

PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATCHITOCHE PARISH COUNCIL
PARISH OF NATCHITOCHE, STATE OF LOUISIANA
TAKEN A REGULAR MEETING HELD, MONDAY,
MARCH 21, 2016
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, March 21, 2016 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 Russell Rachal who stated that the Parish was ready for the transaction of business.

The invocation was given by Councilman Doug de Graffernied and the Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilman Russell Rachal.

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

Absent: None.

Chairman Rachal then asked for the agenda to be amended to add additional items before the agenda is adopted. The items are to be added to agenda are as follows:

1. Consider authorizing the Parish of Natchitoches to be named as the responsible party for debris removal as a result of the recent flooding.
2. Consider authorizing the Parish President to solicit proposals for contracts for debris removal in accordance with 2CFR200 as a result of the recent flooding, and to award each contract to the lowest responsible bidder.
3. Consider authorizing the Parish President to solicit proposal for contracts for disaster recovery in accordance with 2CFR200 as a result of the recent flooding, and to award each contract to the lowest responsible bidder in each case.
4. Consider approval of the appointment of Mr. Frank Fuller to the board of the Natchitoches Parish Library.
5. Consider authorizing the Parish President to submit a loan/grant application to U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development for the purchase of equipment needed by the Parish Highway Department.

At this time Councilman Chris Paige questioned why is it being done this way, and he was told by the Chairman to be in compliance with the open meeting laws. Councilman Paige wanted proof that this is the way it should be done for future reference. Councilman Chris Paige states laws are always changing and they need to be informed of them so they will know. Chairman Rachal also informed the Council, he will no longer be voting since he was the Chairman, he was only going to vote to break a tie. Councilman Chris Paige, stated Councilman Rachal was voted in by the residents of his district to vote, Mr. Rachal was the voice for them and he needs to vote. Councilman Chris Paige states he understands about the open meeting laws and Roberts Rule of Order, but the chairman was voted in to do a job and that job is to serve the residents of his district and it's not right for him not to vote on issues. The Parish Assistant District Attorney Mr. Harrington, advised Mr. Rachal continue to vote during this meeting, and he will research and give an opinion on rather he should vote or should only vote to break a tie.

**Regular Meeting
March 21, 2016**

2.

After this relative long discussion between the Council,

On motion by Councilman Chris Paige, duly seconded by Councilman Doug de Graffernied, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby adopt the agenda.

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

Ayes: Councilman Paige
Ayes: Councilman de Graffernied
Ayes: Councilman Bedgood
Ayes: Councilman Rachal
Ayes: Councilwoman Hoover

Motion Passed

Chairman Rachal then asked for visitors at this time.

Mrs. Yolanda Jefferson from the Coco Bed Road wanted to know exactly what was going on with the Coco Bed Road. She wanted to know the why is there a set back concerning the road now. Mr. Verret stated when they turned in the design plans the Project Manager rejected them stating they do not meet State regulations. Mr. Verret along with Mr. Nowlin stated they have appealed this decision to the Project Manager's Boss and waiting on a decision from him. The Facility Planning is the people with the money and the Parish can not do anything unless the State approves everything. Mr. Verret stated if this decision is not overturned this can cause problems for other projects in the future.

Mr. Verret stated an adjacent parish has been approved by the Facility Planning and several of their roads do not meet State requirements and he doesn't understand why the State won't approve Coco Bed Road for Natchitoches Parish.

Mr. Jefferson stated the parish won't to move water meters, and trees, this is more cost being added and he feels this is the reason why it's not being approved.

Mr. Verret was saying they were not understanding, the project that was submitted was without the water lines removal, was without the clearing and without the additional purchasing of the right away, and the State did not approve it at this point.

Mr. Jefferson asked would it be better to do it on the riverbank side where you don't have to move anything, everything is opened. Mr. Verret stated at that time we didn't have a way to construct the base that would hold up without having right a way, without having extended ditches cut, without having trees cut. so that's why he thought the Parish would have to have acquired the right away.

Mr. Nowlin stated this particular project manager with Facility planning is saying the Parish Road should meet the State requirements and others project managers are not saying this. This is why he went to the Director and stated there are inconsistencies in his office and it needs to be straightened out. Mr. Nowlin, stated he have been going back and forth for them to rule in our favor.

Ms. Jefferson wanted to know if the state was aware of what the residents of Coco Bed road have been going through the past five (5) or six (6) years. From the former Police Jury and now the Current Parish Government.

Mr. Nowlin, say he was sure they were not aware of all the details from the past and they really don't need to know all the details. Ms. Jefferson wanted to know why not, this will help push it through. Ms. Jefferson stated it has been 50 plus years and the State need to know how long the residents have been waiting.

Mr. Nowlin, stated he can't change anything from 50 years ago we don't need to talk about it at this point. The Jefferson's feel there is still no change or progress. Mr. Nowlin stated His goal is to get the State people from Facility Planning that has the money to see our side of this issue.

Ms. Janet Perry, stated she has been with the Jefferson's by coming to all the meetings and this is not was told to them in the beginning. From the beginning the residents waited a whole year for things to be submitted to Capital Outlay. Mr. Verret went back to get additional money for Coco Bed Road. Mr. Verret told the resident in November they would start working on Coco Bed road in the Spring. The next thing it would be like Payne Subdivision no money to do the road.

Ms. Perry stated she's upset because they were told that 9/10 of a mile would be done. In November it was told that due to the weather conditions in the Winter it would be around Spring for them to start working on this road. At the beginning nothing was said about a right of way all was said is the Capital Outlay was approved and additional funding was approve for Coco Bed. The next meeting that was attended it was told since they have the additional funding they can fix the entire road about two miles of it. Then again the residents come back and it was told they have to get a right of way, move trees, test the soil. Does it really take 2 years to do 9/10 of a mile. "Come On", stated Ms. Perry.

Mr. Jefferson stated when Mr. Nick Verret came down there to meet with him and his father and others, Mr. Jefferson's father told him to get your ass back in the truck and leave, but Mr. Jefferson, the son, told his father let him talk, I want to know what he has to say.

Mr. Verret told them to cut this Pecan tree and a Cedar tree, remove the water meter and then go over 50 feet in his dad's yard and then you would need a drain. So if this was done someone when they step off the step would fall in the ditch and get ran over by a car, when you have all this land on the riverside. This has been going on for years. Mr. Jefferson stated they have removed fences on both sides of the road and they still can't do anything about the road.

Mr. Verret state they have reiterated constantly throughout this process but was interrupted and with an exchange of words between Ms. Perry, Ms. Jefferson, and Chairman Rachal.

The Chairman, Russell Rachal stated they need to have order, he wasn't trying to stop anyone from speaking. At that time Ms. Jefferson told him they have been trying to call him and he never answered, and Chairman Rachal said he never received a call from her.

Mr. Verret stated again they have reiterated constantly throughout this process that the Parish doesn't control the process the office of Facility Planning with the State Division of Administration control the process because they have the money. The approval of the money is to approve the project and concept of the project, in order to make that happen the Parish has to submit plans and the plans has to be approved by the funding agency. And that's where the Parish is at with the Coco Bed Road Project.

Mr. Verret stated he has given the residents he best guess estimate when it will be done. Ms. Perry stated you have said a date, Mr.

