

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATCHITOCHE PARISH COUNCIL**  
**PARISH OF NATCHITOCHE, STATE OF LOUISIANA**  
**TAKEN A REGULAR MEETING HELD, Monday,**  
**April 17, 2017**  
**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, April 17, 2017 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 Vice-Chairman Rodney Bedgood who stated that the Parish was ready for the transaction of business.

The invocation was given by Councilman Doug de Graffenried and the Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilman Russell Rachal.

After the roll call there were present Vice-Chairman Rodney Bedgood and Council: Doug de Graffenried, Chris Paige, and Russell Rachal.

Absent: Patsy Ward Hoover.

Vice Chairman Bedgood stated the Chairman Hoover would be running a little late but will be there.

Vice Chairman Bedgood the next item for the adoption of the agenda.

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

**Motion Passed**

Vice Chairman Bedgood then asked for visitors at this time.

Mr. Randy Stelly stood and asked if he could wait on Chairman Hoover to arrive before he would speak, Vice-Chairman, Bedgood, replied, "I don't see nothing wrong with that."

Mrs. Alondia Jefferson, was absent because of job responsibilities, but Councilman Chris Paige informed the Council what she was wanting to speak about. Councilman Paige, stated, "After the Payne Subdivision and Coco Bed road, I called Capital Outlay to see where the project was and what was happening and we called Representative Kenny Cox office and they got me in contact with everyone I needed to talk with in Baton Rouge, they explained to me that Mr. Richard was the Project Manager for both the projects. He stated how much money was up here in the bank for both projects and I called basically about Payne Subdivision and when I got through talking the Coco Bed situation came up and I called Mrs. Jefferson and we in returned called back down there again so when I talked to Mr. Richard he stated that there was not a proposal on his desk for Payne Subdivision, no plans whatsoever on his desk, so I was a little upset I called Mr. Verret and Mr. Nowlin. I don't know where's the breakdown is but we have one, so I went a little further and called Mrs. Jefferson and talked with her and she stated, she wanted to know where the Coco Bed project was. Upon talking with Mr. Richard, he informed us that he hasn't been in contact with Mr. Verret's or Mr. Nowlin for a year, so that's, so since that time I've been emailing

and getting in contact with him and

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Ms. Sheryl has been contacting them every few days checking and of this time there has been nothing turned into Baton Rouge for these two particular projects. The money is in the bank and is ready to go and we never have been told we didn't have the matching funds for this project, ever in the four or five years we've been dealing with this, so I'm wondering where's the breakdown and what's happening with these two projects, I know that one of the papers wrote that if Payne Subdivision will ever get fixed it will be under the expertise of Mr. Rick Nowlin or whomever so, we're waiting for, the expertise to step in and do some work in this Parish. These people are so demanding and deserving the money is in the bank, it's no reason why we should continue asking for help from Baton Rouge, we're talking about another \$300,000 that they requested for Payne Subdivision when we haven't utilized the first \$200,000. These are projects that should have already been completed by now and that's why I'm wondering where's the hold up and that's why Mrs. Jefferson wanted to speak tonight on.

At this time Vice-Chairman recognizes Parish President Nowlin. Parish President, Nowlin, replied, "I'll be happy to respond again, to all the points raised by Mr. Paige. First, let me say it's difficult for me to sit up here month after reviewing the progress of these projects with the problems we've had for someone to not understand that. I will say this, What Mr. Richard is talking about no plan, no proposal, he's talking about the final plans and specifications, we discussed many times where the plans and specifications stood we've been working very hard to get our first priority which is Coco Bed road out and we're very close to doing that. Later on we're going to be discussing Payne Subdivision and Hampton road, that we discussed two meetings ago, as far, as the matching funds, the matching funds are in the budget that the Council approved last fall and we discussed it at that time, so there is no breakdown, if there's a breakdown it's a failure to communicate, it's no breakdown in project administration. I just want that point made. Thank you Mr. Chair."

Mr. John Hodgeson from Pardee road came to the podium and he wanted to ask, Parish President Nowlin a question concerning timber companies. "Mr. Nowlin, do we get any money from the timber companies?"

Parish President, replied, "The Parish gets a timber severance, Yes, sir gets it each year, approximately \$400,000 the tax year." Mr. Hodgeson replied, "In the last 4 years, it was over 2 million dollars." Mr. Hodgeson went on to explain what the State keeps 25% and the 75% suppose to go to roads, that's the information, I got, I'm I right?"

Parish President, replied, "The 75% goes back to the Parish and is used by the Parish, it's going into the Parish General Fund that's has been done many years ago under the Police Jury. It goes into the General Fund in order to pay for expenses of the General fund for public safety, detention center and other expenses ,let that, to my knowledge it's been quite a few years that and none of that money has been put into the Highway fund, Mr. Hodgeson." Mr. Hodgeson, replied, "My information is that the severance tax 75% paid back to the Parish should go to the roads, and I know it wasn't true, because it's going into somewhere else, because if it was going into the roads we should have had some roads fixed, that wouldn't be enough to keep them all up, but it would have been enough to keep some of them up. so undoubtedly we've not been getting any of it. So I'm going to find out for sure if this money shouldn't be going into a General Fund, it should be going into roads, according to the people whose paying the tax, told me, that's just the match for loggers, I'm

talking about, that's the information I wanted to asked you to make sure about, where that tax was going." Parish President, stated again, "No, Sir it's

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going into the General Fund to improve our Parish Government over a decade." Mr. Hodgeson, responded, "In other words, they are the ones who approved that right? and not the State." Parish President, responded, "Yes, Sir the budget is approved every year by the Police Jury and now by the Parish Council." Mr. Hodgeson, replied, "So the tax that was being collected that supposed to go on roads is being redirected by our Council, right?" Parish President, replied, "The money is going into the General Fund and not being used on the roads." Mr. Hodgeson, replied, "Can that be changed?" Parish President, replied, sure, then you would have to come up with a source of funds we're having to replace the funding somehow, for the purposes the money is being used for now. I understand what you're saying, Mr. Hodgeson. I think in concept you're correct, it will be better it went on the roads, I agree with you on that," Mr. Hodgeson replied, "So what you're telling me, Mr. Nowlin, that you-all have control of that tax, you can put it where ever you want to, I'm I right?" Parish President, replied, "Yes."

Vice Chairman Bedgood, stated, "Well, no, If it was ever voted on and changed that, I don't ever remember that, let me just put it that way. I got a short memory now, but it has always been done that way." Mr. Hodgeson, replied, "It could have been long before he ever gotten here." Parish President, replied, "It's been over a decade, before any of us were here." Mr. Hodgeson, ask, "Mr. Paige do you ever remember it being done this way?" Councilman Paige, replied, "I'm trying to determine what tax you're talking about, What taxed is he exactly talking about?" Parish President replied, "It's the severance tax." Councilman, Paige, replied, "Well, I'm not sure it's been operable, that's the only way we have always operated was to basically to be able to put money into the General Fund and to house prisoners, we never took money from a particular fund and to say we'll take it from the roads and putting it into the General Funds, no, we never took a vote to that. Now if you mean to get the doors open and to incarcerate prisoners all the other stuff, this has been a on going to operate this Parish, that's what we've done." There are other monies that come to the Parish strictly for roads, so that's why I was asking where you talking about the Kistachie monies that comes from timber and that type of thing, but I don't exactly." Mr. Hodgeson stated if it was voted on back then, you could bring it back up to vote to use this money to go to roads, where it's supposed to be." Parish President informed Mr. Hodgeson there is a Legislative meeting in Baton Rouge on the bill has been filed for the Parish's to put that money in their respectfully road funds, that bill has been filed, if that bill becomes law then we will obey the law."

