

PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATCHITOCHE PARISH COUNCIL
PARISH OF NATCHITOCHE, STATE OF LOUISIANA
TAKEN A REGULAR MEETING HELD, TUESDAY,
February 20, 2018
5:30 p.m.

The Natchitoches Parish Council met in regular and legal session in the Council Board Room of the Natchitoches Parish Courthouse, on Tuesday, February 20, 2018 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 Rodney Bedgood who stated that the Parish was ready for the transaction of business.

The invocation was given by Reverend Roger Matkin and the Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilman Russell Rachal.

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

Absent: Doug de Graffenried. Councilman Doug de Graffenried arrived at 5:35pm. After the roll call.

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 Parish President to sign a lease agreement for leasing a Dump Truck with trailer for the Department of Public Works. The lease amount is \$2,555 monthly for 10 months.
2. Council to consider re-appointing Mrs. Gloria Waldrup Davis to the Natchitoches Parish Library Board.

On motion by Councilwoman Patsy Ward Hoover, duly seconded by Councilman Chris Paige that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby amend the agenda to add Council to consider authorizing Parish President to sign a lease agreement for leasing a Dump Truck with trailer for the Department of Public Works. The lease amount is \$2,555 monthly for 10 months and to consider re-appointing Mrs. Gloria Waldrup Davis to the Natchitoches Parish Library Board.

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

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

Chairman Bedgood stated the next item was to recognize any invited guests and Ms. Liz Juffin, New Chamber President/Director introduced herself to the Council and gave a brief overview of her experience in this field and she's looking forward for great things for the Natchitoches Chamber of Commerce along with her staff they're hoping to transform the Chamber into a fine tuned organization within the community.

Mr. Leon McQueen gave a brief history about himself and he talked about how bad their road is it takes his neighbors who owns 18 wheelers to travel 30 minutes the distance of 2 and 1/10 mile to Hwy 117 because the potholes are so bad. June they notified their Representative and he then told them to put everything in writing and

it was November and still nothing was done, so he called the Representative again and they got in touch with Mr. Nowlin, and within a few weeks a truck with a trailer came out with a little Hot Mix and within 2 to 3 weeks later you couldn't tell if they had put anything in it. The holes are so deep you can bury an average dog in it. Mr. McQueen said he was sold on the Home Rule Charter by Mr. Cunningham, he didn't know anything about it. and he carried the petitions around in favor of anything that will make things better. Mr. McQueen said he regretted some of his votes, but he regrets more of his vote for the Home Rule Charter. Mr. McQueen wanted to know, How can the people of the Parish get the Home Rule Charter to be placed back on the ballot? Mr. McQueen wanted to know exactly what is needed to do to give the people the opportunity to vote again for this.

Councilman Paige, "The questions you're asking what will it take to put this on the ballot? We have nothing tonight and it wouldn't be fair that we have to just come up and vote on this tonight. I will hope that we will have a meeting next month put this conversation out to the people of this Parish to come in the Courtroom somewhere that everybody that wants to talk and if they want to put this back on the ballot, let this body do so, and we need to get started on this now, so it would not happen like last time when the vote came down, because some people were in placed and we had to remove people and all that. So the bottom line to this if you're saying and others are in agreement, the best way to approach this is to open the floor up at the next meeting and have anyone that wants to talk about their displeasure or pleasure of The Home Rule Charter let them step forwarded and say, How they feel about it. I think it's up to the people of this Parish to give them the opportunity to speak, I don't want to see the people denied of this opportunity if they want to do this. I appreciate you coming."

President Rick Nowlin, "I also appreciate Mr. McQueen for coming out, I would like to say I agree that the roads are in bad shape, and it's not from a lack of effort or interest on the part of the Parish Government that they're in bad shape, the primary reason, most of you know, is we have a severe shortage of resources which to work the roads, very little money for road material and we don't even own the equipment to do patching of paved roads. If the people want to change the form of Government that's something that can be discussed, I don't have a vote on the matter excepts when it gets on the ballot, then I can vote like everybody else, but voting to change the form of Government is not going to change the budget, you're not going to have more money than you have today by voting to go back to the Police Jury form of Government. If you would like to discuss this in detail call my office, I have an open door policy, and I'll be happy to discuss it with you."

Mr. Robert Jackson, Sr. wanted to ask a question, "Did the Council answer the gentleman's specific question he asked?" Councilman, Paige, replied, "There is more coming, but I don't think his specific question was answered."

Reverend Roger Matkin, born and lives in Natchitoches Parish, and drove school bus for 28 years for the School Board. He wanted to go longer, but his expenses was outweighing his income. Everyone knows you can't run a business in the red. Mr. Matkin was putting out more money on repairs that he was receiving in income. His wife owns her own bus also. He explained about the problem with the roads that are affecting owning your own bus and now he's driving a bus from Durham and Durham is saying drivers need to cut down on the repairs of the buses. Mr. Matkin replied, "Money is the problem for everyone and everywhere and we have to find the answer to the problem, we need a solution to the problem, it's getting worse. We need to do something, if we need to change and go back to the old system, I'm for that, if

it's something new we can come up with that is better than now, I'm for it, I'm for doing better, so that's my plea."

