

PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATCHITOCHE PARISH COUNCIL
PARISH OF NATCHITOCHE, STATE OF LOUISIANA
TAKEN A REGULAR MEETING HELD, MONDAY,
August 15, 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, August 15, 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 the agenda needs to be amended to add for Council to consider adopting a Resolution so the El Camino East-West Corridor/Highway 6/84 be placed to a higher priority and to make available the 20% funds for "Ready Projects"

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 amend agenda to add for Council to consider adopting a Resolution so the El Camino East-West Corridor/Highway 6/84 to be placed to a higher priority and to make available the 20% funds for "Ready Projects"

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

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

Motion Passed

Chairman Rachal then asked for visitors at this time.

At this time Mr. Jerry Ledford, National Teachers Associates Life Insurance Company, he wanted the Parish to include him in the mailing list when it's time to renewal of all Parish Supplemental Insurance's. He left a brochure that has prices in them. Councilman Paige, ask could someone explain to him about when this process starts. Parish President, Rick Nowlin began to say this process will be starting very soon, probably at the next Council meeting. Parish President told Mr. Ledford to give him a call and he will get him with the right person to talk to.

Next visitor was Mr. Richard Robinson, resident of Hampton Road. Mr. Robinson wanted to know, "Do anyone knows when will the starting date on when the road is going to be fixed?" Mr. Verret stated, "At this point we don't have an established time, We have made arrangements for the first step of the process, by getting the soil testing and this begins the design process. This should begin Wednesday. When we get the soil test results then we can proceed with the design work. We will be on a tight clock trying to get it done before Winter, but we'll do everything possible to get it done". Mr. Robinson, stated,

"Winter, you're actually going to try this year?" Mr. Verret stated, "Depends on when we get everything lined up."

Parish President stated, "It might be Thanksgiving, but we'll try." Mr. Robinson, stated, "That's fine." Parish President, stated, "One of the advantages of this project is that being done by the Red River Waterway Commission, and not the State of Louisiana. If the State was doing it, you'll be looking at another six months, it will not be done in this year. As soon as we get the plans done, the Red River Water Way Commission would want to review them to see what's being done, and we get their ok on it, then we'll go out and get bids on it, for the actual construction."

Chairman Rachal stated the next item on the agenda was to adopt the minutes of the regular meeting of the Natchitoches Parish Council held Monday, July 18, 2016.

On motion by Councilman Chris Paige , duly seconded by Councilwoman Patsy Ward Hoover, 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 18, 2016.

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 agenda item was for Council to consider introducing a resolution ordering and calling an election to be held in the Parish of Natchitoches to authorize the renewal of an ad valorem tax for the Natchitoches Parish Library, Health Unit, General Funds(In and Out), Highway District 40, and Parish Buildings for March 25, 2017.

Councilman Paige stated, "I will offer this, there no changes we'll just keeping things as is, just a renewal right?" Ms. Miley, stated, "As to my knowledge there is no changes." Parish President wanted to know, "Is it for the same amount of money from last time, Ms. Miley, stated, "It's all we asked for."

On motion by Councilman Chris Paige , duly seconded by Councilwoman Patsy Ward Hoover, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby introduce resolution for ordering and calling an election to be held in the Parish of Natchitoches to authorize the renewal of an ad valorem tax for the Natchitoches Parish Library, Health Unit, General Funds(In and Out), Highway District 40, and Parish Buildings for March 25, 2017.

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

At this time Councilman Doug de Graffenried wanted to asked questions to Library folks. He asked Ms. Jessica McGrath could she come up to

answer some questions. Councilman de Graffenried, "Tell me about the Pick Up Truck."

Ms. McGrath wanted to know, "You want to know what it's used for?" Councilman de Graffernied, replied, "Yes."