Richard Roberts resident of Hampton Road wanted an update on Hampton Road, because at the last meeting it was stated it would take approximately two weeks to get it done and it's been passed that and the residents are want to know what's going on.

Parish President, replied, "I remember us talking about it, Mr. Roberts, I don't remember an exact time frame, but we did discuss fist Coco Bed Road." Mr. Roberts, replied, "No, I think Mr. Paige said, put the others on hold and work on Hampton road." Parish President, replied, "I have no comments on what Mr. Paige said, this Council long time ago picked Coco Bed as a priority, as the number one priority and after that we discussed Hampton Road and Payne Subdivision, some was saying let Hampton road be next and some was saying let Payne Subdivision be next." Mr. Roberts, replied, "I'm only telling you what was said, when I was here. Mr. Doug said, It's a road, It's a road, How long does it take to get a road done? and it was said we need two weeks to get it done."

Parish President, replied, "What Mr. Verret was talking about he needs two solid weeks to get the work done." Mr. Roberts, replied, "They said work on that and get it done, while the money is there, it's paid for, and I'm trying to find out and so are the other people on what's the hold up." Parish President thanked and appreciate Mr. Roberts and explained it's taking a lot longer than it ought to take." Mr. Roberts then went on to explain, "It was said it was going to be possible done for Thanksgiving and that too fell by the waist side."

Councilman Rachal wanted to know, "Where are we on it at on Hampton Road?" Mr. Verret, replied, "We've done the silting work, we've taken the soil samples." Mr. Roberts, explained, "They did that last year the soil samples." Mr. Verret, replied, "That's correct. He asked me what the current status was." Councilman Rachal, replied, "At that particular meeting that Mr. Roberts was talking about, it was said it was about two weeks out, and we asked the question if he could get on it, he said he had a Friday deadline and we said after that Friday deadline would it be a possibility to do it, he stated he needed a couple of weeks to do it and that's the last I heard of it. Are we any closer today than we were then?" Mr. Verret, replied, "No, sir, I have not had blocks of time to work on it, when I said a couple of weeks that was with the understanding I wouldn't have anything else to work on, that's never going to happen, apparently, this body, you recall in the January meeting you-all had an opportunity to address that situation to put me in the position to be able to concentrate on those projects, but this body chose not to do that, now I understand the concerns that were addressed at that time, but there were no questions or discussions on how to try to make that happen, so with all of the other duties, I still have a department to run, I'm still involved in administrative duties involving that department, since that time he's been here, I've worked a couple hours one day a couple of hours another day, and a couple of hours today, to get a project like Hampton started with basically nothing being done so far, I need blocks of time, I can't do it a hour or two at a time, that's a recipe for disaster, trying to do plans and specs that will lead to errors and omissions that can actually cost this Parish thousands of dollars in construction cost, so, I got to have time to work on it."

Councilman Rachal, replied, "Wasn't there a letter telling you not to do Highway Department things and to only devote your time to Engineering? Mr. Verret, replied, "No, sir, that wasn't what it said." Councilman Rachal, replied, "It did put two people, and I'm not mentioning any person's name in charge of highway, and you suppose to devote your time to Engineering, is what I understood." Mr. Verret and Parish President replied, "To the extent possible." Councilman Rachal, replied, "I yield the floor."

Councilman Paige, replied, "All this back and forth this gentleman and people coming up here month in and month out, Are we going to fix any road in Natchitoches Parish any time six months or with whatever any type of with whatever we didn't vote on that didn't create an Engineer department Are, we? another thing, I need to find out, another thing we need to find out, make sure this recording, How much did we pay for Engineers in the past relating to what we're paying now?, because this is not working in favor of the people in this Parish, and all I'm saying to anybody, this gentleman comes here he is simply to asking other people has put up the money for that road to be fixed, the Governor and others in the legislature has put up money for Coco Bed the way the Government down there is taking money off one project and putting it on another and we're sitting here

playing these games about, what we don't have, all I know is that when can we ever feel that a project has got off the ground in this Parish, we're paying you two gentlemen pretty good salaries in this Parish since we've been under this form of Government, Lord knows, we can't figure out how

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much that is, because I think that question has been asked to, but and I hate to go down this road, but we sit here holding our breath while this gentleman is getting responded to in a manner, no one comes here about asking about fixing a road and when they leave here they have some kind of assurance that something is going to be fixed on their road, now, this got to change, now plan and simple." Parish President, replied, "Couple comments we have been very fortunate to get some Capital Outlay funds for some of these roads, I'll will admit to that, Senator Long and members of the House have done a great job doing that. In the past, we didn't necessarily get those monies also we have Ordinances and books in the Parish that says roads should be design and constructed according to DOTD standards and clearly in the past it was not, or roads wouldn't be falling apart if it would have been built right in the first place, so we're trying to follow the law as it exists, we're not playing games with anybody or any projects, now if you want us to ignore the standards and go out there and scrape the grass out and place the asphalt, then we can do that, but that's not the thing to do, we'll be back in three years when a heavy hauler goes on it and tears it up." Councilman Paige, replied, "Question, again, but Parish President continued by saying, "We can tell Mr. Verret, we tried to create a part time position for Mr. Verret where he works exclusively on these projects and was turned down, we can also hire a consulting Engineer to do that work at three times the cost, that's fine with me, but that means less rock, fuel, tires, and less money we'll have for road maintenance, if that's what you're wanting to do, say so, and we'll scale back on road maintenance, use that money to hire and Engineer to get those projects done, you can't have it both ways." Councilman Paige, replied, "Question, again, Can I get my question answered." Councilman Bedgood, replied, "maybe he can answer it for you." replying to Mr. Verret. Councilman Paige, "When can we have some road fixed in Natchitoches Parish, under this type of Government?" Parish President replied, "We're far closer than we have ever been than the Police Jury." Councilman Paige, replied, "Thank you." Councilman Bedgood, stated, "Yal let Mr. Verret speak." Mr. Verret begin to say, "Responding to what Mr. Robertson said about the prioritization, I recall the discussion the comment was made the monies there for Hampton Road, lets make it the next priority, and as I recall, I asked Councilman Paige will he be agreeable to making Payne Subdivision the third priority after Hampton, and he really didn't answer that question." Mr. Robertson, replied, "He did too, he said that Hampton and that other road, and at that time, matching funds and that we need to be putting our attention on Hampton Road, now that's what he said." Parish President, replied, "We don't have no matching funds for Hampton, the only Match we have , Mr. Robertson, said, "No, not Hampton, Payne." Parish President, replied, "Excuse me, I'm talking to the Chairman, we don't have no matching funds for Hampton Road, our match for Hampton is the Engineering, we can take funds out the Highway Department provide an Engineer, if this Council wants to do that, we can do that tomorrow." Councilman Bedgood, replied, "That's up to this Council." Parish President, replied, "Yes, Sir." Councilman Bedgood, replied, "So just let me just get it straight, while we're here, Coco Bed Road, we don't have any matching money, yet for Coco Bed Road, right? Both Parish President and Councilman Paige, replied, "We do have the match for both projects." Councilman Bedgood, replied, "And we have it for Hampton road?" Mr. Verret, replied, "In salaries, we don't have a monetary match." Councilman Bedgood, replied, "We don't have to do that, do we?" Parish President, replied, "As long as we do the Engineering and

Administration." Councilman Bedgood, replied, "That's what I'm saying." Parish President, "Which we'll pay for it through salaries." Councilman, Bedgood, replied, "So look like we should be able to get going on it."

