

PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATCHITOCHE PARISH COUNCIL  
PARISH OF NATCHITOCHE, STATE OF LOUISIANA  
TAKEN A REGULAR MEETING HELD, Monday,  
July 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, July 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 Chairman Patsy Ward Hoover who stated that the Parish was ready for the transaction of business.

The invocation was given by Councilman Chris Paige and the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mr. John Hodgeson.

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

Absent: None.

The Parish Council Clerk at this time she would like to add two items to the agenda upon Council approval.

Items are:

1. Council To consider authorizing the Parish to advertise for bids for the construction of Coco Bed Road following approval of project plans by Facility Planning and Control.
2. Wording change for item #10. Before it read Introduction of Ordinance 023-2017 Council to consider budget revision for the 2017 Operating Budget for Criminal Jury/Law enforcement, Civil Defense, Public Safety, General Fund, Highway, Government Building, Health Unit, Library, Solid Waste, Coroners, and Sales Tax.

On motion by Councilman Chris Paige, duly seconded by Councilman Russell Rachal that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby amend the agenda.

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

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

**Motion Passed**

Chairman, Hoover, then recognized Mr. John Barr, Regional Director for Senator John Kennedy, Shreveport, LA office branch. Mr. John Barr wanted to introduce himself and let the people of Natchitoches Parish know if they're out there and available if the Parish had any Federal issues they could help out with. He left his card with the Chairman, for his contact information.

Chairman, Hoover stated she would like to recognize one of our very own, Councilman Russell Rachal for a presentation.

Councilman, Russell Rachal, Councilman, Rachal began by saying he wasn't up there to point fingers tonight, and he begin talking about

himself, saying, "I haven't always come up here to these meetings, with an open mind or positive attitude, and we disagree on things, and I'll be the first one to step to the plate and say, "I need improvement". It Doesn't matter what form of Government we came from, it's where we at right now, we're statutory mandated to make it work. We as a Governing Body is on the same team. It's Not Home team versus Visitors, we're here to do the job as the Governing body to do the best of our abilities to the people, taxpayers of this Parish." Councilman Rachal informed the Council they were in Office 18 months and have gotten very little accomplished and everybody knows that, Councilman, Rachal, stated, "It's time we step up to the plate and do the job the people called us to do and start working together and not apart." Councilman, Rachal recognized the Council and the Parish President by asking them to raise their hands so the people could see them. Councilman, Rachal, continues to say, "We are the Governing Body who makes the decision and we're responsible for if it works or don't work. We have been elected to make things happen." Councilman, Rachal informed the Council it's time that we start working together with each other and with our President, and it's time the President gets more vocal and open and have an open communication with us and let us know things that are going on. Councilman, Rachal, stated, "I have been asked questions and I don't have answers to it and I should have answers as a Councilman to some of these questions." Things have to change and I'm willing to step to the plate tonight and make it change, because the people deserve better and it's time that we go to work for the people and quit pushing personal agendas. And now since we have a change in the Road Department, it's brand new today and it's time to give them a chance to turn things around."

Chairman, Hoover stated the next agenda item we will hear the report of the Public Works Director, Mr. Nick Verret, "but I stand to be corrected that he's no longer our Public Works Director and we have Mr. Earl Townsend, who will be filling in for him until, the President has made that appointment, we have not officially, we know that you make the appointments, but we have not officially as a Council, to vote, the appointment is upon the approval of the Council, at this time I'm asking the Parish President to give the report from the Public Works Director."

Parish President, begin to say, "Mr. Townsend is not here tonight, I met with him this afternoon, and he's working on a few things that I need in the morning, so I excuse him from the meeting, but you have the written report from last month, from the previous Director of Public Works, Mr. Verret, Mr. Townsend could have read the report for you, but I don't see what good that would have done. Mr. Johnny Salard is with us this evening, and he's the Road Maintenance Supervisor, that worked under Mr. Verret, and now is working under the Interim Director, Mr. Earl Townsend, and we ask Mr. Salard to be here, if you have any questions, he would try to answer those questions."

Councilman, Doug de Graffenried, responded, by saying, "I've received three phone calls today asking about Hampton Road and the trucks out there that's doing damage out there, What are we going to do about the damages the trucks are making?"

Mr. Salard, replied, "We're done with that part of the project and we're working on that now, we are getting material out there and get the road re-graded and re-fixed. I just need the manpower to do it, I just got two truck drivers today."

Councilman, Doug de Graffenried, responded, "One more question, I was called by a person, concerned about the design of Hampton road, and I told them, I would ask the question tonight. Mr. Nowlin, Would you like to answer that?"

Parish President, Nowlin, replied, "The design for Hampton road, we have done some basic work on it. It's really our second priority, right now, the first is to get the plans completed for Payne Subdivision streets and the Coco Bed Project has been submitted to the State, and a matter of fact, one of the amendments to the Agenda tonight was to authorize us to advertise for bids upon the approval by the State and we're hoping we'll get that approval before the next Council meeting, even if it's a two weeks head start, we'll like to take advantage of that to start getting the bids in at least to advertise. For Hampton Road will follow as soon as we complete Payne Subdivision."