Mr. David Lewis lives in rural Natchitoches in the Kistachie area. and his wife was born in Natchitoches Parish. Mr. David Lewis said, "We come to encourage you or try to persuade the Council to put this back on the ballot to change this form of Government back to the Police Jury form of Government so the people of Natchitoches Parish can vote. Are we satisfied with the Home Rule Charter or not or we want to go back to the Police Jury or not. I can tell you this, speaking for myself, I did vote for the new form of Government, I do not like it. The Home Rule Charter was not an improvement of the rural people, no rural people are satisfied with it or being heard or being served. Please put it back on the ballot so the people can vote, tell us the process, it's going to take to put this back on the ballot. I think it's prudent to put it out there for the people because we have a democratic society and let us vote, we're not getting the services we're needing." Mr. Lewis went on to say more about the concerns and things Mr. Nowlin said about come to his office and sit down to talk, but it doesn't need to be in an office behind close doors it needs to be out in the open so everyone can hear.

Councilman, Paige, asked Mr. Lewis a question, "Since, nothing is on there tonight, Do you think it's the best way to approach this to say next month allow everybody to come and basically put something on the agenda to vote on to hear from people of this community? Mr. Lewis, replied, "Mr. Paige, Are you asking my personal opinion?" Mr. Lewis, "My personal opinion, it will be very well serving, to residents of Natchitoches Parish, but some people can't make it that far, it took me leaving at 4:00 o'clock to make it here for this meeting. The Home Rule Charter on paper could work, but it's not there."

Parish President replied, "I appreciate Mr. Lewis comments, I think if you're going to consider the question of changing, going back to the previous form of Government, you need to do it in a thoughtful manner, you might need to have more than one meeting to discuss it and having different meetings in different areas of the Parish because not everybody can get to the Courthouse and you need to be careful for it not to come down to who screams the loudest, has the most money to promote the issue, it needs to be based on the basis of rational thoughts." Mr. Nowlin begins to say people tell him about they pay taxes all the time, but need to realize that those property taxes is less than 4% goes to the road department. Some taxes get renewed every ten years. Property owners living on a the Harmony road collect under a \$100 a year on taxes. Emanuel Road, 15 houses gets less than 150.00 a year. The Parish President wanted to let the people know until they addressed the allocation of our tax money in the Parish, you're not going to achieve what you want to achieve by abolishing of this form of Government.

A question from the audience from Mr. Robert White, "Maybe one of the members from the previous form of Government can answer this, In the past years ago, How did you sustain the roads, years ago?"

Councilman, Chris Paige, replied, "We did it to the best of our ability, we did fix some roads, we did not fix them all, but certainly they were not in the predicament they're in now, plain and simple. This form of Government is very, very expensive." Mr. Paige went on to say there's two people that salaries is over 2 million dollars.

Mrs. Linda Jones, Parish employee at the Solid Waste Department. She came out to talk about some things that she needs to be looked at in the Natchitoches Parish Personnel Manuel. That affects the employees and that's affecting her also. Mrs. Linda Jones handed out copies of the Parish Personnel Manual to each member around the

horseshoe. Mrs. Jones stated, "Mr. Nowlin can send me home at anytime and I tried to talk to some of the board members and Councilman, Rachal as being one, that I was trying to tell what was happening in the Parish and he told me he couldn't address personnel problems. So I'm bringing this to you tonight is inserts from the Parish Personnel Manual some things I think is just not right." Mrs. Jones wanted to know who was on the grievance committee and how this committee is determined? Mr. Nowlin stated, "It's a three person committee the Department Head, the Treasurer and a third person to be appointed by me that is aware of the facts of the case." Mrs. Jones, replied, "Shouldn't I know, whose the Grievance Committee when it concerns me?" If I would have known who the Grievance Committee was I could have told you back in June, that Sharon Harris, which is on the Grievance Committee is my Grandmother First Cousin." at this time the Parish Attorney wanted to know, "Are you asking who was on the Grievance Committee all the times or just particular who was on yours?" Mrs. Jones, answered, "I'm asking that a Grievance Committee be in placed doesn't matter who it is, when something comes up or they have an issue they know what guidelines to follow." There was more discussion between the Parish Attorney and Mrs. Linda Jones. Mr. Nowlin, then asked Mrs. Jones, "You know who your Superintendent is right? You know he reports to the Department Head, and the Department Head reports to me." Mrs. Jones then started to express, "There are different places in the Manual that states other offices they report to their immediate supervisor and then to the Department Head. Mrs. Jones stated in her case she didn't have the opportunity to report to her immediate supervisor, it went straight to Personnel, HR, and the Director and when I came in, I was confused, Who do I go to? What's next? I've been with the Parish for six(6)years in June and I want to do my job effectively and I don't want it to cause me extra stress for when I work. Don't need it added stress coming down from the Parish Treasurer, HR, Supervisor and then to the Director, it should be an order there, that I should know and every employee should know in the Parish of Natchitoches Government. I put my job on the line here for coming out here tonight. I might not be here the next time, when I leave here, I might lose my job for doing so, but if so, I've made my point and hopefully you all will make these changes with this manual, "Treat me, like you wanted to be treated or you want your children to be treated."

