

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATCHITOCHE PARISH COUNCIL**  
**PARISH OF NATCHITOCHE, STATE OF LOUISIANA**  
**TAKEN A SPECIAL MEETING HELD, Monday,**  
**October 29, 2018**  
**7:00 p.m.**

The Natchitoches Parish Council met in special and legal session in the Parish Council Board Room of the Natchitoches Parish Courthouse, on Monday, October 01, 2018 for a special Natchitoches Parish Council meeting at five-thirty (5:30) o'clock p.m.

The Parish of Natchitoches was then convened as the governing authority by -Chairman Rodney Bedgood who stated that the Parish was ready for the transaction of business.

The invocation was given by Vice-Chairman Doug de Graffenried and the Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilman Russell Rachal.

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

Absent: Patsy Hoover.

There wasn't any special guests or presentations.

Chairman Bedgood stated we need to enter into a Public Hearing.

To open up the Public Hearing:

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 public hearing for both agenda items:

- A. Council to consider Adoption of Ordinance 022-2018 for the creation of Road District No. 1 of the Parish of Natchitoches.
- B. Council to consider Adoption of Ordinance 023-2018 for the creation of Road District No. 2 of the Parish of Natchitoches.
- C. Council to consider Adoption of Ordinance 024-2018 for the creation of Road District No. 3 of the Parish of Natchitoches.
- D. Council to consider Adoption of Ordinance 025-2018 for the creation of Road District No. 4 of the Parish of Natchitoches.
- E. Council to consider the Adoption of Ordinance #028-2018 to create a sale tax district 2 within the Parish of Natchitoches, State of Louisiana (the Parish) containing all or any portion of the territory contained within the present boundaries of the Parish.

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

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

**Motion Passed**

**Discussion:**

- A. Council to consider Adoption of Ordinance  
022-2018 for the creation of Road District No. 1 of the  
Parish of Natchitoches.

Councilman, de Graffenried, asked if there was any copies of the maps of the road districts. Parish President only had one copy with him, and he passed that one around. Parish President then continued by giving a summary of each District and what area they represent. He begins by saying, "District 1, Ward 1, is the area around the City, and excluding the City. District 2, is all the area on the other side of Red River, District 3 is to the west and Southwest and District 4 is down Cane River and across Flora in that area."

Councilman, Chris Paige wanted to know the purpose of creating the Road Districts. Councilman, Paige, said, "People ask me, why you're creating Road Districts, we just want you to go out and fix the roads. That's what they feel, not being done, that's what they tell, me."

Parish President, replied, "That's a good question. In order to fix the roads, we got to have resources to fix the roads, and one way of doing that is through an Ad Valorem Tax and in order to put an Ad Valorem Tax on the Ballot you have to define the Districts to be subject to the tax, you can make it Parish Wide or you can make it by Districts."

Councilman, Rachal, asked, "If it pass, it will only be in the rural area and not in the City, not any property in the City, Correct?" Parish President, replied, "No, Road District 1, will include all of Ward 1, except that property that is currently inside the City of Natchitoches." Councilman, Rachal, replied, "Front Street, is in the Parish of Natchitoches, right?" Parish President, replied, "The whole City is in the Parish of Natchitoches, but with the road district, there not included." Councilman, Rachal, responded, "Can we draw something up to include them?" Parish President, replied, "You could." Councilman, Paige, replied, "This is you guys thing, as far as I'm concerned, you can stay in the public hearing or go out of public hearing, it's up to you fellows." Parish President, stated, "If we include the City of Natchitoches, the millage rate would drop, because you have more property included, if you ever decide to put a tax on the ballot the rate can be lower, because of the City of Natchitoches has quite amount of appraised value also."

There was further discussion on this. Councilman, Rachal stated, "There is only 54 percent of the people in this Parish is covered under 100 percent of Homestead Exemption, that means the 40 something percent is paying some and 100 percent of the new taxes, and I guarantee the chances of this passing and the City not having in "skin in it", is not going to fly. And I will not support for that reason." Parish President, replied, "You may be correct, the vast majority of taxes is not paid by individuals, but by businesses and pipeline companies and utility companies, I think about 20 percent of property taxes is paid by individuals."

