

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES, STATE OF LOUISIANA,
MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY, MARCH 9, 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 9, 2026, 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: Employee of the Month-Eric Morvan

Absent: Councilwoman Rosemary Elie

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 February 23, 2026, meeting. Councilwoman At Large Smith moved that we dispense with the reading of the minutes and approval of same. Seconded by Councilman Petite.

A roll call vote was as follows:

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. 014 OF 2026

PROCLAMATION DECLARING THE MONTH OF MARCH AS WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH IN THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES

WHEREAS, American women of every race, class, and ethnic background have made historic contributions to the growth and strength of our Nation in countless recorded and unrecorded ways; and

WHEREAS, American women have played and continue to play critical economic, cultural, and social role in every sphere of the life of the Nation by constituting a significant portion of the labor force working inside and outside of the home; and

WHEREAS, American women were particularly important in the establishment of early charitable, philanthropic, and cultural institutions in our Nation; and

WHEREAS, American women of every race, class, and ethnic background served as early leaders in the forefront of every major progressive social change movement; and

WHEREAS, American women have served our country courageously in the military; and

WHEREAS American women have been leaders, not only in securing their own rights of suffrage and equal opportunity, but also in the abolitionist movement, the emancipation movement, the industrial labor movement, the civil rights movement, and other movements, especially the peace movement, which created an impartial and just society for all; and

WHEREAS despite these contributions, the role of American women in history has been consistently overlooked and undervalued, in the literature, teaching and study of American history:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MAYOR RONNIE WILLIAMS, Jr., of the City of Natchitoches hereby proclaim, that March is designated as

Women’s History Month

in the City of Natchitoches and I call upon all citizens to observe this month and to invite all citizens to visit www.WomensHistoryMonth.gov to learn more about the vital contribution of women to our Nation’s history.

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 9th day of March ,2026.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

The following Ordinance was Introduced by Mr. Nielsen at the March 9, 2026 City Council Meeting 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**.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 004 OF 2026

**AN ORDINANCE DECLARING CERTAIN BUILDINGS UNSAFE
AND RECOMMENDING THAT SAME BE DEMOLISHED OR PUT INTO
REPAIR TO COMPLY WITH THE BUILDING CODE, AUTHORIZING
NOTICE TO BE SERVED, FIXING HEARING DATE AND APPOINTING
CURATOR TO REPRESENT ABSENTEES**

WHEREAS, the Director of Planning & Zoning and City Building Inspector have filed written reports with the City Council declaring that the buildings listed below are in a dangerous and unsanitary condition which makes them unsafe and endangering the public welfare, and recommending that said buildings be demolished or put in repair to comply with the Building Code, to-wit:

WHEREAS FURTHER, the following locations were provided an **additional 30 days** to make progress/improvements to comply with the Building Code for compliance at the **April 28, 2025** City Council meeting by **Ord. 006 of 2025**.

1. Cynthia Mandarino
817 Fourth Street
Natchitoches, LA 71457
Lot SE Corner 4th & Buard Streets, E By Green & Hughes, S By Holmes (**817 Fourth St.**)
2. Paul Douglas Solomon Family Trust
223 Sewanee St.
Natchitoches, LA 71457
Lot West Side 2nd St., N By Aaron, S By Fixary (**852 Second St.**)

WHEREAS FURTHER, a motion was made by Mr. Petite and seconded by Mrs. Smith-Kirkendoll to approve an **additional 6 months** to make progress/improvements to comply with the Building Code for compliance at the **July 14, 2025**, City Council meeting by **Ord. 021 of 2025**, for the following locations: **817 Fourth Street and 852 Second Street**.

WHEREAS FURTHER, 6 months has now passed and the Director of Planning and Zoning has recommended the following locations: **817 Fourth Street and 852 Second Street** are in a dangerous and unsanitary condition which makes them unsafe and endangering the public welfare and recommending that said buildings be condemned.

