

PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATCHITOCHE PARISH COUNCIL
PARISH OF NATCHITOCHE, STATE OF LOUISIANA
TAKEN A REGULAR MEETING HELD, MONDAY,
September 15, 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, September 15, 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 Reverend Billy Shugart and the Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilman Ricky LaCour.

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 Mr. Bob Black gave a brief update on the progress of the Campti Library. He stated the land has been bought, the site plans have been done, and now they are waiting to put it out to bids, for a contractor. Mr. Bob Black, is wanting this library to be completed by next Spring before he retires in June. In the time period for the bid process and the upcoming fall and winter weather it may take longer, but Mr. Black is still hopeful for getting it completed by Spring.

Mr. Tommy Roque then spoke that he's proud to see what has been accomplished by the Natchitoches Parish Library. He has been on the board twenty (20) plus years and he is just proud to be a member of this board and hope to continue being a member. He is also up for re-appointment, his re-appointment will be done at the October Parish Council meeting.

Chairman Johnson then recognized the Re-Construction Committee for the Harmony Road. Ms. Dottie Gill, spokesperson, for the residents of the Harmony Road and surrounding roads, is asking the Parish Government to submit an application for Capital Outlay Funds for their roads. Mr. Rick Nowlin and Mr. Nick Verret stated they have no problem submitting the application, but they are concerned about the 25% match the Parish would need to have if the grant is approved.

The residents said their roads are in terrible conditions and they're continuing repairing their vehicles on these roads and buying tires. Mr. Joe Osborne stated, his only means of transportation is a motorcycle and he fears for his life, because the roads are in terrible conditions. He fears that his tires will get a hole in them and while he's traveling 75mph the speed limit on the interstate and has a blow out, he's going to become a statistic. He is a resident of the Sylveste Road. He understands about the money problems, but he states he drives 94 miles to work and he has to work, and he uses his motorcycle for this commute.

Mr. Billy Shugart, wanted to know what can be done with this road until some money comes in. They reported that when the road crew repaired the road before a big rock was left, and it caused damage to some residents' cars. Mr. Shugart, stated residents are coming to him for help about the roads, but it's nothing he can do, but come in front of the Parish Council, to let the Council know exactly how the residents are feeling towards their roads being in such a bad condition.

Mr. Nick Verret, told the residents he would try to see what he can do to help out until they can get something permanent done to the roads.

Chairman Johnson then recognized Mr. Karl Sowell, who main concern, is he wants to know about his retirement with Parochial. Funds have been removed from his account, and it was not removed by him. He said that two (2) checks have been cashed and he wasn't the one who cashed them. He didn't write to get any type of refunds and he just wanted someone within the Parish Government to help him, but he felt that he was being swept under the rug. Mr. Sowell, stated he went to Mrs. Jameica Bernstine Johnson while she was still with the Parish and she did write a letter for him concerning this but he still haven't gotten any further, she left in July and he's still pursuing this matter.

Ms. Miley stated the retirement system is only going to talk with and give information only if they receive it in writing, not verbally over the phone. Mr. Karl Sowell said he will come to Ms. Miley for help with this letter and if nothing is done then, he will have to go to outside sources.

Public Comments there were none.

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, August 18, 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 conduct a public hearing with the Natchitoches Parish Council sitting as a "Board of Review" to hear any and all protests or complaints on values of property for assessment purposes fixed by the Natchitoches Parish Tax Assessor.

On motion by Mr. Ricky LaCour, duly seconded by Mr. Chris Paige, that the Natchitoches Parish Council sitting as a "Board of Review" opened the public hearing to hear any and all protests or complaints on values of property for assessment purposes fixed by the Natchitoches Parish Tax Assessor.

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

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

Motion Passed

There were one (1) official complaint from Moriah Management (Arrington Estates, L.P.) Ms. Pansy Sanford representative from Moriah Management disagrees with Tax Assessor's and the Tax Commission's assessed property value for their property (Arrington Estates). Ms. Sanford stated that Arrington Estates is a low housing complex. And the assessed value is too high. The assessed market value from the Tax Assessor is \$1,362,000 and Ms. Sanford feels by her calculations it should be \$925,079.09.

The Council asked Ms. Sanford numerous questions and she gave answers to the ones she knew and said she didn't know some answers to some questions, because this was the first time that question was ever asked of her.

Chairman Johnson then recognized the Tax Assessor, Mrs. Dollie C. Mahoney, she reported that the value that was assessed by her office came strictly from the recent appraisal of value from the State. She hadn't done anything differently from what the state assessed the property as. The Council asked, Mrs. Mahoney questions, she answered and asked them if they had any other questions for her, and there was none.