Verret denied this and said could not give a exact date, because he didn't control the process. Ms. Perry didn't agree with that neither did the other residents of Coco Bed Road. Mr. Verret stated again he gave his best guess, because he doesn't control the process.

Mr. Jefferson stated the State people need to be presented with a plan that works. Mr. Nowlin, stated they didn't submit that. Mr. Jefferson asked, "where did it come from."

Mr. Nowlin, said at one point in the process they thought they would have to that. through research we found a new product to construct the road the existing road without having to do a right of way, without the water lines, and other things. We submitted it the way the residents wanted it to be submitted and this way was turned down by the Project Manager, and this is the reason why the Parish is appealing the project Manager's decision.

Ms. Jefferson stated Mr. Nowlin, needs to go over the project manager's head to Senator Long, and Mr. Nowlin responded he has contacted the Senator. Senator Long has met with them and Mr. Moses before. Mr. Nowlin thinks this matter will be resolved. Senator Long does know about this and stated after they go through all the channels and can't get anywhere he would help.

Ms. Perry wanted know, How come this has gone differently from when this process started? Everything was good and things was ready and set. Ms. Perry stated, Rick or Nick can't give them a date for when this will begin, Mr. Verret, says no, they can't because they don't control the process.

Ms. Perry stated, all the people around the horseshoe except for new Council members know exactly what was said from Mr. Verret. that everything was going good and the Capital Outlay was approved. Everyone was happy and cheering. It was published in the Natchitoches Times CoCo Bed Road finally getting where it needs to be.

Ms. Perry wanted Rick Nowlin and Nick Verret to tell the residents the truth about their road.

Mr. Verret, stated he will proceed with the project, and will continue with the plans that was submitted. Everything was going good until the plans that was submitted was not approved. For some reason if they can't get this decision overturn they will go with the other project of acquiring the additional right away and doing all that.

Ms. Perry wanted to know exactly the time period of acquiring the additional right of way. Mr. Verret stated it would take a few months to get the appraisals and surveys. Mr. Jefferson said Mr. Verret had already told them the same thing the past six months ago, and Mr. Verret agreed and said yes, but now, instead of cutting trees and acquiring additional right away and all of that, they have found a new way to do the road with the existing road, this is the way to go but the State hasn't approved it. Mr. Verret is hoping the decision will be overturn, because again this will cause problems with all the other projects that was submitted.

Janet Perry, stated she's not being mean, but her concern is not with the other roads, but their main focused is on Coco Bed Road which these residents have been waiting 50 years for the Parish to do. She asked if they get the additional right away are they talking about 9/10 of a mile or the whole 2 miles. Mr. Verret stated it will be only the 9/10 of a mile that will be done.

Ms. Jefferson asked would another Capital Outlay application would have to be submitted, and Mr. Verret stated the Parish has already submitted the application in case the ruling is not overturned.

Mr. Nowlin is saying it's frustrating with him and Mr. Verret for someone in Baton Rouge saying no we're not doing it like this anymore.

Ms. Perry say she don't deny it's not frustrating to him, but it's not as frustrating to him as it to the residents of Coco Bed Road. It's to the point if you would back up a dump truck with black top they would pave it themselves that's how sick these people are that no one will come to their rescue.

Mr. Verret stated we're closer than we have ever been for the project to start than it has been. Ms. Perry stated you said that a year ago, Mr. Verret. is closer today than a year ago. The Parish is closer than it ever been. Mr. Verret states the money will be there.

Ms. Perry stated she has come to all the meetings, she has set on the Home Rule Charter Commission, which she wasn't for anyway and stated we do not need to change from the Police Jury to this type of government, because she didn't see what differences it would make switching, how this would make our Parish better. The Parish Government is not doing any better than the former Police Jury.

Parish President, Rick Nowlin stated if they do not get this overturned by Mr. Moses, the residents can go to his boss, Mr. Dardenne, and then go to the Governor, Mr. Edwards.

Councilwoman Hoover wanted to know from Ms. Perry how did she really feel about the change in Government now that you have had a chance to work with both of them? Ms. Perry stated since she has been working with the residents of Coco Bed Road they need to go back to the Police Jury. They need to put it back on the ballot, what difference is it making.

Chairman Rachal stated they were off the agenda and Ms. Perry said how he's telling her she's off the agenda when a question was asked of her. Chairman Rachal stated Mrs. Hoover was out of order for asking that question, and he was not going to hear it. and Mrs. Hoover stated she's a visitor she could asks that question of her and that she was not out of order and Chairman Rachal continue to state she was.

At this time Councilman Chris Paige, asked to be recognized. He stated the residents of Coco Bed Road had came up to the meeting time and time again, and the Council tells them they don't have to come back because the money will be there it was no time limit on.

He want to know, Do they the residents of Coco Bed Road have Mr. Nowlin and Verret your commitment that they would work to fix Coco Bed Road, to help them and so they would not have to come back up here with so much "Anger"? Mr. Paige stated it has been stated Coco Bed Road is on the back burner, it was stated on the tape it would be on the back burner. It's on the last meeting CD. Mr. Rachal would you please give them your number so you can help them if they would have to go to Baton Rouge to fight for their road.

Mr. Paige stated, I'm giving you guys the opportunity to go on record to express how you're going to help these people of Coco Bed Road.

Mr. Nowlin, stated Mr. Paige nothing has changed. We are fighting for the people in Baton Rouge this is letting them know we are committed to that project. But as Mr. Verret stated we have to wait on the people who has the money, we didn't expect a project Manager to make that type of decision, this is something we hadn't bargain for, this

decision is bad for the Parish and also bad for the State. There is a process to do and that's what the Parish is doing, going by the process.

Mr. Verret wanted to go on record stating he is committed to the project this is why he came to work for the Parish because he does care and he wants to continue his design work and on force construction and administer the construction sites. He didn't come to just to fill calls about gravel roads. He came to help with projects like this.

"Yes", I will remain firmly committed to seeing that everything possible to see that this process happens.

Chairman Rachal gave his cell number out to the Jefferson's and others in his district so if they need to contact him, they would have his contact information. Ms. Jefferson asked if he was committed. Chairman Rachal said yes.

Chairman Rachal stated the Council wants to hear everyone's concerns and is not stopping them from talking, but this meeting must have some order. When you approach the podium speak your name loudly so we can have record of it. And you must speak from the podium, there will not be any more butting in from your seats. When you yield the podium you're done. You must give everyone the respect in listening to them and letting them explain before interrupting. We have to have some uniformity. We must keep order in the meeting.

Chairman Rachal then recognized Megan Lacour, she stated the day it was flooding she called for help to get out of her home and it took about a hour to get to them. Once the truck came to them, they were asked to get on the back of the truck. She stated she has a five month old baby and from putting the baby in the rain in the back of the truck this cause the baby to get sick from it. When the infants father asked could they get in the front of the truck, the driver said, no. They pulled out the water and got by the church, they told us to get out, and at that time the father asked again can they let them ride in the truck at first they didn't answer him, and finally they let them get in the truck.

Ms. Mary LaCour stated she lives with Megan LaCour and she has a two year child and they wouldn't let the children ride inside the truck everyone had to ride on the back of the truck and when they came to Morning Star Church they were asked to get out. The truck was very high and driver wouldn't assist them to get out, they had the hand their babies to others and then jump from the truck. Eventually they let the babies get inside the truck after Megan's LaCour boyfriend begin to cuss at them and telling them that his baby was already sick. Her and her sisters had to walk in the rain and they were almost to the tracks before one truck would let them ride. They then carried them over but dropped them off on the side of the road after they were told they had no where to go.

