

PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATCHITOCHE PARISH COUNCIL  
PARISH OF NATCHITOCHE, STATE OF LOUISIANA  
TAKEN A REGULAR MEETING HELD, Monday,  
August 21, 2017  
5:30 p.m.

The Natchitoches Parish Council met in regular and legal session in the Council Board Room of the Natchitoches Parish Courthouse, on Monday, August 21, 2017 for a Regular of Natchitoches Parish Council meeting at five (5:30) o'clock p.m. and for the Natchitoches Parish Council Meeting.

The Parish of Natchitoches was then convened as the governing authority by Chairman Patsy Ward Hoover who stated that the Parish was ready for the transaction of business.

The invocation was given by Chairman Patsy Ward Hoover and the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mr. Kendrick Foy.

After the roll call there were present Chairman Patsy Ward Hoover and Council: Rodney Bedgood, Chris Paige, and Russell Rachal.

Absent: Doug de Graffenried .

The Parish Council Clerk at this time she would like to add seven items to the agenda upon Council approval.

Items are:

1. Council to discuss the Mosquito Spraying Program in the Parish of Natchitoches; concerning events that residents have on their property.

On motion by Councilman Rodney Bedgood, duly seconded by Councilman Russell Rachal that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby amend the agenda to include Council to discuss the Mosquito Spraying Program in the Parish of Natchitoches; concerning events that residents have on their property. .

On a roll call vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

Ayes:	Councilman Bedgood	
Ayes:	Councilman Rachal	
Absent:	Councilman de Graffenried	
Ayes:	Councilman Paige	
Ayes:	Councilwoman Hoover	<b>Motion Passed</b>

2. Please make correction on Page 3 letter B it reads: Council to consider approval of the proposed merger of the Robeline-Provencal Water System with the Sabine Water District No. 1.

Should Read:

Council to consider approval of the proposed merger of the Robeline-Marthaville Water System with the Sabine Water District No. 1.

On motion by Councilman Russell Rachal, duly seconded by Councilman Chris Paige that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby amend the agenda to include Council to consider approval of the proposed merger of the Robeline-Marthaville Water System with the Sabine Water District No. 1.

On a roll call vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

Ayes:	Councilman Rachal	
Ayes:	Councilman Paige	
Absent:	Councilman de Graffenried	
Ayes:	Councilman Bedgood	
Ayes:	Councilwoman Hoover	<b>Motion Passed</b>

3. Council to consider authorizing the Parish President to sign and execute the Federal grant agreement for 2016 FMA Acquisition of Two Properties.

On motion by Councilman Chris Paige, duly seconded by Councilman Russell Rachal that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby amend the agenda to include Council to consider authorizing the Parish President to sign and execute the Federal grant agreement for 2016 FMA Acquisition of Two Properties.

On a roll call vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

Ayes:	Councilman Paige	
Ayes:	Councilman Rachal	
Absent:	Councilman de Graffenried	
Ayes:	Councilman Bedgood	
Ayes:	Councilwoman Hoover	<b>Motion Passed</b>

4. Council to consider allowing more time for the Policy Council Chair and Community Representative to speak longer than the 3 minutes.

On motion by Councilman Chris Paige, duly seconded by dies for second that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby amend the agenda to include Council to consider allowing more time for the Policy Council Chair and Community Representative to speak longer than the 3 minutes.

**This Agenda dies for lack of second.**

5. Please make correction on Page 3 letter E it reads:  
Council to consider authorizing Parish President to obtain plans and specifications for the construction of a handicap ramp at the main courthouse entrance (Church Street), to advertise for bids and to award the bid to the lowest responsible bidder.

Should Read:

Council to consider authorizing Parish President to obtain plans and specifications for the construction of a handicap ramp at the main courthouse entrance (Church Street), to advertise for bids.

On motion by Councilman Russell Rachal, duly seconded by Councilman Rodney Bedgood that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby amend the agenda to include Council to consider authorizing Parish President to obtain plans and specifications for the construction of a handicap ramp at the main courthouse entrance (Church Street), to advertise for bids.

On a roll call vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

Ayes:	Councilman Rachal	
Ayes:	Councilman Bedgood	
Absent:	Councilman de Graffenried	
Ayes:	Councilman Paige	
Ayes:	Councilwoman Hoover	<b>Motion Passed</b>

6. Council to consider authorizing Parish President to lease an additional grader for road maintenance.

On motion by Councilman Russell Rachal, duly seconded by Councilman Rodney Bedgood that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby amend the agenda to include Council to consider authorizing Parish President to obtain plans and specifications for the construction of a handicap ramp at the main courthouse entrance (Church Street), to advertise for bids.

On a roll call vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

Ayes:	Councilman Rachal	
Ayes:	Councilman Bedgood	
Absent:	Councilman de Graffenried	
Ayes:	Councilman Paige	
Ayes:	Councilwoman Hoover	<b>Motion Passed</b>

7. Council to consider moving agenda item G to be first before agenda item A under Other Agenda Items.

On motion by Councilman Chris Paige, duly seconded by Councilman Rodney Bedgood that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby amend the agenda to include Council to consider moving agenda item G to be first before agenda item A under Other Agenda Items.

On a roll call vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

Ayes:	Councilman Paige	
Ayes:	Councilman Bedgood	
Absent:	Councilman de Graffenried	
Nayes:	Councilman Rachal	
Ayes:	Councilwoman Hoover	<b>Motion Passed</b>

Chairman, Hoover, then recognized the Auditors Mark Thomas and Jessica Broadway to go over the Annual Audit, since the Audit was given in the same month, they're giving Council time to review the Audit, and if they have any questions they can call them or they will come back to discuss the Audit at a later meeting.

Chairman, Hoover stated the next agenda item we will hear the report of the Public Works Interim Director, Mr. Earl Townsend. Mr. Townsend distributed reports for the Council to see the work that has been done on the roads since he started as Interim Director. Mr. Townsend thanked the Parish President for letting him come back to serve until they find a Public Work Director and Mr. Townsend, said, "I'm going to do my best while I'm here." Council members thanked Mr. Townsend for the work that he has been done, and residents are actually seeing work being done on their roads.

Chairman Hoover then recognizes Ms. Sharon Harris, OCS/Head Start Executive Director, she gave her reports in the Council's packets and wanted to know if they had any questions, comments or concerns on the reports. Ms. Harris did commented that spots needs to be filled, due to children going into public school, but they will have their funded enrollment of 309 children. Ms. Harris did stated she did include this time a letter from licensing concerning two complaints and after investigating the complaint, everything was in order, but after the annual review was done two deficiencies was cited, items that can be harmful to children and Tornado drills shall be conducted at least once per month in the months of March, April, May, and June at various times of the day necessary to include all children and shall be documented.

This was only done at the MLK center, but other centers was not done at this present time.

Councilman, Bedgood, wanted to know about the progress with Goldonna, he said he's going to asked that question every month, Ms. Harris, replied, "That's fine." Ms. Harris, continued, "We're still waiting on the surveys, and the transition of a new principal is there, we still haven't received over 10 applicants, surveys." Councilman, Bedgood, replied, "I think we have more than that." Councilman, Bedgood, replied, "I want to reiterate again, this is the only site that is going to cost any electricity, water, or facilities of any kind, only thing we're asking for is for two teachers to be paid from Head Start, and we're furnish everything else."

Chairman, Hoover, then recognizes Parish Treasurer Debbie Miley and she stated she sent all the reports in the Council packages for Head Start, Credit Card transactions, all checked written, and inmate report, Ms. Miley wanted to know if all Council members receive the reports on all transactions by vendors and did they understand it. Chairman, Hoover, wanted to apologize for the meeting, she couldn't make due to being at the doctors office, but she did want to reschedule it along with Councilman de Graffenried at a later time.

Chairman, Hoover, then recognizes herself to speak to the Council in a letter she received from the Head Start Policy Council that it was not in compliance with the Head Start Federal Standards, after reading the letter she requested the meeting with Mr. Nowlin to see if this problem could be corrected, because it was a concerned for her. The meeting was held and things were discussed on the State, Federal, and local level, that hasn't been carried out. Chairman, Hoover, wanted it to be very clear, that she called this meeting on being a Representative from District 2 and not the Chair of the Parish Council. Chairman, Hoover, explained that she does have a Head Start facility in her District. The Regional Representative of Head Start wanted to have a conference call with the Grantee, Staff members, and Policy Council. Chairman, Hoover, said "I received a phone call last Friday evening from the Regional Program Specialist Ms. Michele Helmke, at that time she informed me that the Grantee is the Governing Body for Head Start along with the Policy Council. All of this information is found in the blue books that I've provided for you that is called Head Start Program Performance Standards. I believe the President, has really stepped beyond his boundaries, I stand to be corrected. A simple example, Do we fire a staff member from the Library, without the recommendation of the Board?" As Chairman of this Board, and one of the Grantees, I ask let us work together to follow all Federal, State, and Local guidelines along with the staff of the Head Staff to make Head Start an A-1 Center, and in closing, I ask, as Chairman of this Board, that if you will give any persons or any staff member the fair due process by law, all of us by law when we go into the Court of Law it's a due process and I ask that we follow according to what the Federal Government has asked us to do."

Chairman Hoover then recognizes Parish President, Parish President wanted to go over a couple of items on his report.

**CAPITAL OUTLAY UPDATE:**

The agenda for the State Bond Commission meeting to be held on July 20th includes the following Parish projects:

Coco Bed Road, Planning and Construction	\$280,000	P1
Payne Subdivision Streets Planning and Construction	200,000	P1
	300,000	P5
Courthouse Security Improvements, Planning & Const.	480,000	P1
Blanchard Road, Planning & Construction	280,000	P5

Fish Hatchery Road, Planning	125,000	P5
Old River Bridge, Planning and Construction	610,000	P5

All projects were approved for funding in the amounts shown.

The plans for Coco Bed Road have been submitted to the Office of Facility and Planning, and Control. Following its review and approval, the project may be advertised for bids.

The engineering of the improvements to the streets of Payne Subdivision is in progress.

The design work for Hampton Road will be performed by the Parish Engineer upon completion of the plans for Payne Subdivision. The planning for Blanchard Road and Fish Hatchery Road will follow Hampton Road.

**BUILDING MAINTENANCE:**

Mr. George Minturn is working on the design of a new handicap ramp at the main entrance to the courthouse (Church Street entrance). It will also involve the addition of a couple of handicap parking spaces to be advertise for bids.

Parish President then went on to explain he did have a conference call on August 17, 2017, at which time steps were discussed to provide training to the Head Start Policy Council, Parish Council, and Government officials. Parish President explained there was a meeting that was held on July 25 and some actions were taken. He was concerned about there were some parish employees that was not in attendance, and he was wondering was it posted so everyone would know about it from the General public, the Natchitoches Times confirmed it was not published with them. The Parish President wasn't sure about the validity of the July 25 meeting. Parish President then stated, "If we go further I'm going to let the Parish Attorney handle any questions concerning this." At this time, the Parish attorney gave out a June 28, 2017 opinion on the information that was requested by Mr. Nowlin. Mr. Nowlin, asked who has the right to hire and fire the Head Start Director. Her opinion was given on this. A copy of this opinion will be included in the minutes. The Parish attorney went on to say, "It's a distinction between the Program Director and the Executive Director and other members of Staff keep this in mind when you read it. At the June 13 meeting there was a quorum present, and they went into Executive Session and they received the information and then they went out of Executive Session and voted on rather or not they, was going to accept the recommendation of the Executive Director to regarding Dr. Wade, as you all know. I was present, it's my opinion that everything was done properly, and more importantly it was done legally, the open meeting law was followed. I've looked at several guidelines, State Law, I've looked at the Bylaws of the Head Start Policy Council, I've looked at the Parish Charter and Ordinances, there is nothing in there, or any of those documents makes me believe that the actions taken on June 13 were improper in any way, a lot of things have been said about this, as you all know, I'm under the opinion that the Board is the Grantee, OCS is the Head Start Agency, this body has adopted a policy manual. If you want to know if the Head Start Director is a Department Head the answer is no. The Department Head is the department head for the Office of Community Service."