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Mr. Verret, replied, "I would like to address that, again, in addition to this administrative tasks I handle on a daily basis, I submitted a report last week to Mr. Nowlin, that I was involved in 34 other special projects that either that had work done over the past several weeks or approaching that I've done some preliminary work on. I don't know what you expect out of one person." Councilman, Bedgood, replied, "You don't have anybody, your assistant that's knows anything about doing anything else? Are they qualified to do anything?" Mr. Verret, responded, "To supervise the road crew, yes, sir. to do the other things that I have on this list like preparing a briefing those things just don't appear out the air, I give you-all briefing on agenda items those things that I'm involved in, no sir, there is not no one else that is qualified to handle those things." Councilman Bedgood, replied, "Okay, I was just trying to get it all out, so everybody can understand, where we at."

Mr. Verret then continued to explain to the Council about his duties, and all the duties he's taken on, especially the duties of the Parish Administrator, that this current form of Government doesn't have. And the duties that would have been done by a consulting Engineer. He explained he's doing about five jobs and he's doing the best he can. Mr. explained they need to take some of the administrative duties from him so he could have blocks of time to complete the projects.

Councilman de Graffenried, asked, "How many overtime hours you put in?" Mr. Verret, replied, "I average a few hours a week." Councilman de Graffenried, repeated, "A few hours a week." Mr. Verret, replied, "There is such a thing as burn out." Councilman de Graffenried, replied, "Yes, I think we got to that point!!" Councilman Bedgood, replied, "Let me just ask, not being ugly, like Solid Waste why is it, we got a Superintendent out there, he can't handle that to take up that load off of you? Do you get what I'm saying." Mr. Verret, explain "There are administrative duties that I would still have to do." at this time Chairman, Hoover arrived, and Vice Chairman Bedgood turned it over to her, and he informed her that Mr. Stelly wanted to wait for her to address what he had to say to the Council.

Randy Stelly greeted the Council, and he stated, "Madam, Chairman, I know you're not my representative, but you are the Chairperson of the voters and the Parish Council and I had the opportunity to watch last month Parish Council meeting on the Internet and everything that is done around this horseshoe comes through quite well, and I was watching it and I was thinking that if some scout from some business that would like to locate in this area might be sitting in a motel at his computer what goes on around this horseshoe. I wanted to come today to see if you in person and to ask you that your conduct at these meetings be in a more professional manner. I heard you and Chris Paige state you want to help this Parish that we need to bring jobs to this Parish, well the way you conduct these meetings and the fact that everyone can see them, including any potential employer that might bring a job based here, they see these meetings run too long, your behavior they don't want to be subjected to all the mess that goes around this horseshoe as a member of the African American Community and voters of Natchitoches Parish I ask that you stop embarrassing us and conduct yourself accordily, I'm here as a citizen and I suggest you be council on to properly conduct a Parish Council meeting. Thank you very much."

Councilman, Paige, replied, "Thank you Mr. Stelly."

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Chairman Hoover asked next visitor.

Mr. John Austin a resident of the Mammy Trail Road addressed Councilman Paige, that he was at the last month's meeting and Mr. Paige was speaking about excess funding at the end of the year being turned back to the Parish. I was wondering have someone looked into this to see if this was the case.

Assistant District Attorney replied "Mr. Austin, I'll be glad to look into it, but she has to have a request in writing and to give me a chance and the District Attorney a chance to look into it." She also informed Mr. Austin that the Council knows this is our Policy, it must be submitted in writing. Mr. Austin, replied, "Please check into that, with any excess funding we have out there that's not being returned to be used in places that is in dire needs of it, then it's a waste of tax payers dollars on that aspect." Mr. Austin then, went on talking about the Parish Library with their surplus and their renewals and with that 1mil that can be a couple of roads can be done. Mr. Austin also asked, "How many grader operators do we have and are they all trained to be set operators?" Mr. Verret, replied, "We currently have three operators and there's 2 vacancies that are in the process of being filled and yes, sir, the operators have been doing that work for quite a while and actually we've had a class that we've sent everybody too last month on maintenance and gravel roads, that's the only class that's been offered in the time I've been here." Mr. Austin, replied, "On graders, how far and how close to the asphalt they're allowed to grade?" Mr. Verret, replied, "Can you state your question again?" Mr. Austin, "How close can a grader grade a dirt road up to a blacktop road?" Mr. Verret, replied, "Theoretically, they should grade all the way up to the road, but what we have is some issues dealing with traffic control in trying to do that I've asked the same question, but it's a safety issue for the operator and the traffic." Mr. Austin went on to inform Mr. Verret there is not proper maintenance in those areas and traffic is going into the ditches and he went on to explain what he was told about up keeping gravel roads and ditches. Mr. Verret, Mr. Austin, and Councilman Bedgood, discussed ditches and culverts for a lengthy time.

Chris Post came to get an update on the meeting that was held between The Chairman of the Fire District 1 Board and the Advisory Board along with Parish President, Nowlin on March 31, 2017. Parish President Nowlin, addressed him and informed him, "The meeting did occur, present were Mr. Hawthorne, The Chairlady, myself and Mr. Rachal was not able to be present, but I did discuss it with him later." Mr. Nowlin also informed Mr. Post that they reviewed the financial statements for the entire year of 2016 and 2017 to current date, Mr. Hawthorne has spent a great deal of time on this we saw some things there that was reported by you and others that caused some concern and we agreed that it will be address in proper forum since involved some Board members and volunteers that we need to handle it very carefully and for it to be done in the proper manner, the Chairman can back me up there is some problems and Mr. Hawthorne is co-operating with us fully, he's doing most of the work and we will be giving it to the appropriate authorities and we then bring back to our Council and take it in "Executive Session." Chairman Hoover also stated they did have the meetings and it did appear to be some violations provided by the Chairman of the Board. I requested more detailed information from the Chairman, and I don't know if he's

turned that in or not. The Parish President will turn everything over to the proper authorities and this is all we can speak on at this time by the recommendations of the District Attorney's Office. Mr. Post just wanted to know were they moving it along past the Council so it can be handled. He wanted to know if it's going to the Legislative Auditor or the Ethics Board and Mr. Post was told the District Attorney's Office will be handling this and makes that decision.

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Chairman Hoover stated the next item to adopt the minutes of the regular meeting of the Natchitoches Parish Council held Monday, March 20, 2017.

On motion by Councilman Russell Rachal, duly seconded by, Councilman Rodney Bedgood that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby adopt the minutes of the regular meeting of the Natchitoches Parish Council held Monday, March 20, 2017.

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

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

**Motion Passed**

Chairman Hoover stated the next item on the agenda is Council to consider introducing Ordinance 009-2017 do a quitclaim deed on Lot 1 and South half of Lot 2 of Block DA of Breda Addition from the Parish of Natchitoches to Mr. Robert Jackson, Sr. and to authorize the Parish President to sign the quitclaim deed.