Ms. Jessica McGrath, Director of the Natchitoches Parish Library answered all his questions. Ms. McGrath, stated, "We have the new North East Branch, and we have in the past year taken over all the branches lawn care, before it was being done by an outside lawn care provider. We have a new Maintenance Manager and he's responsible for all that now. The main use of it, is for him driving back and forth and lawn mower and plus he collects all trash from this branch as well, that is the biggest use of it." Councilman de Graffernied asked, "Was there a trailer bought with it?" "Yes", stated, Ms. McGrath. "Where's the trailer is parked?", stated, Councilman de Graffernied. Ms. McGrath, stated, "The Trailer is being housed at the North East Branch, We back an forth was we going to purchase a storage building or trailer, and we decided on the trailer, in case they had to bring the riding lawn mower back to the main branch. Councilman de Graffernied wanted to know, "How many days the truck is being used?" Ms. McGrath, stated "The truck is being used maybe 4 days out of 5 days, but now all day." Councilman de Graffernied, stated, "I see you're prepared for the roads of Natchitoches, Parish, by purchasing a 4X4." Ms. McGrath, stated, "That was our last Maintenance Manager preference".

Councilman Bedgood, wanted to know, "If yal are planning on doing anymore buildings in the Rural areas?" Ms. McGrath, stated, "Yes, we are. We have just finished our Strategic Plans and it does include two new additional branches." Councilman Bedgood wanted to know, "If these going to be as expensive as the one in Campti?" Ms. McGrath, paused, and Councilman Bedgood, stated, "Wasn't that branch was a little over budget?" Ms. McGrath, stated, "Yes, kind of over budget." Councilman Bedgood stated wasn't it about \$900,000, she stated, "No, it was between \$700,000 or \$800,000 once all the furniture and everything was purchased. Mr. Bedgood, explained a lot of people was complaining about the cost of that building. Ms. McGrath, stated, "There was additional dirt work that had to be done and drainage that had to be corrected so that the church that sits besides the library wouldn't flood, the Church, didn't go through the proper channel to make sure they were above flood level. They questioned, Mr. Black, how the land was going to be slated, so it wouldn't flood their property, so Mr. Black made the decision to have some extra work done, so it would slat away from the Church property."

Councilman Paige wanted to know, "Are you at liberty to say right now what two particular areas that has been cited for possible branches?" Ms. McGrath stated, "They did a branch study, a couple of year back, by Mr. Black and the two (2) areas was being considered a West and South Branch. West-Robeline/Provencal and South-Cloutierville area."

Councilman Paige, wanted to know would the Library possible, "future" Book mobile usage. Ms. McGrath, stated, " We would like to redirect it to a full on out-reach service. I don't think we will do a full use of bookmobile it maybe a combination of book mobile van and doing a door to door delivery in those areas."

Chairman Rachal stated the next item on the agenda was to consider authorizing the Parish President to execute a cooperative endeavor agreement with the U.S. Forest Service for Parish participation in the Secure Rural Schools Road Program.

At this time Mr. Verret turned it over to Mr. Mike Dawson, District Manager for Kisatchie National Forest. Mr. Dawson gave out an handout

to explain to the Council about the Natchitoches Parish Rural Improvement. The Secure Rural Schools Road Program provides Federal funds for improvements to roads under local jurisdiction that provide access to National Forest land. The Forest Service has recommended, and the Director of Public Works concurs, with expanding the potential scope to include any Parish roads that access Kisatchie National Forest. This is a "disbursement" type of program, that is, invoices are submitted to the U.S. Forest Service as the work is completed, and no local match is required. A list of the Secure Rural Roads will be attached to minutes.

On motion by Councilman Chris Paige, duly seconded by Councilman Russell Rachal that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby authorize the Parish President to execute a cooperative endeavor agreement with the U.S. Forest Service for Parish participation in the Secure Rural Schools Road Program.

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

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

Motion Passed

Chairman Rachal stated the next agenda item is for Council to discuss submittal of applications for State Capital Outlay projects for consideration in 2017 Legislative session.

Mr. Verret, just wanted the Council to discuss roads to be submitted for the State Capital Outlay projects. He wanted to know if they were going to keep the same roads as priority until they all get funded or they were going to add new roads. This application must be submitted by November 1, 2016.

The Council had discussion about the previous roads that were submitted by the previous Council, and Councilman de Graffernied, stated, "I feel ill-advised to make road recommendations, How does one make a road recommendation?"