Parish President continued talking about the Road District Taxes, and then begins to speak about the Sales District Tax, which will include everyone except the Town of Campti and the City of Natchitoches. With Sales Tax everyone pays if you buy taxable items anywhere in the Parish, people who passes through will pay the Sales Tax. Councilman, Rachal, replied, "That's the only fair tax it is, if it's a tax."

Chairman, Bedgood, went on to read all of the Agenda items that was listed under the Public Hearing part, and after that was concluded.

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 close public hearing for the above agenda items:

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

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

**Motion Passed**

Chairman, Bedgood stated next agenda is Action Taken.

Chairman, Bedgood, begins to say, "I wished I could say, I've talked to many people, and I'm for trying to get something, I tell you, it doesn't look good, just about everyone I talked to saying, they wasn't voting for anyone of it." Councilman, Paige responded, "You, know how I feel about it, and I never shied away from it and merely from the standpoint, I've been sitting here 8 years solidly about Payne Subdivision, where we went from 1.0 million dollars down to a half a million dollars now, and no work has been done, it doesn't take that long to do the little work out there. It's not me personally, but I would take a hand full of you all right now, let's go knock on some doors right now in Payne Subdivision, lets go to Campti and various other places and they welcome to tell you, that's there no way and it's not me, that's the situation, I've talked until I'm blue in the face over Payne Subdivision." Councilman, de Graffenried, responded, "You also have people around Sibley Lake has been waiting for us to actually pass this and you also have the City of Natchitoches that is waiting for us to see what we're going to do with Ward 1 because they're going to suck Sibley Lake just right into the City limits." Councilman, Paige, replied, "You can't stop that anyway, How can you stop an annexation they can do what the devil they want to do." Councilman, de Graffenried, "You fix their road, Chris, and I want I'm going to suggest is, Can we do it, can we agree that we can do and experiment and pass Road District 1 because that's primarily Ward 1 we talked about that one has the best chances of passing and we go ahead and kill the other ones and we go ahead a let the road get fixed if the taxpayers pass the tax." Councilman, Bedgood, replied, "I'm not for that," and before he finished Councilman, de Graffenried, replied, Oh, Well...." and Councilman, Bedgood, replied, "I know you want it, you have already got all the roads fixed your way. How many roads you got fixed up to Sibley Lake already, go ahead and tell me?" Councilman, de Graffenried, replied, "I don't represent Sibley Lake, that's not my District." Councilman, Bedgood, said, "I didn't say I wasn't for it, I'm saying, what people are saying, I voted every time to put it on the ballot and let the people speak." Councilman, de Graffenried, "Let's let them speak, let put it on the ballot." Councilman, Paige, "We haven't let them speak, I've been down here years, and we never had this many people come to speak in that Courtroom and we missed the opportunity to have an intelligent discussion about the form of Government and taxes and other things, but people are not going to sit here and we deny them." and at this time, Councilman, de Graffenried, stated, "No, Chris Paige, you didn't have the opportunity to have an intelligent discussion we had the opportunity to listen to people you gotten on the phone and stirred them up." Councilman, Paige, replied, "I didn't call anyone on no phone," Councilman, de Graffenried, replied, "Bull Shenanigans." Councilman, Paige, "You can call bull all you want, I'm telling you now, I grant you, let me tell you something, they never had recalls in some areas or other things that are happening, never in this community, I'm not going to sit here and vote against the people of my District and this is what they're telling me and I tell you what, you live in the City limits so this doesn't concern you, but Bedgood and Rachal, those people are solidly against it what is going on down here." Councilman, de Graffenried, replied, "Is that your scientific survey?" Councilman Paige, go ahead, "I'm not here to argue with you. You-all sit here and vote against Head Start, I'm going to always have problems with you, I don't know it's a racist standpoint or what, but it's a serious problem." Councilman, de Graffenried, replied, "Thank you for that high priority speech, I care about the kids." Councilman, Paige, responded, "I see you do, that's why you voted against it."

