

PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATCHITOCHE PARISH COUNCIL
PARISH OF NATCHITOCHE, STATE OF LOUISIANA
TAKEN A REGULAR MEETING HELD, MONDAY APRIL 18, 2022, Council Boardroom
2nd Floor Courtroom
5:30 p.m.

The Natchitoches Parish Council met in regular and legal session in Parish Council room 211 on 2nd floor of Courthouse, on Monday, April 18, 2022, for a Regular of Natchitoches Parish Council meeting at five (5:30) o'clock p.m. for the Natchitoches Parish Council Meeting.

The Parish of Natchitoches was then convened as the governing authority by Chairman John Salter who stated that the Parish was ready for the transaction of business.

The invocation was given by Councilwoman Patsy Hoover, and the Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilman Marty Cheatwood.

After the roll call there were present Council: John Salter, Patsy Hoover, James Kilcoyne, and Marty Cheatwood.

Absent: Chris Paige

Councilman Chris Paige came in late at the time of the President was reporting.

At this time the Council Clerk asked the Council to amend the agenda to add a Resolution to proclaim May 1-7, 2022 as National Travel and Tourism Week in the Parish of Natchitoches because they didn't get their request in on time due to being at a conference and due to the bad weather. At this time:

On motion by Councilman Jim Kilcoyne, duly seconded by, Councilman Marty Cheatwood that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby amend the agenda to add a Resolution to proclaim May 1-7, 2022 as National Travel and Tourism Week in the Parish of Natchitoches.

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

Ayes:	Councilman Kilcoyne	
Ayes:	Councilman Cheatwood	
Nays:	Councilwoman Hoover	
Absent:	Councilman Paige	
Nays:	Councilman Salter	Motion Did Not Pass

Invited guests, and special presentations there was None.

Chairman Salter stated the Next Agenda Item:

Reports of Department Heads:

Interim Public Works Director- Mr. Dustin Hightower

Mr. Dustin Hightower, replied, "All of you have my reports from last month do you have any questions tonight?" There was no questions or comments.

OCS Executive Director- Ms. Sharon Harris

Ms. Sharon Harris, begins, "Good Afternoon to everyone, you all received my report in the mail, However, I have a correction to make under the Food Program I failed to put that there was 106 household served with USDA Commodities also I want to add that

we also received on the 1st of April, a contract for 2022 cooling in the amount of \$287,500 dollars. Any questions?"

Councilwoman Hoover, replied, "I have a compliment, I looked at your packet for this time and I see that you made some changes." And Ms. Harris, replied, "Yes, I have." Councilwoman Hoover, continues, "They are plain as A, B, C's, I appreciate you." Ms. Harris, replied, "I wanted to make those changes in order for you-all to really see the demographics of everything that we are serving and where the money is going." Councilwoman Hoover, replied, "I appreciate that."

Parish Treasurer- Ms. Julie Lockhart

Ms. Lockhart, begins, "Good Evening everyone, you received my reports you have the check registry, posted, and transactions by funds, do you have any questions at this time?" Councilwoman Hoover, replied, "Not at this time."

Planning and Zoning-Ms. Melonia McDaniel

Ms. McDaniel, replied, "All the reports for Planning and Zoning has been sent out, do you have any questions?" Chairman Salter, replied, "Thank you, and you're doing a good job."

Parish President, John Richmond

Parish President, begins, "Obviously we're moving along very quickly, I'll like to take a second and talk about a couple of things on my report, down half way on the page under Building Maintenance, the Courthouse front entrance everyone is seeing what's going on there, it's an old building with lots of old steel that has rusted so we have corrected that on the front and now we're going back with the stone work, the front will remain opened for our early voting and it will also be opened on the day of voting, which is the 30th and nobody needs to worry about access there because the access gets a little easier, you would come up towards the front steps but there will be a sign there, it may already be there that directs you to come up the handicap ramp, as you come up the handicap ramp there will not be any congregating out there just for the safety of the folks who's trying to move back and forth and above you, but there should not be no issues, you can go right through the front door. For the Courthouse, all is well and we're working to get that fixed. The other thing is that I would like to especially those people in the Bermuda Road area know, I've talked to the Contractor today and they should be out there with their surveying, and they have had a lot of their underground pipes and culverts delivered and they are going to be starting the work on surveying hopefully as early as next week. That's it unless you got any other questions."

Councilman Kilcoyne, asked, "What is the projected dates of this project?" Parish President, replied, "I think they have 180 days to get it done." Councilwoman Hoover, replied, "If the weather permits." Parish President, replied, "Weather is always taken into account and the clock has started." Councilman Kilcoyne, replied, "Maybe October then." Parish President, replied, "Yes, Sir, I want to get all that done before the Summer ends, before we get out of good weather."

Councilman Chris Paige, states, "Excuse me for my tardiness, Mr. Richmond, I called you a while back about the company out there in Grand Encore or whatever." Parish President, replied, "Weyerhaeuser at Brickyard Road?" Councilman Paige, replied, "There you go. Have you heard from them?" Parish President, replied, "I have, I talked with them and trying to meet and trying to meet with the Railroad people too; so, that we could work on some process that they can uncouple and let people pass." Councilman Paige, replied, "You might want to explain it to the people because the people needs to know that as a business that they come in, and we sit here a lot of time and ask for tax breaks and wonder why people gets kind of crazy with them, but these people have been blocking off the train, royally and people have to sit back there 30 minutes or more and one gentleman couldn't get to his job and stuff like that. Back in the older days, they use to let them come through the plant, at some point back when and allowed them to exit out of there. It's a problem, it's a serious problem and you have people delayed 30 minutes and 40 minutes at a time and it needs to stop. As a good neighbor those people need to understand that you have to be a good neighbor."

