

PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATCHITOCHE PARISH COUNCIL
PARISH OF NATCHITOCHE, STATE OF LOUISIANA
TAKEN A REGULAR MEETING HELD, MONDAY,
May 16, 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, May 16, 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 Chairman Russell Rachal who stated that the Parish was ready for the transaction of business.

The invocation was given by Public Works Director Mr. Nick Verret and the Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilman Rodney Bedgood.

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

Absent: None.

Chairman Rachal then asked for the agenda to be adopted.

On motion by Councilwoman Patsy Ward Hoover, duly seconded by Councilman Rodney Bedgood, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby adopt the agenda.

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

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

Motion Passed

Chairman Rachal then asked for visitors at this time.

Mr. John Hodgeson wanted to know if he and the other residents could get something done on the Pardee Road. He just want to be able to get his car out, he can get his truck out, but not his car. The Pardee road is getting worse. Mr. Verret stated he would try to get out to see if something can be done. Mr. Hodgeson stated he knows it a bad situation for everybody, but he wants him see if something can be done to the Pardee road.

The Chairman at this time recognized the new Head Start Director, Dr. April Wade. She introduced her self and thank the Council and Parish President for giving her this opportunity for coming aboard to continue working with the boys and girls. She is excited to help give our children the quality start so when they enter into our Public schools they will be prepared and ready to learn.

Mr. Willie Valrie from the Brickyard Road, wanted to talk about three (3) items. The first item was the Brickyard road, he came to the meeting previously to discuss just general maintenance on the road, and there still haven't been nothing done to it. The second thing he discussed was a business that is an eye sore to the community. When they first opened everything was good, but now the inventory has increased and the additional junk cars isn't fenced in and this at times makes it hard for two cars to pass down the road. They have put up some poles, but nothing is being done. It's an embarrassment to have visitors come to your home, and their thinking their entering a junk yard instead going to a person(s) home. Third, was that people are using the sides of the road for a dump site, their dumping sofas,

chairs and other items that's being just dumped on the side of the road. Mr. Valrie stated we can do better for Natchitoches Parish.

Mr. Valrie stated he has discussed this with the Sheriff Department but it's hard to catch these people it. Councilman Paige, stated two cameras was purchased, but he don't know if they are still on the premises, but this may be a solution to the problem, if the cameras are put up. He also stated he has a sister that lives in Payne Subdivision and they are having problems back there also. Its hard getting to her house with all those pot holes. If he's going to support a tax, then something need to be shown to the people that the roads are going to be worked on and show some type of production, production is the key. The roads are not being maintained now, how people is going to support a tax. And now Payne people is being told there is no money for their roads, and it may not be put back.

At this time Councilman Paige, stated he have been talking with Representative Kenny Cox and Representative Cox have been talking with the man in Facility Planning talking to him about releasing the restrictions on Coco Bed road and on Payne Subdivision, this is the hold up because they money was there and he wanted to make sure the project can move forward with the money by doing phases to the road.

Parish President stated Representative Cox contacted him Thursday evening for information on Coco Bed Road and he gave the information to Representative Cox and Representative Cox if they could proceed with half the streets in Payne Subdivision if he could get half the money and Parish President stated yes, we could do this in two phases. Friday morning, Parish President sent Representative Cox a detailed message confirming what was said on Thursday evening, and Representative Cox said he will get with those folks and try talk with them.

Councilman Paige stated, Representative Cox will try to get the money put back on the House side. Payne Subdivision people are worried about the other culvert washing out. Councilman Paige express there is about 500 residents that lives in the Payne area and they just need something done to their roads. Residents are scared of the other culvert washing out. The bridge is closed. It's also a big hole in the middle of the bridge, this is going to cause a serious accident or get someone killed, this was reported by a resident in Payne Subdivision. He don't understand why the Parish is waiting on Federal money to fix a road or culvert this has not happened over the years. Its ok if we do get the Federal money, that will be ok.

Mr. Valrie stated if the cameras are installed the Council him along with other residents of Brick Yard to support the monthly maintenance they will pay the monthly monitoring bill if it's reasonable

Nick Verret, stated the bridge they continue to worry about is being monitor closely to keep watch so nothing will happen. Councilman Paige asked, Mr. Verret why he's waiting on FEMA money to fix a Culvert? Exactly how much does this cost to get this culvert fixed. Mr. Verret stated, he estimate it will cost close to \$100,000 to fix this culvert. There is a lot of water going through.

