

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATCHITOCHE PARISH COUNCIL**  
**PARISH OF NATCHITOCHE, STATE OF LOUISIANA**  
**TAKEN A REGULAR MEETING HELD, Monday,**  
**March 20, 2017**  
**5:30 p.m.**

The Natchitoches Parish Council met in regular and legal session in the Council Board Room of the Natchitoches Parish Courthouse, on Monday, March 20, 2017 for a Regular of Natchitoches Parish Council meeting at five (5:30) o'clock p.m. and for the Natchitoches Parish Council Meeting.

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

The invocation was given by Councilman Russell Rachal and the Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilman Rodney Bedgood.

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

Absent: None.

Chairman Hoover stated the next item was for the adoption of the agenda with the added amendment. The added agenda amendments items are:

1. Council to consider re-appointing Mr. Michael Richardson to the Natchitoches Parish Fire District 4 Board.
2. Council to consider adopting Resolution 006-2017 in support of the ad valorem tax renewals for Parish Road District 40, Parish Library, Parish Health Unit and Parish Buildings.

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

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

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

**Motion Passed**

Chairman Hoover stated the next item was for the adoption of the agenda.

On motion by Councilman Chris Paige, duly seconded by Councilman Doug de Graffenried that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby adopt the agenda.

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

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

**Motion Passed**

Chairman Hoover then asked for visitors at this time.

Mr. Bob Brotherton, President of the Bossier Parish Police Jury visited the Council to introduce himself and requested their support in the upcoming Special Election that will be held in April. This election is for a position on the Police Jury Association's Executive Board. The Region 4 meeting for the Police Jury Association will be held in Bienville Parish a date will be given at a later time.

Ms. Matreka Moses, resident of the Bermuda road came to speak to the Council and the Parish President about Bermuda road. She informed them that last year they had a signed petition from Bermuda road residents and St. Paul Church members. Ms. Matreka, began to say, "We came out in numbers today, because our road is in bad condition, on Friday we did receive some patches of tar on the roadway, and we are appreciative of that, but we're concerned, we don't get regular maintenance on our road now, our road is heavily traveled, and we have several people here that can speak on the conditions of the road. Can you tell us what can be done?" Mr. Verret, replied, "Yes, ma'am,

Friday and Saturday we had two crews put together to put down a total of 15 loads of cold patch material, which is an extensive amount to be placed on one road. That took care of the smaller pothole areas, but the area closer to the St. Paul Church road, that part needs materials that will be discussed later, if the Council approves it. This material is called, Bottom Ash. We feel this will be the material that needs to go in and be placed on those bad deteriorated areas."

There were more discussion between Ms. Moses, Mr. Verret, Parish President, and the Council. Ms. Moses requested for others to speak, and Chairman Hoover, informed Ms. Moses, all visitors that are printed on the Agenda will go first, and all others visitors will follow afterwards, but all visitors will be recognized.

Alondia Jefferson, resident of the Coco Bed road, She's coming, to find out the status on Coco Bed road and How much money does the Parish has for Coco Bed road? Parish President, replied, "The State contribution was \$280,000 and the Parish part is 1/3 of that, which the Parish portion is \$93,334 and a portion of that \$93,334 is being met by the Parish by doing the Engineering work on the Project, so we don't have to put up that much cash." Mrs. Jefferson, thanked, Mr. Verret for the e-mail to keep her up to date, but, Mr. Jefferson, stated, "We just want to make sure that our road is going to get done this year. I explain the emails to the family, but they are just frustrated, and again, they feel like the Parish Government is trying to buy time and pass it off, when we been coming here, before the new government, we want a commitment that it will be done this summer, this is a road that has never ever, been worked on, never had anything done to it, never. This goes back to when part of the road was done in 1960 and you all know the story, they only paved 2 1/2 miles of the rest they left as is. We don't care about the other part of the road, we only care about the 9/10, that's it, we don't care about anything, but the 9/10, we go to work, we go in and out everyday, the buses come in every day, we want a commitment on the 9/10 of a mile that it will be done this summer. We just don't understand why this has to take so long, we've been patient, we've been coming, communicating, emails, and letters. I do understand, it's a process, we do understand this, but we have been communicating a long time, and others are asking why the road is not done, yet. We just want the road done." Parish President Rick Nowlin, "You are the number one project for the Parish, but part of the problems are being due from the floods, and I know people are tired of hearing about the flood, but it's part of the problem and the other part of the problem is that the Highway Department has very limited resources from supervision and Engineering, we recently shifted some assignments from within the department to free up some of Mr. Verret's time so he

can focus more his time on the Engineering, so we can get these projects done."

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Mr. Verret, wanted to inform, Mrs. Jefferson, "Only a few weeks ago, we finally received approval from the Facility Planning and Control, and we only a few weeks ago received approval to go forward with the proposed design to match the width. As I told you last week, I was able to squeeze out a few hours to work on the plans, we are really a just few man hours away to have the plans submitted to the Facility Planning, and once we submit the plans, there is a wait period, don't know how long it will take them to look over the plans, but don't feel it should take that long." Mr. Verret went on to explain the process to Mrs. Jefferson, and Mrs. Jefferson, stated, "So it will be sometime in July?" Mr. Verret, replied, "Some where in that time frame depending on the review time by Facility and Planning."

Parish President then begin to explain they've been to Baton Rouge, to sit down across the table to talk things over with them down there, instead of sending emails back and forth and he continued giving a brief summary on how Facility and Planning denied the plans in the beginning.

Councilman Chris Paige, thanked Mrs. Jefferson for coming and being so orderly and for being so patient. Councilman Paige, stated, "I'm glad we're hearing a date possible July. People are so frustrated with the talk and having to come up here and hear the same thing, it's going to happen, it's going to happen. We have to get more involved, Payne Subdivision and Coco Bed Road in getting in touch with Facility Planning and Control ourselves." Mrs. Jefferson, responded, "We tried, it's hard getting in contact with them." Councilman Paige, replied, "We have to get with our State Representatives Kenny Cox or Gerald Long, whom ever, we need to get the ball rolling with this, the weather is permitting us to get us some work done, every time before you come down here, it's been the rain or the weather conditions, but in the meantime you still can't get home this evening. People are tired of talking, they want to see some actions, and to see something done on those two particular projects, Payne Subdivision and Coco Bed Road. This is the first I seen in 20 something years, that no work has been done on a road." Councilman Paige, continued to discuss the bridges Payne Subdivision, one is out and the continued traffic is weakening the other bridge, it's soon be out, and when it goes out they really going to have some trouble back there. The Council has done all they could do, it's time for the professional people do their part.

Cory Poole wanted to ask Mr. Nowlin, a question, " So you was talking about Supervising and Engineering and reworking the Highway department? Mr. Nowlin, replied, "No, what we've done, I've ask Nick to shift some of his assignments to some of his people on a temporary basis to see if we can get some of the Engineering work out, free up some of his time, so he would have to delegate some of his minor duties to the Road Maintenance Supervisor and other folks there, to have the proper road supervision, and to have more of his time on Engineering." Cory Poole, responded, "Wasn't this brought up in last month Council Meeting." Parish President, replied, "There were two Ordinances to change the Personnel Manual to add a Part time Engineering position and that wasn't adopted by the Council and the other one would remove the requirements off the Direct or Public Works with requirements of the professional Engineer and that wasn't adopted by the Council, but the Department Head that manages the department we made some minor adjustment out there to accomplish as much of the goals.

At this time Mr. Verret wanted to speak, and Chairman Hoover, states, "I recognize you, while you talking, Are you going to talk about that, memo, while you're talking?" Mr. Verret, replied, "I'm not commenting on no memo. I want to clarify, I don't think anybody here understands the scope of my duties in trying to accommodate everybody. Since I

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came here in January of 2013, I received some of the duties of the previous Director of Public Works, some duties of the Assistant Director of Public Works, some duties of the former Parish Administrator, many duties of consulting Engineers from the Parish, and a lot of duties from things have never been done by the Parish ever in the past, supervisor duties, administration duties, this caused a backlog on the projects that needed to be done." Mr. Verret went on to explain everything he does for the Parish, including detailed reports to the Council and briefing on projects to explain to the Council on what is needed to be done to make a decision on the project. Mr. Verret, stated, "I'm paddling my little bicycle as fast as I can, but it's only so much one person can be expected to do. Mr. Nowlin, has given me some lead way now; to try to delegate as much other tasks as possible to get some of the work done. I'm not doing just one job out there, I'm doing the job of at least four former employees of the Parish, Parish Engineers, and things that weren't never done."