Councilman Bedgood asked who were they talking about. Councilman Paige, stated no names needs to me called. Councilwoman Hoover, stated it was employees from the Parish Highway Department.

Mr. Verret, then responded by they are talking about efforts from the highway department. Mr. Verret stated the highway department is not tasked with doing that type of rescue procedures. Mr. Verret stated they were asked to help to do anything they could do. Two of the employees did go and try to respond to the call. Mr. Verret understood the Town Marshall was there and members of the Fire Department was on the scene. The highway is not tasked with that the Police and Fire Department are the ones tasked with this. As far as Mr. Verret knew it was water that was supposing to be at the steps of the trailer preventing them from coming out.

Ms. Mary LaCour stated they were asked to come in the water to get to the truck to get in, when she told them the water was up above her knees.

Mr. Verret, didn't understand how she was going to get in the truck without having to get in the water. Ms. Mary LaCour stated she didn't have to get into the truck they could at least put her kids in the truck, they had police already standing in the water, that could have taken the kids from them and placed them in the truck.

Mr. Rick Nowlin wanted to ask a question, He stated this was kind of new to him about the this situation. Mr. Nowlin stated, He assumed they were holding the small children, How would the children get into the truck without someone walking in the water to get them in the truck? Ms. Mary LaCour stated, "There was a policeman already out there in the water". Mr. Nowlin stated, "Someone had to walk in the water to get to the truck. Ms. Mary LaCour told him he wasn't understanding there was a policeman already by the steps of the trailer and easily could have placed the children in the truck. They only had to hand the children to the policeman which was already there.

Mr. Nowlin wanted to know who told them to get in the back of the truck, and they said the Town Marshal told them to get in the back, because the driver told him that. Mr. Nowlin asked, "Did you hear the driver tell the Marshall this?", and she stated, " No, they were still standing in the house." Mr. Nowlin stated he was asking for information purpose only.

Councilwoman Hoover then was recognized by the Chairman Rachal.

They are from my district, I was there on the scene when this took place. At the time I didn't realize it was children on the back of the truck. The Fire Truck and City Marshal was there. Councilwoman Hoover said she called the Highway Department to see if they could come out to assist on getting them out. It was bout 2 feet of water at their door and they were afraid to come out. The assistant Marshal walked through all the water to get them. Councilwoman Hoover stated when they came out they were on the back of the truck, and she asked herself why would they put them on the back of the truck. Pictures was passed out to show they were on the back of the truck. Councilwoman was wondering why when this was a double cab truck. We are public servants if there was someone in the front they should have gotten out and allowed the person to get in because that what we do we're public servants. It is not humane to let a five month old baby to be on the back of a truck while it's pouring down raining, when there was no one else in the double bed cab. There were a 2, 3, and 5 year old plus the five month old baby on the back of a truck. They asked could they put the children in the truck and they told them no. She think it is wrong for this to happen.

Councilwoman Hoover told Mr. Verret he wasn't there they were in her district. This really disturb her for those children to be treated that way. It could have been anyone to deny an infant to be inside of a truck, she still has a problem with that. That disturbs her that any child, we all have children in here, for an infant child to be on the back of the truck it's wrong. She doesn't appreciate it and yes she's upset and she's the Council person representing them. This is not the way a Parish is to conduct any situation we suppose to be there to help people, not to leave a child in the rain or nobody in the rain if we can help it.

Chairman Rachal asked if he can could ask a question, she replied, It's your brother, "No". Chairman Rachal replied, "I can ask you

anything, I want to ask". Chairman Rachal asked, "Did Councilwoman Hoover take a video of this", she replied, "No". Did the marshal drop the tailgate of truck and put the first person inside it himself, Councilwoman Hoover stated, No he didn't. "Was there a Sheriff deputy with a boat with motor and truck out there, Yes they were on the opposite side, stated Councilwoman Hoover. Chairman Rachal stated if they were there, and you had to call the Parish Highway department to do the Sheriff's officer's job, that's what you're telling me.

Councilman Chris Paige stated we act like Police Jury don't go out and help anyone in a time of a storm. Chairman Rachal stated it was a Sheriff's Deputy there on site. Chairman Rachal, told Councilman Paige that he didn't yield the floor, Sir. Councilman Paige, stated you just told me to talk, and now you want to take it back, Chairman Rachal, stated, I did not you just butted in, you interrupted me.

Chairman Rachal stated it had a Deputy there and they have to call a Parish employee down there, and Councilman Paige, asked, "Were you there", and Chairman Rachal said he had someone down there to tell him. Councilwoman Hoover stated it was your brother, Chairman Rachal stated it was not his brother he hadn't talked with him. Chairman Rachal stated they were talking about a bunch of hear say, Councilwoman Hoover said she was there, Chairman Rachal stated show the video that you took. Councilwoman Hoover stated was pictures that were taken and the pictures were sent around.

Councilman Paige, I'm not getting this, if someone comes down here rather they're right or wrong the Council is supposed to listen. But apparently your decision is already decided, but let me tell you something, if you have a cab that is opened and you put people on the back of the truck this is not acceptable. We're with this attitude the Police Jury or this Parish form of Government doesn't suppose to go out and help people in a time of a storm. Chairman Paige stated that before he asked for sandbags and Mr. Verret with the attitude, we really do not get involved.

Councilman Paige, stated it was the Town of Campti that need some sand bags, and Mr. Verret, stated, Sir, we don't go out and Councilman Paige said, He stop him quickly and abruptly to tell him that for the Town of Campti or Ashland or any other town that need sandbags, and the Parish doesn't have a piece of equipment to help them with sandbags, we need to fold up ship and go home. This atmosphere that we're not to help people in these times is completely out of lined for him.

Chairman Rachal recognized Mr. Nick Verret. Mr. Verret stated the main thing the highway department is supposed to do is to find out about road issues out there what roads are washed out and which roads are flooded and to make repairs as needed. Actually for the highway department to be trying to rescue people is really putting us at a liability risk. The Parish is totally out of it's ballpark. It's the OEP, Sheriffs Department, and other law enforcement officers has the task of rescuing people. Actually when Mr. Verret said, when he found out about the incident he was very concerned that the Parish was involved in that type of operation. When we fulfill our role in emergency times and others fulfil their roles then we can get everything done and move on. Mr. Verret feels they really don't need to be stepping out there taking on responsibilities that mainly we are not really equipped for. And trying to transfer people into a truck in the cab or the back of a truck or whatever, If someone was injured in this process this is exposing the Parish to a liability, this is not a part of what the Parish Highway Department does.

Councilman Paige, Stated by looking at the pictures, that was the only vehicle that could get down there at the time to assist those people right then. Councilman Paige stated, Mrs. Roy a lot of our Parish people takes the vehicle home, that's not their vehicle it's the people's vehicle and if they can't ride in them, somebody needs to go home. Councilwoman Hoover, agreed with Councilman Paige statement.

Mr. Verret stated the reason why Parish employees take vehicles home was to respond quickly in case of an emergency at night or weekends.

