

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES, STATE OF LOUISIANA,
MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY, APRIL 27, 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, April 27, 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: Kolade Newton – USA Wrestling State Champion, 225 Weight Class 14U
Mary Morrow – Employee of the Month

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 April 13, 2026, meeting. Councilwoman At Large Smith-Kirkendoll moved that we dispense with the reading of the minutes and approval of the same. Seconded by Councilman Petite.
A roll call vote was as follows:

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

Jessica Broadway-Audit Presentation

Special Recognition: Mayor’s Youth Council

NSU Lab Orchestra-Golden Mickey Award

Bukar Ibn-Mohammed-17 Years of Dedicated Service

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

RESOLUTION NO. 025 OF 2026

**PROCLAMATION DECLARING THE MONTH OF MAY 2026 AS
BUILDING SAFETY MONTH IN THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES**

WHEREAS the City of Natchitoches is committed to recognizing that our growth and strength depends on the safety and essential role our homes, buildings and infrastructure play, both in everyday life and when disasters strike, and;

WHEREAS our confidence in the resilience of these buildings that make up our community is achieved through the devotion of vigilant guardians—building safety and fire prevention officials, architects, engineers, builders, tradespeople, design professionals, laborers, plumbers and others in the construction industry—who work year-round to ensure the safe construction of buildings, and;

WHEREAS these guardians are dedicated members of the International Code Council, a nonprofit that brings together local, state, territorial, tribal and federal officials who are experts in the built environment to create and implement the highest-quality codes to protect us in the buildings where we live, learn, work and play, and;

WHEREAS these modern building codes include safeguards to protect the public from hazards such as hurricanes, snowstorms, tornadoes, wildland fires, floods and earthquakes, and;

WHEREAS Building Safety Month is sponsored by the International Code Council to remind the public about the critical role of our communities’ largely unknown protectors of public safety—our local code officials—who assure us of safe, sustainable and affordable buildings that are essential to our prosperity, and;

WHEREAS “Built to Last,” is the theme for Building Safety Month 2026, highlighting safe, resilient, and accessible building practices, and;

WHEREAS each year, in observance of Building Safety Month, people all over the world are asked to consider the commitment to improve building safety, resilience and economic investment at home and in the community, and to acknowledge the essential service provided to all of us by local and state, tribal, territorial, and federal building safety and fire prevention departments, in protecting lives and property.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ronnie Williams, Jr., of the City of Natchitoches, Louisiana, do hereby proclaim the month of May 2026 as Building Safety Month. Accordingly, I encourage our citizens to join us as we participate in Building Safety Month activities.
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 27th day of April ,2026.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

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

ORDINANCE NO. 012 OF 2026

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

To Rezone the Following: Lot Containing 1.560 Acres Having A Front on College Avenue of 567.87 Feet and a Front of 44.77 Feet Along University Parkway, As Shown o Plat by Reggie Lewis, Date November 7, 2000 (**3600 University Parkway**)

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission of the City of Natchitoches, State of Louisiana, has recommended at their meeting of **March 7, 2026**, that the application of **The City of Natchitoches**, to rezone the property described above from R-2 to R-1, Residential, for the development of a new Fire Station, be **APPROVED**.

THIS ORDINANCE was introduced on April 13, 2026 and published in the *Natchitoches Times* on April 23,2026.

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 27th day of April 2026.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

BETTY SMITH-KIRKENDOLL, MAYOR PRO-TEMPORE

Delivered to the Mayor on the 28th day of April 2026 at 10:00 A.M.

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

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 March 23, 2026 and published in the *Natchitoches Times* on April 9, 16 and 23, 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 27th day of April 2026.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

BETTY SMITH-KIRKENDOLL, MAYOR PRO-TEMPORE

Delivered to the Mayor on the 28th day of April 2026 at 10:00 A.M.

The following Resolution was **TABLED** by Ms. Smith-Kirkendoll and Seconded by Mr. Harrington as follows, to-wit:

ORDINANCE NO. 011 OF 2026

**AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE BUDGET FOR THE
CITY OF NATCHITOCHES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR
JUNE 1, 2026, THROUGH MAY 31, 2027**

WHEREAS, the fiscal year of the City of Natchitoches is from June 1 through May 31 of each year; and

WHEREAS, a budget has been prepared by the Finance Director, Clarissa Brown-Smith, and has been submitted by the Mayor, Ronnie Williams, Jr., to the City Council for review and consideration.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it ordained that the Natchitoches City Council does hereby adopt the budget for the fiscal year June 1, 2026 through May 31, 2027.

