization that provides services to homeless residents of the City of Natchitoches, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the City has negotiated the lease of the Subject Property to Coalition under the terms more fully set forth in the attached proposed lease; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the lease shall have a one year term with two additional one year options to extend the lease; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the consideration for the lease shall be \$250.00 per month for the first year of the lease; and in the event that the options to extend are exercised, the rental shall be reviewed and adjusted as circumstances dictate for each annual term that the lease is extended; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the City Council of the City of Natchitoches is of the opinion that the Coalition provides unique and important services to the City and its residents, and further finds that the City is not in a position to provide such services itself directly; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the City Council of the City of Natchitoches is of the opinion that the Subject Property is surplus property and does hereby declare and find that the Subject Property located at 319 North Street, to be surplus property; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the City desires to lease the Subject Property described above to Coalition, under the terms set forth above and more particularly set forth in the lease attached hereto; and.

WHEREAS FURTHER, under the provisions of Louisiana R. S. 33:4712, any property owned by the City can be leased to any person after due advertisement and compliance with the law; and

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 the Subject Property located at 319 North Street to Coalition for the term of one year, with two options to renew for additional one year terms on the terms and conditions as are all as more fully described in the attached lease.

(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, Jr., be and he is hereby authorized, after due proceedings had, and after the legal delays have run, to execute a lease in favor of Coalition, leasing the Subject Property located at 319 North Street for the term of one year, with two options to renew for additional one year terms, on the terms and conditions as are all as more fully described in the attached lease.

(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 declares that the Subject Property located at 319 North Street, to be surplus property not needed for public purposes by the City.

This ordinance was introduced on the 23rd day of March , 2026.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 016 OF 2026

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE CHANGE ORDER NO. 3 TO THE CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES AND REGIONAL CONSTRUCTION, LLC FOR THE FY 2023 LCDBG STREET IMPROVEMENTS (BID NO. 0671)

WHEREAS, the City of Natchitoches was awarded \$1,142,566.00 for FY 2023 Louisiana Community Development Block Grant Street Improvements; and

WHEREAS, this grant funding was approved for improvements to Brahma Drive, J.C. Deblieux Drive, Myrtle Drive, Ouida Drive, and Virginia Avenue; and

WHEREAS, the City of Natchitoches executed a contract with Regional Construction, LLC, for construction of this project, with a contract amount of \$1,020,511.40; and

WHEREAS, Regional Construction completed the work on this project and was issued a Certificate of Substantial Completion effective on February 20, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the City Engineer has determined the final quantities of work performed on this project; and

WHEREAS, the City Engineer drafted **Change Order No. 3** dated March 4, 2026, as the final change order to reconcile the original plan quantities to the final pay quantities for all work on this project; and

WHEREAS, the State of Louisiana Office of Community Development approved Change Order No. 3 on March 12, 2026;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Natchitoches City Council hereby authorizes Mayor Ronnie Williams, Jr., to execute Change Order No. 3 for the FY 2023 LCDBG Street Improvements project.

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

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

THEREUPON, Mayor Ronnie Williams, Jr., declared the Resolution passed by a vote of 4 Ayes to 0 Nays on this 23rd day of March ,2026.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- The next scheduled City Council meeting will be **Monday, April 13, 2026.**

With no further discussion, Mayor Williams made a motion for adjournment, and all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

BETTY SMITH-KIRKENDOLL, MAYOR PRO-TEMPORE

