

PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATCHITOCHE PARISH COUNCIL
PARISH OF NATCHITOCHE, STATE OF LOUISIANA
TAKEN A REGULAR MEETING HELD, Monday,
June 19, 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, June 19, 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 Pastor Johnny Davis and the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mr. Kevin Porter.

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 invited guests, and special presentations. There was none.

At this time Chairman Hoover went over the changes to the meeting according to the Ordinance that was passed for the order of business for the Parish Council meetings and the time restraints on a visitor speaking and for a Council member speaking.

At this time the Council Clerk asked to get approval for some changes to amend the agenda. The first item was to remove agenda item number 16-Council to consider award for Winn Rock screenings. The second change was the removal of number 19-Executive Session for Dr. April Wade Head Start Director and to add number 12 to the Executive Session-Council approval of settlement/compromise, and authorization for the Parish President to sign the receipt and release in the lawsuit captioned Morgan v. Natchitoches Parish Council, et al, currently pending in the 10th JDC, bearing Docket No. 87-534-A. and to change item 10-B-E by replacing approving to Introducing.

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 then recognized Director of Public Works Mr. Nick Verret.

Work Accomplishments:

The May 28 severe storm event resulted in downed trees on nearly 50 roads in the Parish system, which, to date, has necessitated a total of 10 days of emergency work and cleanup by Parish Highway crews. As of this date, debris remains at about 18 sites around the Parish. A new grader operators are now in place in the Provencal and

,but a vacancy has just occurred again for an operator in the Provencal area.

Road Repair Materials:

Only one bid for bottom ash was received on May 16, and the award was made to Chara, Inc., to furnish material from the CLECO power plant at Boyce, at a unit price of \$6.00 per ton, FOB. For Winn rock screenings, only one bids was received on June 13, but it was ruled irregular, so it must be re-advertised.

Coco Bed Road:

It is anticipated that the plans and cost estimate will be completed by June 16, and the project specifications by June 21, so as to allow for submittal of the final package to FP&C by June 23. As a result of the Project Manager's site visit on April 13, we are hopeful of a quick turnaround in his review and authorization to advertise for bids. The "base" project will consist of paving the southernmost 0.9 mile, with an additive alternate to allow for construction of an additional 800 linear feet at the northern end of the gravel portion of the road, if the bid unit prices allow.

Chairman, Hoover, asked, "Do we have the matching funds that we need to complete it?" Mr. Verret, replied, "Yes, we do." Chairman, Hoover, replied, "I just want to make sure we go on record that those funds are available."

Chairman, Hoover recognizes Councilman Chris Paige. Councilman Chris Paige, asked, "So this means Payne Subdivision is next in the comings?" "Yes", replied, Mr. Nick Verret. Councilman Paige, replied, "I need to hear that and know that, because in the last meeting you talked quite a bit on matching funds may be have been a problem. In the last five (5) to six (6) years we never had a problems with matching funds. I had our clerk to pull records on that to make sure that none of us was confused about that because there was never a problem, but at the last meeting it was stated that matching money was a problem, but I'm glad to hear this about CoCo Bed and I'll be anticipating and waiting patiently on Payne Subdivision."

Chairman, Hoover then recognized OCS/Head Start Executive Director Ms. Sharon Harris.

Ms. Sharon Harris, sent her reports to the Parish Council earlier for their review and Ms. Harris, stated, "I want you-all to pay close attention to two things, Head Start will be getting a one (1) percent COLA increase from the Head Start Program, they will be receiving \$23,048. Ms. Debbie will go over that later, and it's due in the Regional Office by June 30, 2017. Next thing we've started the Summer feeding program, In your package is a listing of all the centers that will be participating in this Summer feeding program. It's a good program and we've been doing this program for over 15 years. It's growing and we're trying to meet all children as we can. The Meals will be provided to all eligible children without charge from 0-18 years of age. Ms. Sharon asked if the Council had any questions.

Chairman, Hoover, replied, "I have a question. Is that amount going to be \$23,048? Is that the total?" Ms. Harris, replied, "Yes."

Chairman, Hoover then recognized Parish Treasurer Ms. Debbie Miley.

Ms. Debbie Miley informed the Council that she also included her reports in their packages that was mailed out to them, and Ms. Miley, stated, "I will give a break down of the one(1) percent COLA, but since it's a agenda item to be voted on, I will wait to discuss it at that time because it is due June 30th. All Head Start material was sent, Head Start Credit Card expenses was sent and In-mate report was sent. Do you have any questions on any of those?"

Chairman, Hoover asked, "Your item is only for Introduction only tonight right?" Ms. Miley, replied, "No, this has to be voted on before June 30 and we didn't get it until the 2nd." Chairman, Hoover, replied, "So that mean we have to vote on it tonight?"

Chairman, Hoover then recognized Parish President Mr. Rick Nowlin.

Parish President wanted to go over two items first the

Capital Outlay Update:

The special session of the legislature concluded on June 16th. HB2, the capital outlay bill, included the following Parish projects:

Coco Bed Road Planning and Construction	\$280,000
Fish Hatchery Road, Planning	125,000
Courthouse Security Improvements, Plan & Const.	480,000
Payne Subdivision Streets Phase I	500,000
Old River Bridge, Planning/Construction	610,000

The plans for Coco Bed Road have been completed by Mr. Verret and the project specifications should be completed by the end of the week and submitted to the Office of Facility Planning and Control.

The plans for Payne Subdivision will begin as soon as the plans for Coco Bed Road project have been completed.

The design work for Hampton Road will be performed by a consultant under contract to the Parish, if the Parish Council approves the funds for the consultant that are a part of the budget amendment (Ordinance 15-2017) that was introduced at the Council meeting on May 15, 2017

Fire District No. 1:

The Parish has corresponded with the Louisiana Ethics Administration Program and the Legislative Auditor's Office in regard to alleged violations of state statutes by former officers of the fire district. In addition, we have offered to provide whatever documents or other information they many consider relevant to their investigations.

Road Tax Proposition:

A special meeting of the Parish Council was held on June 8, 2017 to discuss the proposed road tax proposition put forward by Councilman Doug de Graffenried. The tax plan would divide the Parish into 4 road districts with each district being able to decide whether to place a new ad valorem tax on property in the district for the express purpose of making improvements to the roads in the district. The agenda for June 19, 2017, includes 4 resolutions providing notice of intent by the Parish Council to call the election and 4 ordinances for introduction. The ordinances would create the 4 road tax districts.

Chairman, Hoover, asked, "How much was in the Old River Road

Project?" Parish President, replied, "I'm sorry I didn't read out the numbers, it's \$610,000." and the Parish President went on to explain how they arrived at that figure. Chairman, Hoover second question, "Will you

**Regular Meeting
June 19, 2017**

Page 4.

please be kind enough to share the information that you have been working with the legislative auditor our DA with Russell and I since we're part of that committee?" Parish President went on to explain that, "The information that was given to these agencies contained expenditures and I'm not calling out any names, but concerning Fire District members or previous members that concerning State Ethics laws and violations and family violations." Chairman, Hoover, replied, "Again, please be so kind to let Mr. Rachal and I have a copy of what have been sent, because we just want to stay abreast we have to, I'm I correct, Mr. Rachal, because we have people in our District who are asking a hundred thousands questions and they want answers and we can not provide that." Parish President, replied, "I will be pleased to do that, but this is an active investigation and at this point, it's not public information and it turns out later that something is not a violation and calling someone name, we have to be very careful." Councilman, Rachal at that point replied, "I, want to go on the record and say, I was not at the meeting and yal were, whatever information you have and you've turned over, leave it just like that, I don't want a copy of it, because I wasn't involved in the investigation and I don't want to be dragged into it and I wasn't there." Chairman, Hoover, replied, "I was there, so I'll like whatever information that can be provided to me."

Chairman Hoover stated the next item to adopt the minutes of the regular meeting of the Natchitoches Parish Council held Monday, May 15, 2017.

On motion by Councilman Chris Paige, 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 Monday, May 15, 2017.

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

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

Motion Passed

Chairman Hoover stated the next item on agenda is the Appointments of Boards and Commissions.

A. Council to consider re-appointing Ms. Linda Jenkins to the Natchitoches Parish Library Board.

On motion by Councilman Chris Paige, duly seconded by, Councilman Rodney Bedgood that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby re-appoint Ms. Linda Jenkins to the Natchitoches Parish Library Board.

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 agenda is First Introduction of proposed Ordinances.

Regular Meeting
June 19, 2017

Page 5.

- A. Council to consider Introducing Ordinance 18-2017 to change the location of the Head Start Policy Council meetings to the Parish Council Board Room; and to otherwise provide with respect thereto.

Councilman, Chris Paige, stated if this is for information only, but he has to vote on it, there is something not right with this. Councilman, Paige, stated, "This is the people parish and they need to have the full information about what we're voting on and not just a few that knows what this is." Councilman, Paige, stated, "Since, we're cleaning up, Where did this request come from to move the meetings to the Courthouse, Did it come from the Policy Council? because that's where it should have come from, that's where it needs to come from." Ms. Sharon Harris, replied, "It did come from the Policy Council, they voted on it at their meeting." Chairman, Paige, replied, "They did." Chairman, Hoover, responded, "Who recommended it?" Ms. Sharon Harris, replied, "I have to look at the minutes to see, I don't know who actually asked for it." Councilman, Paige, replied, "That's good enough for me since they voted on it and it came from them, I just didn't want something, because we have to deal with that, because people are saying we're going over there and running over things, so if it came from the Policy Council I'm ok with it."

Councilman, Rachal, replied, "My understanding of it, Mr. Paige, that we vote tonight to bring it for a public hearing next month strictly to have it introduced and all the meat of it can be hashed out in the public hearing, we're not voting tonight to put it into effect, to my understanding it's merely yes or no we agree to move it forward so we can find out about it, that's my understanding." Councilman, Bedgood, replied, "It's better be that understanding, I'm putting it that way." Councilman Rachal, replied, "We're introducing it by title only and saying yes, we're going forward with it or no we're not going forward with it tonight." Councilman, Bedgood, "It's a lot of this I want to ask questions about." Councilman, Paige, responded, "Why, I said that, because after the last meeting, I got a called stating we're having a special meeting, "dot a da" fine, I don't mind having one, but I had planned on going out of town on a little mini vacation, type thing, then we rush to put it on, and we have to vote on it because it has to be put on for November, it's just not geared to operate like that. When we talk about tax payers dollars we're talking about this will be a Parish wide vote, How much will that cost?, all of that needs to be discussed." Councilman, de Graffenried, replied, "There's already an election on the ballot." Councilman, Paige, "So, it won't be just singly that." Councilman, de Graffenried, replied, "Correct." Councilman, Paige, replied, "So that will share some of the cost, it's a lot of things that needs to be discussed and questions I got, I just don't like a rush, rush job to go on the November ballot, the "smell test just don't, fly with me."