Councilman Bedgood, wanted to speak, "I'm the oldest members sitting up here, I'm the oldest of anyone up here, I'm 72 years old, I've seen a lot of good things in my life and a lot of bad things in my life, but I can tell you one thing, I'm sick and tired of being blamed for everything that goes on, my name has been thrown out, in every paper, every Yahoo and Facebook, "I'm talking", I've chunked down road work, I know you have a load, I understand you have a load, but I don't think you can go back over any agenda and find where Rodney Bedgood voted against any road project that ever been brought up. Okay, it was stated, I shut down road work, it was stated, that I wanted to go back to the Jury system. I doubt you'll find any place where I've stated in any meeting that I wanted to go back to the Jury system. Hold up, a minute, I'm talking. I want to tell everybody this is like a young school class bunch of people, I've never seen when things that don't go your way, you don't get it just exactly like you wanted it, it's always someone else's fault. I'm going to tell you, excuse, "My French", I'm sick and damn tired of it, my name being thrown around. I'm sick of it. We have fourteen employees out there at the Highway Department, right? Mr. Verret, stated, "Seventeen." Mr. Bedgood, continued, "Seventeen, we have a Highway Director, I know he does Engineering work, he draws a good salary for that, He got a good raise for that, someone in the audience said, "Amen", Mr. Bedgood, replied, "Wait a minute, He has an Assistant, His Assistant, has an Assistant, then we have a grader man that takes care of most of the logging and permits, and all that. It's plenty of people out there, and if three can't run seventeen men, then something does needs to change. I'm sorry, I did not vote for myself now, I'm not speaking for anyone else, I did not vote to put him as an Engineer for 3 days of week for almost \$90,000 a year salary, well \$70.00 a hour, go figure it up, Debbie figured it up last month around \$87,000 and some dollars." At this time Mr. Verret and Parish President was shaking their heads and saying this was not correct. Councilman Bedgood, replied, "This is what you said at the last meeting." Parish President, replied, "You finish talking, I'll talk afterwards." Councilman Bedgood, replied, "I don't care, yal can do whatever you want to, but I'm sick and tired of my name being thrown out there like it's my fault for everything. I try to help do anything I can do to see this Parish for better, but I'm not the fault of all of it. I'm tired of my name being thrown out there, Rodney Bedgood, this, Rodney Bedgood, that. If you asked me tonight, if I want to go back to the Police Jury form of Government, my answer is, Yeah, I'll just

say it out loud, "Yes" and I'll stop."

Chairman, Hoover, stated, "I'm going to recognize myself at this time, two things. Mr. Bedgood, not only your name, but my name as well. The President, put my name out there to say we was causing all the problems here on this Council." Parish President, stated, "Madam chair I object to this entire discussion." Chairman, Hoover, replied, "It's

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out there already." Parish President, replied, "Is this discussion on the Agenda?" Chairman, Hoover, replied, "Yes, it is. The public has the right to speak, and I have the right to speak as well, as Chairman, and when I'm speaking, I'm asking you to be quiet."

Councilman Rachal, spoke out to say, " I rise, to say we're off the agenda, and there is nothing being said, that's on this agenda, we're off topic." Chairman, Hoover, replied, "Russell, you're out of order, have a seat." Councilman, Rachal, replied, "You are off topic. You, can't make me sit down, you're off the agenda and you're out of order." Chairman, Hoover, replied, "Sit down, you're out of order." Chairman, Hoover continued to speak on the topic of a memo that was sent out by Parish President, Rick Nowlin, to Mr. Verret for restructuring the Highway Department. There was still arguing between the Parish President, Chairman, Hoover, and Councilman, Rachal. While that was going on two other Councilmen was discussing something, and Chairman, Hoover asked them to be quiet so she can continue to speak. Chairman, Hoover, then continued to explain, "Let the people know what you have done, that last month the Council voted down the position as Engineer position, you came right behind us on February 24, 2017 and wrote a letter to our Public Works Director and told him you were going to make the changes anyway." Chairman, Hoover reads the entire letter, which outlined the changes by number and after each one was read, Parish President, Rick Nowlin spoke out each time after, she stopped reading one. After she completed reading the letter, she said, "Again, and saying, please keep my name off of the Internet and in the newspaper, calling three of these Council members, names, saying we." Chairman, Hoover didn't finish, then she begin saying, "It was really sad to read that we are supposed to be working together, and you're out bashing three of these Council members." Parish President, Rick Nowlin, replied, "May I respond?" Chairman, Hoover, stated, "Moving along to the next agenda item, next visitor." Parish President, continued to yell, "May I respond? May I respond? May I respond?" Chairman, Hoover kept saying next visitor. Parish President, replied, "Madam, Chair you have made some serious accusations, May I respond? Madam, Chair, continued to hit the gavel, and say, "Next visitor." Parish President, replied, "Will you hold on, a minute, I will like to speak." Chairman, Hoover replied, "No, next visitor, the next visitor." Parish President, yelled out, "I want to say, thank you for reading that information, people saw I was trying to get the road work done, engineering work done, You're making a big deal out of it, I did everything I thought as Parish President, and thank you for pointing that out, Madam Chair."

Marsha Rachal a resident on the Bermuda road, also wanted to speak on the conditions on this road and to ask a question. She wanted to let them to know she was appreciative of the workers that came out on Friday and Saturday and she wanted Mr. Verret to thank his workers for coming out, but she did get upset after speaking to one of his employees concerning "Bottom Ash." Ms. Rachal, went on to explain with the white stuff they put down, with the buses flying down the road, she will be reporting buses the buses to Laidlaw. She apologized to the worker who was there, and he apologized to her also. Councilman Bedgood, stated, "I can say, on the Bottom Ash is good, for what I've seen put out on the Mammy Trail, it's good, it's good." Ms. Rachal, replied, "My windshield is cracked already from the white stuff they put down already, from people that flies down

the road. Yal not going to replace my windshield." Mr. Verret, respond, "Can, I just cut through the chase on this? This Bottom Ash material, what we found so far it knitted together very well and it stays in place without the dusting and particles flying up. Bottom Ash, is unlike Winn Rock once Winn Rock sets it can not be graded, it's like concrete. Bottom Ash is 1/3 of the cost of Winn Rock, and pending Council actions tonight, we can used this material on roads." Councilman Bedgood, Mr. Verret

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continued to talk about the positive points of Bottom Ash, with Ms. Rachal.

Mr. Carl Sias, who lives in District 1 came to support the Bermuda road residents and members of the St. Paul Church who have to travel the road to get to their church. Mr. Sias, explained, "I love the St. Paul Church because it's a Historical Black Church in the community in Bermuda. I can understand that we can go around and doing different patch work, and we've been uses patches in our Black Communities for years and years. We have what we call, people are paying taxes every year, whatever sales taxes comes up, everybody is paying their share, now, my issue is, "Why these people can't get the things they need? These guy are talking about White Rock, I worked for the Haliburton Oil Company for twenty six years, White Rock is used out in bad weather where you're running heavy trucks over." Mr. Sias, continued to say, "It's a lot of Hell raising going on down here and for us to be grown people." Mr. Sias went on to speak to Mr. Bedgood and telling him, that he appreciates him. Mr. Sias, stated, "If this type of Government is not working, we need to revert and go back to the old system, because the "old system" had more money and guess what, everybody was happy, and everybody got things done. We have people now, that making... then he went to ask, Mr. Verret, How many title you have? Four, Mr. Verret, replied, "Sir, I have one." Then Parish President, Rick Nowlin interrupted, "No, we're not here to discuss this.", Mr. Sias, replied, "May, I ask a question?" Parish President, replied, "No., we're not here to discuss this." There were several people talking at one time, Councilman Bedgood, told the Chairman, "He can't do that." Councilman Paige, said "He was only asking a question, because Mr. Verret already, said he does the work of four people, come on people, let's move it along." Mr. Sias, responded, "I was only saying if he has the title of four people, When is he going to do the first one? It's stuff that's needed to be done. Do you know why you can't get anything passed? This my first time ever coming down here, my first time and my immediately last time, because it's to much animosity, hell raising, and everything else. Everybody wants to be the chief, the boss and everything else. If the Parish Government does what they say they would do for the people in the Community, the rural areas and getting these streets done, and I'm going to tell you something, you're going to have to turn back and go back to the old system, the old system worked, because guess what, you didn't have all these problems, you didn't have one man with four jobs, and can't do one, that's sad."