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, comments or concerns on the reports.

Councilman, Bedgood, wanted to know about the progress with Goldonna. Ms. Harris, replied, "The last thing I heard on Goldonna was the Principal of Goldonna was going to bring me the rest of the surveys, and when we went out there we only received Five surveys at that time, the Principal was going to bring me some last week, but she haven't brought anything to me at this time." Councilman, Bedgood, replied, "She didn't bring in anything yesterday?" Ms. Harris, "No, sir, not to me." Councilman, Bedgood, replied, "She supposed to have brought in some yesterday, she had eleven (11)." Mr. Harris, "She didn't bring in anything to me."

Councilman, Paige wanted to know about the feeding program, How it was going? Ms. Harris, responded, "The feeding program is going really well, we'll going to end it on the 28th of July, however, on a daily average we serve an average of 426 children for breakfast and on an average of 474 children for Lunch." Councilman, Paige, also inquired about the Energy Assistance Program. Ms. Harris, responded, "Energy Assistance is going really well also, we give out appointments on the 5th and 6th once per month for Energy Assistance and the people would have to come in a bring their material with them. The only problem we have is transportation, getting them down there to bring their paperwork and we'll try to meet those people as much as we can, those that have transportation issues." Councilman, Paige, replied, "They're having trouble getting across town," Ms. Harris, replied, "Correct." Councilman, Paige wanted to know about the money, Have it been steady? Ms. Harris, responded, "The money is steady, there has not been a decrease here from the State, but however, we have heard that the Federal Government, there will be a cut between 2018 and 2019." Councilman, Paige, responded, "Are you doing this on a First Come First Serve Basis?" Ms. Harris, replied, "yes, sir." Councilman, Paige, asked, "If a person, gets in one, month can they get in the next month also?" Ms. Harris, replied, "No, Sir, Energy Assistant is basically every 6 month based on availability of funds."

Chairman, Hoover, then recognizes Parish Treasurer Debbie Miley and she stated she sent all the reports in the Council packages for Head Start, Credit Card transactions, all checked written, and inmate report. Ms. Miley also included the Audit of the Department of Human Services. Administration for Children and Families decisions regarding the Head Start/Early Head Start findings contained in the audit report for 01/01/2015 to 12/31/2015. A-06-17-30605 for Natchitoches Parish Government. Ms. Miley asked were there any questions for her about the reports.

Chairman, Hoover at this time, Ms. Miley I do have some questions about what you're sending us, again, I will like to see more detailed information, itemize details of who is receiving what. I asked the

President that you, myself, and Councilman de Graffenried, in having a

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meeting with you so we can be transparent and accountable for the monies and that has been 3 months and that has not happened and I'm still waiting. Mr. de Graffenried and I would like to sit down with you-all on." Ms. Miley, responded, "You can have a meeting as soon as you want to, I send you all checks that are written to every Vendor, I'm not sure, what you want, but we'll be glad to send you whatever, you're want." Chairman, Hoover, replied, "Details, for example, if you say charges, I'll will like to know what those charges are and who this money is being given too. Again, if you can gives us a date we can come to sit with you and work accordingly."

Parish President, replied, "I can arrange my schedule anytime, this Wednesday or Friday afternoon, Councilman, de Graffenried, said Friday afternoon will be better for him because Wednesday is taken up. Chairman, Hoover, replied, "So we'll get together on the time."

Councilman, Chris Paige wanted to know does Ms. Miley, sees any of these accounts having any difficulties. Ms. Miley, replied, "No accounts are having any trouble this year. This year everything looks ok."

Chairman Hoover then recognizes Parish President, Parish President wanted to go over a couple of items on his report.

**CAPITAL OUTLAY UPDATE:**

The agenda for the State Bond Commission meeting to be held on July 20th includes the following Parish projects:

Coco Bed Road, Planning and Construction	\$280,000	P1
Payne Subdivision Streets Planning and Construction	200,000	P1
	300,000	P5
Courthouse Security Improvements, Planning & Const.	480,000	P1
Blanchard Road, Planning & Construction	280,000	P5
Fish Hatchery Road, Planning	125,000	P5
Old River Bridge, Planning and Construction	610,000	
		P5

The plans for Coco Bed Road have been submitted to the Office of Facility and Planning, and Control. Following its review and approval, the project may be advertised for bids.

The engineering of the improvements to the streets of Payne Subdivision is in progress, Parish President, Councilman Paige, and Mr. Nick Verret drove through the streets in Payne to see exactly what steps need to be taken and decided upon an approach to maximize the amount money that exactly could put on the streets, along with the bridge replacement after that the design work for Hampton Road will be performed by the Parish engineer upon completion of the plans for Payne Subdivision. The planning for Blanchard Road will follow Hampton Road. Later on in the Agenda we'll talk about the Road Tax.