Councilman, Bedgood, wanted to say, "It don't have to be discussed tonight, but it can when it all goes out, my question is to whoever drawn this up, I, want to know why, my district,

part of my voting district that elected me is put into another district under the tax thing? I don't like that period, I'm

Regular Meeting
June 19, 2017

Page 6.

going to make that plain tonight, that's a no, no for me as I'm concerned. Half of my District is going to put under somebody else, I don't like that, and I'm not voting for it that way, another thing is property tax is not a good tax, period, I'm just saying it that way, you're going to be paying for somebody who doesn't own anything, that's the way it goes. A couple things I looked at, like this map which I can't really read the names on it, but my District goes down and the other part is someone's else. They voted me in as their representative, sorry, I just don't like it."

Chairman, Hoover, responded, to Councilman Bedgood "When it gets to that one you have to the right to vote to introduce it or not too and that will solve everything. Before we go any further, since everybody has talked about what they wanted too, I see the Introduction to move the Head Start Policy Council meetings to the Court House, I got several calls and we're not directly involved with the Head Start but several parents said that they live in the community and Head Start is there because it's convenient to even walk their children to school at Head Start, most of them, their question to me was, "Why you-all trying to do this and we don't have transportation and I'm going to tell it to you just like they told it to me, "You all have good cars and can get there and we suppose to walk to the Policy Council meetings? So if it's designed for the community, I'm going to be against it, because I want to see it stay in the community."

Councilman, Rachal replied, "Madam chair to stick with this the agenda all this needs to be done in a public hearing." Chairman, Hoover, replied, "Well, everyone had their say." Councilman, Rachal, replied, "I understand that, but we're off topic." Councilman, Paige, replied, "That's if we want to introduce any of these and if we don't..." Councilman, Rachal, replied, "Then it's a dead deal."

The Parish Attorney, replied, "I need to make a point of information is that the reasons why we do introductions are to put the community on notice that they're invited to a public hearing and comments to express their views and comments on if they are for or against, this is just for the Council to notify the people of the Parish that they will hear these things and they can come in an express their views."

Councilman Paige, replied, "But with that at the next meeting we won't just be discussing it, we'll also be voting on it at that time without a full discussion up to that night that we vote on it." Parish Attorney begin to speak, and Councilman Paige, replied, "I understand what you just said, and I'm answering you, because after we get through discussing it tonight we vote immediately afterwards, right?" Councilman Paige, continue to say "Putting the cart before the horse." Chairman, Hoover, was Councilman Paige, replied, "But with that at the next meeting we won't just be discussing it, we'll also be voting on it at that time without a full discussion up to that night that we vote on it." Parish Attorney begin to speak, and Councilman Paige, replied, "I understand what you just said, and I'm answering you, because after we get through discussing it tonight we vote

immediately afterwards, right?" Councilman Paige, continue to say "Putting the cart before the horse." Chairman, Hoover, was

Regular Meeting
June 19, 2017

Page 7.

that." Chairman, Hoover, replied, "My feelings with that is simply this, I could not be in the meeting, Chris could not be in the meeting, Mr. Bedgood, could not be in the meeting, then the meeting was called, we got an email that said we wanted to have a meeting we contacted the clerk to let her know we could not be there, I spoke with Mr. Nowlin, and he said he would get back with you Rev. to try to get another date, but the next thing, I heard of it that it was supposed to be a meeting, I was not informed of that meeting until that day and certainly I could not just up and change my schedule just like that."

Councilman, Rachal, replied, "Madam, Chair I understand what you and Mr. Paige is saying, but the way of Roberts Rule of Order, this has to be done this way by law, now, whether I like or you like or anybody, it's by law, this is the way it has to be done, and I'm not going to be a part of any illegal meeting, we need to move on and get off of this and quit beating a dead horse, because we're going to stick to the law."

Parish President, Rick Nowlin begins to speak. "Just a couple of quick comments. The special meeting was held on the 8th of June because we had tried two other dates and we had problems with them, so I decided we were going to call the meeting for those who come they would come, as far as not having time to review, we have a month between tonight and the next council meeting to review the data, I'm sure Councilman, de Graffenried would provide the information that you need and I'm aware of certain data to that I can support, we don't have to wait until the next meeting to get involved in what's being talked about here, if you decided not to vote to introduce the Ordinance's on the road tax tonight, you're saying, "We don't want a road tax this year, because the scheduled required by the State Bond Commission and the Secretary of State. So if you say "No, we're not going to introduce these Ordinance's tonight, basically you're saying, "No, were not going to make a decision or no, we're not going to make a decision on this before we can get any information on it, that's what you're saying."

Chairman, Hoover read the Ordinance for introduction over again.

- A. Council to consider Introducing Ordinance 18-2017 to change the location of the Head Start Policy Council meetings to the Parish Council Board Room; and to otherwise provide with respect thereto.

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 Introduce Ordinance 18-2017 to change the location of the Head Start Policy Council meetings to the Parish Council Board Room; and to otherwise provide with respect thereto.

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

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

Motion Didn't Passed

Chairman Hoover stated the next item on agenda is First Introduction of proposed Ordinances.

- B.** Council to consider introducing an Ordinance No 19-2017 creating Road District No. 1 of the Parish of Natchitoches, State of Louisiana, describing the territory to compose the district and the boundaries thereof, and providing for other matters in connection therewith.

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 Ordinance No 19-2017 creating Road District No. 1 of the Parish of Natchitoches, State of Louisiana, describing the territory to compose the district and the boundaries thereof, and providing for other matters in connection therewith.

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

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

Motion Passed

Chairman Hoover stated the next item on agenda is First Introduction of proposed Ordinances.

- C.** Council to consider introducing an Ordinance No 20-2017 creating Road District No. 2 of the Parish of Natchitoches, State of Louisiana, describing the territory to compose the district and the boundaries thereof, and providing for other matters in connection therewith.

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 Ordinance No 20-2017 creating Road District No. 2 of the Parish of Natchitoches, State of Louisiana, describing the territory to compose the district and the boundaries thereof, and providing for other matters in connection therewith.

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

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

Motion Passed

Chairman Hoover stated the next item on agenda is First Introduction of proposed Ordinances.

- D. Council to consider introducing an Ordinance No 21-2017 creating Road District No. 3 of the Parish of Natchitoches, State of Louisiana, describing the territory to compose the district and the boundaries thereof, and providing for other matters in connection therewith.

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 Ordinance No 21-2017 creating Road District No. 3 of the Parish of Natchitoches, State of Louisiana, describing the territory to compose the district and the boundaries thereof, and providing for other matters in connection therewith.

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

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

Motion Passed

Chairman Hoover stated the next item on agenda is First Introduction of proposed Ordinances.

- E. Council to consider introducing an Ordinance No 22-2017 creating Road District No. 4 of the Parish of Natchitoches, State of Louisiana, describing the territory to compose the district and the boundaries thereof, and providing for other matters in connection therewith.

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 Ordinance No 22-2017 creating Road District No.4 of the Parish of Natchitoches, State of Louisiana, describing the territory to compose the district and the boundaries thereof, and providing for other matters in connection therewith.

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

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

Motion Passed

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

- A. Council to consider Adoption of Ordinance 15-2017 to amend the 2017 Operating Budget for the Parish of Natchitoches, relative to the Hampton Road Improvement Fund.
- B. Council to consider Adoption of Ordinance 16-2017 to adjust Revenue of Insurance Claims, to add line items for expenses for: Building and Grounds, Winn Rock Screenings and to adjust line items of gravel, Winn Rock and Bottom Ash.
- C. Council to consider Adoption of Ordinance 17-2017 for Part-time Parish Engineer for the Parish of Natchitoches.

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 open the public hearing to hear any and all comments or objections relative to the adoption of the following items:

- A. Council to consider Adoption of Ordinance 15-2017 to amend the 2017 Operating Budget for the Parish of Natchitoches, relative to the Hampton Road Improvement Fund.
- B. Council to consider Adoption of Ordinance 16-2017 to adjust Revenue of Insurance Claims, to add line items for expenses for: Building and Grounds, Winn Rock Screenings and to adjust line items of gravel, Winn Rock and Bottom Ash.
- C. Council to consider Adoption of Ordinance 17-2017 for Part-time Parish Engineer for the Parish of Natchitoches.

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

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

Motion Passed

1st for discussion item A.

Councilman Bedgood, began to say, "I think I asked the question at the last meeting about the money for Hampton Road, the answer I got was it would not cost the Parish Government anything, don't shake your head, that's what you said, you-all told me, "no", and I think we can go back to see if I'm right, I could be wrong. But now it comes up and I read in the packet, it would cost the Parish about \$200,000, I'm I right? Chairman, Hoover stated, "\$187,000." Council Bedgood, replied, "That money would come out of the Parish Government fund, I want to know where we're going to get that money? since we don't have money to grade a road, we don't have money to put out rocks, we can't patch a pothole, I got people breathing down my neck, because we can't get a road graded and I don't see where we're going to come up with \$200,000, How come that money can't come out of that million and something their given us, I'm just asking a question?"

Parish President, replied, "They're giving us a million and three for construction only, the agreement said they would provide construction, but no money for Engineering, planning and design. You mentioned the \$187,000 that includes \$50,000 of which is the first construction cost that we would recover, so the net cost of the Parish is still a lot, but only a hundred and thirty some thousand dollars for them to do this. We put up a hundred and thirty thousand and they will give us a million and three. If we don't put up the hundred and thirty they will not give us the million and three, it's that simple. I understand what you're saying, but it has to come out the budget somewhere, it actually does, that's the choice we have."

Mr. Verret, replied, "Mr. Bedgood, there is another option, that is to do the work in house as it was originally planned, but it's a matter of we can't do everything at one time, and so if the Parish is willing to wait until I can get to it, then I certainly can do the work, it's just a matter of we kept hearing all the objections that we need to be spending the money, this was just an alternative approach we come up with to extradite the design work there a certainly other options out there."

Chairman, Bedgood, replied, "I don't see where we have that kind of money, to spend, myself, that's just me."

