

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES, STATE OF LOUISIANA,
MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY, AUGUST 10, 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, August 10, 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: Jame Baker,
Miss Natchitoches Meat Pie Queen

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 June 22, 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

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

RESOLUTION NO. 055 OF 2026

**PROCLAMATION DECLARING SEPTEMBER 4 AND 5, 2026 AS
THE CANE RIVER ZYDECO FESTIVAL IN THE CITY OF
NATCHITOCHES**

WHEREAS the City of Natchitoches celebrates a rich cultural heritage that is expressed through music, dance, food, and community gatherings; and

WHEREAS, the Magnolia State Peace Officers have continued their tradition of hosting the 27th annual Zydeco Festival, which brings residents and visitors together to experience one of Louisiana’s most treasured art forms; and

WHEREAS the 2026 Zydeco Festival will kick off on **Friday evening** with the dynamic sounds of **DJ Royal**, along with line and swing dancing that highlight the joy and togetherness of our community; and

WHEREAS the celebration will continue on **Saturday** with live performances by **Marcus Ardoin and DA Zydeco Legendz**, and will feature the highly acclaimed headliner, **Rusty Metoyer and the Zydeco Krush**, ensuring an unforgettable weekend of music and culture; and

WHEREAS festivals such as this promote unity, boost the local economy, and keep alive the traditions that make Natchitoches and Louisiana unique;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ronnie Williams, Jr., Mayor of the City of Natchitoches, on behalf of the City Council and our citizens, do hereby proclaim September 4–5, 2026 as

“Zydeco Festival Weekend” in the City of Natchitoches

and encourage all residents and visitors to join in celebrating the music, dance, and cultural heritage that the Zydeco Festival brings to our community.

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 10th day of August 2026.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

ORDINANCE NO. 028 OF 2026

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY
OF NATCHITOCHES TO AWARD
THE BID FOR HANGAR DOOR REPLACEMENT AT THE NATCHITOCHES
REGIONAL AIRPORT
(BID NO. 0683)**

WHEREAS, Resolution No.045 of 2026 was passed by the Natchitoches City Council on June 8, 2026 authorizing the Mayor to advertise for bids for Hangar Door Replacement at the Natchitoches Regional Airport (Bid No. 0683); and

WHEREAS, this bid was advertised in the *Natchitoches Times* on, June 18, June 25 and July 2, 2026 in accordance with law; and

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

- | | | |
|-----|--|--------------|
| (1) | Hesnor Contractor, Inc.
Ville Platte, LA | \$193,728.00 |
| (2) | Martin Metal Construction.
Natchitoches, LA | \$380,210.00 |
| (3) | GDC Industrial, Inc.
Sulphur Springs, TX | \$468,868.00 |

WHEREAS, on January 27, 2026 the appointed committee of, Clarissa Brown-Smith, Finance Director; Edd Lee, Director of Purchasing; Justin Foshee, Airport Manager and Christopher Petite, Councilman, reviewed the bid proposals for Hangar Door Replacement at the Natchitoches Regional Airport (Bid No. 0683); and

WHEREAS, the above appointed committee members unanimously recommend the City award the bid to the lowest bidder **Hesnor Contractor, Inc.**, in the amount of **\$193,728.00**.

THIS ORDINANCE was introduced on August 10, 2026, and published in the *Natchitoches Times* on August 20, 2026.