Mrs. Eula Gray a Payne Subdivision resident, stated she lives on Cherry Loop, She hates to leave her house, you have to drive on your brakes to get to her house. You go through bump and hole go right back into a bump and hole, this is ridiculous for residents to have to go through this on a daily basis. This is a nightmare for people of Payne Subdivision to go through. This other bridge has a big hole in the middle of it. All the patching have messed everything up.

Mr. Cassius Longmire a Payne Subdivision residents, wanted to let the Council know, when the rain came and flood came he have a over flow ditch in the back of his house and when the rain came this ditch overflowed and cause flooding down the streets and in some homes. He is asking the Council to help make Payne a better Community, he doesn't see this on the East side, and he wants the same treatment for the Payne residents. Damages is being done to everyone vehicles from personal vehicles to church vans. He also stated if they have stop signs and didn't contribute to them, why do they have to put up their own street lights. It's the Parishes responsibility to have some type of lightening up in this area. People houses are being broken into because people can't see, ambulances are riding around trying to see street signs to get to the right house, because the visibility is not none, because it's dark.

Chairman Rachal stated the next item on the agenda was adopt the minutes of the regular meeting of the Natchitoches Parish Council held Monday, April 18, 2016.

On motion by Councilman Doug de Graffernied , duly seconded by Councilwoman Patsy Ward Hoover, 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, April 18, 2016.

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

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

Motion Passed

Chairman Rachal stated the next item on the agenda was to moved to agenda item 12. Council to consider adopting Resolution 21-2016 to approve the issuance, sale and delivery by the waterworks District No. 2, Parish of Natchitoches, state of Louisiana (The "District") of its \$6,600.000 refunding bonds, series 2016 to provide debt service savings.

Attorney John Brittain, spoke on this agenda item by saying they have a \$6,600.000 in debt and they're going to the State Bond Commission to refinance this debt to cut the term from twenty years from the current thirty four years. The saving on this will be about 4% just around 3.2% interest rate and a savings and a \$600,000 interest saving and cut down the term of the loan fourteen (14) years. The Bond Commission has temporarily approved it, just waiting for Council approval to get this accomplished. This debt was incurred by buying a Storage tanks, and two water pumps to provide water to our system so they would rely on the City of Natchitoches. This district never asked the Parish for money this is all self financed.

On motion by Councilwoman Hoover, duly seconded by Chairman Russell Rachal, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby adopt Resolution 21-2016 to approve the issuance, sale and delivery by the waterworks District No. 2, Parish of Natchitoches, state of Louisiana (The "District") of its \$6,600.000 refunding bonds, series 2016 to provide debt service savings.

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

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

Motion Passed

Chairman Rachal stated the next item on the agenda was Council to consider the Parish President to submit a CWF (Community Water Enrichment Fund) Grand application for an approved project for 2015-2016 allocation. June 9, 2016 is the application deadline.

Parish President stated that is application is done around this time of each year. They have about \$125,000 for the parish. We have to come up with a project to apply for this year for this grant. Councilman Paige, stated Campti needs help with their water system also.

President Rick Nowlin, stated Campti will be able to submit their own application. He will make contact with the other water systems before the deadline date. Mr. Bedgood asked, someone from the audience did Chee-Chee turn their application in yet? The gentleman responded yes, he had turned everything in to Mrs. Vance. Chee-Chee Bay is the only application the Parish has received for this grant application. Councilman Paige, stated he wants to make sure no one gets more than any others, let it be split between those whose applying.

At this time Councilman Bedgood explained why Chee-Chee was applying for this grant. At this time Cassius Longmire, asked about Payne, but Payne doesn't qualify for the CWF application they have a sewage problem. Payne water system from the previous years was sent under the CDBG, but wasn't approved because the land was privately own sewage system, made contact to the owner for certain assurances before the State would approve it, but the company wasn't willing to grant them.

Chairman Rachal asked were we still on the agenda item or what, Parish President stated no we'll chasing rabbits, and the Chairman stated we need to get back on the agenda item and stop chasing rabbits, at this time Cassius Longmire, stated we need to catch those rabbits, and deal with Payne Subdivision.

Chairman Russell read the agenda item again and wanted a motion and Councilman Paige, stated that is not exactly where they was at during the time, they got off track, Chairman Rachal disagreed, and Councilman Paige, stated Mr. Nowlin was at asking for Authority to do something, and he never got completed because.... He stated just go ahead, Parish President stated Mr. Paige was right, that he had made the comment prior to knowing that Chee-Chee had applied. If Chee-Chee was the only one, then they will go with just that one. The Councilmen had another discussion among themselves and again Mr. Longmire and Councilman Bedgood had some words, then Mr. Longmire was warned the meeting must come to order and left the room.

