

PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATCHITOCHE PARISH COUNCIL
PARISH OF NATCHITOCHE, STATE OF LOUISIANA
TAKEN A REGULAR MEETING HELD, MONDAY,
December 19, 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, December 19, 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 Councilwoman Patsy Ward Hoover and the Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilman Rodney Bedgood.

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

Absent: None.

Chairman Rachal stated the next item was for the adoption of the agenda with the added amendment.

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

Motion Passed

Chairman Rachal then asked for visitors at this time.

The first visitor was Ms. Juanita Murphy from the Humane Society. She wanted to inform the council about what was needed to keep the animals spayed and neutered. She explained they try to make an effort to help control the pet population in our parish, the Natchitoches Humane Society is launching a new program called "Spay Natchitoches." Ms. Ms. Murphy stated "Spay Natchitoches" will continue only as long as funds are available. Ms. Murphy wanted the Council to know that the Humane Society over the year has taken in a hundred and Fifty One (151) stray animals. Ms. Murphy expressed that Mr. Norman Fletcher before he died donated money for the Humane Society and they are using this money for spays and neuters and they are coming to the end of this money. At the end of her presentation, Ms. Juanita informed the Council she had a dog for each one of them.

Chairman Rachal wanted to know if some of the NSU students in the VET program could help. Ms. Murphy explained they work weekly to help with the program. Ms. Murphy stated they have 87 animals that have been transported this year and only 55 has been adopted.

There were more discussions about the Ordinances and Ms. Murphy stated that Ms. Shannon from the Sheriff Department keeps up with the Ordinances concerning Animal Control. Parish President Nowlin also expressed it hard to accumulate money for this, when the Parish has many other needs. Parish President informed the Council there is money budgeted in the budget for this.

Councilman Paige, wanted to know, "How much has been budgeted?" Parish President stated, "Around 50,000 has been budgeted and he asked Ms. Miley for the figure, she said she didn't have her budget, one was given to her to find the amount, and it was a total of \$75,000 that has been accumulated over three (3) years to go towards the Animal Control Center. Councilman Chris Paige, asked Ms. Murphy did Terrebonne Parish do a tax for this cause? Ms. Murphy, stated, "They pull every string in the book to get that shelter."

Parish President expressed this money is set aside for the animal control problems and this money has not be used. Parish President has been working with the Sheriff Department and the City in order for a center to be built for animal control. Parish President went on to express what a great job the Humane Society is doing with very little money,

Mr. James Edwards was the next visitors that wanted to inform the Council about what was going on with Fire District 1, Cloutierville. Mr. Edwards informed the Council on September 9, 2016 he had a fire at his facility and he loss about 20% of his inventory from the fire.

Mr. Edwards stated, "I called the Assistant Fire Chief the night of the fire to report the fire and he informed me that I need to keep calling until I get an answer. I called the Chairman of the Board and the Fire Chief and they both said we have to go to work tomorrow, you are on your own. I then called Deputy LaCaze and he called the other Fire Districts and they wouldn't respond, Deputy LaCaze had to call Tony Moran and Doug Rachal and they called and make the other Fire District come by the time they got there I had loss about 20% of my inventory. I went to Mr. Nowlin to see if there was something we could do, because the plants with me Martco and Boise Idaho, all these plants can not run, they will have to shut the mills down, I do all the things needed to ship there products. Well they all come me and try to get me involved in the Fire District."

Mr. Edwards went on to express, "The more I check into it none of the Board members has any LSU Training which is a total of 12 hours, and you can't write in those hours and you can't attend your own meetings to earn them, that what cut it. We went to a LSU fire training in Grand Ecore and attended the meeting. I stayed on the telephone two (2) days trying to get people to join. I got about 40 to 50 people to come in there and put applications in there. We all went to the LSU training and they were shocked to see us, because they say, "They can not get Fire District 1 to participate." Mr. Edwards, stated, "If you don't participate you can't get your ratings down, bottom line. We put in our applications and everything and go to the meeting, and they make a new rule you have to be interviewed. No other District is doing that they're the only District doing that, you have all these people that wants to join, and instead of them trying to help us, and letting us join with all these people, they have run about 70% of the people off, because they didn't want to fool with them and talking about interviewing them." The next thing Mr. Edwards wanted to talk about was about there was no water at the Lena Fire Station, They had no water to fill up the trucks. So some guys got a tank, somebody donated them a tank, they didn't have any where to put it, so they went out there to put it down, thinking they were helping the Fire District. When we get to the meeting some of the members of the Fire District said they were going to get them for trespassing, they didn't want the tank there, finally they listened to some of the new members that only have been there for a couple of months. The older members you can't get deal with them. The ones who have been there only for a couple of months are trying to help, but they are out voted. The older ones don't want to change it, you can't have five people to work six (6) Fire houses, you can't do that and they think you can. They have all the trucks sitting at their houses. Each one of these old Board members have all the District trucks sitting at their house."

Mr. Edwards informed the Council when he went to the next meeting and asked the Chairman about their applications he was told by the Chairman he had to weed out the "hoodlums and criminals." Mr. Edwards expressed this is the wrong thing to say to people whose trying to volunteer, this is voluntary. We need people want to help, we had people to manage all six (6) Fire Stations, but now its only a few. People would come back if you would get rid of them ones who have been there, you don't have to get rid of them, just put them to the side and let others be in charge, it doesn't matter who it is, just someone that you can work with. Mr. Edwards then went on to explain that you have to file reports from the Fire Districts when things happens, you have to send those reports to Baton Rouge. As of three (3) weeks ago, the reports haven't been filed from the fire, I had on September 8, 2016. Chase Hawthorne, State Fire Marshall, showed up at my place he said, "James, Martco sent me here, not Fire District 1, I want to see what happened." Mr. Edwards explained that he took him to the back and it all started from a cigarette from where an employee threwed three rolls back. Mr. Edwards explained that the State Fire Marshall told him that Fire District 1 haven't sent a report in as long as two (2)years. You have to file a report to get your ratings down. Mr. Edwards, stated, "I just talked to a Board member on the board as of Saturday and he still don't know if they have filed a report. I've been dealing with this since September." Mr. Edwards, explained that the State Fire Marshall said District 1 has the worse ratings it is, the people is paying double the insurance and if Cloutierville High School wants to apply for grants or anything, they can't because of the Fire ratings. If your Fire District has a ten (10) ratings you can't get any help. Mr. Chase Hawthorne say if Mr. Edwards needed any help just let him know, but Mr. Edwards, feels he should get his help from the Parish President and the Council, in order to change things with Fire District 1. Mr. Edwards expressed the more he talk and deal with the members on the Fire District Board, they need an audit to be done on them. You have the Chief and Assistant Chief paying family members to cut the grass and you paying volunteer firemen to work on your trucks; needless to say, we went to fourteen (14) of their trucks from the six (6)stations, we only have three (3) of them running. If you have a mechanic on the payroll the trucks should run, they should start. You only have three(3) out of fourteen (14) to start. We got them started. Mr. Edwards, stated, "Well when you volunteer, I don't think you can be on the payroll, you do it for free." Mr. Edwards went on to discuss another issue they want to build stuff. Want to build bathroom 8x8 with no plumbing which estimated cost of \$8500.00. Tell me, "What do you need a bathroom for and you don't have a trucks that can run?" "There is so much happening down there." Mr. Edwards stated, "Mr. Nowlin is beating his head about this, and I know he have received calls from Baton Rouge and he has been going to meetings arguing with them. It's nothing but a big squabble down there, and it's all the old ones." "If we don't help Rick, to change this board and to get rid of all those old ones, everything will remain the same, with a 10 ratings and continue paying double insurance." Mr. Edwards explained that in two (2) weeks LSU is scheduling a training, and you have all those old members sitting on the Board, telling people they can't drive a fire truck unless you have the required hours, and they don't have the 12 hours. "I don't know if they don't know or just don't care, one or the other." Mr. Edwards continues to tell about a fish fry they had last year, Sheriff Victor Jones, gave them a fish fry. They all was sitting there and their beepers goes off, Charles Rogue, Assistant Chief Prothro, and his wife's the Fire Chief all sitting there and when their beepers goes off they turn it off in the buffet line. The guys standing there and there beepers goes again while eating, they just turned them off then. The third time one of the other Fire Districts gets called and that's what's been happening, and the other Fire Districts are upset that they're not answering their calls or going to all fires, maybe the ones they want to. The Fire Chief and Assistant Fire Chief has all the trucks to their house, come to find out the