CITY OF NATCHITOCHES 2026 - 27 FY

General Fund	\$ 23,008,192.00
Proprietary Fund (Utility)	\$ 44,433,098.00
Special and Capital Project Funds	\$ 44,980,588.00

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, in accordance with L.R.S. 39:1305, the following specifies the Mayor’s authority to make budgetary amendments without approval of the governing authority, as well as those powers reserved solely to the governing authority:

The Home Rule Charter of the City of Natchitoches states in part “... at any time during the fiscal year the Mayor may transfer part or all of any unencumbered appropriation balance among programs within a department, office, or agency. Upon written request by the Mayor, the Council may by ordinance transfer part or all of any unencumbered appropriation balance from one department, office, or agency to another...” (Section 5.05 D) Supplemental, emergency, and reductions of appropriations must be submitted to the Council for approval by Ordinance. (Section 5.05 A-C)

THIS ORDINANCE was introduced on April 13, 2026, and published in the *Natchitoches Times* on April 23, 2026.

Ms. Smith-Kirkendoll made a motion to table this Ordinance which was seconded by Mr. Harrington, the motion to table was 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 **ORDINANCE TABLED** by a
vote of 4 Ayes to 0 Nays this 27th day of April, 2026.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

The following Ordinance was Introduced by Harrington at the April 27, 2026 City Council meeting as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 013 OF 2026

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING SETTING FORTH THE ADJUSTED MILLAGE RATE(S)

BE IT ORDAINED, by the City of Natchitoches of the Parish of Natchitoches, Louisiana, in a public meeting held on _____, which meeting was conducted in accordance with the Open Meetings Law and the additional requirements of Article VII, Section 23(C) of the Louisiana Constitution and R.S. 47:1705(B), that the following **adjusted** millage rates be and they are hereby levied upon the dollar of the assessed valuation of all property subject to ad valorem taxation within said Parish for the year 2026, for the purpose of raising revenue:

MILLAGE

PUBLIC SAFETY FAC/SER FIRE & POLICE

9.350 mills

GENERAL ALIMONY

6.570 mills

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the Assessor of the Parish of Natchitoches shall extend upon the assessment roll for the year 2026 the taxes herein levied, and the tax collector of said Parish shall collect and remit the same to said taxing authority in accordance with law.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that cognizance is taken by the City Council that this Ordinance was introduced on the 27th day of April 2026.

The following Ordinance was Introduced by Mr. Petite at the April 27, 2026 City Council meeting as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 014 of 2026

ORDINANCE ADOPTING TO ROLL FORWARD TO MILLAGE RATES(S) NOT EXCEEDING THE MAXIMUM AUTHORIZED RATE(S)

BE IT ORDAINED, by the City of Natchitoches of the Parish of Natchitoches, Louisiana, in a public meeting held on _____, which meeting was conducted in accordance with the Open Meetings Law and the additional requirements of Article VII, Section 23(C) of the Louisiana Constitution and R.S. 47:1705(B), that the taxing district voted to increase the millage rate(s), but not in excess of the prior year’s maximum rate(s), on all taxable property shown on the official assessment roll for the year 2026, and when collected, the revenues from said taxes shall be used only for the specific purposes for which said taxes have been levied. Said millage rate(s) are:

	<u>Adjusted Rate</u>	<u>2026 Levy</u>
PUBLIC SAFETY FAC/SER FIRE & POLICE	<u>9.350</u> mills	<u>10.000</u>
mills		
GENERAL ALIMONY	<u>6.570</u> mills	<u>7.030</u>
mills		

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the Assessor of the Parish of Natchitoches shall extend upon the assessment roll for the year 2026 the taxes herein levied, and the tax collector of said Parish shall collect and remit the same to said taxing authority in accordance with law.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that cognizance is taken by the City Council that this Ordinance was introduced on the 27th day of April 2026.

