

PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATCHITOCHE PARISH COUNCIL  
PARISH OF NATCHITOCHE, STATE OF LOUISIANA  
TAKEN A REGULAR MEETING HELD, Monday,  
October 16, 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, October 16, 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 Mr. Nettles Brown and the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mr. Jason Dupree.

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

Absent: Chris Paige, but came in after the roll call.

The Parish Council Clerk at this time she would like to add three items to the agenda upon Council approval.

Items are:

1. Council to consider to adopt a Resolution that the Parish has complied with all requirements of the Federal Off-System Bridge Replacement Program.

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 amend the agenda to include to adopt a Resolution that the Parish has complied with all requirements of the Federal Off-System Bridge Replacement Program.

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	<b>Motion Passed</b>

2. Council to consider approval of nominees for HS community Reps.

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 amend the agenda to consider approval of nominees for HS community Reps.

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	<b>Motion Passed</b>

3. Council to consider approving insurance rates for the Parish of Natchitoches for 2018: Jim Sandifer: Health, Life, Dental, Vision, AD&D and Supplemental Life  
Terry Downs: Supplemental Insurance

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 amend the agenda to consider approving insurance rates for the Parish of Natchitoches for 2018: Jim Sandifer: Health, Life, Dental, Vision, AD&D and Supplemental Life  
Terry Downs: Supplemental Insurance

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**

Chairman, Hoover, then recognized Mr. John Barr, Regional Director for Senator John Kennedy he was just visiting and like to stop in to see what is going on within the parishes and to let the Parish President and Council know if they needed any help on the Federal level they would be there to help to provide assistance if needed.

Chairman, Hoover, then recognized Mr. Nettles Brown presently the President of the Natchitoches Parish Port Commission and he wants to thank the Council for letting him serve on the Port Commission. Mr. Brown wanted to make a request to the Parish Council because as Mr. Brown stated, "We are exploring various opportunities to hire and keep good employees and we found to do that we will have to start offering medical Insurance to the employees and we would like to explore getting this through the Parish Council as the Governing Body like the other Governing Bodies do within the Parish. This is something we're wanting to do, but, tonight is only for discussion and to let you know we're wanting to do like the Fire Districts in the Parish."

Parish President replied, "We met previously and we just have to work out the details of it and if the Council decides to do this at another meeting this will be with 100 percent reimbursement to the Parish. They are just going tag along with our group plan."

Councilman Paige, replied, "How many employees are we talking about?" Mr. Brown, replied, "Four(4)employees." Chairman, Hoover, asked, "Is this just at the Port?" Mr. Brown, replied, "Yes, just at the port."

Chairman, Hoover stated the next agenda item we will hear the report of the Public Works Interim Director, Mr. Earl Townsend. Mr. Townsend had already sent his reports to the Council and he wanted the Council to know they're working real hard to get things back the way it should be from Hurricane Harvey. Mr. Townsend wanted to discuss a possibility of closing the limb pit operations on Saturday's. Mr. Townsend explained, "The Limb Pit is not generating a lot of activity on Saturdays. There was a comparison made of the activity within the last 10 months of weekend dumping, and it averaged eight (8) visits per Saturday. Sometimes there is none. The only time if there is a lot

of activity is from storm debris that came through in June and July. I'm asking for Council to consider closing the Limb Pit on Saturday to cut it down on cost."

Chairman, Hoover, then recognizes Ms. Sharon Harris, OCS/Head Start Executive Director, she gave her reports in the Council's packets and wanted to know if they had any questions, comments or concerns on the reports.

Councilman Bedgood wanted to know about the travel for the Head Start. He wanted to know, "Is it common for everyone to get reimbursed for travel? I look back three to four months \$3,000 to \$4,000 every month for travel, "Where do we go?" Ms. Sharon Harris, replied, "Depends on the individuals, Mr. Bedgood, Debbie would have to answer that." Ms. Miley, responded, "Depends on who Mr. Bedgood, you have to give me a little more information, it depends, they do home visits, they had training's, it all depends on who, you need to give me a little more information so I can answer it, I'll be glad to answer I just need a little more information for what you're asking." Mr. Bedgood, replied, "I'm just wondering, I just notice it travel, travel, travel." Ms. Miley, "Several travel back and forth from Mansfield our Health and Safety person and the Director is driving to Mansfield so they would have a lot and for Credit card , it for conferences for their meals and travel, so it's lump together." Ms. Harris wanted to talk about the LIHEAP program. Mr. Harris wanted the Council to know on August 21, 2017 the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program State Plan for the Fiscal Year 2016, an annual on-site review of the agency was conducted. They reviewed 26 2016 Client files, a review of records, and source documentation. The results of the overall performance levels, was rated Satisfactory A for the 2016 LIHEAP Program year. Ms. Harris wanted to inform the Council she only has one person keeping up with and doing all these applications and files. Ms. Harris wanted to inform the Council that each Center has selected a Parent Representative for the Policy Council and Ms. Harris asked was it okay for Mrs. Metoyer to come up and give an update on the upcoming events going on in Head Start such as Head Start Awareness Week.