**BUILDING MAINTENANCE:**

A. The main Courthouse Elevator: In recent months, the elevator has required frequent maintenance by the maintenance contractor, Schindler elevator. Due to the maintenance costs and the inconvenience of having to assign personnel to operate the old elevator, the Parish is considering the replacement of the elevator drive unit and controls. Mr. George Minturn is investigating the scope of the work required and will prepare a preliminary plan and cost estimate for Parish review. The elevator is approaching 60 years

old.

Councilman, Chris Paige wanted to know if Government Building Fund could take care of the Elevator? Ms. Miley, replied, "Yes, we have money in that account."

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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, June 19, 2017.

On motion by Councilman Russell Rachal, duly seconded by, Councilman Doug de Graffenried 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, June 19, 2017.

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

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

**Motion Passed**

Chairman, Hoover stated the next agenda item is for Appointments of Boards and Commission. There are none.

Chairman, Hoover stated the next agenda item is for First Introduction of Proposed Ordinances.

Introduction of Ordinance 023-2017 Council to consider budget revision for the 2017 Operating Budget for Criminal Jury/Law enforcement, Civil Defense, Public Safety, General Fund, Highway, Government Building, Health Unit, Library, Solid Waste, Coroners, and Sales Tax.

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 023-2017 Council to consider budget revisions for the 2017 Operating Budget for Criminal Jury/Law enforcement, Civil Defense, Public Safety, General Fund, Highway, Government Building, Health Unit, Library, Solid Waste, Coroners, and Sales Tax.

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

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

**Motion Passed**

At this time, Councilman Paige, had a question, "You guys seems very hesitate on voting on this, Do you know something, I don't know about this, What's going on?" Chairman, Hoover, stated, "It's just for Introduction only." Councilman, Paige, replied, "I understand all of that, but I'm talking to those that hesitated to vote."

Councilman, Bedgood, replied, "My question, we have already sent this one time, Why do we have to do this all over again with the Budget? Are we asking for more money? Ms. Miley, replied, "To bring some of your money in line from last year whenever I estimated, how much funds we will have during the year I haven't brought it you, to tell

you exactly what we have and we've been waiting until mid year to do it, and that's a lot of it and as you can see in your budget the cash for extra revenue has come in, and the others are swamping between lines and it's to let you know what is being done." Councilman, Bedgood, replied, "I asked a question way back, I'm not throwing anything out, I'm just saying, because we never know, when we voted down the trucks that time, and turn around and they bought them the next day,

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Pick-ups, and I turn around and say, "Where did that money come from? "Oh, we had it in equipment in the Budget and we could have taken it out of that to buy them with because it's considered equipment. I said, "ok". That was good, I would have loved to know that." Chairman, Hoover, replied, "Not only one truck, but two." Councilman, Bedgood, replied, "Yea, that's what I'm saying, I don't want any surprises again." Councilman, Rachal, stated, "Shouldn't that come up in discussion for next time for next month?" Chairman, Hoover, replied, "Yes." Next item, and at that time, Councilman, Paige, responded, " I don't understand, that we never discuss anything, and then we turn around and vote on it in the following month." Chairman, Hoover, replied, "It's on the agenda for Introduction, and next month....., then Councilman, Paige, replied, "I understand what you guys rules are, but, then Councilman, Rachal, replied, "It's the law." and Councilman, Paige, replied, "You're making them up as you go, believe that."

Chairman, Hoover stated the next item on the agenda.

Introduction of Ordinance 024-2017 to authorize the Parish President to execute an Intergovernmental Agreement between the taxing entities of Natchitoches Parish for the sale of adjudicated properties and the distribution of funds derived therefrom.

On motion by Councilman Russell Rachal, duly seconded by, Councilman Chris Paige that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby Introduce Ordinance 024-2017 to authorize the Parish President to execute an Intergovernmental Agreement between the taxing entities of Natchitoches Parish for the sale of adjudicated properties and the distribution of funds derived therefrom.

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

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

**Motion Passed**

Chairman, Hoover stated next item is to conduct a public hearing to hear any and all comments or objections relative to the adoption of the following items:

- A.** Council to consider approving an Ordinance No 19-2017 creating Road District No. 1 of the Parish of Natchitoches, State of Louisiana, describing the territory to compose the district and the

boundaries thereof, and providing for other matters in connection therewith.

- B. Council to consider approving an Ordinance No 20-2017 creating Road District No. 2 of the Parish of Natchitoches, State of Louisiana, describing the territory to compose the district and the boundaries thereof, and providing for other matters in connection therewith.

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- C. Council to consider approving an Ordinance No 21-2017 creating Road District No. 3 of the Parish of Natchitoches, State of Louisiana, describing the territory to compose the district and the boundaries thereof, and providing for other matters in connection therewith.
- D. Council to consider approving an Ordinance No 22-2017 creating Road District No. 4 of the Parish of Natchitoches, State of Louisiana, describing the territory to compose the district and the boundaries thereof, and providing for other matters in connection therewith.

On motion by Councilman Rodney Bedgood, duly seconded by, Councilman Russell Rachal that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby **open** Public Hearing to hear any and all comments or objections relative to the adoption of the above listed items.