Parish President, begins, "So, yes Sir, as Mr. Paige requested, the Brickyard Road is one way in and one way out that's it, if you're on the back side of the railroad tracks and if they are delivering or picking up from Weyerhaeuser your stuck until they get out of the way, one way or the other. And what had happened in the past is exactly what Mr. Paige, said, that they actually opened the gates and let people go through Weyerhaeuser property to get back out and go around that, what they told me that their liability insurance has changed and they have tightened that up and the carriers what allow them to do that anymore, so, now the next thing is we have to figure out how to uncouple the train and allow for it to be a gap and to re-couple the train once traffic has passed, we are working through that." Councilman Paige, replied, "I think that simply that you, I had called you basically, to get in contact with them to set up a meeting with them, to have the community meet with them, and that's have been kind of difficult too with this new individual, one gentleman was very nice, but he has gone to the Baton Rouge area and he would meet the people and had their, you know, listen, to hear, but now you have a situation that people are just sitting there this has been two or three months ago and we still have not been able, simply to sit down and meet with these people; so, I just rare at the opportunity when they come here and ask for another tax break an incentive or whatever they ask for, because that's not fair and that's not right for those people who leaves back there and it's not a few it's pretty good people that has had this problem."

Chairman Salter, asked, "How many households back there Mr. Paige?" Councilman Paige, replied, "I'm not really sure, but it's a pretty good bit of them back there." Chairman Salter, replied, "It's a Parish Road too." Councilman Paige, continues, "It's a Parish Road and it goes on back in there, it's several families back in there." Parish President, replied, "Its probably about a dozen or more back there." Chairman Salter, replied, "It's cattle farmers back there too." Councilman Paige, replied, "I know a minister and several others that lives back

in there, Rev. Otis Charles and some more back in there." Chairman Salter, replied, "Hold it on them. That's all you have Mr. Paige?" Councilman Paige, replied, "Yes Sir."

Chairman Salter stated the Next Agenda Item:

Adopt the minutes of the regular meeting of the Natchitoches Parish Council held Monday, March 21, 2022.

On motion by Councilwoman Patsy Hoover, duly seconded by, Councilman Jim Kilcoyne that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby Adopt the minutes of the regular meeting of the Natchitoches Parish Council held Monday, March 21, 2022.

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

Ayes:	Councilwoman Hoover	
Ayes:	Councilman Kilcoyne	
Ayes:	Councilman Cheatwood	
Ayes:	Councilman Paige	
Ayes:	Councilman Salter	Motion Passed

Chairman Salter stated the Next Agenda Item:

Appointments of Boards and Commissions.
Consider adopting a resolution confirming re-appointment/appointments to the following boards/commissions.

- A. Council to confirm the re-appointment of Mrs. Lauryn Sharplin on the Natchitoches Convention (Tourist) and Visitors Bureau.

On motion by Councilwoman Patsy Hoover, duly seconded by, Councilman Jim Kilcoyne that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby re-appoint Mrs. Lauryn Sharplin on the Natchitoches Convention (Tourist) and Visitors Bureau.

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

Ayes:	Councilwoman Hoover	
Ayes:	Councilman Kilcoyne	
Ayes:	Councilman Cheatwood	
Ayes:	Councilman Paige	
Ayes:	Councilman Salter	Motion Passed

- B. Council to confirm the re-appointment of Mr. John L. Morgan to the Natchitoches Parish Fire District 1 Board.

On motion by Councilwoman Patsy Hoover, duly seconded by, Councilman Jim Kilcoyne that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby re-appoint Mr. John L. Morgan to the Natchitoches Parish Fire District 1 Board.

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

Ayes:	Councilwoman Hoover	
Ayes:	Councilman Kilcoyne	
Ayes:	Councilman Cheatwood	
Ayes:	Councilman Paige	
Ayes:	Councilman Salter	Motion Passed

- C. Council to confirm the appointment of Mr. Mark Edwin Kerry to the Natchitoches Parish Fire District 1 Board.

On motion by Councilwoman Patsy Hoover, duly seconded by, Councilman Jim Kilcoyne that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby appoint Mr. Mark Edwin Kerry to the Natchitoches Parish Fire District 1 Board.

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

Ayes:	Councilwoman Hoover	
Ayes:	Councilman Kilcoyne	
Ayes:	Councilman Cheatwood	
Ayes:	Councilman Paige	
Ayes:	Councilman Salter	Motion Passed

- D. Council to confirm the re-appointment of Rev. Dr. Frank Fuller to the Natchitoches Library Board of Control.

On motion by Councilwoman Patsy Hoover, duly seconded by, Councilman Jim Kilcoyne that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby re-appoint Rev. Dr. Frank Fuller to the Natchitoches Library Board of Control.

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

Ayes:	Councilwoman Hoover	
Ayes:	Councilman Kilcoyne	
Ayes:	Councilman Cheatwood	
Ayes:	Councilman Paige	
Ayes:	Councilman Salter	Motion Passed

E. Council to confirm the appointment of Ms. Carmella Parker to the Natchitoches Library Board of Control.

On motion by Councilwoman Patsy Hoover, duly seconded by, Councilman Jim Kilcoyne that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby appoint Ms. Carmella Parker to the Natchitoches Library Board of Control.

