

PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATCHITOCHE PARISH COUNCIL
PARISH OF NATCHITOCHE, STATE OF LOUISIANA
TAKEN A REGULAR MEETING HELD, TUESDAY,
January 21, 2014
5:30 p.m.

The Natchitoches Parish Council met in regular and legal session in the Council Board Room of the Natchitoches Parish Courthouse, on Tuesday, January 21, 2014 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 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.

There was absent: None.

Chairman Bedgood then stated the next item on the agenda were the election of a new chairman and vice-chairman. Councilman Chris Paige motion to open the floor for nominations and Councilman Ricky LaCour seconded it. Councilman Rodney Bedgood nominated Councilman Aaron Johnson for Chairman and Councilman Ricky LaCour seconded it and then the floor was closed for nominations. Councilman Aaron Johnson is the new Chairman for the Natchitoches Parish Council for 2014. Councilman Chris Paige then motion to open the floor for nominations for Vice-Chairman and Councilman LaCour seconded. Mr. Chris Paige nominated Councilman Ricky LaCour for Vice-Chairman, Councilman Ricky LaCour nominated Councilman Chris Paige and Councilman Paige declined and then the floor was closed for nominations and Councilman Ricky Lacour is the Vice-Chairman for the Natchitoches Parish Council for 2014.

Chairman Johnson then asked if there were any visitors who would like to speak. There were none.

There were no public comments.

On motion by Mr. John Salter, duly seconded by Mr. Ricky LaCour, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby adopt the minutes of the regular meeting of the Natchitoches Parish Council held Monday, December 16, 2013.

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

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

Motion Passed

The Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, needs to change the next meeting date of the Natchitoches Parish Council from February 17, 2014 which is a holiday, Presidents' Day to another date for Council meeting.

On motion by Mr. Rodney Bedgood, duly seconded by Mr. Chris Paige, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby approved the Natchitoches Parish Council regular meeting change to February 18, 2014 due to the holiday of Presidents' Day.

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

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

Motion Passed

Chairman Johnson then stated that the next item on the agenda was to consider adopting a resolution confirming the re-appointment of Mr. William F. Rutledge to the Natchitoches Parish Fire District 6 Board.

On motion by Mr. John Salter, duly seconded by Mr. Ricky LaCour, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby adopt the resolution confirming the re-appointment of Mr. William F. Rutledge to the Natchitoches Parish Fire District 6 Board.

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 Johnson then stated that the next item on the agenda was to consider adopting a resolution confirming the re-appointment of Ms. Regina Keyser for to the Natchitoches Parish Housing Authority for a 5 years term.

On motion by Mr. Chris Paige, duly seconded by Mr. John Salter, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby adopt the resolution confirming the re-appointment of Ms. Regina Keyser to the Natchitoches Parish Housing Authority.

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 Paige	<u> X </u>	___	___	___

Motion Passed

Chairman Johnson then stated that the next item on the agenda was to consider adopting a resolution confirming changing the status of Dr. Leland Scroggin from member to alternate member and Mr. Rick Nowlin from alternate member to member in the El Camino East/West Commission.

On motion by Mr. Rodney Bedgood, duly seconded by Mr. Chris Paige, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby adopt the resolution confirming the changing the status of Dr. Leland Scroggin from member to alternate member and Mr.

Rick Nowlin from alternate member to member in the El Camino East/West Commission.

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 Johnson then stated that the next item on the agenda was consider the Introduction of Ordinance #02-2014 for renewal of Gulf American Cable for setting the Franchise fee to be paid by the above entities providing cable or video service within the Parish's unincorporated limits under a state-granted franchise authority and otherwise providing with respect thereto.

On motion by Mr. John Salter, duly seconded by Mr. Ricky LaCour, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby Introduce Ordinance #02-2014 for renewal of Gulf American Cable for setting the franchise fee to be paid by the above entities providing cable or video service within the Parish's unincorporated limits under a state-granted franchise authority and otherwise providing with respect thereto.