At this time, Chairman, Hoover recognized Mr. Thomas Tubre a resident of Hampton Road. Mr. Tubre, stated, "The third option is called a "Writ of Mandamus" There has been an agreement between the Parish and the Red River Waterway to perform this job. A "Writ of Mandamus" is a binding contract and it's not for anyone just to pull out, right." The Parish Attorney, begin to explain, "A Writ of Mandamus would direct a certain person to perform a certain duty." "Exactly," replied, Mr. Tubre. The Parish Attorney, said, "I cannot answer the question whether it's a binding contract or not." Mr. Tubre, begin to explain, "In my last meeting with Mr. Nowlin, and you might have seen it in the papers, I put a letter to the editor, that said, I will wait 8

weeks to not file an "A Writ of Mandamus" I'm not going to wait any longer because it's been over a year. Mr. Nowlin, has

Regular Meeting

June 19, 2017

Page 12.

the Red River Waterway been notified it's been over a year, since you-all has entered into that agreement? that's part of the e-mail that I sent, asking that they be notified." Mr. Nowlin, replied, "No, I haven't notified them." Mr. Tubre, went on to explain, "To put it shortly, I'm going to go ahead and file a "Writ of Mandamus" against Mr. Nowlin and whomever else, it's been over a year the money is not going to be any good we keep waiting and waiting the explanation by the Director of Public Works, that's....What is that? He couldn't even keep the road from being destroyed when they were putting in that pipeline out there, nobody would come out there and look at it, until I notified them, there has been damage done to the road by the contractor I had pictures of it and all that, so whatever you-all decide to do an I appreciate the service to the community and I hope we will get this done, but I'm not going to wait any longer, I'm going ahead and file the "Writ of Mandamus", thank you."

Councilman Paige, "It's so sad to see Mr. Tubre leave so suddenly, but last time he was here it wasn't so pleasant, had a rough, rocky start with another member that was here, I look at Mr. Roberts and he has been here time and time again concerning this particular project, I kept beckoning for him to come up here I didn't know what Mr. Tubre was about to offer, that's why I was alluding to you, we have gotten so side tracked here, talking about hearing from the Council, these people lives out there and I much rather hear from people than to sit here and have our hands tied and tell me what we can talk about and yet we about to cast a vote, something is wrong with this picture, people, I just don't get it and will never get it because I come from the understanding that people has the opportunity to speak and express their expressions on a particular matter and they live out there and it's just not fair to sit down here a say we're talk about it next month and we're going to vote on it and talk about it in all the same breath, something is wrong here, this gentleman has been here at least 4 to 5 different times and I would certainly like to hear what he has to offer about this particular project, maybe I'm wrong, but we'll under public comments now, so you can say anything that you want about this particular project, your hands are not tied right now."

Chairman, Hoover, recognizes Mr. Richard Robertson of Hampton Road.

Mr. Richard Roberts, said, "When we first started this, Mr. Nowlin said it would be done by Thanksgiving, and then happened and things happened, and they begin to talk about Payne Subdivision and Coco Bed Road, and Mr. Paige, The Reverend. and Mr. Bedgood and all said, "Don't we have to come up with money? and yes, we have to come up with money but we don't have that money; so why don't we concentrate on Hampton Road since we have the money, nothing was mentioned about you-all having to pay any money period, and now he's saying if we want to wait a little while, we've been waiting, and now all of a sudden now they finds \$250,000 for Coco Bed Road and Payne Subdivision so their going to get done first now and now he's saying lets wait a little while longer, even the preacher their raised his hands and said, "It a road", "It's a road", and then Mr. Rachal asked

Mr. Verret, "How long do you need to do this?" Mr. Verret, responded by saying I need two weeks, so Mr. Rachal, said "So take two weeks and do it." Mr. Robertson continued by saying, "Ok, we come back a few months or so and he gives the excuse that you didn't give him in writing to do it, if I was told by you-all to do it, then I would do it. Do you understand what I'm saying? I never heard anything about any money, it was paid, for we just had to do it. They didn't have the money for the other projects and now they just found it, Isn't that correct? Mr. Nowlin, responded, "No." Mr. Robertson, replied, "That is correct." Mr. Nowlin, responded, "Well, you can say what you want, and I'll say what I want." Mr. Robertson, replied, "That was said, at the last meeting." Mr. Nowlin, replied, "That's not the way, I recall it, we didn't find it, Madam Chair." The chair then recognizes Mr. Nowlin. Mr. Nowlin begins to say, "Let me first start off by saying we just didn't find \$250,000 for Coco Bed Road, Coco Bed Road was appropriated \$280,000 our match is a little under \$94,000 which was included in a budget by this Council and that's all the money we have for Coco Bed Road, we were trying to reduce the \$94,000 by doing things in-house at no time we said the Hampton Road project wouldn't cost the Parish money, we said it wouldn't cost us for the Construction, the Parish has always been responsible for the Engineering phase of that work."

Chairman, Hoover recognizes Mrs. Harris from Hampton Road, Mrs. Harris, explained, "We live on Hampton Road pass the Boat Launch, our end is paved, but we travel three a half miles down that road every day depending on our activities. We've been living there almost 4 years, it was a rough road, but now it has declined every time it rains the potholes get deeper and deeper, I realize its hundreds of miles of gravel roads in this Parish, but I just would like to tell you how it feels to travel on it, I didn't grow up driving on dirt and gravel roads, I be going this way, that a way and crooked at the same time, in the last couple of months people has gone mudding on our roads, and it has come down to one lane, and that lane is next to the water and when you're going in the potholes that are deep, I feel like I'm about to go off into the water, it's very uncomfortable for me to be driving like that, I want to explain, it's a need, I know it's a need all over the Parish, but we do have some money to work with, and I haven't been a one to complain about it, but there are so many people in the Parish dealing with the same thing, but I do want you -all to understand, I know you heard it thousand of times, people come up here and complain about their roads, but we're real live people that deals with this everyday." And she went on to tell how the road condition on the road after it rains.

Mr. Frank Harris, resident of Hampton Road, said, "It's been about three years you-guys have had this money, it's been a long time and nothing has been done, don't point the fingers at anybody else, I'm pointing fingers at you-all, and then you turn around a point it at yourself, get the job done. You have free money and you can't be effective. You're missing tax revenue because you're not letting people build out there. I just don't understand. My question is what is the timeline for getting this done, whether, Nick does or an outside Engineer does it, I would like a timeline, I don't see it getting done this year."

Parish President, Rick Nowlin, agrees that, Mr. Harris, is very knowledgeable about this for being an Engineer in the State, and he's correct if it's approved tonight it's going to take several months. Parish President, then went on to say about 5 years ago of residents that went into an agreement with the Parish to get their road done, and paid 50% of the cost and with Hampton road, 90% of the cost is being paid by someone else and the Parish is not going to get a deal better than that.

Councilman Rachal, replied, "I have a couple of questions on these items that we're voting on here tonight, I'm confused on Page 6 number 14. Look like we're doing this over again with Hampton Road, maybe not, I'm just confused. Is that two different items?"

Parish President, replied, "The first item under number 11-A is talking about the amending the Operating Budget to put funds in a line item to hire an Engineer and the second item number 14 is simply authorizing us to solicit the proposals, you can't do the second one unless the first one is approved, we don't have funds in the budget for a consultant." Councilman, Rachal, replied, "I wasn't here when all these things started, which one has been in the works for longest Coco Bed or Hampton Road? Everyone answered, Coco Bed Road and Councilman, Paige, replied, "Coco Bed and Payne Subdivision have been on the list for five to six years, man, and we haven't done a lick at none of them." Councilman, Rachal, replied, "The money is there for Coco Bed why are we're spending this money to hire and Engineer to do Coco Bed, and we can just tell him to go and do it and save that \$187,000?" Everyone was confused on what was said, and Councilman, Rachal repeated himself, by saying, "If Coco Bed Road has been in the works the longest and we know the money is there the matching funds and all that, and just at the beginning of his report he said he should have it to the Planning and Facility for next week, then why don't we, my question is Why we are going to spend a \$187,000 on something that is newer than Coco Bed, and we've been promising these people in Payne Subdivision and Coco Bed for years that it's going to be done, why don't we just get that out the way if we're going to hire an Engineer or take an Engineer to get it done." Councilman, Paige, responded, by saying, "The problem we have, Mr. Rachal, it's not everyday that you have someone to come along and say their going to give you the money to fix a road out there, the Hampton Road or any, but you have the Red River Waterway, saying they were going to pay for the road to be fixed, it wasn't going to be any cost to this body, now all of a sudden, we suppose to vote tonight on the \$187,000, which we knew nothing about, now that's the problem that most of us are dealing with this issue. How in the world you're going to say we're going to come up with a \$187,000 in the last week of two that this is the number we're talking about for the Engineer fee or whatever, whatever cost there is, it's a serious problem that we got going on, the gentleman that spoke earlier by saying why don't you-all tell them to go fix the road, I put on the agenda item, tonight about giving a direct order and I knew was wrong when I called the Clerk to tell her, to have the President, Engineer, and Highway Director, I knew it wasn't legal, I knew it wasn't right, but if

that's what's going to get your attention to have a discussion about fixing Payne Subdivision then we're just going to have a discussion, now the problem we got here, we've talked about fixing roads in this Parish for five to six years and fixing some roads, we've never had the problem like this, it's got so far out of control to where even the gravel roads, the potholes aren't potholes anymore like I said last month, they are craters, you probably can put a body in them, it's that bad, now we sit here and beat this thing up, I don't know where it's possible, Mr. Harris.... and How can we sit here and the attitude is that, Well, "If you want the project done, you vote for the \$187,000 tonight and it will get done." Well, come on, you just don't do people like that, we here to serve people, we've been told that it wasn't going to cost anything, no cost, and that's the conversation, I remember and comments I remember, and I know very well, we have tapes, you can pull them up, Sheryl, tomorrow, we can go back and find these tapes, we're recording here, it has been told to this Council at no cost we can go out there and fix Hampton Road, not that's all we're saying. Then tonight you have the attitude that people is going to look at us to say they didn't vote to fix the road, no, I'm not about to vote for a \$187,000 to fix nobody road and then talking about paying an Engineer, this is ridiculous, when are we going to open our eyes, we have a serious problem and it needs to be fixed. You're talking about voting on another road tax and people won't vote on that, you can believe that."

At this time Chairman, Hoover recognizes Ms. Baker from Payne Subdivision, and she wanted to discuss the conditions of the roads in Payne. At this time the Chairman, informed Ms. Baker the issue that was being talked about is the Hampton Road, and that she needed to discuss that later on in the Agenda, the Chairman told her she didn't want to interrupt her, but she's going to obey the Ordinance that was voted on by the Council she doesn't want to be in violation of the order of business. Councilman, Paige, didn't agree with this and say we have problems. Chairman, Hoover went on the speak on the laws that the Council is govern by and she knows it's hard for the public to understand, "But we will get in violations, and Mr. Rachal can tell you that they will fine us if we don't follow the order, and that's all I'm saying, I'm going to let you come back, when it's time for visitors and you will have the same amount of time 3 minutes as everybody else to come up to state your case." Councilman Rachal, replied, "Madam, chair what time are you referring to?" Chairman, Hoover, replied, "That the Ethics Board will come in and fine us for violations." Councilman, Rachal, replied, "Was I ever fined?" Chairman, Hoover, replied, "You know when we went to the Board, because we had some problems." Councilman, Rachal, replied, "You, cost me a thousand dollars, because of your ignorance, that's all I have to say to that, leave it alone." Chairman, Hoover, replied, "Mr. Rachal, you know what, I'm going to allow you to do that, because you know what, I'm a woman of GOD and for you to say what you just said to me, I'm going to say, "GOD bless you", Mr. Rachal, I'm going to turn the other cheek."