Ms. Gloria Smith, wanted to know, Who had the July 13 meeting? The attorney answered, "The Head Start Policy Council and at this time I'll like to go on record and said, "They haven't adopted those minutes of the June 13 meeting." Ms. Gloria Smith, stated, "The June 13 meeting was not prepared by the Policy Council and they did not have the June 13 meeting because there was not a quorum so we couldn't adopt anything. We did adopt our July 25 meeting minutes from our last

August meeting. We didn't have a June 13 meeting, what are you giving in reference too? The Parish attorney asked Ms. Smith was she talking about the July 11 meeting when it was terminated for lack of a quorum. Ms. Smith asked so June 13 meeting was about adopting, Parish Attorney it wasn't about adopting anything, Ms. Smith asked, could she repeat the question. The Parish Attorney said, "I'm not going through all this again, The meeting was on June 13 a quorum was present, I have the notes, I took notes. At this time, Parish Council Chair, stated, "You're our attorney, and we have a person from the Policy Council Board, who is trying to get an understanding and this is our job as public servants to our constituents any time something that is legal and you have given your legal advise, and she's trying to get an understanding, if you would please be kind enough to re-state your question, that she may be able to understand what you're talking about, we all trying to get an understanding about this, because right now we're trying to determine, Who is the grantee? Who does the hiring and firing? There are a number of questions and I think it's fair to all of us, if you're going to be the attorney for this Parish, to be able to answer people's questions and that's what we have you on Payroll to do, and I would ask if you would be kind enough, again, to answer what she's trying to find out. We all learning, we have many agencies, under the umbrella of the Police Jury, Do I know how the Parish Library works, Do I know how the Health Unit, work, no." The attorney, replied, "That's a good point, Mrs. Hoover, that's a very good point, because the Library is not actually comparable to the Head Start system, but I'm going to ask you, Dr. Smith to ask your question again." Ms. Smith did repeat the question, On, What did we vote on, at the June meeting? The attorney, began to explain in the June 13, meeting, it was voted upon the recommendation provided by the Executive Director concerning the termination of the Head Start Program Director, that was voted on." At that time, Ms. Smith, said, "I don't know what that is, we'll discuss it when it's our turn, I don't have no idea, what that is."

Mr. Robert Jackson, replied, "Here in my hands is the annual meeting minutes from October of 2016, this is what suppose to take place, at this meeting the Community representatives was suppose to being seated in order to have a legally constituted Board. The parents become members because they have kids in the Head Start Program. These minutes from the annual meeting reflects and it came from Ms. Harris her name is on them, those minutes reflect that those Community Representatives were not seated, they were not seated, until this lady, legally constituted the Policy Council Board. The Community Representative wasn't seated as well as the Bylaws was not ratified, it's in here. So, How can the Lawyer from you-all and this body, said these things that took place, with the Policy Council was not legal and you didn't even have a legal board, you didn't have a legal board until the 20th of July, the 20th of June, you didn't have a legal Board. You can look at this if you want to, you-all can look at it. There was no annual meeting, because there was a lack of quorum. Listen very closely, the Board remained that way until the new Board members, the parents, seated the new Community Representatives in June; so therefore, the whole operation, let me repeat that, the whole operation was illegal Council, because there was not a legal Board. I'll challenge anyone in here, the President, the Lawyer, to say this is not valid. I'll challenge either one of them, to say this is not true."

Ms. Harris at that time, replied, "Correction, Mr. Jackson, that document was signed by me, but actually it was sent to the attorney by Dr. Wade. Dr. Wade is the one who sent the documents to the Parish Attorney saying it was not a quorum, I signed it, saying that I've given it to Ms. Morrow, saying that I gave it to her."

Mr. Jackson, replied, "The issue of that, The Head Start Standards said these two things. The Grantee, which is you-all, have two things

to do, make sure the rules and regulations of the Head Start Program is followed and make sure the money is done properly, so if the Policy Council was doing something illegal, it was the responsibility of your Administrative Staff to correct it. At this time the Chair, hit the gavel to stop the talking in the Audience and told the audience that everyone is going to be respected when they come up to the podium. At this time, Councilman, Rachal wanted to know what meeting when everything was ratified on, and it was said July 25. Councilman, Rachal replied, " Let me go on record, to say something, I sent a public request, information request on August 4, 2017 to the President of the Policy Council, not this Council, the Head Start Council. Mr. Jackson, replied, "Sent, what?" Councilman, Rachal, replied, " A public information request. asking for the announcement in the paper notifying all of us, the public, At this time Mr. Jackson, was about to speak, and Councilman, Rachal, replied, "Hold on, I didn't interrupt you, ok, now, to when the public was made aware it was going to be a meeting, I asked for the agenda that was suppose to be on the door before time, that is required by Opening meeting laws, and I asked for the list of the people who was invited or that was in attendance, to this date I haven't received it, you know why, because it wasn't one, so everything, that was done July 25, was illegal anyway, Sir, and I rest my case." Mr. Jackson, replied, "Head Start Policy Council Board is not an elected public entity, I'll repeat that to you again, Head Start Policy Board is not an elected public entity, Head Start program has the legal responsibility to follow those standards that Head Start put in that blue book. Have you heard of a local Ordinance or State Statute supersedes a Federal Statute, Have you ever heard of that? The Head Start, I'm glad you're beginning to think, you can't expect, You can wink your eye, all you want, He knows me, Councilman, Rachal, replied, "I'm not winking at you or him." The Chair, reminded, Mr. Jackson, to stay on task, but at this time, Mr. Jackson's minutes had already ended, Mr. Jackson, replied, "You don't want the truth."

Ms. Shirley Lathan, Head Start Policy President, "I never saw you, Mr. Russell, but however, I did receive your email. Legally, I wasn't obligated to notify you of anything, however, I do have the mailing receipt of notifying the Policy Council members, and notice on the door as well as the agenda, now, Why you out of the blue wanted to request that from me, I didn't understand that, research your book, I wasn't legally obligated to give you that information, so I didn't do it, I do have it at my home and there is a copy at the Head Start Center, if you would like to go up there to check it out; however, the Board was not legal, I'm new to this at a sense, I went to Head Start, I had five children go through and now my Grandchildren were in Head Start, and years ago I was on State Policy Council so I kind of know what I'm doing but law and thing changes, so I requested new training, however; there were things that was done by people from said offices, that interfered with some of the meetings and we were led astray and there was some people that was remained on the Board that wasn't official Board members. Once we tried to educate our own selves and learn the policies and procedures for our own selves, we discovered that was an illegal Board, so went back in July 25 and ratified it, no, we didn't contact Natchitoches Times, you know why? because first of all, when we got ready to contact Natchitoches Times and notify Policy Council members all of sudden the Postage machine doesn't work, that's \$6.00 per letter, now you want us to go run an ad, when someone, the machine was working fine, now suddenly the postage machine wasn't working during that time, so we just had to incur an expense of sending letters to Policy Council members so contacting Natchitoches Times was the furthest thing on my mind; however, we have gone back to ratify those people vote to dismiss Dr. Wade, we have never been given a reasonable answer to why she was dismissed, we understand according from persons from OCS that she was Evaluated on a Highway Department Evaluation sheet, she's an Educator, she doesn't

cut grass, or shovel cement or asphalt so How did you determine that, whatever actions and duties she perform from Head Start they don't even balance out with that, we need a Director, we need it pronto, Ms. Harris, excuse me for calling names, but I have to be realistic here and you-all need to be realistic, at this time the Chair, replied, "And we're going to be staying away from names." Ms. Lathan, replied, "I'm sorry about the name, nevertheless, the Interim Director, which was not chosen along with, Head Start was involved, Policy Council wasn't involved in selecting that person, we was not."

Parish President, "I'm not going to try to address all the things, I heard here tonight, I can fairly say we have a difference of opinions on what the laws requires, it's my understanding, I stand to be corrected, by the Parish Attorney, is that all Parish Boards, that are subdivisions of the Parish and Public entities are subject to the Open Meetings law, all records are public records and when someone requests a public record, you're not allowed to, ask why, they're requesting the record, but let me sum it up by saying one thing, I agree we need a Head Start Director and we need one now, and we have one, I was notified today, that Ms. Chriscella Metoyer, has been approved by the State licensing to serve as our Interim Director while we go through our formal search, they have reviewed her qualifications, and I've spoken on the phone with State Licensing they were very impressed with her qualifications, I extended her an offer to serve as Interim Director last week subject to passing the various test and being certified by State Licensing and I got the letter from the State Licensing today, so other than that, I don't think it's appropriate to get into a discussion of who, what and why, whether of not the June 13 meeting was legal or not, I have the authority according to the Parish Attorney to take the steps that were needed, and I took those steps, it's done, and it's over with." Chairman, Hoover, replied, "No it's not over with, and I must say, that. We are the Grantee, and we, just as we hired the Director, by vote, because we are the Grantee, when the Federal Government send this money to this Parish, it is for the Grantee as the body, the Grantee cannot be just one person, so it has to come before us, we even have a document here that you signed as Chairman of the Board, again, the Grantee, has to sign any grants unlessen, it is designated for you to do so. We talk about the Home Rule Charter, yes, you have all the say so with the Home Rule Charter, but the Home Rule Charter is the local body, Head Start is a Federal Program, paid by the Federal Government, not by the Parish Council, and I have been through it, I spoke to Ms. Michele Helmke, and we are the Governing Body, the Governing Body of Head Start, we need to read our books, that's why I asked that all of us that all of us get Head Start Program Performance Standards, so we all can learn, our responsibilities are, and I know as Chairman of this Board, I'm going to stand on that, that we are all due a due process, I don't care who it is, in the Court of law, she is an attorney and she can tell you, that a due process is due and again as Chairman of this Board, I stand with that, and I will follow what that blue book says, and if it's not in that blue book, I'm not listening, because the Federal Government gave us that money, and I'll go with that, and I will personally go to Dallas myself, but like I said I talked to Ms. Helmke, How did you think I acquired the information that I did? I did it as Chairman of this Board and was hoping that we could come together to do the right thing, to me, Dr. Wade I see you sitting, back there, I hope that you don't mind me calling your name, so this is bigger than you, we just want someone in that position, given a fair chance, we did not do what we were suppose to do by you as the Council because it wasn't brought to us, never did anyone on this Council knew anything about this and never had any correspondence, we heard all of this all out in the Community, it was never brought to us. When we tried to have an Executive Session, the president called the Executive Session off. so we had no knowledge of anything, so tell me the Federal Government puts it in our hands and we don't know nothing about what is going on.



I have a problem with that, and here we go, I'll stand, and I know all about ethics laws, so if anybody that want to call the ethics on me, I'll going to tell them and pay my fine if I need to, but I represent District #2, with a Head Start in my District, I love Sharon Harris, my mama and her mama picked cotton together, and I respect, that, I respect the Director, but I believe in due process for anyone." at that time Councilman Bedgood, stated, "Your 3 minutes is up."

Councilman, Rachal wanted to ask a question, "The Parish Council, Mr. President and Madam attorney, correct me if I'm wrong, but I understand under The Parish Council under the department heads, we only approve or disapproves a Department Head appointment correct? okay, Parish attorney, replied, "That's correct, if they're a department head." Councilman, Rachal continued, by saying, "Does the law, enforce the President to make emergency appointments, Was this an emergency appointment, Mr. President? We don't have a Head Start Director? Chairman, replied, "She never been fired, by us." Councilman, Rachal, replied, "She's not a department head, ma'am." The Chairman, replied, "We're the Grantee." Councilman, Rachal, replied, "She's not a Department Head."