Parish President wants the Council to make a motion authorizing him to submit every CWF application he receives prior to June 9, 2016 deadline. Councilman woman Hoover said she would offer this. Councilman Paige, stated if others come forward he will consider then, to Councilman Bedgood, and if Chee-Chee is the only one then they will get the money.

On motion by Councilwoman Hoover, duly seconded by Chairman Russell Rachal, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby authorize the Parish President to submit all CWF application prior to the June 9, deadline.

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

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

Motion Passed

Chairman Rachal 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:

1. Council consider adopting Ordinance 004-2016 to transfer from General Fund to Hwy Fund the savings from the new agreement between the Parish of Natchitoches and the Natchitoches Parish Detention Center/Sheriff Office.
2. Council to consider adopting Ordinance 005-2016 to establish a policy for the order of business to be followed by the Parish Council at Parish Council meetings, including the receipt of comments from the public concerning matters to be considered by the Parish council and other subjects.

On motion by Councilman Chris Paige, duly seconded by Councilwoman Patsy Ward Hoover, 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:

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

Motion Passed

First discussion begin about the first item at this time Mr. Willie Valrie wanted to know where will these monies be utilized and if there's a plan for this money to be utilized not into salaries.

Parish President, explained this money will go into the Highway Department for material we need, and Parish wide.. The Parish estimated about \$12,000 monthly savings, we have collected about \$50,000 for the first four months. If the Council approves this Ordinance it will go into the Highway department parish wide we have a list of all the roads we have problems with a lot of them we will go with a priority system, those that are not passable and for those residents that only have one way out, we'll have to try to get those people out first.

Mr. Verret stated this money will supplement what they all ready have in their regular budget for equipment rental, and purchase of material, supplementing the materials we already have. This money will help supplement what the Highway Department has already spent on flood damages until the Parish is reimbursed by FEMA and this only going to cover up to 75% of the cost, the Parish is still out of 25% of the cost. This money will back fill some of the cost we have already have.

Mr. Valrie wanted the funds to be accounted for. Mr. Verret stated it will be accounted for through the general budget. This money should not be used for salaries.

Mr. Richard Smith, Sr. started to say he don't want to continue coming and saying the same thing like a broken record, he also stated, people might think I'm crazy or something, but one things he wants to say is sometimes we have to let go and let God. One of two prayers are not going to help the more prayers the more God hears. All these storms and flooding, God is trying to get our attention. God is in control. God needs to be in the plan. God has this situation in his hands. We must keep God in this plan, Our heavenly father knows everything. and this is all he wanted to say.

Councilman Paige stated to the Chairman, to make sure everything is explain clearly to the people. Make sure the people knew they we're talking about the money from the Sheriff/Detention Center. and make sure he explain clearly about Public hearing item number 2 about the people comments. There is an orderly way to address people who comes up to speak on items that are not on the agenda item. How people will come to speak on this item.

Chairman Russell states the purpose of this is to run an orderly meeting and to hear your concerns in depth as time permits without going over and over again. The intention to have the meeting call to order, Invocation, Prayer, Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call, Adoption of Agenda, Introduction of Visitors and Guests, and Consideration of items on the agenda, as amended, with time provided on each item for public comments. Chairman Rachal stated at this time this is where the public will have their comments on agenda items, according to the open meeting law there must give time for public comments, we will allow public comments we will not break this law, but we'll allow comments for agenda specific items.

If you have something you would like to discuss, get with your Councilman to be put this matter on the agenda, if it's not at the proper time you will be asked to bring that item up at another meeting. Anything you want to talk about tell your Councilman to put it on the agenda and we'll be glad to hear it, then the Chairman continued reading his recommendations ending with Reports from Department Heads, Parish President and then Adjourn. This is not for getting from hearing your public comments, we will hear them we want to hear them. Chairman Rachal wanted to know did that clear it up for everyone.

Councilman Paige wanted to know who would be responsible for telling the people when they get off course and when their time is up? He said it's not right to tell anyone to get out, but everything must be done in order, but you just don't throw people out, especially when you tell them to come and let the

Council know what they're wanting and their concerns. Mrs. Roy asked what this have to do with what the Chairman was saying, Councilman Paige stated when they got off course for a second it was needed information, which anyone didn't know until the issue came up about the application being declined because it was on privately owned property. If you don't bring it up, how do they get the answers needed.

