

PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATCHITOCHES PARISH COUNCIL
PARISH OF NATCHITOCHES, STATE OF LOUISIANA
TAKEN A REGULAR MEETING HELD, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2026, Council
Boardroom 2nd Floor Courtroom
5:30 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 Monday, February 23, 2026, for a Regular meeting at five thirty (5:30) o'clock p.m. for the Natchitoches Parish Council.

Parish Council Chairman Marty Cheatwood convened the Parish of Natchitoches as the governing authority and stated that the Parish was ready to transact business.

Councilman Bobby Braxton gave the invocation, and Councilman Mark Kerry led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Absent:

Council Clerk, Frederick, stated the Next Agenda Item:

Guests and special presentations:

Ms. Prekshe Dsouza

Council Clerk asks for an amendment to the agenda:

- 1. Council to consider a \$5,000 increase to give to FAUNA for spaying and Neutering.**

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

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

Ayes: Kerry, Braxton, Halm, Allen

Absent:

Nays: Cheatwood

Motion Passed.

The item wasn't added to the agenda.

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 for the Parish President.

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.

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 was explaining to everyone about his road plans for fixing 6 roads.

Council Clerk, Frederick, stated the Next Agenda Item:

Adopt the minutes of the regular meeting of the Natchitoches Parish Council held on Thursday, January 29, 2026, and the Special Meeting on Friday, January 16, 2026.

On motion by Councilman Wayne Halm, duly seconded by Councilman Bobby Braxton, the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby adopt the minutes of the regular meeting of the Natchitoches Parish Council on Thursday, January 29, 2026, and the Special Meeting on Friday, January 16, 2026.

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

Ayes: Halm, Braxton, Halm, Cheatwood, and Kerry
Absent:
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.

A. Council to approve Lori Frederick to be appointed to the Natchitoches Parish Tourist Commission to replace Dustin Dauzat, who moved in August, 2025.

On motion by Councilman Wayne Halm, duly seconded by Councilman William Allen, the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby appoint Lori Frederick to the Natchitoches Parish Tourist Commission to replace Dustin Dauzat, who moved in August, 2025.

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

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

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

Council Clerk, Frederick, stated the Next Agenda Item:

NEW BUSINESS: NONE

First Introduction of Proposed Ordinances:

Public Hearings:

The Council Clerk stated the next agenda item

Action on Proposed Ordinances: NONE.

Resolutions:

- A. Council to adopt a Resolution 011-2026 in support of the Community Water Enrichment Fund (CWEF) Program, the Natchitoches Parish Council approves grant authorization to execute and submit an application for the 2025-2026 Community Water Enrichment Fund (CWEF) Program funding for Fairview Union Water System.

On motion by Councilman Marty Cheatwood, duly seconded by Councilman William Allen, the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby adopt a Resolution 011-2026 in support of the Community Water Enrichment Fund (CWEF) Program, the Natchitoches Parish Council approves a grant authorization to execute and submit an application for the 2025-2026 Community Water Enrichment Fund (CWEF) Program funding for Fairview Union Water System. (Treasurer)

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

Ayes: Cheatwood, Allen, Braxton, Halm, and Kerry

Absent:

Motion Passed.

- B. Council to approve Resolution 012-2026, the holding of an election in Fire Protection District No. 10 of the Parish of Natchitoches, State of Louisiana, on Saturday, June 27, 2026, to authorize the renewal of a special tax therein.

On motion by Councilman Marty Cheatwood, duly seconded by Councilman William Allen, the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby adopt Resolution 012-2026, the holding of an election in Fire Protection District No. 10 of the Parish of Natchitoches, State of Louisiana, on Saturday, June 27, 2026, to authorize the renewal of a special tax therein. (Foley and Judell)

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

Ayes: Cheatwood, Allen, Braxton, Halm, and Kerry

Absent:

Motion Passed.

Council Clerk, Frederick, stated the Next Agenda Item:

Other Agenda Items:

- A. Council to discuss/approve Rapides Area Planning Commission for the Building Official and Floodplain Administrator, and maintain a staff presence through a satellite office within the Parish for a flat monthly fee of \$2,000, billed monthly. And to authorize the Parish President to sign all necessary paperwork with this agreement. (Parish President)

On motion by Councilman Mark Kerry, duly seconded by Councilman Wayne Halm, the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby approve Rapides Area Planning Commission for the Building Official and Floodplain Administrator, and maintain a staff presence through a satellite office within the Parish for a flat monthly fee of \$2,000, billed monthly. And to authorize the Parish President to sign all necessary paperwork with this agreement. (Parish President)

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

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

B. Council Parish Council to authorize funding for FAUNA, an LLC formed by the consolidation of the Natchitoches Humane Society and Natchitoches Hope for Paws, in the amount of \$60,000. This funding amount will be made in the amounts of \$10,000 (consolidated amounts of the annual \$5,000/each contribution to the Natchitoches Humane Society and Natchitoches Hope for Paws) and \$50,000 for operating costs. (Treasurer)

On motion by Councilman Mark Kerry, duly seconded by Councilman William Allen, the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby authorize funding for FAUNA, an LLC formed by the consolidation of the Natchitoches Humane Society and Natchitoches Hope for Paws, in the amount of \$60,000. This funding amount will be made in the amounts of \$10,000 (consolidated amounts of the annual \$5,000/each contribution to the Natchitoches Humane Society and Natchitoches Hope for Paws) and \$50,000 for operating costs. (Treasurer)

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

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

C. Council to approve the surplus of the following vehicles from the library:

1. 1999 Book mobile bearing Vin Number 1GBKP32Y2W3315404
2. 2005 Freightliner book mobile bearing Vin Number 4UZAAPBW25CV75105 (Purchasing)

On motion by Councilman William Allen, duly seconded by Councilman Marty Cheatwood, the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby approve the surplus of the following vehicles from the library:

1. 1999 Book mobile bearing Vin Number 1GBKP32Y2W3315404
2. 2005 Freightliner book mobile bearing Vin Number 4UZAAPBW25CV75105 (Purchasing)

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

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

Visitors for Non-Agenda Items:

Ms. Laura Lyles wanted to ask the Council to support The Natchitoches Day at Legislative Day at the Capitol. She's asking different businesses/government for 3000 dollars for signage.

Mr. Billy Ebarb wanted to know when the CEA would be ready for them to sign between the Shooting Range and the Parish of Natchitoches.

**Regular Meeting
February 23, 2026**

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

Adjourn

On motion by Councilman William Allen, 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: Halm, Braxton, Allen, Cheatwood, and Kerry

Absent:

Motion Passed

Attest:



Sheryl Frederick,
Parish Council Clerk


Marty Cheatwood, Chairman