ORDINANCE NO. 029 OF 2026

AN ORDINANCE REVOKING THE DEDICATION OF A PORTION OF THIRD STREET WHICH IS SITUATED IN SECTION 139, TOWNSHIP 9 NORTH, RANGE 7 WEST, CITY AND PARISH OF NATCHITOCHES AND BEING THAT PORTION OF THIRD STREET LOCATED SOUTH OF CHURCH STREET, DECLARING THAT SAID PORTION OF THIRD STREET IS ABANDONED AND THE DEDICATION REVOKED, PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE ORDINANCE, AND SAVINGS CLAUSE

WHEREAS, an application has been made to the City of Natchitoches by The First Baptist Church of Natchitoches and Fair Legacy III, L.L.C., requesting the revocation of the dedication of a portion of a street known as Third Street, but limited to that portion of Third Street which is located South of the intersection of Third Street and Church Street, as shown and depicted in “yellow” on the attached copy of assessor’s map; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the portion of Third Street to be abandoned is more fully shown and depicted on the above referenced copy of assessor’s map, and is more fully described as follows, to-wit:

A certain tract or parcel of land, in the City of Natchitoches, Louisiana, located in Section 139, Township 9 North, Range 7 West, Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana, described as follows, to-wit:

Beginning at the Southwest corner of the intersection of Church Street and Third Street, thence in a southerly direction along the western right of way a distance of 120 feet, more or less, to the southerly terminus of Third Street, thence in an easterly direction a distance of 60 feet, more or less, to the easterly right of way of Third Street, thence in a northerly direction along the eastern right of way of Third Street to the southerly right of way of Church Street (also being the southeasterly intersection of Church Street and Third Street), thence in a westerly direction along the southerly right of way of Church Street a distance of 60 feet, more or less to the point of beginning, also being described as all that portion of Third Street which is situated and located South of Church Street.

WHEREAS FURTHER, the City has made an examination of the matter and has determined that the portion of Third Street, described above, is not used by the public, has not been used by the public for many years, and is not needed by the public for any public purpose; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the City Council is of the opinion that the property will not be needed for any public purposes in the foreseeable future; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the right of way which will be abandoned is of no value to anyone except the adjoining property owners; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the above described right of way is not being used for public access and the City Council is of the opinion that above described right of way, should be abandoned and the dedication revoked; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the portion of Third Street to be abandoned is adjoined by property of The First Baptist Church of Natchitoches on the South and East and by property of Fair Legacy, III, L.L.C. on the West; and

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

SECTION I: That the portion of Third Street located South of Church Street, as shown and depicted on the assessor's map in "yellow", is hereby declared to be abandoned and no longer needed for public purposes whatsoever, and it is further declared that said portion of Third Street has not been used by the public and there is no necessity for its use by the public in the foreseeable future, said portion of Third Street being more fully described as follows, to-wit:

A certain tract or parcel of land, in the City of Natchitoches, Louisiana, located in Section 139, Township 9 North, Range 7 West, Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana, described as follows, to-wit:

Beginning at the Southwest corner of the intersection of Church Street and Third Street, thence in a southerly direction along the western right of way a distance of 120 feet, more or less, to the southerly terminus of Third Street, thence in an easterly direction a distance of 60 feet, more or less, to the easterly right of way of Third Street, thence in a northerly direction along the eastern right of way of Third Street to the southerly right of way of Church Street (also being the southeasterly intersection of Church Street and Third Street), thence in a westerly direction along the southerly right of way of Church Street a distance of 60 feet, more or less to the point of beginning, also being described as all that portion of Third Street which is situated and located South of Church Street.

SECTION II: That the above described portion of Third Street is to be abandoned.

SECTION III: The right of way associated with above described portion of Third Street is hereby declared to be abandoned, and insofar as same may have been dedicated as a public way, said dedication is hereby declared revoked.

SECTION IV: Under the provisions of Louisiana Revised Statutes 48:701, the City Council declares that the soil embracing the former right-of-way of the above described right of way of Third Street shall, and do hereby revert to the present owners of the land contiguous thereto, in accordance with law.

SECTION V: It is understood that this Revocation applies only to the portion of Third Street above described.

SECTION VI: That a copy of this Ordinance be recorded in the Conveyance Records of Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana.

SECTION VII: That all other ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict are hereby revoked.

SECTION VIII: **THIS ORDINANCE** shall take effect after publication in accordance with law.

SECTION IX: That 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 effect 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 provision herein.