Mrs. Chriscella Metoyer gave a brief summary on how Head Start began, then she went on to say about the upcoming Head Start Awareness Week. and she hopes each Council member has received an invitation from her office to participate with them and to volunteer their time to read a book and to volunteer their time during Head Start Awareness Week. October 20, 2017, Friday. Sonic on Keyser will be helping to give back to the Head Start if you go there between 4:00 and 8:00pm and make a purchase and mention it's for Head Start and they will donate a portion of their funds to Head Start. Each Head Start Class and teacher, Director and Education Coordinator are asked to create a book and this would be judged on Wednesday. Also on Tuesday a Food Drive will be done and items will be collected and then turned in to help other families in need. Wednesday a Dare Officer will come in and talk about keeping the Peace and Friendship. and Thursday all Head Start centers will participate in a Parade. Ms. Metoyer, again, asked for the Council to come out and participate if they had time in their schedules.

Chairman, Hoover, then recognizes Parish Treasurer Debbie Miley reported that she sent all the reports in the Council packages, the Inmate report, the Budget to review for Introduction and reports for Head Start, Credit Card transactions, all checked written. Ms. Miley asked if there was any questions about anything she sent or anything needed to be explained, besides what Councilman Bedgood asked about concerning the Travel. Ms. Miley also told Councilman Bedgood that on the Credit Card transactions that's Hotels if their names are by it. There weren't any other questions.

Chairman Hoover then recognizes Parish President, Parish President wanted to go over a couple of items on his report.

**CAPITAL OUTLAY UPDATE:**

Parish President gave out a Spreadsheet on Capital Improvements Budget for 2018.

The spread sheet consists of Building and Grounds, and Public Works Highway. Parish President also included a listing of Building Maintenance projects that are in review. Mr. Minturn is working on the Handicap ramp and also working on replacing doors in the bathrooms to be in compliance with ADA.

**Natchitoches Parish Detention Center:**

The NPSO called a meeting last Monday, October 9th, to discuss the financial condition of the Natchitoches Parish Detention Center. For a number of years, funding for the operation has not kept up with expenses. A principal reason is the declining number of state prisoners assigned to the NPDC. Another is the fact that the City and Parish pay a lower daily rate than the state pays. Unless additional inmates are secured, additional revenues are achieved and expenses reduced, there is a danger the NPDC will not be able to operate.

The NPSO, D.A. office, judges and Parish pledged to work together to try to implement actions to save our detention. Its loss would be detrimental to our community and would result in the Parish having to incur additional expenses associated with the placement of its inmates in other detention centers.

**PARISH PERSONNEL:**

Head Start Director: Interviews with the qualified candidates have been conducted. A decision on the person selected is being held until it has been reviewed and approved by the Head Start Regional Office.

Public Work Director: Interviews with qualified candidates are in progress but not yet completed. The plan is to complete the interviews and provide the Parish Council with the committee's appointment for its consideration at the November meeting of the Parish Council.

Parish I.T. Manager: Mr. Kerry Wastlund resigned his position with the Parish effective September 28, 2017, to accept employment elsewhere. Prior to leaving, Kerry prepared extensive notes on the Parish computer systems and the upgrades that are in progress. The Parish is in contact with outside consultants in regard to the setup of the new computer system server and associated tasks. We are also considering the hiring of a replacement for Kerry.

Parish Engineer: The Parish received notice that the Parish Engineer, Mr. Nick Verret, intends to resign his position with the Parish. He has offered to continue his employment for an unspecified period to assist in the transition to a new engineer. During this period, he will make the final revisions to the plans for Coco Bed Road required by the State and to try to complete the plans and specifications for Phase I of the Payne Subdivision project. He does not anticipate being able to complete the design and plan development work for the Hampton Road project.

Chairman, Hoover wanted to know, "How far are we on the Hampton Road project?" Parish President, replied, "We haven't done very much only done the preliminary work." Chairman, Hoover also asked, "How long

has Mr. Verret worked with the Hampton Road Project?" Parish President, replied, "We had the money, I think in the, Spring, of 2016 when we actually got the commitment from the Red River Waterway. I

**Regular Meeting  
October 16, 2017**

**Page 5.**

would have to go back and check, it's a little over a year." Chairman, Hoover, wanted to asked another question, "Do you have any information on the Courthouse Security?" Parish President, replied, "That's one of the projects we have to go back to the State Bond Commission and ask them tie this project to a bond sale, because this particular project wasn't tied to a bond sale."

Councilman, Bedgood, wanted to ask a question, "Instead of us using a Parish Engineer, if you get money and I know it all comes back to us having to match, and you hire a contractor to it, Why can't that contractor furnish the engineer and let him do it? Have it all done at one time, instead of the Parish having to deal with an Engineer and go through all that?"