fire was at the house of the Assistant Chief's next door neighbors house and his house burns down and the Asst. Chief never showed up.

Mr. Edwards, stated, "Charles Rogue has been there for years, and he should have knowledge, but he's not using it, because he should know better than needing a bathroom, when he needs a fire truck, you should also know better, than paying those people, which are the volunteers and family members to work on the stuff."

Mr. Edwards, stated, "They chew us out and tell us we're not volunteers, we still not volunteer firemen as of today, we have went through the interviews, they're telling us it will be at the first of the year before we can be volunteers." One man stood up and said, "If one of my neighbors house is burning, you mean to tell me I can't go get one of those trucks and put it out?" the reply was, "No sir, we will prosecute you." "Okay, you going to take the Chairman of the Board at the time and the Fire Chief, which is his wife, which is not right and that should not be done like that. Chairman Rachal, replied, "That's not like it is now, right Mr. Nowlin?" and Mr. Nowlin shakes his head, no. "Well, It wasn't resolved until we brought it up, like I'm bring this up, stated, Mr. Edwards."

Mr. Edwards explained Mr. Prothro is still sitting at the head of table giving his opinions and running the show, when he supposed to be sitting on the other side, well he's going to turn over the brand new Fire truck with him and his two grandchildren in it, what happened, you're pending a lawsuit, because of one of his grandchildren. He goes get the truck back, brand new Fire truck showed up two (2) weeks ago, one of the board members on Facebook truck load of kids out in Parish, down in Boyce in a Parade in it. You would think if you have torn up a brand new Fire Truck, you wouldn't go get another truck and ride any more kids, "I know, I wouldn't do that especially if you was told not to it." Chairman Rachal, told Mr. Edwards, I'm not cutting you off, but Mr. Nowlin, I have a question. We don't see the names of the people until we get ready to vote on them up or down once they're presented to us, with any boards not doing what they are suppose to do, Are there any legal way we can go in and re-organized and replace members to that board? Mr. Nowlin, stated, "There a provisions in the law to dismiss board members appointed by the Parish."

Parish President, Rick Nowlin, wanted to make a couple of comments. "Mr. Edwards is right in many things he said and it's really a serious problem. I've been attending their meetings, I've attend five or six of their monthly board meetings, I missed the last, but I did make four in a row before that. During 2016, we have replace five(5) of the seven(7)of the Board Members, primarily for the reasons that he has mentioned." There were two that were not replaced, don't mean they want later, they wasn't replaced when I replace the other five(5). When you saying I'm staying with the same board, I'm staying with the new ones the five(5) that I've already has hired this summer. and I can't find evidence of an audit they done last year either, if it is it's not on the Legislative Audit Website. There are a number of things, several months I cautioned them about following the State Public Bid law and all of the ethics rules, we just had our ethics training last month for all of our Parish employees, and there is some significant problems down there. I think we got some good Board members on there. I was there that night when they say they're going to have interviews, and "I pointedly asked the question is the purpose of the interviews was to explain what is expected of the volunteers and what the Fire District Bylaws are and not to cull anybody or eliminate anybody that you shouldn't, and I was replied with, "No, we're not trying to keep anybody out." so they must have made some other comments.

Mr. Nowlin, stated, "I've talked with the PIAL people who rates the Fire Districts, in order to get a good rating you have to fill out a pre-rating survey/questionnaire on the accountability, volunteers,

budget, equipment, and personnel and a lot of other things. We haven't been able to get this done from Fire District 1. The PIAL people has taken them from off the list. I've been working with them for two (2) years trying to get a new rating and they are saying why bother coming up there when they aren't providing the basic data, that was one of the reasons, I say I couldn't work with the Board, and started replacing members, and you have approved my nominees as a Council and I appreciate it. Mr. Nowlin, stated, "We have recently appointed two other members to the Board, and Mr. Edwards, stated, "And one of them have already quit, because of conflict between his job." Mr. Nowlin, then stated, "We're going to have to replace that person; in fact I might be calling, Mr. Edwards about that position." Mr. Edwards, stated, "I don't mind doing what ever is needed, but there must be some change. The older ones that is there you can't work with them, their the ones breaking the rules, and some of the new ones have asked to see some receipts and they treat them like puppy dogs, roll up newspaper and slap them on the nose and that's it, they don't get it, they want work with them. You take Rogue that has been there all these years you suppose to take bids on everything, you buy a truck, you suppose to take three (3) bids and you go with the cheaper bid, that's the rule, he buys a truck and said he been dealing with this man all his life, those was his words coming from him sitting at the table. I was there one night, and they bought a truck had it sitting over at Cooks had it equipped out, it needed new houses and nozzles all that needed to be put on it."

Chairman Rachal, stated, "I knew it was some issues because in the last two(2)weeks I had a public meeting out in Gorum, and this problem came up. There were some people who has volunteered to this Fire District and they haven't been put on the Board yet. I don't mean to cut you off, but we do have a long agenda, but, "What we as a Board can do to see some results out there to replacing some people?" "We owe these people in this Fire District, fire protection and it's not happening, we can't let this go on. What as a Board legally, we can do?" "It's time to do something about it, because it's not working."

Parish President stated, "I think what we should do, I've been working with the new Board members and they have responded like, Mr. Edwards had said, and to advise them, there has been improvements made, but there still is some significant problems and they need to make move quickly to make the changes or we going to have to take actions to get more directly involved."

