

PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATCHITOCHE PARISH COUNCIL
PARISH OF NATCHITOCHE, STATE OF LOUISIANA
TAKEN A REGULAR MEETING HELD, MONDAY,
August 18, 2014
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 18, 2014 for regular Natchitoches Parish Council meeting at five-thirty (5:30) o'clock p.m.

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

The invocation was given by Pastor Ed Fenton and the Pledge of Allegiance led by Chairman Aaron Johnson.

After the roll call there were present Chairman Aaron Johnson and Councilmen Rodney Bedgood, Ricky LaCour, Chris Paige, and John Salter.

There was absent: None.

Chairman Johnson then asked if there were any visitors who would like to speak and Ms. Jennifer Brossette of ADA Carbon Solutions and Aaron Garrett of Demery Resources have asked if they might make a brief presentation to the Council to the operation of the Five Forks Mine and its economic impact on the Parish.

Ms. Jennifer Brossette gave a review over ADA Carbon Solutions locations, which are Littleton, Coushatta, Campti, and Saline. She gave thanks to the Parish for its continued support. She done a brief introduction of the company of how ADA is present in the community, after she finished with her presentation of the company its self, Mr. Aaron Garrett done the actual presentation on the Five Forks Mine. He gave a report on how Five Forks Mine is present in the community, Five Forks Mine Current Status, Long Term Solution, Short Term Fixes, and Businesses that will benefit from improvements to Five Forks Road. After the presentation they asked the Council if they had any questions and there was none.

There were a very lengthy and detailed period for public comments.

The first comment was from John Nicholas which wanted to talk on an agenda item that was for discussion on contacting the necessary agency to help him solve the Beaver problems on the Longlois Road.

Mr. Nicholas is very concern about the high water due to the blocked culvert. He wants someone to help with this problem with Beavers. It was suggested to contact the Wildlife and Fisheries, but they are no longer over this type of removal. Mr. Verret, stated he wasn't aware of this problem about the culvert, but he will take a look at the culvert, to see how his department could fix the problem, but he doesn't have a solution about the Beavers.

The other public comments was about an agenda item also, which stated consider authorizing the Parish President to execute agreements with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development for the transfer of specified State routes to the Parish of Natchitoches in exchange for capital improvements to specified Parish roads under the DOTD "Right-Sizing" Program. The first person to speak on this agenda item was Mr. Clyde Masson he represented Hwy 491 he said no one is in favor of adopting their roads into the Parish Hwy system. He said the parish can not afford to keep up the roads that are already in the system and they don't need to add anymore. Mr. Masson said they have

enough problems from the state and they do not want to deal with the Parish. Mr. John Masson also from that resident of the Hwy 491, others such as Ms. Elaine Smith represented Hwy 493 West had a petition with over 200 signatures concern residents that didn't want the parish Council to approve the "Right Sizing" program from the State. Mary P. Walker was a representative for Hwy 491, 493, 3191,3192, 3278,3279 and the Marco Area she had a petition with 99 signatures of people located on the above highways that didn't want the Council to accept their roads into the Parish road system.

Danny Hall from Hwy 1221 Marthaville suggest that the Council build rapport with the people of the parish and fix one road at a time, maintain it and properly grade them. Jody Woodard from Hwy 1221, Mervin Birdwell and Steve Birdwell from Marthaville also spoke on why they didn't want their roads taken into the parish road system.

After these residents spoke, we then had another group of residents from the Payne Subdivision area and one resident from the Rex Water Well Road that had words to say about their streets which needed to be fixed. Councilman Paige along with Pastor Steve Harris, Pastor Carl Means, Pastor Dennis Pursley, and Mr. James Miller, Ms. Erica Dupree, and Ms. Janice Perry all wanted to know why Payne Subdivision streets have not been fixed. Councilman Paige stated, it has been a long time of promising these residents that their streets will be fixed. The group of residents wanted to know if the council approves this "right sizing" program will their streets be first on the priority list? They wanted to know why does it takes 20 to 30 years for certain communities to get roads fixed when others only take 1 to 3 years.