The following Ordinance was Introduced by Mr. Nielsen at the April 27, 2026 City Council meeting as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 015 OF 2026

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES, LOUISIANA, APPROVING A FRANCHISE AGREEMENT IN FAVOR OF SWYFT FIBER ALLOWING SWYFT FIBER RIGHTS TO LAY, CONSTRUCT, LEASE AND/ OR OPERATE A CABLE OPTICS TRANSMISSION CABLE, WITHIN THE MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES OF THE CITY AND THE RIGHT TO USE THE PRESENT AND FUTURE STREET, ROADS, HIGHWAYS, ALLEYS, BRIDGES, AND PUBLIC WAYS IN SUCH CITY AND OWNED AND CONTROLLED BY SUCH CITY FOR SUCH PURPOSES; PRESCRIBING TERMS AND CONDITIONS TO WHICH SUCH FRANCHISE AND RIGHTS ARE SUBJECT; PRESCRIBING THE TERM OF SUCH FRANCHISE AND RIGHTS; AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE SAME.

WHEREAS, the City of Natchitoches is authorized under Louisiana Revised Statutes 33:4401, et seq, to grant a non-exclusive franchise, right, and privilege to use and occupy the streets, alleys and public places therein to construct maintain and operates for telephone, telegraph and electric transmission and distribution systems; the right to operate and maintain cable television equipment and systems on, over, under, along, upon, and across all of the present and future streets, roads, highways, alleys, bridges, and public spaces of the City of Natchitoches, subject to applicable zoning and building requirements and obligations provided herein; the right to repair, replace or remove same or any portion thereof; and the right to connect any such facilities to any other facilities for the purpose of distributing or transmitting signals into, through, or beyond the boundaries of the City of Natchitoches; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the City Council of the City of Natchitoches, Louisiana, desires to grant a franchise to Swyft Fiber, under the terms and conditions as set in the attached Franchise Agreement; and

BE IT THEREFORE ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Natchitoches, Louisiana (hereinafter “the City”) that, subject to the terms and conditions set forth in the attached Franchise Agreement, hereby desires to grant to Swyft Fiber, doing and authorized to do business in the State of Louisiana, and in the City of Natchitoches, with its principal office in _____, Louisiana (hereinafter “Company”), a non-exclusive franchise, right, and privilege to use and occupy the streets, alleys and public places therein to construct maintain and operates for telephone, telegraph and electric transmission and distribution systems; the right to operate and maintain cable television equipment and systems on, over, under, along, upon, and across all of the present and future streets, roads, highways, alleys, bridges, and public spaces of the City of Natchitoches, subject to applicable zoning and building requirements and obligations provided herein; the right to repair, replace or remove same or any portion thereof; and the right to connect any such facilities to any other facilities for the purpose of distributing or transmitting signals into, through, or beyond the boundaries of the City of Natchitoches.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that the Franchise Agreement shall be in the form as the attached agreement.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that all other ordinances of the City or portions thereof that are in conflict or inconsistent with any of the terms of this ordinance shall be repealed are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict or inconsistency.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that nothing in this ordinance granting a non-exclusive franchise or this non-exclusive Franchise shall be construed as superseding, repealing, canceling, modifying, or in any way affecting any of the rights enjoyed by any other entity having a franchise in the City.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, nothing herein shall be construed to constitute the grant of a franchise for the provision of any service other than as set forth in the Franchise Agreement.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that this Ordinance and the Franchise and rights granted herein may be amended only by written agreement of the City and the Company to such amendment.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that in the event any part of this Ordinance is determined to be invalid or illegal for any reason whatsoever, such invalidity or illegality shall not affect the validity or legality of this Ordinance as a whole or any parts thereof.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the Mayor of the City of Natchitoches, Ronnie Williams, Jr., be authorized and empowered to execute the attached Franchise Agreement on behalf of the City of Natchitoches, Louisiana.

THIS ORDINANCE was introduced on _____ and published in the *Natchitoches Times* on _____.

The following Ordinance was Introduced by Smith-Kirkendoll at the April 27, 2026 City Council meeting as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 016 OF 2026

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES, LOUISIANA, APPROVING AN AGREEMENT FOR JOINT USE OF POLES BETWEEN THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES AND SWYFT FIBER PROVIDING FOR THE CONNECTION OF LINES BY EITHER PARTY ON THE POLES OF THE OTHER PARTY; PRESCRIBING TERMS AND CONDITIONS TO WHICH SUCH AGREEMENT ARE SUBJECT; PRESCRIBING THE TERM OF SUCH FRANCHISE AND RIGHTS; AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE SAME.