On motion by Councilman Chris Paige, duly seconded by, Councilman Russell Rachal that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby introduce Ordinance 009-2017 do a quitclaim deed on Lot 1 and South half of Lot 2 of Block DA of Breda Addition from the Parish of Natchitoches to Mr. Robert Jackson, Sr. and to authorize the Parish President to sign the quitclaim deed.

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

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

**Motion Passed**

Chairman Hoover stated the next item on the agenda is Council to consider introducing Ordinance 010-2017 to amend the 2017 Operating Budget to add for a 3% COLA increase for Parish employees except for Grant programs.

Councilman de Graffenried, asked, "Was that the motion that the Parish Attorney was referring to in the correspondence which we received prior to the meeting?" Chairman, Hoover, answered, "Yes." and it's only for introduction, it's not for discussion tonight. Councilman Doug, replied, "So if I read this correctly, this motion, this Ordinance is pretty much out of order and its

place and we can't do it." Assistant District Attorney, replied, "The Ordinance is illegal." Councilman de Graffenried, replied, "Thank you." The Chairman asked for a roll call, but there wasn't any to do because it hadn't been moved. Councilman Paige, replied, "I'm not use to this not talking about anything that is being brought to the table in this manner. First off, when the Treasurer, we have to know first off do we have the money, but I'll just hush." Assistant District Attorney stated, "I was

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asked to draft this Ordinance and I look to the law to find out who has the authority to do it in this particular instant we adopted the budget, we I mean the Council, adopted the Budget for the 2017 year, that budget not be amended unless specific circumstances which has to be initiated by the President, unless there is new money and unless there is some program on the way to give access to any money, the President must certify that those funds were available at the time the Council does not have the authority to amend the adopted budget, now I heard some stuff about transferring funds if you look to your Charter the President has the authority to do that." The Assistant District Attorney went on to explain the proper protocol on amending the adopted 2017 Budget.

Councilman Paige asked, "You said the president can transfer funds from line items, doesn't it require Council approval?" Assistant District Attorney, replied, "According the Budget Ordinance that was enacted the Council approval is not required." Councilwoman Hoover, questioned to the DA, "Even though 2016 we actually had the monies there for the increase for the employees; so the money is there?" The Assistant District Attorney, replied, "No ma'am, if you look at the Budget for 2016 and 2017 and at that time Chairman Hoover, stated, "It was approved." "No ma'am, please let me finish", replied, Assistant District Attorney, "If you look at 2016 the employees' salaries is higher than the 2017 budget, with that being said, if the appropriation is not spent in the 2016 budget or lapse occurs and it's no longer budgeted for 2017 the appropriation no longer exists."

Parish President wanted to clear up, "When you say, I have the authority to transfer funds that's within a line item across line items within a fund, as I understand it." Assistant District Attorney, replied, "That's correct." Parish President, replied, "I can't transfer money from one fund to another fund. I can transfer in the Highway fund I can transfer money from fuel to tires, rocks to cold mix asphalt, or something. My authority is contained in just that one fund if I don't exceed the total amount that is appropriated for that fund that was approved by this Council." Assistant District Attorney, replied, "I agree with you on everything you said, but with the Highway Department, I caution you on dedicated funds, specific taxes and dedicated funds." Parish President, replied, "I'm saying we're budgeted a certain amount for Winn Rock and a certain amount for another rock and due to circumstances we need to buy lesser of one and more the other, that's the kind of authority I have." Councilman, Paige agreed with Parish President, Nowlin statement, and said, "We don't want to send a signal saying you can just go and transfer money without the Council." Assistant District Attorney, replied, "His authority is limited as well." Councilman Paige, replied, "The first response did not send over that way, with me, but in various things even in mentioning the library monies that

money has to be dedicated in order for any other uses."

Mrs. Carolyn Roy wanted to know what happened with this item, this item died because it didn't get a motion.

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Chairman Hoover stated the next item on the agenda Council to consider introducing Ordinance 11-2017 to scarify of King Hill Road and Sisson Road.

There was still a discrepancy on this item and The Assistant District Attorney will get with another Assistant District Attorney and the DA himself to find out the answer to whether this should be done by Resolution or Ordinance for all roads that is going to be scarified in the Parish of Natchitoches.

On motion by Councilman Russell Rachal, duly seconded by, Councilman Rodney Bedgood that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby table introducing Ordinance 11-2017 to scarify of King Hill Road and Sisson Road.

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

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

**Motion Passed**

Chairman Hoover stated the next item on the agenda Council to consider Introducing Ordinance 006-2017 to amend and reordained Section 2-8 of the Parish Code of Ordinance requirements for the Parish Council meetings.

On motion by Councilman Doug de Graffenried, duly seconded by, Councilman Russell Rachal that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does Introducing Ordinance 006-2017 to amend and reordained Section 2-8 of the Parish Code of Ordinance requirements for the Parish Council meetings.

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

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

**Motion Passed**

Chairman Hoover stated the next item on the agenda to Conduct a public hearing to hear any and all comments or objections relative to the adoption of the following items:

1. Council to consider adopting Ordinance 007-2017 the purpose of which is to amend and reordain "Division 4. Industry Districts, Section 125-116 I-A Districts: Industry Agriculture Districts" of the Parish Zoning Ordinance, relative to uses requiring planning commission approval in a district zoned "I-A."

2. Council to consider adoption Of Ordinance #008-2017 Of The Natchitoches Parish Council For Budget Revision Of The Parish 2017 Budget For Highway To the Line Items: Bottom Ash, Disaster Recovery, And LGAP.

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3. Council to consider adopting Ordinance 12-2017 to adopt millage rates for the 2017 tax year.

On motion by Councilman Chris Paige, duly seconded by Councilman Doug de Graffenried, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby open the public hearing to hear any and all comments or objections relative to the adoption of the following items:

1. Council to consider adopting Ordinance 007-2017 the purpose of which is to amend and reordain "Division 4. Industry Districts, Section 125-116 I-A Districts: Industry Agriculture Districts" of the Parish Zoning Ordinance, relative to uses requiring planning commission approval in a district zoned "I-A."
2. Council to consider adoption Of Ordinance #008-2017 Of The Natchitoches Parish Council For Budget Revision Of The Parish 2017 Budget For Highway for the Line Items: Bottom Ash, Disaster Recovery, And LGAP.
3. Council to consider adopting Ordinance 12-2017 to adopt millage rates for the 2017 tax year.

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

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

**Motion Passed**

Councilman Paige, stated he was for this particular item and he had questions concerning this it. The Assistant District Attorney informed this item was written by her from the Planning and Zoning Work Session. There was very lengthy discussion of agenda item 1 by the Planning and Zoning Director, Parish President, Assistant District Attorney, and the Parish President. This Ordinance would stop the loop hole that people had figured out to get around Mobile Homes and Manufactured Homes in the Parish. Councilman Paige, at the end of the discussion wanted to know exactly how the Planning Director felt about this Ordinance. Planning Director replied, "I'm not too sure about this Ordinance either, just can state what the attorney just said, but I do have two biggest concerns, making it too cumbersome on the citizens doing what they want to do and very selfishly it's going to be a helleva lot more paperwork for me, I'm already doing three jobs now, anything else you want to put on my desk, I just want to

throw it in the darn trash, I don't have a vote, but I will do what ever everybody vote on that goes into the Ordinance." Councilman Paige asked one more question to the Planning Director, "How will this hurt the people that we serve with all of this?" Planning Director went on to explain it will make it difficult on people who has land that is zoned one way

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and try to give it another section of it to a family member that wants to do something else on the land, this means that they will have to go through a zoning change to the Planning Commission.