Chairman Rachal, recognized Ms. Barbara Ann Rachal, grandmother of the two ladies Megan and Mary LaCour. Ms. Barbara Rachal, stated she didn't want to speak out the way, but she love her grandchildren, just like others love theirs. Ms. Barbara stated her grandchildren means more to her than a darn piece of road. Her granddaughter's didn't have transportation to get out. They have love from her if she was able to get to her grand daughters, she did go over there, but the water was so high that should couldn't. She have an illness that prevents her from getting wet, if she would've gotten wet she could have died because of her lung disease, Ms. Rachal stated, "Everybody don't worry you can't catch my illness." But one thing that she didn't like it, it hurted her it made her cry, the only thing she could do was pray to God ask those to be punish those who treated her grandchildren like that. It was not right. At this time Councilwoman Hoover got upset and left out crying. She stated to the room, You got grandchildren and children if it would have happened to them you would have been hurted like crazy. You would have raised cane about it. We are here to make sure this want happened again to anybody children it doesn't matter to her what race they are, it doesn't matter she loves everybody and she just wanted somebody to help her grandchildren. If they was wrong for that she's sorry, she stated look like this is the wrong place.

Mr. Nowlin, stated he was unclear on a few things. As he understands the children wasn't allowed to get in the truck. The children couldn't get in the truck because the water was too deep, so somebody would have to had carry them to the truck. I don't know what was going through the drivers mind, he might have thought it was better to get in the back instead of wading in the water, the water was nasty, sewage lines has flooded septic tanks had flooded you can get all kinds of disease, and if you had any type of cuts on your leg going through the water. Who knows what they were thinking, I'm not defending anybody, I'm just saying its different people involved and different sides to the story. I understood the local marshal ask the people to get in the back of the truck, because the driver told him to do that. Did anyone hear the driver tell him that? Or did he do it own his own initiative.

Ms. Barbara said Sir, the officer was standing there right next to the porch already standing in the water had on boots his legs wouldn't gotten wet all he could have done was to get that black baby and take that baby to the truck, that way the mama's could have gotten out the house. There is a ditch that is real deep and if they would've made the wrong step they could have drown, because they do not know how to swim. That's okay that's fine as long as the police officer can be in the clear. Ms. Barbara said, she needs to walk out, because it's not nothing is going to be done here. She can see where this is going right now.

Mr. Verret stated one of the issues under normal circumstances there is equipment in the back seat of his vehicle. Councilwoman Hoover, stated it wasn't anything in the back. Mr. Verret said under normal circumstances, he doesn't know about that day. He just stating the normal case. That could be a danger too. The Marshal should have taken charge of the situation not the Highway Department. As far as having this incident happen again, it will not happen again, because my

employees will not unless I'm directed otherwise, my employees will not be involved in rescue efforts of rescuing people.

Councilman Paige stated he think that will be up to the Council to decide that and not Mr. Verret. Mr. Nowlin and the Council.

Mr. Verret stated he didn't feel anyone can drown in a foot of two of water and Ms. Perry said you don't know that. Mr. Verret stated the Marshal was wading it, then he said, sorry Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Rachal then recognized Councilwoman Hoover, she said Mr. Verret, I hear you justified what had happened and she's offended by it just wanted him to know because anybody that sees a child would step out. She was out there with water to her knees. To say that you're the Highway Department that you can not help someone with a baby! We're public servants. This was your assistant. She's asking, Mr. Verret how is he going to handle this situation with his employee.

Mr. Nowlin spoke before Mr. Verret answers the question, by saying these things happened in an emergency situation decisions are made and people do things and maybe it's not the best one. No one from the Parish is going to stand by and let anyone get injured or killed because of what department they work in, this is not going to happen. I thinks this situation was a number of people saw different things going on, and I don't know if anybody knew everything that was going on. I think we need to take a deep breath and step back and say let's learn from this situation. Did the truck driver know it was small children in the trailer when he backed up? I don't know. Councilwoman and Ms. LaCour at the same time said they asked to put the children in the truck. And Mr. Nowlin replied and the truck driver said no right. I don't understand how they were to get in the truck. Ms. LaCour said the police officer was right there, and Mr. Nowlin, asked did you ask the Police officer to put them in the truck, Ms. LaCour, stated no, he had already picked up one of the oldest girls and put them in the back of the truck. Councilwoman Hoover stated he was the only one assisting, she was there. He was the only one assisting in getting them up. The ones in the truck didn't want to get out, they came out in four inches of water with out slicker suits they was not even dressed to do anything.

Mr. Nowlin, stated the issue was the children was put in the back of the truck in rain and this would possible make the child sick. Councilwoman Hoover stated the child was already sick. So Mr. Nowlin, stated that was a danger to their health. Mr. Nowlin, stated he understands it now.

Mr. Verret stated he's deeply offended that his employees went above and beyond trying to help. And Councilwoman Hoover stated, Mr. Verret please don't do that, Please don't do that to us, you supposed to be a Preacher!!, a Preacher!!

Chairman Rachal then asked if anyone else has anything to address the Council with.

Mr. Ronald Page, on behalf of the Shady Grove Missionary Baptist Church was there to speak on the Shady Grove Community Center. He said lastly he was informed the Parish owned the building and they shown pictures of the center that it's not been and the Church is asking for a final decision in this matter.

Mr. Nowlin, stated that he had been talking back with the District Attorney office several months back that the property transferred to Parish many years ago was still considered by the parish as a community Center. The next question that risen was what particular structures was considered to be the parishes and the churches.

Mr. Nowlin, stated the front of building the Community Center part is on Parish property, but the back which the cafeteria is located is on Church property. It still stands the Parish owns the Community Center it belongs to the Parish unless these five individuals up here if they choose to give it up as a Community Center they can do that. The building is in very poor conditions. But he also understands there are people there using the Center time to time and if that's the case it's still a Community Center.

Mr. Ronald Page is saying this is where the confusion is coming about. They are not using it. Ms. Hargrove blurted out that's a lie. Mr. Page stated he's speaking at this time and when he's finished they are more than welcome to talk. Mr. Page stated they are not using the Community Center part they are using the cafeteria, which is located on church property. They really trespassing, because they are having meetings down there and putting flyers with his name on it suggesting he was for this decision that is taking place. Mr. Page stated he was not the person, the church held a meeting and decided by the Church body and they have nerves to put his name on the flyers.

Mr. Ronald Page only wants to state if the Parish is going to keep that building as a Community Center, make the necessary repairs. We do not want that a 50 yards from their church. You saw the pictures. Only activity that is going on in that building is drug activity maybe.

Councilwoman Hoover wants to know who the building belongs to. The building belongs to Parish as long as it is in use for a community center. Only the front part of the Community Center. but the building in the back which is the cafeteria belongs to is the Church's.

Councilman Bedgood wanted the pictures passed around again.

Mr. Page, stated this is the confusion they're thinking the whole place is Parish Property. They need to know from the bathroom portion back to the cafeteria is church property. The only thing that is in the Community part of the building is rats, squirrels and snakes.

Mr. Nowlin says this will not continue to be a Community Center if the Council feels, it's not being used as a Community center, Mr. Nowlin also stated he do not foresee the Parish paying money in the restoration of the building. We have so many needs of the Parish at this time, but this decision has to come from the Council. Mr. Page says they just want a final decision. He also feels it will not be fair the others if they putting out their hard earn work and time into it and the rug will be pulled from under them. That's not fair to them either.