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

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

**Motion Passed**

**Discussion on the 4 tax Ordinance's for District 1, District 2, District 3, and District 4.**

Councilman Doug de Graffenried, begin to put up charts and graphs and maps of the Ward System provided by the Natchitoches Parish Tax Assessors Office. Councilman de Graffenried, begin by saying, "The ward system has been in existence in the Parish before everyone is this room was born, it's a way taxes are assessed, it's the way taxes are paid by the ward you live in. People ask, "Sitting around this table I have heard from people is Where the money is going, and it's an interesting question to ask and the answers are sometimes hard to come by, so what we're proposing is a property tax at 15 mils. property tax, parish wide creating four road Districts. The first road District is ironically Ward number 1 second District is Ward 2, 3, and 4. The 3rd Road District is Ward 5,6,7,8 and the 4 District is Ward 9 and 10. This tax is not for the City of Natchitoches, this tax is just for the Parish. The way this will be constructed if a road District passes the tax is assessed in that road District. The tax money can only be spent in that road District. The money cannot be spent in any other road District only in the District

it passes in and collected in. If the road District doesn't pass the tax, a tax will not be assessed in that District, no extra money will be available in that area. The interested things with the money:

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	Annual		10year period
Ward 1	802,032		8,020,320
Ward 2	1,043,125		10,431,250
Ward 3	813,933	plus \$200,000 from Kistachie	10,139,330
Ward 4	760,905		7,609,050

The good news from the tax is because the Natchitoches Parish has a history of tax revenue with Road District 40 up to 80% of the money for a ten year period is available after the first quarter of 2018, I'll give you the translation 6.4 million for Ward 1 can be spent after the first quarter of 2018, 8.3 mil for Ward 2 can be spent after the first quarter of 2018, 8.1 mil for Ward 3 can be spent after the first quarter of 2018, and 6 mil for Ward 4 can be spent after the first quarter of 2018 because we can bond our indebtedness. This is a lot of money for the tax payers of Natchitoches Parish to pay, but it's also a lot of money to start fixing roads, and what you're talking about is the ability to have nearly 27 million dollars available to spend on roads after the first quarter of 2018. Now that's real money, that's fixing roads, that hiring contractors, that's turning dirt."

Mr. John Austin does not want this tax to go forward. Mr. Austin, stated, "This is a single Parish and not for individuals. Any money that is brought in should be put in the pot and distributed evenly. Mr. Austin wants to leave it at one and for the Councilmen to do their jobs and work for all the people and not make the people work for the Council. He felt those closer to the City would benefit from it the most around the City area. Councilman de Graffenried, disagreed with him and told him he was incorrect the roads out in the Parish would benefit from more. Mr. Austin, still felt the roads closer to the City limits get fixed before the other Parish roads. Councilman de Graffenried explain you only can use the money in the District that passes the tax, you can't use the money in other Districts that didn't pass the tax. Mr. Austin, still felt it was only one Parish. And he wanted it to be known he's against this and one last remark to a newspaper article that's titled, "Let the Stomping Begins Here." "I took disrespect about what Councilman de Graffenried, stated in a newspaper article that 47 percent of the voters in the Parish who pay taxes after the 75,000 Homestead Exemption allowance and 53% percent are the ones who are not paying taxes is complaining the loudest. Mr. Austin, wanted Councilman de Graffenried to know he's a resident of this parish, and he has the right for his voice to be heard and he wanted Councilman de Graffenried to read the article again, and he feels that Councilman de Graffenried have people in his District that was born with "silver spoons" in their mouths. Mr. Austin, wanted Councilman de Graffenried to be careful of what he says. Councilman de Graffenried, said he was sorry he was stating the facts. Mr. Austin, stated he will not be back unless more "BS"

comes up.

Mr. Laney Wright wants clarification about the 4 taxes that are being presented to the residents of the Parish. He wanted to know about the revenue sharing from the State and Federal and how the matching funds are going to be taken care of. Councilman de Graffenried, replies, "There is no revenue sharing that was gotten rid of in the 1980's." Mr. Wright was concerned when you take matching funds, Will you be taking it from that

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area or you're taking it from the whole Parish? Parish President, Rick Nowlin begins to explain, "The only road project that we have matching funds is from the State Capital Outlay Program and the Parish have a 25 percent match as a whole and those are funds that can be spent on specific road projects that is approved by the State, we recommend certain roads and they pick the roads they want to fund and we have to match it from that. What was done in the past, we can one road from each Councilman, District is so matching funds can be evenly distributed throughout the Parish. There is no Federal Revenue Sharing for roads today there was a Federal Road Sharing 30 years ago." Mr. Wright, wanted to know if you have matching funds, "Are you going to be getting that match from the whole Parish?" Parish President, replied, " All the road improvements will be funded through the tax revenue, now if somebody would offer us some money for a road, say in road District 2, we can match it with Road District 2 money, but that is called leveraging, If somebody wants to give us 75 percent of the cost of the road, it will be kind of foolish not to put up the other 25 percent if your road need fixing, so we want be taking any money from the other Districts to do a project for road District 2 or any other Districts."