Parish President, Nowlin, replied, "Your appearance here tonight will have nothing to do with your job, I assure you that." Parish President then went over the handout given by Mrs. Linda Jones from the Parish Manual on page 48 on the Grievance procedures, Mrs. Jones told the President, "I'm aware of the steps and I have read them, but I wanted to know the order that they expect me to follow on the job and it's not fair that a Grievance Committee is chosen and you choose a member of my family, it's not right and if I could have known who was on the Grievance Committee I could have told you that's my Grandmother first cousin grandchild." Parish President then went on to say the definition of an immediate family member and Mrs. Jones says she wants to be treated fair, just like everyone else.

Chairman, Bedgood stated the next agenda item we will hear the report of the Public Works Interim Director, Mr. Earl Townsend. Mr. Townsend had already sent his reports and asked were there any questions or comments, There has been a lot of rain, and he's doing what we can where we can, with what we got, that's the best I can do.

Councilwoman, Hoover wanted to thank Mr. Townsend for coming to Natchez and Rev. Sowell is here tonight and he was able to get the church members to church and we certainly appreciate that.

Chairman, Bedgood, 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. Ms. Harris also wanted them to pay attention too the attendance was down in Head Start for two months because of the illnesses of the Flu virus that was going around, children and staff was out. We hope that will pick up and the Senior Companion Program is beefing up and they have 49 Senior Companions at this time. We did receive 50% of the Head Start Grant Award and we'll receive the other part at a later date it's in your report assurance we'll receive the rest.

Chairman, Bedgood, then recognizes Parish Treasurer Debbie Miley reported that yes Head Start receive half of the payment, but the rest will be sent in just like they done last time. She mail all the reports in the Council packages, and reports for Head Start, Credit Card transactions, all checked written. Ms. Miley said she wants to bring attention to the In-Mate report. We are high on the Youth we have to watch it based on budget year to date, we'll running a little high, but the others are running okay.

Councilwoman, Hoover wanted parish treasurer to make her understand something, last month I asked a questioned was the money put back that was borrowed from Parish Government to Food services is there a check that is written, because I was going through, How is that's done, explain that to me?

Parish Treasurer, replied, "It's a transfer called a TR we do it as an in house transfer from one fund to the other I can show it to you in the General Ledger, but I can't show it any other way there is no actual check, it's just a transfer between funds." Councilwoman, still was confused, she stated, "It's Federal dollars, I'm I correct and this can be transferred, being Federal dollars?" Parish Treasurer, replied, "Yes, this is how we do it as far as on the books and the General Ledger. Yes, that's how you do it I can show it to you on the General Ledger." Councilwoman still wasn't clear on it and she wanted the Parish Treasurer to show her how to do it, because she's not an accountant.

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

BUILDING MAINTENANCE:

- a. Live Oak Building Roof: The construction contract has been awarded to Terry's Roofing and Sheet Metal, in the amount of \$74,000. Weather conditions have delayed the start of construction, but it is estimated that the work should start on the first of March.

ADA COMPLIANCE:

- a. HC Ramp at Main Entrance: According to Mr. Minturn, the project construction will be advertised on February 22, 2018. Bids will be opened on March 19, 2018.

PARISH PERSONNEL:

- a. Parish I.T. Manager: The Parish has interviewed the applicants for the position. An offer of employment was extended to the top-rated candidate subject to background check, physical and drug test.

CAPITAL PROJECTS:

a. Hampton Road Improvements: The Parish has advertised for professional engineering and surveying services for the project. These services will include project design, bidding and award and construction administration and observation. The deadline for submission of applications is Friday, February 9, 2018. The administration recommends that Pan American Engineers, LLC of Alexandria, LA be awarded the project assignment pending completion of successful negotiation of the consulting agreement.

Later on the Agenda a Representative, Mr. Thomas David that would be here to explain the process.

b. Coco Bed Road Improvements: The Final revisions to the project specifications are nearly complete. Following their submission to Facility Planning and Control receipt of FP&C approval, the project will be advertise for bids.