Councilman Chris Paige wanted to express he's not related to Mr. Ronald Page, and he sees a big liability going on with this place. The Council needs to make a decision to lock it down or shut it down, at that time many residents wanted to speak. Councilman Paige, stated with the present condition it's in now, if anyone walks out there and gets hurt it will be on the Parish, it's certain liability on the Parish. We need to move on to get some closure on this matter.

Ms. Veronica Hargrove, stated the pictures that was given was out dated, but she didn't have any pictures to show the Council of the improvements to the building. She said she's speaking on the behalf of the President that wasn't present. Ms. Hargrove stated the Shady Grove Baptist church donated to the church .58 acres back in 1981. Twenty members of the church decided to tear the church down because it's a liability. The Church does not want to participate in the reunions and that's okay with her. Eighty members of the Community have been out there trying to make repairs to the Community center.

Ms. Hargrove wanted to know if the Church does not have a liability in this why are they so much concern about it.

Ms. Hargrove stated in January the Community center lost \$10,000 in free Government money due to someone in the Church stating, "No Mr. Government you don't own this, you only own the Fire Station." The Parish didn't research it themselves, you just bowed down, but that's okay. Mistakes happens we're all humans. Ms. Hargrove measured the building herself and says it pretty accurate. She wanted the Council to go out and look at the building themselves, especially Mr. Bedgood. These people have worked hard at the Community because of an upcoming Reunion. We need a decision we been at this since August and September, and the Church waits until after the decision has been made and they decided to give more information, with the same documents with some pictures. Ms. Hargrove wanted to know what was the date of the pictures, because last weekend fifteen (15) people was out there working because they have a reunion coming up. They have sent out communication and information, because they have been doing this for forty something years. She wanted the Church do be fair, about this, she wanted to know why would you wanted to tear something down, when you have the opportunity to build up.

Mr. Paige, wanted to ask a question to Ms. Hargrove, He asked, the pictures you stated was old, do anyone have any current pictures, Ms. Hargrove stated she has a current picture, but wasn't good with technology. Councilman Paige asked Parish President since you day to day operations, Can we make a recommendation on which way this Council should vote on this and meet with Church and the Community Center's people. Ms. Hargrove stated, Mr. Paige you have already recommended that at previous meetings and we're still waiting on a separate meeting.

Mr. Nowlin stated there's three options:

1. Keep it as a community center and the Parish tries to find money to renovate it, not will probably happen unless the Council wants to take the money from something else.
2. Keep it as a Community center and enter into and agreement with a private group that's willing to do the improvements themselves.
3. Close the Community Center and it will go back to the Church.

Ms. Hargrove state this is unfair. How can this be separated from the Church.

Councilman Chris Paige wanted to know What is the recommendation from Mr. Nowlin. Mr. Nowlin, wanted to be fair and he feels the Community Center will be good for the community, but unless some group is willing to finance the project and make all the necessary repairs to bring it up to code then the Parish will have to relinquish the property back to the Church.

Ms. Hargrove wanted to know what's the problem, and Mr. Page and Mrs. Cook-Anthony both responded there is no problem. Mr. Ronald Page stated the church met with the Community Center's people and asked them to get an estimate and costs on what is takes to restore the building, come up with a formulated plan on how you're going to raise the money. They Community Center didn't do that. They only started having meetings and putting flyers up come up and pay your \$5.00 dues, have , gumbo sale, bake sale and cookie for lunch. They have electrical problems, sewage problems, and plumbing problems. It's going to cost a significant amount of money to do these repairs. Ms. Hargrove interrupted why do you care? You're not liable. The Chairman

told Ms. Hargrove she had one more time to interrupt and he will ask her to be removed from the room.

Mrs. Anthony said she would like for them to have a reunion there, because they have been doing it in the past. She gave a summary of the Community Center from when it was functioning under the Police Jury and when it's was a Council of Aging, and Meals on Wheels. She stated when they were being reimbursed for things, but then it stopped. The Police Jury also were paying the telephone and utilities and they stopped paying that. She said her and her husband and the church tried to keep everything on, but they could not. The center closed and People started breaking in a tearing things out of it, the ceiling fell out on both sides, she stated that's when the Church got together and said we're going to tear it down. Then that's when everybody start talking about it's historical and didn't want it torn down, but nobody came to help to keep it up before. Mrs. Anthony said she mowed that yard many of days herself and her husband use to work out there too, but he's not able to work out there now. She said Community people came in trying to clean up but it's not in any working order yet. Ceiling tiles gone, roof gone, septic tank stopped up, electrical work done, and sewage work. Mrs. Anthony stated they are not having any meetings in the Community Center part, they are having meeting in the back building that belongs to the Church. Mrs. Anthony stated come and look at it she has a key, but you don't need a key to get in. She said that building have not been used in three or four years, until the word got out, the church was going to tear it down. Mrs. Anthony expressed she wish it would become a center again, she will be glad.

Marsha Gay, representative from the Community Center, she stated they do have activities down at the Community Center. They do 40lbs of food distribution at the Center. They do have enough money to get the roof on from the government and that's about it. We are trying to put up an effort to restore the Center.

Ada Tate, owner of Messaging for a Purpose in the Shady Grove Area. She was hoping that it will be Community Center with all the plans and programs for that area with financial backing. All we need is the Center. The structure will build it up and they will go farther. She stated they don't need the church or the Council, unless there is something that needs to be signed to get funds that are coming there way. Ms. Tate stated she's trying to work with the autistic, the prison down the streets, to get the community back to where it needs to be. Ms. Tate stated she has financial backing. Mr. Page asked a question on how much money they have raised in the last six months? Ms. Tate stated a \$100,000 she has. Mrs. Hargrove state the Center has \$800.00 in the treasure from their monthly dues.

Mr. Page wanted to know do they have a contractor do the correct repairs on the center. Then Ms. Hargrove started again, and she was told her time was up.

The Council gave the Community Center's people 60 days from this date to give the Council a concrete plan on how the repairs are going to be made to the Center to bring up to standards so the Parish would not be held liable to anyone who walks in there or the Council is going to vote to close the center.

Councilman Bedgood wants the Church and Community Center to get along. He's going to meet with the people after Easter. Councilman Bedgood is going down, there got names from the different people of interest on both sides, so he can meet with all of them there. It will be May meeting a decision will be made on the center.

Chairman Rachal ask if there was any Public Comments.

Ms. Cathy Anderson from Natchez wanted to ask the question, about the flooding in Natchez. She lives on Hwy 1 South in Natchez, and wanted to know the water came up so fast and it left fast. Where did all that water come from other than from the rain? She said this has happened three times, and the insurance is so expensive they don't have flood insurance. She stated it took \$12,000 before to repair her house in 2012 and now it has happened again in 2016. She just want to know what is going on. Ms. Anderson wanted to know what to do.

Mr. Nowlin, stated he doesn't have an answer about where the water came from, but from only from the rain. The rain came fast. The river is full the bayou and ditches it drain into has been draining back. Mr. Nowlin says he don't have an answer.

Ms. Anderson, stated she has lived in Natchez for twenty One years, and she said she never saw anyone dig the trenches out until now. They dug trenches out all over and giving people the dirt from it. Is that's why they were digging them out to give the water some place to go?

Mr. Verret wanted to make a few general comments. He stated the drain system use to be regular clean out from all the not just the highways but also the road side ditches which leads to the rivers through the year that has been funded by programs to keep them clean has been cut back. The second thing is Economic Development. The increase in development is the run off from development property get in the all the drain channel quicker so it over whelms it. Its just a combination of both of these is causing this problem with all the heavy rain.