Chairman, Hoover, recognized the Parish President.

Parish President, replied, "I've heard several people tonight, that said the Hampton Road Project wasn't never going to cost

Regular Meeting

the Parish any money. I think this is a misunderstanding, with all the conversations we've had in the past it was known that the Red River Waterway Commission would be the total cost of the construction up to a million and three hundred and fifteen thousand dollars, I believe, because they were a little over our estimate, the discussion and in the contract, that you-all had a copy to read says quite clear that the Parish is responsible for the Engineer services, maybe you have forgotten the discussion and maybe you're forgetting what you have read, but it's been there from day one, the second thing is the \$187,000 includes, you have to have some initial money to spend money you get reimbursements that sort of thing, in that \$187,000, \$50,000 in construction money that is going to be returned back to the Parish; so you're talking about \$130,000, that may sound like small money, but that's still \$50,000, if we are going to talk about the money lets talk about the right number."

Parish of Attorney, replied, "I would like to make a point of information on this deal, if you-all would look at it, part of the reason for it, is to establish a line item to allow the Parish to receive the funds from the Red River Waterway Commission to put it into that line item for special funds for the project for construction, that is another part of this deal, that hasn't been talked about."

Mr. Verret, "I wanted to clarify too, previously priority of my work that has been established is Coco Bed Road, Payne Subdivision, and then Hampton Road, there is another option is to move Hampton Road before Payne Subdivision."

Councilman, Rachal, replied, "My understanding was, Yes Mr. President, we had all this in front of us, but my understanding it wouldn't cost us anything, because we were using In-Kind for Mr. Verret services and not money wise, that's my understanding of it. He and his office would do the work and save us that money. In-kind means "No money, that's what I understood, that's the confusion for me tonight." Chairman, Hoover, replied, "Mines as well." Parish President, responded, by saying, "We did discussed partial In-kind but it's certainly not going to be a \$130,000 worth, maybe that's the confusion."

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 close the public hearing to hear any and all comments on Adoption of Ordinance 15-2017 to amend the 2017 Operating Budget for the Parish of Natchitoches, relative to the Hampton Road Improvement Fund.

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

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

Motion Passed

Action on Proposed Ordinances:

A. Council to consider Adoption of Ordinance 15-2017 to amend the 2017 Operating Budget for the Parish of Natchitoches, relative to the Hampton Road Improvement Fund.

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 Adopt Ordinance 15-2017 to amend the 2017 Operating Budget for the Parish of Natchitoches, relative to the Hampton Road Improvement Fund.

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

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

MOTION DIDN'T PASS

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 open the public hearing to hear any and all comments or objections relative to the adoption of Ordinance 16-2017 to adjust Revenue of Insurance Claims, to add line items for expenses for: Building and Grounds, Winn Rock Screenings and to adjust line items of gravel, Winn Rock and Bottom Ash.

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

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

Motion Passed

A discussion was done on this topic between Treasurer Debbie Miley, Nick Verret, and the Council.

Councilman de Graffenried wanted to know exactly what this Ordinance is going to do. at this time there was a lot of talking in the audience and the Chair had to hit the gavel to get order back for the meeting. Ms. Miley explained "It's more like a budget revision where Winn Rock is being adjusted by \$50,000, Bottom Ash is added and Recovery fund is added, it's adjusting your budget, that's all it's doing, nothing to do with the other, we had money come in." Councilman de Graffenried, "It's more like in and out."

Councilman, Paige, wanted to know if these numbers are somewhere he can see, besides what Ms. Miley tells him. Ms. Miley, replied, "We gave those out last month." Councilman Paige, replied, "Yes, but we'll vote on them tonight and you're throwing the numbers out there, very nice to have it before you." Ms. Miley, replied, "We can make copies, again of what I have." Councilman Rachal, wanted to ask a question, "For Winn Rock are we decreasing or increasing the budget on that?" Mr. Verret, replied, "We're taking money out of the regular Winn Rock item, and putting it into the screenings and Bottom Ash." Councilman Rachal wanted to get clarity on the Winn Rock and Bottom Ash.

Chairman, Hoover, wanted Ms. Miley to give the figures for the specific items in reference for her to know she didn't have anything to hand out, but still give the figures. Ms. Miley begins by saying, "Building and Grounds you're adding \$3500, Gravel \$50,000, Winn Rock you're reducing \$72,000, Bottom Ash you're reducing from \$100,000 to \$50,000, Winn Rock Screening increases \$72,000." Chairman, Hoover asked, "What is the total we're looking at." Ms. Miley, replied, "\$3500 increase, because the others off sets each other and you have \$3500 on building and grounds."

Councilman Rachal wanted to know from Mr. Verret about which was better Winn Rock Screenings or Bottom Ash. Mr. Verret informed Councilman Rachal both of them are effective, if you have wet conditions the Bottom Ash does better. Mr. Verret also informed Mr. Rachal these materials are being used on trying to fix paved roads and there are some issues with whatever you use. We're trying to do something that we cannot do is trying to patch paved roads with aggregate material, it's not a great process, but that's what we're working with now." Councilman, Rachal wanted to know, Does the Winn Rock Screens set up harder? Is it workable? Mr. Verret, replied, "What we've seen so far it will smooth out and does pretty well, but over time with traffic and speed, it will fall apart."

At that time Mr. John Hodgeson, wanted to know which one was the white that was put on Hart Road. Mr. Verret, replied, "That was the Winn Rock Screenings." Mr. Hodgeson, said that one is working better than the others.

On motion by Councilman Chris Paige, duly seconded by Councilman Russell Rachal, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby close the public hearing to hear any and all comments on Adoption of Ordinance 16-2017 to adjust Revenue of Insurance Claims, to add line items for expenses for: Building and Grounds, Winn Rock Screenings and to adjust line items of gravel, Winn Rock and Bottom Ash.

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

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

Motion Passed

Action on Proposed Ordinances:

- B.** Ordinance 16-2017 to adjust Revenue of Insurance Claims, to add line items for expenses for: Building and Grounds, Winn Rock Screenings and to adjust line items of gravel, Winn Rock and Bottom Ash.

On motion by Councilman Russell Rachal, duly seconded by Councilman de Graffenried, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby adopt Ordinance 16-2017 to adjust Revenue of Insurance Claims, to add line items for expenses for: Building and Grounds, Winn Rock Screenings and to adjust line items of gravel, Winn Rock and Bottom Ash.

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

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

Motion Passed

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 open the public hearing to hear any and all comments or objections relative to the adoption of Ordinance 17-2017 for Part-time Parish Engineer for the Parish of Natchitoches.

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

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

Motion Passed

Councilman Paige, wanted to know how many times has this particular items have been placed on the Agenda in the last 6 months? Chairman, Hoover, replied, "I think it's the fourth time it has been placed." Councilman Rachal, replied, 2, but it was the 3rd time. Councilman Paige, responded by saying, "That's why I was slow to respond by we continue to beat this dead horse things up, because to me, the one District that I serve we talked about this time after time, time, time, and time, and it's really frustrating going over the same thing over, over, and over, now I know everyone has their own opinions about things, God bless you for having them, but I just, it must be another angle, it gets voted down 3 to 4 times look like you need to come back up with another strategy, I'm not being ugly and when you make comments and you send an email out saying, "If you voted for that we can help this that and the other, don't try to twist my arm or nobody arm to do something that is not supportive of this as a whole community, as a whole, and just to reflect the one project that could possibly just help whoever."

Councilman Rachal, "My understanding is, that we all agreed the Parish and resident agrees nothing is being done on the roads, correct, we haven't fixed a road yet, correct. Now we as the Council has no hiring or firing capabilities, so if this would pass this would move the Director of Public Works if he is chosen for it out of the road department altogether, right? Ok, he will have nothing to do with the roads, then we can hire someone to come in with some maintenance, physical maintenance experience to do something with the roads, remove him to do the Engineering work that we're here talking about spending money on. That's the only way of getting Mr. Verret out of the Highway department and moved into Engineering that's the only way

we have of doing it, that's my understanding of the reason why it came back up. I have another question, if this would take place will this be a Department Head position, Mr. Nowlin?"

Parish President, replied, "No, this is a staff position, part-time position, we don't have any part-time Department Heads" Councilman, Rachal, replied, "Would he have supervision to hire and fire as a part-time employee?" Parish President, replied, "It's going to be a staff of one, it's a staff position, I have an Executive Assistant that would be full-time or I would have that position, this is a part-time position." Councilman, Rachal, replied, "Next question, Our legal

Council to us last meeting the Parish President can not give any Department Heads a raise without Council approval; so this is not a Department Head position this will be free at liberty to give this person, whoever is in there a raise anytime you want to without our approval, correct?" Parish President, responded, "It would have to be in the salary range approved and with according to the money, but in the budget for it." Councilman, Rachal, replied, "Without our approval as long it is in the range?" "And in the budget." replied, Parish President.

Councilman, Bedgood, "Let's go over salaries one more time, tell me what we're looking, to my understanding, tell me if I'm wrong. This is a three day work week, no more than 3 days a week, Now what kind of money you're talking about; so we can get it all straight tonight."

Parish President, begin to say, "Another good question Mr. Bedgood, we're talking about 24 hours a week on an average, sometimes it can be 22 hours one week and 26 another week, but we can't average no more than that because we'll get in trouble with the benefits part." Councilman, Bedgood, replied, "I understand." Parish President begin back by saying, "We're looking at no more than \$55.00 an hour, which will be a total of \$68,640 a year if he's working 24 hours a week, basically that pretty much the same salary he's getting now." Councilman, Bedgood, replied, "And he draws what, now? Oh, maybe I can't ask that." So we're talking about around \$90,000?" Parish President, replied, "No, a little over 68,000 a year." Parish President, replied, "Mr. Bedgood, I would like to point out that the last consultant, we hired from a firm as \$175,000." Councilman, Bedgood, replied, "Ok, I understand that, and now we're talking about hiring a new Director of Public Works, what is the range on him?" Parish President, replied, "We're looking in the range probably of about \$60,000 to \$65,000." Councilman Paige stated, "Not benefits?" Parish President, "No the Highway Director is a salary employee, with benefits. All full time employees get benefits." Chairman Hoover, responded, "\$65,000 plus benefits." Councilman, Paige, replied, "When you ask questions, you need to know all you're asking, so you're going to say \$70,000 you're talking about \$12,000 to \$15,000 a year for retirement, and we're going to be talking about some insurance that may be another \$10,000 to \$12,000 maybe a year; so lets run these numbers up right, let's stop lying, let's talk straight numbers, and I'm not calling anyone a lie, I'm saying just lay it out right." Councilman, Bedgood, begins again, "68,000 are you going to pay benefits?" "No," replied Parish President, now we're talking about the Highway Director you have to pay benefits to them, it's no way around that; so we'll looking around a \$123,000 for both people right?" Parish President, replied, "No, around \$130,000 so. Two points, Mr. Bedgood, you made good points, we're not going to hire an Assistant Highway Director that was budgeted for \$50,000 and that position will not be filled and we will also need to keep in mind that Mr. Verret or whomever we look at for the Engineer position if

we do it at a much lower cost than going outside." Councilman Bedgood wanted to know what the title of another employee at the Highway Department and then they have a Road Maintenance Supervisor and an Acting Road Maintenance Supervisor, so they don't need an Assistant Highway Director.