Councilman Paige, replied, "Don't start my minutes, until everyone shuts up." "The Council, we never, we put this on the agenda to be talked about, but we, basically, tabled it, because Mr. Nowlin, asked us not to talk about it at that time. Ten days to a week in a half we found out from the Newspaper article that the Director has been terminated, then words have it that he has the right to fire Parish employees. The question is and where the question is going to be is in a Federal Court probably asking is the question is she a Parish Employee? When all of her money comes from the Federal Government, so think about it the way you want to, it won't be decided on in this local court, first all when I talked to Ms. Helmke, today, I wanted to know some things, I don't like second handed information, so I call her and talked with her, and Federal Government doesn't like getting in the middle of local mess, and this is what this is and one thing for sure is that the way she explained it to me, Parish Council meaning us five, Policy Council, then Administrative Staff we all three should be working together for the best interest of these children, then we're at a disagreement, and like you said you hired this person, now, Now what if Policy Council doesn't sign off on, what you done, you still got a problem; so let's understand, what is going on here, oh, well, I....It don't work that way, and that's what you call an Impasse, I pray and hope for the first meeting I heard the District Attorney's Office and Mr. Jackson stood over there, when I was trying to go home, and she said, "Well the Board hasn't been in compliance in 10 years, well, that's your first meeting, and now you're saying the second meeting they had, they didn't notify the public, I think the better thing for this Council to do, we haven't been a part of anything, Mr. Bedgood and Mr. Rachal because we been in pretty much of the dark, you may know more and requested however means you want. The problem is we have never voted on anything to do to do with none of this, this has been the District Attorney's Office and the President of this Parish. When, I was talking with Ms. Helmke, the way it use to be and the way it needs to be now, if this Governing Body which we have to look at the Grant to see just how it's worded just like we have all ways done, Ms. Harris, to where we give the President of this Parish the authority to sign any and all necessary documents to this program, but upon the approval of the Council, the way it should read as it all ways been, no one man should just sit and have this type of authority. The bottom line of this is we need to keep our children in mind, this is a heck of a time to do this right at school time and here people are trying to decide where they're going to send their babies and here we are in the middle of some stupidity talking about we're going to close it if we're not for it, or if we for Head Start what ever saga is going through peoples' minds, these children need to know and the parents need to know that

you have people that are going to love them and take care of them, now I would think and I would hope, this parish Council would look at this matter and say and that's the question I had, whether the other two meetings were legal or illegal all of that, Is the Policy Council legal now? and What they're doing over there now, is it legal?" The attorney replied, "The Court of law would be the appropriate place to make that decision and a Court of law in this Parish whether the Policy Council is legal or illegal. and there is a process that Dr. Wade." and before she could finished Councilman, Paige, stated, "This has nothing to do with Dr. Wade, we're talking about the question I'm asking, Is the Policy Council right now, when they have meetings over there, when they meet next week or wee after, Are they legal?" And the Parish Attorney, replied, "I'm answering your question, by saying that question has to be answered by a court, because everything that has happened we're going to let the Courts decide, there is an Open Meeting violations and the meeting they have had to be considered null and void, this is for the Courts." Councilman, Paige, replied, "I'm not talking about the meetings they have had, I'm talking about from this point on, I'm not talking about what happened yesterday or two weeks ago, Are they in compliance right now or not?" The Parish attorney, replied, "I'm going to answer you once again, to be clear, the answer to your question depends on what the Court of law decides on the July 25 meeting." Councilman, Paige, replied, "This has nothing to do with the July 25 meeting, you keep going to that." Parish Attorney, replied, "It does, Sir." Councilman, Chris Paige, replied, no, no, this does not concern the July 25 meeting, when they go over there to meet next week or next month, will they be legal, that's what I'm asking you?" The Parish attorney, replied, "I can't answer that question." Councilman, Paige, replied, "What do you mean?" Mr. Nowlin, and Attorney, you have sit here and made decisions, that they wasn't legal or whatever else, I want to know right now, Are they in compliance with what they are doing now from this day forward? I'm not talking about on the 25th, I'm not talking about July or June none of that, when they go and meet again, and say, "Hey, we want to meet here, Are they legal, just like we're meeting here tonight, are we legally now?"

Councilman Bedgood wanted to ask a question, "I been hearing this all around, Everybody right and Everybody else's wrong, I know it's a federal program, Why don't you get somebody in here from the Federal Government Program and to stand up right there and tell us who's right and who's wrong. And that will solve it all, because I don't care what we do is going to be wrong. Wouldn't that be sensible to get them to tell us? Chairman, Hoover, responded, "We will ask someone because, like the lawyer said, If we end up in Court, it will not be a local Court, it will be a Federal Court, because it's a federal program."

Sylvia Morrow, "Mr. Nowlin and Council Chair, see I visited with Ms. Sharon Harris, and I wanted a copy from Ms. Harris from the Office of Community Services, the Policy Council meeting dates and these people start meeting back on October 11 2016 from October 11 2016 when they did their meeting there was no quorum and I want the lawyer to be sure to look at this, it was not a quorum and I heard certain dates the lawyer gave, but all the course of the time until recently they haven't had no quorum, we have that in black and white from Ms. Sharon Harris." Ms. Harris, replied, "That paper you have in your hand is from the month of October." Ms. Morrow, replied, "Policy Council woman you are here you can tell the amount of time there was no quorum." Ms. Harris, "You have the month of October, that's what you asked for." Ms. Morrow, "I've been to some of the Policy Council meetings, I live here in the Community and I go to the meetings and they have been meeting, and I know they are legal, they have been having legal meeting the newspaper, Ms. Carolyn Roy was there all of us was there."

Ms. Gloria Smith, continues to want to speak after she has already spoken, and the Chair kept saying, "No, ma'am, she has already spoken she's further up in the agenda."

Mr. Kendrick Foy, "I'm a retired Educator and I have done my last tenure in Natchitoches Parish. What we have here is a unique opportunity. I see 309 children, that's what I see being an Educator, What I see, I see a graduating Class of Natchitoches Central, that's a large amount of kids and we want them to get their foundation an right now there is a hold on this thing to do. There are few things I'm afraid of, either we let the Federal Government pay for it now for free or we will have to pay in Parish and local dividends later on in mediations, extra teachers, in law enforcement, and in prisons. We want to get this thing done at the foundation level. We had a highly trained professional already in place that I trust, but the things that I'll seen noncompliance with Federal things and some things are just going to raise up a red flag and send them down here, what it's going to do is cost us dollars and cents in fines penalties and the Federal Government is going to find some way to get their money out of us. This is my Parish now, this is my home and I don't want it to come out of our pockets for penalties from blue sky or something, that we're not in compliance, changing a Director every year, that's a red flag, and they're going to come down here and they're going to penalize us, if you don't believe me if the Federal Government comes down here because of red flags, ask our Parish School Board right now we have some fines with that, I still consider myself a part of them. 309 students if we can do that every year we can touch the community in an awesome way and this is an opportunity right now to get it right, for us to comply, let's get all our ducks in a row, let's make these things happen, time is passing the children need to be accommodated, these children needs to be serviced, let's have a heart, Let's serve our Parish and let's serve ourselves by addressing this matter and comply."

The Parish Attorney wanted to speak, I like to point out the Governing Body and I would like to read it, Chairman, Hoover, responded, "Is this from the blue book?" Parish Attorney, replied, "No, it's not in the blue book, the blue book is your federal regulations, this is the actual US Code, Federal equivalent to our Statutes, it's The Head Start Acts. The Governing Body shall be responsible for ensuring compliance with Federal laws and applicable State, Tribal, and Local laws, for that reason, not that reason along, but for that reason the Parish's Home Rule Charter does apply, the policies and procedures of the employees, which states it applies to Head Start except as to amend for hereby and there is some specific things that are unique for Head Start, but the Home Rule Charter applies, the Local Ordinances apply. This Governing Body, is responsible for establishing a program structure in which it has."

Councilman, Paige, responded, "So, I guess that's your question to me that she's a Parish employee." Parish Attorney, "No, Sir, that's not a question to you. I was just stating the law." Councilman, Paige, replied, "The question, I asked, was she a Federal employee and not a Parish employee? The Home Rule Charter gives him rights to fire Parish employees. The Parish attorney replied, "She's not a federal employee." Councilman Paige, replied, "Well, she's paid by the Federal government, that's something the courts would have to figure out. Why do we have to spend our money, which we can be putting in roads or some other things, while it's some technicalities like that, whenever penny she receives comes from the Federal Government, so that's my take on that, and once again, Policy Council does have a say in this matter, whether we like it or not, they are the Governing Authority over there. I would hope you said the first meeting was illegal, the second meeting was illegal, Why don't we just send this back to Policy Council and let them work it out, if they're legal now, that's what I

was trying to get to, but I keep hearing they are not legal now, Why are they are even meeting over there, if they are not legal?" The attorney replied, "That's a very good question."

Ms. Carolyn Roy wanted the attorney reference to what she was reading from, and the attorney reread what she had read, and she gave Mrs. Roy the page number and name of the book and reference 642.

Ms. Judy Barnum, responded by saying, "We have 309 children, that needs to be educated, that need to be nurtured, that needs to be taken care of on a daily basis, Why can't we get it together, go to Dallas, Go to Dallas and hear it for yourself, it's simple as that, to drive to Dallas, TX where you will get the information and everybody will get it at one time." The chairman, replied, "Ms. Barnum, I have a question for you, You have been a Director of Head Start for how long? Ms. Barnum, replied, "I stayed, for 10 years, but I worked in Head Start for 16 years." Chairman, Hoover, replied, "Who has been the Grantee sign off on the grants and How did the process work?" Ms. Barnum, replied, "The Chairperson, when I was there signed off on it, until Mr. Nowlin came, Mr. Longlois was the Board Chair at one time and he signed off on it. We did get a Resolution when I first became a director and Mr. Paige was the one to sign off on it at that time."

Chairman, Hoover, said, "The Parish Council was the governing body at that time." Ms. Barnum, replied, "It was the Police Jury was the governing body." And Chairman, Hoover replied, "You worked under this administration as well." Ms. Barnum, replied, "This Administration, when we came under this Administration, Mr. Nowlin, was signing off on it, under this Administration." Councilman, Rachal, replied, "So under this Administration, he supposed, to sign off on it, that's the way it goes." Ms. Barnum, replied, "No, No, whoever the Chair of the Council supposes to sign off on it." Councilman, Paige, replied, "That's the way it all ways been." Ms. Barnum, "Who ever the Chair is, signs off on it, unless you vote on it to give him the Authority to do sign off on it."

Councilman, Paige, replied, "It's like we say up here many times, it's up on approval of the Council, in which he signs off on things and not just blanketed." Ms. Barnum, replied, "I just wanted to say that, because you're been arguing and all of this, go to Dallas, everybody, go to Dallas."

Cathy Creamer, HR wanted to respond, by saying, "Forgive me, I don't know the exact month, but Ms. Michele Helmke came to the Natchitoches Parish Head Start and we had a training, this year, it was several Policy Council members there, whether it was the beginning Board, medium Board or last Board, whatever Board was in the meeting, and Michele Helmke was directly asked, Were the employees of the Natchitoches Head Start were Parish employees or Head Start employees? and she said with batting an eye, Ms. Michele Helmke said, "Natchitoches Parish Government employees" and everybody at that meeting knows that's what she said." The Council Chair, said, "You're saying this, but there is others saying, "No," We're going to close this out, Moving, right along."

Chairman Hoover stated the next item to adopt the minutes of the regular meeting of the Natchitoches Parish Council held Monday, July 17, 2017.