SOLID WASTE:

As reported in January, the Parish performed an audit of our account with Waste Connections. As a result of our audit and its subsequent review with Waste Connections, the Parish will be receiving a reimbursement in the amount of \$143,023.77. The reimbursement funds will be deposited into the Solid Waste account upon receipt.

Councilman, Russell Rachal asked a question, "On the Live Oak Building you said March, On our Parish Architect position, What are our rate of completing a project on time overall?" Parish President didn't know the answer right then, he will get Councilman, Rachal a review of all projects.

Mr. Robert White had a question for Parish President, Nowlin, "In reference to Waste Connections, I met with you last year in March his bill was more than 50 percent at that time you said you was going to check with them and get back with me, you never got back to me, but what I just heard you was overbid too, What happens to the people who lives in the rural areas that was overcharged too, Can you explain that to me? Parish President, Nowlin, replied, "The money that I mentioned was the money that the Parish paid to Waste Connections it wasn't connected to what the Parish charges the people for coming to the Landfill." Mr. Robert White, asked, "You was billed by Waste Connections, that was the overcharged?" Parish President, replied, "Yes." Mr. Robert White, responded, "Okay, that's the same thing that happened to us that lives in the rural areas, What happened to us, remember, at a meeting we was overcharged more than 50 percent and you negotiated a contract with them, which was an open agreement, which I felt like it was a mistake, but since it was a mistake, right, they overcharged us and you met with them, what was the outcome of the meeting in reference to us?" Parish President, responded, "The meeting I had with Waste Connections dealt with their billing to the Parish, not for residents, I apologize, I should have gotten back to you on that." Parish President, went to explain the reasons for the overcharge because the adjustments weren't correct. Mr. Robert White, also made some comments about the people who lives in the rural areas they have overcharges from last time and since then, they have gone up again, and he would like for the Parish President to look into it for the residents in the rural areas. Mr. White, went on to explain, "I was one of those guys that was for the new form of Government and I voted for the new form of government, but you must have accountability, when I meet with you as the President, you have a duty an obligation to get back with me and let me know what's going on. That's your job as well as other elected officials, your position is

different but the thing is, if I meet with you, you have to get back with me, I never knew what happened, but now, I see what happened with the Parish Government, it surprised me."

Parish President, responded, "Your point is well taken, and if you're here at the end of the meeting, I'll be happy to meet with you or tomorrow so we won't drop the ball on this."

Chairman, Bedgood stated the next item to adopt the minutes of the regular meeting of the Natchitoches Parish Council held Monday, January 22, 2018.

On motion by Councilwoman Patsy Ward Hoover, duly seconded by, Councilman Chris Paige 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, January 22, 2018.

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

Ayes:	Councilwoman Hoover	
Ayes:	Councilman Paige	
Ayes:	Councilman Rachal	
Ayes:	Councilman de Graffenried	
Ayes:	Councilman Paige	Motion Passed

Chairman, Bedgood stated next agenda item consider adopting a resolution confirming re-appointment/appointments to the following boards/commissions:

- A. Confirmation of Mr. Johnny Possoit for re-appointment to the Natchitoches Parish Fire District 6 Board.

On motion by Councilwoman Patsy Ward Hoover, duly seconded by Councilman Russell Rachal that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby confirm the re-appointment of Mr. Johnny Possoit re-appointment to the Natchitoches Parish Fire District 6 Board.

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

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

- B. Confirmation of Mr. Danny Clark appointment to the Natchitoches Parish Fire District 6 Board.

On motion by Councilman Russell Rachal, duly seconded by Councilman Chris Paige that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby confirm the appointment of Mr. Danny Clark appointment to the Natchitoches Parish Fire District 6 Board.

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

At this time Chairman, Bedgood read the added amendments for Council approval.

Council to consider authorizing Parish President to sign a lease agreement for leasing a Dump Truck with trailer for the Department of Public Works. The lease amount is \$2,555 monthly for 10 months.

On motion by Councilwoman Patsy Ward Hoover, duly seconded by Councilman Chris Paige that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby authorize Parish President to sign a lease agreement for leasing a Dump Truck with trailer for the Department of Public Works. The lease amount is \$2,555 monthly for 10 months.

On motion by Councilwoman Patsy Ward Hoover, duly seconded by Councilman Chris Paige that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby authorize Parish President to sign a lease agreement for leasing a Dump Truck with trailer for the Department of Public Works. The lease amount is \$2,555 monthly for 10 months.

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

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

Confirmation of Mrs. Gloria Waldrup Davis for re-appointment to the Natchitoches Parish Library Board.

On motion by Councilman Chris Paige, duly seconded by Councilman Russell Rachal that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby confirm the re-appointment of Mrs. Gloria Waldrup Davis to the Natchitoches Parish Library Board.

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, Bedgood stated the next agenda Item is First Introduction of Proposed Ordinances.

