

PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATCHITOCHE PARISH COUNCIL  
PARISH OF NATCHITOCHE, STATE OF LOUISIANA  
TAKEN A REGULAR MEETING HELD, MONDAY,

September 16, 2013

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, September 16, 2013 at five-thirty (5:30) o'clock p.m.

The Parish of Natchitoches was then convened as the governing authority by Chairman Rodney Bedgood 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 Councilman Aaron Johnson.

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

There was absent: None.

Chairman Bedgood then asked if there were any visitors who would like to speak. He then recognized Mr. Ralph Ingram who were also representing Mr. Bernard Johnson, whom were absent due to work obligations. Mr. Ingram told the Council he would like to donate Lot 226 in Payne Subdivision for a Play ground/Park for the residents of that community. Mr. Ingram stated he was approached by Mr. Bernard and after a lengthy discussion with him he felt Mr. Bernard had a good idea and plan to help the community of Payne Subdivision.

Mr. Bedgood then recognized Mr. Louie Bernard, Clerk of Court. Mr. Bernard informed the Council that Ward 3 Precinct 1 needed to be changed from the old Marthaville Community Center to the Marthaville Heritage Society Building, which was a better polling place than the previous building that was now closed.

After Mr. Louie Bernard's report the following action was taken:

On motion by Mr. Johnson, duly seconded by Mr. Salter, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby amend the agenda to add adopting a resolution changing the polling place from the Old Marthaville Community Center to the Marthaville Heritage Society Building.

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

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

Motion Passed

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 adopt a resolution changing the polling place from the Old Marthaville Community Center to the Marthaville Heritage Society Building.

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 Bedgood then recognized Mrs. Dollie Mahoney, Tax Assessor. Before she spoke, Chairman Bedgood stated that they should open up the public hearing to hear any and all protests and complaints on values of property for assessment purposes.

On motion by Mr. Chris Paige, duly seconded by Mr. John Salter, that the Natchitoches Parish Government Council sitting as a "Board of Review" opened the public hearing to hear any and all protests or complaints on values of property for assessment purposes fixed by the Natchitoches Parish Tax Assessor.

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

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

Motion Passed

Since there were no protests or complaints on values of property for assessment purposes fixed by the Natchitoches Parish Tax Assessor, the following action was taken:

On motion by Mr. Chris Paige, duly seconded by Mr. John Salter, that the Natchitoches Parish Government, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby close the public hearing

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

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

Motion Passed

President Bedgood then recognized Mrs. Dollie Mahoney, Tax Assessor, who presented the total assessed value for Natchitoches Parish.

Since there was no other visitors, Chairman Bedgood then asked were there any public Comments.

Public comments: Mr. Brian Miller from Fire District 4, expressed his feelings and concern about Fire District 4. He wanted everyone to know what he had done for this Fire District and that he wanted to remain on the Fire District 4 Board. Chairman Bedgood informed Mr. Miller that he will be given an opportunity to speak on this item when it comes up for discussion on the agenda.

On motion by Mr. Chris Paige, duly seconded by Mr. Aaron Johnson, 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, August 19, 2013.

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

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

Motion Passed

Chairman Bedgood then stated that the next item on the agenda was to consider adopting resolutions confirming the appointment to the following Boards/Commissions. The Natchitoches Parish Planning and Zoning Commission

Parish President Rick Nowlin asked the Council if they would table this item until the next meeting, due to the fact, he could not confirm it with the chosen person. Relative to this, the following action was taken:

On motion by Mr. John Salter, duly seconded by Ricky LaCour, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby table the confirmation of the appointment to the Natchitoches Parish Planning and Zoning Commission.

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

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

Motion Passed

Chairman Bedgood then stated that the next item on the agenda was to consider adopting resolutions confirming the appointment to the following Boards/Commissions. The Natchitoches Parish Fire District 4 Board.