**Regular Meeting
June 19, 2017**

Page 21.

Chairman, Hoover had a question, "With the Engineer if there is other projects and another project comes up, you're saying two to three days, if a project comes up and goes over that, Will he still be hired to do the job for that project." Parish President, replied, "We have to control his time, he can do the job, but he can't go over the time that was allotted. We will have to get somebody else or wait at a later date." Chairman, Hoover, replied, "Then we still would have to pay somebody else to do the job?" Councilman, Rachal, responded, "This is about what he's making now, without fringe, right?" Parish President, replied, "Right." Councilman, Rachal, replied, "So in other words he be getting the same pay, same salary to do half the work." Parish President, replied, "No, what I'm saying is right now Mr. Verret presently doesn't receive a full packets of benefits right now as the rest of the employees, as a retired state employee he doesn't have to receive all the benefits, we've gotten the benefit of that for the last four and half years; so what we're saying is he is been receiving a reduce benefit package compared to other full time employees, if you take his hourly wages now and you divide his annual salary by the 2080 add in a little of the partial benefits it comes out to \$55.00 dollars a hour; so he would be making roughly the same hourly wage, but working 40 percent less hours." Councilman, Rachal, replied, "My question is basically he will be making the same hourly rate and working less hours." Parish President, replied, "No, he will be making the same per hour."

Debbie Savell, a resident of Monroe, Drive "If we have a full time Engineer now, and we're paying him what exactly is part-time person be in figured in for ever for is there a length of time that he will be available and only for a certain project to help us out because we're over burden with apparently with all these roads we can't fill?"

Parish President replied, "We're not obligated over work him any hours, we say we can work him up to an average of 24 hours a week. The work is there, he won't get paid if the work is not there. We don't have a full-time Engineer, we have a full time Highway Director, who been trying on the side to do some Engineering, the demands of the Highway Department and Public Works and Solid Waste is keeping him from devoting the time that we need in Engineering, that's the reason we came up with a part-time Engineer position."

Ms. Savell, responded, "When he worked for the State what was he all that time?" Parish President, replied, "He was an Engineer" "Then he's an Engineer," replied Ms. Savell. Parish President, replied back, "He is an Engineer, but not a full time Engineer for the Parish." Ms. Savell, replied, "I get that, I'm just saying when you start hiring part-time people, allowing them 24 to 26 hours a week at what figures to be most of what me and these people all makes in a year, and that's a part-time job, we're paying that, so we want to know if this part-time job is for just a short period of time or it's forever? I mean, that's what I'm asking, because the Parish is already strapped on all expenditures, so why you're taking on basically another salary, when it's going to be a time \$55.00 an hour is not enough and then it will be \$70.00 dollars an hour."

Parish President, responded, "That's a good question, The answer is with Mr. Verret as a part-time Engineer with his salary and all the other salaries in that department, we're not going to be paying any more than we're paying today, we're not going to have a place for an

Assistant Director in the Public Works Department and we not going to also pay the new Director of Pubic Works the same amount that we pay Mr. Verret because the Council, has already removed the requirement that the Direct be a professional Engineer and that's saving us a lot of money."

**Regular Meeting
June 19, 2017**

Page 22.

Ms. Savell, responded, "I understand all that, but what my problem is that we seem to have no access money that we desperately needs for really important projects and yet we seem to find money to pay someone a salary."

Parish President, replied, "Let me try to explain this again, one more time, What I just said was, even Ms. Savell, replied, "I heard what you said" Parish President, replied, "You must didn't understand it." Ms. Savell, replied, "I did understand it." Parish President, replied, "Just let me finish, ok, even if you add in Mr. Verret's salary as a part-time Engineer, when you combine all the remaining supervisor salaries in the public works department that total is less than we're paying today, plus the fact we're getting an Engineering as roughly as 1/3 the cost what you'll get when you have to hire a consultant Engineer to do the same work."

Councilman Paige, wanted to know, "How many Parishes especially this magnitude and size has a full time on staff Engineer?"

Mr. Verret, replied, "Very few that I know of, but what they do Mr. Paige, they have to hire a consultant to do all their work."

Councilman Paige, replied, "As they go." Mr. Verret, "Yes, as they go." Councilman Paige, "That is how we always done it, as the project came. We didn't come out with this big "ole" lump of money, year round, which were done for the last 5 to 6 years, we paid a Highway Director or whatever/Engineer/Highway Department, that has not been a little amount of money paid, so I just want to keep that in mind, I guess, I'm already at the point of how I'm going, they can talk all they want."

Chairman, Hoover, recognizes, Mr. Verret. Mr. Verret, responded, "By putting it into respective, Mr. Paige goes back to the figures we was looking for Hampton Road, the Engineering just on that project, we estimated at \$130,000, that's for one project that's much more money, I make in a year, look at all the other benefits the Parish is getting from me, other parishes that do not have an on staff Engineer is paying out the whazoo for Engineering services."

Councilman, Rachal responded, "I know last month, Mr. Verret, you stated you was working on 43 special projects he was working on, is that correct, Mr. Verret?" Mr. Verret, replied, "That didn't imply that was working every minute, every day on every project."

Councilman, Rachal, replied, "I understand, but you said on record that you had 43 special projects I'm working on at some point. Now just Wednesday, I sent a public information request asking for a list of all your special projects and how you prioritize them, I got one here with only items long, How many special projects do you have, Mr. Verret?"

Mr. Verret, replied, "The list that I gave you as you recall looking at the information those are the active project at that time that I was actually working on." Councilman, Rachal, replied, "I ask for a list of all of your special projects whether you're there in the bottom drawer in your closet or where I wanted to know what you're working on."

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 close the public hearing to

hear any and all comments on Adoption of Ordinance 17-2017 for Part-time Parish Engineer for the Parish of Natchitoches.

**Regular Meeting
June 19, 2017**

Page 23.

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

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

Motion Passed

Action on Proposed AMENDED Ordinances:

C. Council to consider Adoption of Ordinance 17-2017 for Part-time Parish Engineer for the Parish of Natchitoches.

Councilman Doug de Graffenried, responded by saying I would move it, and if I get a second, I want to amend it.

On motion by Councilman Doug de Graffenried, duly seconded by Councilman Russell Rachal. At this time Councilman Doug de Graffenried want to amend this by saying I move that we cap the salary of the part-time Parish Engineer at \$50,000, not to exceed by any line item or by any other means by \$50,000. duly seconded by Councilman Russell Rachal.

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

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

Action on Proposed Ordinances:

Council to consider Adoption of Ordinance 17-2017 for Part-time Parish Engineer for the Parish of Natchitoches for salary not to exceed any line item or by any means of a cap of \$50,000.

On motion by Councilman Doug de Graffenried, duly seconded by Councilman Russell Rachal. At this time Councilman Doug de Graffenried want to amend this by saying I move that we cap the salary of the part-time Parish Engineer at \$50,000, not to exceed by any line item or by any other means by \$50,000. duly seconded by Councilman Russell Rachal.

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

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

Motion Passed

Chairman, Hoover stated the next item on the Agenda was for Resolutions:

**Regular Meeting
June 19, 2017**

Page 24.

Council to consider adopting Resolution 018-2017 permanent Change of Polling Places:

- a. PRECINCT 1-4 AND 1-4A (OLD MAGNET SCHOOL) TO NCHS BOYS GYM ALONG WITH PRECINCTS 1-9 AND 1-9A, 200 HWY 3110, NATCHITOCHE, LA 71457
- b. PRECINCT 3-1 (MARTHAVILLE HERITAGE BUILDING) TO MARTHAVILLE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH ACTIVITIES BUILDING LOCATED AT LA HWY 120, MARTHAVILLE, LA 71450
- c. PRECINCT 4-9 (LLAMB HEATING AND AIR BUILDING) TO CHRISTIAN WORSHIP CENTER LOCATED AT 1513 HWY 494, NATCHITOCHE, LA

On motion by Councilman Chris Paige, duly seconded by Councilman Rodney Bedgood, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby adopted Resolution 018-2017 permanent Change of Polling Places:

- a. PRECINCT 1-4 AND 1-4A (OLD MAGNET SCHOOL) TO NCHS BOYS GYM ALONG WITH PRECINCTS 1-9 AND 1-9A, 200 HWY 3110, NATCHITOCHE, LA 71457
- b. PRECINCT 3-1 (MARTHAVILLE HERITAGE BUILDING) TO MARTHAVILLE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH ACTIVITIES BUILDING LOCATED AT LA HWY 120, MARTHAVILLE, LA 71450
- c. PRECINCT 4-9 (LLAMB HEATING AND AIR BUILDING) TO CHRISTIAN WORSHIP CENTER LOCATED AT 1513 HWY 494, NATCHITOCHE, LA 71457

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

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

Motion Passed

Chairman, Hoover stated the next item on the Agenda was for Resolutions:

Council to consider adopting Resolution 019-2017 for temporary change of Polling Place:

- A. Precinct 4-3 (St. Augustine Church Hall moving to 4-1 The Cypress Jury Voting Building, due to scheduling conflict at St. Augustine.

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 adopted Resolution 019-2017 for temporary change of Polling Place:

- A. Precinct 4-3 (St. Augustine Church Hall moving to 4-1 The Cypress Jury Voting Building, due to

scheduling conflict at St. Augustine.

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

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

Motion Passed

**Regular Meeting
June 19, 2017**

Page 25.

Chairman, Hoover stated the next item on the Agenda was for Resolutions:

Council to consider giving a direct order to the Parish President, Director of Public Works and the Parish Engineer to complete all required paperwork for the road construction on Coco Bed Road and Payne Subdivision.

At this time Councilman Chris Paige request this item to be tabled.

On motion by Councilman Paige, duly seconded by Councilman de Graffenried, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby table Council to consider giving a direct order to the Parish President, Director of Public Works and the Parish Engineer to complete all required paperwork for the road construction on Coco Bed Road and Payne Subdivision.