Councilwoman Hoover, wanted to explain, the Council didn't have any input on establishing this Ordinance, on that being said she would like to make some changes to the Ordinance if she could. She wanted to increase the public comments to 10 minutes. At first everyone thought 10 minutes per person, but she clarify to say 10 minutes total talking time on a topic. She wanted to keep it to 10 minutes or increase it if necessary on Council vote. On number 3 under Public Comments in the Introduction Ordinance she wanted to amend it by taken out the Chair, and add The Council by majority vote. She said this Council has no form of dictation at all.

Chairman asked she wanted to amend the Ordinance and she said yes. They still wasn't sure on the time of the public comments. and Councilwoman clarify she meant 10 minutes on the item, total.

Parish President expressed we need to allow pubic comments and the law is fairly vague on how much time, but it's according to the Council and Parish President expressed what time they do decide to set is fine with him. Parish President, express there are times, like Mr. Paige stated will occur after the agenda is set, and we hadn't had time to think to amended the agenda it kind of hurt you, you have two choices to amend it later or you say we have public comments on all the agenda items, and then at the end you can have a Public comments for those that are not agenda items. So people who's there for a agenda item do not have to wait all night to talk.

Councilman Paige, said right now we must add all new items at the beginning, that adding amendments to the agenda. We are suppose to help people. We must not pick and choose items on the agenda. We don't need to strict people from talking.

Pastor Steve Harris stated they school board has three minutes and they can amend the agenda by the majority of the members, and then Councilwoman Morrow wanted to what does the Home Rule Charter states, she didn't think the Chair would not have all the authority to that, it must be all the Council members to make that decision. Normal procedures someone set the rules, Parish President stated on this but asked the attorney to speak on this matter.

Attorney Benjamin, stated under statute 4214B allow a public comments on an agenda items. This mean the item must already be on the agenda for the public to discuss. That's why a notice is given to what is being on the agenda. The second half on the statue states The governing body may adopt reasonable rules and restriction regarding such comment periods. The Governing body has the right to make reasonable restrictions concerning the public comments.

After this was said, Councilwoman Hoover commented by saying this is why she wanted under #3 to remove chair and add Council by majority vote and to remove #4 completely. Suspension of this Policy.

At this time everyone is confused about the Introduction Ordinance and the one up for adoption.

Chairman Russell Rachal stated #4 was removed by the recommendation of the District Attorney's Office and Councilman Paige, stated if it's for the body to decided why they wasn't informed. Councilwoman Hoover, stated again the Council didn't have any input in this Ordinance. If as a body had input on this, all of this wouldn't be going on tonight.

Councilman Paige, stated this was taking up time, so he motion to table it, because it had two different ones, he told Chairman Russell Rachal, the District Attorney's Office told you to take items off, and let all information be together. The Council clerk explained what happened, the Councilwoman Hoover was reading from the Ordinance that was Introduced in April's meeting and after under the advisement of the District Attorney Office to Chairman Rachal he gave the Clerk revisions to the Introduction Ordinance. Chairman Rachal stated he where did she get it that he didn't give it to the Clerk, that she typed it. The clerk informed Chairman Rachal, she typed it, but the correction came from him and the District Attorney's Office. They made the changes, the changes was given to her and she typed up the current one, which she sent out. Chairman Rachal, said he didn't do it, but stated early that changes was made from advisement from the District Attorney's Office. At this time there were arguments on this matter, and then Councilman de Graffernied wanted to know about Parliamentary procedures concerning Public Hearing rules and Attorney Benjamin explained and Councilman Paige explained when it comes to something like this the public has the right to come to the podium to speak on it. Attorney Benjamin stated nothing in the law that restricts a person from commenting to agenda items.

With that being said the relevantly actions were taken:

On motion by Councilman Chris Paige, duly seconded by Councilwoman Patsy Ward Hoover, 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:

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

Motion Passed

Chairman Russell Rachal stated the next item on the agenda is council consider adopting Ordinance 004-2016 to transfer from General Fund to Hwy Fund the savings from the new agreement between the Parish of Natchitoches and the Natchitoches Parish Detention Center/Sheriff Office.

On motion by Councilman Doug de Graffernied, duly seconded by Councilman Rodney Bedgood, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby adopt Ordinance 004-2016 to transfer from General Fund to Hwy Fund the savings from the new agreement between the Parish of Natchitoches and the Natchitoches Parish Detention Center/Sheriff Office.

