

PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATCHITOCHE PARISH COUNCIL
PARISH OF NATCHITOCHE, STATE OF LOUISIANA
TAKEN A REGULAR MEETING HELD, MONDAY,
October 20, 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, October 20, 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 Bernstine 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. Sharon Green from the Natchitoches Parish Coroners Office spoke to the Council about what new is being done in the Coroners office and she's requesting additional funds for her 2015 Budget. She gave the Natchitoches Parish Council a copy of the 2015 Coroners Budget Proposal. The Parish does not have any additional funds to give, but they suggested her to seek additional assistance from the Hospital and The Natchitoches Parish Sheriff's Department.

Chairman Johnson then recognized Mr. Donald Charles who's an employee at the Natchitoches Parish Health Unit. Mr. Charles wanted the Council to be informed that Mr. Nowlin and Mrs. Lynda Vance has requested his medical records without his permission, and he wanted to know the reason why? He feels that he's going to lose his job, because their wanting his records to use against him. He received a copy of a letter that Mr. Nowlin sent requesting his limitations from his primary doctor, and Mr. Charles, didn't request them to send this type of letter requesting his medical information.

Mr. Nowlin, stated he sent this letter to make sure, Mr. Charles is able to perform his job duties. Mr. Charles wanted to know the reasons for him questioning his duties and Mr. Nowlin stated it was told to him that he could not perform certain job related duties, and Mr. Nowlin, stated this wasn't the place to discuss this matter and he wasn't going to tell the person(s) who stated this information.

Mr. Nowlin stated that his office had requested a "determination of functional ability" from Mr. Charles' doctor, but had not requested any medical records. The request was made so that the Parish would not require Mr. Charles to do anything that would exacerbate his physical condition. Also, it would help determine if adjustments could be made to Mr. Charles' work assignments to accommodate his limitation. The Parish is willing to consider any such adjustments so long as they would not place an undue burden on other Parish employees.

This was a relatively long discussion between Mr. Donald Charles, Ms. Janice Perry, Ms. Joella Wilson, Pastor Bernstine, and the Council. Those names that were listed were supporters of Mr. Donald Charles, speaking on his behalf, of how they feel that The Parish President is not being fair. Many things were discussed and Chairman Johnson, stated that Mr. Charles needs to set up a meeting with the Parish President to discuss all these matters, because there wasn't anything the Council could do, but just listen, Mr. Nowlin is the only one who has the power over these type of situations.

Mr. Nowlin said that he would be pleased to meet with Mr. Charles to resolve the matter.

Chairman Johnson, asked have Mr. Donald Charles before tonight have you spoken with Mr. Nowlin concerning this matter and stating how strong he feel concerning this? Mr. Charles, stated he had spoken to him on a different matter, but wasn't given any feedback on that situation either, so he didn't go to him because of the nature of the problem, he felt he was targeted and trying to be fired.

Mr. Nowlin, stated again there is no one trying to fire Mr. Donald Charles, I don't understand where this is coming from.

At this time Mr. Clint Payne from the audience stood up to say if there would have been an EEOC person on the scene all this wouldn't been handled like this, Mr. Payne says this a must needed person and that every office of business should have this type of person to represent those who needs help and is afraid to go to those who they feel threaten by. At this time Councilman Paige, said he has spoken with some of the Councilmen earlier and the day of with the Council Clerk, The Council is recommending appointing the Council Clerk as the EEOC person for the Parish of Natchitoches. Chairman Johnson, said that would be okay with him, but again, Parish President Nowlin, must be the person to make this recommendation for that person and the Council vote yes or no from his recommendations.

Again, there was a relatively long discussion and this matter will be brought up again at the next Council meeting in November.

Public Comments there were none.

On motion by Mr. Ricky LaCour, duly seconded by Mr. Rodney Bedgood, 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, September 15, 2014.

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

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

Motion Passed

Chairman Johnson stated the next agenda item to conduct a public hearing with the Natchitoches Parish Council to hear any and all comments or objections relative to the adoption of the following items.

A. Adoption of Ordinance #16-2014 for Adopting the 2015 Natchitoches Parish Operating Budget.

On motion by Mr. Ricky LaCour, duly seconded by Mr. Chris Paige, that the Natchitoches Parish Council is open to conduct a public hearing with the Natchitoches Parish Council to hear any and all comments or objections relative to the adoption of the following items.

A. Adoption of Ordinance #16-2014 for Adopting the 2015 Natchitoches Parish Operating Budget.

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 wasn't any questions about the budget for Ms. Miley, but there was insurance questions, but insurance was to be voted for next month not at the meeting, this hearing was for the budget only.

On motion by Mr. Chris Paige, duly seconded by Mr. Ricky LaCour, 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 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

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

On motion by Mr. Chris Paige, duly seconded by Mr. Ricky LaCour, that the Natchitoches Parish Government, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby adopt Ordinance #16-2014 for adoption of the 2015 Natchitoches Parish Operating Budget.

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 confirming the re-appointments/appointments to the following boards/commissions:

Mr. Thomas Roque for re-appointment to the Natchitoches Parish Library Board.

Ms. Doris Kochinsky for re-appointment to the Natchitoches Parish Children and Youth Planning Board.

Dr. James A. Guin for re-appointment to the Natchitoches Parish Library Board.

Mr. Richard Stampley for re-appointment to the Natchitoches Parish Fire District 6 Board.

Mr. William Daniel Dyess for appointment to the Natchitoches Parish Fire District 6 Board.

On motion by Mr. Chris Paige, duly seconded by Mr. Rodney Bedgood, 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. Thomas Roque for re-appointment to the Natchitoches Parish Library Board.

