

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATCHITOCHE PARISH COUNCIL**  
**PARISH OF NATCHITOCHE, STATE OF LOUISIANA**  
**TAKEN A REGULAR MEETING HELD, MONDAY,**  
**MARCH 16, 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 Monday, March 16, 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 John Salter who stated that the Parish was ready for the transaction of business.

The invocation was given by Pastor Rufus Sowell and the Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilman Chris Paige.

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

There was absent: Councilman Aaron Johnson.

Chairman Salter then asked if there were any visitors who would like to speak. Mr. Jerry Longlois, Chairman of the Cane River Waterway Commission along with Mr. Chad Methvin, and Betty Fuller. Mr. Jerry Longlois discussed, the Parish need to pass an Ordinance to have Private Land Owners from disturbing the banks of the river. They want owners to put up a silk screen when the contractors are doing the work. This will stop the washing of the banks and to stop erosion before it happens. The Council stated that this process should begin with planning and Zoning and then if anything needs to be done then it can be brought back to the Council for any decision making. The Planning and Zoning will let contractors know when permits are given about the requirements of preventing lake siltation.

Mr. Chad Methvin, spoke on Fish Hatchery Road about a collapse culvert. This causes the road to flood and no one has come out to fix it. This is located in the curve on 494. He said children plays out there and this needs to be taken care of.

Mayor Rose Humphrey of the Village of Natchez stated that on Sowell's Street the roads needs to be overlayed and holes needs to be filled. and Ditches on the Morning star loop needs to be taken care of and Pastor Rufus Sowell's also was discussing the condition on Morning Star loop road about the ditches and roads on Sowell's Street.

Mr. Jackie Myles from Sisson Loop discussed since December they have had very deep holes and something needs to be done. He said you will tear up your car coming down the streets on Sisson Road. He continues to go by the Highway department to complain and to let them know on a daily basis on how bad the condition of Sisson Road. Mr. Myles stated the secretary takes down all the information, but nothing is being done about the roads. He feels, the highway department is not doing their job on fixing the roads.

Chairman John Salter asked Mr. Myles could he allow another 30 days for the highway department to try to catch up and try to see about doing something to his road. Mr. Myles agreed on this but still is very disappointed on how the road are not being fixed.

Mr. Verret explained to Mr. Myles he knows the condition of his roads along with all the other roads. He have been getting calls on a daily basis about roads needs to be fixed. He have had over 67 calls on roads and he have fixed about 45 of those roads and just in one day he have had 39 calls to fixed other roads. He know the needs out there, but he's working as fast as he can with the weather being like it was it has put them in a bind. Mr. Verret explained his department is getting to them as fast as they can by priority. Mr. Shelton Ross, from Sisson Road.

stated they need to put that overlay over the road and do the ditches and this will solve most of their problems.

Mr. Cormack Ficklin of the Lilm Kilm road stated his road is in terrible conditions and he sees them daily at the Beaver Dam working.

Mrs. Cynthia Longmire and Pastor Steve Harris of Payne Subdivision is discussing their roads also. Mrs. Longmire, stated they want their neighborhood to take an active role in keeping their neighborhood up. They want their neighborhood to have sidewalks and their streets fixed. She wants to know how she can go about starting a petition to show the community residents want to invest in their community. Parish President, Rick Nowlin told her to come see him and he will help her obtain information on starting this process.

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 Tuesday, February 17, 2015.

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 Salter then stated that the next item on the agenda was to consider authorizing the Parish President to adopt a Proclamation for National County Government Month-April 2015. "Counties Moving America Forward: The Keys are Transportation and Infrastructure"

On motion by Mr. Chris Paige, duly seconded by Mr. Ricky LaCour that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby authorize the Parish President to adopt a Proclamation for National County Government Month-April 2015. "Counties Moving America Forward: The Keys are Transportation and Infrastructure"

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 Salter then stated that the next item on the agenda was Consider authorizing the Parish President to submit a CWF Applications on behalf of Creston Water System, Chee Chee Bay Water System, and Water Works District 1 for water line improvement projects.

