

PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATCHITOCHES PARISH COUNCIL
PARISH OF NATCHITOCHES, STATE OF LOUISIANA
TAKEN A REGULAR MEETING HELD, THURSDAY, January 29, 2026, Council
Boardroom 2nd Floor Courtroom
4:00 p.m.

The Natchitoches Parish Council met in regular and legal sessions in Parish Council room 211 on the 2nd floor of the Courthouse, on Thursday, January 29, 2026, for a Regular meeting at four (4:00) o'clock p.m. for the Natchitoches Parish Council.

Parish Attorney Steve Mansour convened the Parish of Natchitoches as the governing authority and stated that the Parish was ready to transact business.

Councilman Marty Cheatwood gave the invocation, and Councilman Mark Kerry led the Pledge of Allegiance.

After the roll call, the Council was present: Bobby Braxton, Wayne Halm, Marty Cheatwood, and Mark Kerry.

Absent: William Allen:

Parish Attorney opened the elections of Officers up for the 2026 Session. Councilman Bobby Braxton offered Councilman Marty Cheatwood for Parish Councilman Chairman, and Councilman Mark Kerry seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Braxton, Halm, Kerry, Cheatwood

Absent: Allen

The new Chairman for 2026 is Marty Cheatwood

Parish Attorney then opened for Vice Chairman, and Wayne Halm offered Mark Kerry, and Mark Kerry seconded the motion and Roll Call vote:

Ayes: Halm, Kerry, Cheatwood, Braxton

Absent: Allen

Mark Kerry is the 2026 Councilman Vice-Chairman

Council Clerk, Frederick, stated the Next Agenda Item:

Guests and special presentations:

Fire Chief John Wynn gave updates on various programs offered through the Fire Department, especially for smoke detectors. Anyone interested in those programs needs to contact the Natchitoches Parish Fire Department

Council Clerk asks for 2 amendments to the agenda:

- 1. Council to consider a Resolution that authorizes the Parish President to apply for US Department of Transportation RAISE and BUILD grants in calendar year 2026. The application deadline is February 24, 2026.**
- 2. Council to Introduce Ordinance 003-2026 to add .48 miles of Levy Taylor Road back into the Parish Road System.**

On motion by Councilman Mark Kerry, duly seconded by Councilman Marty Cheatwood, the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby amend the agenda to add:

1. Council to consider a Resolution that authorizes the Parish President to apply for US Department of Transportation RAISE and BUILD grants in calendar year 2026. The application deadline is February 24, 2026.
2. Council to Introduce Ordinance 003-2026 to add .48 miles of Levy Taylor Road back into the Parish Road System.

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

Ayes: Kerry, Cheatwood, Braxton, Halm
Absent: Allen
Motion Passed.

Reports of Department Heads:

Assistant Public Works Director- Mr. Joey Creamer
Highway reports were submitted to the Council. He was absent, working on a work matter.

OCS Executive Director- Ms. Sharon Harris
All of Ms. Harris's reports were given out in the Councilmen's packets. She asked if there were any questions, concerns, or comments about it. Ms. Harris gave her annual report to the Council.

Parish Treasurer- Ms. Julie Lockhart
Ms. Lockhart's reports were included in the packets; the normal reports, check registry, inmate reports, and transactions are all on the Parish Web Page. Sales Tax report generated by the Tax Commission. The treasurer has some items for a vote later on the agenda.

Parish President- Mr. John Salter

Mr. Salter thanked Sweptco for being so quick in getting residents back up and working. Courthouse security is almost completed.

Council Clerk, Frederick, stated the Next Agenda Item:

Adopt the minutes of the regular meeting of the Natchitoches Parish Council held on Monday, December 15, 2025.

On motion by Councilman Wayne Halm, duly seconded by Councilman Marty Cheatwood, the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby adopt the minutes of the regular meeting of the Natchitoches Parish Council on Monday, December 15, 2025.

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

Ayes: Cheatwood, Braxton, Halm, Kerry
Absent: Allen
Motion Passed.

Council Clerk, Frederick, stated the Next Agenda Item:

Appointments of Boards and Commissions.
Consider adopting a resolution confirming.
Reappointments/Appointments to the Following Boards/Commissions.