Parish President replied, "There are some problems and that's is called a Design Build Project, under the State law only certain type of projects are certain type of large projects you are allowed to Design Build that way. The State as a general rule would not allow you to advertise a construction project for bid until the plans have been approved by the State, so you have to divide it into two contracts and Engineer contract and a Construction contract. You would have to go the State and try to get the project approved and mostly the Design Build is major Bridge projects." Councilman Bedgood discussed this was the way the pipeline done their work, but Parish President, replied, "That's private money and you kind of make your own rules in how you want to handle it."

At this time Chairman, Hoover wanted to recognize two visitors from New York, that were filming our meeting, she explained they were doing some documentary in Natchitoches and asked could they sit in our the Parish Council meeting, Chairman, Hoover welcomed them to Natchitoches Parish.

Chairman, Hoover stated the next item to adopt the minutes of the regular meeting of the Natchitoches Parish Council held Monday, September 18, 2017.

On motion by Councilman Russell Rachal, duly seconded by, Councilman Rodney Bedgood that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby adopt the minutes of the regular meeting of the Natchitoches Parish Council held Monday, September 18, 2017.

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

Ayes:	Councilman Rachal	
Ayes:	Councilman Bedgood	
Ayes:	Councilman de Graffenried	
Ayes:	Councilwoman Hoover	
Ayes:	Councilman Paige	<b>Motion Passed</b>

Chairman, Hoover stated next agenda item is to go ahead and take care of the amendment to the Agenda at that time, before going into the Appointments of Boards and Commissions. If that's okay with the other members. They all agreed.

Chairman, Hoover read, Council to adopt a resolution that the parish has complied with all requirements of the federal Off-System Bridge Replacement Program.

On motion by Councilman Russell Rachal, duly seconded by, Councilman

Rodney Bedgood that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby adopt a resolution that the parish has complied with all requirements of the federal Off-System Bridge Replacement Program.

**Regular Meeting**  
**October 16, 2017**

**Page 6.**

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	<b>Motion Passed</b>

Chairman, Hoover stated next agenda item is Council to consider the approval of nominees for HS community reps.

Parish President went to explain he advertise according to the Head Start bylaws the Grantee would provide the Policy Council with members and they can select up to four people so only four people has sent in an application so the Policy Council can select one, two, three or all four, it's upon the Policy Council for approval.

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 consider the approval of nominees for HS community reps.

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

Ayes:	Councilman Rachal	
Ayes:	Councilman de Graffenried	
Ayes:	Councilman Bedgood	
Ayes:	Councilman Paige	
Nayes:	Councilwoman Hoover	<b>Motion Passed</b>

Chairman, Hoover stated next agenda item is Council to consider approving insurance rates for the Parish of Natchitoches for 2018: Jim Sandifer: Health, Life, Dental, Vision, AD&D and Supplemental Life, Terry Downs: Supplemental Insurance.

On motion by Councilman Russell Rachal, duly seconded by, Councilman Bedgood, but at that time, Mrs. Cathy Creamer, wanted to explain, she needed an actual selection to be voted on. She needs the actual plan to be voted on. At this time, Councilman, de Graffenried, replied, "I don't mean to be critical, but for us to make a decision like that, we need more than this, we need to know what the policy is, the deductibles are, what the limits are, sorry, this doesn't cut it." Mrs. Creamer, explained, "It's just the renewal of the current plan." Councilman, de Graffenried, replied, "It still doesn't cut it." Mrs. Creamer, replied, "okay." Both Councilman de Graffenried, and Chairman, Hoover wanted this item to be tabled. Chairman, Hoover, asked for a motion to table and at this time, Councilman Paige wanted to know, "By tabling this will this hinder the insurance?" Both Chairman, Hoover and Councilman de Graffenried, said, "No". Mrs. Creamer replied, "The only problem if you table this Blue Cross and Blue Shield has come in a matched our Dental, Vision, and AD & D and Supplemental Life, and if we switch to Blue Cross for those because we already have Blue Cross for our Health it will also take care of our COBRA that we're paying United Health Care right now, and if we do switch, our next meeting is not until November 20, and that's the week of Thanksgiving, and all of Head Start will be out, and we have to have the enrollment information to Blue Cross and Blue Shield the very first week in December in order to get Insurance cards by the

first of January; so we'll have like four days to enter them on everybody and create a spreadsheet to get them enrolled." Councilman, Paige, had some questions, "I see a significant difference about \$500 difference in that and I really

**Regular Meeting**  
**October 16, 2017**

**Page 7.**

haven't had time to really look over it, but, I do think some more explaining need to be done before we talk about it tonight or whenever, I would like to understand about things before I vote on it."