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

Ayes:	Councilwoman Hoover	
Ayes:	Councilman Kilcoyne	
Ayes:	Councilman Cheatwood	
Ayes:	Councilman Paige	
Ayes:	Councilman Salter	Motion Passed

Chairman Salter stated the Next Agenda Item:

OLD Business: None

NEW BUSINESS:

First Introduction of proposed Ordinances: NONE

Chairman Salter, stated the next agenda item:

Public Hearings:

Council to consider an Adoption of Ordinance 009-2022 to remove section 1.11 The Recording Policy from the Natchitoches Parish Personnel Manual due to being un-Constitutional and by the Revised Statute.

On motion by Councilman Jim Kilcoyne, duly seconded by, Councilwoman Patsy Hoover that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby open Public Hearing to hear the following:

Council to consider an Adoption of Ordinance 009-2022 to remove section 1.11 The Recording Policy from the Natchitoches Parish Personnel Manual due to being un-Constitutional and by the Revised Statute.

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

Ayes:	Councilman Kilcoyne	
Ayes:	Councilwoman Hoover	
Ayes:	Councilman Paige	
Ayes:	Councilman Cheatwood	
Ayes:	Councilman Salter	Motion Passed

Discussion A.

On motion by Councilman Jim Kilcoyne, duly seconded by, Councilwoman Patsy Hoover that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby close Public Hearing.

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

Ayes:	Councilman Kilcoyne	
Ayes:	Councilwoman Hoover	
Ayes:	Councilman Paige	
Ayes:	Councilman Cheatwood	
Ayes:	Councilman Salter	Motion Passed

Chairman Salter, stated the next agenda item:

ACTION ON PROPOSED ORDINANCES:

Chairman Salter, I'm going to read this, but I have to talk to the Attorney.

Council to consider an Adoption of Ordinance 009-2022 to remove section 1.11 The Recording Policy from the Natchitoches Parish Personnel Manual due to being un-Constitutional and by the Revised Statue.

Chairman Salter, stated, "Do you see any problem with the wording on that?" The Parish Attorney, replied, "In what sentence?" Chairman Salter, replied, "Unconstitutional. In your opinion that was rendered that was said, that you felt like you didn't feel like it was unconstitutional." Parish Attorney, replied, "It was the opinion of the District Attorney office that the recording policy to be section 1.11 is neither unconstitutional nor it's illegal in that term was used early on. The Council had requested an opinion from the Attorney General and the Attorney General rendered an opinion that was in line with the District Attorney opinion that the recording policy is neither unconstitutional nor illegal; so, it's on the agenda to adopt an Ordinance to remove section 1.11 The Recording Policy from the Natchitoches Parish Personnel Manual due to being un-Constitutional and by the Revised Statue, that's the way yawl put it on the agenda when it was first Introduced, you can vote, but it's certainly contrary to the opinion of the Attorney General and the District Attorney's office."

Councilman Paige, asked, "Question? And Councilwoman Hoover, replied, "It's the wording." Councilman Paige, continues, "Maybe I didn't get this, or know what happened? Is it something that went on or something that possibly may go on, you're dealing with a situation that something happened maybe something that maybe I'm not privileged to whatever, is there something that happened? because this is not the first time, we've talked about this, we keep going over the same thing. Is it something that occurred? or whatever we need at some point lay this to rest whether it's up or down, one way or the other, I would like to know if something went down, I'm quite sure others would too."

Chairman Salter, replied, "Mr. Paige, I simply was wanting to be sure because I didn't think that this was the way it was worded

in February, when I was not at that meeting and no action was taken on it, I thought the wording had been changed, but nobody made any comments then being against any opinion that we got back from the Attorney General or the DA's office; so, I wanted to be sure before we vote on this, is it going to be a done deal." Councilman Paige, replied, "That what I would like to know, just let vote." Chairman Salter, continues, "You know, whatever we send we can resend we really don't need to give any kind of a reason of if it's unconstitutional, if we want to do something we can just do it. You understand what I'm saying?" Councilman Paige, replied, "I don't know if something had occurred that cause this." Chairman Salter, replied, "Well, no this is me; I was thinking the language got changed on it, on this, and according to what I have on my computer at home for February meeting, it was different, but according to what Sheryl gave me today of the agenda, it's just like it is today."