Laurence Sampey from Goldonna begin talking about a Dry Hydrant that is sitting on the Lake and he can't get to it with his Fire Trucks because there is a culvert about 40 to 70 feet from the Highway that has collapsed. Chairman, Hoover asked Mr. Sampey will he get to what he was needing to say about the tax. Mr. Sampey, replied, "For years we have asked for things to be done and things has been switched. We have asked about the Goldonna Road and it was replaced for the Fish Hatchery Road, look like the priority is not there because of favoritism and politics so you-all are asking us to vote for something, but you-all are not proving to us that it's going to be done, we can't even trust the Parish people no more to do the work, because we are told one thing and then all of sudden it changed because of favoritism and politics, I'm going to ask one question, How many of you-all on this board is able to vote on this new tax coming up? Three of yal. You-all want a tax outside the City limits of Natchitoches, and you-all will have nothing to do with it. So why should we support a tax when you-all don't even do you-all job or anything for it or with it?

Parish President begins to speak, "I'm not going to try to address all of Mr. Sampey's points. I just spoke briefly with the Parish Attorney as a General rule the Parish is prohibited to spend tax payers money on private roads and properties, but there is a section in the law that does allow certain types of expenditures for public needs and focus, and they are going to be looking into it." Mr. Sampey, replied, "We have been talking

about this, Rick, for years, Mr. Cloud had to come in there and replace this culvert with private funds and the Parish wouldn't even touch it." Parish President, also wanted to let me Sampey know, "I do live in the City of Natchitoches, but I also have a home in the Parish and it would apply to that property. Mr. Nowlin, stated it doesn't qualify for Homestead Exemption, because it's a second home and I pay quite a bit for taxes on that property." Mr. Sampey, asked different questions, Was it a camp? and other questions and Parish President, said, no, it's a

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house, Mr. Sampey asked, Do you live in it? Parish President, said, No. Mr. Sampey, then responded, "Well, it's not a resident." At this time Parish President, responded, "I'm not going to argue with you."

John Hodgeson of Pardee Road wanted to know if a resident who doesn't pay taxes and have more than one car, and is using the road and tearing it up more than those who pay taxes, Is there a way to make them pay? There wasn't an answer given, Parish President told Mr. Hodgeson that was a State issue with Homestead Exemption and not a local issue.

Councilman Paige wanted to know if 3 minutes was legal to do in a Public Hearing and he wanted the legal minds to research and find out if that's a fact. He also wanted to say, "We talked about this particular tax, and from day one I said we was rushing to get it on the ballot and I'm not in the business of hastily putting it out there and we should learn from the fact of the other taxes and we should not be hastily doing this. I always said I can't support it, until I see some work being done in my District, similar to what the gentleman just said. I would love to see some work done in Payne Subdivision, the other day Mr. Verret, Mr. Nowlin, and I along with Mr. Richard Smith road the streets of Payne Subdivision and saw the mess those people are going through back there. There are 300 to 400 people back there and I would have loved to see some work being done back there and I could stand here tonight and say, I'll support this tax, but until the work is being done, and the people are telling me not to support it, and I hope in the future we want to hastily do something like this. I have some business in my District and if we do pass a tax like this are we going to have the cooperation of the Highway Department to get this work done? or they're going to be too busy and tied up and you will have to contracted this work out? If this is done by contracting that will spend up a whole lot of money, and you know this. We need these type of questions to be answered if you're going to have the cooperation. Is the Highway Department is going to be there to help, they should be eager to help but I have my skepticism if the cooperation going to be there. We had a big discussion here last month about this and I hear you, Mr. Rachal, saying, "Let's get along", I want to get along too, but I have the common sense to know that everything is not peaches and cream here. I would have loved to see some work being done out there in Payne Subdivision and I could stand tonight. I appreciate Mr. Nowlin and Mr. Verret for coming out there riding, but this has been 6 to 7 years we have been talking about this and I just like to say, Mr. Nowlin, I appreciate you coming out there, That's just where I'm at, and I can't do nothing but vote like the people in my District tells me to do and that's it."

Councilman Rachal spoke next by saying he does have questions about the tax as well. "How do we determine what roads are going to be fixed first?" Mr. de Graffenried, if this should pass, What kind of way we can set this up who determine the road, The Parish President, Us the Council, or can we have a Citizen group out in each District to determine this?"

Councilman de Graffenried, replied, "The way the law is written you can have Citizens Groups in each of these Districts."

Councilman Bedgood, replied, "Didn't the Home Rule Charter

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states, we couldn't tell anyone what to do? Councilman, Paige agreed with Mr. Bedgood. Councilman de Graffenried, replied, "I yield to the Parish President."

Parish President begins to address the concerns by saying, "That's a good point, and I discussed it with our Bond Council, for any Districts that passes the tax, the Council can create a Board to govern the way that money to be spent in that District. The Board will be of people in that District or theoretically the Council can make itself the Board. It's strictly at the will of the Council to have people in the District to create a Board for that District, how it's going to be set up." Councilman, Rachal, responded, "Who will determine who is on that Rachal, responded, "Who will determine who is on that Committee?" Parish President, replied, "It will be just like the other Boards, it will be an advertisement for interested parties, and there will be accepted or rejected and it ultimately comes back to the Council."