Ms. Doris Kochinsky for re-appointment to the Natchitoches Parish Children and Youth Planning Board.

Dr. James A. Guin for re-appointment to the Natchitoches Parish Library Board.

Mr. Richard Stampley for re-appointment to the Natchitoches Parish Fire District 6 Board.

Mr. William Daniel Dyess for appointment to the Natchitoches Parish Fire District 6 Board.

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

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

Motion Passed

Chairman Johnson then stated that the next item on the agenda was consider authorizing the Purchasing Agent to seek sealed bid proposals for materials and supplies for the Parish Highway Department, Solid Waste, and Head Start Department.

On motion by Mr. John Salter, duly seconded by Mr. Rodney Bedgood, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby authorize the Purchasing Agent to seek sealed bid proposals for materials and supplies for the Parish Highway Department, Solid Waste, and Head Start Department

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

Chairman Johnson then stated that the next item on the agenda was Council approval for adopting a Resolution for the Parish of Natchitoches to continue participation in the Federal Bridge Replacement 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 approve adopting a Resolution for the Parish of

Natchitoches to continue participation in the Federal Bridge Replacement 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 Passed

Chairman Johnson then stated that the next item on the agenda was Consider introducing Ordinance #17-2014 to delete Birdwell Spur Road from the Parish Road System per Mr. Doug Birdwell.

At this time Chairman Johnson, asked this to be tabled until they can investigate to clarify the location and extent of the requested road removal.

On motion by Mr. Chris Paige, duly seconded by Mr. John Salter, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby table the introduction of Ordinance #17-2014 to delete Birdwell Spur Road from the Parish Road System per Mr. Doug Birdwell.

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 stated that the next item on the agenda was Authorize the Parish President to enter into a contract with Hancock Land Management for the purchase of 1 acre of property at the intersection of LA -117 and LA 478 for enclosure of the garbage bin site at that location, and authorization for Parish President to solicit bids or quotes, as appropriate, for the survey and fencing of this site.

On motion by Mr. John Salter, duly seconded by Mr. Rodney Bedgood, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby authorize the Parish President to enter into a contract with Hancock Land Management for the purchase of 1 acre of property at the intersection of LA -117 and LA 478 for enclosure of the garbage bin site at that location, and authorization for Parish President to solicit bids or quotes, as appropriate, for the survey and fencing of this site.

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

Chairman Johnson then recognized Mr. Nick Verret, Director of Public Works, who presented his reports. Mr. Verret reported that the Road Maintenance database shows that ditching has been performed on only 13.8% of the unpaved system this year, as compared to 16% in 2013, which is primarily due to the wet weather that extended into the late spring and summer. Without the addition of the two rental graders, however, even less ditching work would have been accomplished this year.

Solid Waste is back to near the previous monthly average.

Director of Public Works also stated that LA DEQ has approved an extension of the deadline for submittal of the application for renewal of the required permit for operation of the Parish Landfill, to December 31, 2014. In order to address the immediate need for additional space while the application is being finalized and reviewed, a separate application was submitted to LA DEQ on September 30 for modification of the current operating permit to allow for a lateral expansion of the current working cell, and DEQ approval is pending.

Chairman Johnson then recognized Ms. Sharon Harris OCS/Head Start Executive Director. Ms. Harris went over her report discussing LIHEAP which the program assisted 139 households for the month of September which totaled \$55,525.01.

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

The Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Provided rental and/or utility deposit assistance-one(1) household enrolled
Provided tuition and book assistance -2 individual \$1,986.61
Provided clothing assistance-7 individuals
Provided Atmos(Share the Warmth) Assistance-7 household totaling \$3,877.37.

Commodity provided Services for the month of September were 96 households.

HEADSTART:

1. Enrollment as of today, 10/15/2014 is 300 children
Recruitment efforts are ongoing.
2. Head Start Awareness October 27-31, 2014
3. 1st Head Start Policy Council meeting held, October 14, 2014 and officers selected.
4. Sheryl Frederick appointed to the Head Start Policy Council.
5. Senior Companion Program (SCP)
40 SCP volunteers, 3031 Volunteer hours, 6125 miles, and 42 clients.

Annual Christmas Festival Fundraiser:

Parking on NPG parking lot, December 5 &6, 2014.

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.

Ms. Miley also gave out the Parish of Natchitoches Consolidated Report Quarterly Budget Report, 2014 Quarter 3. She discussed this report and stated we are still doing okay.

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:

CAPITAL OUTLAY:

The State Bond Commission approved the following project recommendations made by the Governor's Office at its meeting on October 16, 2014:

1. Coco Bed Road Improvements: \$180,000 P2 Cash. (In addition to \$100,000 previously approved)
2. Courthouse Security Improvements: \$30,000 P2 Cash and \$380,000 P5 Non Cash.
3. Old River Bridge: \$85,000 P2 Cash. (In addition to \$535,000 previously approved)

b. Capital Outlay Application for FY2015-2016 are being prepared and will be submitted prior to the November 1, 2014 deadline.

HEAD START:

a. With the start of the new school year, a large number of maintenance issues have been discovered at various HS centers. Mr. Braxton and his crew have been addressing these issues on a priority basis.

b. Mr. James Johnikin, Head Start maintenance, retired on October 10th. Maintenance services at Head Start facilities are continuing to be provided by Mr. Harry Braxton's department until the vacancy is filled.

EL CAMINO REAL CORRIDOR:

Mr. James W. Scarborough and the Parish President has prepared resolutions of support for the parishes and municipalities located along the highway corridor. These parties will forward the adopted resolutions to their respective legislative delegations along with pleas for funding of the program.

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