The Clerk, replied, "Okay, in March, when me and you and Mr. Kilcoyne, sitting right here at the horseshoe," At that time, Councilman Salter, replied, "Yeah," The Clerk, continues, "We was discussing stuff, the first comment came up, you asked why it wasn't voted on, and Mr. Kilcoyne, said, "It didn't go through a motion." And then you went on and said, I know this is unconstitutional and everything, and you said, I need to state that and reword it to say that and rename it because I don't won't any problems, because he told you it wasn't no kind of motion. And that's when I repeated it and you said yes, because it was unconstitutional in the first place, and they knew this, and we voted on it and that's when I put it just like you said, and I repeated it and in March we went through it and now it brought to my attention, and I put it just like you told me to put it." Chairman Salter, replied, "Do you remember that Kilcoyne, did we talk that way?" Councilman Kilcoyne, replied, "uh, I know that it was, when we asked Mr. Mansour to make a request with the Attorney General, umm, and at the time, since we didn't get a motion or second whatever it was, we would pursue with, and I said, that would give the Attorney General, 30 more days, because we have to come back and talk about it anyways." The Clerk, replied, "And that's when, Mr. Salter, said that, yes, because he know they knew it was unconstitutional in the first place, and we voted on it anyway, and that's when he said, "Sheryl you put it this way, do you remember when he said because, Sheryl is hard headed and she don't listen, because I told her not to put them , all those people around this table and everything and she want to have it her way, do you remember saying that?" Chairman Salter, replied, "I probably said it." And at this time everyone was laughing. The other Councilmen was saying let's make a motion, and Councilman Kilcoyne, replied, "Clearly, we all saw the Attorney Generals opinion, it doesn't mean that we can not have this paragraph removed from the Personnel Manuel, it's up to the Parish Council and Councilwoman Hoover, replied, "Well, go ahead and make a motion."

On motion by Councilman Jim Kilcoyne, duly seconded by, Councilwoman Patsy Hoover that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby adopt Ordinance 009-2022 to remove section 1.11 The Recording Policy from the Natchitoches Parish Personnel Manual.

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

Ayes:	Councilman Kilcoyne	
Ayes:	Councilwoman Hoover	
Ayes:	Councilman Paige	
Nays:	Councilman Cheatwood	
Ayes:	Councilman Salter	Motion Passed

Chairman Salter, stated the next agenda item

RESOLUTIONS:

Council to approve resolution-014-2022 approving the holding of an election in Fire Protection District #6 of the Parish of Natchitoches, State of Louisiana, on Tuesday, November 8, 2022, to authorize the levy of a special tax therein and to authorize the levy of a parcel fee therein.

On motion by Councilman Chris Paige, duly seconded by, Councilwoman Patsy Hoover that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby approve resolution-014-2022 approving the holding of an election in Fire Protection District #6 of the Parish of Natchitoches, State of Louisiana, on Tuesday, November 8, 2022, to authorize the levy of a special tax therein and to authorize the levy of a parcel fee therein.

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

Ayes:	Councilman Paige	
Ayes:	Councilwoman Hoover	
Ayes:	Councilman Kilcoyne	
Ayes:	Councilman Cheatwood	
Ayes:	Councilman Salter	Motion Passed

Chairman Salter, stated the next agenda item

Council to adopt Resolution-015-2022 in support of an application to the Local Government Assistance Program for the purchasing of a mini excavator in the amount of \$79,318.41 and \$20,195.40 for "back-scanning" of parish records for the Clerk of Court. The total application amount to be \$99,513.81

Chairman Salter asked the Clerk of Court did he need to talk or have any comments on it. Mr. David Stamey, replied, "Only if you-all had any questions on it." Chairman Salter asked the Parish President did he have anything to say about it. Parish President, replied, "The Mini Excavator, I think everybody knows what we are using that for small projects in ditching also with regards to David Stamey, if you don't mind just tell us what back scanning is, so the people can understand, why we're asking to do this." Councilman Kilcoyne, replied, "Why you at it can you tell us what the Local Government Assistance Program is?" Everyone said it's LGAP Grant. Councilwoman Hoover, replied,

"That's why it would be both of them together because you're applying for the LGAP grant."

Mr. David Stamey, begins, "About a month ago, I continued to get calls from all this, Washington D.C. and Baton Rouge, saying, "Please your office falls into these provisions" and then I turned around and e-mailed John, I said, "John, I don't want any money that can go to roads, water, sewer projects, I don't want to get in the way of that." He assured me that he had applied for everything that he could and got the full amount for roads, water, and sewer he said, "You have a small grant" and I did have one for to continue back scanning, I think the back scanning is important because it does give more people easier access to our records, we now have conveyance online back to 1926 and we have mortgage online back to 1981, we have criminal and civil online back to January 1st of 2000. Probably in the last 5 (five) years we have spent about \$300,000 dollars of our reserve to do some of this back scanning, and I also have been lucky enough to get about \$60,000 in Grants from the Clerk's Association through an LACRAE Grant. We have a lot more online for safety and Public Access; so, John assured me it was not going to get in the way of anything of the road money so, I had one for a little over \$20,000 and it matched up good with yawl \$79,000 thousand because it was \$100,000 available, that's why I'm here tonight to answer any questions if there were any."

Councilman Kilcoyne, asked, "This \$20,000 is to get some type of scanner?" Mr. David Stamey, replied, "Actually no, we scan going forward half of the last 10 years, everyday when we get new conveyances, marriage license, civil suits, we scan them right then, this is to go back into the old records, you've been in the office many times, but your comfortable with it, a lot of people comes up off the streets and they say, "All man you have lots of books." Only back to 1739, but we do lots of books and we're moving backwards, you there are a lot of attorneys use it, but also just right now, with all the oil and gas activity that's going on in the Parish they use a lot of it, and they have to go back to patents which is when the government granted that, but to check out things, they use it. We've been quite busy and now a lot of them do it online versus having to come in and touch the records, which we can eventually wears them out. We don't let the French Archives stuff from the 1700's that's under lock and key, but people can have access to them. We just like to be careful with the records as we can, and this allows us the back scanning allows us."

Councilman Kilcoyne, "Is this money to allow to hire people to do that?" Mr. David Stamey, replied, "There's a company that does it that we had, I have a 5-year history with, that they done this, and they do a good job and that's their fee to do it."

