

PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATCHITOCHE PARISH COUNCIL
PARISH OF NATCHITOCHE, STATE OF LOUISIANA
TAKEN A REGULAR MEETING HELD, MONDAY,
JANUARY 11, 2016
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, January 11, 2016 for a Regular of Natchitoches Parish Council meeting at five(5:30) o'clock p.m. and for the Natchitoches Parish Council Meeting.

The Parish of Natchitoches was then convened as the governing authority by Council Clerk Sheryl Frederick who stated that the Parish was ready for the transaction of business.

The invocation was given by Councilwoman Patsy Ward Hoover and the Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilman Russell Rachal.

After the roll call there were present Councilmen Russell Rachal and Rodney Bedgood, Doug de Graffernied, Chris Paige, and Councilwoman Patsy Ward-Hoover.

Absent: None.

Council Clerk, Sheryl Frederick 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 Rodney Bedgood seconded it. Councilman Doug de Graffernied nominated Councilman Russell Rachal for Chairman and Councilman Rodney Bedgood seconded it and then the floor was closed for nominations. Councilman Russell Rachal is the new Chairman for the Natchitoches Parish Council for 2016. Councilman Chris Paige then motion to open the floor for nominations for Vice-Chairman and Councilman Bedgood seconded. Councilman Doug de Graffernied nominated Councilwoman Patsy Ward Hoover, but Councilwoman Hoover declined, and she then nominated Councilman Doug de Graffernied and then the floor was closed for nominations and Councilman Doug de Graffernied is the Vice-Chairman for the Natchitoches Parish Council for 2016.

Chairman Rachal then asked for visitors at this time.

Robert Wilson from Union Grove Road wanted to inquire about repairs to his road and about a culvert that had collapsed during the flood. Mr. Wilson stated it has been a long time since anything has been done to the Union Grove Road and he just wanted to know when something can be done. Mr. Wilson also stated, when he called about the culvert, someone did come out and just put barricades around the culvert and that was all, but then during election time, it took Mr. John Salter to call someone about the culvert and it was done immediately.

Vickie Jordan wanted to know about repairs to her road, she also lives on the Union Grove road and she also wanted to know why a motor grader was sitting up for a lengthy period of time, and she wanted to know the roles and responsibility of the Council, Parish President, and Director of Public Works. Mrs. Jordan stated she had made numerous calls to the Highway department about her road and about the motor grader to Mr. Nick Verret, but no one returned her calls. Mr. Verret, stated if she had made any calls it would have been logged in and he always returns calls.

Steve Jordan wanted to make a comment directed toward Public Works Director Nick Verret, that he has worked for five plus years grading roads and the statement that Public Works Director Verret made about not being able to grade roads before or during heavy rains was incorrect. Public Works Director Nick Verret replied, he still continue to support his statement about not being able to grade roads

during rainy weather, because in some instances it would cause more damage to the rain than good.

NOTE FROM NICK VERRET: Mrs. Vicky Jordan's Comments During Last Night's Parish Council Meeting

One of Mrs. Jordan's comments during last night's Council meeting was relative to a motor grader parked for several days at the Ajax Community Center.

Since this is not the normal park-up location for the Parish grader assigned to that area, I did not think this is our grader, but I didn't want to state such during the meeting, since sometimes the park-up locations do change based on work locations at any given time. However, this morning I confirmed that our grader is not parked at this location, thus, it must belong to LA DOTD.

I wanted to call Mrs. Jordan to advise her of this, but we have no record in our Customer Service Database of any recent calls from her[which contradicts some of her other comments during the meeting] and no phone number is listed in the phone book for her or her husband, nor could I find one on the Whitepages website.

By copy to Mrs. Frederick, I am asking that the meeting minutes reflect that I made this determination about the grader subsequent to the meeting, and ask that she also forward this e-mail to the members of the Council for their information.

Chairman Rachal then asked for public comments. There was none.

Chairman Rachal stated the next item on the agenda was adopt the minutes of the regular meeting of the Natchitoches Parish Council held Monday, December 21, 2015.

On motion by Councilman Chris Paige, duly seconded by Councilman 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, November 16, 2015.