Introduction of Ordinance 001-2018 to authorize the Parish President to execute an application and contract on behalf of the Natchitoches Parish Government with U.S. Bank Fleet Card/D/B/A U.S. Bank Voyager Fuel Trac, relative to fuel cards for Parish Vehicles, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto.

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 of Ordinance 001-2018 to authorize the Parish President to execute an application and contract on behalf of the Natchitoches Parish Government with U.S. Bank Fleet Card/D/B/A U.S. Bank Voyager Fuel Trac, relative to fuel cards for Parish Vehicles, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto..

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**

The Parish Attorney informed the Council this was an issue that needed to be taken care of immediately because beginning March 1, 2018 Fuelman will be charging \$3.00 per transaction charge, this is going to hurt the Parish budget.

Public Hearings:

Emergency actions needed on the above agenda item.

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 open this public hearing to hear Ordinance 001-2018 to authorize the Parish President to execute an application and contract on behalf of the Natchitoches Parish Government with U.S. Bank Fleet Card/D/B/A U.S. Bank Voyager Fuel Trac, relative to fuel cards for Parish Vehicles, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto.

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

Ayes: Councilman Rachal
Ayes: Councilman de Graffenried
Ayes: Councilman Bedgood
Ayes: Councilwoman Hoover **Motion Passed**

It was clarified that every time a Parish employee uses the Fuel card, the card will be charged \$3.00 per swipe.

On motion by Councilman Chris Paige, duly seconded by Councilwoman Patsy Ward Hoover that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby close this public hearing to hear Ordinance 001-2018 to authorize the Parish President to execute an application and contract on behalf of the Natchitoches Parish Government with U.S. Bank Fleet Card/D/B/A U.S. Bank Voyager Fuel Trac, relative to fuel cards for Parish Vehicles, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto.

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**

There was a discussion between Mr. Robert White and Parish President about taxes from the State for Highways budgeted to the Highway Department for Natchitoches Parish.

Action on Proposed Ordinances:

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 Ordinance 001-2018 to authorize the Parish President to execute an application and contract on behalf of the Natchitoches Parish Government with U.S. Bank Fleet Card/D/B/A U.S. Bank Voyager Fuel Trac, relative to fuel cards for Parish Vehicles, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto.

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, Bedgood stated the next agenda item is two Resolutions.

Resolutions:

Council to consider adopting Resolution 009-2018 in support of a grant application submitted by the Cane River National Heritage Area, Inc. for funding by the FHWA Recreational Trails Program for Louisiana (FRTPL).

Parish President explained that the Parish is adopting a Resolution saying we support of the Cane River National Heritage Area to get the Grant. Councilman de Graffenried, asked, "What the grant is for?" The answer was Recreational Trails and walking paths.

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 Resolution 009-2018 in support of a grant application submitted by the Cane River National Heritage Area, Inc. for funding by the FHWA Recreational Trails Program for Louisiana (FRTPL).

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

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

Council to consider adopting Resolution 010-2018 Proclaiming the month of February 2018 as African American History Month in the Parish of Natchitoches.

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 Resolution 010-2018 Proclaiming the month of February 2018 as African American History Month in the Parish of Natchitoches.

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

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

Councilwoman gave her thanks and thoughts on this Resolution on the history breaking as a woman.

Chairman, Bedgood stated the next agenda is other items.

Other Agenda Items:

Council to consider authorize the Parish President to execute an agreement for professional services with Pan American Engineers, LLC in connection with the Hampton Road Improvements Project, subject to the review and approval of the Office of the District Attorney.

Mr. Thomas C. David, Jr., P.E. P.L.S. Pan American Engineers, LLC addressed the Council with a brief summary of himself and his company, started in 1945 by his father. 75 people is on payroll and they do business around the State and he works for rich parishes and poor parishes and the demands are different. He looks for to this opportunity of working on this project and the funding he understands comes from the Red River Waterway. And he hopes to do a good job and that the parish would us them again.

Councilman, Rachal wanted to know, "How long will it take to get started?" Mr. David, stated, "I would like to say about 60 days which includes getting the bids and all required paperwork approved, and begin construction started about summer, starting a job in February is not good."

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 authorize the Parish President to execute an agreement for professional services with Pan American Engineers, LLC in connection with the Hampton Road Improvements Project, subject to the review and approval of the Office of the District Attorney.

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

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

Councilman, Doug de Graffenried, still had questions between the difference between an Ordinance and Resolutions dealing with two of the Agenda items and the Parish Attorney had to explain to him again about the difference between the two.

Visitors for Non Agenda Items. (3 minutes)

Mr. Robert Jackson wanted to know if they gave the gentleman an answer concerning how you can put the Home Rule Charter back on the ballot. Chairman, Bedgood went on to explain to Mr. Jackson that it has to be 15% of the registered voters to put it back on the ballot or it can come in front of the Council and you have to have a 2/3 vote of 5 to put it back on the ballot.