Mr. Edwards, stated, "If you keep Rogue, Hawthorne, Ricky Sanders, with that Fire Chief, you're not going to get any volunteers, like I said, I had all these people after spending two days on the phone, and after they did them like they did, they said their never going to come there." Until their gone you're not going to get any volunteers, period. If you don't change them and get you a new chief and get them out the way so these new people can come in, I have a list and they told me if they go, Mr. Edwards, we're on board. I'm talking about people that owns businesses and respected that's going to do it, and that's what you need right now. You need to man all six houses and not just one and if you have a fire in Points Place and it takes about an hour or two to get there, that's not going to work and you can't keep the trucks at your house. You can't do that."

Councilman Paige asked a question on Is there six fire houses in Fire District 1? and Mr. Edwards, replied, "Yes." Councilman Paige responded by saying, "Mr. Edwards, you have said a lot, I've been here a long time and haven't heard things you have said and to call out names like you did, and we say wait before you call names, but you did, so I guess you got your facts together on this and we commend you that you have done your homework, now I think it's up to Mr. Nowlin and the Council to do our work that we have to do. We look up to Mr. Nowlin to bring recommendations to the Council for us to move from

there. I have heard nothing of these, and I'm glad to hear you're saying all these things, and I hope next month or when ever that we can move on this matter quickly on this matter, the people deserves better than that. If the people call for help with a fire, some should respond and their not getting that."

Parish President and Councilman Paige began discussing getting other people involved such as the Director of the 911 Board in this process. Some people that can help these people to get fire service that they need.

The next visitor was Karen Poche'. Ms. Poche' has two rental property on Hwy 494 and she said the road is terrible and you have to drive in the ditch in order to go around a massive destruction that if a car hits it that will be the end of that car. Ms. Poche' stated, "This is going to hurt property owners who has rental property on that road." Because the people who come out to look a the rental house, the first thing they ask, "Is the road going to be fixed?" Ms. Poche' told the Council to come and ride down the road the Bermuda Road that is from Pratt Lane and St. Paul Church road, you just need to drive to see it's unreal." Ms. Poche', stated, "I call Mrs. Patsy for help, and they did come out about a month ago to put some green stuff in the holes, but it's not there anymore." Councilwoman Hoover, stated, "I'm going to let our Director of Public Works address you on that, we're policy makers, but he's the director and he can you some information on where we are at this point." Ms. Poche' stated, " I called the sheriff department to put a barricade needs to be put around this hole, because others don't know if they don't travel that road frequently."

Mr. Verret, stated, "About time, I got the word, you had called others, but we did go down there Saturday and the crew put down four (4) loads of maintenance rock in the hole. It's just another one of those roads that is a failed asphalt pavement road and it's not maintainable, and only thing we can do is just put down the maintenance rock, it's not going to stay very long we just have to come back to re-do it. There is no money in the budget for overlays."

At this time, Mr. Verret and Ms. Poche' began talking about the bush hoggs, and she asked were they fixed, and she said at the time Mr. Salard said, "They were broken and know one knew how to fix them."

Mr. Chris Posey was recognized and he began expressing his concerns about Fire District 1, and he said almost exactly what Mr. Jason Edwards had said earlier in the meeting. He just re-stated that all the old members needs to be dismissed from the Board and get others that will help get things straight and attend the people needs.

Chairman Rachal stated, "We need to have time to discuss the matter, we are not going to drag it along." Councilwoman Hoover, stated, "Mr. Rachal and I share that area, and we'll work together to make sure something is done." Councilman Paige, stated, "The gentleman is right in a sense, I'm just learning about this tonight and I'm frustrated just hearing about it, and if there's other projects that is going on we need to put a stop to that right now, immediately, and that is the type of things that you're saying, and what to hear. I think with the comments that were made tonight that you will see, you must see some type of action taken, you have done your part, and those with authority must do what they need to be done with the information given us."

Parish President stated, "We do know there is one opening on the board, due to a resignation of the board that had a conflict with his job, we may have other recommendation about other vacancies and we have other things that are legal nature that I'm unable to talk about at this time."

Councilman Paige, stated, "I understand what you're talking about one more member, but if we have to abolished the whole board, we need to. For those you just appointed and they are doing good put them back on it and those that are not doing it then don't appoint them back, it's no playing around with this matter, it's out there now." Mr. Posey asked, about What are you going to do about the audit situation?" Councilwoman Hoover, replied, "Just give us time to look into all this, and we will contact you." Assistant District Attorney, Mr. Fair, stated, "The audit was posted on December 14, 2016, but it supposed to have been posted by July, 1st." Councilman Paige, replied, "See things let that give reasons to abolish the whole board." Parish President, Rick Nowlin, stated, "Mr. Chairman, let me say, it was the new members that made it possible for the last years audit to be filed."

Mr. John Hodgeson, from Pardee road, still asking for work to be done on the Pardee Road, Mr. Hodgeson went on to express he appreciates the little dab that was brought out there. He explained they have no way of getting their cars out from their homes. He had two tires that cost him \$396.00 and a front end alignment which cost him \$220.00. Mr. Hodgeson, expressed the residents on Pardee road needs some relief. People are now going in the ditches and tearing them up in order to get through. The resident just wants relief of getting to and from the their residents on the Pardee road.

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, November 21, 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, November 21, 2016.

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

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

Motion Passed

Chairman Rachal stated the next item on the agenda was for Council to consider a Resolution of ordering and calling an election to be in Natchitoches Parish Fire District 1 continuation of an ad valorem tax March 25, 2017.

The Council had a brief discussion on this, and expressing their concerns about this after hearing what they heard earlier, but they didn't want the residents to suffer by not approving this, but they are going to make sure something is done about the situation down there.

On motion by Councilman Chris Paige, duly seconded by, Councilman Russell Rachal that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby adopt a Resolution of ordering and calling an election to be in Natchitoches Parish Fire District 1 continuation of an ad valorem tax March 25, 2017.

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

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

Motion Passed

Chairman Rachal stated the next item on the agenda was for Council to consider a Resolution of ordering and calling an election to be in Natchitoches Parish Fire District 5 continuation of an ad valorem tax April 29, 2017.

On motion by Councilwoman Patsy Ward Hoover, duly seconded by, Councilman Chris Paige that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby adopt a Resolution of ordering and calling an election to be in Natchitoches Parish Fire District 5 continuation of an ad valorem tax April 29, 2017.

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

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

Motion Passed

Chairman Rachal stated the next item on the agenda was for Council to consider changing meeting dates of Monday, January 16, 2017 (Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday) and Monday, February 20, 2017 (Presidents' Day) to another meeting day.

After a short discussion on this the Council approved to make the changes of changing the date to the next day which will be a Tuesday for both months. Tuesday, January 17, 2017 and Tuesday, February 20, 2017.

On motion by Councilman Russell Rachal, duly seconded by Councilwoman Patsy Ward Hoover that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby adopt approves the changing the date to the next day which will be a Tuesday for both months. Tuesday, January 17, 2017 and Tuesday, February 20, 2017.