Mrs. Creamer, replied, "My apologies, for that, the only rates that was received for renewal of our current plans which is the \$500 deductible with Blue Cross, United Health Care won't quote us because we haven't been away from them twenty four (24) months and everybody else declined to quote us on Medical and that our major ones, so our only option is to pretty much renew medical, the other four are our smaller insurance's and we have MetLife and Guardian that came in with quotes, but they won't take care of our COBRA and if we leave United Health Care they won't take care of our COBRA either and in order for Blue Cross and Blue Shield to take care of our COBRA they have all of them approved, they have to have all of our services. Again, I apologized for the way the material was sent, I thought it was clear, it's my mistake." And Mrs. Creamer went on to explain about the Dental policies and then Councilman, Doug de Graffenried, questioned the types of policies. Councilman, Doug de Graffenried wanted Mrs. Creamer to give the Council pertinent information to make intelligent decisions, and the Council has the right to call a special meeting before the November 20th meeting to make sure she's not rushed and they're not rushed. Mrs. Cathy Creamer, explained "We are rushed, we had to write a specific letter asking the Insurance to even quote us and we asked to have it by the 13th and we just received it, and that's why it's in the format that you have, because we just received it ourselves." Chairman, Hoover replied, "Cathy, that's why I spoke to Ms. Debbie on Wednesday, too asked not to put it on the Agenda at this time, so we would have the opportunity to review and she said at that time we could wait until the next month." Mrs. Creamer, replied, "Yes, ma'am, but she didn't realize the meeting wasn't until November 20th the week of Thanksgiving and Head Start was out."

Parish President replied, "I think the Councilman points is well taken, we have rates here and there is only one company giving us a quote for Medical and that's our current provider is Blue Cross and that's a pretty easy decision, the problem is if you don't use your insurance a lot you can't remember, I think if we can get the information to the Council by early November it will still give you time and the Council time to make an intelligent decision. If they table it tonight they would call a special meeting early, November to make those decisions." Councilman, Doug de Graffenried, went on to explain they have many questions and we need to have conversations on what the people is getting for their money and then Councilman Rachal had questions, and then Chairman, Hoover, invited Mr. Terry Downs to help explain the policies and he went on to explain, about a policy and then Mrs. Creamer, stopped him, because he was explaining the wrong plan. Mrs. Creamer apologized again, and explained the correct plan. After all the discussion, the Council finally made a decision to table it.

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 table approving insurance rates for the Parish of Natchitoches for 2018: Jim Sandifer: Health, Life, Dental, Vision, AD&D and Supplemental Life, Terry Downs: Supplemental Insurance and calling a special meeting

before the regular November 20th meeting so it won't be any delays with processing the Parish insurance's.

**Regular Meeting  
October 16, 2017**

**Page 8.**

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

Ayes:	Councilman de Graffenried	
Ayes:	Councilman Bedgood	
Ayes:	Councilman Rachal	
Ayes:	Councilman Paige	
Ayes:	Councilwoman Hoover	<b>Motion Passed</b>

Chairman, Hoover stated next agenda item consider adopting a resolution confirming re-appointment/appointments to the following boards/commissions

Confirmation of Mr. Richard Stampley for re-appointment to the Natchitoches Parish Fire District 6 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 Confirm Mr. Richard Stampley for re-appointment to the Natchitoches Parish Fire District 6 Board.

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	<b>Motion Passed</b>

Chairman, Hoover stated next agenda item:

**First Introduction of proposed Ordinances.**

- A. Council to approve the Introduction Of Ordinance #025-2017 a budget for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2018 and ending December 31, 2018 and making appropriations for each Department, Project, and Account.

On motion by, Councilman Russell Rachal duly seconded by, Councilman Doug de Graffenried that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby approve the Introduction Of Ordinance #025-2017 a budget for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2018 and ending December 31, 2018 and making appropriations for each Department, Project, and Account.

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	<b>Motion Passed</b>

Chairman, Hoover stated next agenda item:

**Public Hearings:       None**

Chairman, Hoover stated next agenda item:

**Action on Proposed Ordinances: None**

**Regular Meeting**

**October 16, 2017**

**Page 9.**

Chairman, Hoover stated next agenda item:

**Resolutions:**

Council to approve Resolution requesting a Legislative Audit. At this time Chairman, Hoover reads the Resolution from the Council members who turned information in to create this Resolution. At the time Ms. Carolyn Roy wanted to know if Chairman, Hoover, "Could you assign names to each complaint? and why it's not stated in the Resolution?" Chairman, Hoover, replied, "Well, Ms. Carolyn, I don't know whether we can or not, we have an Attorney in the house, but the Council members gave what they wanted to go to the Auditor and I don't think that the names are even necessary, I really don't think it's necessary for the names. All the Council members except Mr. de Graffenried sent in, he's the only person that didn't send anything in. Does that satisfy you a little bit?" "Not really", replied, Ms. Roy.

Councilman Paige, replied, "I think the Legislative Auditor would want to know each." Ms. Carolyn Roy, replied, "This is a public issue and I don't understand why each can't identify their parts it is in a form of a resolution."