Parish President, stated, "I think Mr. Lemoine is correct, he doesn't understand the intent of the change. It doesn't take away the rights of the property owner that are zoned I-A. What it simply does is that you don't have an automated right to subdivide and place mobile homes on those smaller parcels of land you go to the Planning Commission they must approve the sub-division, you must get your approval that way. The other zoning classification if you have one of the "R" Classification you must go to the Planning Commission to get approval if it's not permitted to have a Mobile Home. We have seen is that **inadvertily** people who have large traits of land can sub-divide and create a mobile home park without getting approval and required other zoning qualifications to get a mobile Home Park and what this does is make it consistent across all the zoning classifications, it's nothing you can do automatically you simply have to go through the Planning Commission you still in Industrial Agricultural, that's how I understand it."

There was further discussion between the Council, Parish President and the Planning Director. Councilman Chris Paige wanted to know what really started this before he votes on anything. So the Planning Director gave him a summary on the way things were and the way it has changed currently this year. In summary the Planning Director feels there was loopholes that was in this process. Before you only had to meet Health Unit requirements they have changed their rules this year anything over one makes it a park. People realized if they subdivide and create separate parcels, they could put a separate septic system on each parcel they have gotten around the whole Ordinance the way it was written, this is the intent of the Ordinance is to close the loophole. Planning Director doesn't feel this is a health issue, it's just people thinking that if a mobile home park is near their residents their value of their property will decrease.

Chairman read item two no comment was on this item, and she read three no comment was on this item.

On motion by Councilman Chris Paige, duly seconded by Councilman Rodney Bedgood, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby close the public hearing to hear any and all comments or objections relative to the adoption of the following items.

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

Ayes:	Councilman Paige
Ayes:	Councilman Bedgood
Ayes:	Councilman de Graffenried
Ayes:	Councilman Rachal

Ayes: Councilwoman Hoover

**Motion Passed**

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Chairman Hoover stated the next item on the agenda Council to adopt Ordinance 007-2017 the purpose of which is to amend and reordain "Division 4. Industry Districts, Section 125-116 I-A Districts: Industry Agriculture Districts" of the Parish Zoning Ordinance, relative to uses requiring planning commission approval in a district zoned "I-A."

On motion by Councilman Rodney Bedgood, duly seconded by  
**Motion dies for lack of second.**

Chairman Hoover stated the next item on the agenda Council to adopt Ordinance #008-2017 Of The Natchitoches Parish Council For Budget Revision Of The Parish 2017 Budget For Highway To the Line Items: Bottom Ash, Disaster Recovery, And LGAP

On motion by Councilman Rodney Bedgood, duly seconded by, Councilman Russell Rachal that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does adopt Ordinance #008-2017 Of The Natchitoches Parish Council For Budget Revision Of The Parish 2017 Budget For Highway To the Line Items: Bottom Ash, Disaster Recovery, And LGAP

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

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

**Motion Passed**

Chairman Hoover stated the next item on the agenda Council approval to adopt millage rates for the 2017 tax year to remain the same.

On motion by Councilman Chris Paige, duly seconded by Councilman Rodney Bedgood, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby adopt millage rates for the 2017 tax year to remain the same.

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

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

**Motion Passed**

Chairman Hoover stated the next item on the agenda Council to consider adopting Proclamation designated to proclaim April 17- April 22, 2017 National Community Development Week for Natchitoches Parish.

On motion by Councilman Chris Paige, duly seconded by Councilman Russell Rachal, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and

legal session, does hereby adopt Proclamation designated to proclaim April 17-April 22, 2017 National Community Development Week for Natchitoches Parish.

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

Ayes: Councilman Paige  
Ayes: Councilman Rachal  
Ayes: Councilman de Graffenried  
Absent: Councilman Bedgood  
Ayes: Councilwoman Hoover

**Motion Passed**

Chairman Hoover stated the next item on the agenda Council to consider adopting Proclamation designated to proclaim the month of April as Fair Housing Month for Natchitoches Parish.

On motion by Councilman Chris Paige, duly seconded by Councilman Russell Rachal, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby adopt Proclamation designated to proclaim the month of April as Fair Housing Month for Natchitoches Parish.

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

Ayes: Councilman Paige  
Ayes: Councilman Rachal  
Ayes: Councilman de Graffenried  
Absent: Councilman Bedgood  
Ayes: Councilwoman Hoover

**Motion Passed**

Chairman Hoover stated the next item on the agenda Council to consider adopting Proclamation designated to proclaim May 7-13, 2017 as National Travel and Tourism Week in Natchitoches Parish.

On motion by Councilman Chris Paige, duly seconded by Councilman Russell Rachal, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby adopt Proclamation designated to proclaim May 7-13, 2017 as National Travel and Tourism Week in Natchitoches Parish.

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

Ayes: Councilman Paige  
Ayes: Councilman Rachal  
Ayes: Councilman de Graffenried  
Absent: Councilman Bedgood  
Ayes: Councilwoman Hoover

**Motion Passed**

Chairman Hoover stated the next item on the agenda Council to consider adopting a resolution approving the holding of an election in Fire Protection District No. 1 of the Parish of Natchitoches, State of Louisiana, on Saturday, October 14, 2017, to authorize the levy of a special tax therein.

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 adopt adopting a resolution

approving the holding of an election in Fire Protection District No. 1 of the Parish of Natchitoches, State of Louisiana, on Saturday, October 14, 2017, to authorize the levy of a special tax therein.

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

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

**Motion Passed**

Chairman Hoover stated the next item on the agenda Council to consider award of lease of rubber-tire tractor/loader/backhoe to Doggett Machinery Services of Shreveport, LA proposed a 2017 John Deere Model 310L at a monthly rate of \$1,062.83 for 36 months and authorization for execution of lease contract with Doggett Machinery Services of Shreveport, LA.

On motion by Councilman Rodney Bedgood, duly seconded by, Councilman Chris Paige that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does award lease of rubber-tire

tractor/loader/backhoe to Doggett Machinery Services of Shreveport, LA proposed a 2017 John Deere Model 310L at a monthly rate of \$1,062.83 for 36 months and authorization for execution of lease contract with Doggett Machinery Services of Shreveport, LA.

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

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

**Motion Passed**

Chairman Hoover stated the next item on the agenda Council to consider award of LGAP pavement patching project to Lites Bros. Asphalt, Inc., of Many, LA, who proposes a unit price of \$160.00 per ton for the specified work and authorization for execution of contract with Lites Bros. Asphalt, Inc. of Many, LA.

On motion by Councilman Rodney Bedgood, duly seconded by, Councilman Russell Rachal that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does award LGAP pavement patching project to Lites Bros. Asphalt, Inc., of Many, LA, who proposes a unit price of \$160.00 per ton for the specified work and authorization for execution of contract with Lites Bros. Asphalt, Inc. of Many, LA.