Mr. Laurence Sampey, Fire Chief, District #2 was the next visitor and he, said, "I'm not here about a road." Mr. Sampey want to explain, "Last, March they asked Mr. Nowlin about appointing new members to the Fire District 2 Board. Fire District 2 has four Board members, and they need a total of seven. Mr. Nowlin, told Mr. Sampey, it wasn't nowhere in the Statute that states Fire District 2 gets seven members. Well, I brought it up here today that it comes out the Legislature amended in 1987 that will allowed seven members on our Board. Six members and 1 be appointed by the board, as the Chairman. I just want to get it straight and I'll be sending more Board members up here to be appointed to the Fire Board. If you don't want to do it, we'll go through the Attorney General to get it done, but I've been trying to get this for a year, and we had a chief's meeting

about a month and some of the other chiefs in a different parish that it was listed on their RS Code and it was listed." Parish President, Rick Nowlin, responded, "If, I can recall correctly, it might be a mis-communication. I think two of those Board members has to be appointed by the Village of Goldonna." Mr. Sampey, replied, "Correct."

Parish President then went on to say, "Four be appointed by the Parish and then the six appoints a Chairman, so we must have a failure to communicate." Mr. Sampey, replied, "I told you personally that and you

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said we cannot find it nowhere in the Charter that's the case. This is why I'm coming up here tonight to show you that it does state it and to notify you to be on notice, that we will be sending more members up here to be appointed to the Board."

Parish President, replied, "If you thought I told you something that's incorrect all you have to do is point it out to me and we're addressing it." Mr. Sampey, replied, "I'm here now" Parish President, replied, "I mean in my office, I have a telephone, I got a telephone" Mr. Sampey, responded, "I don't come up here and argue and want these Board members up here to know that I know and you know, this is a fact. I don't want it just me and you, I want others to be in on the communication, and that's it's a fact that Mr. Charles Weaver and Mr. Don Kelly in 1987." Parish President, replied, "I understand, Thank you." Mr. Sampey, replied, "I rest my case, you-all go ahead and vote or whatever, you-all want now."?

Mrs. Rosa Shields stood and wanted to ask a question about, since all of these in involving money and the budget, "Does the Parish Government has a say so in where the City Limits takes over the limits of the City limits. Every time they extend the City limits, that's taking money away from the Parish. Are you-all getting a cut from where they have taken over on I-49 and getting money from the businesses? Do you-all have a say so in that?"

Councilman Chris Paige, answered Mrs. Shields by telling her, "There are laws that has been put on the books because of what happened out there, the City had annexed a lot of communities many years when I came here. The City was annexing everything that had Video Poker machines and they looked at tax dollars to annexed in the City limits many of times. There was a bill passed that if they annexed any of the Parish's taxes they will continue to give that tax money to the Parish, so that's no longer a problem for the Parish. The City has the right to annex and we can't stop that, but to answer your question, no they can't take away our Parish's money anymore." Mrs. Shields, replied, looks like only thing their annexing is where they can getting bulk of the money from the taxes."

John Austin a resident of the Mammy Trail Road, I want to say, "I marked two culverts last year right after the flood we had in March. One got fixed and one haven't been touched for over a year. There is pot holes and I have gotten down on my hands and knees with a five gallon bucket and raked the gravel that you have put in them, and put it back in them. I also go out an dig a ditch behind my mailbox so I can divert the water from off the road, where the ditches are higher than what the roads is. At a Town Hall meeting in Creston, I made a suggestion that people would vote on a tax if we can see some kind of effort being put forth by the Parish. I mentioned it then, and I'm mentioning it again. A grader could do the work that I'm referring to. All we get, I called it the Parish Motto: "We Can't, we don't have the money." People is sick and tired of hearing, "We Can't, we don't have the money." At that meeting they showed us a paper with a breakdown of the taxes and the Cane River Waterway Commission, I'm sorry, I cannot drive my Car down Cane River, it will drown out and

flood." Mr. Austin continued to ask the Council can they go through all the taxes and shift some of those funds to the Parish Road system to strictly go 100 percent to roads and not payroll or anything other than that.

Parish President Rick Nowlin, replied, "Cane River Waterway is a State Agency, the tax was enacted by the State Legislature and it doesn't matter where you live you pay those taxes if you own property. It will take the act of the State Legislature to change it. Last year, Senator Long introduced a bill to help with the Parish road system from the Cane River Waterway, but it didn't make it through the Legislature and we have to see what happens this year."

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Mr. Austin, replied, "Instead of putting in the paper on what Mrs. Hoover was talking about a little while ago, instead of putting down the people up here for doing the job that we want them to do, I stood behind, his vote last month., (referring to Councilman Bedgood). Instead of putting down something negative, let's try to work together and do something positive for a change. "I'm on a fixed income, and I can't not afford to keep paying automobile repairs for these roads. I will not go to the Goldonna Post Office by Parish road 300, which is an arterial road which connects State Highway 1226 to Hwy 156 and Mammy Trail road, pass my house, reason why it's too rough, it's an arterial road also. We need to see positive things from this Council, I will go ahead and vote for this renewal since it's a tax already, but anything further than that, no, we want to see a change if you have to pull up your sleeves and work, we want to see something done quick. I have to crawl out there on a road on my hands and knees to do you-all job, because it's not getting done any other way, we're looking for results, we're not looking for any more hot air."

Councilman Rodney Bedgood wanted Mr. Austin to know a couple of agenda items that was listed like the Bottom Ash could solve a lot of these problems, cheaper from what we've been doing, the Parish can take a dump truck and a grader and solve a lot of the problems, we have a lot of problems. Mr. Austin, also stated, "There is one thing that I heard that I didn't like that someone had made the remark of going back to gravel roads, I'm sorry, I'm sorry this is a year of 2017, I dare anybody on this Council to take Natchitoches Parish back to gravel roads."

Councilman Paige, agreed with Mr. Austin about the taxes, how he talked about Cane River Waterway, but you have other agencies make Cane River Waterway like their little money is a peanut; so if you're going to look let's be truthful and look at all of them. Councilman Paige began to talk about another item that is coming up later on the agenda, and Chairman, Hoover, stated, "We haven't gotten there yet." Councilman Paige, responded, "I'm trying to explain something, if somebody would be quiet long enough to listen." Councilman Paige gave a brief summary on how the other departments that's housed in the Courthouse functioned with the Parish. And stated there was a stature at the close of the year, all these offices: The Sheriff, District Attorney, Clerk of Court, etc., whenever they had excessive money left over in their budget it would come to the Parish to help the Parish operate. Councilman Paige, stated, Ms. District Attorney ma'am, please find out about that I've told the truth, to try to educate some of these people, we quick to vote give this away, I'm just simply tell you, you don't see anybody running up here saying, "Here Parish", Mrs. Roy is shaking her head, she agrees with me for one time, but you don't see that anymore, until you get the respect back up here again, so we can be able to do that."

Mr. Chris Posey, Fire District 1 explained he was going to make it short and sweet, because everyone knew why he was there for. Mr. Posey requested the Council to pursue a full Legislative Audit and

Ethics Audit of the Fire District 1 Board. Mr. Posey, stated, "We been beating this around the bush and around the bush nothing has come before the forefront yet, because of some of the board members' connections, they are trying to hush us, so again, I'm asking the Council for this full legislative and ethics audit. You-all have been brought everything to try to correct the situation. Everybody is down there paying the highest insurance premium around because they can't get any volunteers and they can't get any, because people can't work with the ones that are already in there from the Chief to the Chairman of the Board and some of the board members."