Mr. Robert Jackson explained the reason he was here was to talk about Mrs. Linda Jones, he felt that she has been discriminated against by the body. Mrs. Linda Jones evaluation for the past year showed superior and she was evaluated on January 9th and the Evaluation showed superior, although, Mrs. Linda Jones had a problem with travel the administration asked her to return 4 hours of payment back and she agreed and the money was taken out of her check, but on January 26 Mrs. Linda Jones and another member of the administrative staff had a misunderstanding and all of the sudden the same day, Mr.

Townsend is the Director and Mr. Jackson is her supervisor, but the lady from the central office, Ms. Creamer went out there with a disciplinary action form already written and Mr. Jackson and Mr. Townsend signed it. The disciplinary action form said that Mrs. Linda Jones was put on probation and that's discrimination, why, if she had a problem back on January 9 and she was evaluated should that have been put on that evaluation, but it was not put on the evaluation; so I believe the only reason why Mrs. Jones was disciplined because she stood up as a woman, we need face it, she stood up as a woman and that's retaliation against her and I'm here to tell you that we are not going to tolerate retaliation and misuse of people because it seem like common practice, it has another lawsuit by a gentleman that use to be a janitor up here with a discrimination suit and JW Scarborough, John Winston, and myself is suing you now. The question I have that, you said you don't have any money, but you're paying the Gold Law Firm to represent you guys, you have money to pay lawyers outside the Parish, You need to look at what you're doing Mrs. Jones."

At this time the Chairman, stated we need to move on. Mr. Robert Jackson was not pleased with this, Mr. Jackson, stated, "That's the problem you want to move on with things, and in closing what ever tax proposition you put on the ballot the Voters League and the Black Community is not going to support it until justice is done in this Parish."

Mr. Reggie Johnson lives in the South end of the Parish in Chopin about 3 1/2 miles from the plant on the James Gorem Road, lumber trucks are coming through there and it's a posted road, they come through there late at night and they're tearing up the roads, Is there anything that can be done to stop that and they're tearing up our Church yard, because it's right at the end of the blacktop and it's not only just log trucks, it's trucks from entering off the Interstate the GPS is bringing them there and the big trucks are getting jack knife on this road.

Chairman, Bedgood asked, "Whose routing them through there?" The answer was their GPS or Tom Tom is routing them through this particular route.

Parish President responded, "Mr. Johnson, makes an excellent point, we posted the road, we can try to patch the road when we find out about it, but we don't have any control all we can do is go to the Sheriff and say we have a problem and we need you to check on this for us."

There was further discussion, it was stated, if there was a fire to break out in the Community the Fire Truck is not able to get out, the truck that got stuck last night have destroyed the road. It's no way for the Fire Truck to get out of the shed. Mr. Johnson also wanted to know about the timber revenue because that's the largest plant in the State of Louisiana, and Parish President stated most of that revenue goes to the State and the Parish gets around \$400,000 between Oil and Gas and timber, that's just a fraction of what the state gets. There was further discussion between the Council and the Interim Director of Public Works concerning this problem and with the Google maps maybe someone can update this with Google maps so this route will be removed from the system. There were several discussions going on at the same time, but the conclusion is that the Parish President is going to talk with the Sheriff concerning this problem.

Chairman, Bedgood read the next agenda item to Adjourn.

Adjourn

On motion by Councilwoman Patsy Ward Hoover, duly seconded by Councilman Russell Rachal, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby adjourn.

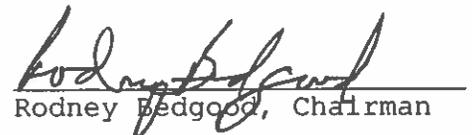
On a roll call vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

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

Since there was no other business the meeting was adjourn:

Attest:


Sheryl Frederick,
Council Clerk


Rodney Bedgood, Chairman

Offered by Chris Paige, who moved its adoption and
duly seconded by Russell Rachal.

RESOLUTION # 012 OF 2018

RESOLUTION OF THE NATCHITOCHE PARISH COUNCIL
APPROVING THE RE-APPOINTMENT OF MS. GLORIA WALDRUP DAVIS
TO THE NATCHITOCHE PARISH LIBRARY BOARD.

WHEREAS, Section 8-06 (B) of the Natchitoches Parish Home
Rule Charter states the President may appoint members to boards
and commission, subject to council confirmation, and

WHEREAS, there exists a vacancy on the Natchitoches Parish
Library Board, and

WHEREAS, the Parish President has re-appointed Ms. Gloria
Waldrup Davis to the Natchitoches Parish Library Board, subject
to Council confirmation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Natchitoches Parish
Council, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby
confirm and approve the re-appointment of Ms. Gloria Waldrup
Davis to the Natchitoches Parish Library Board.