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

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

**Motion Passed**

Chairman Hoover stated the next item on the agenda Council to consider and approve that a Citizen Participation Plan/Citizen Complaint Procedure be adopted and Debbie Miley be appointed as Citizen Complaint Officer for compliance with the LCDBG Program.

Chairman, Hoover explained she had agreed with the Citizens Participation Plan, however, "I will like to amend the section for we have the treasurer as the Citizen Complaint Officer and replace that person with our Clerk, and here's my reason, the reason being the Council is responsible for public complaints and this will assure us that these complaints will be addressed." Councilman Rachal, asked, "Should this amendment been done at the beginning of the meeting to amend this item on the agenda?" There was discussion with Councilman Paige stating "This is only coming from one Council member." Chairman, Hoover, replied, "I'm 100 percent of the Citizen Participation Plan, I feel that we have a clerk here that represents this Council, and when those complaints come in these are our constituents, when those complaints come in our Clerk will take the complaints and presents those complaints to us, because they are our constituents"

Parish President responded to Chairman, Hoovers statements by saying, "I don't think it's any questions that the Council Clerk is capable of performing this function, but this Citizens Participation Plan and Citizens Complaints procedure is part of the LCDBG Program that we go through every two years, the complaints received are logged in and recorded in, you have to show the complaint and you have to show the response and this is an administrative function of the Parish Government and it more properly falls within the President's office rather than in the Council's office and I would object to that amendment."

Councilman Paige, replied, "This is not, this is just for the LCDBG, this is not for "Joe Blow" to come and complain about something, this has to do with whatever recommendations that will be filed in submitting of the LCDBG application, which we went through a long process in Payne from this, this was with the GNF, Is this with Gary Fontana?" The answer from the Parish President, "Yes." "I thought so", replied, Councilman Paige. Councilman, Paige, responded, "It's just paperwork to Baton Rouge to cut to the short of it, it's on a project to project basis."

Chairman, Hoover, asked, Councilman Paige, "So what exactly what you're saying Chris?" Councilman, Paige, replied, "I guess, I'm saying who has the authority to appoint that position and that's a recommendation from Mr. Nowlin, Isn't that what you're saying, Mr. Nowlin?" Parish President, responded, "Yes." Councilman Paige, replied, "And each one of us is going to present something from our District for this, that's all I'm saying, I'm not saying nothing, just shut up Chris."

On motion by Councilman Rachal that we approve this as printed, duly seconded by, Councilman Doug de Graffenried that the Natchitoches

Parish Council, in regular and legal session approve that a Citizen Participation Plan/Citizen Complaint Procedure be adopted and Debbie Miley be appointed as Citizen Complaint Officer for compliance with the LCDBG Program.

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

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

**Motion Passed**

Chairman Hoover stated the next item on the agenda Council to consider approving the Parish President to proceed with the development of the LCDBG application taking into consideration views and proposals submitted by citizens that attended the public hearing as well as those that were unable to attend and views of the governing body.

On motion by Councilman Rodney Bedgood, duly seconded by, Councilman Russell Rachal that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does approve the Parish President to proceed with the development of the LCDBG application taking into consideration views and proposals submitted by citizens that attended the public hearing as well as those that were unable to attend and views of the governing body.

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

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

**Motion Passed**

Chairman Hoover stated the next item on the agenda Council to consider approving that a Procurement Policy be adopted for compliance with the LCDBG program.

On motion by Councilman Rodney Bedgood, duly seconded by, Councilman Chris Paige that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does approve a Procurement Policy be adopted for compliance with the LCDBG program.

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

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

**Motion Passed**

Chairman Hoover stated the next item on the agenda Council to consider approving authorizing the Parish President to proceed with the procurement and selection of professional services for the purpose of assisting in the development of the LCDBG application and implementation of the Project.

On motion by Councilman Chris Paige, duly seconded by, Councilman Rodney Bedgood that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and

legal session, does approve authorizing the Parish President to proceed with the procurement and selection of professional

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services for the purpose of assisting in the development of the LCDBG application and implementation of the Project.

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

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

**Motion Passed**

Chairman Hoover stated the next item on the agenda Council to consider authorizing the Parish President to award the contract for Bottom Ash to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder meeting the bid specifications.

On motion by Councilman Rodney Bedgood, duly seconded by, Councilman Russell Rachal that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does approve authorizing the Parish President to award the contract for Bottom Ash to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder meeting the bid specifications.

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

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

**Motion Passed**

Chairman Hoover stated the next item on the agenda Council to consider authorizing Parish Treasurer to seek Accounting Software proposals.

Ms. Creamer reported that the Accounting Software is 27 years old and it's on it's last life. This system has had several updates but it's still not up-to-date with all the current changes that's being made with being in compliance with updated forms.

On motion by Councilman Rodney Bedgood, duly seconded by, Councilman Russell Rachal that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does approve authorizing the Parish Treasurer to seek Accounting Software proposals.

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

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

**Motion Passed**

Chairman Hoover stated the next item on the agenda Council to consider introducing Ordinance 13-2017 to add Solid Waste Scale House Attendant and salary range to the job description in the Natchitoches Parish Personnel Manual.

On motion by Councilman Rodney Bedgood, duly seconded by, Councilman Chris Paige that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does approve introducing Ordinance 13-2017 to add Solid Waste Scale House Attendant and salary range to the job description in the Natchitoches Parish Personnel Manual.

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

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

**Motion Passed**

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

- a. Confirmation of Mr. Bobby Outlaw Sr. for re-appointment to the Natchitoches Parish Fire District 10 Board.

On motion by Councilman Russell Rachal, duly seconded by, Councilman Rodney Bedgood that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does approve confirmation of Mr. Bobby Outlaw Sr. for re-appointment to the Natchitoches Parish Fire District 10 Board.

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

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

**Motion Passed**

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

- b. Confirmation of Mr. James Wagley for re-appointment to the Natchitoches Parish Fire District 10 Board.

On motion by Councilman Russell Rachal, duly seconded by, Councilman Rodney Bedgood that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does approve confirmation of Mr. James Wagley for re-appointment to the Natchitoches Parish Fire District 10 Board.

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

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

**Motion Passed**

Chairman Hoover stated the next item on the agenda Council to consider introducing Ordinance 14-2017 to remove the job requirements of Engineer and Engineer duties from the Director of Public Works job description.

On motion by Councilman Rachal, duly seconded by, Councilman Doug de Graffenried that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session approve introducing Ordinance 14-2017 to remove the job requirements of Engineer and Engineer duties from the Director of Public Works job description.

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

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

**Motion Passed**

Chairman, Hoover, then recognized Mr. Nick Verret, Director of Public Works, Mr. Verret, stated, "I just wanted to highlight the things I've given to the Council in their packets." With the successful renewal of the Parish Highway ad valorem tax, efforts are underway to fill two vacant grader operator positions, as the operator previously assigned to the Provencal area left Parish employment on March 6, and the operator assigned to the Marthaville area resigned on March 27. In addition, two temporary employees will be hired to staff a second cold-mix patching crew for the next six months.

1. **Repair of Timber Bridge on Payne Drive** - Parish staff recently inspected this bridge and found significant deterioration of the existing timber bulkhead and wingwall boards, which will require their replacement with new treated timber boards. This work is planned for sometime in the next two weeks, and will require that this bridge be temporarily closed to all traffic for a period of a few hours, with traffic to be detoured to Cherie Drive. A press release will be issued in advance of the road closure.