On motion by Councilman Russell Rachal, duly seconded by, Councilman Rodney Bedgood that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby adopt the minutes of the regular meeting of the Natchitoches Parish Council held Monday, July 17, 2017.

On a roll call vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Rachal  
Ayes: Councilman Bedgood  
Ayes: Councilwoman Hoover  
Absent: Councilman de Graffenried  
Ayes: Councilman Paige

**Motion Passed**

Chairman, Hoover stated next agenda item:

**Appointments of Boards and Commissions.**

A. Mr. Matthew Faircloth appointed to the Natchitoches Parish Fire District No. 1. Board.

On motion by Councilman Chris Paige, duly seconded by, Councilman Rodney Bedgood that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby appoint Mr. Matthew Faircloth to the Natchitoches Parish Fire District No. 1 Board.

On a roll call vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Paige  
Ayes: Councilman Bedgood  
Ayes: Councilwoman Hoover  
Absent: Councilman de Graffenried  
Ayes: Councilman Rachal

**Motion Passed**

Chairman, Hoover stated next agenda item:

**10. First Introduction of proposed Ordinances.**

A. None

Chairman, Hoover stated next item is to conduct a public hearing to hear any and all comments or objections relative to the adoption of the following items:

A. Adoption of Ordinance 023-2017 Council to consider Budget revision for the 2017 Operating Budget for Criminal Jury/Law Enforcement, Civil Defense, Public Safety, General Fund, Highway, Government Building, Health Unit, Library, Solid Waste, Coroners, and Sales Tax.

B. Adoption of Ordinance 024-2017 to authorize the Parish President to execute an Intergovernmental Agreement between the taxing entities of Natchitoches Parish for the sale of adjudicated properties and the distribution of funds derived therefrom."

On motion by Councilman Rodney Bedgood, duly seconded by, Councilman Chris Paige that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby **open** Public Hearing to hear any and all comments or objections relative to the adoption of the above listed items.

On a roll call vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Bedgood  
Ayes: Councilman Paige  
Ayes: Councilman Rachal  
Absent: Councilman de Graffenried  
Ayes: Councilwoman Hoover

**Motion Passed**

Discussion on A

Adoption of Ordinance 023-2017 Council to consider Budget revision for the 2017 Operating Budget for Criminal Jury/Law Enforcement, Civil Defense, Public Safety, General Fund, Highway, Government Building, Health Unit, Library, Solid Waste, Coroners, and Sales Tax.

Councilman, Paige, asked, "Ms. Miley is there anything in particular that will jump out in front of us and if any changes has been made, I'll like to hear from you." Ms. Debbie, replied, "The majority of the things we did was to bring the cash in place, because last year in October or September when I brought it to you I had to estimate the Cash, so the majority were to put the correct cash. The landfill, I made a mistake on FEMA, we're not getting that much, so I took it off and brought it into line. There were no major items that were to stand out, the Library made adjustments on there as you can see, all but one was all reductions in their budget, they brought things down."

Councilman, Paige, responded, "Now, you talk about a new Handicap ramp for the Courthouse, where is that money coming out of?"

Ms. Debbie, replied, "That will have to have a budget revision, but it will come out of Government Buildings because it's not included in any of this."

Parish President and Councilman Paige because to discuss the Handicap ramp and where it would be placed and Councilman Paige, hoped the cost wouldn't get out of hand, like it was for the steps.

Discussion on B

Adoption of Ordinance 024-2017 to authorize the Parish President to execute an Intergovernmental Agreement between the taxing entities of Natchitoches Parish for the sale of adjudicated properties and the distribution of funds derived therefrom."

The Parish President, stated, "It sets the framework between the City, Parish, School Board and Sheriffs Office and all the taxing entities how the distribution of these properties and how any money derived how it will be distributed based on a pro-rata basis. Trying to get this adjudicated property off the tax roll and back onto the tax roll. On the Adjudicated Properties Agreement in Section 3.4 of the Agreement (Page 3) there is a blank that needs to be filled in. This includes language that provides for a fee to be included in the closing costs for properties sold to adjacent property owners. The adjacent property owners will be given notice and a chance to buy before it goes up for sale. This fee would go to the Parish to cover

it cost in administering the program. I discussed with CivicSource and they said normally it can be 0 because they don't want to add this large amount that will load up the closing cost that is already over \$4,000 dollars, this will add another \$700.00 to it, and that's not the point, the point is to get it back in. CivicSource will be handling Parish and at the same time the City, and the City has voted on not to charge a fee to the property owners, there is only an administration cost that is involved, if you put 0 we just absorb it, if you add a figure that's fine too, will collect that, but that will increase the closing cost."

Councilman, Paige, replied, "So, what are you saying, you're trying to make a recommendation like the City and not charge anything?" Parish President, replied, "I think it will be simple and clear if we all on the same page. When we get to that point, whoever make the motion need to include that in the motion, that we will put 0 in section 3.4, if you put a number, I wouldn't make it real high, the City is not charging anything."

Relatively from the discussions:

On motion by Councilman Chris Paige, duly seconded by, Councilman Russell Rachal that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby **close** Public Hearing to hear any and all comments or objections relative to the adoption of the listed items.

On a roll call vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

Ayes:	Councilman Paige	
Ayes:	Councilman Rachal	
Absent:	Councilman de Graffenried	
Ayes:	Councilman Bedgood	
Ayes:	Councilwoman Hoover	<b>Motion Passed</b>

Chairman, Hoover stated next item is Action on Proposed Ordinances:

- A. Adoption of Ordinance 023-2017 Council to consider Budget revision for the 2017 Operating Budget for Criminal Jury/Law Enforcement, Civil Defense, Public Safety, General Fund, Highway, Government Building, Health Unit, Library, Solid Waste, Coroners, and Sales Tax.

On motion by Councilman Rodney Bedgood, duly seconded by, Councilman Russell Rachal that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby adoption of Ordinance 023-2017 Council to consider Budget revision for the 2017 Operating Budget for Criminal Jury/Law Enforcement, Civil Defense, Public Safety, General Fund, Highway, Government Building, Health Unit, Library, Solid Waste, Coroners, and Sales Tax.

On a roll call vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

Ayes:	Councilman Bedgood	
Ayes:	Councilman Rachal	
Ayes:	Councilwoman Hoover	
Absent:	Councilman de Graffenried	
Ayes:	Councilman Paige	<b>Motion Passed</b>

- B. Adoption of Ordinance 024-2017 to authorize the Parish President to execute an Intergovernmental Agreement between the taxing entities of Natchitoches Parish for the sale of adjudicated properties and the distribution of funds derived therefrom."

On motion by Councilman Chris Paige, duly seconded by, Councilman Rodney Bedgood that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby Adopt of Ordinance 024-2017 to authorize the Parish President to execute an Intergovernmental Agreement between the taxing entities of Natchitoches Parish for the sale of adjudicated properties and the distribution of funds derived therefrom and to add 0 in Section 3.4 for the fee that will be added to the closing cost.

On a roll call vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Paige  
Ayes: Councilman Bedgood  
Ayes: Councilwoman Hoover  
Absent: Councilman de Graffenried  
Ayes: Councilman Rachal

**Motion Passed**

Chairman, Hoover stated next item Policy Council Chair and Community Representative to present to Council on Head Start.

Dr. Gloria Smith, Community Representative from the Head Start Policy Board, which she stated, is the Governing Body for Head Start. Dr. Smith, had two questions. Who is the Grantee? and Whose the Governing Body? Parish President, replied, "The Parish of Natchitoches is the Grantee, which includes the Parish Council and Parish President." Dr. Smith, replied, "That's not the information, I got from the Regional Office in Dallas, so being from what they're saying unless we get Ms. Michelle Helmke here, we were told that the Natchitoches Parish Government is the Grantee, The Governing Board would be as equal to whatever the Police Jury was, and so, now you guys are considered Natchitoches Parish Council and that would become the Governing Board. There is only two Governing Board for Head Start, Natchitoches Parish Council, and the Head Start Policy Council, which is set up by the Federal Government, now having said that, If you look at the Governing Board they have several responsibilities I want to talk about the one that you're responsible for the policy and procedure that included in the hiring and termination of the Head Start Director, Executive Director and several other physical officers, we are the Policy making board for Head Start we have not had the opportunity to stand in front of you or present any our issues, and one of our issue is with the media in the past ten years or whatever, the Board, has never published anything in the newspaper, that's not our fault, that's the fault of the administration that was there before us, when I look at the laws of the open meeting laws, we are not an elected body, so our obligations for publication is posting a notice on the door of the time and date and place and the agenda, we did that, we even put out flyers in the community and we made announcements in community churches, so we have published again we have made it known, we are having meetings and at this time the Policy Council is having more people



attending these meetings that they've had in years. They are signing the sign in sheet, we had the Police called out on our meetings harassing us, saying that we have a large group of people there, I've talked with the Chief of Police and he told me who had that done, and I'm thinking the Parish Council have meeting and people are standing out in the hall, there is no police called out if there is a large group of people there and at the same time you're taking those same people to sign your list using them for In-kind services are you going to harass them or you're going to use them correctly. I think that's a disgrace. Goldonna was a mistake, these people should have a chance to present their things before the Council and also we could have done something with that, and again. My three minutes up?"

Councilman, Paige, replied, "See, that's why, I'm sitting here that 3 minutes is "hog wash, you don't have time to take care the people business and that's my interpretation and Mr. Paige, pointed to each Council member and said you're a representative and you a representative and when your people come down here you tell them they can't talk." At that time, Councilman, Bedgood, replied, "Don't sit over there an point your finger at me, wait a minute now, wait a minute Ms. Hoover, If you're going to give them time to speak, then you give everybody that, don't sit up here and say, "I'm going to amend this agenda for two people and let everyone else speak 3 minutes." At that time Chairman, Hoover, stated, "We'll bring this back up next month and I'm going to be fair, I've asked her to take her sit, I will be fair towards everyone."

Councilman, Russell Rachal wanted to ask a question. "Ms. Smith you did say earlier, that the Parish Council is the governing body?" Ms. Smith, replied, "Yes," Councilman, Rachal continued, "Being the Government Body, was we notified that you were going to have that meeting in July, being that we're the Governing Body, we need to know when you're going to meet." Mr. Gloria Smith, responded, "Okay, Our meeting is scheduled for the second Tuesday of every month, just like your meeting is every 3rd Monday or whatever Monday in the month, we are not required to notify our members there is no law saying we have to do that, as far as your minutes our minutes are housed in the Head Start files, and if you need a copy of the minutes just as somebody come up here a wants a copy of your minutes they don't come to you directly, they go to where ever your minutes are housed to get them, that's the same respect we're asking, You're asking from the minutes from our individual members, nobody does that to you, because that's not legal." Councilman, Rachal, replied, "We do post our minutes." Ms. Smith, "Our minutes are housed at Head Start, because of federal regulations, we housed our minutes in the Head Start building if you need a public copy, that's where you go to get them."

Councilman, Paige, "You understand this is where the problem is you going to have this lady stand here for 3 minutes and then you question her for 3 or 5 more minutes do this makes any sense, are we taking care of the people business, it doesn't matter if it comes from your District or your District or mine, this is wrong, when I first came here we use to have meeting all

night long, "Oh My GOD", and somebody would be raising sand, all these meetings too long, Well, you know what, if it's that long and you don't want to be here, there's the door, get up and get out, if you don't have time to take care of these people business. You can't take care of these people business in 3 minutes and the clock is ticking, oh, well you have 4 more minutes, no 40 more seconds, that's crazy, you're not taking care of anybody business up here. It's like you don't want to hear from the public, they put us here, this is the only time they have to come to that podium and tell how bad the roads are, so, I guess we didn't want to hear them tell how bad the roads are so we said give them 3 minutes, well, guess what we're here to hear from these people, this is not right, and you sit here and said it dies from the lack of a second, you should have been jumping to say, give my people from Goldonna, from Marthaville, that has driven all the way into town the opportunity to speak and not to be tied for 30 seconds, that's crazy." Councilman, Bedgood, replied, "That's what I said, if you're going to do that, give everybody, the opportunity." Councilman, Paige, stated, "We need to put it back on to be voted on to give people more time and my jumping here tonight to give more time and nobody seconds it. It's not about me, it's about the people, some are from way out in those woods out there from where you represents, and you represents, my representation is mostly right here in town, these people are prepared to pack a lunch to come up here and you're telling them 3 minutes, that's crazy."