Councilman Paige, begins, "Mr. Stamey, a few of us been around here to know, that years ago, Mr. Salter, and Ms. Roy probably, when the Clerk of Court came and the District Attorney would come, and sometimes they would bring us a check, don't be laughing Ms. Roy, I don't see nothing funny with that, do you Mr. Salter?" Chairman Salter, replied, "Yes, we use to get a good check from some of the DA's." Councilman Paige, continues, "Big, nice checks, that they would give, I'm just and with Mr."

Bernard added on, that use to be a garage down there and people use to pull in there and they close it, and they took that money, I just thought that... And at that time Mr. David Stamey, replied, "All of our reserve goes to, you might not realize it this, this is good for everyone to realize, we get no tax money. Yawl might get some tax money, but we get no tax money we are self-funded, so our employees, our cost of doing business, is all coming out of what we bring in. Like Mr. Bernard and myself, it's actually some Revised Statue that shows that the Parish Government is supposed to pay certain things in the Clerks Office from around the State, but we never asked for it. So, we're going to turn it around and I'll be back next meeting for my check."

Councilman Paige, replied, "On the same note, every time Mr. Bernard saw me, he said, "Mr. Paige, I'm not driving one of those SUVs like a lot of them there, I still have my Crown Victoria, we have to pay for those..." and Mr. Stamey replied, "Yawl don't pay for our office." Councilman Paige, continues, "I was just checking to make sure we have a clear thought process and so many don't know, they would be educated about what goes on down here. So now, we don't have monies for various things." Mr. David Stamey, replied, "I'll have to look that one up." Councilman Paige, replied, "If you have some extra monies at the close of the year, or even the Sheriff's Department, which suppose to at the close of the year, if they have remaining monies, they suppose to come back to the Governing Authority, and assist. I just thought I would share that." Mr. David Stamey replied, "Mr. Paige, if yawl fund the Clerk's Office, on anything, if you funded at the end of the term that money can be recovered by Parish Government, yawl not funding anything; so, there's nothing to return."

Councilman Paige, replied, "But when you provide the services, you say, we don't fund something, but we do, because when you have the office space and all the other things." Mr. David Stamey, replied, "Absolutely." Councilman Paige, continues, "Let's be realistic about, what we're talking about. I don't want to tie the meeting up with this, I just wanting to share, because the public doesn't know, and they need to know." Mr. David Stamey, replied, "Want yawl figure out what rent yawl want to charge and now they know, that we are self-funded."

Councilwoman Hoover, replied, "I'm going to make a motion, right now, so you want ask for any money, I make the offer." Mr. David Stamey, replied, "Oh, we're asking." Councilwoman Hoover, replied, "Can I get a second?"

Chairman Salter, replied, "What are you offering?" Councilwoman Hoover, replied, what we're voting on." Chairman Salter, replied, "Hold up, I have a question, how long does this take place, this funding of the Grant?"

Parish President, replied, "When will that be Julie?" Ms. Lockhart, replied, "The application deadline is June 3rd."

Chairman Salter, replied, "We don't know if we're going to get it or not?" Ms. Julie, replied, "We should get something, whether we receive the full funding, I'm not sure." Chairman

Salter, replied, "You have a Track O down now, Mr. Hightower, don't you?" Mr. Hightower, replied, "I have one in the shop."

Chairman Salter, replied, "You only have one on the premises and one on the roads?" Mr. Hightower, replied, "Yes, I have that old mini ho since you were there." Chairman Salter, replied, "The Hitachi is it gone, the red one?" Mr. Hightower, replied, "The rental?" Chairman Salter, replied, "Yes." Mr. Hightower, replied, "No, the rental is not gone." Chairman Salter, replied, "You still have two available, right now?" Mr. Hightower, replied, "Yes, I have one on the North Side and the other on the South Side." Chairman Salter, response, "Oh, okay."

On motion by Councilwoman Patsy Hoover, duly seconded by, Councilman Jim Kilcoyne that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby Council to adopt Resolution-015-2022 in support of an application to the Local Government Assistance Program for the purchasing of a mini excavator in the amount of \$79,318.41 and \$20,195.40 for "back-scanning" of parish records for the Clerk of Court. The total application amount to be \$99,513.81

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

Ayes:	Councilwoman Hoover	
Ayes:	Councilman Kilcoyne	
Ayes:	Councilman Cheatwood	
Ayes:	Councilman Paige	
Ayes:	Councilman Salter	Motion Passed

Chairman Salter, stated the next agenda item

Council to adopt Resolution-016-2022 for approval of recommended list of new bridges for replacement under the Federal Off-System Bridge Replacement Program. Below are Listed:

1. Government Road over Cypress Creek (2 places)
2. Brandon Cotton Road over Bayou Terre Blanc
3. Nelson Road over Brushy Creek
4. Dick Anderson Road over Brushy Creek
5. Old Victoria Road over Trudo Creek
6. Shady Grove South Road Over Middle Creek (4 places)
7. Forest Road over Lyles Creek
8. Robeline-Provencal Road over Trudo Creek

Chairman Salter asked the Parish President had he found out anything out on that Trudo Creek. And the Parish President, reply, "No, I have not yet." Chairman Salter, stated, "That Trudo Creek, is not on Robeline-Provencal, it's on Old Victoria, which the first one is right, number 5, I don't know if it comes back over Robeline-Provencal, but I don't think that's recognize as a State Bridge, there." Parish President, replied, "Are you talking about the Old Victoria Bridge?" Chairman Salter, replied, "Old Victoria, is, you have it on here twice, that's what I talked to you about the other day." Parish President, replied, "Oh, over the Trudo Creek, yes, we going to check it out, I haven't checked it out yet." Chairman Salter, replied, "Do you know anything about that Dustin?" Mr. Hightower,

response, "No, I don't, no more than we talked the other day about the bridges."