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Parish President, replied, "Just this afternoon, I've been talking with the Chairman of the Board several times since the last meeting. I'm been coordinating a time with him and the Advisory Committee I appointed to go through the records and to see if the Audit should proceed, and this afternoon, he suggested we meet next Friday March 31, 2017 at 10:00am and I agreed with that. He was told to bring whatever records that he had or find that he has assembly and a finding report of what he found since he began to be Chairman. I think we should have this meeting on March 31, and based on that the Advisory Committee can report to the Council and to make a recommendation on how to proceed further. I think we should allow the Committee to take a look, If that's okay with the Committee? both responded yes. And in April meeting we can say we looked at it, and agree if there is a problem, I'm not saying it's not, and then the Committee could suggest the audit and do whatever that is needed to do. "If the Advisory Committee wants to go straight to the audit we can certainly do that." Chairman, Hoover, stated, "I agree with the President, and on March 31, if it's okay with Mr. Rachal , that we will meet at 3:00 with the Chairman of the Board and try to get this thing resolved, so we do have a date." Mrs. Roy asked the time again, and Chairman stated 3:00 and was she said, I'm sorry, 10:00, March 31. "

Abraham Helaire was the next visitor he's also a representative from the Bermuda Road/St. Paul Church, Mr. Helaire, stated, "I won't hold you long, first I would like to make a statement and then I have one little question. May God's grace and his peace be with you all. I'm a Ministry of Music for St. Paul Church and maybe I have to travel down the road maybe 4 times a week. I have a 2016 truck that I had to get a wheel alignment on. and my wife's car has to get alignment on. One member of the church hit a bump and knocked her head light out, it was just hanging when she got to church, but I want you-all to pray for those people who lives on that road since they have to experience this everyday they have to go in and out of there everyday, consider those people and put yourself in their shoes. Now, I want to ask my question, I noticed a couple of years ago Bermuda was starting to get an overlay from Pratt bridge about 3 quarter of a mile to a mile was that a project to just go that distance, or was it intend to go further?" Mr. Verret, replied, "That was before my time, somebody else would have to answer that." Chairman, Hoover, asked Councilman Paige, and he said, "I didn't know about that." Mr. Helaire, replied, "The point is, that when you start a road, the plan is you should complete that whole road and I was wondering the plan is to complete the whole road even if you had to stop for any particular reason, if you had to stop for funds, why does it has to be set back further on the burner, when it was already in process. That's my question to you-all, think about it, you don't have to answer right now."

Chairman Hoover asked were there any other visitors.

Chairman Hoover stated the next item to adopt the minutes of the regular meeting of the Natchitoches Parish Council held Tuesday, February 21, 2017.

On motion by Councilman Rodney Bedgood, duly seconded by, Councilman Russell Rachal 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 Tuesday February 21, 2017.

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

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

**Motion Passed**

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Chairman Hoover stated the next item on the agenda is Council to consider accepting into the Parish system a new street in the Deer Park Subdivision designated as Alex Avenue the extension of Independence Street.

At this time Mr. Ralph Ingram begins to thank the Council member for their time and he explained he would make this as quick as possible. Mr. Ingram begins to pass out a map of the Subdivision to each Council member. "About 20 years he begins affordable housing for parish residents. Mr. Ingram, explained he did everything the parish told him to do. He hired an Engineer got his recommendations, and he gave it to Mr. Verret, and Mr. Verret saw a problem with the recommendations and he helped work through with me with this correcting the problems he found, and the street was built according to Parish plans every bit of it. He knows that the case and he walked it everyday and I thank him for it, I don't want a shabby street, I want a good street, it's about 58 lots for affordable housing, which this Parish desperately needs and I'm asking you folks tonight to approve my street this wording is just a little bit wrong on the agenda, it's a part of Independence Extension and Alex Avenue this is not quite right, I'm asking you to accept my lots in the Parish road system it was done exactly like it should have been done, thank you."

Councilman de Graffenried, asked, "Mr. Ingram do you own all those lots down there?" Mr. Ingram, replied, "I do, Sir, and no, some of those lots have been sold, in fact thirteen or fourteen of these lots has been sold." Councilman de Graffenried, "Within, the Alex Avenue?" Mr. Ingram, replied, "Five to Seven is being closed on for Alex Avenue Circle." Chairman, Hoover, stated, "In the meantime while he's reviewing the map, I've had the opportunity to go out there." Mr. Ingram, replied, "I've had the opportunity to go into your home, lady, and you offered me refreshments and I appreciate your kindness." Chairman, responded, "Thank you." Mr. Ingram, responded, "Thank you for looking at my road." Chairman, Hoover, wanted to express that she's quite pleased and impressed with all the work that he's done, and housing is a big thing now, and to see people, in that subdivision that can have driveways, nice backyards and front yards, was really impressing to her. Councilman Rachal wanted to ask a question also of Mr. Ingram, "There's a three year warranty on the work is that on the completion of the road or upon the acceptance by the Council if it's accepted into the system." Mr. Verret, stated, "I don't think the Parish is clear on that, but I think that might be a legal question." It's not specified in the Ordinance." Councilman Rachal, stated, "We would need to know that before I can make a decision." Mr. Verret, replied, "The structure was finished in January, because it was around Martin Luther King's Day." Councilman, Rachal wanted to know if this going to only be manufactured homes or stick up homes also, What is it zoned for, Sir?" Mr. Ingram, replied, "It can be stick build homes and it can be manufactured homes, it's not a trailer park it has to be double wide, has to be new. And back to your concern about the road, it has 12 inches of soil cement base. This road is done right and it will be many years before you have any problems with that road, it's the best road in the Parish."

Councilman, Rachal wanted to know if it was constructed by the same contractor who done Independence Street, that's falling apart now?" Mr. Ingram, replied, "No, Sir, it was not."

Mr. Ingram went on to explain do you remember two to three years ago when they were resurfacing Grand Ecore Bridge because it had holes in it. That bridge was built out of the same material that Independence Street was built out of, that is what the State approved them. It was an artificial rock, the State didn't know any better, and I doggone didn't know any better, and I tell you one other thing, back then, if this Parish had a Parish Engineer then, this problem that wouldn't have happened, but fortunately you didn't have one and we was all using that darn rock that Grand Ecore Bridge was built out of and my street was built out of." Councilman Doug de Graffenried, begin

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reading from the System of Road Administration for Natchitoches Parish roads description of a road. Mr. Ingram, responded after Councilman Doug de Graffenried, had completed reading, by saying, "If you take that premises there will never be a subdivision in this Parish. There will never be a subdivision in the City. You live in a lot on one of these streets in this city that was developed the same way be a developer. Are you trying to demolish that whole system? Councilman, Doug, replied, "No, I'm just saying the codicil of our laws that's what it says, but you also have the unique thing you're bringing a donut to us a circular road that doesn't go any place, it doesn't take us from road A to road B." Mr. Ingram, replied, "It's the same thing that the street in front of your house does, it goes to your neighbor and it goes to you." Councilman Doug, replied, "It's goes to road A to road B." Mr. Ingram, replied, "It's doesn't goes to the next town, it was designed to, it was to serve the people in the neighborhood. Look you accepted Plantation Point Subdivision in the System, Did you not? You rebuilt the street in Plantation Point Subdivision, Yes, you did. Councilman, Doug, replied, "Before my time, Thank you." Mr. Ingram, replied, "The precedence has been set. Now are you saying that you only can have a half a million house before you can accept the road? Councilman, Doug, replied, "No, I'm not." Mr. Ingram, replied, "I think you are, Sir and that's not the American way." Councilman Doug, replied, "We have a codicil in our rules, that appears to say one thing and what I said was that we needed to wait, and Mr. Ingram, interrupted and said it appears in saying what you're wanting it to say." Councilman, Doug, replied, "whew, okay."

There was a lengthy discussion by Councilman Paige on the progress that Mr. Ingram has made with this subdivision. And it's a good opportunity for those who are first time buyers that is affordable for the residents of Natchitoches Parish and when Councilman Paige finished, Councilman Rachal wanted to clarify because he said Councilman Paige was talking about him. Chairman Rachal wanted to respond to Councilman Paige discussions, because he felt it was directed at him because he did last month asked a question about the tax dollar. Councilman Rachal wanted to express "It wasn't nothing personal against Mr. Ingram, he grew up with his children, but as a legislative body the questions that I asked, last month if it's valued less than \$75,000 it will not be any ad valorem taxes collected on it, and we as the governing body has responsibility to questioned that as to what we're going to get, if it's does start to fail on us, Where we're going to get money from to fix it? There is no money being applied to it, it was nothing personal against him and I think I'm well in my rights to ask that question, now, where we are going for tonight that's fine, but it wasn't a personal attack."