The attorney wanted to make a point of order, "Mr. Bedgood, I'm sorry Mr. Paige, if you would make a motion to suspend the rules regarding 3 minutes time allocated for this meeting, you can do so or you can change the Ordinance at the next meeting, but you can at this meeting to suspend the rule that is adopted by that Ordinance to allow your constituents to speak more than 3 minutes."

Councilman, Paige and the Chairman had the discussion about the 3 minutes he could make the motion to let the people speak more at this meeting, Councilman, Paige wanted the 3 minutes to go away forever, but he wants it to be clear he don't want the 3 minutes at all.

On motion by Councilman Chris Paige, duly seconded by, Councilman Rodney Bedgood that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby request to suspend the 3 minutes time limit to give the people more time than 3 minutes to speak.

On a roll call vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

Ayes:	Councilman Paige	
Ayes:	Councilman Bedgood	
Ayes:	Councilwoman Hoover	
Absent:	Councilman de Graffenried	
Nayes:	Councilman Rachal	<b>Motion Passed</b>

At this time Councilman Rachal ask the Attorney could we bring this up again, and Chairman, Hoover said she told us she could, and Councilman, Rachal stated, "I'm asking the attorney, you're far from an Attorney." at this time Chairman, Hoover, replied, "I'm the Chairman, here." Councilman, Rachal, replied, "You might be, but you don't know what you're doing" Chairman,

Hoover, replied, "And with me being the Chair, I asked that we respect one another, let's do that." Councilman, Rachal, replied, "You have to earn it first." Chairman, Hoover, replied, "God bless you, God bless you my brother, It's not how you treat me, it's how I treat you." Councilman, Rachal, replied, "I asked a legal question." The Parish Attorney, replied, "It's a procedural matters and I wasn't here for the earlier vote, it's been appropriate to allow it and Robert Rules of Order require impartiality from the Chair in conducting the meetings." The Chair, asked, "I didn't hear the last part." The Attorney repeated herself, "The Chairman, replied, "Identify that for me, that, I allowed someone else to speak more than the other." The Parish Attorney, replied, "I didn't say that."

Ms. Shirley Lathan, came to the podium and stated, she was the Head Start Policy Council Chairperson and she wanted the Council to know that Parish Government people interfered with the Policy Council, it was five (5) people who sat at every meeting and interfered with the Head Start Policy Board. And she doesn't understand how the Council didn't know about what was happening. Dr. Wade wasn't given a fair chance, Dr. Wade was new to the position and it was a learning process everyone and it was a learning process for her, and she wasn't given a chance, before they bucked and rear and dismiss her, she said let me get out of here, before, I get more upset."

Ms. Gloria Smith came back to the podium again, and said, "Yes, there was five (5) people that constantly that attended the meeting that was said that was not true, let me just say this, If there is no due process, how did we get the due process? I'm asking a question. If there wasn't an Executive Session, How do we get an Executive Session, I'm I speaking to the Grantee, and this Home Rule Charter stuff, I'm appalled, I'm an Educator, I'm appalled on how twisted this stuff is and how simple it is in that manual, it is so simple, Two Governing Body the Grantee, it states specifically on what each Governing Body does, now, nobody never did pass anything through our Policy Council once we corrected that we're tired of everybody saying our meetings are illegal the harassment is crazy, educated and intelligent people don't knick and pick like that, that just don't make sense. If we're doing something wrong, you said you're interested in Head Start help us to correct it, don't keep running around putting you're illegal, we're not illegal, we have done what open law says about posting, we have done that, we're not an elected body, we're not required to have a news article, read the open law meeting, I read it, we're not ignorant concerning that. We're bringing people in, we owe our past Director due process, and that's why we're here for, we owe her due process, we owe her an Executive meeting, and I know that you all are just people, we are just people, let's get it right, because if you don't get it right, who ever you bring in will have this same issue. I'm going to say this about Goldonna, I'm going to say it over, Goldonna should have had a Head Start Center, it was never presented to the Policy Council Board, there is money in that budget to open that center all they were asking for is a teacher and an Aide, if you're trying to give the person you're trying to get in a \$20,000 dollars raise and send \$9,000 back, How in the world you can't open up with one teacher up there in the center, for children who need, that's

what I'm talking about, This is stuff you don't hear, it's swept under the rug, when we look at the budget, we wonder, What you're doing with the money? We suppose to get \$5,000 worth of supplies for Head Start we have not seen that, it was set aside in the old budget for supplies and we have not seen that, these are issues we're talking about we are talking about our Head Start Center in Natchitoches Parish are at the 10% low they are the worst of all the Head Starts in the Country, now tell me something not going wrong with that center, because we're beginning to stand up as Policy Council and speak about the discrepancies, and the deficiencies and violations we're the enemy. You got abuse violations in 2015 and 2016 on our center on MLK that is still there in that center, I can prove it by pulling it up and showing it to you, there is six(6) of them on the same teacher when we speak on that, you haven't even heard this stuff, still sitting there the observers came in evaluation was terrible, The Observers asked, Why is this lady still here? You hear everything is okay, everything is not okay with Head Start, I've been an Educator for years, everything is not okay with Head Start, we're not angry, we're hurt, that we have a Parish President that doesn't tell you these things and he does everything on his own, I'm not lying, I'm a woman of GOD, he does everything on his own. We need to fix that center up there where the floors were so terrible and don't know how the inspector pass it, the parking lot has holes in it so bad the parents can't park there, snakes are in the building, would not lie to you-all, the building needs repairing where's the money going? Whose telling you these things, visit the centers, look at the discrepancies online go to Louisiana Believe and click on Early Childhood and click on your center and you will find the deficiencies there, we have no right to have a teacher in our Center that is abusive to our children, we have no right not to put a Center in Goldonna we have the money, if we don't have the money, then do In-Kind for the money, someone can donate the money as In-Kind to make your Center work, there are ways you can do this, it's just a matter of having the Governing Board and the Policy Council to come together and make this work, no one person is a Board, Mr. Nowlin, signed that 2014 Grant as the authorize Chairperson, that is an illegal signature, all day long, now what you're going to do about that, but you say we're illegal though, because we didn't post a notice, we're illegal because we're standing up here saying look at these discrepancies you got that is happening in these centers, we have floors that have asbestos on MLK they can't even clean the carpet every time it needs to be clean, they don't want to disturb what's under there asked the teachers the last time the carpet has been clean in that center. You have children that have accidents on themselves ask the teachers when the last time the floors have been cleaned, it has not been cleaned since last year when Dr. April Wade demanded that they clean them, will not lie, you're not getting anything from your teachers, you had a Parish Representative that sits on that Board from the time I was there until recently you didn't get any of this information from your Representative. You had an extreme aggressive behavior where cursing was used in that Center and it was reported and when the Head Start Director gave you those letters concerning that incident, they stood up and said that woman allegation was false and she was lying, let me tell you how she wasn't lying I was the person who the abuse was on, I was the person that was

attacked, me, Michelle Helmke was there call, her, she'll tell you that it happened and the Curriculum Educator was so, she thought something was so terrible she picked up the phone to call the Police, I was the person that was attacked, I was the person who should have called the Police so if you want to talk about false allegations go back in your minutes and look at the four people who said there was no bad behavior, that woman did her job as the Head Start Director, if you would look at the licensing statute, it said she had to report it for aggressive behavior and using profanity in a child's center and when she tried to report it she was sent home for four days on false allegations. Do we have a Just system here? We have a City Attorney, Do we have a Just system, Do we? All you got to do is go online and look at the discrepancies I'm talking about how bad that center is in the low 10 percent that would make you want to shake right there, because of the foundation is not solid, it's not going to be solid anywhere else they go. So I've had my say, I'm sorry, all we requesting is the due process, let's do it right, because if you take the Executive Session off of there, Why did you take it off? You don't have any legitimate reason why you fired her, you haven't used the right evaluation tools, think about all the injustice that has been done, Would you want that to happen to your child, Would you want that to happen to your wife? Would you want that to happen to your son or daughter? We'll be up in court hollering, I don't care how much you say, you legal, let's go back and get it right, because a great injustice has been done."

Ms. Debbie Miley, want to first say, "There are no discrepancies on the money, and I don't appreciate that a bit, you-all gets my, Mr. Smith, tried to interrupt, Ms. Miley, said, "No, it's my turn." You-all get monthly stuff, there is no \$5,000 worth of supplies missing, you got everything that was ordered, so don't insinuate that you have money missing or supplies, and far as Goldonna is concerned, if all the positions that was hired this year as what's in the budget you wouldn't be able to do that, it's not as simple as hiring teachers, you have 309 children, Head Start has to approve to have more children or you have to find more money, you just can't go do that, so it's more to it than just hiring the people, so it's not that simple. I just needed to say those things, and also I'm at the meetings, but I'm required to be at the meetings or otherwise honey, I have a home, that I would love to go home to, I wouldn't go, but I suppose to be there and I wasn't there at that last meeting because I was not notified and I should have been, Ms. Helmke said, herself, I should be at every meeting and notified, the one that happened in July, I was not notified, there was another one in May, I believe and I wasn't notified; in-fact I think it should be three, I haven't been notified and I should have been notified on every one of them." Somebody in the audience said, the Executive Director sitting, right there, she wasn't notified either.

Chairman, Hoover, replied, "Ms. Debbie can I ask one question, How much money did we send back?" Ms. Miley, replied, "Last year we had around \$30,000 and we put in for a van, which was around \$21,000 or so around \$9,000 was sent back and it's still on the books because the van has never been approved it's still out

there, and also let me say about spending all the money, if you don't have In-Kind you can't spend all the money, that's why it was sent back the previous year, that's why the money will be sent back this year, because we barely have enough to make the payroll next month as far as In-Kind, otherwise, the Parish would be obligated, the Parish the tax dollars that we collect to pay for the Parish, because people are doing what they are needing to doing for In-kind."

Mr. Clint Payne, replied, "I heard all the debate, and I also heard what the President said, and evidently you-all didn't listen. He said, "According to the law and the advise he got from the attorney he was in the right to make the decision that he made." That is what he said. He's not an attorney and we are not an attorney, we can't really challenge the attorney, not in here tonight, not in here tonight, but to me, it can get cleared up and solved right in this room tonight, you-all are hollering federal, hollering federal with the attorney in here, I think. If we had a Federal Head Start person in this building, this meeting right here, explains to us what the Federal Government says when it comes to Natchitoches Home Rule Charter or who is in charge of what and what duties they have, we can't solve that without that person, we can't solve it without that person here, we don't have to go to court, we just need to bring a Federal person in here and get the Board straight and get us straight too and because right now this side is making a debate and this side is making a debate and we have no juror, we have nobody that can really can make no decision, the President has stood on the advice of the Council."

Councilman, Paige, responded, "That's why many parishes doesn't have a Home Rule Charter because they're many suits going on down there and I just want you to understand that." And Mr. Payne, replied, "I understand that, I still say, if I'm a Director of a Federal program, and I can't get a Federal person in here to tell us about the program, because nobody is believes anybody else."