THIS ORDINANCE was introduced on August 10, 2026, and published in the *Natchitoches Times* on August 20, 2026.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 052 OF 2026

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO
A MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT, INCLUDING MOWING AND LITTER
PICKUP, WITH THE STATE OF LOUISIANA, DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION AND DEVELOPMENT, OFFICE OF ENGINEERING
BEGINNING JULY 1, 2026 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2027**

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of LSA-R.S. 48:193, the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development, Office of Engineering, is directed to repair and to keep in operating condition, at its sole cost and expense, all municipal roads or streets within the State Highway System as it is defined in LSA-R.S. 48:191, hereinafter sometimes referred to as the “State Highway System” or “State Roadway”; and

WHEREAS, further LSA-R.S. 48:193 authorizes municipalities to request that the repair and maintenance of said State Roadways located within a respective municipality be performed by the municipality, at the State’s expense; and

WHEREAS, DOTD lacks sufficient personnel and equipment to perform mowing and litter collection on a routine and continuing basis and wishes to enter into an agreement with the City of Natchitoches to perform maintenance directly related to mowing and litter collection on the State Roadways within the City of Natchitoches; and

WHEREAS, this agreement applies only to the roads and streets identified on the DOTD’s List of Routes for Maintenance Agreement which shall include all rights-of-ways and roadway shoulders associated with the State Roadways; and

WHEREAS, the City of Natchitoches shall be reimbursed by DOTD the amount of \$875.00 per cycle, per mile for Interstate Roadways; \$500.00 per cycle, per mile for divided State Roadways; and \$250.00 per cycle per mile for undivided State Roadways; and

WHEREAS, the total mileage to be maintained by the City of Natchitoches pursuant to this Agreement and for which the City is entitled to reimbursement by DOTD is 24.88 miles, of which 0.0 miles are Interstate Roadways; 4.40 miles are divided State Roadways; and 20.48 are undivided State Roadways, for the total maximum amount for which the City may claim reimbursement is \$29,280.00; and

WHEREAS, The Agreement for said maintenance shall begin **July 1, 2026** and end **June 30, 2027**, unless Agreement is earlier terminated as conditioned by the Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Natchitoches City Council, in legal session convened, does hereby authorize the Mayor to enter into a Maintenance Agreement, Including Mowing and Litter Pickup, with the State of Department of Transportation and Development.

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. 053 OF 2026

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT FOR THE SALE OF POWER AND ENERGY AT AN INDUSTRIAL (CONTRACT) RATE BETWEEN THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES, LOUISIANA AND CERTAIN INDUSTRIAL SERVICE CUSTOMERS

WHEREAS, the City of Natchitoches operates a municipal electric utility for the purpose of providing electric power to its residential, governmental, commercial and industrial customers; and

WHEREAS the City provides transmission and distribution services within and without the city limits, to Industrial (CONTRACT) service customers including **Pilgrims Pride Corporation, Natchitoches Regional Medical Center, Northwestern State University, and Alliance Compressor Company**; and

WHEREAS, the City has negotiated Power and Supply Agreements with these customers, reflecting economic development rate adjustments, as authorized and provided by Natchitoches Code of Ordinances, Article II, Section 30-18 (6), (7) and (9); and

WHEREAS, these agreements have been reviewed and approved and are attached hereto; and

WHEREAS, the City Council believes that agreements are in the best interest of the City and further agree that the agreements should be accepted; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desire to approve the Power Supply Agreements, and further desire 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 the said Power Supply Agreements be and the same are hereby approved.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor, Ronnie Williams, Jr., is hereby authorized to execute the Power Supply Agreements, which are attached hereto and made a part of this Resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council approves the Mayor or his appointee to grant the City Attorney the power to make minor, non-substantive changes to the Power Supply Agreements after the initial approval of this Resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor, Ronnie Williams, Jr., is hereby authorized and empowered to do all other things necessary or proper in the premises to implement and place these Power Supply Agreements in effect.

