

PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATCHITOCHE PARISH COUNCIL  
PARISH OF NATCHITOCHE, STATE OF LOUISIANA  
TAKEN A REGULAR MEETING HELD, TUESDAY,  
January 20, 2015  
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 Tuesday, January 20, 2015 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 Mr. Nick Verret and the Pledge of Allegiance led by Chairman Aaron Johnson. After the roll call there were present Chairman Rodney Bedgood and Councilmen Chris Paige, Ricky LaCour, Aaron Johnson.

There was absent: None.

Chairman Johnson then stated the next item on the agenda were the election of a new chairman and vice-chairman. Councilman Chris Paige motion to open the floor for nominations and Councilman Ricky LaCour seconded it. Councilman Rodney Bedgood nominated Councilman John Salter for Chairman and Councilman Chris Paige seconded it and then the floor was closed for nominations. Councilman John Salter is the new Chairman for the Natchitoches Parish Council for 2015. Councilman Chris Paige then motion to open the floor for nominations for Vice-Chairman and Councilman LaCour seconded. Councilman Rodney Bedgood nominated Councilman Aaron Johnson and then the floor was closed for nominations and Councilman Aaron Johnson is the Vice-Chairman for the Natchitoches Parish Council for 2015.

Chairman Salter then asked if there were any visitors who would like to speak. Ms. Dottie Gill from Harmony Road and other residents of Harmony Road came to voice their concerns about the deep huge potholes in their roads. These residents wanted to know what can be done to help them with their roads. Ms. Gill, stated Mr. Verret stated in September of 2014 that something will be done to their roads, but nothing have been done. Mr. Nick Verret stated many roads in the Parish needs to be repaired or fixed, but there is no manpower or money to get every road in the Parish done. Mr. John Hudson wanted to know if a tax could be passed just to fix their roads, he stated that the Hart road and Pardee Road is in bad condition and something needs to be done to fixed these roads. Mr. Terry Taylor, a resident of DeSoto Parish stated that a tax was done in their parish and all roads are fixed. He stated, that the resident of the Parish of Natchitoches is very skeptical about passing a tax, because they fear the money is not going to be used for necessary repairs on their roads. Mr. Terry Taylor, stated the Parish Government needs to gain trust with the residents in order to get a tax passed to fix or reparir parish roads.

Councilman Paige stated, the Council could be there all night beating this up, but the residents of the Harmony Road needs something done to their roads, and What can be done to help them? he asked the Mr. Nick Verret.

A very lengthy discussion was done about the Harmony Road and Parish Roads between the Council, Parish President, Director of Public Works, and the residents. Mr. Verret concluded by saying he will get the roads done by priority, manpower and available funds.

There were no public comments.

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 minutes of the regular meeting of the Natchitoches Parish Council held Monday, December 15, 2014.

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

The Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, needs to change the next meeting date of the Natchitoches Parish Council from February 16, 2015 which is a holiday, Presidents' Day to another date for Council meeting.

On motion by Mr. Rodney Bedgood, duly seconded by Mr. Aaron Johnson, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby approved the Natchitoches Parish Council regular meeting change to February 17, 2015 due to the holiday of Presidents' Day.

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

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

Motion Passed

Chairman Salter then stated that the next item on the agenda was to consider awarding C-3 Gravel to Martin Marietta, Alexandria, LA.

On motion by Mr. Chris Paige, duly seconded by Mr. Ricky LaCour, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby award C-3 Gravel to Martin Marietta, Alexandria, LA.

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 Salter then stated that the next item on the agenda was to consider approval for entering into an Intergovernmental Agreement by and between The Parish of Natchitoches and The Northwest Louisiana Game & Fish Preserve Commission.

On motion by Mr. Aaron Johnson, duly seconded by Mr. Rodney Bedgood, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does approve entering into an Intergovernmental Agreement by and between The Parish of Natchitoches and The Northwest Louisiana Game & Fish Preserve Commission On a roll call vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

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

Motion Passed

Chairman Salter then stated that the next item on the agenda was to consider approval for approving portion of the LGAP from the Parish Highway Department to fix a main pipe of the waterline going to the well in Goldonna.

On motion by Mr. Aaron Johnson, duly seconded by Mr. Ricky LaCour, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby approve portion of the LGAP from the Parish Highway Department to fix a main pipe of the waterline going to the well in Goldonna.

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

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

Motion Passed

Chairman Salter then stated that the next item on the agenda was consider authorizing the advertisement for sealed proposals for the Mosquito Control services for the Parish of Natchitoches.

On motion by Mr. Aaron Johnson, duly seconded by Mr. Ricky LaCour, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby authorize the advertisement for sealed proposals for the Mosquito Control services for the Parish of Natchitoches.

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

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

Motion Passed

Chairman Salter stated he need to amend the agenda to add Council approval to consider to authorize the Parish President to solicit proposals for leasing motor graders for the Parish Highway Department for the lease period beginning August 13, 2015.

On motion by Mr. Chris Paige, duly seconded by Mr. Ricky LaCour, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in special and legal session convened, does hereby amend the agenda to add consider to authorize the Parish President to solicit proposals for leasing motor graders for the Parish Highway Department for the lease period beginning August 13, 2015.

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

	Aye	Nay	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

On motion by Mr. Chris Paige, duly seconded by Mr. Ricky LaCour, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in special and legal session convened, does hereby authorize the Parish President to solicit proposals for leasing motor graders for the Parish Highway Department for the lease period beginning August 13, 2015.

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

	Aye	Nay	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 Salter stated he need to amend the agenda to add Council approval to consider to authorize the Parish President to solicit proposals for the rental of an additional motor grader equipped with a scarifier for the purpose of scarifying badly deteriorated sections of asphalt pavement throughout the Parish, and to select the proposal that provides the combination of pricing and equipment features that will be the most beneficial to the Parish to accomplish the intended purpose.