At this given time, Mr. Nowlin gave his recommendation for new appointments to the Fire District 4 Board, he recommended Mr. Mark Custis to replace Mr. Doug Masters and Mr. Eddie Dowden to replace Mr. Brian Miller. There were several members of the Fire District 4 Board including the Chief, Mr. James (J.D.) Bonds, who expressed his and others who was not satisfied with the recommendations given by Parish President Rick Nowlin. The former members of the board felt that Mr. Nowlin was putting people on the board that was not entitle to be on the board, due to their distance to the fire department and other major issues. He stated that those members that are being replaced were hard workers and they have done a great deal for the fire station and

they did not feel they should be replaced. Chief Bonds expressed Fire District 4 rating was a 10 and Mr. Brian Miller and others helped to improve the rating over the past years by getting the rating to a six (6). Councilman Salter stood to let Mr. Bonds and other members of the council know, Mr. Bonds wasn't telling the whole truth about the Fire District 4 situation. After a lengthy discussion between Mr. Nowlin, The Council, and the Fire District 4 members the following action were taken:

On motion by Mr. John Salter, duly seconded by Mr. Chris Paige, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby adopt the resolution confirming the appointments of Mr. Mark Custis to replace Mr. Doug Masters and Mr. Eddie Dowden to replace Mr. Brian Miller to be appointed on the Fire District 4 Board.

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

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

Motion Passed

Chairman Bedgood then stated that 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. An ordinance reducing the speed limit on, Emmanuel Road, to 25 mph. for the segment of the road beginning at a point that is approximately 2.52 miles south of its junction with LA-1 at Cloutierville and proceeding south and easterly a distance of approximately 3.60 miles to a point approximately 1.41 miles west of its junction with State Route LA-490 near Chopin.
- b. An ordinance amending the 2013 Consolidated Budget.

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

Motion Passed

Mr. Nick Verret gave his reports on the status on Emmanuel Road Ordinance and Ms. Debbie Miley gave her report on the 2013 Consolidated budget with discussion among Council members, the following action was taken:

On motion by Mr. Johnson, duly seconded by Mr. Ricky LaCour, 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 Johnson	X__	___	__-	___
Councilman LaCour	__X	___	___	___
Councilman Bedgood	__X	___	__-	___
Councilman Paige	__X	___	___	___
Councilman Salter	__X	___	__-	___

Motion Passed

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

On motion by Mr. Johnson, duly seconded by Mr. LaCour, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby adopt Ordinance #10 reducing the speed limit on the Emmanuel Road for the segment of the road beginning at a point that is approximately 2.52 miles south of its junction with LA-1 at Cloutierville and proceeding south and easterly adistance of approximately 3.60 miles to a point approximately 1.41 miles west of its junction with State Route LA-490 near Chopin.

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

	Aye	Nay	Absent	Abstain
Councilman Johnson	__X	___	__-	___
Councilman LaCour	__X	___	___	___
Councilman Bedgood	__X	___	__-	___
Councilman Paige	__X	___	___	___
Councilman Salter	__X	___	__-	___

Motion Passed

On motion by Mr. Johnson, duly seconded by Mr. LaCour, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does adopt Ordinance #12 amending the 2013 Consolidated Budget.

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

	Aye	Nay	Absent	Abstain
Councilman Johnson	__X	___	__-	___
Councilman LaCour	__X	___	___	___
Councilman Bedgood	__X	___	__-	___
Councilman Paige	__X	___	___	___
Councilman Salter	__X	___	__-	___

Motion Passed

Chairman Bedgood stated the next item on the agenda was to adopt a resolution authorizing the Parish President to submit a request to LGAP transferring fund dedicated to the Vowels Mills polling place relocation to the Marthaville Heritage Society remodeling project for \$2,000.

On motion by Mr. Ricky LaCour, duly seconded by Mr. Aaron Johnson, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby adopt a resolution authorizing the Parish President to submit a request to Louisiana Government Assistance Program (LGAP) transferring funds dedicated to the Vowels Mills polling place

relocation to the Marthaville Heritage Society remodeling Project for \$2,000.