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 stated the next item on the Agenda was for Resolutions:

Council to consider approving a resolution approving the issuance, sale and delivery of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000) of Limited Tax Bonds, Series 2017, of Fire Protection District No. 4 of the Parish of Natchitoches, State of Louisiana.

There was a short discussion about this. Fire District No. 4 is Provencal and they are proposing to build a new building next to their station.

On motion by Councilman Russell Rachal, duly seconded by Councilman Chris Paige, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby approving a resolution approving the issuance, sale and delivery of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000) of Limited Tax Bonds, Series 2017, of Fire Protection District No. 4 of the Parish of Natchitoches, State of Louisiana.

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

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

Motion Passed

Chairman, Hoover stated the next item on the Agenda was for Resolutions:

Council to consider approving a resolution declaring the intent of the Parish Council of the Parish of Natchitoches, State of Louisiana, to create District No. 1 of the Parish of Natchitoches, State of Louisiana, describing the territory to compose the district and the proposed boundaries thereof, ordering and directing the publication of a notice of intention to create said district, and providing for the hearing of any and all objections to the creation thereof.

**Regular Meeting
June 19, 2017**

Page 26.

Parish President went to explain these Resolutions are to accomplish the Ordinances that got introduced earlier for the road tax. The first was an Ordinance to get the ball rolling to discuss it in public hearing and these Resolutions say, you simply have to pass the Resolutions so the State will know you told your people in your Parish that you intend to have an Ordinance voted on, it's sort of a package deal. You have to introduce the four Ordinances and you have to pass the four Resolutions in order to consider even having an election in the Fall in November.

At this time the Councilman de Graffenried, spoke out and said "Mr. Nowlin, I direct this to you, We went through a lot of work to get this and a lot of people have worked on this potential tax, and for those of you wasn't into the presentation the tax will mean Thirty Four Million Dollars over a ten year period to pass this Parish wide, this tax will not pass if Mr. Verret is working for the Parish; so tonight unless you terminate him or he resigns tonight effective July 1, 2017, I'm not going to introduce this and you saw the 3 to 2 vote, unless Mr. Nowlin, terminates Mr. Verret or Mr. Verret resigns effective tonight makes it effective July 1st, I will not offer these Resolutions.

Councilman Paige, replied, "See, but you are tickle and laugh, when I voted the way, I did, this is why. Parish President, replied, "Then you just a few minutes ago Didn't we just create the position of Part-time Engineer and cap the salary at \$50,000 a year? I guess, I need to ask, Councilman de Graffenried. If that hadn't happened, my intention was do move Mr. Verret into the position as Part-time Engineer so he could work on some of these plans that we have been talking about and without having somebody else do Department of Public Works, are you saying that he needs to resign or terminated as the Director of Public Works or all possible employment from the Parish?"

Councilman de Graffenried, replied, "All possible employment from within the Parish. The voters of this Parish are just frustrated with the excuses" Parish President, then requested to go into Executive Session. If we're discussing personnel matters. It's not a personnel matter. You allotted to Mr. Verret performance and we shouldn't go any further in open session."

Vice-Chairman, Bedgood, replied, "We don't really need to be discussing any further, if we are already going into Executive Session put it to the end with the others."

Councilman Paige, responded to all this by saying, "See, I have a problem with you saying now, Mr. de Graffenried, You're saying you're not going to offer it, like you're offering it yourself, these other people who sit there and voted with you to do this, this is a problem, this is a serious problem. It's not about whether I'm satisfied with Mr. Verret or not it's just the way you handle things, that's just not the way if I would have voted that way, I would be very infuriated, that you're using my vote to turn and say, Well, okay, now if I don't get it my way, I will throw all of this out the window, like a kid, I will take my ball and go home, I have a problem

with that, that is your opinion and this is mine, that's all I'm saying to you and anybody else I have great problems with sometimes the works at every meeting jumping up and down about Payne Subdivision and various other things, but in the manner in which this is taken the individuals that has voted with you maybe they feel exactly the same but it's the manner that's in which this has been going is certainly affair, it's not the manner in which I don't want to be apart of."

Councilman, de Graffenried, replied, "All I said, is that I'm not offering it, I'm not stopping you from offering it. I'm not stopping anybody from offering it, I just said, I wouldn't." Councilman,

**Regular Meeting
June 19, 2017**

Page 27.

Paige, replied, "You know, how I feel, I've just told you, I told you I'm not offering none of that trash, ok, and I voted like that. The people sit there and snicker, but I know, what I'm voting on, the people sent me there to vote against this type of stupidity."

Mr. Verret, replied, "Chair, it sounds like I'm being offered as a sacrificial lamb here, and for the benefit of the Parish of Natchitoches and to the citizens here...." At this time, Councilman Paige and Parish President Nowlin, was telling Mr. Verret, to leave it alone and stop what he was about to say.

Councilman Bedgood, "Since I'm in the chair, right now. at this time Chairman, Hoover returns, and Councilman, Bedgood, stated, "I'm still going to say, what I'm going to say, ok, we sit here and this is foolish you-all, this is nothing but pure foolishness, whether I'm thinking he's doing and excellent job or not doing an excellent job, you got to understand, stop and understand, everybody is running around here tearing everybody down including myself, they tear me down and everybody else down. The man, whether we like it or don't like it, the man is loaded to the "gills" I know our roads are in bad shape, I understand that, but he can't snap his fingers and make it all happen, whether you like me or don't like me, I'm going to tell you the truth, he cannot snap his finger to make it all happen, just like I can't snap my fingers as District 4 Councilman member to make it happen. I get mad when I call in and I don't see anything done in a month or two months, but we have to go back, and that was one of the reasons I said we don't have \$187,000 or \$200,000 to throw out there for this and that, we just don't have that kind of money. I'm sorry, I imagined I got 200 phone calls telling me that you better vote, "No" on that road tax, a property tax is not a fair tax, to me, and I haven't made up mind on how I'm going to vote, yet, I wanted to know how it works, because, I don't know anything about it yet, I don't like the way the Districts drawn up and I voiced my opinion on that tonight, and I'm going to take up any more time, but for me to sit here to just run him down, I'm not, he's "slayed to the hills" he's been trying to do Engineering, listen, I want you-all to understand, what I'm saying tonight, he draws a good salary, a good salary, but you have to understand too, he's the Highway Director, he covers 940 miles in this District, then he's doing all the Engineering work too, that's double duty, so stop and think about what he's doing too, put yourself in that position. I know, I get phones calls everyday from everybody, saying, "How come my road isn't fixed" "How come my road isn't fixed" I can't answer that, I wish I could, I can't, but I'm not going to sit here because I know what kind of pressure he's under, because I talked to him the other day, and said, Hey, I thought my wife was crazy, when she said you stupid for running for this job, now I understand what she said. I said I like to quit, and he said you're not by yourself, I might now should have said that, but I did. I got 2 more years and I'm going to do the best I can for District 4, I want everyone to know, I'm trying to do the best I can for District 4, when you call, I call it in, I don't have say so, I want everybody to understand, where we at, as a Council member we don't have the say so, I can't tell the Grader man

where he can go grade and I can't tell him which road he can go grade, that is strictly, I want you-all to know this, because you-all voted this in, this type of Government, ok, this is what we got, it's on a priority base system and think about this tax that's coming up, it's going to be on a priority base system, worst roads are going to get fixed and maybe no one who lives on that road pays taxes, but their road is going to be fixed before your road, I want you to understand that, that's how it's going to work. I'm not going to try and blow smoke or anything like that, how I decide to vote, I'll decide on it between now and next month, I'm going to catch a lot of heat, because I let it go into this tonight, but I'm a truthful as I can be with you-all, wouldn't try to tell you a story or anything, I'm not type of man, I'm not, and you should know me by now, I've been elected twice, whether I run again, I don't know, according to what my

**Regular Meeting
June 19, 2017**

Page 28.

wife does, but, I'm like Chris, now, something just ain't right, here on this, What, I'm saying is, now, I'm trying to grasp you wanted the Engineer position you and Russell and now you don't want the Engineering position and you want him out period, not even as an Engineer."

Councilman, de Graffenried, replied, "The Parish Engineer we'll take, we need to advertise and run that process." Councilman, Bedgood, replied, "I thought if he's going to be the Parish Engineer, if he accepts that, he wouldn't be the Highway Department Director, am I right." Councilman, Paige, replied, "Isn't it up to Mr. Nowlin? and not up to you or you? Councilman, de Graffenried, replied, "Yes, he hires." Parish President, replied, "We get to advertise his position, I'm sure Mr. Verret, well, I'm not sure after tonight, he might not apply for it, it has to be advertised, and if he applies, he will be one of the candidates, and one of the strong candidates."

Chairman, Hoover, responded, "I know you said, Mr. Verret, has multiple duties that he does, but when you were saying that, I was thinking about all those employees who is out there at that Highway Department that try to keep up the Parish, walking behind the trucks with a shovel, they have multiple task also; so if you're an Engineer and Public Work Director and you multiple task, I'm sure it's plenty people out here in this audience who has jobs that has to multi-task, you're hired for one thing but you do three or four, that's just the way that it is, I'm through with that."

After a very long and lengthy discussion the following action was taken. Another long discussion on the same item.

Chairman, Hoover read it and nobody at that time said anything, and she said it died, but Parish President had his hands up while she was talking, and he reminded her he had his hand up. Parish President explained, "So, if you let the Resolutions die, you're, in fact, saying, we don't even want to consider, a tax, that could help to improve our road system, that's what you're saying, ok, because without the Resolutions giving notice of intent, it won't show up on the ballot, that's what we're saying. The Home Rule Charter provides that the selection of Personnel is a prerogative of the President and he has the appointment of Department Heads and subject approval of the Parish Council the Parish Engineer position is not a Department Head, and if you do what Councilman de Graffenried is saying, you're interjecting yourself in the selection of personnel below the Department Head level, which is not allowed by the Home Rule Charter, it's an unauthorized intrusion in the prerogative of the Executive Branch of Government, you have the checks and balances; so, what Mr. de Graffenried is going to do is say, "You will get your Resolution, and an opportunity to maybe get, a tax on the ballot, if we as a Council can pick the people who are working for you, that are not Department Heads, that's not allowed by law or Home Rule Charter and

that's the reason, I stopped, Mr. Verret from resigning five minutes ago."