Relatively from the discussion

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

and legal session, does hereby accept into the Parish system a new street in the Deer Park Subdivision designated as Alex Avenue the extension of Independence Street.

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Parish President wanted to have a word that he sees both sides, and he went on to explain how he felt about the acceptance of Alex Avenue extension of Independence Street an after his comments. Mr. Ingram stated he sold the lots to individuals and not corporate entities.

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

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

**Motion Passed**

Chairman Hoover stated the next item on the agenda was recognition of Retirees from Natchitoches Parish Head Start and she read off the names.

1. Bence Nicholas 9/1/1990-8/31/2016
2. Cynthia Morrow 9/1/1990-08/31/2016
3. Juanita Williams 9/1/1990-8/31/2016
4. Frendrena Johnson 11/5/1990-12/31/2015

The Parish President requested that these names goes back unto the Agenda for next month so these ladies can be properly recognized.

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

1. Council to consider adopting Ordinance 17-2016 giving authorization to the Parish President to enter into an agreement with the Natchitoches Parish Sheriff Office for the sale of the Parish building on 415 Trudeau Street and a certain parking lot to the NPSO, subject to an acceptable appraisal of the value.
2. Council to consider adopting Ordinance 004-2017 for Budget Revision for the Natchitoches Parish Highway Department: Fund 101, Fish Hatchery Road, and Old River Road.

On motion by Councilman Rodney Bedgood, duly seconded by Councilman Doug de Graffenried, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby open the public hearing to hear any and all comments or objections relative to the adoption of the following items:

1. Council to consider adopting Ordinance 17-2016 giving authorization to the Parish President to enter into an agreement with the Natchitoches Parish Sheriff Office for the sale of the Parish building on 415 Trudeau Street and a certain parking lot to the NPSO, subject to an acceptable appraisal of the value.

2. Council to consider adopting Ordinance 004-2017 for Budget Revision for the Natchitoches Parish Highway Department: Fund 101, Fish Hatchery Road, and Old River Road.

**Motion Passed**

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Parish President, Rick Nowlin began discussing item 1 about the agreement with the Natchitoches Parish Sheriffs Office. Parish President Rick Nowlin, because telling the Council of the appraised value for the building and parking lot. The appraised value is a \$140,500 total appraised value. The Sheriff wants to work with the Parish on the outstanding debt the Parish owes the Sheriff Department. Parish debt was over \$900,000 and now it'd down to around \$700,000 which the Parish pays the current monthly payment plus an additional \$5,000 per month to work towards the arrears. The Sheriff has offered a \$200,000 credit off the debt plus suspend the additional \$5,000 for a twelve month period. Parish President considers this a good offer.

Chairman, Hoover wanted to ask, "Do the \$200,000 still stands? Parish President, replied, "Yes."

Chairman, Hoover continued to talk about how the Sheriff department assisted when the Parish Highway department didn't come out. Chairman, Hoover, said, "I only can speak for myself and a Council member." She expressed that the Sheriff always help when call upon to help with situations if not him, his deputies comes out to help. Chairman, Hoover, expressed she's in favor of letting the Sheriff have the building, because the building is empty and not being used, and if it sits up for a long period of time it will start to deteriorate over time.

Councilman Paige spoke next on the item. Councilman Paige, feels, the Parish still could of at least got half of the debt paid out of that \$700,000. Councilman Paige also said, "Everyone says I'm against the Sheriff, but not against him, I vote for him every time he've ran and he's a friend, but let me tell you, just because he's a friend, doesn't mean I have to give him my house. The bottom line of it, we owe \$700,000 some dollars, it's just like a stroke of a pen, he could have knocked half of that off, I, do understand everything he's done."

Councilman Paige, went to say, how former Sheriff Boyd Durr when he built the Detention Center, he made a sweet of a deal with the City, and they only pay around \$6.00 per inmate. Councilman Paige, stated, "The Sheriff could have easily done it by a stroke of a pen. I know what the law states, that it's our responsibility to incarcerate the inmates we got out there and all that, I do believe it's the Sheriff responsibility like in all the other Parishes to work with the Parish Government to make it affordable so we can house as many as these criminals as we possibly can. I've worked with the Sheriff on many different occasions, but I just have much difficulty with this, it takes only one big drug bust and we've back over a million dollars, owing the Sheriff, so it's like we're giving the building away for nothing, we're under a serious crisis for fixing Parish roads, and every quarter we can get to fix those roads we need to. When it comes down to fixing roads or paying the Sheriff, guess what, I'm for fixing the people roads."

Chairman, Hoover begins reading item 2. and Chairman Rachal wanted to know information on what part of Old River Road. Ms. Debbie Miley, replied, "We're talking about the bridge?" Ms. Miley then went into detail explaining that they have taken that out of the budget, and they will not be using it this year, but the money will be there the \$65,000 has been there for over 3 years.

Mr. Verret asked about the other amendment and was told it was not approved to be placed on the Agenda.

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On motion by Councilman Russell Rachal, duly seconded by Councilman Rodney Bedgood, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby close the public hearing to hear any and all comments or objections relative to the adoption of the following items:

1. Council to consider adopting Ordinance 17-2016 giving authorization to the Parish President to enter into an agreement with the Natchitoches Parish Sheriff Office for the sale of the Parish building on 415 Trudeau Street and a certain parking lot to the NPSO, subject to an acceptable appraisal of the value.
2. Council to consider adopting Ordinance 004-2017 for Budget Revision for the Natchitoches Parish Highway Department: Fund 101, Fish Hatchery Road, and Old River Road.

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

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

**Motion Passed**

Chairman Hoover stated the next item on the agenda Council to consider Adopting Ordinance 17-2016 giving authorization to the Parish President to enter into an agreement with the Natchitoches Parish Sheriff Office for the sale of the Parish building on 415 Trudeau Street and a certain parking lot to the NPSO, subject to an acceptable appraisal of the value.

On motion by Councilman Russell Rachal, duly seconded by Councilman Rodney Bedgood, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby adopt Ordinance 17-2016 giving authorization to the Parish President to enter into an agreement with the Natchitoches Parish Sheriff Office for the sale of the Parish building on 415 Trudeau Street and a certain parking lot to the NPSO, subject to an acceptable appraisal of the value.

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

Ayes:	Councilman Rachal
Ayes:	Councilman Bedgood
Ayes:	Councilman de Graffenried
Nays:	Councilman Paige

Ayes: Councilwoman Hoover

**Motion Passed**

Chairman Hoover stated the next item on the agenda Council to consider Adopting Ordinance 004-2017 for Budget Revision for the Natchitoches Parish Highway Department: Fund 101, Fish Hatchery Road, and Old River Road.

On motion by Councilman Russell Rachal, duly seconded by Councilman Rodney Bedgood, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby adopt Ordinance 004-2017 for Budget Revision for the Natchitoches Parish Highway Department: Fund 101, Fish Hatchery Road, and Old River Road.

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

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

**Motion Passed**

Chairman Hoover stated the next item on the agenda Council to consider Introducing Ordinance 006-2017 to amend and reordained Section 2-8 of the Parish Code of Ordinance. requirements for the Parish Council meetings.

At this time Chairman Hoover wanted to withdraw this agenda item.

On motion by Councilman Rodney Bedgood, duly seconded by Councilman Russell Rachal, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby withdraw Introducing Ordinance 006-2017 to amend and reordained Section 2-8 of the Parish Code of Ordinance. requirements for the Parish Council meetings.

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

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

**Motion Passed**

Chairman Hoover stated the next item on the agenda request Council consideration for holding a public hearing for the purpose of hearing comments and objections relative to the proposed scarifying of deteriorated sections of King Hill Road located between its junction with State Hwy. LA-485 and the end of Parish maintenance and Sisson Road by petition signed by 50 residents.

The Council went into discussion about this item and they felt it was worded incorrectly and felt it should be tabled until the proper wording is done. This should be done by an Ordinance., first Introduction, and then a public hearing on both roads. King Hill Road and Sisson Road.