After a discussion on this the Council agreed to apply for \$60,000 for Creston Water System, \$20,000 for Chee Chee Bay Water system, and \$20,000 Water Works District 1 for water line improvement projects.

On motion by Mr. Rodney Bedgood, duly seconded by Mr. Chris Paige, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does authorize the Parish President to apply for \$60,000 for Creston Water System, \$20,000 for Chee Chee Bay Water system, and \$20,000 Water Works District 1 for water line improvement projects.

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

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

Motion Passed

Chairman Salter 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. Michael Don Marbut for re-appoint to the Natchitoches Parish Fire District 7 Board.

On motion by Mr. Rodney Bedgood, duly seconded by Mr. Ricky LaCour, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby approve adopting a resolution confirming the re-appointments/appointments to the following boards/commission:

Mr. Michael Don Marbut for re-appoint to the Natchitoches Parish Fire District 7 Board.

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 Salter 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 #01-2015 to continued participation in the NFIP(National Flood Insurance Program) and to adopt the new FIS (Flood Insurance Study) and FIRM (Flood Insurance Rate Maps).

On motion by Mr. Chris Paige, duly seconded by Mr. Rodney Bedgood, 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 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 Salter, asked Mr. Greg LeMoine to explain what all this means, and Mr. Lemoine explained everything that was needed to be explained. After there were no more discussion on the agenda item.

On motion by Mr. Chris Paige, duly seconded by Mr. Rodney Bedgood, 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 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

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 Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby adopt Ordinance #01-2015 to continued participation in the NFIP(National Flood Insurance Program) and to adopt the new FIS (Flood Insurance Study) and FIRM (Flood Insurance Rate Maps).

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 discuss considering changing April 20th, 2015 Council meeting to April 27, 2015, due to Council Clerk Continuing Education Training.

On motion by Mr. Rodney Bedgood, duly seconded by Mr. Ricky LaCour, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby change April 20th, 2015 Council meeting to April 27, 2015, due to Council Clerk Continuing Education Training.

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 Paige	<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 consider rolling forward or remaining the same on 2015 Millage Rates.

The Council asked Parish Treasurer, Debbie Miley did she have any recommendations on the changes, she stated she given out a sheet last month on it and she passed it out again to let the Council know what if they roll forward the increases will be or if they stay the same they will lose money in 2016 when the millage will be reassessed.

After a short discussion on this matter the following was done:

On motion by Mr. Rodney Bedgood, duly seconded by Mr. Ricky LaCour, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby will keep the Natchitoches Parish 2015 Millage Rates the same.

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 Paige	<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 consider authorizing Parish President to execute the Agency Internet Service and License Agreement with Info Tech Bid Express Services.

On motion by Mr. Chris Paige, duly seconded by Mr. Rodney Bedgood, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does consider authorizing Parish President to execute the Agency Internet Service and License Agreement with Info Tech Bid Express Services.

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 Salter then stated that the next item on the agenda was consider approval in Introducing Ordinance 02-2015 Blighted or Abandoned Property.

There was a lengthy discussion between the Council and the Attorney and at this time the Council feels they and the Attorney needs more time to work on this and make sure they states in the Ordinance its only for those that are un-incorporated

On motion by Mr. Chris Paige, duly seconded by Mr. Ricky LaCour, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does table the Introduction of Ordinance 02-2015 Blighted or Abandoned Property.

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 stated he need to amend the agenda to add Council approval to consider authorizing the Parish President to execute an easement agreement with CLECO for electric utility service to the new library to be constructed in Campti.

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 for Council approval to consider authorizing the Parish President to execute an easement agreement with CLECO for electric utility service to the new library to be constructed in Campti.

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

On motion by Mr. Chris Paige, duly seconded by Mr. Rodney Bedgood, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in special and legal session convened, does hereby authorize the Parish President to execute an easement agreement with CLECO for electric utility service to the new library to be constructed in Campti.