Councilman Paige, responded, "Mr. Nowlin, you know, and everybody in the Community knows, I've never been in favor of the Home Rule Charter, and really want to get it back on the ballot for the people to decide, that's really what I think they want to vote on instead, and not a tax. I think we hastily, as I said earlier, we were hastily rushing it to get it on the November ballot and it's just not the right way to do, then two or three of you-all voted to let's do it, and now he throws a "monkey wrench" in the play and in this situation. Mr. de Graffenried, said, he wanted to whatever with the Engineer. I just....It's just not the right way to work on things and I first off, it's five of us sitting here each five of us has close to 8,000 people

**Regular Meeting
June 19, 2017**

Page 29.

to represent that is a complete travesty, they pay me \$450.00 dollars a month, and people say, "Chris, you crazy, but I know, that people would not have the representation that I'm going to bring to this table if I walked away; so, I did it for the community, but you sit here time and time again people think that I'm... whatever, attitude, it doesn't matter to me, because, my father raised me well enough to know, I know who I am. It's doesn't matter to me what you think of me because my vote is not going to leave the people out and it's not right to sit here, I always had problems with one man running this Parish, it's just me, if we had committees to be able to say lets formulated with the people in our Districts come up with a plan for a tax, but to hastily call me and tell me that we're going to have a Special Meeting, let's do it, I knew that wasn't right, I was not going to obstruct my families plans to come here and go out for something like this, fist off, You're going to split up Mr. Bedgood Districts, you're going to split up my District, I think you should have us at the table really looking at the map drawing of the lines, "my sister is back there, she never comes to meetings, Lord, knows when I got here tonight and saw her, I said, Lord, What in the world is going on? she never comes to meetings, and if you draw her out my District, I'm going to be mad as hell. Come on people, it's that sensible, and you sit here and think, like the lines you sit here and draw we're just going to go along with them, and some of you-all voted, let's do it, that's not right, that's not the correct way to respond to things, this is just not designed to say, Ok, I got this idea, lets do this, "Bam, Bam" it's not designed to do that, and I know some thought went into, I'm not trying to say that, I just believe we just got to do what the people will is, I truly believe we just have to do something different from what we're doing here, and then two people goes this way all the time, this is too close of a vote, when you talk about, I talk about I represent 8,000 people, this is crazy, lord, knows I love to hear from you if you have a problem or whatever. It's doesn't matter from any part of the Parish line, I raised my hands for everyone, I raised my hands for all these people, but we have to stop and think about how we vote and then.." Councilman, Paige time ran out.

Parish President, Nowlin, "Madame Chair, a few minutes ago, we amended the Ordinance concerning the Parish Engineer, these road tax Ordinances have already passed there are proposition to pass out and reviewed over the next 4 weeks and go into a public hearing, it's possible that this body, these five Councilmen decides at the next meeting we don't like 4 Districts we like 5 Districts it might cause problems, but everything you do is subject to be amended. I think if we wanted to have a number of Districts, we can't have too many, because they would have to have their own funds, which is a nightmare, but you needed more than one, because some areas wanted to pass a tax and other that didn't, but it's not a take it or leave it deal, You introduced the Ordinances they will come up at a public hearing they would either be accepted or rejected or amended and

accepted at the next meeting, but none of that will happen if you don't pass the Resolutions."

After Parish President, stopped talking, this action was taken:

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 approving a resolution declaring the intent of the Parish Council of the Parish of Natchitoches, State of Louisiana, to create District No. 1 of the Parish of Natchitoches, State of Louisiana, describing the territory to compose the district and the proposed boundaries thereof, ordering and directing the publication of a notice of intention to create said

**Regular Meeting
June 19, 2017**

Page 30.

district, and providing for the hearing of any and all objections to the creation thereof.

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

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

Motion Passed

Chairman, Hoover stated the next item on the Agenda was for Resolutions:

Council to consider approving a resolution declaring the intent of the Parish Council of the Parish of Natchitoches, State of Louisiana, to create District No. 2 of the Parish of Natchitoches, State of Louisiana, describing the territory to compose the district and the proposed boundaries thereof, ordering and directing the publication of a notice of intention to create said district, and providing for the hearing of any and all objections to the creation thereof.

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 approving a resolution declaring the intent of the Parish Council of the Parish of Natchitoches, State of Louisiana, to create District No. 2 of the Parish of Natchitoches, State of Louisiana, describing the territory to compose the district and the proposed boundaries thereof, ordering and directing the publication of a notice of intention to create said district, and providing for the hearing of any and all objections to the creation thereof.

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

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

Motion Passed

Chairman, Hoover stated the next item on the Agenda was for Resolutions:

Council to consider approving a resolution declaring the intent of the Parish Council of the Parish of Natchitoches, State of Louisiana,

to create District No. 3 of the Parish of Natchitoches, State of Louisiana, describing the territory to compose the district and the proposed boundaries thereof, ordering and directing the publication of a notice of intention to create said district, and providing for the hearing of any and all objections to the creation thereof.

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 approving a resolution declaring the intent of the Parish Council of the Parish of Natchitoches, State of Louisiana, to create District No. 3 of the Parish of Natchitoches, State of Louisiana, describing the territory to compose the district and the proposed boundaries thereof, ordering and directing the publication of a notice of intention to create said district, and providing for the hearing of any and all objections to the creation thereof.

Regular Meeting

June 19, 2017

Page 31.

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

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

Motion Passed

Chairman, Hoover stated the next item on the Agenda was for Resolutions:

Council to consider approving a resolution declaring the intent of the Parish Council of the Parish of Natchitoches, State of Louisiana, to create District No. 4 of the Parish of Natchitoches, State of Louisiana, describing the territory to compose the district and the proposed boundaries thereof, ordering and directing the publication of a notice of intention to create said district, and providing for the hearing of any and all objections to the creation thereof.

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 approving a resolution declaring the intent of the Parish Council of the Parish of Natchitoches, State of Louisiana, to create District No. 3 of the Parish of Natchitoches, State of Louisiana, describing the territory to compose the district and the proposed boundaries thereof, ordering and directing the publication of a notice of intention to create said district, and providing for the hearing of any and all objections to the creation thereof.

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

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

Motion Passed

Chairman, Hoover stated the next item on the Agenda was for Resolutions:

Council to consider a Resolution 020-2017 to scarify Shady Grove South Road.

Mr. Carroll Presley from Bellwood, La gave a short summary on why the residents and owners of camps, and others would like to see the Shady Grove South Road scarified. He also gave a petition with 24 signed signatures for consideration of the matter.

On motion by Councilman Russell Rachal, duly seconded by Councilman Rodney Bedgood, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby approving Resolution 020-2017 to scarify Shady Grove South Road.

**Regular Meeting
June 19, 2017**

Page 32.

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

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

Motion Passed

Chairman, Hoover stated the next item on the Agenda was for Resolutions:

Council to consider Resolution 21-2017 from the recommendations of the Head Start Policy Council that the location of its meeting be changed to the Parish Council Board Room on 200 Church Street.

Everyone was confused on this because the Ordinance from the beginning was rejected, and they didn't know if they had to go back through this again. The Parish Attorney explained the reasons why this was done, because the Head Start Policy Council meeting was meeting in July and the if the Ordinance was approved it was going into Public Hearing until July 17 and that is after the July 11, 2017 meeting and this Resolution was a stop measure to have to meetings at the Natchitoches Parish Council room. Parish Attorney, asked the Chairman, "Have you Mrs. Hoover, spoken to the parents from the other five centers besides the Martin Luther King parents? Chairman, Hoover, replied, "I haven't talk with the other 5 centers, but we're talking about Council Policy meetings from North Street, right?" Councilman Paige and with the Parish Attorney, replied, "We're talking about the Policy Council for the whole Parish." Chairman, Hoover, replied, "I look at the scope of the everyday operations there with the staff and they park in the back, ok, so if they're parking in the back with the everyday operations and if you brought the others from the other parish they still will adequate parking."

Chairman, Hoover recognizes, Ms. Carol Brian, Mental Health Consultant for the Natchitoches Parish Head Start "I actually think essentially the schools is the very bases where we want the community can feel comfortable and that there is adequate parking and there is a way to have the meetings recorded there on site, and I think if you did ask parents everywhere that they are much more comfortable coming to the school than here, that's my opinion, that's all I wanted to say, it's completely possible that the meeting can be completely comfortable where they are now."

Chairman, Hoover, asked, "Are you connected to Head Start and to make that type of determination?" Ms. Brian, responded, "Yes, I've been the Mental Health consultant for at least 6 years."

Ms. Sylvia Morrow stated she was talking strictly as a citizen of the Jackson Square Community, she began by saying, "I know parents that has students at the Head Start Center and many of them don't have transportation to get down here to this office, and I know the parking is fine, because some of them have been parking at the Ben Johnson, those ones that do have cars, have been parking over there. She felt it would be better for it to be at the site of

Regular Meeting
June 19, 2017

Page 33.

the Head Start Center, makes it Community is orientated and the parents feels comfortable and we have quite few parents that would make it difficult for them to get down here and I do keep up with the scope of everything that's going on in the Community and you have employees from the Office of Parish Government that has a little disgruntlement they don't want to come into the community, but our community is safe, we have policemen that patrol our neighborhood and I think it's a good thing to keep it Policy Council meetings where they are. And I would like to say, you don't have a vote from all of the Policy Council members because some of those members don't come, but you have some that are concerned to keep it there in that community. For years it's been at the school and I think it should stay there, that's me speaking."

Chairman, Hoover asked Ms. Morrow to inform the people because they are lined up around to the judge's office, to see if there's any parents that would like to come in about it, because we certainly want to recognize them there is no room here for them."

Ms. Sharon Harris, began to speak that "The Policy Council meeting is held at the MLK Center, however, I hate to say it, parents, don't come to the meetings, sometimes, or most times, most of our representatives are the community representatives that come to the meetings, however, on the 13th at the meeting the Policy Council voted to move the meetings here for many reasons, they said, the parking was a concern, there is no lightening in the back of the building, at night it's dark, and they mentioned the recording, those are the three items they mentioned at that time, they would come up here to have the recordings done up here, it was only a suggestion they voted upon it that's the reason we brought it to the Council."

Chairman, Hoover, replied, "So Mr. Vance don't come to the Policy Council...at that time Ms. Harris, replied, "We're not talking about Mr. Vance recording." Chairman, Hoover, replied, "But you said, I'm trying to see what you're talking about, oh, audio." Ms. Harris, replied, "Audio for the minutes." Chairman, Hoover, replied, "Audio recordings, let's clear that up."

Ms. Gloria Smith stated she's a member of the Policy Council the reasons why I think we should keep it where it is because it's in the community where the parents are and those parents are in walking distance if they want to come to the meetings, they wouldn't have to worry about transportation, again, they could park in the back, we don't have that many people to worry about parking, it's really not that many people, we have requested, the

Policy Council, to purchase a recorder for that purpose, we've never gotten it. It's not a long process, we requested this back in November, and we have yet to get that recorder, which doesn't cost a lot of money, I mean, so, I don't see an issue with moving the meeting, I think it should be there because our secretary doesn't have a computer to copy or print all that, so Dr. Wade has the responsibility of making sure all that paperwork is done, she stays after work to have it done, so when we have the meeting, we can have what we need. I think since it's a parent program that it should, be there for the parents

Regular Meeting
June 19, 2017

Page 34.

whether they come or not, it's a community project, so it should be in that community." At this time the Parish Attorney wanted to ask a question to Ms. Smith. The Parish Attorney asked, Ms. Smith, "Wasn't you kind enough to walk me to my car after the meeting and I didn't ask, Did, I.? Ms. Smith, responded, "Yes, I did, and of course you didn't." Parish Attorney responded, "Why, did you do that?" Ms. Smith, replied, "You parked way down the streets." Parish Attorney, replied, "At the Ben Johnson." Ms. Smith, "Yes, at the Ben Johnson, but there's sufficient parking in the back, you just chose not to park there, it's not because you couldn't park there, it's where you chose to park."