Councilman, Rachal, replied, "If I, in my District and any interested parties wanted to serve, Would you have a say to recommend them or would I as the Council member in my District be able to have a vote on who get selected from my District?" Parish President, replied, "That's a good question, and I would have to refer to Legal Council on that, because in general, the General Board a good question, and I would have to refer to Legal Council on that, because in general, the General Board appointments would come through my office subject approval by Council."

At this time, the Parish Attorney, begin to read the statute.

Councilman, Bedgood begins to speak, "I'm not saying a lot, I made a lot of phone calls last week, I'm kinda like Mr. Paige, this thing jumped up way to quick and that we have plenty of time to get a tax, we couldn't even get a Sales tax passed. I've made a 150 phone calls this week and I have not had one person to tell me they want me to support this. I'm going to do what my voters asked me to do, those people that put me into office, and I'm going to end it there. They can put me in or take me out, it doesn't make a difference one way or the other, but I'm going to do what they asked me to do tonight."

Chairman, Hoover, responded, "I'll like to speak from District 2, I called in my District to find out what they want me to do in District 2, and every single person I called, said, no, so my vote is no, also.

Councilman, Bedgood, replied, "This is not a fair tax, no way you can adjust this to make it a fair tax. People who own property and have a nice home is going to pay out their tail end, and if they tell you you're only going to pay only \$100 or \$200 dollars out pockets, that is not so. You're going to pay up to \$500 to \$700 and up it all depends on what you own. It's not a fair tax,

some going to pay and some is not going to pay, so it's up to everyone to decide, and I don't feel like everyone should get mad about anybody's decision on how to vote, that's kind of stupid to me."

Parish President, "Your point has been raise whether this is a fair tax. A fair tax, I can understand somebody saying that from

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the sense of some people is paying it and some don't, some people are able to pay and some aren't , but if this tax shall pass and you have a house that is valued at a \$150,000 dollars, this will cost a \$112.00 dollars a year and \$2.16 a week. A house that is valued at \$250,000 dollars, this will cost \$262.50 dollars a year and \$5.05 a week. I know people who are spending over \$250.00 on car repairs, you're already paying the tax, but just not to the Government, but you're paying it to the tire dealers and shops. I think it's important to hear from our constituents each of you-all represent a District, but I represent 40,000 people, but unfortunately not all of those 40,000 take the time to dig into the issues like you do, they elect you to.... at this time there was a person talking in the audience and the Parish President asked the person was she needing to say something, and he told her to hold it down, while he was talking. Unfortunately, they don't have the time to research this and to find out what is really going on. We have a Representative Democracy, that doesn't mean everyone on the phone doesn't get to vote, but they vote to elect a representative to research issue and come back to say this is the way we're going to vote and I don't care if I get re-elected or not, this is what is right. This tax excludes the City of Natchitoches, we learned from last year anything connected with the City is going down in flames, and it did, so, now we cut the City out and it also means the City want pay the tax, and the City want get any of the tax money spent on their roads either. Is my time up?" Chairman, replied, "Yes, but he still had 16 seconds left."

Richard Roberts of Old Bethel Church Road he wanted to ask a question about the Districts. He wanted to know about Councilman, Bedgood District. Councilman, Bedgood, began, by saying, "The way they drew these Districts up I would have Powhattan, Everything on this side of Red River, but my District over here is going into Councilman Rachal District, even, though, I still represent them as a Councilman, but you're going to be voting in another District according to how the Wards are set up. Richard Roberts, stated, then I will be paying a tax to fix his roads, Councilman, Bedgood, stated, "yes." Mr. Richard Roberts, then responded, "I'm against that."

Robert Wilson of Union Grove Road wanted clarification on the Homestead exemption. everything over \$75,000 is taxed. The road tax is 4.77 mills, but you're paying over depending on where you live you're paying for the law enforcement, school taxes, and Fire Districts. Just Parish taxes alone are around 60mils and only 4.77 goes toward the roads. Robert Wilson said he wasn't for it.

Councilman, Rachal told how much his taxes would go up to and Councilman, Bedgood begins talking about how much his step son's tax would go up and he lives at the end of Gates Road it would go up \$800 a year he's already paying \$2300.00 a year with the increase he will be paying a little over \$3,000 a year in taxes.

Councilman Paige, wanted to know, "How much would this election cost the Parish?" Ms. Miley, replied, "The last election was around \$60,000 but she would know exactly what the cost for this one because it will be pro-rated." Councilman, Paige, wanted to hear from the audience what they wanted the Council to do, and How should they vote on this matter.