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

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

Motion Passed

Chairman stated the next item on the agenda is Council to consider adopting Ordinance 005-2016 to establish a policy for the order of business to be followed by the Parish Council at Parish Council meetings, including the receipt of comments from the public concerning matters to be considered by the Parish council and other subjects.

On motion by Councilman Chris Paige, duly seconded by Councilwoman Patsy Ward Hoover, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby table Ordinance 005-2016 to establish a policy for the order of business to be followed by the Parish Council at Parish Council meetings, including the receipt of comments from the public concerning matters to be considered by the Parish council and other subjects.

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

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

Motion Passed

Chairman Rachal stated the next item on the agenda to discuss was to consider authorizing the Parish Highway Department to scarify selected deteriorated paved roads throughout the Parish.

Mr. Verret stated we have paved roads that can't be maintained as paved roads. We, the Highway Department have heard comments after comments about pot holes in the streets such as Payne and Pardee, we can go on about a dozen other roads in the same situation. The Highway Department also heard comments in the past about the Cold Mix Patching is ineffective we understand and realize that. The Highway department is trying to use it's very scarce resources they have to address situations that is beyond what we can do with cold mix patching. Over the last months the Highway Department has done 32 roads with the cold mix and pot hole patching and still have 37 roads on the list. and several roads from the 32 that was done, needs to be done again. The Highway Department is fighting a losing battle trying to maintain these paved roads as paved roads. The logical conclusion we need to make is to make some of these roads agitate road that it can be easily maintained. Last year we have scarify a portion of four (4) roads and they have perform well to this point, we feel that we can maintain and scarify these other roads to make them decent gravel roads than doing cold mix

patching on the roads that's throwing money away. Mr. Verret want permission to do selective roads, all can not be done this year we like to do a few more this year. The Highway Department done a part of Sisson Road, but stopped because it was a petition for them to stop, some residents who signed the petition last year has come to ask them to please scarify the rest of the road, because the portion they done last year is the best part of the road right now.

Councilwoman Hoover, express she thinks we're moving backwards instead of forward. It's going to create some problems, when it rains, you're going to have people to have problems getting in and out, Are you going to maintain these roads, once you go back to the agitate forms. The Highway Department is having problems now maintaining roads. Will the people have the say, to say if they want their roads turned into a dirt road?

Mr. Verret stated, He agreed it's going backwards in a matter of speaking, from a quote paved road, to an unpaved road, honestly, it's a stretch to call some of these roads paved roads. Mr. Verret say he wouldn't classify them as dirt roads. If its was a viral paved road, then yes we're going backwards, but these roads are not viral paved roads, they are failed roads.

Councilwoman Hoover asked again, will the resident have a choice to have their roads scarified? Mr. Verret answered there is a number of ways we can do this, they can seek residents input on specific roads prior to doing it, they will have to establish some criteria for the roads to give to residents.

Councilman Paige, stated this will be Mr. Verret's recommendation on which roads you would like to scarify. On that note, some people tells him that when you put the white Winn rock down you have to take it up in order to go back to resurface it.

Mr. Verret most of the roads have deteriorated to the point they can not put cold mix on these roads. We need to maintain these roads with agitate material, which is Winn Rock, and yes you have to remove the Winn rock, once you want to pave the road again. Black rock is closed down, they don't have anymore material in the Pit in Montgomery. We need to scarify which creates the agitate we need to make the agitate surface. Its the first step to do the reconstruction of the road later on.

Councilman Paige stated you're going to be the one who makes the decision on which roads to be the best road to be done and when people start coming complaining about it them, you, Mr. Verret, will be the person to see if the Council approves this. Mr. Paige stated he's not for going backwards. This is going in the wrong direction for a progressive Parish.

Mr. Verret gave a example on replacing things that are old and needs to be replace. He stated that 95% of paved roads they're beyond maintenance they need to be maintained. State Capital Outlay funds have been taken away. If we can convert some roads in some decent agitate roads, we have reduce some of the problems.

Mr. Verret seconds stated there a number of ways they can solicit public input on this. There is one way to post a Public Notice advising the citizens which roads which will be up to be scarified, but we need to have some criteria for evaluating it.

At this time Councilman Paige, stated the public is out there they need to know about what the residents feel about this process.

Mr. Clint Payne stated Mr. Verret, is doing the first step by scarifying the roads, this is the first step. The Council job is to tell the people about your road will be torn up to get a better road or it will remain the same until some money fall from the sky. He feels he like the first step will be done already when some money do come available to fix the roads. Mr. Payne states just make the road better than it is.