Ms. Leola Tousant a Head Start Teacher and she believes the Policy Council meeting should continue at the Head Start, just for the Community, it's more convenient at the school and she believes it should remain at the school.

Councilman Rachal wanted to know, "If the Policy Council and Head Start Meeting only represents that one location or they have several other locations?" Ms. Toussaint responded by saying, "They only meet at that one location." Councilman Rachal replied, so you don't believe they wouldn't show up any- where else?" Ms. Tousant replied, "I don't believe they will show up." Councilman Rachal said, "The last question I have was back ago when another committee made a recommendation to take action, we didn't go against them, Why the decision by the Policy Council brought before us to override their decision?"

Councilman Paige, replied, "Want we just send it back to them and let them..." The Parish Attorney explained "It's a combination of the Parish President and Parish Council to have authority on certain things, and this requires an amendment of bylaws and this is why it's with the Council."

Mrs. Catherine Braxton teacher from the Breda Center Head Start wanted to say she contacted her parents and they would like to keep the meeting at the MLK.

At this time Cathy Creamer, wanted to go on record to say, "It was stated Parish employees were the ones that has a problem, Parish employees did not initiate nor have a vote in the Policy Council decision, I just wanted that to be on record. It was not initiated by a Parish employee or was it voted upon by a Parish employee and the vote was 6 to 1 to my recollection. It was presented by a Policy Council member and not an employee."

Ms. Pricilla Nicholas from Campti Head Start want the Council to know the parents and she feels it should remain in the community

at the MLK Head Start Center.

After the discussion

On motion by Councilman de Graffenried and duly seconded by Councilman Russell Rachal, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby approves Resolution 21-2017 from the recommendations of the Head Start Policy Council that the location of its meeting be changed to the Parish Council Board Room on 200 Church Street for the July Meeting.

**Regular Meeting
June 19, 2017**

Page 35.

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

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

Motion Passed

There was confusion on the vote on the time frame of the Resolution so the Parish Attorney again explained the difference between the Ordinance if it was approved and the reason for the Resolution. Then the question came from Ms. Gloria Smith in who added it to the Agenda? because that was not on the original Agenda. Chairman, Hoover, replied, "I don't know." Cathy Creamer, replied, "I don't have my notes with me, but the Agenda was amended to add it on there before it was adopted." Councilman, Paige, replied, "Somebody had to add it." And there was discussion among everyone and Ms. Smith, stated, "I was at the meeting it was not on the agenda, it was a request to add it to the Agenda." Chairman, Hoover, replied, "It was not on the Agenda." Ms. Gloria Smith, replied, it was not on the Agenda two members had a problem with the meeting being there, it was added to the Agenda, and it was someone who requested it to the Agenda, so that person should speak up, I'm giving that person an opportunity." Chairman, Hoover, responded, "They're here?" Ms. Smith, replied, "Yes."

Councilman Paige, said let me just say this many months we sit up here we can undo it, those guys who voted yes for to vote for something silly as this to move them over here for just one month and they go back, come on now."

There was more discussion and then from those discussions the following action was taken.

On motion by Councilman Rodney Bedgood and duly seconded by Councilman Chris Paige, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby reconsiders keeping the Head Start Policy Council meetings at the MLK Head Start.

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

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

Motion Passed

Councilman Rachal, wanted to know since Councilman Chris Paige's wife work for the Head Start should he be able to vote yes should he abstain from voting?

Councilman Paige, replied, "Call the Board of Ethics, I'm I benefiting from it, and I'm not going to pay no \$1,000 for a lawyer to figure that out Russell."

Chairman, Hoover stated the next item on the Agenda was for other Agenda Items:

Council Approval of Settlement/Compromise, and Authorization for the Parish President to sign the Receipt and Release in the

**Regular Meeting
June 19, 2017**

Page 36.

lawsuit captioned Morgan v. Natchitoches Parish Council, et al, currently pending in the 10th JDC, bearing Docket No.87,534-A.

The attorney had already brief Chairman, Hoover this could stay in open meeting, but only limited information could be shared concerning this case and she went on to say the offer was approved and she just need the council final approval for authorization to settle the matter.

On motion by Councilman Chris Paige and duly seconded by Councilman Russell Rachal, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby approve the Parish Attorney authorization to complete the of Settlement/Compromise, and Authorization for the Parish President to sign the Receipt and Release in the lawsuit captioned Morgan v. Natchitoches Parish Council, et al, currently pending in the 10th JDC, bearing Docket No.87,534-A.

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

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

Motion Passed

Chairman, Hoover stated the next item on the Agenda was for other Agenda Items:

Council to consider approving a 1% COLA increase for Head Start Employees in the amount of \$23,048.00.

On motion by Councilman Rodney Bedgood and duly seconded by Councilman Doug de Graffenried, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby approves a 1% COLA increase for Head Start Employees in the amount of \$23,048.00.

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

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

***Councilman Paige, wanted to let the record reflect he's abstaining, because his wife might get \$5.00, Mr. Russell Rachal.

Ayes: Councilman Rachal

Motion Passed

Chairman, Hoover stated the next item on the Agenda was for other

Agenda Items:

Council to consider authorizing the Parish President to solicit Qualification and Experience statements and design, plan development, and construction engineering and inspection work for the hard-surfacing of Hampton Road.

By request of Parish President he would like to have this item tabled.

**Regular Meeting
June 19, 2017**

Page 37.

On motion by Rodney Bedgood and duly seconded by Councilman de Graffenried, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby table Council to consider authorizing the Parish President to solicit Qualification and Experience statements and design, plan development, and construction engineering and inspection work for the hard-surfacing of Hampton Road.

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

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

Motion Passed

Chairman, Hoover stated the next item on the Agenda was for other Agenda Items:

Council to consider awarding contract award to Vector for mosquito control services.

The representative from Vector was there to answer questions concerning Mosquito's and there was a discussion on the cost from the previous years between Council and from those discussions the following action was taken:

On motion by Councilman Doug de Graffenried and duly seconded by

The motion dies for lack of second.

Chairman, Hoover stated the next item on the Agenda was for other Agenda Items:

Council to consider approving Head Start Calendar for the school year 2017-2018 for Natchitoches Parish and DeSoto Parish.

On motion by Rodney Bedgood and duly seconded by Councilman de Graffenried, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby approves Head Start Calendar for the school year 2017-2018 for Natchitoches Parish and DeSoto Parish.

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

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

Chairman, Hoover stated the next item on the Agenda was for other Agenda Items:

Visitors for Non Agenda Items. (3 minutes)

Both Ms. Karen Albernathy and Ms. Debbie Savell was speaking on the same item Monroe Drive both ladies just wanted the Council to know there's a petition that has been form to annex Monroe Road into the

**Regular Meeting
June 19, 2017**

Page 38.

City. And when they found out about it they form a petition to opposed the annexing of the road and they went to the Assessors office it's about 75 or so properties in Monroe subdivision up to the Golf Course to take that too. They have 43 property owners names that are in objection to this annexing of Monroe Road and Subdivision. They didn't know if the Parish Council could do anything about it, but just wanted to let the Council be aware of the fact that they are trying to put them in the City and a majority of them don't want them.

There was discussion concerning this matter between Council, but Parish President made the people aware that it goes in front of the City Council but there is State law and he wasn't going to quote any, but he feels the Parish should get with the City to find out just what their wanting from this. But Both Ms. Karen Albernathy and Ms. Debbie Savell doesn't won't anything to do with it, that's why they live where they live.

Chairman, Hoover stated the next item on the Agenda was for other Agenda Items:

Visitors for Non Agenda Items. (3 minutes)

Ms. Carol Brian she read a letter she sent to the Council, but a shorter version of it to let them know how she felt about the Head Start Program and Dr. April Wade.

Ms. Natalie Ratliff a teacher from Head Start and she wanted to let the Council know there was some concerns about the termination of Dr. Wade and why this was brought forth, but she can say she brought professionalism to the Program, order, leadership and encourage the teachers to support the children and families. She encourage the teachers to touch the lives of the children and not to leave any child left behind, we need a leader like Dr. April Wade for the program.

Ms. Kimberly Smith wanted to let the Council know she started out as a Head Start student a volunteer, parent, teachers Aid and now teacher. She had the pleasure of working with an extraordinary director, Dr. April Wade. She treats them with the up-most respect and has given structure and new guidelines for the children and safety of staff as well. The teachers of MLK, NSU, BREDA, NATCHEZ, CAMPTI, AND MANSFIELD HEAD STARTS looking forward to working with her in the many years to come.

Chairman, Hoover stated the next item on the Agenda was for other Agenda Items:

Mr. Chris Posey-Fire District 1 wanted to know the update on the Fire District on Fire District 1. They had a fire on May 22 the Roge resident in the St. Matthew community the Fire District showed up

there to a structure fire in two pick up trucks designated as brush trucks, now come on, something has to be done to correct this problem. Something just need to be done.

Chairman, Hoover wanted to make sure she understood what Mr. Posey had said about the two pick up trucks, she wanted to know, "Where was the Fire Truck?" Mr. Posey, replied, "To my understanding, I can't say if this true, but I was told this, that their \$250,000 truck they paid for the keys was in a volunteer Fire fighter's pockets and he was out of town, can't 100 percent verify that, but that's what I was told, and you show up to a structural fire in grass trucks, yes they went back to get fire trucks after the fact." Mr. Posey continued to discuss the matter that's happening.

Parish President replied to Mr. Posey by saying, "We have submitted the material to the Legislative Auditor and Department of Ethics, I'm waiting on them, before I give the material over to our District

Regular Meeting

June 19, 2017

Page 39.

Attorney Office for any further action and I feel this is the best way to go and I thank you for letting me know about the fire, because I

didn't know about the two trucks and I'll get with the Chairman and I'll might have to start back attending the meeting, and also check into the tax situation you're talking about I'll get back with the Council after I investigate that."

On motion by Councilman Chris Paige, duly seconded by Councilman Rodney Bedgood, that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby adjourn.

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

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

Since there was no other business the meeting was adjourn:

Attest:

Patsy Ward Hoover,

Chairman

Sheryl Frederick,
Council Clerk