Pastor Carl Means stated that he spoke with Mr. Collier about a previous decision from the former Police Jury form of government and he says that Payne subdivision was approved to be fixed. The citizens wanted to know why this never happened. Residents from Payne Subdivision also wanted to know why the CDBG was not approved for this year. These residents had many questions some could be answered and some could not be answered, those that could not be answered Mr. Salter asked the Council Clerk to contact Mr. Fontana to try to get some answers to those questions.

Councilman Paige, stated that he wasn't going to vote, for this item, because its only going to fix 2.2 miles, when the entire Payne Subdivision needs to be fixed. He also stated that in the beginning Payne Subdivision wasn't even on the list, but now it shows up.

After a Relatively long discussion relating to the matter the Council decided to go on and vote right then about the matter concerning the transfer of specified state routes to the Parish of Natchitoches in exchange for capital improvements to specified Parish roads under the DOTD "Right-Sizing" Program.

On motion by Mr. John Salter, duly seconded by Mr. Chris Paige, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby adopt the transfer of specified state routes to the Parish of Natchitoches in exchange for capital improvements to specified Parish roads under the DOTD "Right-Sizing" Program.

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

	Aye	Nay	Absent	Abstain
Councilman Salter	___	<u>X</u>	___	___
Councilman Paige	___	<u>X</u>	___	___
Councilman Bedgood	___	<u>X</u>	__	___
Councilman Johnson	__	<u>X</u>	___	___
Councilman LaCour	___	<u>X</u>	__	___

Motion Didn't Passed

On motion by Mr. John Salter, duly seconded by Mr. Chris Paige, 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 21, 2014.

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

	Aye	Nay	Absent	Abstain
Councilman Salter	<u> x </u>	___	___	___
Councilman Paige	<u> x </u>	___	___	___
Councilman Bedgood	<u> x </u>	___	__	___
Councilman Johnson	<u> x </u>	___	___	___
Councilman LaCour	<u> x </u>	___	__	___

Motion Passed

Chairman Johnson stated the next agenda item to discuss to adopt and issue a proclamation declaring that a vacancy exists in the office of Parish Coroner and setting the dates for holding an election, due to the resignation of Dr. Brett Ferguson.

On motion by Mr. Chris Paige, duly seconded by Mr. Ricky LaCour, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby adopt and issue a proclamation declaring that a vacancy exists in the office of Parish Coroner and setting the dates for holding an election, due to the resignation of Dr. Brett Ferguson.

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

	Aye	Nay	Absent	Abstain
Councilman Paige	<u> x </u>	___	___	___
Councilman LaCour	<u> x </u>	___	___	___
Councilman Bedgood	<u> x </u>	___	__	___
Councilman Johnson	<u> x </u>	___	___	___
Councilman Salter	<u> x </u>	___	__	___

Motion Passed

Chairman Johnson then stated that the next item on the agenda was to consider adopting a resolution to recognize Dr. Randall Webb, for his outstanding accomplishments and achievements on the occasion of his retirement as President of Northwestern State University.

On motion by Mr. Rodney Bedgood, duly seconded by Mr. Ricky LaCour, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby adopt a resolution to recognize Dr. Randall Webb, for his outstanding accomplishments and achievements on the occasion of his retirement as President of Northwestern State University.

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

	Aye	Nay	Absent	Abstain
Councilman Bedgood	<u> x </u>	___	___	___
Councilman LaCour	<u> x </u>	___	___	___
Councilman Johnson	<u> x </u>	___	__	___
Councilman Paige	<u> x </u>	___	___	___
Councilman Salter	<u> x </u>	___	__	___

Motion Passed

Chairman Johnson then stated that the next item on the agenda was to consider adopting a resolution confirming the re-appointments/appointments to the following boards/commissions:

Ms. Gwen Taylor Fontenot for re-appointment to the Natchitoches Parish Children and Youth Planning Board.

Mr. Tony Davis for re-appointment to the Natchitoches Parish Children and Youth Planning Board.

Ms. Anita Dubois for re-appointment to the Natchitoches Parish Children and Youth Planning Board.