Councilman de Graffenried, asked for the attorney to explain what needs to happen concerning the specificity and charges, it's like throwing "spaghetti against the wall" to see if it will stick. The Parish Attorney, responded, by saying, "Sir, I'm inclined to agree with you, I did point that out in a letter that I mailed out to everyone after the last meeting and I included a copy of the original resolution, that was typed by Sheryl back in April and I made some notes on it, in terms of does it apply to the Charter and specificity of letting people know and if you want to go on and send this to the Legislative Auditor it will be in their discretion to accept it or reject it." Councilman, Paige asked, "Is there a time limit to send a request for 2008 it's about 10 years ago?" Chairman, Hoover, responded, to say, "I do want to say, I spoke to Mr. Cryer, in the Legislative office and he did say he would come to Natchitoches and speak with all the Council members individually that we can do what we wanted to do by Resolution or written, but he will get with us, and Mr. Nowlin, on the day that he can come and speak to the Council and there is a time frame in which you can file and you can't go back to 2008 or 2012 and we're under a new form of Government and if it was any problems with the Police Jury it should had taken place prior to coming into this form of Government."

Councilman, Rachal, replied, "Madame Chair, Didn't he tell you that five (5) years were the window? Chairman, Hoover, replied, "Yes, he did." Councilman, Rachal, replied, "2012 would have been 5 years." Carolyn Roy, ask, "Does the Council have any objections to saying which is their complaint?" Chairman, Hoover replied, "That's their call." Councilman, Paige, replied, "Carolyn, I think I submitted dealing with the time frame we was dealing with I had a serious question of the Transportation Act. The money that people was requesting work to be done on their roads was

falling on deaf ear time and time again and I know

**Regular Meeting  
October 16, 2017**

**Page 10.**

there are laws on the books that when someone asks for some road work to be done on their road we should not just ignore it, and who was supposed to do the work, I'm not sure of all the questions that was put out there tonight, but I do know that was one area I had great concern with and I even called the Legislative Auditor and talked myself about the fairness of the time frame when an individual requests some work to be done in their area and how can they not be ignored because they do pay taxes." The other Councilmen didn't comment. Ms. Debbie wanted to say, "I have a problem, because I would like to know who thinks that anyone else in the Finance Department stole money? When you did not come to us and haven't asked us for any information you assuming no one has every darken the door back in 1984 we been written up for internal controls over spending, we gave Head Start \$283,000 no one called the Legislative Auditor then, nobody; so yes, I have a problem, I sure do, because you're putting a mark on myself and my department and I think it's unfair and I think somebody should say who wants to know whether I stole money or anyone in my Department stole money? Tell me? I have a right to know that. If you're big enough to say it, and put it on paper, you're big enough to tell me who it is and why you think that way when you didn't come to anyone or Mr. Nowlin, and ask us. I have checks with the person who stole the money, I have them signed, Do you?" Chairman, Hoover, asked are we ready for the vote, at this time Ms. Miley stated, "I want this on record since 1984, I have a copy here 17 out of those years also the Legislative Auditor wanted the parish investigated for bid laws, I want that put on record, and also the minutes of the meeting that we discussed the person who stole the money, they were told, Assess list, job descriptions and credentials."

Parish President, wanted to follow up on the Treasurer's comments. "We did have a little while back an employee who actually stole some money and we found the evidence of it and we turned it to the Sheriffs Department and it's still an active case and we did discuss that with the Parish Council in an Executive Meeting at the Council meeting."

Chairman, Hoover asked for a motion for the Resolution to be sent to the Legislative Auditor's. Ms. Miley, replied, "I would expect an apology when all this is done, in writing, in the paper." The Council Clerk wanted to know since this was done in 2016 was they still going with all the old things that has now been corrected? The Parish Attorney replied, "The attorney stated, this will answer Ms. Roy question and the Clerks, the first time I saw this Resolution in writing was back in March or April of 2017 and I reviewed it with the September 2016 meeting minutes and Ms. Hoover I wrote you a letter to that effect and this Resolution does not align up with the minutes, so if it's going to be sent down to the Legislative Auditor Office it needs to be voted in its entirety as it's written here for Council consideration today so everyone needs to know exactly what they're voting on tonight."

Ms. Roy wanted the Parish Attorney to repeat what she had said

and she did and the Attorney stated it should say by 2/3 votes and not majority in the last paragraph of the Resolution.

**Regular Meeting  
October 16, 2017**

**Page 11.**

Councilman Paige said I don't have problem with making the motion.

On motion by, Councilman Chris Paige duly seconded by, No second, the So this Resolution dies for a lack of second.

Chairman, Hoover stated next agenda item:

**Other Agenda Items:**

Council to consider authorizing the Purchasing Agent to seek sealed bid proposals for materials and supplies for the Parish Highway, Solid Waste and Head Start Departments.