Mr. Joe Walker, alderman from Natchez. He stated he has been living in Natchez all his life and he has never seen water this high. He wanted know if any gates were opened up, and the answer was, No. Mr. Walker didn't know about the dam that has been built to block out the water from Natchez. The ditch behind Mr. Walker, as stated by Mr. Verret they are going to do something about it to get it clean out. Mr. Walker stated once that river gets full, no one can do nothing. Mr. Walker stated the water rose quick and it went down quick, it usually doesn't go down that fast. He don't know what's going on.

Mr. Verret could not answer that question either.

Ms. Anderson stated she has a six foot pool in her yard and from 1:00am to 5:00am that morning they did not get that much rain for that water to come that quick. That's why she's concerned about where the water came from.

Mr. Verret stated again the drainage channel he talk about with Mr. Walker behind his house the cleaning out will help in a small rain event and they will pursue to clean it out, they just have not got to it yet. But with all the heavy rain it will not help that much in that type of situation.

Chairman Rachal asked was there anymore Public comments.

There were was none.

Chairman Rachal stated the next item on the agenda was adopt the minutes of the regular meeting of the Natchitoches Parish Council held Monday, February 16, 2016.

On motion by Councilman Chris Paige, duly seconded by Councilman Doug de Graffernied, 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, February 16, 2016.

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

Ayes: Councilman Paige
Ayes: Councilman de Graffernied
Ayes: Councilman Bedgood
Ayes: Councilman Rachal
Ayes: Councilwoman Hoover

Motion Passed

Chairman Rachal stated the next item on the agenda was to consider adopting a resolution confirming re-appointment to the following boards/commissions.

- A. **Wade Dwight Goings for re-appointment to the Natchitoches Parish Fire District 7 Board.**
- B. **Karen Rawls for re-appointment to the Natchitoches Parish Tourist Commission.**

On motion by Councilman Chris Paige, duly seconded by Councilwoman Hoover, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby adopt a resolution confirming re-appointment of

- A. **Wade Dwight Goings for re-appointment to the Natchitoches Parish Fire District 7 Board.**
- B. **Karen Rawls for re-appointment to the Natchitoches Parish Tourist Commission.**

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

Ayes: Councilwoman Hoover
Ayes: Councilman Paige
Ayes: Councilman de Graffernied
Ayes: Councilman Rachal
Ayes: Councilman Bedgood

Motion Passed

Chairman Rachal stated the next item on the agenda was to consider adopting a resolution confirming appointments to the following boards/commissions.

- C. **Appoint Councilman Russell Rachal to the Natchitoches Parish Hospital District Board.**
- D. **Appoint Mr. Joe Darby to the board of the Natchitoches Parish Tourist Commission to complete the term of Mr. Eddie Harrington.**
- E. **Appoint Mr. Frank Fuller to the Natchitoches Parish Library Board.**

On motion by Councilman Doug de Graffernied, duly seconded by Councilman Bedgood, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby adopt a resolution confirming re-appointment of

- C. **Appoint Councilman Russell Rachal to the Natchitoches Parish Hospital District Board.**
- D. **Appoint Mr. Joe Darby to the board of the Natchitoches Parish Tourist Commission to complete the term of Mr. Eddie Harrington.**

E. Appoint Mr. Frank Fuller to the Natchitoches Parish Library Board.

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

Ayes: Councilwoman Hoover
Abstain: Councilman Paige
Ayes: Councilman de Graffernied
Ayes: Councilman Rachal
Ayes: Councilman Bedgood

Motion Passed

Chairman Rachal stated the next item on the agenda was 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 #002-2016 to implement certain revisions to the Parish Personnel Manual.

On motion by Councilman Rodney Bedgood, duly seconded by Councilwoman Patsy Ward Hoover, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby open the public hearing.

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

Ayes: Councilman Bedgood
Ayes: Councilwoman Hoover
Ayes: Councilman de Graffernied
Ayes: Councilman Rachal
Ayes: Councilman Paige

Motion Passed

The Council had a brief discussion concerning the Manual with Ms. Miley. Another copy of the Personnel Manual was passed out for review with all the revisions done. The Council wanted clarity why is it needed to be paid at the end of the month instead at the beginning. Ms. Miley explained this way is needed to be in compliance with the parishes grant programs.

Councilwoman Hoover wanted to know if the payroll is the only thing being revised, it was stated insurance will also be revised we have vision included with our insurance now, before we didn't have vision in our insurance benefits.

Since there were no other discussion.

On motion by Councilman Chris Paige, duly seconded by Councilman Doug de Graffernied, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby close the public hearing.

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

Ayes: Councilman Paige
Ayes: Councilman de Graffernied
Ayes: Councilman Bedgood
Ayes: Councilman Rachal
Ayes: Councilwoman Hoover

Motion Passed

Chairman Rachal stated the next item on the agenda was to consider to adopt item:

- A. Adoption of Ordinance #002-2016 to implement certain revisions to the Parish Personnel Manual.

On motion by Councilman Rodney Bedgood, duly seconded by Councilman Chris Paige, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby adopt Ordinance #002-2016 to implement certain revisions to the Parish Personnel Manual.

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

Ayes: Councilman Bedgood
Ayes: Councilman Paige
Ayes: Councilman de Graffernied
Ayes: Councilman Rachal
Ayes: Councilwoman Hoover

Motion Passed

Chairman Rachal stated the next item on the agenda to authorize the Parish President to submit a grant application for the Youth Build program through the Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration.

Councilman Chris Paige asked what is this program about. Parish President answered his questions and Both Councilman Paige and Councilwoman Hoover said this was very important to get jobs for the children in our Parish. Councilwoman Hoover wanted it to be on record that her daughter was appointed to Director of the Department of Labor unemployed insurance department and she is not in this department of Labor Employment and Training Administration and she will not be any where involved in making decisions on this grant.

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 submit a grant application for the Youth Build program through the Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration.

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

Ayes: Councilman Bedgood
Ayes: Councilman Paige
Ayes: Councilman de Graffernied
Ayes: Councilman Rachal
Ayes: Councilwoman Hoover

Motion Passed

Chairman Rachal stated the next item on the agenda to consider awarding of bid for the Kisatchie-Mora Road Hot Mix Asphaltic Concrete Spot-Leveling and Base Repairs project.

Mr. Verret discussed this item and stated the only bidder was Regional Construction, L.L.C. of Natchitoches and the total base bid was \$153,500. is requesting that Regional Construction be awarded the bid.

On motion by Councilwoman Patsy Hoover, duly seconded by Councilman Rodney Bedgood, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby awards of bid for the Kisatchie-Mora Road Hot Mix Asphaltic Concrete Spot-Leveling and Base Repairs project to Regional Construction L.L.C. of Natchitoches..

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

Ayes: Councilwoman Hoover
Ayes: Councilman Bedgood
Ayes: Councilman de Graffernied
Ayes: Councilman Rachal
Ayes: Councilman Paige

Motion Passed

Chairman Rachal stated the next items will be the items that was added to the agenda so they wouldn't be overlooked.

Chairman Rachal read item one Council to consider authorizing the Parish of Natchitoches to be named as the responsible party for debris removal as a result of the recent flooding.