WHEREAS, the City of Natchitoches approved a form Agreement For Joint Use of Poles by Ordinance 16 of 2009; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, Ordinance 16 of 2009 envisioned that there are persons or entities which now or hereinafter may utilize the property and rights of way of the City to conduct business operation, including but not limited to the provision of telecommunication, internet, electrical, cable, water, gas or other services or products (hereinafter referred to as “Business Operations”) pursuant to local franchise agreements or contracts with the City; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the City Council of the City of Natchitoches provided for a rate for the use of utility poles owned by the City of Natchitoches and approved and adopted the form “Agreement for Joint Use of Poles”; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the City Council of the City of Natchitoches, Louisiana, desires to enter into a grant an Agreement For Joint Use of Poles with Swyft Fiber, under the terms and conditions as set in the attached Agreement For Joint Use of Poles; and

BE IT THEREFORE ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Natchitoches, Louisiana (hereinafter “the City”) that, subject to the terms and conditions set forth in the attached Agreement For Joint Use of Poles, hereby desires to enter into a Agreement For Joint Use of Poles with Swyft Fiber, doing and authorized to do business in the State of Louisiana, and in the City of Natchitoches, with its principal office in _____, Louisiana (hereinafter “Company”).

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that the Agreement For Joint Use of Poles shall be in the form as the attached agreement.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that all other ordinances of the City or portions thereof that are in conflict or inconsistent with any of the terms of this ordinance shall be repealed are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict or inconsistency.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that this Ordinance and the Agreement For Joint Use of Poles and rights granted herein may be amended only by written agreement of the City and the Company to such amendment.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that in the event any part of this Ordinance is determined to be invalid or illegal for any reason whatsoever, such invalidity or illegality shall not affect the validity or legality of this Ordinance as a whole or any parts thereof.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the Mayor of the City of Natchitoches, Ronnie Williams, Jr., be authorized and empowered to execute the attached Agreement For Joint Use of Poles on behalf of the City of Natchitoches, Louisiana.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 026 OF 2026

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES, LOUISIANA, TO ENTER INTO A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH THE LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO SUPPORT THE COST TO OPERATE AND MAINTAIN THE NATCHITOCHES PARISH VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE.

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 Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs (sometimes hereinafter referred to as “LDVA”) is a state agency within the Executive Branch of the State of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the Louisiana Revised Statute - Title 29: Section 251-262, as amended and reenacted, specifically provides enabling legislation for LDVA, as to estimate and recover part of the operations cost of parish veterans service offices; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the CITY desires to support local veterans and improve their access to benefits and services by providing for both the cost to maintain and operate veterans service offices and space to house such service offices as provided by law, more fully identified in the attached Cooperative Agreement; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the City of Natchitoches shall pay to the order of LDVA an annual payment of **\$12,819.84** to support the cost to operate and maintain the veterans service office; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, this Cooperative Agreement shall be in effect from **July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027**; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the City Council of the City of Natchitoches desires to approve the attached Cooperative Agreement, and further desires 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 it does hereby approve the Cooperative Agreement between the City of Natchitoches and the Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor, Ronnie Williams Jr., is hereby authorized to execute the Cooperative Agreement between the City of Natchitoches and the Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs.

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 27th day of April ,2026.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

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

RESOLUTION NO. 027 OF 2026

RESOLUTION RE-APPOINTING RASUL ABDULLAH AS MEMBER OF THE NATCHITOCHES FIRE AND POLICE CIVIL SERVICE BOARD

WHEREAS, the term of office of Mr. Rasul Abdullah Member as the Governing Authority Board Member of the Natchitoches Municipal Fire and Police Civil Service Board will expired May 8, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the Natchitoches City Council wishes to reappoint Rasul Abdullah as the Governing Authority Board Member on the Fire and Police Civil Service Board; and

WHEREAS, this appointment is for a three-year term beginning May 8, 2026 and expiring May 8, 2029.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Natchitoches does, in legal session convened, hereby appoints Rasul Abdullah as member of the Natchitoches Municipal Fire and Police Civil Service Board for 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 27th day of April ,2026.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- The next scheduled City Council meeting will be **Monday, May 11, 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