Councilwoman Hoover, asked, "Mr. Salter, may I say something, I see all the other bridges listed down the Off-System Bridge Replacement for years, and I don't know how this ties in, but for years, we have been asking about the Old River Road Bridge, is it anything that you all can do, in order to get that bridge, maybe not a bridge, just passable so they would be able to get in and out." Parish President, replied, "Mrs. Hoover, I hope you can remember our conversation from last week, the answer is I would like to do that, I can't say we're going to go back with a bridge back in that area, because I think, the last time we looked, that bridge would have been several million dollars, which will eat up half the available funding for just one bridge. I'm not opposed to, however, to making that a crossing, if that's a railroad car or two and we can get an emergency route in and out for both sides of that. I'm not opposed to doing that, I would love to look into doing that seeing what it would be. Find a couple of railcars, it may only take one railcar, because it's basically back water there, we don't have to worry about a flood coming through, seepage one way and seepage the other. I'm not opposed to doing that, not at all."

Councilwoman Hoover, replied, "Okay, that would be something, that we can work on." Chairman Salter, asked, "You talked to him about that last week?" Councilwoman Hoover, replied, "Yes, we talked about it." Chairman Salter, replied, "I called him, and talked to him about it too." Parish President, replied, "You both did, you called and shortly afterwards Ms. Hoover, called." Chairman Salter, response, "Okay." Parish President, replied, "She was very happy." Chairman Salter, replied, "How many of these going to be picked?" Parish President, replied, "Let me explain, let me explain a little bit, Mr. Salter, give you a little more back story here, we got three or four bridges taking care of in the last 3 years and essentially, we were told that was it for us for a while, that we had gotten enough money in the Off System Bridge Replacement, and we were not going to get anymore. Well, as the Infrastructure Bill came through and some other funding came through we was able to push, we were able to get about 5 million dollars in bridge replacement money, now they are not going to let all that money go in year one, they are not going to let it all go in year two, in fact they are not telling us what they are going to let go; so, we have got some priorities and primarily there's those u shape concrete channel bridges that are on top of wooden caps, wooden piles, and there's where we're having most of our problems around the Parish and there are 5 on the list that are like that, Brandon Cotton Road, and the 4 on Shady Grove, there like that. They are probably at the most risk right now, so what we going to have to do, we have to see what money they cut loose see what projects that kind of partner up and we pay for and then we will have to sit and look because we got some priorities, but the bottom line, they hold the purse strings. If you guys approve this tonight and we put this in, the Fed's will let some money go, and we'll see if we can get some work done, but we don't know the time frame of that, we do know an ending, which is several years, like 3 or 4 years, before they would let it all go." Chairman Salter, replied, "The last bridges that got built in

2019 was put on the list in 2012, this will be the first thing, the first bridges that has been first put since that happened." Parish President, replied, "You're correct. That is one reason part of the push on this, to say the others took so long and we're seeing bridge failure on these U-shape channel bridges already, so let's address these, someone listened and decided, and we were awarded 5 million dollars in grant money for it."

On motion by Councilman Jim Kilcoyne, duly seconded by, Councilman Chris Paige that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby Council to adopt Resolution-016-2022 for approval of recommended list of new bridges for replacement under the Federal Off-System Bridge Replacement Program. Below are Listed:

1. Government Road over Cypress Creek (2 places)
2. Brandon Cotton Road over Bayou Terre Blanc
3. Nelson Road over Brushy Creek
4. Dick Anderson Road over Brushy Creek
5. Old Victoria Road over Trudo Creek
6. Shady Grove South Road Over Middle Creek (4 places)
7. Forest Road over Lyles Creek
8. Robeline-Provencal Road over Trudo Creek

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

Ayes:	Councilman Kilcoyne	
Ayes:	Councilman Paige	
Ayes:	Councilwoman Hoover	
Ayes:	Councilman Cheatwood	
Ayes:	Councilman Salter	Motion Passed

Chairman Salter, stated the next agenda item

Council to adopt Resolution-022-2022 that supports the continued publication of minutes, notices, and all official governmental proceedings in the local newspaper as the best way to inform the public.

Chairman Salter, stated, "I have a Resolution would you like for me to read it Council?" alright I'm going to read it."

Chairman Salter read the Resolution out loud.

Councilman Paige, asked, "Ms. Julie, can you tell us how much money we pay the Natchitoches Times, annually?" Ms. Lockhart, replied, "About \$12,000 to \$14,000." Councilman Paige, continues, "I think at the Convention, they pretty much talked about it, of ways trying to get more money for the cost of helping the Parish roads, and stuff, I think it's many, many ways in looking at trying to turn monies around. I think when Governor Jindal was in there, he started this mandating meetings, and sexual harassment and Ethics and I think, he paid the first fine, as you recall, but the bottom line of it is when you put all these things in position, you have to pay somebody to be over it and that's another \$100,000 salary here and all that, I think really it should be looked at the ways you can save money. That was the intent, is what I'm saying. I don't have a problem."