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 10th day of August 2026.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

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

RESOLUTION NO. 054 OF 2026

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE HIRING OF SPECIAL COUNCIL TO ASSIST THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES WITH ISSUES RELATED TO OIL, GAS AND MINERALS AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR, RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., TO EXECUTE AN ENGAGEMENT LETTER WITH SPECIAL COUNCIL, WILLIAMS L. TOWNSEND, III, WHEREBY THE CITY WILL CONTRACT FOR LEGAL SERVICES

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 4.02 (D) of the Charter of the City of Natchitoches, Louisiana, special legal council to the City of Natchitoches must be approved by the City Council

WHEREAS FURTHER, the City of Natchitoches has been approached regarding a Seismic Permit for property owned by the City of Natchitoches, and the City Council desires to retain special council with experience and expertise in areas governed by the mineral code; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the City of Natchitoches anticipates that issues will arise in the future that will necessitate the services of special Council with expertise with regard to oil, gas, and minerals; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the City Council desires to retain William L. Townsend, III, as special council to provide legal advice and services to the City of Natchitoches regarding issues related to oil, gas, and minerals; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the parties further desire to memorialize, in written form, the employment arrangement between the City and the Special Council; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the engagement letter (sometimes hereinafter referred to as “agreement”) is attached hereto and have been reviewed and approved by the City Council of the City of Natchitoches;

WHEREAS FURTHER, having reviewed the attached agreement, the City Council of the City of Natchitoches desires to authorize the Mayor to execute the agreement on behalf of the CITY;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Natchitoches, in legal session convened, does hereby authorize and approve the retention of Williams L. Townsend, III, as special council for issues relating to oil, gas and minerals, and does further empower, and direct the Honorable Ronnie Williams, Jr., Mayor, to execute the attached engagement letter, between the City of Natchitoches and William L. Townsend, III.

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 10th day of August 2026.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

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

RESOLUTION NO. 056 OF 2026

**A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2026
AS AN OFFICIAL HOLIDAY FOR THE EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY
OF NATCHITOCHES FOR THE YEAR 2026.**

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council of the City of Natchitoches appreciate the hard work of the Natchitoches City Employees; and

WHEREAS, to show appreciation for the dedicated efforts of our City Employees, the Mayor and Natchitoches City Council wish to declare Friday, September 4, 2026, as an official City Holiday for 2026.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by Mayor Ronnie Williams, Jr., that Friday, September 4, 2026, be declared an Official Holiday for the City of Natchitoches Employees.

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 10th day of August 2026.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

Motion to amend the agenda and add resolution no. 057 of 2026 was made by Ms. Smith-Kirkendoll and seconded by Mr. Petite

Roll call vote as follows:

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. 057 OF 2026

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE CHANGE ORDER NO. 2 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 Touline 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, Change Order No. 1 to this contract was executed on June 23, 2026, to revise the contract amount to \$2,327,084.00; and

WHEREAS, an additional \$280,000 in State funding recently was appropriated for this project; and

WHEREAS, subgrade soil issues have been experienced during the construction of Phase 1 of this project that resulted in the need for extra work not covered by the original construction plans; and

WHEREAS, the City Engineer drafted **Change Order No. 2** dated July 31, 2026, in the amount of \$73,919.00 to provide for this extra work; and

WHEREAS, the State of Louisiana Office of Facility Planning and Control is currently reviewing Change Order No. 2, and, upon approval, is expected to provide State funds equal to 75% of the Change Order amount, or 55,439.25;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Natchitoches City Council hereby authorizes Mayor Ronnie Williams, Jr., to execute Change Order No. 2 for the Second Street and Touline 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:	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 10th day of August 2026.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

Financial report by Clarissa Smith

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- The next scheduled City Council meeting will be **August 24, 2026**.

With no further discussion, Mayor Williams made a motion for adjournment, and all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

/s/
RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

/s/

BETTY SMITH-KIRKENDOLL, MAYOR PRO-TEMPORE