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

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

Motion Passed

Chairman Bedgood then stated the next item on the agenda was to Introduce and Ordinance raising the posted load limit on the Clark Road Bridge over Bayou Bourbeaux to "15-25", that is , 15 tons for two-axle vehicles and 25 tons for multi-axle vehicles.

On motion by Mr. Chris Paige, duly seconded by Mr. John Salter, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby Introduce and Ordinance raising the posted load limit on the Clark Road Bridge over Bayou Bourbeaux to "15-25", that is , 15 tons for two-axle vehicles and 25 tons for multi-axle vehicles.

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

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

Motion Passed

Chairman Bedgood then stated that the next item on the agenda was to consider adopting a resolution making final acceptance of the Cedar Grove CDBG Street Improvement.

Relative to this, a short discussion was done on the next projects after this completed finalization, the following action was taken:

On motion by Mr. John Salter, duly seconded by Mr. Chris Paige, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby adopt a resolution making final acceptance of the Cedar Grove CDBG Street Improvement.

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

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

Motion Passed

Chairman Bedgood then recognized Mr. Nick Verret, Director of Public Works, who presented his monthly report and reminded the Council to choose five (5) highest-priority roads in his district based on his personal observations and input from his constituents that needs improvement. Each of the twenty five (25) roads thus identified will be evaluated in the same manner as will be utilized in the development

of the Parish-wide Road Priority System. Thus, this effort will serve as the starting of the Road Priority Program.

Relative to Payne Subdivision, GNF Management was selected as the consultant to provide grant administration services and Cothren, Graff, and Smoak was selected to provide engineering services for submittal of the LCDBG application. Safety improvements have been started and new signs are being put up on local parish roads

FEMA reimbursements are being received and the parish has received a total of \$75,949 in additional Federal reimbursements. Also, the parish has just received a payment of \$283,476 which is the 25% State share of the reimbursement requests for which the parish have already received payment of the 75% Federal share.

Mr. Nick Verret is asking the Council to have a Public Hearing for the Solid Waste Collection and Disposal before the next Council meeting which is set for October 21, 2013. The Council has agreed to have the Public Hearing on Thursday, October 10, 2013. Mr. Verret also gave statuses of some bridges. Some bridges will have to close for one day for repairs, the public will be notified of these closures.

Chairman Bedgood then recognizes Ms. Sharon Harris, OCS/Head Start Executive Director, who stated she didn't have anything to discussed and ask if there were any questions for her.

Chairman Bedgood then recognizes Ms. Debbie Miley, Parish Treasurer, she made us aware that she needed to add to the agenda the Introduction of the 2014 Budget.

On motion by Mr. Aaron Johnson, duly seconded by Mr. Ricky LaCour, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in special and legal session convened, does hereby amend the agenda to add Introduction of an Ordinance for the 2014 Budget.

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

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 adopt an Ordinance to Introduce the 2014 Budget.

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

Ms. Miley then went on to discuss her reports giving status updates on the Budget, and Inmates and Outstanding Coroners/Inmate Expenses. Ms. Miley also gave her report on the Consolidated Budget. Ms. Miley also

asked to do a Public Hearing for the 2014 Budget 30 minutes before the regular Board Meeting on October 21, 2013.

Chairman Bedgood then recognized Parish President Rick Nowlin who reported on the Water standards for our state. The Parish has hired one sanitarian for our Health Unit. She is still in training and is doing a half day in Sabine for training and a half day in Natchitoches. And the second sanitarian will begin next month.

The Parish President gave updates on all the upcoming festivals that will be held in the Parish of Natchitoches. He also stated that his office is trying to update all the Commissions and Boards to make sure that they have everyone on those boards current without expired terms, he also working on the Fire Districts also to get those board members current also.

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

On motion by Mr. Aaron Johnson, duly seconded by Mr. 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:

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

Motion Passed

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rodney Bedgood, Chairman

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