On motion by Councilwoman Patsy Hoover, duly seconded by, Councilman Jim Kilcoyne that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby adopt Resolution-022-2022 that supports the continued publication of minutes, notices, and all official governmental proceedings in the local newspaper as the best way to inform the public.

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

Ayes:	Councilwoman Hoover	
Ayes:	Councilman Kilcoyne	
Ayes:	Councilman Cheatwood	
Ayes:	Councilman Paige	
Ayes:	Councilman Salter	Motion Passed

Chairman Salter, stated the next agenda item

Other Agenda Items:

Council to approve the Parish President to hire an attorney to help close an IRS matter from the non-filing of the 1095C for the year ended 12/31/2017.

Chairman Salter, responded, "That's all we've been doing for 2 ½ years taken care of something before we even gotten here. Here we go again. How much money are we talking about?"

Parish President, replied, "I don't know if we have a price on it yet. We're trying to find a Tax Attorney that is willing to take it." Chairman Salter, replied, "And what about the auditors, we didn't do an audit that year? Is it their responsibility for this?" Ms. Lockhart, replied, "I don't think a 1095C was in that Audit scope, usually it's just 941's and W'2s." Chairman Salter, replied, "Is this the tax that was paid on the employees?" Ms. Lockhart, replied, "No, No, this is just the information on forms it goes back to the Affordable Care Act, that says, "An employee, had insurance or declined insurance, it was at first you use would assess a penalty on the taxpayer if they didn't have coverage, because at first you had a fallback clause. They removed that part, so there wasn't no money that wasn't paid, there's was nothing like that. They say that the forms we not filed, I can't prove differently." Chairman Salter, replied, "You wasn't here then." Councilman Kilcoyne, replied, "That is true because when you work, your employees is supposed to file that 1095C at that time Employer provide Health Care."

Councilwoman Hoover, replied, "How much money are we talking about?" Ms. Lockhart, replied, currently it's \$142,000 dollars." Councilwoman Hoover, replied, "That the Parish has to pay, now, my question is this also, \$142,000 that we're going to be responsible for." Ms. Lockhart, replied, "Yes, that's the reason why we're trying to get... And Councilwoman Hoover, replied, "I understand, that..." And Ms. Lockhart, finished, "To help us." And Councilwoman, Hoover, continues, "How much will the Attorney fee, I want to clearly understand, how much, let me say, it's \$20,000, \$10,000, and still the Federal Government don't do it? Then what happens? That mean we're out of that money for the attorney as well?" Ms. Lockhart, replied, "I assume that we

would try to make an agreement with an attorney, that guarantees some kind of reduction in our penalty." Councilwoman Hoover, replied, "How can an Attorney guarantees something with the IRS?" Ms. Lockhart, replied, "I understand, it's like attorney's take on personal injury cases, that you don't pay unless you get paid, or you don't get anything. Now, I'm saying that's what we're trying to do, so far, I've called, I have a couple of references tried to get the information so I could get the information and bring to you saying they said X amount of dollars or whatever. I haven't, honestly found anyone that would take on the work. So, I spent from 8:54 today until 3:36 because this afternoon, trying to talk to the IRS, trying there's a couple of things I read on the Internet that I thought would work for us, at the end of that call, the answer was, No, so, we have an opportunity to appeal there rejection or our abatement, from my fear is, I could write up, answer the appeal notice, write it up and submit it, I don't have enough knowledge of this to say, ok I'll take a stab at the appeal and we'll get another appeal, I don't know if this is my one and only appeal, so that's the reason why, after talking to auditors, and talking to some other Parishes, I was given the advice to talk to an attorney."

Councilwoman Hoover, replied, "So, to me that would be one of the options that you would try and I'm going to ask the question, like Chris, asked you earlier about how much money that you spent with the newspaper, well, my question is "How much money we have spent on with other attorney's doing things, because we have spent a whole ton of money on attorney's here with the Parish, about how much have we spent? Because you know I'm just, you-all help me out on this, because, we have an attorney here, and I understand that all attorney's have their expertise, all of the attorney's that we have in the District Attorney's Office, could not help us? And we're paying for the attorney fees, do you understand, I'm not only, I know Ms. Julie, you can not answer that, I'm asking the attorney, as well, and I'm just asking yawl to help me out, because we spend a lot of money with the Parish, even before you got here, on Attorney's and I'm just trying to see, how many attorney's do we have in Natchitoches Parish, that we're actually paying and we can't get some of those attorney's to help us out?"

Chairman Salter, replied, "Ms. Hoover, like I said, we're going back to do things that happened when we were not even here, you and Chris was, but I'm just saying and we have to be careful in what we say here, about what we say and what it was about." Councilwoman Hoover, replied, "I don't know, I was asking." Chairman Salter, replied, "I think you have made it clear and some good points, we have spent several hundred thousand more than likely; so, we might. I think you got your point across."

Parish President, stated, "Mr. Salter, I certainly don't mean to talk likely about the subject but, as an old contractor, I don't call a plumber to do an electrician job. And we don't have the tax Attorney's that works in the DA's Office, that I'm aware of, that's the trouble. If we had a great tax attorney maybe they would be willing to look at it but, we don't and it's no slight against the plumbers and the electricians or the anybody else, that's just the way it goes, that expertise is very much tight

niche and it's hard to find somebody and those people are very busy and so their willing to take on cases is slim. So, that's where we are. \$142,000 dollars penalty is growing that we need to find somebody to help us mitigate that risk downward and hopefully way down and that's kind of where we are. I don't like it, I don't."