THIS ORDINANCE was introduced on January 28, 2026 and published in the *Natchitoches Times* on February 5, 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:	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 9th day of March 2026.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

BETTY SMITH-KIRKENDOLL, MAYOR PRO-TEMPORE

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

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

ORDINANCE NO. 007 OF 2026

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY
OF NATCHITOCHES TO AWARD THE BID FOR WATER TREATMENT FACILITY
IMPROVEMENTS (PHASE 2)
(BID NO. 0682)**

WHEREAS, Resolution No.002 of 2026 was passed by the Natchitoches City Council on January 12, 2026 authorizing the Mayor to advertise for bids Water Treatment Facility Improvements, Phase 2 (Bid No. 0682); and

WHEREAS, this bid was advertised in the *Natchitoches Times* on, January 15, January 22, and January 29, 2026 in accordance with law; and

WHEREAS, three bid proposals were received and opened as follows:

- (1) The Lemoine Company, LLC
 Lafayette, LA \$6,250,000.00

- (2) Dixie Overland Construction
 Sibley, LA..... \$6,413,000.00

- (3) CENLA Utility Contractors, LLC
 Alexandria, LA..... \$7,237,810.00

WHEREAS, on February 12, 2026, the appointed committee of Clarissa Smith, Finance Director; Edd Lee, Director of Purchasing; Tim Tousek, Utility Director; and Eddie Harrington, Councilman, reviewed the bid proposals for Water Treatment Facility Improvements- Phase 2 (Bid No. 0682); and

WHEREAS, the above appointed committee members unanimously recommend the City award the bid to the lowest bidder **The Lemoine Company, LLC**, in the amount of **\$6,250,000.00**.

THIS ORDINANCE was introduced on February 23, 2026 and published in the *Natchitoches Times* on February 26, 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: 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 9th day of March 2026.

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

**_____
BETTY SMITH-KIRKENDOLL, MAYOR PRO-TEMPORE**

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

The following Ordinance was Introduced by Mr. Petite at the March 9, 2026 City Council meeting as follows:

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.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 012 OF 2026

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ADVERTISE AND ACCEPT BIDS
FOR SECOND STREET AND TOULINE STREET CONCRETE PAVEMENT
REPLACEMENT**

BID NO. 0680

WHEREAS, the City of Natchitoches was appropriated \$200,000 in State Capital Outlay funds during the 2023 Louisiana Legislative Session for planning and construction of a project known as “Second Street and Toulaine Street Concrete Pavement Replacement;” and

WHEREAS, this project is designated as Facility Planning and Control Project No. 50-MK9-23-02; and

WHEREAS, a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement was executed with the State of Louisiana, Division of Administration, on December 7, 2023, for this project; and

WHEREAS, the City of Natchitoches selected the firm of EJES, Incorporated, to prepare construction plans and specifications for this project; and

WHEREAS, EJES has completed the plans and specifications; and

WHEREAS, the City of Natchitoches and the State of Louisiana Office of Facility Planning and Control have both approved the plans and specifications; and

WHEREAS, an additional \$2,000,000 in State Capital Outlay funds was appropriated for this project during the 2025 State Legislative Session; and

WHEREAS, the State of Louisiana Office of Facility Planning and Control has authorized the City of Natchitoches to proceed to the construction phase of this project; and

WHEREAS, Bid No. 0680 has been assigned to this project, with a proposed bid date of April 21, 2026;

WHEREAS, upon receipt of proposals, the committee members consisting of Clarissa Brown-Smith, Director of Finance; Edd Lee, Director of Purchasing; Donald Forest, Director of Public Works; and Rosemary Elie, Councilwoman; are to review and make a recommendation of the bids received.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Natchitoches City Council hereby authorizes Mayor Ronnie Williams, Jr., to advertise for bids for the construction of the project known as “Second Street and Toulaine Street Concrete Pavement Replacement.”

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 9th day of March ,2026.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

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

RESOLUTION NO. 013 OF 2026

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE A CERTIFICATE OF SUBSTANTIAL COMPLETION TO THE CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES AND REGIONAL CONSTRUCTION, LLC FOR THE FY 2023 LCDBG STREET IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

(BID NO. 0671)

WHEREAS, the City of Natchitoches has contracted with Regional Construction, LLC for the FY 2023 LCDBG Street Improvements project; and

WHEREAS, this work has been substantially completed; and

WHEREAS, a substantial completion inspection has been performed by the City Engineer, who has found the project to be substantially complete in accordance with the attached Certificate of Substantial Completion;

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 Certificate of Substantial Completion for Regional Construction, LLC.

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 9th day of March ,2026.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- The next scheduled City Council meeting will be **Monday, March 23, 2026.**

With no further discussion, Mayor Williams made a motion for adjournment, and all were in favor.
The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

/s/
RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

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