Councilman Paige, replied, "They don't believe in getting involved with the day to day operations, they thing is to bring in the training and try to educate you on how best to serve these children and that's all their roll, they don't want to come in and take sides with one side or the other." Mr. Payne, replied, "They wrote the policies." Councilman, Paige, replied, "I understand what you're saying, but rather it's ran by the School Board or by ...." And Mr. Clint Payne continued to say is the Policy following according to our new form of Government?" The man said and the attorney said under the Home Rule Charter he has the right under the authority he believed he did the right thing, you can't change that, how you can change that if a person from the Federal Program to come in here and give us a class or how we suppose to proceed for our children."

The attorney wanted to say something, "We had a couple of questions at the beginning of the meeting on Who is the Grantee? The Grantee is the Parish of Natchitoches, Who is the governing board is the Parish Government and if you go to your Home Rule Charter section 1-03 This Parish operates under a president-council form of government, so you-all works together,

Ordinances are passed by the Legislative Body which is the Parish Council subject to Parish President veto, unless it's overwritten. It's a very complicated structure that normally doesn't involve governments, a lot of non-profit agencies, I agree that we need to go to Dallas, Mr. Harrington also agrees we need to go to Dallas and let them tell us once and for all the answers to these questions, Who shall sign the grant application, Who makes the hiring and firing decisions and that is something we been discussing and that's something we're going to do and do you want to know why I believe the Parish of Natchitoches is the Grantee, this document is something I printed from the Head Start website ECLKT."

Councilman Paige, replied, "Just like what you're saying why are we in the dark, we haven't heard nothing of this for three months, maybe I haven't made it clear, for three months, now I told the lady on the phone call the other day, maybe some got a little upset, but we know nothing, nothing, and that's what I'm talking, about, so when you say what you say, just like you said tonight, well, I hired a person over there, and he hollered out it's an emergency, Who declared it an emergency?, How we know it's an emergency? Where is it? and if you don't like me beating down tell them to get up and get out, I'm here to represent this District and if I have to do whatever I have to do to be heard up here I do whatever, now, take it like it want."

Chairman, Hoover, asked the attorney, you're talking about the Home Rule Charter an on page 14 the president, shall appoint, direct, and supervise the heads of all departments, and administrative officers' except otherwise provided in the charter, to serve at the president's pleasure. The appointment shall be subject to council approval with thirty (30) days of their appointment. The president shall fix the salaries of the appointed department heads and administrative officers subject to the council's approval. When did we have approval from the Council, When do we have approval? This Council, this Board, when do we have approval to do anything? The attorney replied, "The Program Director, the Head Start Program Director is not a Department Head. Your Department Heads are: Parish Treasurer she is also an Administrative Officer, your Department Head is your OCS/Head Start Executive Director, of the Office of Community Services is a department and Head Start falls under that department, you have the Planning Director, over Planning and Zoning, you have an Interim Public Works Director, whose here because he's required by State law to have that position filled. The permanent position within 30 days will come to this body for approval this is another department." Chairman, Hoover, correct me if I'm wrong, "I thought Head Start is an Agency am I correct? at that time Ms. Smith interrupted, and the Chairman, told her she's going to put her out of the room. The attorney, replied, "Not exactly, Head Start Agency is your Office of Community Services, the Parish is the Grantee, the Agency is the Office of Community Services, Head Start falls under that office, Ms. Harris, please correct me if I'm wrong." Ms. Harris, replied, "You're correct, it has always been when Mr. Scarborough and Mr. Dollar brought it here, it was under the Office of Community Services." The attorney replied, "I'm glad you said that, because I do have a copy of the 1991-1992 copy

where it falls under the Office of Community Services as an Agency."

Ms. Morrow, what I'll like to say, I respect everybody here, but I heard Mr. Nowlin said who's the Grantee, is , What I'm asking for the community, Can you-all bring Dallas here, we heard what the Attorneys said, we heard reading from all sides, we will like to hear from Dallas, Can you bring Dallas here, the lady here? Ms. Harris what is her name? Ms. Harris replied the Program Specialist Ms. Helmke." Ms. Morrow, continued, "Bring her here and let her give the directives of who suppose to do what, because beginning to be some many things, Mr. Nowlin, is the President of this body, Ms. Hoover is the Chairman of the Board, we are so confused Ms. Hoover has heard from Dallas, and Mr. Nowlin, has gotten a new Director and the other Director is gone, we just want to hear the rules and regulations from Dallas, I worked in Head Start for 5 years, I know the rules from back then, but we want to hear from Dallas, now, that's how I feel, thank you."

Chairman, Hoover, replied, "There is one more thing 1303.33 Delegate Agencies. The Grantee must show cause why....at that time the Attorney informed Chairman, Hoover, Natchitoches Parish doesn't have a Delegate Agency. Chairman, Hoover, then continued, "If the Grantee shows why termination is appropriate, they just got through telling me and I'm listening from the Policy Council and my question is this, Why if she hadn't had the due process, Do she?" The Chairman, then stopped to recognize Mr. Jackson and she said after that we have to go along with our meeting."

Mr. Robert Jackson, I was in the school system for 40 years, Van Kyzer, Stuart Wright, and the Chairman, and if I was teaching Civic in High School to you-all the grades will be very low, because the Head Start Standards are very simple Uncle Sam said, "If you're going to take my money, you have to play by my rules" What are the rules? The Head Start Standards say, the Governing Body, which is you-all have two major responsibilities: fiscal, which is the money, and make sure all the rules are followed. The Standards also says that you-all have the powers to appoint a Head Start Policy Council and the day to day operations of the Head Start Program is invested with the Policy Council all the rules dealing with the Bylaws, and personnel initiates with the Policy Council and then pass it along to you-all. Policy Council has something in their bylaws that you-all disagree with then you-all can say no, if the Policy Council has an expenditure that is not justifiable, then you-all can reject it, but the Policy Council works in conjunction with the you-all, now there are certain things in those rules and regulations, such as Impasse. What is an Impasse, an Impasse is simple like a husband and wife disagree, it's when the Policy Council disagrees with you-all, when that happens, you have a mutual party comes in and try to dissolve it. What you have here, you-all have is an autocratic operation, when one man operates, like in South America, when one man makes the rules. As, the Governing Body you-all has been denied, you-all should be in an uproar, because an Agency, like this lady says on 1305.2 an Agency is the entity that receives the money. Does Rick Nowlin receive the money or Do you-all receives the money? That's the question, Does you-all receives the money as the Parish Council?, at this time,



Chairman, Hoover, replied, "We, do." Mr. Jackson, continued, "Or does Rick Nowlin, receives the money? At this time, Parish President raised his hands and said, "Yes, I do." At that time, Mr. Jackson, replied, "No, you're not part of the Governing Body. then he asked, "Are you part of the Governing Body?" Parish President replied, "Yes." Mr. Jackson, responded, "Are you part of the Policy making?" Parish President, responded, "Yes, but they make the policies, but that's a day to day operations." Mr. Jackson, replied, "Let me finish, Policy making and administration is two different entities, just like in school there are three branches of Government, Legislative makes the laws, Judicial which is the judge and services, and the President carries the laws out, in this equation you don't have three branches, you have one fellow doing all things and that's contrary. So if the Federal Government says, ok, you must play by my rules. Please turn to 642 (c)(2)(d) I'll give you a minute to turn to it, I challenge you to turn to it. it says, Policy Council shall approve when you use the adjective, shall, you have to do it, you see what is said, "shall" Do you see where it says, "shall" Will you please read it, for me Mr." at the time, Councilman, Bedgood begins to read it, "The Policy Council shall approve and submit to the governing body decisions about each of the following activities." Mr. Jackson at that time wanted to speak again, "Who's the Governing Body?" Aren't you-all the Governing Body?" Councilman, Bedgood, replied, "Supposed to be, yes." Mr. Jackson, replied, "These the type of things supposes to come to you-all correct?" Councilman, Bedgood, continued to read: "Activities to support the active involvement of parents in supporting program operations, including policies to ensure that the Head Start Agency is responsive to community and parent needs. Program recruitment, selection, and enrollment priorities, Application for funding and amendments to applications for funding for programs under this subchapter, prior to submission of application described in this clause, Budget planning for program expenditures, including policies for reimbursement and participation in policy council activities, Bylaws for the operation of the policy council, Program personnel policies and decisions regarding the employment of program staff, consistent with paragraph (1)(E)(iv)(IX), including standards of conduct for program, staff, contractors, and volunteers and criteria for the employment and dismissal of program staff, Developing procedures for how members of the policy council of the Head Start agency will be elected, and Recommendations on the selection of delegate agencies and the service areas for such agencies." Mr. Jackson, asked, "What is your interpretation? My interpretation is that the Policy Council has those responsibilities to you, to come to do those things, and when you look at them you can say, no, you can reject it under the responsibility of the Parish Governing Body, you can reject whatever the Policy Council recommends to you, now are we all together on that, now look what has happened to your Parish, your Parish President just said he has hired a Director, Has the Policy Council said anything about that, "No". Your Parish President appointed an acting Director, Has the Policy Council been involved in that? No. Your Parish President has dismissed the Director. Has the legal Policy Council been involved in it? No. What is happening this issue is not going to be contrary to it like this Lawyer says, it's not going to be involved in a Court Room in

Natchitoches, where you can pick up the phone and call a Judge and tell them this the decision, you want. These are United State Government Statutes, these Statutes were passed by Congress, United States Congress, I never know, and I've been teaching Government in High School for 40 years, I have never known in 40 years where a State Law or Local Ordinance can supersede a Federal Statute. There was a theory around here when we had separate schools, according to State Law. The United States Government said, what? We don't want you to have separate schools anymore, all those State Laws says, but we have one law supersedes, State Law." Councilman, Bedgood, replied, "Federal Law." Mr. Jackson, continued, "You're dealing with the same thing right here, and what has happened the attorney, with respect to her, her and I get along well, but she's misleading you because she's not telling her interpretations properly. The Grantee Agency is who, you say,? and Councilman, Paige, replies, "Us" The Policy Council, you read their responsibilities, Now, I'm going to ask Mr. Nowlin, I understand some people are upset, but it's America. My question, What happened to the role of the Policy Council in hiring this new Director? What happened to your role? It just disappeared and in my understanding and I'll like for you to answer this, as of tonight, Are you going to be defined as the Grantee and Governing Board for Head Start?"

Councilman, Bedgood, replied, "That's something, I can't tell you, because no one has yet told us." Mr. Jackson, said, look in your Manual under Governing Boards, look at 1305-2 Page 107, read it." Councilman, Bedgood, read what agency means: Agency means the body that receives the Head Start grant. Mr. Jackson, replied, "A body is more than one person, right, so this man is not the agency, you-all are the agency, it's just that simple, you don't have to be a rocket scientist to figure it out, look at the date on the back of the blue book." Councilman, Bedgood, said, "I understand all that, but I want to make for sure, the Attorney is saying one thing." If you don't abide by these Standards it's not going into the Natchitoches Court, its going to the United States Court, and every day you don't comply with this you are subject to be fined, and, Who legally, the Head Start Standards say is legally responsible? Chairman and Councilman, Paige, replied, We, are, the Body." Councilman, Paige, replied, "But, we know nothing."