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Clint Payne stated, "The whole problem with the Council is voter confidence of you-all doing what you-all suppose to do. and evidence shows over the years nothing has been done; so, you-all really have a dilemma and we elected you-all to try to figure out a solution and what I'm not hearing today is you're telling me how much we will get from a road, but I don't hear a plan, there is no plan to give us confidence in how you're going to go about fixing the road. If you-all can come up with a plan, like normal people do, we can be a little better, and all I heard tonight is just about how much money, but I didn't hear a plan on if you get the money how you're going to use it. I hear you saying, when you call your people they said, no, we as the people need to know, Why did they say, No? If you talked to your constituents and they said, no, Why did they say, No? Not because I'm not going to pay, \$700 more dollars, but the real reason, they say, No. I believe I know the real reason, they said , no."

Councilman, Bedgood, stated, the reasons, why, because, they said, the Parish said the same thing a year ago and we are going to see things changes and nothing has changed. And Chairman, Hoover, replied, "No transparencies and we don't give in an account to the people."

Councilman, Paige, replied, "This is the first I heard of this, if you-all do this you can have input of somebody to put on the board or whatever, and we have been sitting and jumping off the bench saying we have a person we want to put on there and before you know it other people names are submitted, that's have been the big dilemma, it's going to have to be some cooperation of all Council members and the President or whoever does the electing of any boards and we don't have any boards that are working. pretty much we need more input from everyone to come together"

Mr. Payne wanted to see a plan. He wants to see exactly what is going to be done. How the roads are going to be fixed if the tax passes.

Parish President, asked the Chairman and Council, "Let the people decide, not by a telephone vote, but by an actual vote from the polls. If the telephones are right, Hilary will be our President, just let the people vote to see what happens, please put it on the ballot and if they vote it down, fine."

Relatively from the discussions:

On motion by Councilman Chris Paige, duly seconded by, Councilman Russell Rachal that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby **close** Public Hearing to hear any and all comments or objections relative to the adoption of the listed items.

- A.** Council to consider approving an Ordinance No 19-2017 creating Road District No. 1 of the Parish

of Natchitoches, State of Louisiana, describing the territory to compose the district and the boundaries thereof, and providing for other matters in connection therewith.

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- B.** Council to consider approving an Ordinance No 20-2017 creating Road District No. 2 of the Parish of Natchitoches, State of Louisiana, describing the territory to compose the district and the boundaries thereof, and providing for other matters in connection therewith.
- C.** Council to consider approving an Ordinance No 21-2017 creating Road District No. 3 of the Parish of Natchitoches, State of Louisiana, describing the territory to compose the district and the boundaries thereof, and providing for other matters in connection therewith.
- D.** Council to consider approving an Ordinance No 22-2017 creating Road District No. 4 of the Parish of Natchitoches, State of Louisiana, describing the territory to compose the district and the boundaries thereof, and providing for other matters in connection therewith.

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

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

**Motion Passed**

**Action on Proposed Ordinances:**

- A.** Council to consider approving an Ordinance No 19-2017 creating Road District No. 1 of the Parish of Natchitoches, State of Louisiana, describing the territory to compose the district and the boundaries thereof, and providing for other matters in connection therewith.

On motion by Councilman Doug de Graffenried, duly seconded by, Councilman Russell Rachal that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby consider approving an Ordinance No 19-2017 creating Road District No. 1 of the Parish of Natchitoches, State of Louisiana, describing the territory to compose the district and the boundaries thereof, and providing for other matters in connection therewith.

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

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

**Motion Not Passed**

- B.** Council to consider approving an Ordinance No 20-2017 creating Road District No. 2 of the Parish of Natchitoches, State of Louisiana, describing the territory to compose the district and the boundaries thereof, and providing for other matters in connection therewith.

On motion by Councilman Doug de Graffenried, duly seconded by, Councilman Russell Rachal that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby consider approving an Ordinance No 19-2017 creating Road District No. 1 of the Parish of Natchitoches, State of Louisiana, describing the territory to compose the district and the boundaries thereof, and providing for other matters in connection therewith.

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

Ayes:	Councilman de Graffenried	
Ayes:	Councilman Rachal	
Nayes:	Councilman Bedgood	
Nayes:	Councilwoman Hoover	
Nayes:	Councilman Paige	<b>Motion Not Passed</b>

- C.** Council to consider approving an Ordinance No 21-2017 creating Road District No. 3 of the Parish of Natchitoches, State of Louisiana, describing the territory to compose the district and the boundaries thereof, and providing for other matters in connection therewith.

On motion by Councilman Doug de Graffenried, duly seconded by, Councilman Russell Rachal that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby consider approving an Ordinance No 19-2017 creating Road District No. 1 of the Parish of Natchitoches, State of Louisiana, describing the territory to compose the district and the boundaries thereof, and providing for other matters in connection therewith.

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

Ayes:	Councilman de Graffenried	
Ayes:	Councilman Rachal	
Nayes:	Councilman Bedgood	
Nayes:	Councilwoman Hoover	
Nayes:	Councilman Paige	<b>Motion Not Passed</b>

- D.** Council to consider approving an Ordinance No 22-2017 creating Road District No. 4 of the Parish of Natchitoches, State of Louisiana, describing the territory to compose the district and the boundaries thereof, and providing for other matters in connection therewith.