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

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

Motion Passed

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

ORDINANCE #015-2016

An Ordinance Adopting The Natchitoches Parish Government Personnel Policy Manual With Certain Revisions And Adding A New Job Description Of Parish Engineer.

On motion by Councilman Chris Paige, duly seconded by Councilman Russell Rachal, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby open the public hearing to hear any and all comments or objections relative to the adoption of the following items:

ORDINANCE #015-2016

An Ordinance Adopting The Natchitoches Parish Government Personnel Policy Manual With Certain Revisions And Adding A New Job Description Of Parish Engineer.

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

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

Motion Passed

Parish President read his suggestions and explanation for having this job description added for Engineer and he explained why the changes to be made to the Public Works Director qualifications.

Councilman Bedgood, wanted to know the letter you sent to the Council stated the Engineer would work 20 to 24 hours a week, Parish replied probably, "I'm saying about 24 hours a week." Councilman Bedgood, wanted to know, "What type of salary you're talking about?" Parish President, replied, "Looking in the range of \$60,000 to \$65,000." Councilman Bedgood asked, "You're going to hire a Highway Director, How much you're going to pay him?" Parish President stated, "If I can get someone in the range of \$65,000 to \$75,000 at the most." Parish President stated between the Director of the Highway Department, Asst. Director, and the Supervisor's position it adds up to \$175,000. "I will hire those three people with that same money, I will not be adding additional money."

Councilman Rachal, addressed that in Parish President Rick's letter to them stated the major criticism of the Highway Department is a lack of supervision and Mr. Verret has been the unofficial Parish Engineer for the past four years and serving as the Director of Public Works. Now by creating this new position and putting Mr. Verret in it, "How is this going to give us any more supervision, If he's already in this job now and there is no supervision, according to what this letter?"

Parish President, replied, "That person will be dedicated strictly be doing Highway issues and not engineering. Mr. Verret is really a part-time Engineer and Part-time Highway Director, he's doing both and putting a lot of hours in and it's not at the best interest of the Parish for him, Mr. Verret to continue."

Councilman Rachal, asked, "You have someone acting under him now, His job isn't supervision?" Parish President, replied, "It wasn't until the last few months." Mr. Nick Verret, replied, "The bottom line, if you have two (2) people concentrating on Highway issues as for as doing the operations and doing the supervision, compared to the one and a half you have now, sometimes my total time has been involved in the engineering contracts, and not doing any supervision during that time."

Councilman Rachal, expressed that during his meeting a lady called up there about the Salard road, and she was told, by and employee, "I don't know where the road is." Last month, we asked about the qualification of the Engineer and it stated you must be specialized in

certain area. So by doing this and putting you in there, So now are you qualified to do this position?"

Mr. Verret replied, "You're not understanding, basically we're just splitting the duties. The Parish Engineer will only be doing the Engineering duties, not supervision of the Highway Department, I'm now trying to divide my time doing both, this way the Engineer side can be taken care of by not distracting me from the Engineering part. You not creating anything new, you basically separating out duties, so the Engineer can concentrate on Engineering and the Director can concentrate on Operations and Supervision."

Councilman Rachal replied, "Maybe I didn't ask that question right, but if you're unofficially doing that, Why can't you do that and take who you have now and let them take on those duties?" Mr. Verret replied by saying "You talking about two people trying to do three jobs what we trying to do here is spread the situation here for two people doing two jobs and the other person doing one job." "As far as, not knowing where Salard road is, I'm not sure of who that person talked to; I know where Salard road is and I'm very certain Johnnie Salard knows where Salard road is." Councilman Rachal, stated, "I'm not calling any names, because we're not in Executive Session, because I don't want to throw that person under the bus."

Councilwoman Hoover, stated, "I'm going to be straight up about where I am with this. I'm not in favor in hiring another Engineer on staff, my feelings is simple as this. When you hired the Engineer in the beginning you should have hired one that could take care the needs of this Parish. You have spent thousands and thousands of dollars for years paying salaries when there should have been an Engineer on staff that could take care the needs of this Parish, now I do realize there are different types of Engineers, okay. Mr. President, you're an Engineer, our Public Works Director is an Engineer, now you want to bring on another Engineer, whether it will be part time or full time its just ludicrous to me."

Parish President, asked, "May I respond." We're not talking about bringing on another Engineer. We're talking about putting Mr. Verret in a position where he can focus entirely on Engineering for the Parish. When you said we should hired an Engineer from the get go, to handle all the Engineering, at that time when Mr. Verret was retained, we was not doing Engineering in house for the Parish." While Parish President was talking, Councilwoman Hoover said we're just wasting money, and Parish President, replied, "Excuse Me." Councilwoman Hoover, said just a waste of money, but nothing, go ahead. The Parish President, responded by saying, "Let me tell you about wasting money, just the last week I authorized because it was in the budget hiring an Engineer, just for one day to do some structural analysis on the roof of the Live Oak building." Councilwoman Hoover wanted to know, "What type of Engineer?" Parish President, replied, "Structural Engineer a Civil Engineer." So....., but before she could speak, Parish President told her, "Let him finished please, then he would answer her question. The rate for that Engineer was a \$175.00 hour typically, because I know, I'm in the business can go from \$150.00 to \$175.00 a hour, sometime \$200.00 dollars. That's quite a lot of money if you multiply that over a year, so you talk about wasting money, it's a whole lot better to spend \$40.00 to \$50.00 dollars in house, instead of a \$175.00 dollars, and in the position of the Parish Engineer we're proposing will be a hourly position, you only pay for the hours that you will use and no benefits goes with it, I think the Parish will be coming out a head. These comments about wasting money is, I think they are disingenuous." Councilwoman Hoover, replied, "I'm still not in favor of it."

Mr. Verret then begin to speak, "Again, what this will allow to happen is, as Parish Engineer, I can concentrate full time on Engineering duties, if we are going to get these Capital Outlay Projects done, here typically, while I'm out there trying to get surveys and to get the design data for these Capital Out Lay projects, and I'm answering telephone questions about pot holes, that's makes it very difficult to get the Engineering work done. All that design work, construction and contractual administration work for all of that, there is no way I can continue to answer phone calls and supervise work, and get out there to look at what needs to be done, I can't do all of that and do the Engineering work, it's not going to happened. Basically the only other alternative is for the Parish to hire an consulting Engineer to do the design work, which really defeats the purpose of having me here with an Engineering license and its going to cost the Parish a whole lot more, so again, their not talking about adding anything here all we are talking about is dividing out duties, that's all we're doing, I can take care the things, I have all the expertise in and do the most good for the Parish, and another person that doesn't have to be involved in those activities can concentrate all their efforts in supervising the work and administration work.