On motion by Mr. Chris Paige, duly seconded by Mr. Ricky LaCour, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in special and legal session convened, does hereby amend the agenda to add to authorize the Parish President to solicit proposals for the rental of an additional motor grader equipped with a scarifier for the purpose of scarifying badly deteriorated sections of asphalt pavement throughout the Parish, and to select the proposal that provides the combination of pricing and equipment features that will be the most beneficial to the Parish to accomplish the intended purpose.

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

	Aye	Nay	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

On motion by Mr. Chris Paige, duly seconded by Mr. Ricky LaCour, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in special and legal session convened, does hereby approve to authorize the Parish President to solicit proposals for the rental of an additional motor grader equipped with a scarifier for the purpose of scarifying badly deteriorated sections of asphalt pavement throughout the Parish, and to select the proposal that provides the combination of pricing and equipment features that will be the most beneficial to the Parish to accomplish the intended purpose.

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

	Aye	Nay	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 Salter stated he need to amend the agenda to add Council approval to consider a Proclamation making the month of February "African American History Month" for the Parish of Natchitoches.

On motion by Mr. Chris Paige, duly seconded by Mr. Ricky LaCour, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in special and legal session convened, does hereby amend the agenda to add to consider a Proclamation making the month of February "African American History Month" for the Parish of Natchitoches.

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

	Aye	Nay	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

On motion by Mr. Chris Paige, duly seconded by Mr. Ricky LaCour, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in special and legal session convened, does hereby adopt a Proclamation making the month of February "African American History Month" for the Parish of Natchitoches.

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

	Aye	Nay	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 Salter then recognized Mr. Nick Verret, Director of Public Works, who presented his 2014 Annual report. The recurring rainfall recently has severely limited the amount of work on unpaved roads and has created an abundance of potholes on the paved roads around the Parish. The Highway Department's efforts to address these potholes has been limited recently by equipment breakdown, as well as by the unavailability of the inmate patching crew on some days to illness of the inmates or unavailability of the security guard. When possible,

other Parish equipment an employees have been redirected to perform pothole patching work in order to address these needs to the extent possible given our resources limitations.

Coco Bed Road still awaiting execution of the revise Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the Office of Facility Planning before design work can begin.

Chairman Salter then recognizes Ms. Sharon Harris, OCS/Head Start Executive Director, she gave her 2014 year report with other reports:

**Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program(LIHEAP)**

Received written authorization for Parish President to sign contract between Natchitoches Parish Office of Community Services and Louisiana Housing (LHC). Currently providing assistance to eligible households. PY2015 allocation: \$394,225.79

Services	Contracted Budget	Administration
Non-Crisis	\$325,218.02	\$29,585.19
Crisis	\$ 36,135.34	\$ 3,287.24
TOTAL	\$361,353.36	\$32,872.43

**Food for Seniors** which provided 40-pound box to 227 individuals 60 years or older.

January 22, 2015 is the distribution date.

**The Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)**

No report this month.

**Commodity** provided food items to 145 households. Distribution date January 22, 2015.

**HEADSTART:**

1. Enrollment as of today, 12/19/2014 is 309 children full enrollment. Recruitment efforts are ongoing.

**SENIOR COMPANION PROGRAM (SCP)**

39 SCP volunteers  
3,582 volunteer hours -\$9,492.30  
6,113 miles  
45 clients.

Chairman Salter 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. The Parish paid \$60,000 towards our arrears to the Detention Center. we now have a balance of \$864,223.17. This have gone down a little. She also gave a Quarterly Budget Report on the Consolidated Report. The Grants are up to date and we are not in the arrears on Grants. Ended the year with Positive Balances in all Funds, based on history the first time in 18 years.

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

**CAPITAL OUTLAY UPDATE:**

CoCo Bed Road Improvements: \$180,000 P2 Cash. (In addition to \$100,000 previously approved)

Application for FY3015-2016: The Parish is waiting on consideration by the Legislature for inclusion in the 2015-2016 capital outlay act.

**EL CAMINO REAL CORRIDOR:**

A FY2015-2016 Capital Outlay Application has been filed for the El Camino projects in Natchitoches, Winn and LaSalle Parishes. The total

amount of the application over five (5) years is in excess of \$159,000.000.

The next Commission meeting will be held in Winnfield on January 28, 2015.

The five State Commission will be visiting with our Congressional delegation in Washington, D.C. the week of March 23 thru March 26. The purpose of the visits is to promote additional federal support for the corridor development and to inform the new members of Congress of the project and solicit their support.

**FIRE DISTRICTS:**

Fire District No. 1 has requested that we issue a call for volunteers that are needed to improve its participation at fires and thereby improve the fire rating of the district.

Fire Districts No. 1, 3, and 10 have been notified by the PIAL that their districts will be evaluated soon for the purpose of confirming their existing fire ratings or to establish new ratings.

**MISCELLANEOUS:**

Coroner Budget: Participated in a meeting with the Coroner's Office and the City on January 14th to review the budget and to explore ways in which additional funding may be obtained. We are continuing to seek outside assistance.

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

On motion by Mr. Aaron Johnson, duly seconded by Mr. Ricky LaCour, 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 Johnson	<u>  X  </u>	___	___	___
Councilman LaCour	<u>  X  </u>	___	___	___
Councilman Bedgood	<u>  X  </u>	___	___	___
Councilman Paige	<u>  X  </u>	___	___	___
Councilman Salter	<u>  X  </u>	___	___	___

Motion Passed

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
John Salter, Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sheryl Frederick,  
Council Clerk