On motion by Councilman Russell Rachal, duly seconded by Councilman Rodney Bedgood, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby table Council consideration for holding a public hearing for the purpose of hearing comments and objections relative to the proposed scarifying of deteriorated sections of King

Hill Road located between its junction with State Hwy. LA-485 and the end of Parish maintenance and Sisson Road by petition signed by 50 residents.

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

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

**Motion Passed**

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Chairman Hoover stated the next item on the agenda award bid for Courthouse roof replacement and consider authorizing the Parish President to execute any contract documents associated with the project.

At this time Mr. George Minturn came up and gave his recommendations on the project and who all bided on the project. And they discussed in details concerning insurance and do they have enough in the budget to cover this cost. This project should not exceed \$150,000.00

On motion by Councilman Rodney Bedgood, duly seconded by Councilman Russell Rachal, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby awards Terry's Roofing and Sheet Metal, Inc. 600 Macks Drive, Bossier City, LA 71111 for the amount of \$130,000.00 and not to exceed \$150,000.00.

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

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

**Motion Passed**

Chairman Hoover stated the next item on the agenda Council consideration to authorize the Parish President to enter into an agreement with Chesapeake Energy Corporation for donation to the Parish of Natchitoches of salvaged broken concrete material from the abandoned Placid Oil Company site located adjacent to the Mammy Trail Road, and for the Parish President to advertize for bids for this material to be crushed for use as maintenance rock by the Parish Highway Department.

On motion by Councilman Chris Paige, duly seconded by Councilman Doug de Graffenried, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby authorize the Parish President to enter into an agreement with Chesapeake Energy Corporation for donation to the Parish of Natchitoches of salvaged broken concrete material from the abandoned Placid Oil Company site located adjacent to the Mammy Trail Road, and for the Parish President to advertize for bids for this material to be crushed for use as maintenance rock by the Parish Highway Department.

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

Ayes: Councilman Paige  
Ayes: Councilman de Graffenried  
Ayes: Councilman Rachal

Ayes: Councilman Bedgood  
Ayes: Councilwoman Hoover

**Motion Passed**

Chairman Hoover stated the next item on the agenda Council consideration to authorize the Parish President to solicit bids for the purchase of Bottom Ash for use as maintenance material by the Parish Highway Department.

On motion by Councilman Doug de Graffenried, duly seconded by Councilman Rodney Bedgood, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby authorize the Parish President to solicit bids for the purchase of Bottom Ash for use as maintenance material by the Parish Highway Department.

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

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

**Motion Passed**

Chairman Hoover stated the next item on the agenda Council consideration to authorize the Parish President to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the Village of Natchez for work they have requested at the Village Hall and within the Natchez Heritage Park.

On motion by Councilman Chris Paige, duly seconded by, Councilman Rodney Bedgood that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby authorize the Parish President to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the Village of Natchez for work they have requested at the Village Hall and within the Natchez Heritage Park.

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

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

**Motion Passed**

Chairman Hoover stated the next item on the agenda Council Council to adopt Proclamation for Mayor and County Recognition Day for National Service on April 4, 2017.

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 Proclamation for Mayor and County Recognition Day for National Service on April 4, 2017.

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

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

**Motion Passed**

Chairman Hoover stated the next item on the agenda Council to decide if Parish is going to roll forward or remain the same on mileage's for the Parish of Natchitoches.

There was a discussion on the matter between the Council. Parish President wanted to know if the Council was going to roll all of them forward or just some of them. There was a detailed discussion and relatively from that:

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 approve to roll forward on the mileage's.

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

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

**Motion Did not Pass**

The Mileage's will remain the same.

Chairman Hoover stated the next item on the agenda Council to consider Introducing Ordinance 005-2017 for 3 percent COLA for Parish employees.

Chairman, Hoover explained, "I talked with Mr. Nowlin two weeks ago in reference to the cost of living raise for the Parish employees that was in the budget for March, in 2016. If we had the money in the budget, I don't understand why the Parish employees didn't get the increase. I'm asking Mr. Nowlin, to allow the Parish employees to have the money that is due to them." Chairman, Hoover, then ask Ms. Miley "Was it in the budget for last?" Ms. Miley, replied, "Yes, it was in the budget for last year, but it's not in the budget for this year."

Chairman, Hoover, replied, "We can amend it tonight." Ms. Miley, replied, "You just voted down the ad valorem taxes and insurance goes up every year and you, but you want to give a raise, and you're not worried about insurance and we voted down ad valorem, and sorry y'all." Chairman, Hoover, replied, "Ms. Debbie what you have to understand is that the employees, the law says they should get their 3 percent and they deserve their 3 percent." The Council begin talking about what was in the last year budget and then, Chairman, Hoover, stated, "You tell me we sat here and not give the employees, their 3 percent raise last year and it was in the budget." Ms. Miley, replied, "That wasn't my decision?"

Parish President begins to explain why the increase wasn't given by saying, "I probably don't need to say, this, but I will, we all agree there are a lot of good employees of the Parish and they all work hard and haven't gotten a raise in over 2 to 3 years and we actually had money in the budget last year for a raise, but there were some things that happened last year that put a lot of stress on our Budget and I concluded after talking with Ms. Miley and other Department Heads that we should not give that raise at that time it was a decision based on the financial status of the Parish, we have an obligation to the Parish to our employees, but we also have an obligation to all the citizens of the Parish to make sure we don't do anything that will jeopardize the condition of the Parish so we did not grant the raise last year and when we considered the Budget for 2017, I didn't recall it being discussed and it was not put into the

2017 Budget, now we have an Ordinance to grant a 3% cost of living increase to the employees." Chairman, Hoover, replied, "Can we amend the Budget?"

Parish President was still speaking. When the questioned was asked, then he continued saying, "It's the proper procedure to amend the Budget to put the 3 percent into the Budget, have the Ordinance, then a public hearing, and vote at the next meeting, but I am concerned though that we're amending the Budget, but we're not saying where the money is going to come from for the raise, we're saying just do it and it will work out, we just rejected rolling forward, which could have helped our departments particularly the Highway Department and to overcome some of the Health care expenses in another area, nothing has been said about where the money is going to come from to pay for this. The timing in March could be problematic, I think we have over 9 months of the year left and we don't know what we're going to face. Last March of last year and May or June we had a major flood, I expected quite a few people in the Parish hasn't had a raise in three

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years, and I value the work of the Parish employees, but I also have to consider the overall impact of the Budget is. I don't have a vote in this, it's up to the Council. I just think this is not the right time to do. I will oppose it at this time."

Chairman, Hoover, had a question for President Nowlin. "You're talking about what is happening, but you gave a certain person a raise, and I think it's unfair to the rest of the Parish employees by giving that person a raise and say to them, they can't receive a raise."

Parish President, replied, "Madam Chair, there is two types of raises, one is a COLA which goes to all parish employees, the next is a raised that is associated with a promotion or a change in a position of an employee with additional duties and responsibilities. COLA goes to the employees that are here during the same thing they have been doing from the beginning prior to the raise, promotion, raise, is a change in position and we expect more out of the employees and demand more of the employees, it's a little different situation."

Councilman Rachal asked, "Is this only for Introduction only tonight?" the answer was, Yes. Councilman, Rachal, replied, "Then we're going to far with this thing." Chairman, Hoover, then ask, "Attorney, is this correct, we're going to far?" The Attorney, stated, "The night of Introduction it must be read by title only and set for a public hearing at the following meeting." Councilman Rachal, replied, "For the record this is for all Introduction hereafter, right?" Attorney, replied, "Yes, Sir, that's what the charter says."

Point of Order was called by Councilman de Graffenried, Councilman de Graffenried, stated, "It's not in proper form, it's not even close, we're talking about amending an Operating budget, which is beyond considering Introducing for a three percent COLA, we have to amend the budget, we have to do more work, my suggestion to the Chair is to withdraw and come back a month later and form it correctly."

Chairman, Hoover, replied, "Why don't we just remove the whole Agenda item and move on?" Councilman, de Graffenried, replied, "The Chair is the maker of the motion and you can withdraw it."

Chairman, Hoover, replied, "I would like to withdraw number the 21 on the agenda. Council to consider Introducing Ordinance 005-2017 for 3 percent COLA for Parish employees.

On motion by Chairman Patsy Ward Hoover, duly seconded by Councilman

Chris Paige, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby withdraw number 21 Council to consider Introducing Ordinance 005-2017 for 3 percent COLA for Parish employees.