Chairman Rachal, responded by saying, "I understand but the hard pill to swallow is having an Engineer and then turn around hiring a Supervisor and Assistant when we only have nine (9) employees. Why it takes two supervisors to supervise nine (9) employees? Why have two more positions in additionally to yours? while we can split your out and hire that one person and save money and still get the job done, because you only have nine(9) employees and if you can't supervise nine(9) employees, "While do we need them?"

Parish President, replied, "Mr. Rachal, we have seventeen (17) employees." Councilman Rachal, responded, "I was told nine (9) the other day." Councilwoman Hoover, asked, "Ms. Creamer how many do we have?" Ms. Creamer, responded by saying, "We have fourteen (14) hourly employees on current salary and we have three(3) on Man Power, which makes a total of seventeen(17), that's including all the office staff." Councilman Rachal, replied, "Prior to going to these public meetings, I've been having, I was told we only had nine(9) the other day, that's where, I got that from, maybe I was wrong in the numbers, but that's what I was provided." Parish President, asked, "Was it somebody on my staff who told you that." Councilman Rachal, responded, "Yes." Parish President, replied, "Then they were mistaken." Councilman Rachal, replied, "That's ok, everybody makes mistakes."

Councilman Paige expressed that "We have a lot more problems than that I've have ever seen in the days of his life. We have figured out a way to really tick people off in this Parish, more than I've seen the many days of my life, You really have accomplished that. I really don't understand it. Time and time again, people have come to say how they have to drive in a ditch to keep from hitting pot holes."

Carolyn Roy stated, "That's not new." Councilman Paige, replied, " I know it's not new, but it has gotten much, much, worse." Parish President made a statement, "The chickens are coming home to roost." "Mr. Chairman, it has been decades of inadequate funding and attention to some of our problems. If let unattended it don't get better it gets worse." The point is we are trying to put people in a positions that will be a benefit to the Parish."

Ms. Cory Poole stated, "It seems like the trends now days is towards people wearing multiple hats and been asked to work two to three different jobs in the one position their in. So how you justify the necessity when others are expected to work multiple jobs?" Parish President replied, "It depends on the types of jobs their are doing. Like Mr. Lemoine has two jobs he's doing being the Director of

Planning and Zoning and Inspector for the Parish. it's all closely related together. The job Parish Engineer and the job Road Maintenance is not in the same they are very different." The proposed changes is the best way to approach it, it's not going to cost us any more money, and have more people paying attention the roads in the Parish, and we already have a Engineer here, if we don't need Mr. Verret we will not pay him we're only anticipating around 24 hours a week."

Councilman de Graffenried, replied, "I look at this job description and it's a wonderful job description if we had millions of dollars for projects but I see this is an over kill for gravel road maintenance. What are we Engineered? Yes, I see that hand. "What is being Engineered? I want to know what's being Engineered?" Parish President replied, "We do a lot in Public works, Councilman. We have from the get go decided that we do not have the money to provide the match for the Capital Outlay projects from Senator Long and others has work so hard in getting for us and the only thing we can do that can work some of them in the budget is to have In-kind services as for as the Engineering work on the projects. It's not only Engineering it's also surveying and he also do all the permitting." Councilman de Graffernied, asked, "Is that a uniquely Engineering question? Parish President responded, "Yes." Councilman de Graffernied, responded, "We have seen Coco Bed road the same list of roads that I have not seen nothing done for a year. I just want to know, "What the Engineering is were things are not being done."

Mr. Verret, responded, "Besides the Capital Outlay projects, let me give you a list of examples of some of the things I was able to do because of my Engineering background." Mr. Verret went on to talk about the Landfill report that he done less than a week, a consultant would charge \$10,000 to do this work that only took a week. He was able to get additional \$65,000 in FEMA reimbursements because he engineered the projects. In 2013 a pipe under the entrance of White Oak Lane failed with a cost of \$40,000 to \$50,000 to excavate and replace. We under-sealed it at a cost of \$2,900.00 that saved thousands of dollars." Mr. Verret continued talking about projects to he have save the Parish money. Mr. Verret, stated, "You really can't put a price tag on an Engineering because of the volume of work they put on." Councilman de Graffernied, responded, "It sounds like road engineering is to pedestrian for you. Sounds like you want to do the esoteric stuff and this Parish needs someone.....I would love to hear a process by which roads are determined to get scarified, to have that process to come before the Council. I think I asked for this back in August. It seems like we need someone who knows how to drive a motor grader, crown a road, and knows how to clean a ditch, and that doesn't make an Engineer, I'm sorry."

Chairman Rachal, stated, "We are all spokespeople for our District, and all we can do is report back what we hear, and that's what we're doing tonight, this is not a personal attack on anybody, it's just meeting the needs of the people, what I'm hearing nobody is having a beef with the Engineering side of things, they are having a beef with no road work being done, period. Eleven to twelve months we have done nothing as far as these roads on a permanent basis, now with that said, I wouldn't have a problem with your Engineer work, but I do have a problem hiring two more people to go in and all we need is one qualified person that can crown a road, and can pull a ditch, that is a bad word in this Parish, "pulling ditches", I don't know if they don't know how to do them or just don't want to do them. I would not feel right to have this position and then turn around and have two more high salaries, that can do the job one person can do, as said it's no way, I can do that tonight."

Parish President, asked, "Can I say something?" First of all Mr. Chairman, you said it's haven't been no work done to the roads in the parish this year, the truth of the matter is that most of the work we done this year is trying to recover from the March flood events. It took months to get that done, it's a reason for that. In October and November the weather played a part in that, and multitude factors, that kept things from getting done, and you know that. You said to hire two people to do what one person can do, I don't think you blantly know the aspects of the doing their jobs. And let me tell you something we're not talking about hiring two people, we are talking about hiring a Director, to replace Mr. Verret if he becomes Parish Engineer and the other is to moved others that are already on staff, okay. If we can take somebody and make a supervisor out of them and we can do that, that is what we need to do, but I have already given you my commitment that for the people that we hire we'll not going to spend anymore money for the combination of those people, including the Engineer than we're spending now, the budget will remain the same, it's not a money issue." Chairman Rachal, replied, "I understand that." Parish President, replied, "Well, Why did you say that?" Chairman Rachal, "Because, we'll talking in the range of \$65,000 for the position, and then we also heard tonight to get those positions done it will be around \$175,000 or \$180,000 dollars, that's the numbers I heard tonight." "That's including the Parish Engineer," replied, Parish President, Nowlin. Chairman Rachal, stated, "Ok you said, \$65,000 and you paid someone \$70,000 or \$75,00 that's a \$140,000 right there, "Where the other \$40,000 comes in at?" "That's for an Assistant or Road Maintenance," replied Mr. Nowlin, "That's what I'm talking about," replied, Chairman Rachal. Chairman Rachal, explained why he said nothing as been done, it's hard for me to explain to my people out there in the my District why someone goes out and blade a half a mile of a road, then get called to go over fifteen to twenty miles later to hit another hot spot and don't touch the whole road while they are there, you can't explain that to people, that's not acceptable. "Why don't they do the whole road while they're there, it will look like we done something, that's what I'm getting at."