Council to reappoint Mr. Christopher Lewis to the Natchitoches Parish Fire District 7 Board

On motion by Councilman Wayne Halm, duly seconded by, Councilman Mark Kerry, the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby reappoint Mr. Christopher Lewis to the Natchitoches Parish Fire District 7 Board.

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

Ayes: Halm, Kerry, Braxton, Cheatwood

Absent: Allen

Motion Passed.

Council to reappoint Mr. Tommy Morrison to the Natchitoches Parish Fire District 8 Board

On motion by Councilman Mark Kerry, duly seconded by, Councilman Wayne Halm, the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby reappoint Mr. Tommy Morrison to the Natchitoches Parish Fire District 8 Board.

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

Ayes: Kerry, Halm, Braxton, Cheatwood

Absent: Allen

Motion Passed.

Council to reappoint Mr. Justin Martin to the Natchitoches Parish Fire District 8 Board.

On motion by Councilman Wayne Halm, duly seconded by, Councilman Bobby Braxton, the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby reappoint Mr. Justin Martin to the Natchitoches Parish Fire District 8 Board.

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

Ayes: Halm, Braxton, Kerry, Cheatwood

Absent: Allen

Motion Passed.

Council to reappoint Mr. William E. Dowden IV to the Natchitoches Parish Fire District 4 Board.

On motion by Councilman Mark Kerry, duly seconded by, Councilman Wayne Halm, the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby reappoint Mr. William E. Dowden IV to the Natchitoches Parish Fire District 4 Board.

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

Ayes: Kerry, Halm, Braxton, Cheatwood

Absent: Allen

Motion Passed.

Council to reappoint Mr. Elvin L. Shields to the Natchitoches Parish Planning & Zoning Board.

On motion by Councilman Marty Cheatwood, duly seconded by, Councilman Mark Kerry, the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby reappoint Mr. Elvin L. Shields to the Natchitoches Parish Planning & Zoning Board.

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

**Ayes: Cheatwood, Kerry, Halm, Braxton
Absent: Allen
Motion Passed.**

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

Council Clerk, Frederick, stated the Next Agenda Item:

NEW BUSINESS: NONE

First Introduction of Proposed Ordinances:

Council to Introduce Ordinance 001-2026 to add 126 feet to Ucie Vascocu Road.

On motion by Councilman Mark Kerry, duly seconded by, Councilman Wayne Halm, the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby introduce Ordinance 001-2026 to add 126 feet to Ucie Vascocu Road.

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

**Ayes: Kerry, Halm, Braxton, Cheatwood
Absent: Allen
Motion Passed.**

Council to Introduce Ordinance 002-2026 for the 2026 Budget Amendment for Fund 209 Blanchard Road and Fund 243 Clark Road.

On motion by Councilman Bobby Braxton, duly seconded by, Councilman Mark Kerry, the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby introduce Ordinance 002-2026 for the 2026 Budget Amendment for Fund 209 Blanchard Road and Fund 243 Clark Road.

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

**Ayes: Braxton, Kerry, Halm, Cheatwood
Absent: Allen
Motion Passed.**

Council to Introduce Ordinance 003-2026 to add .48 miles of Levy Taylor Road back into the Parish Road System.

On motion by Councilman Marty Cheatwood, duly seconded by, Councilman Bobby Braxton, the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby introduce Ordinance 003-2026 to add Levy Taylor Road back into the Parish Road System.

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

Ayes: Braxton, Kerry, Halm, Cheatwood
Absent: Allen
Motion Passed.

Public Hearings:

On motion by Councilman Mark Kerry, duly seconded by,
Councilman Wayne Halm at the Natchitoches Parish Council,
In regular and legal session, does hereby open Public Hearing.

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

Ayes: Kerry, Halm, Cheatwood, Braxton
Absent: Allen
Motion Passed

- A. Council to Adopt Ordinance 024-2025 to remove 26,755 feet
from the Parish Road System from Red Rock Road. (Parish
President)

Discussion A: The Parish President requested that this item be
tabled to a later time.