Mr. Hodgeson said if they come to scarify his road him and other's are going to make their form their own Parish.

Parish President stated people who oppose it, then they will not be forced to do it, if the majority of the residents wants it, then if it falls in the criteria it will be looked at. The people need to be contacted about anything that goes on their roads. If people travel on the road on a daily basis, they have a concern in the matter also.

Chairman Rachal stated when residents come up with problems on there road the finger is pointed to Mr. Verret, if the Council doesn't give the Highway Department the authority to use their professional discretion on what needs to be done, How are they going to be accountable for not getting fix? If people don't want it done then how they're going to grip because they're road is not getting fixed. Chairman Rachal stated we have Department heads in place we're asking for a plan, he's providing a plan, and now we're going against the plan, to let the community decide which roads needs to get fixed or not.

Councilman Paige, stated Mr. Verret, you can advertise for a meeting on a road, state which specific road for that time and let the people know that we'll going to discussing this road to be torn up to make into a gravel road. Then those people for or against is coming out to express their concerns both ways. This will determine the selection process.

Chairman Russell Rachal, if the public says no then there road will be in the same condition it was at first, he wasn't saying they didn't have any input in it. He's asking for the cooperation in getting these roads where they need to be, this is what he was saying.

Mr. Verret stated he discovered that in public service those people who are for it is not as vocal and attend these meetings. It's going to be those against it. This when we get back to the criteria. How do you sort this out.

Councilman Bedgood wanted to know as a Council, do the Council member do I have the authority to tell Mr. Verret if you can't do a road?

Attorney Benjamin answered Mr. Bedgood question, by saying according to the Home Rule Charter, if it's a major structural change being done to the roads, then it must be done by Council's approval like everything else. A total re-overhaul it must be done by Council, but everyday managerial decisions Mr. Verret doesn't need Council approval. Yes the Council must be involved in a major structural of a road Yes, the Council have the right, but everyday management decision No, the Council doesn't have to be involved.

Carolyn Roy wanted to know if Mr. Verret is asking the Council for authority to do Scarify the roads, and Mr. Verret stated yes.

Pastor Steve Harris, wanted to know from Mr. Verret would this make it easier for the Highway Department to manage the roads if it's returned to the agitate state of a gravel road. Pastor Harris stated if the money does comes and they can actual do the roads, Are he going to pave the roads? They want the roads done right than to half do the roads and waste money. Nature made most of the decisions in this matter. The Lord is the only thing Payne Subdivision residents have when it comes to roads.

Councilman Bedgood, told Pastor Harris, they can hold off to see if they will get the Capital Outlay money, they can use that money if it's put back to fix their roads. Mr. Verret told Councilman Bedgood, those roads that were submitted for funding they are not going to include those roads for scarifying just those roads that has nothing on the horizon for them. Mr. Verret stated again the issue keeps coming up by the other bridge in Payne Subdivision, they are monitoring this bridge on a daily basis. The concern on this bridge is a loss of material erosion around the side walls and they're putting a plan of action to go in to correct this, the erosion problems. The structure itself is fine just erosion issues.

At this time Councilman Paige, ask Mr. Verret does he at this time have a plan of action on how he's planning on informing the residents if their road is chosen for scarifying? Councilman Paige just wanted to know they are going about this.

Mr. Verret stated he need to know from the Council to tell what percentage of the prospective citizen on the roads that you're going to consider on deciding whether the road is going to be done or not. Whether posting a sign, a Public Notice or a Public Hearing, he wants input from the Council as the Council needs to consider as enough of a opposition of a considered road to see whether it will be done or not.

Chairman Russell Rachal stated, what Mr. Paige stated earlier you can have four to five 5 percent of the people don't want it to change but that road is a through road that is serving more people you have to look at who that road is serving. Mr. Rachal thinks we need to set something in place, you have to "crack the egg before you make an omelet" we have to something, we have to stop tabling everything we have to take a stand to get these roads passable. He feels as the Governing body we owe something to the people so they can pass it along.

Councilwoman Hoover stated they need a plan, but she agrees with the Chairman. Councilman Paige, stated this night was the only time he heard about a percentage, maybe he told the Chairman about the percentage, but the Chairman answered no. tabling is not something bad, it gives you a chance further discussion and to gather need information about something.

Mr. Nick Verret asked Councilwoman Hoover she continue to talk about a plan what details she's wanting. Councilwoman stated the Chairman said they keep tabling things, but we were asked to come up with something for that we can present to the public whether it be a percentage, or public notice. Mr. Verret said you're asking for the Council to have time to come up with something. Councilwoman Hoover said yes. Mr. Verret wanted only to get clarity.