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 Johnson then stated that the next item on the agenda was consider the Introduction of Ordinance #03-2014 for renewal of Red River Cable TV Company for setting the franchise fee to be paid by the above entities providing cable or video service within the Parish's unincorporated limits under a state-granted franchise authority and otherwise providing with respect thereto.

On motion by Mr. Chris Paige, duly seconded by Mr. Ricky LaCour, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby Introduce Ordinance #03-2014 for renewal of Red River Cable TV Company for setting the franchise fee to be paid by the above entities providing cable or video service within the Parish's unincorporated limits under a state-granted franchise authority and otherwise providing with respect thereto.

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 Johnson then stated that the next item on the agenda was consider the Introduction of Ordinance #04-2014 for renewal of Buford Media Group for setting the franchise fee to be paid by the above entities providing cable or video service within the Parish's unincorporated limits under a state-granted franchise authority and otherwise providing with respect thereto.

On motion by Mr. Chris Paige, duly seconded by Mr. Rodney Bedgood, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby Introduce Ordinance #04-2014 for renewal of Buford Media Group for setting the franchise fee to be paid by the above entities providing cable or video service within the Parish's unincorporated limits under a state-granted franchise authority and otherwise providing with respect thereto.

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 Johnson then stated that the next item on the agenda was consider adopting a Resolution for entering into a Cooperative Agreement by and between the Red River Waterway District (Bike Trail) and the Parish of Natchitoches.

Mr. Nick Verret gave a brief review on this item and he stated he addressed the Red River Waterway with a request for funding assistance for the installation of warning signs and pavement markings on the Tauzin Island Road, in order to improve the safety of bicyclists who utilize this road. The cost estimate for this work is \$23,700.00 that will not come out of the Parishes budget. After a brief discussion on this item the following action was done.

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 a Resolution for entering into a Cooperative Agreement by and between the Red River Waterway District (Bike Trail) and the Parish of Natchitoches.

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 Johnson 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: The Ordinance #23-2013 to amend previous Police Jury action relative to the length of King Hill Road, Parish Road No. 442 and to correct the distance in the Parish Road System on the King Hill Road.

Mr. Nick Verret gave a summary of the previous decisions that were made in 1996 on the King Hill Road, that he felt was incorrect and he's asking the Council to approve amending the distance to the correct distance of was taken out of the Parish Road System by the former Natchitoches Parish Police Jury. At this time Mr. Pat Todd stood up and stated that he has 52 Acres he owned west side of to Interstate. He stated the Culvert is located on the West side of Highway beyond the RV Park. He disagrees with a portion of the ruling that Mr. Verret had stated. Mr. Todd stated that the Messengers property was the only property that was asked to be removed, the Anderson's and others didn't ask for any removable of their road. Mr. Todd stated with the measurements that Mr. Verret had done now is still incorrect and still a mile is not accountable for. He said he and the other owners don't care if the Parish takes the road out of the Road System, but they will like for the Parish to pay for the culvert to be fixed before they take it out. Mr. Verret disagrees with this request, due to the fact this road has not been taken care of by the Parish since 1996 and no maintenance have been done on this road.

After a very lengthy discussion on this matter between the Council and Mr. Pat Todd the public hearing was closed and the following actions were taken on this matter.

On motion by Mr. John Salter, 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 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

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 #23-2013 to amend previous Police Jury action relative to the length of King Hill Road, Parish Road No. 442 and to correct the distance in the Parish Road System on the King Hill Road.

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 Johnson stated the next item on the agenda was to Re-Introduce Ordinance #01-2014 for the Personnel Manual for the Parish of Natchitoches with added amendments to the Policy with a added Section 8 for Office of Community Services and Section 9 for Head Start.

On motion by Mr. Ricky LaCour, duly seconded by Mr. Rodney Bedgood, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does approve to Re-Introduce Ordinance #01-2014 with added amendments of Section 8 and Section 9 to The Personnel Manual for the Parish of Natchitoches.