On motion by Councilman Wayne Halm, duly seconded by,
Councilman Marty Cheatwood at 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: Halm, Cheatwood, Braxton, Kerry
Absent: Allen
Motion Passed

The Council Clerk stated the next agenda item

Action on Proposed Ordinances:

Council to Adopt Ordinance 024-2025 to remove 26,755 feet from
the Parish Road System from Red Rock Road.

On motion by Councilman Mark Kerry, duly seconded by,
Councilman Wayne Halm at the Natchitoches Parish Council,
In regular and legal session, does hereby table Ordinance 024-
2025 to remove 26,755 feet from the Parish Road System from Red
Rock Road.

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

Ayes: Kerry, Halm, Cheatwood, Braxton
Absent: Allen
Motion Passed

Resolutions:

- A. Council to approve moving the polling place at 1621 Welch Street (Natchitoches Jr High/Frankie Ray Jackson school) to the L P Vaughn Elementary School located at 1500 Gold Street. The Natchitoches Parish School Board is closing the old Junior High and has approved moving to L.P. Vaughn, where we already have a polling place.

On motion by Councilman Marty Cheatwood, duly seconded by, Councilman Mark Kerry, the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby approve moving the polling place at 1621 Welch Street (Natchitoches Jr High/Frankie Ray Jackson school) to the L P Vaughn Elementary School located at 1500 Gold Street. The Natchitoches Parish School Board is closing the old Junior High and has approved moving to L.P. Vaughn, where we already have a polling place.

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

Ayes: Cheatwood, Kerry Braxton, Halm
Absent: Allen
Motion Passed.

- B. Council to approve Resolution 002-2026 Authorizing Parish President to submit LGAP Application for 2025-2026 Grant Funds for the Parish of Natchitoches in the amount of \$60,000 for Road Maintenance Equipment. The Parish will ask for funds above the maximum ceiling amount and can be awarded if the parish's incorporated communities' combined maximum ceiling amounts are less than the allocation for the entire parish area. And authorize the Parish President to execute and Sign All Necessary Agreements.

On motion by Councilman Wayne Halm, duly seconded by Councilman Mark Kerry, the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby approve Resolution 002-2026 Authorizing the Parish President to submit the LGAP Application for 2025-2026 Grant Funds for the Parish of Natchitoches in the amount of \$60,000 for Road Maintenance Equipment. The Parish will ask for funds above the maximum ceiling amount, and can be awarded if the parish's incorporated communities' combined maximum ceiling amounts are less than the allocation for the entire parish area. And authorize the Parish President to Execute and Sign All Necessary Agreements.

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

Ayes: Halm, Kerry, Braxton, Cheatwood
Absent: Allen
Motion Passed.

- C. Council to approve Resolution-003-2026 authorizing the signing of the Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire for the Audit of the Natchitoches Parish Government for the Year ending December 31, 2025.

On motion by Councilman Mark Kerry, duly seconded by, Councilman Marty Cheatwood, the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby Resolution-003-2026 authorizing the signing of the Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire for the Audit of the Natchitoches Parish Government for the Year ending December 31, 2025.

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

**Ayes: Kerry, Cheatwood, Braxton, Halm
Absent: Allen
Motion Passed.**

- D. Council to approve the Parish President to execute and Sign All Necessary Agreements with the Fire Districts. 1, 4, 5, and #6 to sign their own CEA for the ACT 461 line-item appropriation of the 2025 RLS. This makes the Fire District responsible for all recordkeeping and reporting to the Louisiana Department of the Treasury.

On motion by Councilman Wayne Halm, duly seconded by Councilman Marty Cheatwood, the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby approve the Parish President to Execute and Sign All Necessary Agreements with the Fire Districts 1, 4, 5, and #6 to sign their own CEA for the ACT 461 line-item appropriation of the 2025 RLS. This makes the Fire District responsible for all recordkeeping and reporting to the Louisiana Department of the Treasury.

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

**Ayes: Halm, Cheatwood, Kerry, Braxton,
Absent: Allen
Motion Passed.**

- E. Council to consider a Resolution that authorizes the Parish President to apply for US Department of Transportation RAISE and BUILD grants in calendar year 2026. The application deadline is February 24, 2026.