Parish President, replied, "I don't know where to start. and at that time, Councilman Paige, replied, "When you're dealing with this "Klanish" attitude that what you have to deal with down here." Parish President, replied, "Come on now, that's enough of that." and then Councilman, Paige, replied, "It's not going to be enough when you sit here," and at that time, Parish President, replied, "I have the floor, Mr. Paige." Councilman Paige responded, "That's fine enough." Parish President, "I didn't interrupt you, Did I?" Councilman, Paige, responded, "Go ahead, you have the floor." Parish President, "I got it, don't forget it either." Councilman, Paige, replied, "Well, I may." and at that time Parish President, replied, "Mr. Chairman, and then Councilman Paige said something else to stop him, at this time the Chairman, replied, "Go ahead, Chris, let him talk." Parish President began again, by saying, "The road Districts, each Road Districts has a separate Ordinance, you can vote for or against them individually. Any voter, if these get on the ballot, they will only see one on their ballot. Tonight we're only

simply saying we're creating the road Districts and on November 19, the Council or a majority of the Council would say let's put it on the Ballot, you might want to put all four on the ballot, to answer Councilman de Graffenried, question, Yes, you can put one on there as a trial and we will not let the other 3 people or District vote on it, that's ok, but it's not up to me. As for Payne Subdivision, the funding for that has bounced around totally due to the State of Louisiana Capital Outlay Program. This had nothing to do with the Parish of Natchitoches or anyone working for the Parish of Natchitoches, in fact, in the last two weeks I've been corresponding with Mr. Mark Moses, head of Facility Planning and Control and others in Baton Rouge, we're trying to get this thing moved forward, the problem is we have \$500,000 committed, we have \$200,000 in Priority 1 money and \$300,000 is in Priority 5 and it will not be available until after July 1 of 2019, but if we want to go ahead and advertise for bids and we can go to construction and if and when if we ever get the money that \$200,000 and they'll reimburse us for the other \$300,000, and I said, no wait a minute, if I build this project in early 2019 in Payne Subdivision and don't get reimbursed, I've just spent money from the second half of the year to keep the roads pothole filled and put gravel on the roads."

Chairman, Bedgood stated next agenda

- A. Council to consider Adoption of Ordinance  
022-2018 for the creation of Road District No. 1 of the  
Parish of Natchitoches.

On motion by Councilman Doug de Graffenried, duly seconded by  
The motion dies for lack of second.

- B. Council to consider Adoption of Ordinance  
023-2018 for the creation of Road District No. 2 of the  
Parish of Natchitoches.

On motion by Councilman Doug de Graffenried, duly seconded by  
The motion dies for lack of second.

- C. Council to consider Adoption of Ordinance  
024-2018 for the creation of Road District No. 3 of the  
Parish of Natchitoches.

On motion by Councilman Doug de Graffenried, duly seconded by  
The motion dies for lack of second.

- D. Council to consider Adoption of Ordinance  
025-2018 for the creation of Road District No. 4 of the  
Parish of Natchitoches.

On motion by Councilman Doug de Graffenried, duly seconded by  
The motion dies for lack of second.

- E. Council to consider the Adoption of Ordinance  
#028-2018 to create a sale tax district 2 within  
the Parish of Natchitoches, State of Louisiana  
(the Parish) containing all or any portion of the  
territory contained within the present boundaries of the  
Parish.

At this time the Parish President said we need to amend this item to include  
Exempt the Municipality of Campti and the less the City of Natchitoches.

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 agenda item to add Exempt the Municipality of  
Campti and The City of Natchitoches.

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

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

**Motion Passed**

Council to consider the Adoption of Ordinance #028-2018 to create a sale tax district 2 within the Parish of Natchitoches, State of Louisiana (the Parish) containing all or any portion of the territory contained within the present boundaries of the Parish an exempt the Municipality of Campti and The City of Natchitoches.

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 adopt Ordinance #028-2018 to create a sale tax district 2 within the Parish of Natchitoches, State of Louisiana (the Parish) containing all or any portion of the territory contained within the present boundaries of the Parish an exempt the Municipality of Campti and The City of Natchitoches.

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

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

**Motion Passed**

Chairman, Bedgood stated next agenda.

Other Agenda Items.

Council to consider adopting 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 adopt a resolution 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  
Absent: Councilwoman Hoover  
Ayes: Councilman Bedgood  
Ayes: Councilman Paige

**Motion Passed**

Chairman, Bedgood stated next agenda item was to adjourn.

Since there was no other business the meeting was adjourn:

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 adjourn.

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

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

**Motion Passed**

**Special Meeting**  
**October 29, 2018**

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Attest:

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Rodney Bedgood, Chairman

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Sheryl Frederick,  
Council Clerk