Chairman, Hoover, said it's time to move on, we can't solve it here, as Chairman of this Board, I'm going to ask, the Council before we leave tonight if we can make a vote or whatever this Council wants to do we need to make a decision, but right now, we're at an Impasse everybody has their opinions we need some direction. I want each Council to tell how they feel we need to go from here." Mr. Paige. Councilman, Paige, replied, "I said from the beginning, Chairman, If the Policy Council is legal now, that's where it needs to be back into the Policy Council hands to decide, now, what's happening is all that has been said, all that has been done, all papers have to be sent to Dallas, now if Policy Council doesn't sign, What do you do now? So I mean, you sit here jumping up and down and just like you're not even listening, they do have a role in this, now, let me tell you the Administrative Staff and the President of whoever, you just can't go and run over agencies, and take over things,

you just can't do that, and this is what I'm hearing, and many of us are hearing it, now I'm just telling you, it has to be where each entity does their job and their job should be to do what's best for these children and all this other stuff about who don't like Head Start and who don't support Head Start, Who's not going to attend the training when it comes, and there's going to be several that don't show up, so when she asked me the other day, I told her, no, I don't need no training because I've been to several meetings and every time we run into these types of situations, we talk about we need training, no, I said Administrative Staff and President probably needs training, not me, because I'm not coming." Chairman, responded, "Well, Mr. Paige, I asked for training, I asked for the Council to have the training and I think we do need it, training. Mr. Bedgood, I want to hear from you right now." Councilman, Bedgood, replied, "I don't have anything else to say about it, I want to hear from Dallas." Chairman, continued, by saying Mr. Mr. and Councilman, Rachal, responded, "Rachal." "I feel according the phone call, she wanted to know about training and you-all wanted to get into all this stuff, and she hung up the call on you-all, that's what I understand, now next thing I believe is that we heard Federal Law from our Attorney, who knows far more than, I do, and anyone around this table does. I believe she has told us what Federal Law says, they didn't give us this program, we bid on it and won it, I don't think this little book as everyone referring to is our bible to go by." Chairman, Hoover, laughed, "It is." Councilman, Rachal, well she told us tonight about the Federal law, and you-all not bright enough to pick up on it."

Chairman, Hoover, asked, Mr. Nowlin, as Chairman, "We're asking you to please not hire anyone until this matter is resolved, and I will call Dallas tomorrow, and the Council has the same opportunity to pick up that phone and call her, but we're asking for this Board, not to hire anyone until this matter is resolved, we are in an Impasse."

Parish President, wanted to make his final comments. "I had a telephone call after the conference, call from the Regional Program Specialist. I was asked a lot of questions concerning the Home Rule Charter, rather than me trying to explain it to you, I'll send you a copy of it, I sent them a copy of the Charter and Hope we come up with the T&TA training so we can be able to address this and they will have a chance to digest the Home Rule Charter and be able to better inform us of what we should do." Chairman, Hoover wanted to ask the Parish President a question. "With all that you have heard and all these people in here that are your constituents, Do still think that it would be fair to the people of this Parish, to make a decision of hiring someone without the Council approval?" Parish President, responded, "Madame, Chair, School started August 14 and in view of the questions raised about the initial Interim Director, I decided it was an emergency situation, that it was important that we would have a Director that would be beyond approach that was qualified... At this time, the audience was getting louder and louder and Chairman, Hoover hit the gavel and called out, I'm going to put you out, Gloria." At that time Ms. Smith, replied, "I'm going." The Parish President continued, "So, under the authority of the Parish Employment Personnel Manual, just

learn, let me say this, let me repeat, this afternoon very late, I received word from the State Licensing the name we had submitted along with a lot of information had found to be qualified not only for Interim Director, but a full time Director, but our intention to have an Interim Director on board immediately so it will be no more discussion about whether not Ms. Harris is qualified to be the Interim Director, and that's what we're doing." Chairman, Hoover, replied, "Mr. President, the Director has never been fired, it's through the Policy Council and the Council, we have never....at this time the Parish President replied, "We have gone over that and gone over that, and we have a difference of opinions on that." and the Chairman, continue, "So it's why we're at the Impasse, that we are now, but we have to, as Governing Board and Grantee we have the opportunity to vote, and you're just disregarding like we're not even here."

Councilman, Paige, asked, "Do we vote on the new person?" Parish President, replied, as long as it through an emergency hire situation, No, Sir, you do not." Councilman Paige, replied, "Emergency" At this time the audience and Chairman, Hoover, replied "What's the emergency?, Where's the emergency?, and show me in that in writing, please?" Parish President, replied, "Dr. Smith, said herself, we need a Director, now! and Ms. Lathan, said, "We, do." Parish, President, replied, "We, do and we will have one tomorrow morning." Ms. Lathan and Dr. Smith and others, screamed, you already got one. Parish President, replied, "I'm not going to argue with you."

Chairman, Hoover, "Attorney, do we have something in writing, as far as an emergency for a Director?" The Attorney, asked, "Are you asking if it's in the Policy Manual?" Chairman, Hoover, replied, "Yes. Do you have anything in writing that says anything about an emergency?" The Parish Attorney, replied, "I will have to refer you to HR and the Parish President on that, that's a Personnel matter....." at that time Chairman, Hoover, responded, what is HR?" Parish Attorney replied, "Human Resources" Chairman, Hoover, replied, "Oh, Human Resources. Now, Human Resources are making the policies." The attorney, replied, "No, ma'am, I said you need to refer to her on the Policy for what you're asking." Chairman, Hoover, replied, "Oh, ok. moving along."

Chairman, Hoover stated next item Council to consider keeping the same agents to seek insurance rates for the Parish of Natchitoches for 2018:

Risk Management of LA (Cunningham Agency): Property, Worker's Comp, Public Officials, Auto, Bond, and In-land Marine.  
Jim Sandifer: Health, Life, Dental, Vision, and AD&D  
Terry Downs: Supplemental Insurance

On motion by Councilman Russell Rachal, duly seconded by, Councilman Rodney Bedgood that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby consider keeping the same agents to seek insurance rates for the Parish of Natchitoches for 2018:

Risk Management of LA (Cunningham Agency): Property, Worker's Comp, Public Officials, Auto, Bond, and In-land Marine.  
Jim Sandifer: Health, Life, Dental, Vision, and AD&D  
Terry Downs: Supplemental Insurance

On a roll call vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

Ayes:	Councilman Rachal	
Ayes:	Councilman Bedgood	
Nayes:	Councilwoman Hoover	
Absent:	Councilman de Graffenried	
Nayes:	Councilman Paige	<b>Motion Not Passed</b>

Councilman, Paige wanted to ask a question. Mr. de Graffenried, had asked some questions about some of the insurance's, Are these all the proposals we got? what's the determination of these? Because look like the same people always gets it, we had some great concerns about certain individuals, anyways, getting them over and over, and over and being so instrumental in the decision making up here."

Parish President, this selection of agency is really based from merely on the history of dealing with certain people who has worked with us in the past, they have gotten proposals from us on different companies from the past, merely doesn't matter which agency you pick the Insurance Companies are going to send their proposals to that agency, and Ms. Miley probably can explain it better in detailed the insurance companies only want to deal with one agent to take their policies, you can pick ten agents, but they are only going to send asked who's the primary agent and that's the only one there going to give it to, if you have the same agents, you have competitive bids for the insurance, correct me if I have misspoken."

Ms. Miley, replied, "They will only give the quote to one agent, who ever calls first, that it." Chairman, Paige, replied, "Do all three have to be listed together?" The Chairman, replied, "We have already voted on this, Chris, we have made the motion and the vote. What is the vote? Council Clerk responded, "Two yea's, and two no's." Councilman, Rachal, "Point of Order, I know something can be brought back up before you adjourn by the majority, can we bring it back up for reconsideration?"

On motion by Councilman Russell Rachal to bring it back up for consideration and discussion on if they can vote on it individually.

Councilman, Rachal, explains that he has an agent, but his agent is not his insurance company they underwrite for a different company, what I'm reading here and I'm not trying to push any names.... at that time Chairman, Hoover, replied, "Yes, you are." Councilman Rachal, continued by saying these names are for agents just because Jim Sandifer name is on, it doesn't mean he will be underwriting the Health, he might be underwriting for another company, Am, I correct?"

Ms. Miley, replied, "He does, He get the bids from other companies, he's the agent. The Companies will only give it to only one agent."

Councilman, Rachal, asked, "He's not the insurance company that insures, right?" Parish President, answers, No." last time on our Health Insurance he brought in eight or ten options, United, Blue Cross, and we brought them to the Council.

On motion by Councilman Russell Rachal duly seconded by, Councilman Rodney Bedgood that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby consider keeping the same agents to seek insurance rates for the Parish of Natchitoches for 2018:  
Risk Management of LA (Cunningham Agency): Property, Worker's Comp, Public Officials, Auto, Bond, and In-land Marine.  
Jim Sandifer: Health, Life, Dental, Vision, and AD&D  
Terry Downs: Supplemental Insurance

On a roll call vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

Ayes:	Councilman Rachal	
Ayes:	Councilman Bedgood	
Nayes:	Councilwoman Hoover	
Absent:	Councilman de Graffenried	
Nayes:	Councilman Paige	<b>Motion Not Passed</b>

Ms. Miley asked, so this means we won't have insurance, No one will Health Insurance or any other insurance. Councilman Paige, replied, "When do you need a decision?" Ms. Miley, replied, "We need it now, because Budget needs to be done."

Councilman Bedgood, replied, "We have done the same thing before, and I being talked about, we came to find out it wasn't cheaper anywhere else we went through it, I don't know any of these personally, and at that time, Councilman, Paige, replied, "You, don't?" Councilman, Bedgood, replied, "Yes, but he doesn't like me. I'm just saying that we went through it before, we didn't get anything cheaper, we got the same that everyone else got, that's you-all you vote like you want to, if you're going to vote no, just like call it off and forget about." At this time the Parish Clerk, wanted to let the Council know last year, they voted to find another agent, but no new agent was found. Councilman, Paige, replied, "I know Councilman, de Graffenried, asked several questions about particular one, but he's not here tonight, we had concerns, so did I about the same one, but you vote your conscience, I've voted mine."

Ms. Carolyn Roy wanted to ask the Parish President and Ms. Miley about the Parish not having any insurance, "Is there a deadline for this, can you elaborate on that?" Chairman, Hoover, replied, "I don't know anything about a deadline, she hasn't provided us with a deadline, when Mr. de Graffenried come back and we decide to have another vote for a special call meeting, but we voted tonight." Ms. Roy replied, "So you're not allowing her to answer my question?" Chairman, Hoover, replied, "Oh, yes." Ms. Debbie Miley, responded, "Deadline for this year, like it's been forever, the fiscal year, which is December 31st, but you have to have a Budget in place and you have to have an idea what your numbers are before December, because open enrollment is in December, therefore, November there has to be a decision and you're not going to have time, so there will not be any Insurance, what be able to have it." Councilman, Rachal, "No vehicles or people will be insured." Ms. Miley, replied, "This is vehicle, health, this is everything."

Ms. Roy, replied, "So you will not have time to get the policies?" Ms. Miley, replied, "We have that risk."

Chairman, Hoover stated next item is Council to consider approval of the proposed merger of the Robeline-Marthaville Water System with the Sabine Water District No. 1. and to add in the Therefore, be it resolved the wording, after No. 1 and for the existing franchise of the Robeline-Marthaville Water System to be transferred to Sabine Water District No. 1

At this time, three Representatives came to give us a briefing on this system and to let the Council know that Robeline-Marthaville doesn't have the means of replacing all these deficiencies they are being fined \$447.00 a day but it has been sanctioned do go along with this merger. Sabine Water District No.1 is willing to help and take this over for Robeline-Marthaville. Henry Schuler is the Engineer on this project. Chairman, Hoover asked was there any cost to the Parish for this project? Not at this time, Mr. Perez, replied, but that's only if the Parish doesn't approve it, then it might be a cost, because Robeline-Marthaville can't handle the modifications that are needed to get in compliance, with the Department of Hospitals. The Parish residents will not pay any more for this merger.

On motion by Councilman Chris Paige, duly seconded by Councilman Russell Rachal that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby approve of the proposed merger of the Robeline-Marthaville Water System with the Sabine Water District No. 1. and to add in the Therefore, be it resolved the wording, after No. 1 and for the existing franchise of the Robeline-Marthaville Water System to be transferred to Sabine Water District No. 1

On a roll call vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

Ayes:	Councilman Paige	
Ayes:	Councilman Rachal	
Absent:	Councilman de Graffenried	
Ayes:	Councilman Bedgood	
Ayes:	Councilwoman Hoover	<b>Motion Passed</b>

Chairman, Hoover stated next item is Council to consider RFP for new server for the Parish of Natchitoches.