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

	Aye	Nay	Absent	Abstain
Councilman Paige	<u>x</u>	—	—	—
Councilman Rachal	<u>x</u>	—	—	—
Councilman de Graffernied	<u>x</u>	—	—	—
Councilman Bedgood	<u>x</u>	—	—	—
Councilwoman Hoover	<u>x</u>	—	—	—

And the resolution was adopted on the
20th day of February, 2018.

ATTEST:


Rodney Bedgood, Chairman


Sheryl Frederick,
Council Clerk

Offered by Russell Rachal, who moved its adoption and duly seconded by Chris Paige.

RESOLUTION # 012 OF 2018

RESOLUTION OF THE NATCHITOCHE PARISH COUNCIL
APPROVING DANNY CLARK THE APPOINTMENT TO THE
NATCHITOCHE PARISH FIRE DISTRICT 6 BOARD

WHEREAS, Section 8-06 (B) of the Natchitoches Parish Home Rule Charter states the President may appoint members to boards and commission, subject to council confirmation, and

WHEREAS, there exists a vacancy on the Natchitoches Parish Fire District 6 Board due to expiration of term, and

WHEREAS, the Parish President has appointed Mr. Danny Clark to the Natchitoches Parish Fire District 6 Board, subject to Council confirmation.

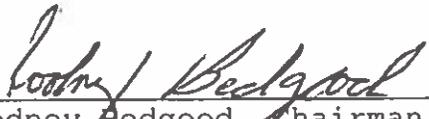
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby confirm the appointment of Mr. Danny Clark to the Natchitoches Parish Fire District 6 Board.

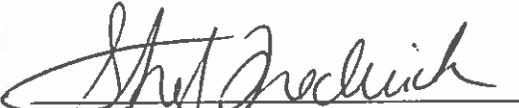
On a roll call vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

	Aye	Nay	Absent	Abstain
Councilman Rachal	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Councilman Paige	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Councilwoman Hoover	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Councilman Bedgood	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Councilman de Graffenried	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

And the resolution was adopted on the
20th day of February, 2018.

ATTEST:


Rodney Bedgood, Chairman


Sheryl Frederick,
Council Clerk

Offered by Patsy Ward Hoover, who moved its adoption and duly seconded by Russell Rachal.

RESOLUTION # 011 OF 2018

RESOLUTION OF THE NATCHITOCHE PARISH COUNCIL
APPROVING JOHNNY POSSOIT THE RE-APPOINTMENT TO THE
NATCHITOCHE PARISH FIRE DISTRICT 6 BOARD

WHEREAS, Section 8-06 (B) of the Natchitoches Parish Home Rule Charter states the President may appoint members to boards and commission, subject to council confirmation, and

WHEREAS, there exists a vacancy on the Natchitoches Parish Fire District 6 Board due to expiration of term, and

WHEREAS, the Parish President has re-appointed Mr. Johnny Possoit to the Natchitoches Parish Fire District 6 Board, subject to Council confirmation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby confirm the re-appointment of Mr. Johnny Possoit to the Natchitoches Parish Fire District 6 Board.

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

	Aye	Nay	Absent	Abstain
Councilwoman Hoover	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Councilman Rachal	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Councilman Paige	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Councilman Bedgood	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Councilman de Graffenried	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

And the resolution was adopted on the
20th day of February, 2018.

ATTEST:


Rodney Bedgood, Chairman


Sheryl Frederick,
Council Clerk

Offered by Chris Paige, who moved its adoption and duly seconded by Rodney Bedgood.

RESOLUTION NO. 010 OF 2018

**RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2018
AS AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH
IN THE PARISH OF NATCHITOCHE**

WHEREAS, the history of our great country has been written by men and women of every race, religion and ethnic background and African American History Month gives us the opportunity to recognize the extraordinary contributions African Americans have made to the rich cultural history of our nation; and

WHEREAS, we also recognize the courage and tenacity of so many hard-working African Americans whose legacies are woven into the fabric of our country; and

WHEREAS, we as a country must continue to encourage and demand our children to reach for the full measure of their potential and ambitions through education; and

WHEREAS, each February we recognize African American History Month to reflect upon how far we have come as a Nation and community and what challenges remain; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Patsy Ward Hoover is the first African-American female to be elected to serve as a member of the Parish Council and was elected by the Parish Council to serve as the Council Chairperson for the year 2017,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, PARISH PRESIDENT RICK NOWLIN AND THE PARISH GOVERNMENT, of the Parish of Natchitoches hereby proclaim February 2018 as

AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

in the Parish of Natchitoches and call upon all the citizens of Natchitoches to honor and respect the significant contributions African Americans have made to our Parish and Nation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Parish President and Parish Council recognizes Ms. Patsy Ward Hoover as the first African-American female to be elected to serve as a member of the Parish Council and also to serve as the Council Chairperson.