On motion by Mr. John Salter, duly seconded by Mr. Chris Paige, that the Natchitoches Parish Government, in regular and legal session convened, 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 Paige	<u>X</u>	—	—	—
Councilman Bedgood	<u>X</u>	—	—	—
Councilman Johnson	<u>X</u>	—	—	—
Councilman LaCour	<u>X</u>	—	—	—

Motion Passed

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

On motion by Mr. John Salter, duly seconded by Mr. Ricky LaCour, that the Natchitoches Parish Government, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby agree to uphold the assessed value levied by the Tax Assessor, Dollie C. Mahoney.

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

Chairman Johnson then recognized Mrs. Dollie Mahoney, Tax Assessor, who presented the total assessed value for Natchitoches Parish. Tax Assessor Mahoney stated the values are down greatly in the public service area from 2013. In 2013 it was \$108,205,170 and 2014 its reported at \$106,655,870.

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:

Mr. Ronald Corkern, Jr. for re-appointment to the Natchitoches Parish Regional Medical Center Board.

Ms. Karen R. Terrell for re-appointment to the Natchitoches Parish Library Board.

Mr. Bobby Outlaw for re-appointment to the Natchitoches Parish Fire District 10 Board.

Mr. Ralph Hernandez for appointment to the Natchitoches Parish Fire District 5 Board.

Mr. George Culpepper for appointment to the Natchitoches Parish Fire District 5 Board.

On motion by Mr. John Salter, 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:

Mr. Ronald Corkern, Jr. for re-appointment to the Natchitoches Parish Regional Medical Center Board.

Ms. Karen R. Terrell for re-appointment to the Natchitoches Parish Library Board.

Mr. Bobby Outlaw for re-appointment to the Natchitoches Parish Fire District 10 Board.

Mr. Ralph Hernandez for appointment to the Natchitoches Parish Fire District 5 Board.

Mr. George Culpepper for appointment to the Natchitoches Parish Fire District 5 Board.

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

Chairman Johnson then stated that the next item on the agenda was consider authorizing the Parish President to enter into agreement with the National Forest System, for dumped site on LA 117 near Kisatchie National Forest.

On motion by Mr. John Salter, duly seconded by Mr. Chris Paige, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby authorize the Parish President to enter into agreement with the National Forest System, for dumped site on LA 117 near Kisatchie National Forest.

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 then stated that the next item on the agenda was Council approval for consideration of road improvement projects to submit for State Capital Outlay funding.

On motion by Mr. Chris Paige, duly seconded by Mr. Ricky LaCour, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby approve submission of State Capital Outlay funding for these roads as first priority in their districts:

District 1-Payne Subdivision, District 2-Fish Hatchery Road, District 3-Blanchard Road, District 4-Goldonna Road, and District 5-Harmony Road.

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 Consider authorizing Parish President to advertise for bids and award contract for the purchase of bulk fuel for the Parish Highway and Solid Waste departments.

On motion by Mr. John Salter, duly seconded by Mr. Ricky LaCour, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby authorize Parish President to advertise for bids and award contract for the purchase of bulk fuel for the Parish Highway and Solid Waste departments.

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

Chairman Johnson then stated that the next item on the agenda was Authorize the Parish President to execute an Agreement with Clayton Environmental Company, LLC to provide an Asbestos Management Plan for the MLK Head Start Center that will be in complete compliance with the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) required by all schools.

Councilman Paige asked the question who owns the building? Are we still paying rent? and other questions. It was stated the building was owned by the BESSE BOARD and we only pay insurance.

Mrs. Vance stated, no matter who owns the building the MLK Head Start Center have to be in compliance with the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act that's required by all schools.

On motion by Mr. John Salter, duly seconded by Mr. Ricky LaCour, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby authorize the Parish President to execute an Agreement with Clayton Environmental Company, LLC to provide an Asbestos Management Plan for the MLK Head Start Center that will be in complete compliance with the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) required by all schools.

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

Chairman Johnson stated the next thing was to amend the agenda to add Consider Council approval to Introduce the 2015 Operating Budget for the Parish of Natchitoches.

On motion by Mr. Ricky LaCour, duly seconded by Mr. John Salter, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in special and legal session convened, does hereby amend the agenda to add an Introduction of the 2015 Operating Budget for the Parish of Natchitoches.

