

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES, STATE OF LOUISIANA,
MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY, JUNE 22, 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, June 22, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.

There were present:

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

Guest: Miss Natchitoches Meat Pie Queen
Miss Juneteenth Queens
Signorah Thomas, Congressman Cleo Fields Office to present Juneteenth Queens with a congressional commendation

Absent: None

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 June 8, 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:	Elie, Nielsen, Smith-Kirkendoll, Harrington
NAYS:	None
ABSENT:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

The following Ordinance was Introduced by Ms Elie at the June 22, 2026 City Council Meeting as follows, to-wit:

ORDINANCE NO. 021 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 3 ½ Acres in sections 56 & 57 Township 9 North-Range 7 West on the North Side of Keyser Ave. Shown on Plat in conveyance Book 443, Page 67 and A ½ Interest in a Strip 50 By 195 Feet Between Lot 3 of Block “O” and Lot 4 of Block “N”, **Blanchard Road Subdivision.**

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission of the City of Natchitoches, State of Louisiana, has recommended at their meeting of **June 9, 2026**, that the application of **Erick Wynn dba Southern Oaks Construction**, to rezone the property described above from **R-1 to R-2**, Development of Multifamily Development Duplex be **APPROVED**.

The following Ordinance was Introduced by Smith-Kirkendoll on June 22, 2026 City Council Meeting as follows, to-wit:

ORDINANCE NO. 022 OF 2026

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

To rezone the following: Lot Cont. 2 Ac Located on The NW Cor. Of The Intersection Of I-49 And Ia. Hwy. 6 In Sec. 40-9-8, As Shown on Plat in CB 529, Pg. 625 And Described as Follows: Beg. At The NE Cor. of Lot 4 Of Westwood Estates - I-49 Commercial lots, As Shown on A Plat of Survey by Jack E. Farmer, Dated June 16, 1992 and Recorded at Map Slide 334-B, Thence N 46 Deg. 47 Min. East 411.18 Ft. to the Pt. Of Beg., Said Point of Beg. N 13 Deg. 02 Min. 10 Secs. West 196.7 Ft., Thence N 76 Deg. 57 Min. 50 Secs. East 200 Ft., Thence 09 Deg. 34 Min. 49 Secs. East 85.82 Ft., Thence S 09 Deg. 17 Min. 49 Secs. East 335.29 Ft., Thence S 46 Deg. 49 Min. 29 Secs. West 200 Ft., Thence N 13 Deg. 02 Min. 10 Secs. West 69.38 Ft., Thence N 13 Deg. 02 Min. 10 Secs. West 254.57 Ft. To Pt. Of Beg., Less 24,750 Sq. Ft. To Radiance by Renee, Inc. **(5300 University Parkway)**

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission of the City of Natchitoches, State of Louisiana, has recommended at their meeting of **June 9, 2026**, that the application of **Shree Enterprises LLC DBA Hampton Inn**, to rezone the property described above from **B-3 to B-3 with additional B-A zoning**, for Consumption on Premises, be **APPROVED**.

The following Ordinance was Introduced by Mr. Harrington at the June 22, 2026 City Council meeting as follows, to-wit:

ORDINANCE NO. 023 OF 2026

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 2026 by May 2027

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.

The following Ordinance was Introduced by Mr. Petite at the June 22, 2026 City Council Meeting as follows, to-wit:

ORDINANCE NUMBER 024 OF 2026

AN ORDINANCE TO AM END AND REENACT SECTIONS 30-18 (b), 30-34 (11) AND 30-42 (P) WHICH ARE LOCATED IN ARTICLES II, III AND IV, RESPECTIVELY OF SECTION 30 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES, ENTITLED "UTILITIES" SAID AMENDMENT BEING MADE TO IMPLEMENT A CHANGE FOR ELECTRIC, SEWER AND WATER SERVICE RATES, PROVIDING FOR ADVERTISING, FURTHER PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, AND FURTHER PROVIDING FOR A REPEALER

WHEREAS, the City of Natchitoches provides for electric rates in Section 30-18 of the Code of Ordinances which is located in Chapter 30, entitled, Utilities, all of the Code of Ordinance of the City of Natchitoches, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the City of Natchitoches provides for sewer rates in Section 30-34 of the Code of Ordinances which is located in Chapter 30, entitled, Utilities, all of the Code of Ordinance of the City of Natchitoches, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the City of Natchitoches provides for water rates in Section 30-18 of the Code of Ordinances which is located in Chapter 30, entitled, Utilities, all of the Code of Ordinance of the City of Natchitoches, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, Section 30-18 (b) provides for an automatic annual adjustment in electric rates based upon the change in the Consumer Price Index; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, Section 30-34 (11) provides for an automatic annual adjustment in sewer rates based upon the change in the Consumer Price Index; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, Section 30-42 (p) provides for an automatic annual adjustment in water rates based upon the change in the Consumer Price Index; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, this automatic increase in electric, sewer and water rates will lead to harsh consequences for citizens of the City of Natchitoches and it is the desire of the City Council of the City of Natchitoches to take steps to reduce the impact; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, Section 30-18(b) currently provides as follows:

“(b) After April 30, 2025 the City shall adjust electric rates annually on May 1 of each calendar year based on the change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for electric maintenance for the 12 month period ending in December of the previous calendar year as detailed in Table 2-Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): U.S. city average, by detailed expenditure category published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).”; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, it has been proposed that Section 30-18 (b) be amended to provide as follows:

“(b) After April 30, 2026 the City shall adjust electric rates annually on May 1 of each calendar year **not to exceed** the change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for electric maintenance for the 12 month period ending in December of the previous calendar year as detailed in Table 2-Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): U.S. city average, by detailed expenditure category published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).”; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, Section 30-34 (11) currently provides as follows:

“(11) After April 30, 2025 the City shall adjust sewer rates annually on May 1 of each calendar year based on the change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for sewer maintenance for the 12 month period ending in December of the previous calendar year as detailed in Table 2-Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): U.S. city average, by detailed expenditure category published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).”; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, it has been proposed that Section 30-34 (11) be amended to provide as follows:

“(b) After April 30, 2026 the City shall adjust sewer rates annually on May 1 of each calendar year **not to exceed** the change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for electric maintenance for the 12 month period ending in December of the previous calendar year as detailed in Table 2-Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): U.S. city average, by detailed expenditure category published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).”; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, Section 30-42(p) currently provides as follows:

“(b) After April 30, 2025 the City shall adjust water rates annually on May 1 of each calendar year based on the change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for water maintenance for the 12 month period ending in December of the previous calendar year as detailed in Table 2-Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): U.S. city average, by detailed expenditure category published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).”; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, it has been proposed that Section 30-34 (p) be amended to provide as follows:

“(b) After April 30, 2026 the City shall adjust electric rates annually on May 1 of each calendar year **not to exceed** the change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for water maintenance for the 12 month period ending in December of the previous calendar year as detailed in Table 2-Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): U.S. city average, by detailed expenditure category published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).”; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the City Council of the City of Natchitoches has reviewed the proposed changes and agrees that the amendments to Sections 30-18 (b), 30-34 (11) and 30-42 (p) of the Code of Ordinances is in the best interest of the City of Natchitoches and its citizens and will help alleviate the possibility of an unexpected large rate increase in electric, sewer and water rates; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the City Council of the City of Natchitoches, Louisiana, desires to amend and reenact Sections 30-18 (b), 30-34 (11) and 30-42 (p) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Natchitoches, Louisiana, to provide for a change in electric, sewer and water rate increases based upon the CPI; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Natchitoches, Louisiana, as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 30-18 (b) of the Code of Ordinance of the City of Natchitoches is hereby amended and reenacted to amend subsection 30-18 (b) which shall read as follows:

“Section 30-18 (b).

“(b) After April 30, 2026 the City shall adjust electric rates annually on May 1 of each calendar year **not to exceed** the change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for electric maintenance for the 12 month period ending in December of the previous calendar year as detailed in Table 2-Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): U.S. city average, by detailed expenditure category published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).”

SECTION 2. Section 30-34 (11) of the Code of Ordinance of the City of Natchitoches is hereby amended and reenacted to amend subsection 30-34 (11) which shall read as follows:

“Section 30-34 (11).

“(b) After April 30, 2026 the City shall adjust sewer rates annually on May 1 of each calendar year **not to exceed** the change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for electric maintenance for the 12 month period ending in December of the previous calendar year as detailed in Table 2-Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): U.S. city average, by detailed expenditure category published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).”

SECTION 3. Section 30-42 (p) of the Code of Ordinance of the City of Natchitoches is hereby amended and reenacted to amend subsection 30-42 (p) which shall read as follows:

“Section 30-42 (p).

“(b) After April 30, 2026 the City shall adjust water rates annually on May 1 of each calendar year **not to exceed** the change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for electric maintenance for the 12 month period ending in December of the previous calendar year as detailed in Table 2-Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): U.S. city average, by detailed expenditure category published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).”

SECTION 4. All Ordinances or parts of Ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

SECTION 5. If any portion of this Ordinance is declared to be invalid or unconstitutional in any manner, the invalidity shall be limited to that particular section or provision, and shall not affect the remaining portions of the ordinance, which shall remain valid and enforceable, it being the intention of the City Council that each separate provision shall be deemed independent of all other provisions herein.

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SECTION 6. This Ordinance shall go into effect upon publication and in accordance with law.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 046 OF 2026

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 TO THE CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES AND SKYPLEX TRUCKING, LLC, FOR SECOND STREET AND TOULINE STREET CONCRETE PAVEMENT REPLACEMENT (BID NO. 0680)

WHEREAS, the City of Natchitoches was awarded State Capital Outlay funding for the replacement of concrete pavement on Second Street and Toulaine Street; and

WHEREAS, the City of Natchitoches executed a contract with Skyplex Trucking, LLC, for construction of this project, with a contract amount of \$2,315,156.00; and

WHEREAS, issues have been identified with the planned drainage structures that have resulted in the need for revisions to the construction plans and contract items; and

WHEREAS, the City Engineer drafted **Change Order No. 1** dated June 15, 2026, in the amount of \$11,928.00 to provide for these changes; and

WHEREAS, the State of Louisiana Office of Facility Planning and Control has approved Change Order No. 1, and will provide State funds equal to 75% of the cost, or \$8,946.00 of the Change Order amount;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Natchitoches City Council hereby authorizes Mayor Ronnie Williams, Jr., to execute Change Order No. 1 for the Second Street and Toulaine Street Concrete Pavement Replacement project, upon approval by the State Office of Facility Planning and Control.

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 22nd day of June, 2026.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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

With no further discussion, Mayor Williams made a motion for adjournment, and all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

/S/
RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

/S/

BETTY SMITH-KIRKENDOLL, MAYOR PRO-TEMPORE