At this time Kerry Wastlund, the new IT person introduced himself and begin to explain about the needed updates on the Parish's server and software. The Parish has never purchased a true network server system and the system in place is obsolete and is a serious security risk. The current financial reporting hardware and software is now obsolete, the system in place cannot support any new financial software and is no longer supporting by any vendor.

Councilman, Paige, asked, Mr. Kerry, "Are you housed here or at home?" Mr. Kerry, replied, "I have an office up here, Sir, they still trying to clean it up."

On motion by Councilman Russell Rachal, duly seconded by, Councilman Rodney Bedgood that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby approves RFP for new server for the Parish of Natchitoches.

On a roll call vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Rachal  
Ayes: Councilman Bedgood  
Ayes: Councilwoman Hoover  
Absent: Councilman de Graffenried  
Ayes: Councilman Paige

**Motion Passed**

Chairman, Hoover stated next item is Council to consider authorizing Parish President to sign the necessary paperwork required for the Intergovernmental Agreement from the Federal Off-System Bridge Rehabilitation and Replacement program with the Parish of Natchitoches.

On motion by Councilman Rodney Bedgood, duly seconded by, Councilman Russell Rachal that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby authorize Parish President to sign the necessary paperwork required for the Intergovernmental Agreement from the Federal Off-System Bridge Rehabilitation and Replacement program with the Parish of Natchitoches.

On a roll call vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Bedgood  
Ayes: Councilman Rachal  
Ayes: Councilwoman Hoover  
Absent: Councilman de Graffenried  
Ayes: Councilman Paige

**Motion Passed**

Chairman, Hoover stated next item is Council to consider to authorize the Parish President to obtain plans and specifications for the construction of a handicap ramp at the main courthouse entrance (Church Street), to advertise for bids.

On motion by Councilman Russell Rachal, duly seconded by, Councilman Rodney Bedgood that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby authorize the Parish President to obtain plans and specifications for the construction of a handicap ramp at the main courthouse entrance (Church Street), to advertise for bids.

On a roll call vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Rachal  
Ayes: Councilman Bedgood  
Ayes: Councilwoman Hoover  
Absent: Councilman de Graffenried  
Ayes: Councilman Paige

**Motion Passed**

Chairman, Hoover stated next item is Council to consider Authorizing the Parish President to execute the Cooperative Agreement Between the Parish of Natchitoches and the Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs.

On motion by Councilman Chris Paige, duly seconded by, Councilman Rodney Bedgood that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby authorize the Parish President to execute the Cooperative Agreement Between the Parish of Natchitoches and the Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs



On a roll call vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Paige  
Ayes: Councilman Bedgood  
Ayes: Councilwoman Hoover  
Absent: Councilman de Graffenried  
Ayes: Councilman Rachal

**Motion Passed**

Chairman, Hoover stated next item is Council to discuss the Mosquito spraying Program in the Parish of Natchitoches; concerning events that residents have on their property

Councilman, Paige, responded, I had that put on the agenda Mr. President, it come to understand that someone had called for services, which we have been doing this for 30 to 40 years out in the Parish going out to help people whenever they was having an outdoor event that they called to have mosquitoes spraying a week in advance, we would go out on private property to spray and an individual had a large operation out in Clarence and they call and they were disappointed in the way they were talked to and the way it was handled and they said they could not believe that we could not go out on private property, now do we need to be get the District Attorney Office or any legal person to help you with the language to use to get permission to go on someone properties to help them provide services to the people in the Parish to do that, we have been doing this for "umpteen years" and be certainly don't want to stop now, these people got out there to work hard to pass that tax many parishes do not have a tax in place to spray and kill mosquitoes, so we need to continue that and so if we need to have legal documents that they went on private properties, we did the same thing with handicap ramps, I went to the City and they say we can't go on Private Property and I turn to the Mayor, and said, Don't you go onto private property to turn the utilities off, so he said, yes, well...we got an easement, what ever you want to call it, some type of documents we got to go on private property. Is there a problem with it, we need to lay it down here now, we don't want people to call in and they can't get the services."

Councilman, Rachal, responded, "I don't know if we can go on private property?"

The attorney, replied, "Is there a request for a legal opinion somewhere in there?" Councilman, Paige, replied, "You can take that up with the President, he said he would handle it, I'm just making sure tonight, it's handled and we don't have to be by word of mouth, we can be on documented and the public needs to know because these people out in the rural areas already believe they are not getting much for their bang, just make sure to show them that we care and if it does require riding on their property you can sign on something and go on their and spray and we don't hesitate where we spray, we always have, it's never been a problem, never, you might need to get in touch with those people who sprayed for 30 some years to see how they did it or something."

Parish President, responded, "It's a general rule that the Parish would limited their spraying to public by-ways and highways with the understanding this is what we was authorized

to do. I will say that we have on occasion sprayed areas that had large events opened up to the public, whether it was a church reunion something of that nature, we usually pull up in the parking, by bending the rules to that nature, I might get slapped by the District Attorney, in a few minutes. To say, we did refused some people who have had a small private family gathering, certainly not 100 more like 15 to 20, in their backyard or something, I don't think that's a proper role for the Parish mosquitoes Program especially if we have other opportunities or options out there, but if that's something you want to do and you did it back, then, you have to ask was it legal back then when it was done, and I don't know and it may have been, the former Police Jury may have taken some actions to make it legal." Parish President, then asked, the attorney, "I know you getting caught cold by this, Do you have any initial thoughts on this anything you like to offer?" The Parish Attorney, replied, "No, I do not, I will prefer to wait and it's private property for one, and you will need rights of entry signed by the property owner and if it's permissible under the constitution."

Councilman, Paige, replied, "My understanding if the property owner gives you the right to come on their property to spray, then you can do so, and whomever can look up the legal aspects they need a document to go on the people's property once again, and I beg of you guys that lives out there in the rural area, this is where I'm hearing it since they want you to come on their property to spray." Parish President replied, "I think we should allow the Attorney to check it out and if it's possible of Mr. Paige is suggesting maybe she can assist in drafting something out that we can say, "We'll be happy to come out, but you need to sign this first, giving us permission to do so." Councilman Paige and Parish President went into another discussion on the spraying, Councilman, Paige, replied, "I don't care if it's 15 or 20 we should help the people, it looks like to me we're coming up with ways in not helping the people these days, that's what gets me. I'm doing most of talking but, most of my people is in the City, The Parish Attorney, replied, "I'll certain will be happy to take a look at it once I receive a written request for a legal opinion from Mr. Nowlin, there are all different issues you will be dealing with."

Chairman, Hoover stated next item is Council to discuss considering authorizing Parish President to lease an additional grader for road maintenance.

On motion by Councilman Rodney Bedgood, duly seconded by, Councilman Russell Rachal that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby authorize Parish President to lease an additional grader for road maintenance.

On a roll call vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

Ayes:	Councilman Bedgood
Ayes:	Councilman Rachal
Ayes:	Councilwoman Hoover
Absent:	Councilman de Graffenried
Ayes:	Councilman Paige

**Motion Passed**

Chairman, Hoover stated next item is council to consider authorizing the Parish President to sign and execute the Federal grant agreement for 2016 FMA Acquisition of Two properties.

On motion by Councilman Russell Rachal, duly seconded by, Councilman Rodney Bedgood that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby authorize Parish President to sign and execute the Federal grant agreement for 2016 FMA Acquisition of Two properties.

On a roll call vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

Ayes:	Councilman Rachal	
Ayes:	Councilman Bedgood	
Ayes:	Councilwoman Hoover	
Absent:	Councilman de Graffenried	
Ayes:	Councilman Paige	<b>Motion Passed</b>

At this time the Chairman wants to go back and reconsider Council to consider keeping the same agents to seek insurance rates for the Parish of Natchitoches for 2018:  
Risk Management of LA (Cunningham Agency): Property, Worker's Comp, Pubic Officials, Auto, Bond, and In-land Marine.  
Jim Sandifer: Health, Life, Dental, Vision, and AD&D  
Terry Downs: Supplemental Insurance

It's no way we can sit here and say we're concerned about the people of the Parish and vote no on insurance, I want to change my vote and to show yes.

On motion by Councilman Chris Paige, duly seconded by, Councilman Russell Rachal that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby approve keeping the same agents to seek insurance rates for the Parish of Natchitoches for 2018:  
Risk Management of LA (Cunningham Agency): Property, Worker's Comp, Pubic Officials, Auto, Bond, and In-land Marine.  
Jim Sandifer: Health, Life, Dental, Vision, and AD&D  
Terry Downs: Supplemental Insurance

On a roll call vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

Ayes:	Councilman Paige	
Ayes:	Councilman Rachal	
Ayes:	Councilwoman Hoover	
Absent:	Councilman de Graffenried	
Ayes:	Councilman Bedgood	<b>Motion Passed</b>

Chairman, Hoover stated next item on agenda is visitors:

Mr. Richard Roberts, wanted to get an update on Hampton Road. Parish President, replied, "We have done a little work on it, we're not even close to finishing the plans, the Engineer is working on the present highest priority, which is Payne Subdivision, soon as that's finished we're moving to Hampton Road. September 5, 2017, the Parish received a Writ of Mandamus to make us move immediately quickly and it's all depends on the judge we might have to make it a higher priority."

He asked Mr. Townsend when the rain stop can the grader come back out once the rain stop, Mr. Roberts said, the grader did

come out and done a great job, but it started to rain, and the grader could not come back out.

Ms. Savannah Bynog wasn't present to discuss why she wanted the speed reduction on Buck Tail Drive from 35 to 15, this matter was table until someone from that road is present.

Chairman, Hoover stated next item:

**Executive Session:**

Parish Attorney to update Parish Council on status of lawsuit captioned Atherton, James et al v. Parish of Natchitoches, et al; 10<sup>th</sup> JDC, Docket No. 88,994-B

On motion by Councilman Chris Paige, duly seconded by Councilman Russell Rachal, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby enter into an closed Executive Session.

On a roll call vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Paige  
Ayes: Councilman Rachal  
Absent: Councilman de Graffenried  
Ayes: Councilman Bedgood  
Ayes: Councilwoman Hoover

**Motion Passed**

On motion by Councilman Chris Paige, duly seconded by Councilman Russell Rachal, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby close Executive Session and enter back into regular session.

On a roll call vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Paige  
Ayes: Councilman Rachal  
Absent: Councilman de Graffenried  
Ayes: Councilman Bedgood  
Ayes: Councilwoman Hoover

**Motion Passed**

In the Executive Session details was discussed and now relatively to those discussion and back into legal the session the following actions was taken:

On motion by Councilman Chris Paige, duly seconded by Councilman Russell Rachal, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby accept the recommendations of the Parish Attorney settlement with lawsuit captioned Atherton, James et al v. Parish of Natchitoches, et al; 10<sup>th</sup> JDC, Docket No. 88,994-B  
There was no voting in the Executive Session.

On a roll call vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Paige  
Ayes: Councilman Rachal  
Absent: Councilman de Graffenried  
Ayes: Councilman Bedgood  
Ayes: Councilwoman Hoover

**Motion Passed**

On motion by Councilman Russell Rachal , duly seconded by Councilman Rodney Bedgood, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby adjourn.

On a roll call vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

Ayes:	Councilman Rachal	
Ayes:	Councilman Bedgood	
Absent:	Councilman de Graffenried	
Ayes:	Councilman Paige	
Ayes:	Councilwoman Hoover	<b>Motion Passed</b>

Since there was no other business the meeting was adjourn:

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Patsy Ward Hoover, Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sheryl Frederick,  
Council Clerk