Mr. Verret, "To answer that question first then all we done this year is basically "putting out fires." We have not done routine maintenance this year. If you have a trouble spot here and then one here, yes we can take time to grade the whole road there, but we'll leaving those people over here in a lurch, and that's not right." Chairman Rachal, stated, "You can't explain the high amount of Diesel, you're using that is not being applied to the road, that's travel Diesel I have a problem with that."

Mr. Verret, stated, "The other thing I want to comment on, Mr. Rachal, it's impossible for one person to supervised the whole operation, it's impossible. It's impossible for them to take the calls, catch the calls, go look at what needs to be done on the roads, schedule the work, get the people lined out to go do the job, then go review the work after completed, that's just not possible with the millage we have in this Parish for one person to do." Chairman Rachal, replied, "But when they're seen backed up in the woods at 11:30 and comes out at quitting time, and the blade haven't been put down, I can't explain that to the people and we see that all the time." We can't supervise them." Mr. Verret, replied, "A supervisor can not be in all those locations at one time." Chairman Rachal, stated, "I'm ready to move one."

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 close the public hearing.

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

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

Motion Passed

Chairman Rachal stated the next item on the agenda is to adopt Ordinance **#015-2016**

An Ordinance Adopting The Natchitoches Parish Government Personnel Policy Manual With Certain Revisions And Adding A New Job Description Of Parish Engineer.

On motion by Councilman Russell Rachal, duly seconded by Councilwoman Patsy Ward Hoover that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby adopt Ordinance **#015-2016** An Ordinance Adopting The Natchitoches Parish Government Personnel Policy Manual With Certain Revisions And Adding A New Job Description Of Parish Engineer.

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

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

Motion Didn't Passed

Chairman Rachal stated the next item on the agenda is for Council to examine and approve the official certified tabulations of votes cast at the said Election, on November 8, 2016, did examine and canvass the returns of said election, there having been submitted at said election for Proposition (City and Parish Road Sales Tax) Sales Tax District No.1 and Proposition (Parish Roads Sales Tax) Sales Tax District No.2.

There was a brief discussion on this matter. Councilman Paige explained to the other Council members on how this was done in the past.

On motion by Councilman Chris Paige, duly seconded by Councilman Russell Rachal, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby official certified tabulations of votes cast at the said Election, on November 8, 2016, did examine and canvass the returns of said election, there having been submitted at said election for Proposition (City and Parish Road Sales Tax) Sales Tax District No.1 and Proposition (Parish Roads Sales Tax) Sales Tax District No. 2.

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

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

Motion Passed

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

- a. Confirmation of Greg Burke for re-appointment to the Natchitoches Parish Tourist Commission.

On motion by Councilman Rodney Bedgood, duly seconded by Councilman Russell Rachal, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby Confirm Greg Burke for re-appointment to the Natchitoches Parish Tourist Commission.

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

Ayes: Councilman Bedgood
Ayes: Councilman Rachal
Ayes: Councilwoman Hoover
Ayes: Councilman de Graffenried
Ayes: Councilman Paige **Motion Passed**

- b. Confirmation of for re-appointment of James W. Anthony to the Natchitoches Parish Water Works District 2 Board.

On motion by Councilwoman Patsy Ward Hoover, duly seconded by Councilman Russell Rachal, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby confirm re-appointment of James W. Anthony to the Natchitoches Parish Water Works District 2 Board.

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

Ayes: Councilwoman Hoover
Ayes: Councilman Rachal
Ayes: Councilman Bedgood
Ayes: Councilman de Graffenried
Ayes: Councilman Paige **Motion Passed**

- c. Confirmation of appointment of Dallas Russell to the Natchitoches Parish Children and Youth Planning Board.

At this time Councilwoman Sylvia Morrow, wanted to inquire on How many do they have on this board? She stated this person is a very good worker and does a great deal for the City and was wondering, What time will she have to do this appointment? With all that being said and discussion from the Council, and Parish President.

On motion by Councilman Russell Rachal, duly seconded by Councilman Chris Paige, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby confirm appointment of Dallas Russell to the Natchitoches Parish Children and Youth Planning Board.

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

Ayes: Councilman Rachal
Ayes: Councilman Paige
Ayes: Councilman Bedgood
Ayes: Councilman de Graffenried
Nays: Councilwoman Hoover **Motion Passed**

Chairman Rachal stated the next item on the Agenda the Council to consider rejecting the bids for Grader Blades due to irregularities in bid submissions, and to approve opening up for re-bids for Grader Blades.

Councilwoman Hoover wanted to know will the same people be able to re-bid for this item. The answer to her question was yes.

On motion by Councilman Russell Rachal, duly seconded by Councilman Chris Paige, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby reject the bids for Grader Blades due to irregularities in bid submissions, and to approve opening up for re-bids for Grader Blades.

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

Ayes:	Councilman Rachal	
Ayes:	Councilman Paige	
Ayes:	Councilman Bedgood	
Ayes:	Councilman de Graffenried	
Ayes:	Councilwoman Hoover	Motion Passed

Chairman Rachal stated the next item on the Agenda the Council to consider awarding the following bids for the Highway Department

1. **CRS-2 Cationic Emulsified Asphalt**
 - a. **Ergon Asphalt & Emulsions, Inc.**
 - b. **Asphalt Products Unlimited, Inc.**

On motion by Councilman Russell Rachal, duly seconded by Councilman Chris Paige, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby approve Ergon Asphalt & Emulsions, Inc. as the lowest bidder.

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

Ayes:	Councilman Rachal	
Ayes:	Councilman Paige	
Ayes:	Councilman Bedgood	
Ayes:	Councilman de Graffenried	
Ayes:	Councilwoman Hoover	Motion Passed

2. **Crush Stone**
 - A. **Madden Contracting Company, LLC.**

On motion by Councilman Russell Rachal, duly seconded by Councilman Rodney Bedgood, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby approve Madden Contracting Company, LLC. as the only bidder.

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

Ayes:	Councilman Rachal	
Ayes:	Councilman Bedgood	
Ayes:	Councilman Paige	
Ayes:	Councilman de Graffenried	
Ayes:	Councilwoman Hoover	Motion Passed

3. Winn Rock Road Maintenance Material
A. Winn Rock, LLC

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 approve Winn Rock, LLC as the only bidder.

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

Ayes: Councilman Paige
Ayes: Councilwoman Hoover
Ayes: Councilman Bedgood
Ayes: Councilman Paige
Ayes: Councilman de Graffenried **Motion Passed**

4. Silty Clay Soil
A. FFT Trucking Services, LLC.

On motion by Councilman Russell Rachal, duly seconded by Councilwoman Patsy Ward Hoover, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby approve Winn Rock, LLC as the only bidder.