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

Ayes:	Councilman Paige
Ayes:	Councilman Bedgood
Ayes:	Councilman de Graffernied
Ayes:	Councilman Rachal
Ayes:	Councilwoman Hoover

Motion Passed

Chairman Rachal stated the next item on the agenda was for Council to Consider authorizing the Parish President to execute resolutions received from incorporated municipalities within the Parish of Natchitoches for the performance of road maintenance activities in accordance with Chapter 15 Roads and Drainage, Sec. 15-2 Work in Incorporated Municipalities, of the Parish Code of Ordinances. authorize the Parish President to submit an application for a 2016 LGAP grant for a project to be selected by the Parish Council.

On motion by Councilwoman Hoover, duly seconded by Councilman Rodney Bedgood, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby approve to authorizing the Parish President to execute resolutions received from incorporated municipalities within the Parish of Natchitoches for the performance of road maintenance activities in accordance with Chapter 15 Roads and Drainage, Sec. 15-2 Work in Incorporated Municipalities, of the Parish Code of Ordinances. authorize the Parish President to submit an application for a 2016 LGAP grant for a project to be selected by the Parish Council.

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

Ayes: Councilwoman Hoover
Ayes: Councilman Bedgood
Ayes: Councilman Paige
Ayes: Councilman Rachal
Ayes: Councilman de Graffernied

Motion Passed

Chairman Rachal stated the next item on the agenda was to consider adopting a resolution confirming re-appointment/appointments to the following boards/commissions.

A. Thomas J. Guess to be re-appointed to Natchitoches Parish Fire District 6. Board.

On motion by Councilman Chris Paige, duly seconded by Councilwoman Hoover, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby adopt a resolution confirming re-appointment of **Thomas J. Guess to be re-appointed to Natchitoches Parish Fire District 6. Board.**

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

Ayes: Councilman Paige
Ayes: Councilwoman Hoover
Ayes: Councilman de Graffernied
Ayes: Councilman Rachal
Ayes: Councilman Bedgood

Motion Passed

Chairman Rachal stated the next item on the agenda was to consider to adopt the Speak your Peace Resolution for the Natchitoches Parish residents and elected officials.

Councilman de Graffernied discussed that other parishes are adopting this resolution and he feels this is something Natchitoches Parish should consider adopting. The Initiative promotes 9 tools of civility that will provide increased opportunities for civil discourse in order to find positive resolutions to the issues that face the Parish. They are 1) Pay attention; 2) Listen; 3) Be inclusive; 4) Don't gossip; 5) Show respect; 6) Be agreeable; 7) Apologize; 8) Give constructive criticism; and 9) Take responsibility.

Councilwoman Hoover suggested that the Resolution was more appropriate for a church and didn't believe that it was proper for the Parish Council.

On motion by Councilman de Graffernied, duly seconded by Councilman Paige, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby adopt a Speak your Peace Resolution for the Natchitoches Parish residents and elected officials.

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

Ayes: Councilman de Graffernied
Ayes: Councilman Paige
Ayes: Councilman Rachal
Nayes: Councilman Bedgood
Nayes: Councilwoman Hoover

Motion Passed

Chairman Rachal, stated at this time he would like to amend the agenda by adding:

1. Parish President, Rick Nowlin presenting plaques to the outgoing Parish Councilmen.

On motion by Councilman Chris Paige, duly seconded by Mr. Rodney Bedgood, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby amend the agenda to add:

1. Parish President, Rick Nowlin presenting plaques to the outgoing Parish Councilmen.

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

Ayes: Councilman Paige
Ayes: Councilman Bedgood
Abstain: Councilman Rachal
Ayes: Councilwoman Hoover
Ayes: Councilman de Graffernied

Motion Passed

On motion by Councilman Chris Paige, duly seconded by Mr. Rodney Bedgood, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby approves Parish President, Rick Nowlin to present a plaques to the outgoing Parish Councilmen.

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

Ayes: Councilman Paige
Ayes: Councilman Bedgood
Ayes : Councilman Rachal
Ayes: Councilwoman Hoover
Ayes: Councilman de Graffernied

Motion Passed

The only outgoing council member that was present was Mr. Aaron Johnson. Mr. Johnson received his plaque for his council member service to the Parish of Natchitoches.