Parish President Nowlin stated, Whenever we had this type of event there is a great deal of debris and this debris accumulates. And the debris have to be properly removed and carried to the right facilities for it. According to FEMA if the Parish does the debris clean up then the Parish will be reimbursed up to 75% if it's handle in a proper manner and if we're eligible. Somebody has to be responsible for this clean up. Expected total that it will cost the Parish will be around \$200,000. If we get the 75% from FEMA it will cost the Parish \$50,000.

After a discussion on this agenda item the following was done.

On motion by Councilwoman Patsy Hoover, duly seconded by Councilman Chris Paige, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby authorize the Parish of Natchitoches to be named as the responsible party for debris removal as a result of the recent flooding.

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

Ayes: Councilwoman Hoover
Ayes: Councilman Paige
Ayes: Councilman de Graffernied
Ayes: Councilman Rachal
Ayes: Councilman Bedgood

Motion Passed

Chairman Rachal stated the next item on the agenda to consider authorizing the Parish President to solicit proposals for contracts for debris removal in accordance with 2CFR200 as a result of the recent flooding, and to award each contract to the lowest responsible bidder.

On motion by Councilman Chris Paige, duly seconded by Councilwoman Patsy Hoover, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby authorize the Parish President to solicit proposals for contracts for debris removal in accordance with 2CFR200 as a result of the recent flooding, and to award each contract to the lowest responsible bidder.

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

Ayes: Councilman Paige
Ayes: Councilwoman Hoover
Ayes: Councilman de Graffernied
Ayes: Councilman Rachal
Ayes: Councilman Bedgood

Motion Passed

Chairman Rachal stated the next item on the agenda to consider authorizing the Parish President to solicit proposal for contracts for disaster recovery in accordance with 2CFR200 as a result of the recent flooding, and to award each contract to the lowest responsible bidder in each case.

On motion by Councilwoman Patsy Hoover, duly seconded by Councilman Rodney Bedgood, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby authorize the Parish President to solicit proposal for contracts for disaster recovery in accordance with 2CFR200 as a result of the recent flooding, and to award each contract to the lowest responsible bidder in each case.

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

Ayes: Councilwoman Hoover
Ayes: Councilman Bedgood
Ayes: Councilman de Graffernied
Ayes: Councilman Rachal
Ayes: Councilman Paige

Motion Passed

Chairman Rachal stated the next item on the agenda was to consider authorizing the Parish President to submit a loan/grant application to U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development for the purchase of equipment needed by the Parish Highway Department.

Mr. Nick Verret stated since its been a long meeting this can wait until next month.

On motion by Councilwoman Patsy Hoover, duly seconded by Councilman Doug de Graffernied, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby table authorizing the Parish President to submit a loan/grant application to U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development for the purchase of equipment needed by the Parish Highway Department.

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

Ayes: Councilwoman Hoover
Ayes: Councilman de Graffernied
Ayes: Councilman Bedgood
Ayes: Councilman Rachal
Ayes: Councilman Paige

Motion Passed

Chairman Rachal stated the next item on the agenda to consider authorizing the Parish President to solicit proposals for the lease of two tandem dump trucks for the Parish Highway Department which not to exceed \$50,000.

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 solicit proposals for the lease of two tandem dump trucks for the Parish Highway Department which not to exceed \$50,000.

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

Ayes: Councilman Bedgood
Ayes: Councilman Paige
Ayes: Councilman de Graffernied
Ayes: Councilman Rachal
Abstain: Councilwoman Hoover

Motion Passed

Chairman Rachal stated the next item on the agenda to consider to authorize the Parish President to execute a Contract with VDCI for Mosquito Control Services throughout the Parish.

There was a lengthy discussion with two representatives from VDCI and the Parish Council about the cost of this service. Two Council members felt that \$125,000 was too much for the Parish to pay to control mosquitoes, They felt the Parish should find another way to control the mosquitoes without taking \$125,000 from the Parish.

Councilman Paige, stated we done this in the past and just stopped with the services. We didn't have a successful outcome with services before and "Why are we going to pay \$125,000 for it this time?" The last time it cost the Parish around \$48,000 for something that didn't go successfully. VDCI representatives stated a quarter of the process was done for \$48,000. The whole process was not done.

Councilman Paige, stated the Health Unit will take a big hit from this in their budget.

VDCI employees states they are the best. They target the whole life cycle of the mosquitoes, not just killing the adult. They also test the mosquitoes. The VDCI employees stated if the parish just spray they are not going to kill the mosquitoes. VDCI use science just not chemicals. The Parish faces the eminent threat of the Zika virus and the expected explosion in the mosquito population due to the recent flooding. The representative stated they would be able to control this with science and lastly with chemicals.

After a very lengthy discussion the following action was done.

On motion by Councilman Doug de Graffernied, duly seconded by Councilman Rodney Bedgood, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby authorize the Parish President to execute a Contract with VDCI for Mosquito Control Services throughout the Parish.

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

Ayes:	Councilman de Graffernied
Ayes:	Councilman Bedgood
Nayes:	Councilman Paige
Ayes:	Councilman Rachal
Nayes:	Councilwoman Hoover

Motion Passed

Chairman Rachal stated the next item on the agenda to consider was Resolution No. 15 of 2016, A Resolution authorizing the Parish President to Execute a General Services Agreement for Architectural Services with George W. Minturn, A.I.A.

After a discussion about this agenda item, between the Parish President and the Council members the following actions were taken.

On motion by Councilman Rodney Bedgood, duly seconded by, Councilman Doug de Graffernied that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby table Resolution No. 15 of 2016, A Resolution authorizing the Parish President to Execute a General Services Agreement for Architectural Services with George W. Minturn, A.I.A.

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

Ayes: Councilman Bedgood
Ayes: Councilman de Graffernied
Ayes: Councilman Paige
Ayes: Councilman Rachal
Ayes: Councilwoman Hoover

Motion Passed

Chairman Rachal stated the next item on the agenda to consider authorizing the Parish President to execute the "FIRST AMENDED ACT OF COMPROMISE" between the Parish of Natchitoches, the Natchitoches Parish Sheriff's Office and the Natchitoches Parish Law Enforcement District in connection with the rate to be charged to the Parish for the housing of pre-trail detainees.

After a brief summary from Parish President Rick Nowlin to the Council about this agenda item, the following action was taken.

On motion by Councilman Rodney Bedgood, duly seconded by, Councilwoman Patsy Hoover that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby authorize the Parish President to execute the "FIRST AMENDED ACT OF COMPROMISE" between the Parish of Natchitoches, the Natchitoches Parish Sheriff's Office and the Natchitoches Parish Law Enforcement District in connection with the rate to be charged to the Parish for the housing of pre-trail detainees.

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

Ayes: Councilman Bedgood
Ayes: Councilwoman Hoover
Ayes: Councilman de Graffernied
Ayes: Councilman Rachal
Ayes: Councilman Paige

Motion Passed

Chairman Rachal then recognized Mr. Nick Verret, Director of Public Works, who presented his report.

Mr. Verret stated he had nothing really to say, his report was sent out if there were any questions from him, he would answer them. They were mainly working on the flooding issues and trying to prioritize them according to severity.