Parish President, stated, "We have a long list of roads that needs help, and we'll say to the Council here's a group of roads in your District you choose a road by priority, depending on the condition of the road, safety concerns, volume of traffic, and the continuously speeding of money on a road trying to maintain it. So we ask the Council for their input on a road in their District."

Councilwoman Hoover made the recommendation to keep the following Priority:

- Priority 1-Request remainder of funding for Payne Subdivision.(District 1)
- Priority 2-Re-submittal of Harmony Road, which was previously submitted in 2014 and 2015 but was not approved for funding. (District 5)
- Priority 3-Re-submittal of Goldonna Road (District 4), which was previously submitted in 2014 and 2015 but was not approved for funding.
- Priority 4-Request remainder of funding for Fish Hatchery Road (District 2)
- Priority 5-Councilman de Graffernied chose Miller Farm Road (District 3)

On motion by Councilwoman Patsy Ward Hoover, duly seconded by, Councilman Rachal that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby submit the following for consideration for State Capital Outlay Projects.

Priority 1-Request remainder of funding for Payne Subdivision.(District 1)

Priority 2-Re-submittal of Harmony Road, which was previously submitted in 2014 and 2015 but was not approved for funding. (District 5)

Priority 3-Re-submittal of Goldonna Road (District 4), which was previously submitted in 2014 and 2015 but was not approved for funding.

Priority 4-Request remainder of funding for Fish Hatchery Road (District 2)

Priority 5-Councilman de Graffernied chose William's Avenue across the damn, Miller Farm Road (District 3)

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

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

Motion Passed

Chairman Rachal stated the next agenda item was for Council to consider adopting a Resolution so the El Camino East-West Corridor/Highway 6/84 to a higher priority and to make available the 20% funds for "Ready Projects"

Mr. J.W. Scarborough brought information to the Council about the El Camino East-West Corridor/Highway project starting from Toledo Bend, coming eastward on Highway 6, through Sabine Parish, continuing through Natchitoches Parish, entering into Highway 84, at Clarence Louisiana, onward to Winnfield, in Winn Parish, to Jena, in Lasalle Parish, on through Catahoula and Concordia Parishes, and join the Natchez Mississippi bridge.. Trying to get all six parishes to passed Resolution to put this project as a higher priority. It's a five(5) states Corridor, Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Georgia, and Alabama. They are ahead of us in completing the road. They are all now at 100 percent complete and Louisiana is at 15% complete and that's down in Jonesville, by 15 miles and we have 168 miles more or less.

So El Camino is asking all 6 parishes to join together to get this resolution signed to request Secretary of DOTD, Shawn D. Wilson to elevate the El Camino East-West Corridor/Highway 6/84 to a higher priority and to make available the 20% funds for "Ready Projects"

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

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

Motion Passed

Chairman Rachal then recognized Mr. Nick Verret, Director of Public Works, who presented his report and gave a list of roads that was worked on. It is our understanding that an inmate pothole patching crew will be provided to the Highway Department later this month. One grader operator, Mr. Duke Thomas, has left Parish employment to take another job. The vacancy thus created will be filled as soon as possible.

Storm Damage Repairs - FEMA site visits have been completed and the project worksheets are being prepared for 75% reimbursement of eligible expenses.

A permit application has been submitted to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for replacement of the washed-out cross-drain on Tauzin Island Road. Specifications and bid documents are being prepared by

the Director of Public Works, and a bid date will be established following approval of the permit.

The State Office of Facility Planning has verbally agreed to the Parish's request for phased construction of the Payne Subdivision Capital Outlay project to allow the replacement of the washed-out bridge on Miller Drive to be expedited. Following receipt of a formal letter of request, the next step is for this project to be placed on

the agenda for the next meeting of the State Bond Commission for issuance of the cash line of credit for this project.

The FEMA Team Leader assigned to Natchitoches Parish has prepared a project worksheet for 75% reimbursement of the costs for construction of a temporary low-profile runaround at the site of the damaged bridge on Good Hope Road. This PW is currently being reviewed by FEMA management. The required Section 404 permit has been submitted to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the permit approval is currently pending completion of a survey of the proposed limits of construction so that the wetlands determination can be made.