Chairman Rachal, stated at this time he would like to amend the agenda by adding:

2. Consider adopting a resolution confirming reappointment to the following boards/commissions:
 - A. Patrick Rachal to be re-appointed to Natchitoches Parish Fire District 4. Board.

On motion by Councilman Chris Paige, duly seconded by Mr. Rodney Bedgood, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby amend the agenda to add:

2. Consider adopting a resolution confirming reappointment to the following boards/commissions:
Patrick Rachal to be re-appointed to Natchitoches Parish Fire District 4. Board.

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

Ayes: Councilman Paige
Ayes: Councilman Bedgood
Abstain: Councilman Rachal
Ayes: Councilwoman Hoover
Ayes: Councilman de Graffernied

Motion Passed

On motion by Councilman Chris Paige, duly seconded by Mr. Rodney Bedgood, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby approves Patrick Rachal to be re-appointed to Natchitoches Parish Fire District 4. Board.

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

Ayes: Councilman Paige
Ayes: Councilman Bedgood
Abstain: Councilman Rachal
Ayes: Councilwoman Hoover
Ayes: Councilman de Graffernied

Motion Passed

Chairman Rachal stated the next item on the agenda to consider authorizing the Parish President to execute Cooperative Endeavor Agreements for the donation of Reclaimed Asphalt Pavement and other materials donated by the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development to the Parish of Natchitoches, as these opportunities arise.

On motion by Councilman Chris Paige, duly seconded by Mr. Rodney Bedgood, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby approves authorizing the Parish President to execute Cooperative Endeavor Agreements for the donation of Reclaimed Asphalt Pavement and other materials donated by the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development to the Parish of Natchitoches, as these opportunities arise.

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

Ayes: Councilman Paige
Ayes: Councilman Bedgood
Ayes: Councilman Rachal
Ayes: Councilwoman Hoover
Ayes: Councilman de Graffernied

Motion Passed

Chairman Rachal then recognized Mr. Nick Verret, Director of Public Works, who presented his report.

1. **Solid Waste** - Wet weather has hindered the completion of the new LA-478 enclosed bin site. Wet weather and a shortage of available haul trucks has hindered completion of the new Readhimer compactor station.
2. **Coco Bed Road** - Soil tests were recently conducted to determine the possibility of constructing an impermeable base course that would also be less susceptible to cracking from the adjacent trees, by stabilizing the in-place road base material with a liquid polymer stabilizing agent together with a low percentage of portland cement. This design would allow the project to proceed without having to acquire additional right-of-way. However, the soil test results indicated an inadequate compressive strength because the in-place soils have a very high silt content.

Subsequent tests were conducted by blending a sandy soil with the in-place road base material. However, Geotechnical Testing Laboratory advised on December 23 that these tests also resulted in an inadequate compressive strength with low cement percentages. Therefore, an alternate typical section is currently being considered that would involve hauling in a sufficient quantity of sandy soil for construction of the stabilized base in only sandy material. Additional soil tests are therefore under way to determine the feasibility of this alternative, which again would eliminate the need for acquiring additional right-of-way and therefore reduce the project development time.

Once the additional tests are completed by GTL, a final decision can be made as to how to proceed with the project, along with an estimated time line for completion.

This information was communicated to the Jefferson family by e-mail on Dec. 23.

Mr. Verret asked the Council to be aware of a new policy the Department intends to implement that will better insure that garbage and waste being brought to the Parish Landfill is actually waste from Parish residents and not from contractors or non-Parish locations. Authorization form will be attached in minutes.

Chairman Rachal then recognizes Ms. Sharon Harris, OCS/Head Start Executive Director, she gave her reports:

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program(LIHEAP)

Provided utility assistance to 55 households totaling \$19,000.00

Program Year 2016 allocation: Services \$411,854.08; Administration-\$36,010.56

Distribution of Christmas boxes-25 families

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

December: 220 individuals.

Next distribution date January 28, 2016

Commodity provided food items to:

December: 136 families.