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

Ayes: Councilman Rachal
Ayes: Councilwoman Hoover
Ayes: Councilman Bedgood
Ayes: Councilman Paige
Ayes: Councilman de Graffenried **Motion Passed**

5. Commercial/Industrial, Passenger, Light Truck, and Trailer Tires
A. Natchitoches Tire Service, Inc. DBA Despino's Tire Service.
B. Moore's Tire & Retread. (Irregular Bid)

On motion by Councilman Chris Paige, duly seconded by Councilman Russell Rachal, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby approve Natchitoches Tire Service, Inc. DBA Despino's Tire Service for award.

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

Ayes: Councilman Paige
Ayes: Councilman Rachal
Ayes: Councilman Bedgood
Ayes: Councilwoman Hoover
Ayes: Councilman de Graffenried **Motion Passed**

6. Metal Culverts
A. Contech Construction Products, Inc.

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 approve Contech Construction Products, Inc. as only bidder.

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

Ayes: Councilman Paige
Ayes: Councilwoman Hoover
Ayes: Councilman Bedgood
Ayes: Councilman Rachal
Ayes: Councilman de Graffenried **Motion Passed**

7. Cold Mix Asphalt
A. Diamond B. Construction Co., LLC.

On motion by Councilman Chris Paige, duly seconded by Councilman Russell Rachal, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby award Diamond B. Construction Co., LLC as only bidder.

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

Ayes: Councilman Paige
Ayes: Councilman Rachal
Ayes: Councilman Bedgood
Ayes: Councilman de Graffenried
Ayes: Councilwoman Hoover **Motion Passed**

8. Washed Gravel
A. Larry Grayson & Son Trucking, LLC.

On motion by Councilwoman Patsy Ward Hoover, duly seconded by Councilman Chris Paige, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby awards Larry Grayson & Son Trucking, LLC. the only bidder

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

Ayes: Councilwoman Hoover
Ayes: Councilman Paige
Ayes: Councilman Bedgood
Ayes: Councilman de Graffenried
Ayes: Councilman Rachal **Motion Passed**

9. Stone Riprap
A. Madden Contracting Company, LLC.

On motion by Councilman Russell Rachal, duly seconded by Councilwoman Patsy Ward Hoover, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby approve Madden Contracting Company, LLC. as only bidder.

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

Ayes: Councilman Rachal
Ayes: Councilwoman Hoover
Ayes: Councilman Bedgood
Ayes: Councilman Paige
Ayes: Councilman de Graffenried **Motion Passed**

**10. Hot Mix Asphaltic Concrete For Patching
& Leveling
A. Madden Contracting Company.**

On motion by Councilman Chris Paige, duly seconded by Councilman Russell Rachal, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby award Madden Contracting Company as only bidder.

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

Ayes:	Councilman Paige	
Ayes:	Councilman Rachal	
Ayes:	Councilman Bedgood	
Ayes:	Councilman de Graffenried	
Ayes:	Councilwoman Hoover	Motion Passed

**11. Oil and Grease Products
A. Lott Oil Company.**

On motion by Councilwoman Patsy Ward Hoover, duly seconded by Councilman Russell Rachal, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby awards Lott Oil Company only bidder

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

Ayes:	Councilwoman Hoover	
Ayes:	Councilman Rachal	
Ayes:	Councilman Bedgood	
Ayes:	Councilman de Graffenried	
Ayes:	Councilman Paige	Motion Passed

Chairman Rachal stated the next item on the Agenda the Council to consider awarding the following bids for Head Start.

**12. Milk and Dairy Products
A. Harper's Distributing**

On motion by Councilman Russell Rachal, duly seconded by Councilwoman Patsy Ward Hoover, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby approve Harper's Distributing as only bidder.

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

Ayes:	Councilman Rachal	
Ayes:	Councilwoman Hoover	
Ayes:	Councilman Bedgood	
Abstain:	Councilman Paige	
Ayes:	Councilman de Graffenried	Motion Passed

13. Meat and Meat Products and Alternates
A. Sysco Food
B. Reinhart Food service

On motion by Councilwoman Patsy Ward Hoover, duly seconded by Councilman Russell Rachal, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby awards Reinhart Food Service as lowest bidder.

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

Ayes: Councilwoman Hoover
Ayes: Councilman Rachal
Ayes: Councilman Bedgood
Ayes: Councilman de Graffenried
Abstain: Councilman Paige **Motion Passed**

14. Fruits, Vegetables and Processed Foods
A. Sysco Foods
B. Reinhart Foods

On motion by Councilman Russell Rachal, duly seconded by Councilwoman Patsy Ward Hoover, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby approve Reinhart Foods as lowest Bidder.

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

Ayes: Councilman Rachal
Ayes: Councilwoman Hoover
Ayes: Councilman Bedgood
Abstain: Councilman Paige
Ayes: Councilman de Graffenried **Motion Passed**

Chairman Rachal stated the next item on the Agenda the Council to consider the introduction of Ordinance 016- 2016 to reduce the posted speed limit on Parish Road No.626, Willie Banes Road, to 20 mph.

On motion by Councilman Chris Paige, duly seconded by Councilman Russell Rachal, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby introduce of Ordinance 016- 2016 to reduce the posted speed limit on Parish Road No.626, Willie Banes Road, to 20 mph.

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

Ayes: Councilman Paige
Ayes: Councilman Rachal
Ayes: Councilman Bedgood
Ayes: Councilman de Graffenried
Ayes: Councilwoman Hoover **Motion Passed**

Chairman Rachal stated the next item on the Agenda the Council to consider entering into a lease agreement with Mr. Donny Whitehead for polling place in Vowells Mill.

There were discussion on this lease and they still had concerns about the five years lease period, and the amount of the lease.

Chairman Rachal ask for a motion on this and no Council member made a motion. Died for lack of motion.

Chairman Rachal stated the next item on the Agenda the Council to consider Resolution stating the Natchitoches Government approves the amended 2016 Budget and the proposed 2017 Budget for the operation of the North Louisiana Criminalistics Laboratory Commission.

On motion by Councilman Chris Paige, duly seconded by Councilman Rodney Bedgood, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby approves the Resolution stating the Natchitoches Government approves the amended 2016 Budget and the proposed 2017 Budget for the operation of the North Louisiana Criminalistics Laboratory Commission.

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

Ayes:	Councilman Paige	
Ayes:	Councilman Bedgood	
Ayes:	Councilman Rachal	
Ayes:	Councilman de Graffenried	
Ayes:	Councilwoman Hoover	Motion Passed

Chairman Rachal stated the next item on the Agenda the Council to consider authorizing the Parish President to work with other local governmental entities and stakeholders to identify potential projects and matching fund partners for utilizing \$839,012 in FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funding that has been allocated to Natchitoches Parish.

There was a discussion on this matter and the Council requested Mr. Nowlin and Mr. Verret once a project is picked out, then they will bring it back to the Council for approval even if have to call a Special Meeting, before January 13, 2017.