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

Chairman Johnson then stated the next item on the agenda to discuss was on the construct and maintaining the necessary roads or streets and to provide for proper drainage in all cemeteries in the parish. This was discussed by Councilman John Salter he wanted to know what the parish was doing on this topic. Mr. Verret stated that the Parish have been repairing the roads that led up to the cemeteries if it's a Parish road, but they have not been doing it if its not a publicly owned within the parish.

Mr. Paige stated that in the Black communities that some funeral cars and hearses had gotten stuck and they had to carry the body to the cemeteries. Mr. Verret and Mr. Harrington stated that if its a private owned cemetery and private road leading up to it, then its the churches or the owner of the road to be responsible to maintain the roads that leads to the cemetery.

After this then the Council wanted to know exactly what properties that the Parishes have been taken care of that wasn't

considered Parish's owned. Mr. Salter asked the Council Clerk to get a listing of all roads that leads up Ballparks and fairgrounds and wants to know who owns the property.

Chairman Johnson then stated the next item on the agenda to discuss was consider adopting a Resolution authorizing the Parish President to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between the Richard Johnson Regional Improvement Foundation, Inc.(Payne Subdivision Park) and the Parish of Natchitoches.

Mr. Rick Nowlin, asked if this item could be tabled until a later date.

On motion by Mr. Ricky LaCour, duly seconded by Mr. Rodney Bedgood, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does table a Resolution authorizing the Parish President to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between the Richard Johnson Regional Improvement Foundation, Inc.(Payne Subdivision Park) and the Parish of Natchitoches.

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

Chairman Johnson then stated the next item on the agenda to discuss was consider adopting a Resolution authorizing the Parish President to sign Local Governmental Assistance Program (LGAP) Application for Proposed Full-Depth Pavement Patching Project for \$25,000 for the purchase of hot mix asphaltic concrete to be used for full-depth patching of base failures, and to use the remaining (LGAP) money from Vowels Mills and Creston for this patching project.

On motion by Mr. John Salter, duly seconded by Mr. Ricky LaCour, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does adopt a Resolution authorizing the Parish President to sign Local Governmental Assistance Program (LGAP) Application for Proposed Full-Depth Pavement Patching Project for \$25,000 for the purchase of hot mix asphaltic concrete to be used for full-depth patching of base failures, and to use the remaining (LGAP) money from Vowels Mills and Creston for this patching project .

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 Johnson then recognized Mr. Nick Verret, Director of Public Works, who presented his 2013 Annual report. Mr. Verret also wanted to make sure The Natchitoches Parish Highway System be maintained he also gave an update on the Bridges. The completed repairs was done to the following bridges in the Parish system, allowing them to remain open to traffic:

1. Clark Road over Bayou Bourbeaux
2. Robeline-Provencal Road over Coal Kiln Creek
3. Good Hope Road over unnamed drain
4. Shady Grove South Road over Middle Creek(4 separate bridges)
5. Charlie Howell Road over Dry Bayou

Mr. Verret wanted the Council to know that under the Administration they have implemented a customer request tracking system to ensure timely completion of needed work on the Parish road system. They have received and tracked 727 individual requests and completed work on 91% of these requests.

Lastly Mr. Verret wanted to let the Council know of future plans of the completion of a Road Priority System that will guide the selection of road improvements projects, as funding becomes available. This will involve field review to rate the conditions of each road in the Parish system, as well as consideration of other pertinent data for each road segment, including traffic counts, the number of homes and businesses served, function of each road.

Mr. Verret wanted to stated that this year the Highway Department has many major work that is planned for 2014. He also went into 2014 Plans for the Parish Solid Waste Department to work with Progressive Waste Solutions for the implementation of the new contract for solid waste collection and disposal by April 1, 2014. To continue to work toward the strategic conversion of uncontrolled bin sites to controlled bin sites or compactor stations and to develop and submit the application for renewal of the DEQ permit for the operation of the Parish Landfill by June 27, 2014.