Next distribution date January 28, 2016

HEADSTART:

August. Attendance 87.5%
September Attendance 86.33%
October Attendance 88.84%
November Attendance 88.90%
December Attendance 84.98%

Head Start Announcements:

Head Start Environmental Health and Safety (EnvHS) Monitoring Review-week of 1/19-21/2016
Head Start Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) Monitoring Review =week of 1/22/2016
Policy Council Meeting will be held on 1/12/2016 at 6:00pm @ MLK Center.

CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM (CACFP):

- Number of days meals served-13
- Average Daily Participation (ADA)
- Meals: Breakfast-3,362-ADA =240
- Lunch 3,359-ADA=240
- Snack 3,357-ADA=240
- Total Reimbursement Request \$19,510.69

SENIOR COMPANION PROGRAM (SCP)

- 46 SCP volunteers
- 7,120 volunteer hours - \$18,869.34
- 5,976 miles
- 54 clients

Chairman Rachal then recognizes Ms. Debbie Miley, Parish Treasurer, Ms. Miley discussed her reports giving status updates on the 2015 Active Bookings for Inmates & Outstanding Coroners/Inmate Expenses.

Ms. Miley also went over the American Express Card purchases of Head Start, which will be attached with the minutes.

Ms. Miley also asked the Council to amend the agenda by adding **Introduction to Ordinance #01-2016 An Ordinance adopting to amend the 2016 Operating Budget for revision for Highway Department to account for Capital Outlay Projects, Hauling and purchase of equipment.**

On motion by Councilman Chris Paige, duly seconded by Councilwoman Hoover, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby amend the agenda to add:

Introduction to Ordinance #01-2016 An Ordinance to amend the 2016 Operating Budget for revision for Highway Department to account for Capital Outlay Projects, Hauling and purchase of equipment.

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

Ayes: Councilman Paige
Ayes: Councilwoman Hoover
Ayes: Councilman Bedgood
Ayes: Councilman Rachal
Ayes: Councilman de Graffernied

Motion Passed

On motion by Councilman Chris Paige, duly seconded by Councilman Bedgood, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby **Introduce Ordinance #01-2016 An Ordinance to amend the 2016 Operating Budget for revision for Highway Department to account for Capital Outlay Projects, Hauling and purchase of equipment.**

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

Ayes: Councilman Paige
Ayes: Councilman Bedgood
Ayes: Councilwoman Hoover
Ayes: Councilman Rachal
Ayes: Councilman de Graffernied

Motion Passed

Parish Treasurer, Debbie Miley went over The Head Start Grant from March 1, 2015-February 19, 2016. This will also be attached with the minutes.

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

CAPITAL OUTLAY UPDATE:

The agenda for the State Bond Commission to be held on December 17 includes the approval of the granting of lines of credit for the following two Parish road projects and one OCS project.

Resurfacing of Roads in Payne Subdivision	\$515,000
Resurfacing of Fish Hatchery Road	\$1,125,000
OCS addition (COA project)	\$40,000

Payne Subdivision Roads project has already received \$500,000 in funding approval, making the total approved \$1,015,000. The Fish Hatchery Road project has already received \$125,000 in funding approval, making the total approved \$1,250,000. The new funding was authorized for the Fiscal Year 2016-2017 that begins on July 1, 2016.

OCS/HEAD START:

Head Start Director Search: The Director Search Committee has completed its interviews with the candidates for the position and has provided its recommendation to my office. On Tuesday, December 15, the HS Policy Council was not able to meet to receive a report on the Committee's progress due to the lack of a quorum. On Wednesday, December 16th, we gave a brief report of the search process to HS Regional during a conference call held to discuss a number of subjects. The next step is to hold the review with the Policy Council and the Parish Council at their respective meeting in January.

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

On motion by Councilman Bedgood, duly seconded by Councilwoman Hoover, 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:

Ayes: Councilman Bedgood
Ayes: Councilwoman Hoover
Ayes: Councilman de Graffernied
Ayes: Councilman Paige
Ayes: Councilman Rachal

Motion Passed

Attest:

Russell Rachal, Chairman

Sheryl Frederick,
Council Clerk