Chairman asked for a roll call, and the Clerk started to do roll call, and Councilman de Graffenried, explained that you don't have to do a roll call because the maker of the motion can withdraw the motion without the body consent, until the motion is seconded, you don't need to vote on anybody withdrawing a motion.

Chairman Hoover stated the next item on the agenda Council to consider approving the Disability Enrollment Improvement Plan.

Ms. Sharon Harris explained this to the Council about this is a requirement for Head Start to have 10 percent disabled children enrolled in Head Start per year and she went on to give details about this and the Council, and they have to approve this to be in Compliance.

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On motion by Councilman Rodney Bedgood, duly seconded by Councilman Doug de Graffenried, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby approving the Disability Enrollment Improvement Plan for Head Start.

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

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

**Motion Passed**

Chairman Hoover stated the next item Council to consider Introducing Ordinance 007-2017 the purpose of which is to amend and reordain "Division 4. Industry Districts, Section 125-116 I-A Districts: Industry Agriculture Districts" of the Parish Zoning Ordinance, relative to uses requiring planning commission approval in a district zoned "I-A."

On motion by Councilman Doug de Graffenried, duly seconded by Councilman Russell Rachal, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby Introduce Ordinance 007-2017 the purpose of which is to amend and reordain "Division 4. Industry Districts, Section 125-116 I-A Districts: Industry Agriculture Districts" of the Parish Zoning Ordinance, relative to uses requiring planning commission approval in a district zoned "I-A."

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

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

**Motion Passed**

Chairman Hoover stated the next item Council to consider re-appointing Mr. Michael Richardson to the Natchitoches Parish Fire District 4 Board.

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 re-appoint Mr. Michael Richardson to the Natchitoches Parish Fire District 4 Board.

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

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

**Motion Passed**

Chairman Hoover stated the next item Council to consider Resolution No. 006-2017 in support of the ad valorem tax renewals for Parish Road District 40, Parish Library, Parish Health Unit and Parish Buildings.

Corey Poole wanted to know when this item was added to the agenda, and everyone said at the beginning, and then Bill Vance asked the Clerk "Wasn't on the Agenda prior to this meeting? Clerk replied, "Yes," Bill Vance, replied, "Who told you to remove it?" The Clerk, replied,

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"The Chairman." Bill Vance told the Chairman, "You're playing games with this Agenda, that's why you can't read it." Chairman, Hoover, replied, "You are wrong." Chairman, Hoover, then went on to explain that when it came in on the Agenda it looked like the same item the Council had discussed in last month's meeting. Then the Chairman and Mr. Vance had exchanged words back and forth and Mr. Vance replied "You just look into the camera, I don't need anything from you, you just talk to all the people that is watching and the people will take care of you at the polls, because they were tired of all this." Chairman, Hoover, replied, "The certainly will, and then she went on to asked Mr. Vance why was he saying this to her and his involvement is too much in the beginning anyway because your wife is employed here and you're a little bit out of order, too." Mr. Vance, replied, "Ma'am, I'm a public citizen and you're not talking to her, you're talking to me." Chairman Hoover, stated, "Yes, you are and your wife is also employed and Assistant to the President." at this time Councilman, Russell Rachal stood up and said, "We're in Executive Session material now, you cannot mention an employee name? Chairman, Hoover, replied, "I didn't call her name." Councilman Rachal, replied, "He's only married to one lady" and then when she finished, she then went back and told the Clerk to tell what happened and after that more words was exchanged. Parish President, "I'll try to clear this up a little bit the discussion previously simply what the issues that would be put on the ballot and to explain what they were, I was seeking to provide the Council with the opportunity to let the folks know that they support the taxes or they don't support it. I asked that this be put on the Agenda and it the Council is concerned that we don't do this and want it withdrawn, I will do so if Council is willing to say how they feel individually about the taxes."

Chairman, Hoover, asked Mr. Nowlin, "You're asking the Council to tell if they support the tax or not, right? Parish President, replied, "Yes  
Madam Chair, if you're wanting to split the issue we can."

Councilman Chris Paige, because to say, "Do we need to Introduce it now or we can continue the discussion in full?" Attorney, replied, "First Introduction, doesn't apply here, this just a Resolution." Councilman Paige, replied, "So, I can just have at it. Let me simply tell you once again each one of these needs to be explained somehow by somebody how these are going to affect the people of this Parish, far as the Library, Health Unit and in depth enough to explain to them that the Health Unit can come out to your homes if you're having

an event out there, we have always done that and the Community to spray if you're having a large event or function when you call in advance, I'm talking about the effects of the tax , and we had a nurse that the State cut and we took and put a nurse back over there at the Health Unit to make sure they continuously having the same services to the people of this Parish and not cut. Ms. Miley, I need some help, in knowing how many exactly is over there." Ms. Miley and Ms. Creamer told Councilman Paige, there were five employees over there of the Parish. Councilman Paige continued, "And there's some of their family members jumping around saying we're voting against it, and you're putting your own family members out of a job over there and the nurse as well, and all the mosquito spraying will be cut. We need to tell our constituents about everything that these taxes does, and if you ever lived in a Parish when you can't have mosquitoes spraying and you have to go to Baton Rouge to beg for Grant monies and some may get sprayed once a month or once or twice a year, and I'll see guys down there fighting for that, and I said, Hmmm, we do have a tax for that there." We have a problem, to understand what you're voting for or against."

Parish President begins to explain the different taxes and after he finished, Councilman, Russell Rachal, "For the record, whether I'm for it or against it, it's for me to do when I get behind those curtains,

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I'm for bringing it before the people for a vote, but as far as voting on this tonight, I will like to let the record reflect I refuse to vote on cast a vote for something that's been removed from the Agenda and then sneaked back in the back door, I will not be voting on it." Councilman Paige repeated, Sneaked back in the back door, wait a minute, well, you've said a mouth full now." Councilman, Rachal, said "You know what I'm talking about."

On motion by Councilman Chris Paige, duly seconded by Councilman Doug de Graffenried, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby adopt Resolution No. 006-2017 in support of the ad valorem tax renewals for Parish Road District 40, Parish Library, Parish Health Unit and Parish Buildings.

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

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

**Motion Didn't Passed**

At this time, Councilman, Doug de Graffenried informed the Parish President, "New Orleans brought in an outside consultant to help them deal with their ad valorem tax mess it cost them money to bring someone in to help them deal with their ad valorem tax mess, When are we going to bring someone in to help us deal with our ad valorem tax mess?

Parish President, "When you're talking about a tax mess, what are you talking about the road taxes? or taxes allocated among the different agencies in the Parish? Councilman de Graffenried, replied, "It's a mess, It's ten pounds in a five pound sack." Parish President, replied, "Is that what you're referring to." Councilman de Graffenried, replied, "Yes, that's what I'm referring to, the whole thing needs to be looked at." Parish President, replied, "Yes, I agree. I think these taxes was passed individually by the voters over the years, many years ago, I think it's appropriate that we take

another look at it, and it may be more acceptable to the people if it's done, by someone else instead of being done in house, point well taken, example, there was needs in the Parish 30 years ago, for the voters to pass that tax, but the needs have probably changed since those 30 years, the priority of the voters may have changed, maybe both have changed, it could be other factors and I believe that's what you're getting at." Councilman de Graffenried, replied, "Something called the Internet, the Information Super Highway, and the way we inquire information." Parish President continued by saying, "And another thing people pay a lot of taxes, but as we discussed before earlier, 53 percent of the families out in Natchitoches Parish doesn't pay any property taxes, and that may be a reason, they may vote for a property tax and they're not paying any taxes, that's why they don't want a sales tax. Having someone look at it is a very good idea and unless if there an objection from the Council I'll present a proposal and bring it back to the Council." Councilman de Graffenried, replied, "Sure." Then they went into more discussion on the topic.

Councilman Rodney Bedgood asked to have a word, "We're never going to get anything done or anything accomplished until this body as a whole quit bickering, and cutting each other throats, we all need to get together from the Parish President to us, it's just as much my fault as anybody else's, but nobody is going to pass a tax for anybody until we get it together and I think it's high time that we all get it together and let the people know out there what's going on, don't run

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behind mines, and me running behind someone else's back to tell this and to tell that. It's time for all of us to settle down and be by the work of this Parish. I'm through, I'm tired yal, I'm tired of this, and it doesn't take me just for one letter to resign and get out of the mess. We need to get it together, they look at all of us, so it's time for all of us to get it together, Let's work for the Parish."