Councilman Bedgood wanted to give a Public Notice, he said that's just him and we come back next month to make a decision on. Give everyone a chance to look at. Councilwoman Patsy Ward Hoover said she would offer to be looked at later and Councilman Bedgood second it.

Councilwoman Morrow, stated one thing she like about that Mr. Verret stated to have a survey, that's an excellent idea to see how the people thinks about this and get it back to him, then you would have a lead way of what you're trying to do.

On motion by Councilwoman Patsy Ward Hoover, duly seconded by Councilman Rodney Bedgood, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby table authorizing the Parish Highway Department to scarify selected deteriorated paved roads throughout the Parish.

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

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

Motion Passed

Chairman Rachal stated the next agenda item was for Council to consider approving the Parish to submit a request for the 1.8% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) increase for all Head Start employees.

Ms. Debbie Miley gave out a budget, and announcement was given to the Council about the increase. The Federal Government has issued a 1.8 one time Cost of Living Adjustment for Head Start. it has to be in by June 15,2016 so the Council would have to approve her to submit this for the Head Start employees.

Councilwoman Hoover said she knows its Federal but she wanted to make one comment about it and she knows what she says doesn't matter because it's a federal increase. She just wanted to let the Council know that her people in her District is saying that there is people in administration here are going to be receiving that increase also. Ms. Miley stated we are also part of Head Start. Councilwoman Hoover stated Head Start needs an accountant of their own. Ms. Miley stated if they would budget it they can have it. People are saying people in this office is getting extra money and this is why we're having problems getting things that needs to be done because the salaries here are so

phenomenal in administration (courthouse) and you are steady getting them and we're telling them we don't have any money. There are some people not all of the people is getting these raise, just certain people.

Parish President, stated that Head Start had an accountant. The cost of this accountant was much higher than the people on his staff that is serving in this capacity. We had problems with getting accounting information, because of the structure of the organization, we did find problems on the books which was different with the books at Head Start compared to the Courthouse books. We found that having one organization responsible and accountable for Head Start and Parish accounting has resolve this problem. This has eliminated the High Salary Account from Head Start to a savings of \$30,000 last year to be used for other items in the program. He appreciate the concerns, but if we have people in the Courthouse that can do the work effectively and cost less, then he feels it's a good move.

Councilwoman Hoover stated there has been numerous of problems have occurred right here in our accounting office that had come from Dallas that needed corrected, Head Start needs there own accountant right there with Head Start because they know the requirements of Dallas restrictions.

Parish President, stated Councilwoman can go through the Head Start budget and tell him what she wanted cut out to get this Accountant he would consider it. Councilwoman Hoover, stated the president is being vicious, she know you know We will not go and cut anything from head start, if we do any cutting it will be from the Courthouse administration that other person is not getting.

Ms. Debbie Miley stated the last twenty years she has been in the Police Jury and Parish Government Head Start has always paid salaries of people in Administration at the Courthouse. And she was in office previously Administration took a cut in pay for one year due to Head Start overspending that was prior to her doing anything with them. Councilwoman asked will she take another cut, Ms. Miley said No ma'am because she didn't over spend.

Councilman Bedgood wanted to ask a question, have everybody got their cost of living raise yet? Parish President answered, No given the increase at this time. When it was adopted last year is would be given at the end of the second quarter of this year, he had taken the position of delay to this raise to get a better handle of where we at budget wise, its a question of timing but he will still give the raise. With all the activities that is going with the flooding, its still in the budget the money is there and I hope when it does occur the people would not say here they go giving raises this was a program increase it's in the budget and it's still there.

Mr. Bedgood wanted to know when the Head Start employees that works in administration, that will get the Federal cost of living increase then they'll turn around and get the other increase from the Parish Government, the Parish President and with other stated no.

Councilman Paige, wanted to let everyone know Head Start money is Federal Money you can't fix roads with this money, this money has nothing to do with Parish Government Budget. Apples is Apples and Oranges is Oranges, this is Federal money, let's move on.

On motion by Councilwoman Patsy Ward Hoover, duly seconded by Chairman Russell Rachal, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby approving the Parish to submit a request for the 1.8% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) increase for all Head Start employees.

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

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

Motion Passed

Chairman Russell Rachal stated the next item on the agenda is for Council to consider a Proclamation making May 21, 2016 Ophelia "Tootsie" Dumars Day.