Then Mr. Verret wanted to go back and try to previous discussion, explain what he's trying to do basically as a one man show preparing plans, doing administrative duties and running a department. Mr. Verret stated, "My mistake is to be overly optimistic in thinking I can get all these things done. I'm disappointed that I didn't get everything done, I certainly would like to deliver in a timely manner of these plans. I've been getting criticism from the citizens and from the Council. What I'm trying to do is unprecedented in any other Parish in this State."

Councilman Doug de Graffenried responded by saying, "Your statements are just disingenuous this will be one thing if we're talking 25 or 30 million dollar budgets and talking miles and miles of new constructions and new projects, we're talking about gravel roads, we're talking projects that's Payne Subdivision, Coco Bed Road and Hampton Road that's less than 4 million dollars and we've been talking about Payne Subdivision and Coco Bed road since January of 2016 and Hampton Road came in a said, "Here's the money, get it done", "Bubba" What do you do all day? Can I offer you a time management course?"

Mr. Verret, responded, "Sir, and then Councilman de Graffenried, responded, "Come on, Give it Your Best Shot" Mr. Verret, "I retired from a position which I was responsible for 350 people, 2600 miles of road, operation budget that did not include salaries or those things, but just material of 3 and 1/2 million a year, I think if I can run a DOTD District, I think I can do this job, and I will invite you to come sit with me and find out what I do." Councilman de Graffenried, replied, "Oh, Boy thank

you for the invitation, I'll be there." Mr. Verret, replied, "Good" Councilman de Graffenried, asked "I would like to see work products including correspondence and" he was cut off by Mr. Verret and Mr. Verret, responded, "Here's some of it now, here's my report and briefings that allow you-all to move right

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through those agenda items, because I provided thorough information for all these things, again, these things don't happen, it takes time to get these things done too. And tomorrow from the actions you-all took tonight is also some actions I have to take also in getting a contractor to work on the LGAP Patching project and paperwork for the lease of the tractor, there is things that happen everyday, it's not one big thing but, I'm liking it like, "death by paper cut" Thousands of little things that have to be done every day, it takes someone with technical knowledge to do these things that's not exactly engineering work, but I'm doing Engineering work."

There was continued discussion between Mr. Verret and Councilman de Graffenried and then the Parish Planning Director made a statement, "Don't you-all forget, Mr. Verret is not the only one doing multiple jobs, just don't forget that."

Chairman Hoover then recognizes Ms. Sharon Harris, OCS/Head Start Executive Director, she gave her reports in the Council's packets and wanted to know if they had any questions concerning anything.

Chairman Hoover then recognizes Parish HR Coordinator, Cathy Creamer to give the Finance report in Ms. Debbie Miley Absence.

Chairman Hoover then recognizes Parish President, Rick Nowlin wanted to thank the people for voting for the renewals on March 25th Election.

**LSU COASTAL SUSTAINABILITY STUDIO:**

As reported at the March Council meeting, Mr. Verret and I attended the LSU Coastal Sustainability Studio workshop in Alexandria on March 15, 16, 17, 2017. The workshop was sponsored by FEMA to review selected potential disaster recovery projects, including the drainage project east of the City of Natchitoches.

As a follow-up from that workshop, on April 11th Mr. Verret and I received a visit from Ms. Deirdre Hewitt from the National Park Service regional office in Atlanta, Georgia. We reviewed the proposed project with Ms. Hewitt and toured the proposed project area so she would get a better understanding of the project scope. The NPS has offered planning assistance to the Parish which may prove valuable as we pursue funding for this project.

**SCARIFYING OF PARISH ROADS:**

On April 4th, Mr. Verret and I participated in a 90-minute webinar entitled "Converting Paved Roads to Unpaved". It included the considerations that go into a conversion decision and the potential benefits to be achieved therefrom. It is clear that the subject is one being faced by a number of states, not just in Louisiana or Natchitoches Parish.

**HEADSTART:**

On April, 11th, Ms. Michelle Helmke with the Head Start Regional Office in Dallas, Texas, visiting with our local HS officials, members of the HS Policy Council and Parish Government officials in review of the program.

On April, 12th, Ms. Sharon Harris and I attended a meeting at the Goldonna Elementary School to discuss the community's request for a Head Start center there. We also toured the facility that would be dedicated to Head Start. The Parish agreed to conduct a community needs assessment to determine if a need exists and whether the intended children would be coming from families eligible under federal guidelines.

Councilman Paige wanted the Parish President and Council to recognize Mr. Bob Black previous Library Director he's going to be moving back home to Chattanooga Tennessee and he's done great works and giant for the Parish of Natchitoches.

Councilman de Graffenried asked a question about the Library Insurance and Mrs. Creamer answered his questions about the Library Insurance.  
and how many people is employed with the Library.

Chairman Hoover stated at this time we was supposed to go into Executive Session but we was advised by legal Council that it wasn't worded correctly, this was given verbal but it was given to us in writing before the meeting and we'll take it up at the next months meeting.

Chairman Hoover recognizes Ms. Sharon Harris who wanted to discuss a correspondence that was given out while the Council meeting was going on.

Chairman, Hoover, stated, "We'll take it up at the next meeting, it's not on the agenda for tonight." At the time Assistant DA asked Ms. Harris was the people present in the letter, Mrs. Harris, replied, "yes." Assistant DA asked, "Do they waived their consent to notice, and the answer is "yes." Then I recommend amending the Agenda if it's an emergency.

Chairman, Hoover stated, "This right here wasn't the same as the items that were going to be spoken on from the Executive session on the agenda this for something different."

Ms. Sharon Harris then stated it was correspondence given to her on Ms. Frederick. Assistant DA asked Ms. Frederick "Do you waive your 24 hours of written notice prior to this meeting? Ms. Frederick, replied, "Yes"

Councilman Paige also stated she has the right to have an open meeting or close meeting let tell it all. The Assistant DA said that's correct. The Assistant DA asked Ms. Frederick, "Would you like to have it in Open meeting or would you like to have it in Executive Session? Ms. Frederick, replied, "I would like to have it in Open meeting." The Assistant DA said she still recommends them amending the Agenda.

On motion by Councilman Rodney Bedgood, duly seconded by, Councilman Russell Rachal that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does amend the agenda to add an Open Executive Session

on a letter given to Ms. Sharon Harris concerning Ms. Frederick.

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

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

**Motion Passed**

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Ms. Harris went on to tell she received a letter from the Director of Head Start Mrs. April Wade concerning the Policy Council member Ms. Sheryl Frederick. Mrs. Harris said this was the first she heard of this letter and seen this letter until tonight at the meeting. Ms. Harris reads the letter from the Head Start Director states an incident that occurred on April 11, 2017 between Ms. Frederick who is a Policy Council member and another Policy Council member to the Council and to those that was present in the audience. Chairman, Hoover, asked, "How can we move forward with the Director not being present?" The Assistant DA said everything will be towards Ms. Frederick, because Ms. Frederick is here and the Parish President along with the Council would conduct this meeting. Councilman Paige lets hear from the people whose involved in this letter, Chairman, Hoover, said, "She's not here." Councilman Paige, replied, "She wrote this letter and brought it, then we can hear from those present, these people was there, all the other stuff, I don't care to hear." Ms. Frederick, replied, "I first would like Cathy Creamer, Lynda Vance, Sharon Harris, and Parish President to speak before I speak.