This Resolution was then presented for a vote, and the vote was recorded as follows:

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

	Aye	Nay	Absent	Abstain
Councilman Bedgood	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Councilman Paige	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Councilman Rachal	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Councilwoman Hoover	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Councilman de Graffernied	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

**And the resolution was adopted on the
20th day of February, 2018.**

ATTEST:

Rick Nowlin, Parish President

Rodney Bedgood
Rodney Bedgood, Chairman

Sheryl Frederick
Sheryl Frederick, Council Clerk

RESOLUTON NO. 009 OF 2018

**A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A GRANT
APPLICATION SUBMITTED BY THE CANE RIVER
NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA, INC. FOR FUNDING BY
THE FHWA RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM FOR
LOUISIANA (FRTPL)**

WHEREAS, the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) Transportation Act provides funds to the State of Louisiana for grants to federal, state, local government agencies, non-profit organizations and commercial entities to acquire, develop and/or maintain motorized and non-motorized trails; and

WHEREAS, the FHWA Recreational Trails Program for Louisiana (FRTPL) has been delegated the responsibility for the administration of the program within the state and setting up necessary procedures governing project application under the program; and

WHEREAS, these regulations require an application to have a resolution of support from the local governmental body of the jurisdiction in which the proposed project is located;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Natchitoches Parish Council does hereby endorse and support the application being submitted to the FRTPL by the Cane River National Heritage Area, Inc.

Approved and Adopted the 20th day of February, 2018.

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted following a roll call vote:

Yeas: Paige, Hoover, Bedgood, Rachal,

Nays: de Graffenried

Absent: 0



(signature of certifying agent)

**INTRODUCTION AND EMERGENCY ADOPTION OF PROPOSED
ORDINANCE NO. 001-2018
PARISH OF NATCHITOCHEs**

**First Introduction: 2/20/18
Emergency Adoption : 2/20/18**

Public Hearing: 2/20/2018

AN ORDINANCE to authorize the Parish President to execute an application and contract on behalf of the Natchitoches Parish Government with U.S. BANK FLEET CARD D/B/A U.S. Bank Voyager Fuel Trac, relative to fuel cards for Parish Vehicles, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto.

SECTION 1.

The Natchitoches Parish Government has received notice from its prior provider, Fuelman, that the Parish Government will be charged a \$3.00/per transaction fee on all of our fuel purchases effective March 1, 2018. This change will cause the Parish Government's fuel costs to increase exponentially.

SECTION 2.

Voyager FUELTRAC is a vendor of the same services, which vendor is currently being used by other political subdivisions and government agencies through State Contracts.

SECTION 3.

In order to avoid these unnecessary charges, the Parish Council does hereby authorize the Parish President to execute an application and contract on behalf of the Natchitoches Parish Government with U.S. BANK FLEET CARD D/B/A U.S. Bank Voyager Fuel Trac, relative to fuel cards for Parish Vehicles.

SECTION 4.

The Natchitoches Parish Council further ordains, that the Parish President is hereby authorized to take all actions necessary to carry out the provisions of this ordinance.

EMERGENCY ADOPTED BY THE NATCHITOCHEs PARISH COUNCIL:
2/20/2018


CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL

DELIVERED TO THE PRESIDENT ON 3/6/2018

APPROVED or DISAPPROVED: APPROVED


PARISH PRESIDENT
RICK NOWLIN

RETURNED BY THE PRESIDENT ON 3/6/2018 AT 1:25 pm.

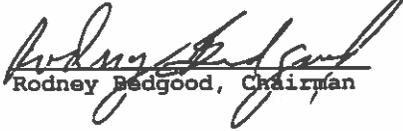

SHERYL FREDRICK
CLERK OF COUNCIL

ROLL CALL VOTE:

District	Councilmember	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
1	Chris Paige	X			
2	Patsy Ward-Hoover	X			
3	Doug de Graffenried	X			
4	Rodney Bedgood	X			
5	Russell Rachal	X			

SUBMITTAL TO PRESIDENT

The foregoing Ordinance was **SUBMITTED** by me to the President of the Parish of Natchitoches this 6th day of March, 2018 at 1:00 o'clock P..m.


Rodney Redgood, Chairman

APPROVAL OF ORDINANCE

The foregoing Ordinance is hereby **APPROVED** by me as President of the Parish of Natchitoches this 6th day of March, 2018 at 1:25 o'clock P..m.


Rick Nowlin, President

VETO OF ORDINANCE

The foregoing Ordinance is hereby **VETOED** by me as President of the Parish of Natchitoches
this _____ day of _____, 2018 at _____ o'clock _____ .m.

Rick Nowlin, President

RECEIVED FROM PRESIDENT

The foregoing Ordinance was **RECEIVED** by me from the President of the Parish of Natchitoches this 6th day of March, 2018 at 1:28 o'clock P..m.


Rodney Redgood, Chairman