On motion by, Councilman Rodney Bedgood duly seconded by, Councilman Doug de Graffenried that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby authorize the Purchasing Agent to seek sealed bid proposals for materials and supplies for the Parish Highway, Solid Waste and Head Start Departments.

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

Ayes:	Councilman Bedgood	
Ayes:	Councilman de Graffenried	
Ayes:	Councilman Paige	
Ayes:	Councilman Rachal	
Ayes:	Councilwoman Hoover	<b>Motion Passed</b>

Chairman, Hoover stated next agenda item:

Council to consider authorizing the Parish President to award the contract for right-of-way appraisals for the upcoming Federal Bridge Replacement projects on Clark Road, Good Hope Road, and Robeline-Provencal Road to JDM Services, Inc., of Alexandria, LA.

On motion by, Councilman Rodney Bedgood duly seconded by, Councilman Russell Rachal that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby authorize the Parish President to award the contract for right-of-way appraisals for the upcoming Federal Bridge Replacement projects on Clark Road, Good Hope Road, and Robeline-Provencal Road to JDM Services, Inc., of Alexandria, LA.

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

Ayes:	Councilman Bedgood	
Ayes:	Councilman Rachal	
Ayes:	Councilman Paige	
Ayes:	Councilman de Graffenried	
Ayes:	Councilwoman Hoover	<b>Motion Passed</b>

Chairman, Hoover stated next agenda item:

Council to consider a discussion on private business/owners dumping into the Parish Landfill for free or for a small fee, but getting paid by residents to dispose of garbage/curbside.

check for dumping the debris, but for my understanding, and I'm asking for clarification on this when someone goes into the Landfill a haul ticket is made for who dumps it, then at the end of the month or whenever, for my understanding we have to pay a compactor fee and then haul it to Many Landfill. That's when the question arose. My question is, Can someone pay a \$5.00 a year permit fee if they are getting paid by residents and that's their nature of business that's their living, and we have paid them to dispose it and they aren't putting any "skin in the game" up front when they're dumping for a Parish resident, but when I haul trash from my residents and I dump in the Parish, I dump for free and when I go to someone else home and carry their trash off and if I don't have them in the vehicle with me or if I don't fill out the form then I have to pay to dump that trash is that correct?"

Parish President responded, by saying, "I'll take a run at it, The question is, If an individual brings refuse from my house and take it to the landfill and I live in the Parish and they're hauling on the person's behalf, Would that person have to pay? Some people don't won't fool with it, they're unable, they don't have a trailer or truck or they're not physically able to bring refuse their so they pay people to bring their garbage to the Landfill for them. They already paid the fee to dump it, and they're paying additional fees for these people to haul it for them. Mr. Townsend correct me if I'm wrong, I thought we had to verify the source, the origin of the trash in order for them to dump it at no charge." Mr. Townsend, answered, "They have a form they have to fill out and the reason the form was created because a lot of time both parties work the man and woman holds down a job so they hire someone to do it, and as long as we have a way of going back to determine if that came from that particular address and came out the Parish, that what we try to do with the form rather than someone being in the vehicle." Councilman, Rachal, replied, "I understand , helping a neighbor, just being a good neighbor, but someone is in the business of hauling trash for hire and they pay a \$5.00 a year permit fee and it cost us dispose of it and they don't pay anything because it didn't come from their resident, they don't have a form from every resident, that's my question. It cost us over \$3,000 a month, it's costing us."

Councilman, Paige begins to say, "Upon this type of service two or three of them, under the Police Jury form of government we looked at it that they were collecting Parish trash and doing business a service by doing that because you had the tax in place. Those people couldn't go to the dump so they wanted it more convenient at their homes it's never had been a problem if those individually that does that service has to increase rates for those people they will have some problems and they was doing the Parish a favor of collecting the trash so it wouldn't be all down the road, you had a lot of people dumping trash in the ditches and all up and down the road and one time we had crews to go out and get it out of some of these secluded areas and they just created dump sites throughout this Parish. They said since there are some people already in the market and they were brought in and its somewhere on documents in this courthouse." The

Chairman, asked, "So they're Grandfather in?" Councilman, Paige, replied, "That's how they always done that."

**Regular Meeting  
October 16, 2017**

**Page 13.**

Councilman, de Graffenried, replied, "So, if these good Samaritans are at the dump and they're dumping a limb off of their trailer and they fall and break their arm, Who is liable for the broken arm?" The Chairman asked him to explain himself and the Councilman, de Graffenried, repeated what he said, and asked, Who are liable for the accident? The Chairman, tried to explain, but then she called upon Mr. Wolfe, and then Mr. Paul Waldrup came to the podium. Mr. Waldrup, answered Councilman, de Graffenried question, Mr. Waldrup, replied, "If we slip or fall it will be our responsibility and it will not fall on the Jury or Parish Government to pay off anything." Councilman, de Graffenried, then asked other questions like, Do you have Workman's Comp and Mr. Waldrup replied, "No". and then Councilman Paige, ask, "How long have you been doing this for the Parish?" and Mr. Waldrup answered, "Thirty One years." and Mr. Waldrup asked if anyone else had any more questions. Councilman, Rachal, replied, "I don't have any questions, It doesn't matter how long we've been doing something a certain way, once we find out that's not the way we suppose to be doing business, we need to see about doing it the right way, and I have a problem, not because of who it is, but because of the method how we're doing it, just because it's been done for years and years don't make it right to do, it's costing the taxpayers money and we're not getting nothing back in return to offset that cost and I have a major problem with that."