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 LaCour	<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 report. Recurring precipitation over the last several weeks has hampered progress, not only on maintaining the unpaved roads but also in patching of potholes on the paved roads. One inmate has just been assigned to the patching crew, but now there are problems with the van assigned to this crew. Previously, the NPSO guard patched potholes by himself on February 9-11, 18-19, and 26.

Mr. Verret stated in response to the concerns expressed during the meeting by Mr. John Hodson, additional pothole patching work was performed on Pardee Road on the following day. Mr. Verret also met with Mr. Hodson that same day in order to review his concerns about the condition of the east end of this road, which Mr. Verret advised him cannot be addressed as part of the Highway Department's routine maintenance, as asphalt patching and leveling will be needed in several isolated areas. Mr. Vertex advised Mr. Hodson that we will try to address these areas as part of the asphalt patching and leveling project that is planned with LGAP funds to be received by the Parish this spring, if sufficient State funding is received. Mr. Hodson thanked me for meeting with him.

Mr. Vertex also met with Mr. George Posey on February 18 in order to review his concerns about Posey Road, including the accumulation of silt and drift at the inlet end of the reinforced concrete box culvert located west of his residence. Winn rock was placed in two bad areas on this road the following day and spot grading was also performed,

and the issues at the box culvert were addressed on February 20. As a result of the concerns expressed by Mr. Posey and other residents, the decision was made to not pursue the scarifying demonstration on Posey Road at this time, and to instead pursue asphalt leveling in spot locations as part of the LGAP project in order to restore the deteriorated pavement edges, if sufficient State funding is received.

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)**

Provided utility assistance to 105 households totaling \$41,750.00

**Food for Seniors** which provided 40-pound box to 212 individuals 60 years or older.

March 26, 2015 is the distribution date.

**Commodity** provided food items to 150 households. Distribution date March 26, 2015.

**HEADSTART:**

1. Enrollment as of today, 03/16/2015 is 309 children full enrollment. Recruitment efforts are ongoing.
2. Operating Days: 15 (2 inclement weather days)
3. Attendance 82.42%
4. Waiting list as of 3/16/2015: 46 children

Notice of Award (NOA) for budget period March 1, 2015 thru February 29, 2016 Award Computation: Federal-\$2,293,749 and Non-Federal-\$573,437.

**SENIOR COMPANION PROGRAM (SCP)**

39 SCP volunteers  
3,087-5 volunteer hours -\$8,181.88  
4,454 miles  
43 clients.

Application for grant renewal is due April 22, 2015. Budget period will be July 1, 2015-June 30, 2016. Total Federal funding level is \$318,885.

Summer Feeding Program (SFP) Online application is open. SFP tentative dates June 1, 2015 (start)-July 31, 2015 (end) for operation.

Chairman Salter then recognizes Ms. Debbie Miley, Parish Treasurer, Ms. Miley then went on to discuss her reports giving status updates on the 2015 Active Bookings for Inmates & Outstanding Coroners/Inmate Expenses. We now have a balance on Arrears of \$824,223.17 This have gone down a little.

She asked the Council did they have any questions for her and there was none.

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)

The Parish is still waiting on the amended CEA that includes the additional \$180,000.

**COURT HOUSE SECURITY IMPROVEMENTS:**

2014 Capital Outlay:

\$30,000 P2 Cash and \$380,000 P5 Non-Cash

Status: The Parish has executed the CEA from the state and is waiting on State execution and authorization to proceed. No expenditures may be made until the CEA has been fully executed and authorization has been received.

**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 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 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.

After the Parish President had given his report, Councilman Chris Paige wanted to express his concerns and wants for Summer jobs for the youth. He stated he didn't push it last year, but he's not going to go this year without trying to help get funds for the youth's summer job program. He wanted Parish Treasurer, Ms. Miley to find money for the youth this summer for our youths.

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

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

Attest:

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

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