On motion by Councilman Russell Rachal, duly seconded by Councilman Chris Paige, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby authorize the Parish President to work with other local governmental entities and stakeholders to identify potential projects and matching fund partners for utilizing \$839,012 in FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funding that has been allocated to Natchitoches Parish.

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

Ayes:	Councilman Rachal	
Ayes:	Councilman Paige	
Ayes:	Councilman Bedgood	
Ayes:	Councilman de Graffenried	
Ayes:	Councilwoman Hoover	Motion Passed

Chairman Rachal stated the next item on the Agenda the Council to authorize Parish President to sign an agreement with the LSU AgCenter to Support and Administer Louisiana Cooperative Units off Campus.

On motion by Councilwoman Patsy Ward Hoover, duly seconded by Councilman Rodney Bedgood, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby authorize Parish President to sign an agreement with the LSU AgCenter to Support and Administer Louisiana Cooperative Units off Campus.

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

Ayes:	Councilwoman Hoover	
Ayes:	Councilman Bedgood	
Ayes:	Councilman Rachal	
Ayes:	Councilman de Graffenried	
Ayes:	Councilman Paige	Motion Passed

Chairman Rachal stated the next item on the Agenda the Council to consider approving the budget revision for a new Van for Head Start.

On motion by Councilwoman Patsy Ward Hoover, duly seconded by Councilman Rodney Bedgood, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby approve the budget revision for a new Van for Head Start.

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

Ayes:	Councilwoman Hoover	
Ayes:	Councilman Bedgood	
Ayes:	Councilman Rachal	
Ayes:	Councilman de Graffenried	
Ayes:	Councilman Paige	Motion Passed

Chairman Rachal stated the next item on the Agenda the Council to consider introducing Ordinance 17-2016 giving authorization to the Parish President to enter into an agreement with the Natchitoches Parish Sheriff Office for the sale of the Parish building and a certain parking lot to the NPSO, subject to an acceptable appraisal of the value of the property, a mutual agreement on the purchase price, and the review and approval of the Office of the District Attorney.

On motion by Councilman Russell Rachal, duly seconded by Councilwoman Patsy Ward Hoover, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby approve introducing Ordinance 17-2016 giving authorization to the Parish President to enter into an agreement with the Natchitoches Parish Sheriff Office for the sale of the Parish building and a certain parking lot to the NPSO, subject to an acceptable appraisal of the value of the property, a mutual agreement on the purchase price, and the review and approval of the Office of the District Attorney.

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

Ayes:	Councilman Rachal	
Ayes:	Councilwoman Hoover	
Ayes:	Councilman Bedgood	
Ayes:	Councilman Paige	
Ayes:	Councilman de Graffenried	Motion Passed

Chairman Rachal then recognized Mr. Nick Verret, Director of Public Works, Mr. Verret gave a summary of FEMA reimbursements for 2016 Disaster Event (FEMA-4263)

- 1. Storm Damage Repairs & FEMA Reimbursements-** All PW's for repairs resulting from the March disaster event have been completed by FEMA. A summary of anticipated reimbursements is attached herewith, along with the anticipated shortfall in each Parish budget fund resulting from the reimbursements being limited to 75% of eligible expenses. To date, payments totaling \$274,284 have been processed by FEMA to the Parish.
- 2. Coal Kiln Creek Bridge on Robeline-Provencal Road** - Parish forces completed repairs to this bridge and re-opened it on December 9, with a 5-ton posted load limit.

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

Ms. Harris wanted to know if the Council had any questions about her reports that was given to them. Council didn't have any questions.

Chairman Rachal then recognizes Parish Treasurer, Debbie Miley. questions.

Ms. Miley went over the inmate report and stated Head Start didn't have any credit card purchases for the month of November.

Councilman Rachal wanted to be updated on the agreement we made with the Sheriff Department on reducing the price for inmates, "I heard he has backed out on his part of it, Is that true?" Ms. Miley, replied, "No, that's not true, the last bills was at a reduced rate and they will be sending the other refund at a later date." Parish President, stated, "This was an one year agreement and renewable, but it has not been renewed by the Sheriff Department at this time."

Councilwoman Hoover wanted an update on last month meeting when Ms. Beverly Washington were here last month and came to speak and there was some things we were going to be liable for, and Mr. Nowlin you was going to give us some answers for it.

Parish President, replied, "There was quite and extensive list as you recall about transfers that was done. Last week Ms. Miley, Ms. Harris, and Ms. Washington met to go over these things. Some things were resolve and there are still things that still haven't been matched up. Ms. Miley was asked to have a full detailed report at the January meeting. The Council and everyone has the right to know exactly what happened and why, and if there were transfers made they need to corrected. January we will have a full report. Councilman Paige wanted to express again, "Please don't make us have to ask about this, please just come forth with the information."

Chairman Rachal then recognizes Parish President, Rick Nowlin gave a update on Payne subdivision first because Councilman Paige wanted to know and Ms. Sylvia Morrow was there for a residents that lives in Payne Subdivision and wanting answers to some questions concerning the roads in Payne Subdivision.

Payne Subdivision Street Improvements:

We have received an amended Cooperative Endeavor Agreement from FP&C that reduced the funding of Phase I from \$500,000 to \$200,000. Adding the Parish matching funds in the amount of \$66,667 brings the total project budget to \$266,667. Due to the reduction in State funding, the scope of Phase I must be reduced to the replacement of the bridge on Miller Drive and a very limited amount of street repairs.

Councilman Paige wanted to know how much of this \$266,667 would be used for bridge and Mr. Nick Verret estimated about \$155,000 for the bridge. Councilman Paige, replied, "So you're talking about a \$110,000 roughly on some road repair out there." Mr. Verret, replied, "Yes, Sir, Mr. Paige we was looking at the worst part of the road is from Payne Drive from Keith Drive down to Michelle Drive." Councilman Paige, said all of streets has cradles, but something is better than nothing. It's very disappointing." Mr. Verret, stated, "We do have the Capital Outlay request in." Councilman Paige, replied, "As I thought about that, you know, a week ago it just hit me that I'm going to keep on requesting and asking until we do something out there in Payne Subdivision. I'll beg you, anybody, just travel down those streets it's just deplorable, just a disgrace. They have to drive all around just to get out. It just hurt my heart, it's so sad. If I could go fix the road two years ago, I would have." Parish President then continued with his report on

ADJUDICATED PROPERTIES:

The Parish has a large number of properties that have been adjudicated to the Parish as the result of the non-payment of taxes by their respective owners. On December 15th, our staff and the District Attorney met with a CivicSource, a firm that has developed a program that would allow the Parish to collect the taxes due on these properties and to return the properties to the private sector. CivicSource is a Louisiana firm that worked with the legislature in 2009 to create the statutory authority to enable the process to occur without infringing upon the rights of the property owners. We are continuing to explore this possibility and plan to present more details at the January meeting of the Parish Council.

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

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

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

Motion Passed

Since there was no other business the meeting was adjourn:

Attest:

Russell Rachal, Chairman

Sheryl Frederick,
Council Clerk