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

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

Motion Passed

On motion by Mr. John Salter, duly seconded by Mr. Chris Paige, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in special and legal session convened, does hereby Introduce the 2015 Operating Budget for the Parish of Natchitoches.

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

The public hearing is set for October 20, 2014 at 5:30 at the regular Parish Government Council meeting.

Chairman Johnson then recognized Mr. Nick Verret, Director of Public Works, who presented his reports. Mr. Verret reported that the highway department has been severely hampered by mechanical breakdowns over the past several weeks. Two tandem dump trucks are currently awaiting major repairs, leaving only one operational tandem dump truck, and the

mechanical pothole patcher is also awaiting the receipt of parts from an out-of-state vendor for its repairs.

Solid Waste is down by 10% in charges for the month of August due to a reduction in the tonnage of solid waste collected and disposed during this period.

Five Forks Road-Savage Industries (trucker for Five Forks Mine) began hauling DOTD donated reclaimed asphalt pavement (RAP) to the site.

Coco Bed Road-Awaiting execution of the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the Office of Facility Planning and Control.

Chairman Johnson then recognized Ms. Sharon Harris OCS/Head Start Executive Director. Ms. Harris went over her report discussing LIHEAP which the program assisted 61 households for the month of August which totaled \$23,450.22.

Food for Seniors which provided 40-pound boxes to individuals 60 years or older a total for 218 individuals were helped in the month of August.

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 August were 101 households.

HEADSTART:

1. Enrollment as of today, 9/15/2014 is 288 children
Program Information Report (PIR) submitted August 28, 2014.
2. 1 classroom at the Campti Head Start Center moved to MLK Head Start center on August 29, 2014.
3. Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) 2015: Online application opened Friday, 9/12/2014.
4. On Wednesday, September 17, the Head Start Centers will release balloons celebrating 50 years of Opportunity Head Start.
5. Senior Companion Program (SCP)
 - A. August 31, 2014 Senior Companion Project Director Retired.
 - B. Fiscal Year 2015 (9/1/14-6/30/15), received August 29, 2014. \$174,388.00 (Senior Corp), \$19,540.00 (In-kind contribution or Grantee share)

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

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.

Dr. Collins will be the new Coroner for Natchitoches Parish. Ms. Miley also passed out the 2015 Operating Budget for the Parish Council to view and to be prepared to act on it at the next Parish Council meeting.

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:

HEAD START:

Due to a reduction in the number of children available for the Campti Head Start Center, one of the two classrooms there has been closed and an additional classroom has been added to the MLK center in Natchitoches. The Head Start facilities are being provided by Mr. Harry Braxton's department.

FINNACE DEPARMENT:

Effective September 15, 2014, Ms. Cathy Creamer has been added to our staff in the Treasurer's office. The employment of Ms. Creamer became necessary after the retirement of Ms. Beverly Washington and the resignation of Ms. Jameica Bernestine Johnson. Ms. Debbie Miley has taken over the job of Head Start Accountant and Ms. Creamer and Mr. Terrence Holden have assumed certain duties formerly performed by Ms. Johnson.

EL CAMINO REAL CORRIDOR:

Mr. James W. Scarborough and the Parish President attended the Corridor Commission meeting in Winnfield on August 27, 2014. During the meeting, the Commission adopted a resolution of support for project funding prepared by Natchitoches Parish and also adopted a draft letter of support to be submitted to the legislative delegations from the six parishes along the Corridor.

PARISH FIRE DISTRICTS:

A. Fire District No. 4 (Provencal) has had its fire rating reduced to a rating of 5. We congratulate the board of directors and Fire Chief James Dupree for the improved rating.

B. Some of our fire districts still need volunteers. The fire rating has a direct impact on the cost of home insurance and the lower the rating, the lower the insurance premiums. Anyone who resides in a district with a high rating (i.e., high insurance costs) and is able to volunteer is encourage to do so.

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

Mr. Salter ask for permission to speak and Chairman Johnson gave him permission. Mr. Salter called Mr. Harry Braxton to the podium to answer a question he had. He asked Mr. Braxton what happened with some refrigerators being damaged during transit. Mr. Braxton stated he didn't have anything to do with those refrigerators, he stated he wasn't driving the truck, Winston Bridges was. At that time Ms. Lynda Vance stated, Mr. Salter is only hearing on side of the story and he needs all parties involved to be present for questioning.

Mr. Salter asked why didn't the insurance pay for the refrigerators and he was told they were to old and wasn't covered. So new ones had to be purchase.

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:

Sheryl Frederick,
Council Clerk

Aaron Johnson, Chairman