At that time Ms. Creamer told her side of the story and everyone's stories was relatively the same with some more details. The summary of this, this other Policy Council member during the meeting was rude to the Parish President, the Purchasing Agent, the Parish HR, and finally when Ms. Frederick were telling, the Parish HR person to come on lets go she know better not to do this, then the other Policy Council member told Ms. Frederick she didn't have to call their names they were grown women and this lead to more of exchanging of words between both Policy Council members.

When Mrs. Frederick was exiting the room, the other Policy Council member said she better carry her big self out of here, she's just the devil and acting ignorant, this time Ms. Frederick, came back in threw her purse and books on the table and removed her jacket and Ms. Sharon Harris was standing in between them not employees and Mr. Rick Nowlin was standing on the side of Ms. Frederick told her to leave and Ms. Harris told her to leave and don't stoop to the other Policy Council member level.

After all of this, the Head Start Director wasn't even in the room when all this started, but she could write a letter to say what happened. The Head Start Director went up front to walk the lady from Dallas out, the lady from Dallas wasn't even present for this. Ms. Harris also said "The other Policy Council was saying let her go, she's not going to hit me because she knows she's going to lose her job, she really threatened and I don't like this, I don't like this at all, I'm going to tell you-all I don't like this at all.

Parish President, responded, "I wasn't there from the beginning, but

I  
was in the hallway when I heard this between the two ladies, this  
other lady did provoke Sheryl, but we told Sheryl to come on and let  
it go, and she did. I'm very surprise to get this letter, but she did  
tell Ms. Frederick, You're not going to hit me, you're not going to  
hit me, but I wasn't sure, but Sheryl didn't, someone else might  
have,  
but Sheryl didn't."

Ms. Frederick was asked, "Was Mrs. Wade in the room the entire time  
of  
these things going on? Ms. Frederick, replied, "No." and Ms. Sharon  
Harris replied, "No, she wasn't." Ms. Frederick, replied, "All things  
that was said is the correct I was trying to get Cathy out of there I  
was going to leave, but when someone call you big, the Devil and  
ignorant that will make a person turn back around, and I did turn  
around and asked "What did you say?" she repeated herself and then  
laughing and smirking you not going to hit me if you do you will lose  
your job. I did exchange words with her, but I didn't use profanity,

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"Thank GOD" I just don't understand why the letter was addressed  
solely to me when you had another Policy Council member who initiated  
everything." at that time Parish President said, "Amen" Ms. Frederick  
continued by saying, "She went after Mr. Nowlin first, then Lynda,  
and

then Cathy, and then it was me, that's why I didn't want it in no  
close Executive meeting, I want everybody to know because it want be  
no hear say or she said or whatever, it's coming from me, so if they  
were trying to get me fired, well, it's in the open now, she can't  
say

now, you can't hit me, you'll lose your job, well, now everyone one  
knows, my bosses already know, I wasn't trying to hide it from  
anybody

because I called you, talking to the Chairman, and then I told the  
Vice-Chair, Mr. Bedgood. I told everyone I needed to tell, I rest my  
case."

Chairman, Hoover responded by saying "The only thing I can when you  
made the call to me then I did make a call to the Vice Chair because  
it was about our Clerk, but I also said these two sides to every  
story

and if anybody has anything to say we are the Council and this is  
where it should be brought to the Council for us to hear what took  
place from both sides."

Councilman Rachal, asked, "This other Policy Council member who  
appoints them? Mr. Nowlin responded, "We appointed one and that was  
Ms. Sheryl the other is appointed by the Policy Council Board of  
Head Start. This member is a Community Representative and she's voted  
on by the Policy Council Board. Ms. Frederick, replied, "This person  
wasn't approved by the Policy Council Board she was brought in and  
that's why I requested all the minutes from 2016 and 2017 to see when  
this person was voted on, since I have been there she wasn't and I've  
only missed two meetings. At the first meeting, Mr. Vance video the  
installation when Mr. Stamey came and done and that person wasn't  
there."

Mr. Randy Stelly asked, "Was it the lady who got in your face, who  
wrote the letter? The answer was "No." The Head Start Director is the  
person who wrote the letter. Mr. Stelly asked why this other Policy  
Council member didn't write this letter and why the Head Start  
Director wrote the letter? Ms. Frederick, replied, " They are  
friends."

Councilman Rachal, stated, "These are very strong accusations it

wasn't alleged it said she did this, that's a point of accusations. I feel as a Council and as her employer, we need to stand together, my recommendation is that the Author of this letter, Dr. April Wade we mandate that she gives us a letter a time frame that she mandated for us why she wrote these false accusations and not the other employee, these are a bunch of lies according to what I heard today and there could be some civil charges brought up on this these are accusations and I believe she owes us an explanation how she's going to handle herself in this"

Chairman, Hoover, replied, "That's why I was saying in the beginning her bringing the letter to the overall body and was not here, that what I was concerned about, you said she had the letter but she's not here to give what took place herself."

Ms. Sharon Harris, responded, "She was here and she gave that to you and she left. Chairman, Hoover, replied, "She gave me the envelope and

I passed the envelope around." Ms. Harris, stated, "Let's get it straight I'm her immediate supervisor and I didn't know nothing about this, she has broken the rule all together, she's not following protocol, not at all."

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Councilman Paige wanted to be recognized, "This matter is bigger probably have more discussions, but I'm done with it tonight, I've heard everybody and one thing for sure, when I talked to Sheryl, she didn't tell me nothing, because she knows I don't be wanting to hear all these kinds of foolishness, we should get along in any way possible, but I can simply tell you some things some people have crossed the lines with the letter, what occurred and what possibly didn't occur and all of that, but we had people that was present that knows what happened, but as a Governing Body we sit here tonight it's our job here tonight to say at this time the matter that I've heard, I'm ready to make a motion from the situation, I heard no action taken, I'm ready to go home, now I looked at this agenda today and said, I need to pack a lunch to come here tonight because we talked about how long these Council meeting goes. We just want to see some work done on the roads and I don't mean to be ugly, but we represent people who just want to see some work done, but the people want to see road work not all of this mess.

Ms. Roy wanted a copy of the letter. Councilman Paige, stated, "You can have mind if you want it, it was brought here in open meeting so it's public now.

Councilman Paige reads a recommendation that was made by the Assistant

District Attorney and it was made into a motion based on this letter and testimony heard today, The Council expresses its opinion that Ms. Frederick engaged in no inappropriate conduct on April 11, 2017 and Councilman Paige stated that what I was talking about after hearing everything tonight.

Chairman, Hoover, will this continue if someone wants to tell their side? Councilman Paige, replied, "They can come if they want we hear if we want to hear, but we said it's over and we don't want to hear it again, and other Council members said out loud it's over, it's over and Councilman Bedgood said, Yes!!!

On motion by Councilman Rodney Bedgood, duly seconded by, Councilman Russell Rachal that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does express after reading the letter and listening to

all one's present testimony that Ms. Frederick did not engaged in no in appropriate conduct on April 11, 2017.

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

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

**Motion Passed**

On motion by Councilman de Graffenried , duly seconded by Councilman Bedgood, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby adjourn.

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

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

Motion Passed

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Since there was no other business the meeting was adjourn:

Attest:

Chairman

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Patsy Ward Hoover,