Chairman, Hoover stated next agenda item:

Council to consider authorizing the submittal of Capital Outlay Projects to the State for funding.

Parish President explained he gave out a spreadsheet of the Capital Outlay Projects that have already been submitted to Capital Outlay for the last 3 years and projects was added from time to time. Councilman, Bedgood, replied, "I don't want to fool with this, it's just a waste of time." and Councilman, Paige, replied, "I just be glad when just one project is done, and I'm so sick and tired of talking about this." All Councilmen wanted to just leave as is.

On motion by, Councilman Rodney Bedgood duly seconded by, Councilman Russell Rachal that the Natchitoches Parish Council, in regular and legal session, does hereby authorize the Parish President to submit the Capital Outlay Projects as is to the State for funding.

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

Ayes:	Councilman Bedgood	
Ayes:	Councilman Rachal	
Ayes:	Councilman Paige	
Ayes:	Councilman de Graffenried	
Ayes:	Councilwoman Hoover	<b>Motion Passed</b>

Chairman, Hoover stated next agenda item:

**Visitors for Non Agenda Items. (3 minutes)**

Chairman, Hoover stated next agenda item:

**Regular Meeting**  
**October 16, 2017**

**Page 14.**

**Executive Session:** Personnel Matter: Concerning raises.

At this time Ms. Roy wanted to be recognized and object to going into Executive Session on grounds that raises are not subject for Executive Session. Financial matters are not grounds, and she talked with the District Attorney's Office concerning this. The Parish Attorney was recognized and responded, "I'm inclined to agree with Ms. Roy, and agreed raises for Personnel is done with public money, public money is a matter of business for this Council to discuss in an open meeting if you have any specific issues with the performance of any specific Department Head that is a matter of business for this Council to consider and it can be done in Executive Session, if the employee didn't waive their rights for privacy. This item of business Personnel Matters: Concerning raises should be conducted in an open meeting and I do believe Mr. Harrington sent you a letter to that effect." Chairman, Hoover, replied, "I did receive a letter somewhere in here today, just before the meeting, but the Council wanted to talk about some raises that was given, and if it can be open, Mr. Rachal wanted it to go into Executive Session." at that time, Councilman, Paige, replied, "Chris Paige, didn't want to go into Executive Session," Chairman, Hoover, replied, "Yes, You did say, No, but Mr. Rachal wanted us to go into Executive Session, that there were some things he wanted to say during the Executive Session and this is why we're having an Executive Session." At this time the Parish Attorney told the Council she had received a call from the clerk about the Executive Session she explained and told the clerk how it should be done. and Chairman, Hoover said, "You told her to put the names the names on the agenda?" and the Parish Attorney said that's correct the agenda has to be state each item with specificity." and the Chairman, Hoover, replied, "And with person names." and Parish Attorney replied, "Yes and with that person's job and they are entitled to a letter notifying them." Chairman, Hoover, replied, " A letter was sent to them, and again, Mr. Rachal said we needed to go into Executive Session, and I respect the Council, when they call and say, they want an Executive Session to talk about a matter of business, I did that, as a matter of fact, he requested that the District Attorney be here and I did in fact call the District Attorney upon his request to be in our Executive Session." Councilman, Rachal wanted to respond to that, "I did originally make a suggestion that we go into Executive Session because, I was under the impression you had to list people's names that was going to be considered for these items of concerned, with this being said, I know if we had to mention their names, totally understand that we had to give them a chance to leave it open or close it if we was going to discuss them in open meeting by name. I didn't say, I wanted it, I said I want to be sure we didn't have to do that. If we don't have to go into Executive Session, I'm okay with to leave it open." Councilman, Paige, replied, "You just don't go into Executive Session just because you want to." At this time, Chairman, Hoover was saying what Mr. Rachal wanted to do because he had something to say and at the