On motion by Councilwoman Patsy Ward Hoover, duly seconded by Councilman Rodney Bedgood, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby adopt a Proclamation making May 21, 2016 Ophelia "Tootsie" Dumars Day.

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

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

Motion Passed

Chairman Rachal then recognized Mr. Nick Verret, Director of Public Works, who presented his report. Mr. Verret wanted to talk about one thing, he said his Director's report was given in the package. He wanted to express the pass flooding which happened residents are calling about their roads, and he's asking for everyone to be patient with him, he will come out to check the roads it will take them awhile, they have been operating with one tandem dump truck that all they had and been down to one pot hole patching crew, haven't had the inmate crew for the past two months. It's going to take time, many people are losing patient, he understands, but the needs are great out there. Two new trucks that was approved will be here in the next several days. Like Mr. Smith stated earlier we need to pray for rain to stop. Just asking residents to be patient, they are doing their best they with what they have.

Councilman Bedgood wanted to know about the Readheimer Compactor station, Mr. Verret stated getting very close right now they are waiting on SWEPTCO to come hook up the electricity we got everything laid out for the hiring of the attendants, soon as they get that we'll be soon to go.

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 77 households totaling \$27,100.00

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

202 individuals.

Next distribution date May 26, 2016

Commodity provided food items to:

December: 146 families.

Next distribution date May 26, 2016

HEADSTART:

August.	Attendance	87.5%
September	Attendance	86.33%
October	Attendance	88.84%
November	Attendance	88.90%
December	Attendance	84.98%
January	Attendance	86.62%
February	Attendance	85.18%
March	Attendance	84.17% (Inclement weather-flooding)
April	Attendance	85.77%

CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM (CACFP):

- Number of days meals served-20
- Average Daily Participation (ADA)
- Meals: Breakfast-5,017,ADA=251
- Lunch 5,017,-ADA=251
- Snack 5,017,-ADA=251
- Total Reimbursement Request \$29,136.33

Head Start Announcements:

- Head Start Comprehensive Services and School Readiness (CSSR) monitoring review-Week of April 25-29 2016.
- May 18 & 19, Head Start Family Fun Day
- May 20, 2016, HS Graduation at MLK Recreation Center 1:00p.m.
- Cost of Living Allowance (COLA)-1.8% OCS/HS 4

SENIOR COMPANION PROGRAM (SCP)

- 47 SCP volunteers
(4 on waiting list)
- 2860 volunteer hours - \$8,677.42
- 4,963 miles
- 58 clients

Chairman Rachal then recognizes Ms. Debbie Miley, Parish Treasurer, Ms. Miley discussed her reports giving status updates on the 2016 Active Bookings for Inmates & Outstanding Coroners/Inmate Expenses.

Ms. Miley also went gave out the American Express Card purchases of Head Start and the CCFP Grant, the 641 Head Start report, and 643 Head Start report and 644 Head Start report.

Ms. Miley also gave out a handout on the 2016-2017 COLA Revision, Head Start Grant. and she gave out Head Start Notice of Award beginning March 1, 2016 through February 28, 2017.

May 16, 2016

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

CAPITAL OUTLAY UPDATE:

The committee kept the following projects in HB2:

Coco Bed Road	\$280,000
Courthouse Security	\$480,000
Old River Bridge	\$610,000
OCS	\$ 6,000

Coco Bed Road Improvements:

The Parish has continued to request Facility Planning and Control to amend its decision rejecting any variance from DOTD design standards for the design of Parish roads. To date, we have not been successful in obtaining the waiver we requested. We will continue to seek the variances we need to proceed with our local projects.

FLOOD DISASTER RECOVERY:

The Parish is continuing working closely with GOHSEP and FEMA in the disaster recovery efforts throughout the Parish. Due to the significant amount of damage to Parish roads, the budget for the Highway department is under tremendous pressure and some adjustments will be required as we go forward through the year.

The official recovery "Kickoff Meeting" with FEMA and GOHSEP was held on April 20, 2016. The process for the documentation and filing of reimbursement requests was reviewed and the Parish submitted data containing a preliminary list of all emergency repairs made to date and the recovery work being done.

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

On motion by Councilman Rodney Bedgood, duly seconded by Councilman Chris Paige, 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:	Councilman Paige
Ayes:	Councilman de Graffernied
Ayes:	Councilwoman Hoover
Ayes:	Councilman Rachal

Motion Passed

Attest:

Russell Rachal, Chairman

Sheryl Frederick,
Council Clerk