Mr. James R. Wagley for appointment to the Natchitoches Parish Fire District 10 Board.

On motion by Mr. Chris Paige, duly seconded by Mr. Ricky LaCour, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby adopt the resolution confirming the re-appointment/appointments of the following members to these boards and commissions:

Ms. Gwen Taylor Fontenot for re-appointment to the Natchitoches Parish Children and Youth Planning Board.

Mr. Tony Davis for re-appointment to the Natchitoches Parish Children and Youth Planning Board.

Ms. Anita Dubois for re-appointment to the Natchitoches Parish Children and Youth Planning Board.

Mr. James R. Wagley for appointment to the Natchitoches Parish Fire District 10 Board.

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

	Aye	Nay	Absent	Abstain
Councilman Paige	<u> X </u>	—	—	—
Councilman LaCour	<u> X </u>	—	—	—
Councilman Bedgood	<u> X </u>	—	—	—
Councilman Johnson	<u> X </u>	—	—	—
Councilman Salter	<u> X </u>	—	—	—

Motion Passed

Chairman Johnson then stated that the next item on the agenda was to present "Good Citizens Award" to Eric Berryman and Coleman Colbert for their actions in assisting law enforcement personnel in the arrest and conviction of an armed robbery suspect.

District Attorney Van Kyzar presented these two men with awards and he gave a brief summary of what they done to help Ms. Carolyn Roy who was the victim of this crime. He also stated how they help the District Attorney's Office for the conviction of this man.

Ms. Carolyn Roy started to tell what happened the day of court, but emotions overtook her and District Attorney Van Kyzar continue to tell how these two men under threat continue to help them to convict this man.

Pictures were taken with these two men, and Councilman Aaron Johnson gave them Good Citizen Awards also from the Parish of Natchitoches.

Chairman Johnson then stated that the next item on the agenda was to consider approval of a Resolution that will protect and support the heritage, culture and traditions of hunting deer and other game with dogs in the Parish of Natchitoches.

On motion by Mr. Rodney Bedgood, duly seconded by Mr. John Salter, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby adopt the Resolution that will protect and support the heritage, culture and traditions of hunting deer and other game with dogs in the Parish of Natchitoches.

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

	Aye	Nay	Absent	Abstain
Councilman Bedgood	<u> X </u>	___	___	___
Councilman Salter	<u> X </u>	___	___	___
Councilman Johnson	<u> X </u>	___	___	___
Councilman LaCour	<u> X </u>	___	___	___
Councilman Paige	<u> X </u>	___	___	___

Motion Passed

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

- A. Consider the adoption of Ordinance #15-2014 to correct Section 3-8 Voting Precinct.

On motion by Mr. John Salter, duly seconded by Mr. Ricky LaCour, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby open the public hearing.

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

	Aye	Nay	Absent	Abstain
Councilman Salter	<u> X </u>	___	___	___
Councilman LaCour	<u> X </u>	___	___	___
Councilman Bedgood	<u> X </u>	___	___	___
Councilman Johnson	<u> X </u>	___	___	___
Councilman Paige	<u> X </u>	___	___	___

Motion Passed

Councilman Chris Paige asked Parish President Rick Nowlin, to let the people out there in the audience know exactly what Precinct 3-08 represents, because they do not understand what the numbers represents. Parish President Rick Nowlin stated, that Precinct 3.8 represents the surrounding areas around Robeline. Councilman Paige stated that's all he wanted to make sure everyone knows what, Precinct 3-08 stood for.

On motion by Mr. John Salter, duly seconded by Mr. Ricky LaCour, 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:

	Aye	Nay	Absent	Abstain
Councilman Salter	<u> X </u>	___	___	___
Councilman LaCour	<u> X </u>	___	___	___
Councilman Bedgood	<u> X </u>	___	___	___
Councilman Johnson	<u> X </u>	___	___	___
Councilman Paige	<u> X </u>	___	___	___

Motion Passed

Relative to the items discussed during the public hearing, the following action was taken:

On motion by Mr. Chris Paige, duly seconded by Mr. John Salter, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does adopt Ordinance 15-2014 to correct the section 3-08 voting precinct.