same time Ms. Carolyn Roy was saying she still was objecting into going into Executive Session and she wanted to be on the record. So Chairman, Hoover, repeated what Ms. Roy stated that we can't go into Executive Session about the raises. Councilman, Chris Paige, wanted to say something, "When the Parish Council voted when the committee went out a gave the Salary Range which is in the Policy Manual and within that structure and if an individual receives that pay raise within that range which is given the President do have the authority to place that individual within that structure, now I think the letter that came out to the Council members if you had any objections get into contact with him, I have no further discussion about this matter, I would like to move on to number 14 and get out of here." Chairman, Hoover, replied, "I do have something to say. I have no objection to the two persons who received their raise, what I have a problem with is that how the raise was given without the Council approval and I'm still concerned about page 14, Attorney Shantel, Home Rule Charter that states that the Council is to approve Department Heads, Administrative upon the Council approval, the President makes the recommendations and we approve it and I talked to many of the persons who wrote the Home Rule Charter and they said that the Home Rule Charter was written for the Council to approve the Department Heads and Administration." Ms. Cory Pool asked questions concerning, How many others got raises? Chairman, Hoover replied, "There has been numerous persons who has gotten raises without the Council knowing about them." Councilman Rachal, responded, by saying, "I don't have a problem with anyone seeking out a raise I just wanted to ask the question about getting a letter in the middle of the month saying you're going to make it retro beginning the first of the month and we have 30 days from the day of the appointment when it should have been done in a meeting and giving us due notice after the fact, that's what I was wanting to ask a question about." Parish Attorney responded by reading page 14 section 4-01 in the Home Rule Charter and then she read section B. She said both parties are not happy Council and Administration she assured them. Parish Attorney, stated, "I advised Mr. Nowlin, to notify the Council so you guys could act within 30 days because since it's within the 30 day window the appropriate agenda item would be consideration of the raise of the Department Head and then the Council has the opportunity to vote in favor of it or against it and the employee would or wouldn't get their raise and this was addressed in a June 19 opinion that I wrote and an October 12 opinion letter from Mr. Harrington in your file and my June letter was attached to it." Parish Attorney again read to the Council from page 14 section 4-02. Chairman, Hoover, then went to say, "We did get the opinions at the beginning of the meeting and we always ask if the District Attorney has anything for this Council it comes to us before we get here to handle parish business." Parish Attorney, replied, "I understand that's your preference, but that's not what the charter says." and Parish attorney read what the charter said, and Chairman, Hoover said you're saying you can drop in and give the Council at any time at the DA discretion what you want at any given time. Parish Attorney said, "I'm not sure what you're meaning about at the DA discretion,

but this raise was given by the Parish President." Chairman, Hoover said, "I was talking about the information, which you brought to us at 5:15." Parish Attorney, replied, "I did no such thing, and Parish Attorney asked, the clerk when it was brought to her. The Clerk replied, "Friday, afternoon and I time stamped it and put into their folders." Chairman, Hoover, replied, "We just got it today." Councilman, Bedgood, replied, "You want me to read it?" Chairman, Hoover replied, "Have you read it, since you been here?" Councilman, Bedgood, replied, "Yes, I read, it do you want me to read it to you?" Chairman, Hoover, replied, "I haven't had the opportunity to." Parish Attorney told Councilman, Bedgood, sure go right ahead and read it. Councilman Rachal wanted to know, "When the 30 days begin when we received the letter or the retro date of September 1 or is it passed the date since its October 16?" Parish Attorney, replied, "Whatever the date of the letter, your days starts ticking from that date." Councilman, Rachal, replied, "That's what I'm need to know because if it's from the date of appointment, well, we didn't object, it would go to September 1 and I didn't want to be out of that window because we didn't have any discussion on it." Parish Attorney, replied, "The purpose of the notice is to allow the Council to act within 30 days and there is a procedure if the raise is not given there is a procedure the Parish must follow to recoup the money." Ms. Cory Pool asks if these raises was given because of annual reviews or simply because the employee asked for them? Parish President replied, "The Department Head under question is was from the bases of a formal evaluation of a written evaluation and the other employee was an Evaluation done by his Department Head." Ms. Poole asked, "How many other employees have received formal reviews to be given raises?" Parish President, replied, "Since when? It's normal procedure to for us to try to give periodic reviews of all our people from time to time, evaluation is not just to give raises, it lets the employee know exactly how they're performing and things they need to work on, sometimes it's a merit increase and sometimes it's letting them know where there are if they need improvements." Councilman Paige, "I think this boils down to Day to Day Operations and we have nothing to do with that." Chairman, Hoover stated, when he talks about Evaluations, Ms. Frederick's, he called me and ask me because of the Evaluation, and the Parish President wanted me to give her a raise, and I said no, we couldn't do it." Ms. Roy wanted to know if the money was in the budget for the two raises and there was discussion between Ms. Roy, Parish President, and Parish Attorney, but at the same time, Councilman Bedgood, told the Chairman, he moves that we adjourn, and the Chairman, said, no, and Councilman, de Graffenried, said it was a motion to adjourn and a second was on the floor and you can't debate and you can't talk and the Chairman, replied, "I can talk." and Councilman, de Graffenried, said this supersedes everything, check Robert Rules of Order you have to entertain the motion.

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

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

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

**Motion Passed**

Since there was no other business the meeting was adjourn:

Attest:

Chairman

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

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