Chairman, Hoover, then recognized Mr. Nick Verret, Director of Public Works, Mr. Verret wanted to know what happened to the amendment to the budget, and everyone told him it wasn't approved to be added to the agenda, Mr. Verret, replied, "I see the Bermuda Road people, left and this will delay them, in getting work done on their road." Ms. Harris, replied, "I'll relay the message to them ."

Mr. Verret informed the Council he added something new to the folders on a Gravel Maintenance Class for Parish Highway Staff, all supervisors and all grader operators are scheduled to attend a one-day LTAP Maintenance of Gravel Roads training class during the week of March 13. He gave a brief summary of the class to the Council. If you have any questions I'll be happy to answer them.

Councilman Doug had a question concerning Wash Gravel on Hargis road. The people didn't know anything about this being done on their road.

Councilman Paige, responded to a remark Mr. Verret made earlier in his report. "Mr. Verret, you stated earlier about the Bermuda road people has left, these people have been up here time after time and after time. Do you have a mechanism of something that will help those keep these people from coming up here as the Highway Director, has always had the authority to help people, and you should be in the business of helping people so they don't have to keep coming up here begging on having a way of getting home tonight, that's what I'm telling you, and then you turn around and say, "Oh, they're gone." Do you have a particular something that we need to address, we come up here once a month if there something that wasn't said that hasn't been done for some type of technicality that we can do to keep these people from coming back up here, please share."

Mr. Verret, replied, "Mr. Paige, I'm really puzzled by the question, because I outlined for the folks what our plan was, but my only comment now was, it's going to take the Budget revision to add an item to purchase Bottom Ash material for us to be able to put that plan into action."

Councilman Paige, asked, "Didn't we just do that", then Chairman said, "Didn't we do that?" Mr. Verret, replied, "No, ma'am, you refused to add it to the agenda." The Attorney explained to Chairman, Hoover Ms. Miley requested to amend the 2017 Budget to allow the line item for Bottom Ash in the 2017 Budget, but it wasn't allowed." Questions were asked Who didn't allow it? The Chairman, replied, "She didn't get it in the packets when the deadline was given, as it wasn't sent out with the other materials." The Attorney went over the procedures and the deadline for all council packet material, it's the Wednesday before the meeting at 12:00 noon. Councilman Rachal also explained when he was Chairman he was turned in to the Attorney General they explained to him how this process worked and he shared it with the Council. Councilman Paige, then said, "I might not be the smartest tool in the tool shed, but it's wrong for people to continue to come up here, we're spending time after time, all they want to do is to be able to go to church, my God. What's the problem? Ms. Carolyn Roy asked a question of the Chairman, concerning all this, and the Chairman, replied, "Let the Attorney explain it to you all over again." but Councilman Paige, replied, "Wait, so what I'm hearing, if I make a motion tonight, to you as the Chairman and the Director of Public Works, to go out there and help these people, these people come up here months after months,

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they come up here begging to simply be able to go to church, they live in Natchitoches Parish and can't get there, we sitting up here talking about I, called Baton Rouge, and Baton Rouge say we can't go to church, come on now, man, that's crazy." Chairman, Hoover, replied, "But it's in place." Councilman Paige, replied, "I don't care about in no place, we're, we need to undo it, if it's in place. We here to serve those groups of people that came here tonight, enough is enough, we sit here and say how nice we are and let's be sweet to one another, let's help these people." ending by saying, "If the body wants to consider it, it's the body pleasure." Councilman Rachal asked, "Can it be done so late into the meeting or should it have been done legally at the beginning of the meeting?" The Attorney replied, "There is no time delay, that I'm aware of." Councilman Rachal, replied, "As long as we're legal on it, I'm ok with it." After the lengthy discussion on this matter.

On motion by Councilman Doug de Graffenried, duly seconded by Councilman Chris Paige, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby approve to amend the agenda to Introduce Ordinance 008-2017 to make revision on the 2017 Operating Budget for the Highway Department to add line items LGAP, Bottom Ash and Disaster Recovery to the Operating 2017 Budget.

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

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

**Motion Passed**

On motion by Councilman Chris Paige, duly seconded by Councilman Doug de Graffenried, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby approve to amend the agenda to Introduce

Ordinance 008-2017 to make revision on the 2017 Operating Budget for the Highway Department to add line items LGAP, Bottom Ash and Disaster Recovery to the Operating 2017 Budget.

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

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

**Motion Passed**

Chairman Hoover then recognizes Ms. Sharon Harris, OCS/Head Start Executive Director, she gave her reports in the Council's packets and wanted to know if they had any questions concerning anything. She also announced Mrs. Georgia Jackson passed and she was a retired from the Parish about two years ago from Head Start as the Health and Safety Coordinator close to 40 years in the Head Start Program.

Chairman Hoover then recognizes Parish Treasurer, Debbie Miley.

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Ms. Miley, asked were there any questions on what she had sent out in the Council's packages. Ms. Miley sent out the In-Mate report, Head Start Credit Card report, and other reports that were given to the Head Start Policy Council.

Chairman Hoover then recognizes Parish President, Rick Nowlin Mr. Nowlin, began to say, "Since we're running ahead of schedule. We have filed the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program an application for improvements to the Lower Cane River Flood Control Structure. The application was the joint effort of the Parish and the Natchitoches Levee and Drainage District. If approved, the Parish would receive \$839,000 in federal funds for the project. The local matching funds in the amount of \$279,667 would be provided by the NL  
&  
DD.

Parish President also talked on the LSU Coastal Sustainability Studio conducted a workshop in Alexandria on March 15, 16, and 17 that was sponsored by FEMA. The purpose of the workshop was to review  
selected  
potential disaster recovery projects that would not only provide recovery from the 2016 floods, but would also be constructed in such  
a  
manner as to prevent future disasters in the affected areas. From  
the  
projects submitted statewide, the Natchitoches project was 1 of 6 selected for study. The Natchitoches project was the flood recovery project located east of the City of Natchitoches.

Congressional visits was during a visit to Washington D.C. on  
February  
27 and 28th and March 1, meetings were held with Senators Bill  
Cassidy  
and John Kennedy, and Representatives Mike Johnson, Ralph Abraham, Clay Huggins and Garret Graves. We discussed a range of issues affecting our local communities.

On motion by Chairman Hoover, duly seconded by Councilman de Graffenried, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby adjourn.

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

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

Motion Passed

Chairman Hoover stated the next item Council to enter into an Executive Session on Legal matters:

1. Atherton, James v. Parish of Natchitoches, Tenth JDC, Docket No. 88,994-B
2. Blanchard, Prentiss & Wendi v. State of LA thru DOTD, et al., Tenth JDC, Docket No.: 88,071-A
3. Morgan, Robert & Carol v. Parish of Natchitoches, Tenth JDC, Docket No.: 87,534-A
4. Pier, Jacqueline v. Natchitoches Parish Council, Tenth JDC, No. 87,918-A

On motion by Councilman Doug de Graffenried, duly seconded by Councilman Russell Rachal, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does enter into Executive Session concerning the following issues:

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1. Atherton, James v. Parish of Natchitoches, Tenth JDC, Docket No. 88,994-B
2. Blanchard, Prentiss & Wendi v. State of LA thru DOTD, et al., Tenth JDC, Docket No.: 88,071-A
3. Morgan, Robert & Carol v. Parish of Natchitoches, Tenth JDC, Docket No.: 87,534-A
4. Pier, Jacqueline v. Natchitoches Parish Council, Tenth JDC, No. 87,918-A

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

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

**Motion Passed**

**\*\*\*Doors are closed everyone that wasn't part of the Executive session left the room. Recordings stopped.**

On motion by Councilman Doug de Graffenried, duly seconded by Councilman Russell Rachal, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does closes the Executive Session and enter back into regular business of the Parish.

There was no actions taken in the Executive Session.

On motion by Councilman Rachal, duly seconded by Councilman de

Graffenried, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby adjourn.

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

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

Motion Passed

Since there was no other business the meeting was adjourn:

Attest:

Chairman

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

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