Councilman Chris Paige stated he know they have been in this meeting a long time but he wanted to know about the updates on Payne Subdivision. Councilman Paige wanted to know if they can just go put some rocks down or do something until they can start the road project. Mr. Verret stated they are waiting on the CEA from the State. Mr. Verret, stated we should be expecting something within a few weeks. Mr. Nowlin stated they have been calling, texting, and e-mailing and the State continue to tell him the CEA is on it's way. This has been going on for 3 or more months. Mr. Nowlin stated he will be in Baton Rouge on Wednesday and he will be checking on the CEA for Payne Subdivision at that time. Mr. Paige stated he have not seen a completed road project in a long time in Natchitoches Parish.

Chairman Rachal then recognizes Ms. Sharon Harris, OCS/Head Start Executive Director, she gave her reports:

Ms. Harris stated the Head Start Environmental Health and Safety (EnvHS) Monitoring Review- They received overview of findings. There were no areas of noncompliance. And this is a good thing for Head Start. The Head Start Comprehensive Services and School Readiness monitoring review-Week of April 25, 2016.

Ms. Harris gave a report on the flooding damages that was done to the centers the only centers that was affected by the flooding was a classroom at the MLK center the roof caved in a classroom. This has been repaired. Natchez Head Start center is a work in progress this center was damaged completely. This center needs help in getting everything out. The church insurance will take care of it, but the Parish didn't have any insurance for that building, since it was owned by the church. The Pastor is working with Ms. Harris in getting the Head Start back on track.

Dallas is questioning when will the children be back in school. The children will be back April 4, 2016. The Center will need all new furniture. Most of the furniture was made out of particle board and was destroyed. The children will need somewhere to store their personal items, because all of their lockers were destroyed.

Ms. Cathy Anderson, Chairman of the Head Start Policy Council gave a report that many items are needed for the children and help is needed to help get things back in order. They are asking for help. Mr. Nowlin stated Ms. Harris just have to come see him and let him know what is needed. Ms. Cathy Anderson, stated I will make sure to stay on her until she does.

Councilwoman Hoover, asked what is going on with the Head Start Director. Ms. Harris stated they have sent the request to Dallas, and their waiting on Dallas to give an answer in 30 days. Ms. Harris received an e-mail stating this from Dallas and a copy of it was sent to Mr. Nowlin.

Councilwoman Hoover asked Ms. Cathy Anderson have the met on the decision on the Head Start Director. Ms. Anderson stated, "Yes we have met." The Policy council have made an recommendation on who they want to offer the position to, but they can not make a decision about it until they get approval from Dallas, and then it must go in front of the Parish Council and President.

Councilman Paige asked, Will it ever come in front of the Parish Council?, Ms. Harris stated it has come in front of the Council, she stated she was aware that it was discussed in an Executive Session.

Councilwoman Hoover stated it would not have been voted on in an executive session. Ms. Harris, stated she don't know what was discussed or how things work in the Council Executive session, Mr. Paige thank her and told her he knew what happened in the session.

Councilwoman Hoover asked when did this started process started and when the decision was made to hire this person. Ms. Anderson stated it has been since February the Policy Council had made their recommendation. Councilwoman Hoover asked "What is Dallas doing" Ms. Harris stated the Regional Office in Dallas is reviewing the process to make sure the Parish has done everything in the correct order and way. Dallas is making sure that this person is qualified for the position. After that they will let us know if its okay to offer this person the position. The Parish Council and Parish President at that time will make that decision to hire that person.

Chairman Rachal then recognizes Ms. Debbie Miley, Parish Treasurer, Ms. Miley discussed her reports giving status updates on the 2016 Active Bookings for Inmates & Outstanding Coroners/Inmate Expenses.

Ms. Miley also went over the American Express Card purchases of Head Start, which will be attached with the minutes. The total spending on the American Express Card from 12/01/15-2/23/16 is \$4,760.28.

Chairman Rachal then recognizes Parish President, Rick Nowlin who gave his report:

He only had two things to report Mr. Verret and himself met with the Red River Way and the Red River Waterway Commission voted at its last meeting to pay for the paving of Hampton Road. Mr. Nowlin estimates that the project will cost approximately \$1.3 million dollars. The Parish role is to provide the professional services, plan and construction administration and inspection during construction. Mr. Verret cost for his services will be a total of \$40,000. We will not have to put up the cash for this because Mr. Verret is a PE. The Parish will get \$40,000 worth of road in road work for this. The Red River Waterway is doing this because of their facility they have at the end of the road of Red River this road provide access to their facility.

The other item he wanted to talk about he was requested by a Pastor from Houston wants to hold a rally on the Parking Lott on April 2, 2016. He met with the District Attorney office that stated we can do it, but not required to do it. Parish President stated he would let them do it since the City had the same type of event a week ago. The Pastor and members will have to meet the same conditions on of the people that uses the space for the Christmas festival. They must sign a document that saying the Parish is not reliable for anything, they will be reliable and for security and clean up afterwards.

Chairman Rachal stated the next item on the agenda was to go into an "Executive Session" to discuss information relative to possible legal action regarding certain employees of the Parish.

On motion by Councilman Rodney Bedgood, duly seconded by Councilwoman Patsy Hoover, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby open the "Executive Session".

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

Ayes: Councilman Bedgood
Ayes: Councilwoman Hoover
Ayes: Councilman de Graffernied
Ayes: Councilman Rachal
Ayes: Councilman Paige

Motion Passed

On motion by Councilman Rodney Bedgood, duly seconded by Councilman Chris Paige, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby close the "Executive Session".

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

Ayes: Councilman Bedgood
Ayes: Councilman Paige
Ayes: Councilman de Graffernied
Ayes: Councilman Rachal
Ayes: Councilwoman Hoover

Motion Passed

Chairman Rachal stated the Council meeting is back in regular session.

Parish President Nowlin, stated he would like to amend the agenda to add Ordinance 003-2016 that will authorize the Parish President to resolve the court order from the 10th Judicial District Court in Connection with the Salaries paid by the Parish of Natchitoches to the Court Reporters.

On motion by Councilman Chris Paige, duly seconded by, Councilman Doug de Graffernied that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby amend the agenda to add Introducing Ordinance 003-2016 that will authorize the Parish President to resolve the court order from the 10th Judicial District Court in Connection with the Salaries paid by the Parish of Natchitoches to the Court Reporters.

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

Ayes: Councilman Paige
Ayes: Councilman de Graffernied
Ayes: Councilman Bedgood
Ayes: Councilman Rachal
Ayes: Councilwoman Hoover

Motion Passed

On motion by Councilman Chris Paige, duly seconded by, Councilman Doug de Graffernied that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby introduce Ordinance 003-2016 that will authorize the Parish President to resolve the court order from the 10th Judicial District Court in Connection with the Salaries paid by the Parish of Natchitoches to the Court Reporters.

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

Ayes: Councilman Paige
Ayes: Councilman Bedgood
Ayes: Councilman de Graffernied
Ayes: Councilman Rachal
Ayes: Councilwoman Hoover

Motion Passed

Since there was no other business, the following action was taken:

On motion by Councilman Bedgood, duly seconded by Councilman Doug de Graffernied, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby adjourn until the next regular or called meeting of the Natchitoches Parish Council.

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

Ayes: Councilman Bedgood
Ayes: Councilman de Graffernied
Ayes: Councilwoman Hoover
Ayes: Councilman Paige
Ayes: Councilman Rachal

Motion Passed

Attest:

Russell Rachal, Chairman

Sheryl Frederick,
Council Clerk