On motion by Councilman Doug de Graffenried, duly seconded by, Councilman Russell Rachal that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in

regular and legal session, does hereby consider approving an Ordinance No 19-2017 creating Road District No. 1 of the Parish of Natchitoches, State of Louisiana, describing the territory to compose the district and the boundaries thereof, and providing for other matters in connection therewith.

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

Ayes:	Councilman de Graffenried	
Ayes:	Councilman Rachal	
Nayes:	Councilman Bedgood	
Nayes:	Councilwoman Hoover	
Nayes:	Councilman Paige	<b>Motion Not Passed</b>

Chairman, Hoover stated next agenda item are Resolutions:

1. Council to consider approving a Resolution by entering into an Intergovernmental Agreement from the Federal Off-System Bridge Rehabilitation and Replacement program with the Parish of Natchitoches.

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 approve a Resolution by entering into an Intergovernmental Agreement from the Federal Off-System Bridge Rehabilitation and Replacement program with the Parish of Natchitoches.

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

Ayes:	Councilman Paige	
Ayes:	Councilman de Graffenried	
Ayes:	Councilwoman Hoover	
Ayes:	Councilman Rachal	
Ayes:	Councilman Bedgood	<b>Motion Passed</b>

Chairman, Hoover stated next agenda item:

Council To consider authorizing the Parish to advertise for bids for the construction of Coco Bed Road following approval of project plans by Facility Planning and Control.

On motion by Councilman Russell Rachal, duly seconded by, Councilman Chris Paige that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby approve authorizing the Parish to advertise for bids for the construction of Coco Bed Road following approval of project plans by Facility Planning and Control.

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

Ayes:	Councilman Rachal	
Ayes:	Councilman Paige	
Ayes:	Councilman de Graffenried	
Ayes:	Councilwoman Hoover	
Ayes:	Councilman Bedgood	<b>Motion Passed</b>

Chairman, Hoover stated next agenda item:

Visitors for Non Agenda Items. (3 minutes)

Mr. Robert Jackson and Pastor Johnny Davis, Pastor Johnny Davis gave his three (3) to Mr. Robert Jackson.

Mr. Robert Jackson came forward and begin to define agency to the Council feels the Head Start Policy Council Board in this

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program from 2016-2017 has not been in compliance. He shared the Head Start Policy Council is in the everyday functions of the Head Start Program. He then read the Regulations on How the Policy Council should be made up. Mr. Jackson said at the annual meeting in October there was no quorum so the Representatives wasn't voted upon at that time. He felt those Community Representative that was on the Board to part of the Head Start functions for twelve months and wasn't suppose to and as of today they're still not in compliance. Mr. Jackson continued to read the Regulations in the Head Start Manual to let the Council know what should have happened concerning the Head Start Policy Council. Mr. Jackson read that the Policy Council had the rights to the hiring and firing of employees, but if they aren't in compliance they had no rights to do this. Then Mr. Jackson went on to talk about the July meeting to ratify actions of the Policy Council and that means to him it wasn't done correctly. Mr. Jackson stated they are going to take this thing to the fullest, but he is concerned with two things locally, the 200 Or 300 something kids in the program and Economic Impact of the program had on our economy and Mr. Jackson is asking for a meeting between Parish President Rick Nowlin, legal council, Chairman of the Council or any other member of the Board to meet with Policy Council President, he has talked with her, Rev. Johnny Davis, himself, and two other people and we're going to sit down and dissolve this issue. Everything must go through a legitimate Policy Council and you don't have one now. I think this program and getting it right is worth more than 6 minutes and we are planning to go beyond Natchitoches to get this done, where it will take more than 6 minutes. Mr. Jackson also reminded the Council about the requested meeting.

Deborah and Kenneth Long wanted the Council to know during the Tropical storm Cindy there was some flooding and a bridge flooded out and they can't longer get to their home. In 1995 it was a Parish bridge, the Policy Jury took the bridge out plus 200 feet of road out of the Parish Road System without even notifying us. The residents are responsible for putting the bridge back in. We are the only house on that road and we can't get any emergency services or Fire Department if anything happens on our road. The Long's lives on the Gary Jordan Road and they passed pictures out so the Council could see exactly what they were talking about. They use a ladder to cross over to get back and forth to their house.

Councilman Rachal, begin to speak and said they called and talked to him and he told them he would check into the matter. He called the Highway Department and stop about 30 feet from the Bridge. Councilman Rachal, checked on it and it's 583 feet is in the Parish and the rest is not. and that's 3 feet from that bridge, right now it's not a Parish Road. It's a dead end road. and the Long's don't own the property on either side of the road.

Parish President informed Chairman, Hoover that he would ask the Parish Attorney to investigate this matter and see what she can come up with concerning this road and bridge and let us know about it. All the Contact information was given to the Parish Attorney.

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On motion by Councilman Russell Rachal , duly seconded by Councilman Rodney 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 Rachal	
Ayes:	Councilman Bedgood	
Ayes:	Councilman de Graffenried	
Ayes:	Councilman Paige	
Ayes:	Councilwoman Hoover	<b>Motion Passed</b>

Since there was no other business the meeting was adjourn:

Attest:

Chairman

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

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