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

	Aye	Nay	Absent	Abstain
Councilman Paige	<u>X</u>	---	---	---
Councilman Salter	<u>X</u>	---	---	---
Councilman Bedgood	<u>X</u>	---	---	---
Councilman Johnson	<u>X</u>	---	---	---
Councilman LaCour	<u>X</u>	---	---	---

Motion Passed

Chairman Johnson then recognized Mr. Nick Verret, Director of Public Works, who presented his reports and said, he didn't have anything to go over, if the Council had questions on the reports that he handed out, he would be happy to answer them, there were no questions.

Chairman Johnson then recognized Ms. Sharon Harris OCS/Head Start Executive Director. Ms. Harris went over her report discussing LIHEAP which the program assisted 93 households for the month of July which totaled \$34,300.00.

Food for Seniors which provided 40-pound box to individuals 60 years or older a total for 207 individuals where helped in the month of July.

The Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) the tentative application for Fiscal year 2015 submitted August 12, 2014. Funding \$197,290.

Commodity provided Services for the month of July were 99 households.

Summer Feeding Program:

For the month of July: 21 days ADA Breakfast 376, Lunch 447, Meals Served: Breakfast 8279, Lunch 9835 for a reimbursement of \$51,598.63

HEADSTART:

Judie Barnum, Head Start Director returned August 13, 2014. Everyone was happy that she had returned after illness.

Application submitted for \$117,785 (Restoration) and \$18,678 (Cost of Living Allowance) for period July 1, 2014-February 28, 2015 has not received Notice Award on these amounts.

The Natchitoches Parish Government Maintenance Department is assisting with repairs at all Head Start centers.

Increase capacity (open an additional classroom) at MLK Center

There is 309 children enrolled. There are six (6) Head Start Centers: Breda, MLK, Natchez, NSU, Campti, and Mansfield.

Chairman Johnson then recognizes Ms. Debbie Miley, Parish Treasurer, Ms. Miley then went on to discuss her reports giving status updates on the 2014 Active Bookings for Inmates & Outstanding Coroners/Inmate Expenses.

She asked the Council if they had any questions for her and there was none.

Chairman Johnson then recognized Parish President Rick Nowlin he gave an update on:

PERSONNEL:

They have been conducting interviews with a number of candidates. As soon as this process has been completed, the Parish Government office will extend offers of employment to the successful candidate(s).

HEAD START:

Mrs. Judie Barnum has returned to work on August 13, after an extended medical leave During her absence, Ms. Sharon Harris has served as the Head Start Director and Mr. James Johnikin, Head Start maintenance, remains on indefinite medical leave. Maintenance services at Head Start facilities are being provided by Mr. Harry Braxton's department.

FINNACE DEPARMENT:

As reported previously, the IRS raised questions in regard to the submission of timely payments of payroll taxes by the Parish during the period from 2008 through 2012. The amount that the IRS stated we owed, this payment was sent in, with submitted documentation that were asked the Parish to provide, and we are still waiting for the completion of the IRS review to learn the amount of overpayment by the Parish.

EL CAMINO REAL CORRIDOR:

Mr. James W. Scarborough and the Parish President met with DOTD officials in Baton Rouge on August 6, 2014, for the purpose of obtaining additional information on DOTD highway improvement plans and to discuss funding opportunities for EL Camino.

Parish President also gave a list of his Recent events and his upcoming events.

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

On motion by Mr. John Salter, duly seconded by Rodney Bedgood, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby adjourn until the next regular or called meeting of the Natchitoches Parish Council.

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

	Aye	Nay	Absent	Abstain
Councilman Salter	<u> X </u>	___	___	___
Councilman Bedgood	<u> X </u>	___	___	___
Councilman Johnson	<u> X </u>	___	___	___
Councilman LaCour	<u> X </u>	___	___	___
Councilman Paige	<u> X </u>	___	___	___

Motion Passed

Attest:

Aaron Johnson, Chairman

Sheryl Frederick,
Council Clerk