Councilwoman Hoover, replied, "I hope you-all can appreciate what I'm saying, you know. We have a lot of Attorney's, look like we can come together to do what we need to do for this Parish."

Councilman Paige, replied, "I don't know it look, like something happened years ago, many, many years ago and I don't know if the Senator or somebody that helped, I don't know, I can't recall it." Ms. Lockhart, replied, "I assume it has to be somebody on the Federal level." Chairman Salter, replied, "I don't think I know any Senators that are willing to go against the IRS, right now." Chairman Salter, replied, "I think we need to get a motion to get this over." Councilwoman Hoover, asked, "How are our penalties are being added monthly, days or what, is it constantly or what?" Ms. Lockhart replied, "There's two different penalties they are assessing one is failure to file and the other is failure to file correct forms. Each one of them have about a \$70,000 penalty, what is accruing is the interest, they have started accruing interest, I have called and we're not in an active collections right now, because I told them I was going to try to appeal and they give you a little lead way to stop the interest for a certain amount of time, so, that's where we're sitting right now, like I say, I just don't, Ms. Harris, just showed me a text that someone that's watching has recommended someone, so, I'll definitely be calling them and try to get a little more information. I can tell you after spending practically 8 hours on the phone today, nobody in the IRS is like I talk to this person and they say that want be a problem, I just have to transfer you to this one, and you stay on hold for another hour or two, that person gets on the phone, but they say, Oh, no, I don't do that, so, I don't have a whole lot of confidence, if they would have told me today, look we're going to take care of it, we're going to abate it, I still would have been like, mmmmm, I don't know this, until I see it in writing."

Councilwoman Hoover, replied, "We have to do what we have to do."

On motion by Councilman Chris Paige, duly seconded by, Councilwoman Patsy Hoover that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby approve the Parish President to hire an attorney to help close an IRS matter from the non-filing of the 1095C for the year ended 12/31/2017.

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

Ayes:	Councilman Paige	
Ayes:	Councilwoman Hoover	
Ayes:	Councilman Kilcoyne	
Ayes:	Councilman Cheatwood	
Ayes:	Councilman Salter	Motion Passed

Chairman Salter, stated the next agenda item

Council to authorize the Parish President to enter into Cooperative Endeavor Agreements with the local district of the Louisiana Dept of Transportation and the Natchitoches Parish Sheriff's Dept. to facilitate pickup and disposal of roadside debris within the geographic limits of Natchitoches Parish.

Parish President, stated, "In years past, I'm going to try to keep this short, you know me, I'm long winded, I do apologize... at this time Councilwoman Hoover, replied, "You are." Parish President, replied, "Thank you, Ms. Hoover, I heard that. In years past there was an issue with if you had detainees or trustees from the Detention Center and they were picking up Garbage and just dispose that at the Landfill and if the State Highway picked up limbs and trees that were in the State Right away we allowed them to dump it at the land pit, landfill, Well, there has been some court cases over the last couple or three years where people say, oh, you can't do that, you just can't grant those freebies. And we totally understand, and we want to play by the rules and there needs to be value on both sides of that equation. The Sheriff's Department needs to see some value, and reasonable document it and as do we. If they are providing the vehicle and they are providing the deputy to walk around with them to watch over the trustees there is value to that and if they are providing the labor associated with all that, so we can document that, saying yes, they are providing a value and we're going to allow them to dump at the landfill for free, as long as they have roadside trash that they're picking up. Likewise, the Louisiana Department of Transportation came to us and said they cut some trees that can easily go into our land pit, but what was the value to us? Because we have to pay for every ton that rolls across, we have to track it, DEQ makes us cover it at some point with dirt and they said, "Dirt, you need dirt, we got dirt, we can get dirt, how about we haul your dirt and use the dirt, that we bring you to cap it off in the landfill and we say, that's value in it, so, the idea is on both sides the sheriff department and the LADOTD, they're providing a value to us and less employees we need have our efforts can be staying focus on roads and Solid Waste, and not on 20 bags of trash coming in from the Sheriff's department."

On motion by Councilwoman Patsy Hoover, duly seconded by, Councilman Chris Paige that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby authorize the Parish President to enter into Cooperative Endeavor Agreements with the local district of the Louisiana Dept of Transportation and the Natchitoches Parish Sheriff's Dept. to facilitate pickup and disposal of roadside debris within the geographic limits of Natchitoches Parish.

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

Ayes:	Councilman Paige	
Ayes:	Councilwoman Hoover	
Ayes:	Councilman Kilcoyne	
Ayes:	Councilman Cheatwood	
Ayes:	Councilman Salter	Motion Passed

Chairman Salter stated the next agenda item is to adjourn.

Adjourn


On motion by Councilman Chris Paige, duly seconded by Councilman Jim Kilcoyne, 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 Paige	
Ayes:	Councilman Kilcoyne	
Ayes:	Councilman Cheatwood	
Ayes:	Councilwoman Hoover	
Ayes:	Councilman Salter	Motion Passed

Since there was no other business, the meeting was adjourned:

Attest:


Sheryl Frederick,
Parish Clerk



John Salter, Chairman