3. Coco Bed Road - On Thursday, August 4, the Parish President and Director of Public Works met with Mr. Mark Moses, Director of the State Office of Facility Planning and Control, relative to the design standards for this project. Mr. Moses requested documentation from the Parish attorney that no design standards were in place at the time the existing roadway was made part of the Parish system. Also, a revised Capital Outlay request must be submitted, clarifying that the intent of the project is to hard-surface the existing roadway without bringing it up to current design standards. Once this documentation has been submitted, the plan development work can resume.

Chairman Rachal then recognizes Ms. Sharon Harris, OCS/Head Start Executive Director, she gave her reports: Ask if there were any questions about her report,

Commodity and Food for Seniors will be handed out at the old OCS building until they have sit down to review some things.

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program(LIHEAP)

Provided utility assistance to 77 households totaling \$23,650.00.
Received 2016 LIHEP 2nd Allication-\$57,456.34

Food for Seniors which provided 40-pound box to individuals 60 years or older.

177 individuals. Food boxes will be issued on the Parkway Cinema Parking Lot on August 25,2016.

Commodity provided food items to:109 families
Issuing date August 25, 2016 at 1016 Keyser Avenue

HEADSTART:

- A. Attendance Report-Not available, School Closure for summer
- B. Enrollment-Not available, School Closure for summer
- C. Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) Not available, School Closure for Summer

SUMMER FEEDING PROGRAM(SFSP) (OCS/HS 2)

Average Daily Participation (AD):

Total Meals: Breakfast-\$9,050; ADA=452 Lunch-10,450; ADA=522

Total Reimbursement Request-\$58,434.37

SENIOR COMPANION PROGRAM (SCP)

47 SCP volunteers

2,538 volunteer hours \$6,725.70

4,441 miles

54 Clients

Announcements

Head Start first day of school for students -August 15, 2016.

Chairman Rachal then recognizes Ms. Debbie Miley, Parish Treasurer, She stated she mailed out all her reports and asked if there were any questions at this time, there were no questions.

Ms. Miley covered the 2016 Active Booking for Inmates and Outstanding Coroners/Inmate Expense. Ms. Miley also went over the HEAD START American Express Expenditures. (attached to minutes)

Ms. Miley stated the 1.8% COLA increase will be given to Head Start Employees beginning next month.

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

CAPITAL OUTLAY UPDATE:

The committee kept the following projects in HB2:

Coco Bed Road	\$280,000
Courthouse Security	\$480,000
Old River Bridge	\$610,000
OCS	\$ 6,000
Parish Comm. District	\$2,800.000
Payne Subdivision Streets	\$500,000
Fish Hatchery Road	\$125,000
Blanchard Road	\$280,000
COA Office	\$7,700
COA Activities Bldg.	\$115,900

PUBLIC WORKS:

The Parish has received nine applications for the position of Road Maintenance Supervisor. We have begun interviewing the candidates and hope to complete the interviews within the next two weeks.

Chairman Russell Rachal then recognized Dr. Trey Baucum Louisiana 4th Congressman District wanted to introduce himself and get support from the Parish on his candidacy for office.

The Chairman stated that Councilman de Graffernied had something to say and Councilman de Graffernied started off by saying, " I rise to confess my legal predicament. I may or may not be in legal jeopardy of misprision of felony and/or malfeasance of public office as I have knowledge of 44,000 pages of uncertified documentation. I am not certain if these 44,000 uncertified pages represents nothing, a waste

of taxpayers' money, normal business practice or a miscreant in our midst. I am asking the members of the press to help me with this matter and to file a freedom of information request to receive the listing of websites and webpages viewed by Parish employees on public time using Parish computers. I hope your investigation will help relieve me of my legal quandary and potential guilt"

On motion by Councilman de Graffernied, duly seconded by Councilman Russell Rachal, 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 de Graffernied
Ayes:	Councilman Rachal
Ayes:	Councilman Paige
Ayes:	Councilwoman Hoover
Ayes:	Councilman Bedgood

Motion Passed

Since there was no other business the meeting was adjourn:

Attest:

Russell Rachal, Chairman

Sheryl Frederick,
Council Clerk