Chairman Johnson then recognizes Ms. Sharon Harris, OCS/Head Start Executive Director, stated that the OCS/Head Start staffing has been cut and so was their hours. They have been working 32 hours instead of 40 hours, they are trying to get back to the 40 hours. Mrs. Harris only have 6 Staff members in her office. Mrs. Harris stated her staff is trying to let the public know more about OCS that it's more than just a utility assistance program. Her staff is trying to bring in more funding for OCS/Head Start. The Office of Community Services operates many programs for services that are primarily designed to benefit low-income citizens. These include the following programs:

1. Community Service Block Grant
2. Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program
3. Retired Senior Volunteer Program
4. Volunteer Income Tax Assistance
5. Senior Companion Program
6. Summer Food Service Program
7. Food for Seniors
8. USDA Commodities

Mrs. Harris also gave a update on the 2013 Head Start Program, that this program faced some difficult challenges during 2013. In the Spring, Head Start was notified that they would have to implement cost reductions amounting to five percent (5%) of their annual budget as a result of the "sequestration" deal between the President and Congress.

As soon as those program cuts were implemented, the Head Start had to prepare an application for federal funding for the next five years of the program. That application was submitted in August and included a budget for the first period of the proposed funding, which would finance the program through February 28, 2014. As time passed without a decision on the five-year funding application, Head Start were asked to submit a new budget request to operate the program from March 1, 2014 through June 30, 2014. The application was submitted prior to the December 1, 2013 deadline.

Chairman Johnson then recognizes Ms. Debbie Miley, Parish Treasurer, Ms. Miley then went on to discuss her reports giving status updates on the 2013 Active Bookings for Inmates & Outstanding Coroners/Inmate Expenses. She stated that this cost has went down a little from the previous months. We are under budget in our Adult Male, Youth, and Female in the Detention Center. The Parish paid \$60,000 towards our arrears to the Detention Center. we now have a balance of \$864,223.17. This have gone down a little. She also gave a Quarterly Budget Report on the Consolidated Report. Ms. Miley said we didn't meet budget on some items, but are under on most and the Parish came out positive at the end of the year on budget. The Grants are up to date and we are not in the arrears on Grants.

Chairman Johnson then recognized Parish President Rick Nowlin who gave his 2013 Annual Report. Mr. Nowlin stated that as the year began, the Parish went through a period of adjustment during which all offices began the process of learning how they are to function under the new form of government. The learning process also extended to the working relationship between the various departments and between the Parish President and the Parish Council. Although some problems were encountered along the way, especially early in the year, he stated in his opinion a good working relationship has been established among the parties and that all parties are attempting to work together for the betterment of the Parish.

Mr. Nowlin stated that the Parish will be giving a three percent (3%) raise to Parish employees and he will be working on those who would qualify for the raise and those who do not qualify such as those working under a grant and part-time.

Councilman Chris Paige asked Mr. Rick Nowlin, that he heard that a third individual have been given permission to dump at the Landfill for free and he wanted to know why this individual was allowed to dump for free at the Landfill. He said only three (3) garbage haulers who haul residents of the parish garbage to the landfill was grandfather in, out of those 3 only two remains and all others had to request permission from the Board.

Mr. Rick Nowlin, stated he made an administrative decision, because there was no longer a board so that went back to the Parish Administration and he made the decision to let the third hauler to dump at the landfill for free since he was picking up residents of the Parish garbage. He felt since this individual pays taxes and he's picking up residents who pays taxes he should be allowed to dump free in the landfill.

Councilman Chris Paige stated that this individual should pay and that all others who dump in the landfill should pay a fee for dumping. Mr. Nowlin, stated he will not go along with this, that if they are a tax payer they will not have to pay to use the landfill. The only person(s) who would have to pay are those dumping from within the City of Natchitoches.

Since there was no other business, 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 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 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

Attest:

Aaron Johnson, Chairman

Sheryl Frederick,
Council Clerk