On motion by Councilman Mark Kerry, duly seconded by, Councilman Wayne Halm at the Natchitoches Parish Council, In regular and legal session, does hereby consider a Resolution that authorizes the Parish President to apply for US Department of Transportation RAISE and BUILD grants in calendar year 2026. The application deadline is February 24, 2026.

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

**Ayes: Kerry, Halm, Cheatwood, Braxton
Absent: Allen
Motion Passed**

Council Clerk, Frederick, stated the Next Agenda Item:

Other Agenda Items:

- A. Council to approve the amended 2025 Budget and the Proposed 2026 Budget for the operations of the North Louisiana Criminalistics Laboratory Commission.

On motion by Councilman Wayne Halm, duly seconded by Councilman Marty Cheatwood, the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby approve The amended 2025 Budget and the Proposed 2026 Budget for the operations of the North Louisiana Criminalistics Laboratory Commission.

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

Ayes: Halm, Cheatwood, Kerry, Braxton,
Absent: Allen
Motion Passed.

- B. Council to authorize the Parish President to award the following bids and sign any and all necessary contracts, documents, etc. Roadway Rehabilitation, Blanchard Road \$429,045.43 to Apeck Construction, LLC

On motion by Councilman Wayne Halm, duly seconded by Councilman Marty Cheatwood, the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby approve to authorize the Parish President to award the following bids and sign any and all necessary contracts, documents, etc. Roadway Rehabilitation, Blanchard Road \$429,045.43 to Apeck Construction, LLC

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

Ayes: Halm, Cheatwood, Kerry, Braxton,
Absent: Allen
Motion Passed.

- C. Council authorizes the Parish President to award the following bids and sign any and all necessary contracts, documents, etc. to Roadway Rehabilitation, Clark Road \$498,884.00 to Regional Construction, LLC.

On motion by Councilman Bobby Braxton, duly seconded by Councilman Marty Cheatwood, the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby approve to authorize the Parish President to award the following bids and sign any and all necessary contracts, documents, etc. to Roadway Rehabilitation, Clark Road \$498,884.00 to Regional Construction, LLC.

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

Ayes: Halm, Cheatwood, Kerry, Braxton,
Absent: Allen
Motion Passed.

- D. Council to authorize the Parish President to award the following bids and sign any and all necessary contracts, documents, etc. Roadway Reconstruction, Lateral Lane \$938,988.70 to Regional Construction, LLC.

On motion by Councilman Wayne Halm, duly seconded by Councilman Mark Kerry, the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby approve to authorize the Parish The President is to award the following bids and sign any and all necessary contracts, documents, etc. Roadway Reconstruction, Lateral Lane \$938,988.70 to Regional Construction, LLC.

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

Ayes: Halm, Kerry, Cheatwood, Braxton,
Absent: Allen
Motion Passed.

Visitors for Non-Agenda Items:

Mr. K. David "Zack" Zachary on Litter on Hwy 1 North, how the Parish is going to fix this matter.

Ms. Leah Forsyth-FAUNA wants an additional \$5,000 on top of the current \$60,000.

Mr. Carl Sias-Henry O Flipper Foundation wants the Council to give \$69,000 to administrative fees.

Regular Meeting
January 29, 2026

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

Adjourn

On motion by Councilman Wayne Halm, duly seconded by Councilman Marty Cheatwood, the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby adjourn.

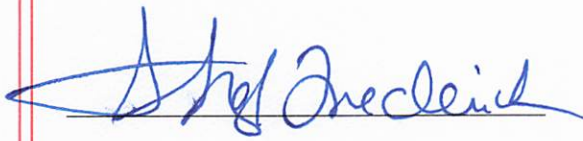
On a roll call vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

Ayes: Kerry, Cheatwood, Halm, and Braxton

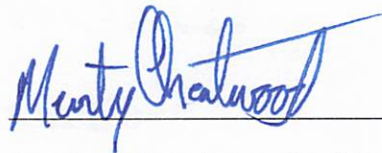
Absent: Allen

Motion Passed

Attest:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sheryl Frederick", written over a horizontal line.

Sheryl Frederick,
Parish Council Clerk

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Marty Cheatwood", written over a horizontal line.

Marty Cheatwood, Chairman