

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICE JURY OF THE PARISH OF NATCHITOCHEs,
STATE OF LOUISIANA, TAKEN A REGULAR MEETING HELD, MONDAY,**

August 17, 2009

5:00 P. M.

The Police Jury of the Parish of Natchitoches, State of Louisiana, met in regular and legal session in the Large Courtroom of the Natchitoches Parish Courthouse, on Monday, August 17, 2009 at five o'clock (5:00) p.m.

The Invocation was given by Juror J. D. Garrett, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Juror William Hymes.

There were present: The Honorable David Dollar, President, Police Jurors: Gerald Longlois, Chris Paige, J. D. Garrett, William Hymes, Charles Huggins, Johnny Martin, Tom Collier Jr., Jessie Hoffpauir, Mimi Stoker and Fred Jacobs.

There were absent: None.

The Police Jury of the Parish of Natchitoches was then duly convened as the governing authority of said parish by the President who stated that the Police Jury was ready for the transaction of business.

President Dollar then stated that Mr. Hymes had been subpoenaed for a hearing to the Natchitoches Parish School Board. Mr. Hymes then stated that some of you knew that I have been subpoenaed to a school board meeting hearing today at 5 P.M. However, they have allowed me to come to this meeting for one hour. He then stated that instead of going to jail, he would like it if everyone would allow him to go to that meeting at 6 P.M. Mr. Hymes went on to say that he would not be running out but will be going to the hearing.

President Dollar then thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. He stated that they will open with one visitor who was not on the agenda. President Dollar then asked Mr. James Guin to please come forward. Mr. Guin then stated that he has been serving on the Library Board and would like to continue to serve.

Mr. Bob Black then stated that Mr. Roque had an out of town funeral he had to attend and Mrs. Hamilton stated that Mrs. Terrell will attend next month's meeting.

President Dollar then recognized Mr. Chris Sylvie who told the Jury that two years ago he came before the Jury requesting the earth dam be removed on the north end of old river near Del Acres Farm where the bridge have been out for quite a while. He said that he had talked with his Police Juror Fred Jacobs who suggested that they get a petition to request the earth dam be removed. Mr. Sylvie then stated that the earth dam has caused a lot of problems including people throwing trash in the river in which it does not wash out. He stated that it use to be a good place to fish and the people of Natchitoches would like to began fishing there again. He also stated that there is no fish and no fresh water for the fish to live.

President Dollar then recognized Mr. Townsend who stated that yes, there is a problem and the problem lies in the fact that he have talked to an engineer and the former Director of Public Works who told them that there was a box culvert that fell in many years ago and it did not serve any purpose so they filled it in with dirt. Mr. Townsend stated that in order to get the water to even flow they would have to remove the culverts at Cypress to allow the water to flow in that direction. He also stated that the only time it flows back that way is when its gets an over flow. After a lengthy discussion, the following action was taken:

On motion by Mr. Paige, duly seconded by Mr. Hymes, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby table removing the dirt dam over Old River and the Village of Natchez.

Motion Carried

President Dollar then stated that this matter would be on next month's meeting in order to give Mr. Townsend a chance to talk with the Army Corp of Engineers.

President Dollar then stated that before he recognized Mr. Ronnie Owens and Mr. Buck Vandersteen he wanted to recognize any other visitors that was not in attendance relative the hauling ordinance. He then recognized Mr. Paige who asked that Mr. Paul Waldrup speak relative to Agenda Item #16 concerning hauling trash for residents in the Parish. Mr. Paige stated that Mr. Waldrup had contacted him about hauling in the Parish. He stated that these three individuals were part of the agreement with IESI. President Dollar then stated that this goes back a few years ago when the Jury exempted these private haulers. Mr. Paige also stated that the Jury had an agreement with whoever came in and did the garbage and now he has heard that IESI wanted these gentlemen to setup a payment plan. Mrs. Hamilton then informed the Jury that she had spoken with Mr. David Greene of IESI and he told her to tell them not to worry at this time but wanted to have a small meeting with some of the Jurors. Mr. Paige then stated that he felt that this was not the way to handle Parish business and wanted to make it very clear that as agreed these people will not be charged. President Dollar then stated that the Police Jury has the ordinance in place to exempt them from paying. He then asked Mr. Waldrup if he was asking to leave things the same? President Dollar then stated that it was waved before the IESI contract and you are doing business with the parish taxpayers, you pick up the trash and bring it in and you have been waved from any other fees and want that to remain in place. President Dollar then recognized Mrs. Stoker who stated that she thinks this is something that needs to be revisited. She stated that she was in agreement with it until the end of the year but now there are new haulers and more compactor stations. After a lengthy discussion, the following action was taken:

On motion by Mr. Paige, duly seconded by Mr. Hymes, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby confirm waiving the existing haulers, Mr. Patrick L. Helaire, Mr. Leo Stewart (GGS) and Mr. Paul Waldrup to have full access to the Compactor Station for unloading trash from residents in the Parish at no charge.

Motion Carried
With
Mrs. Stoker
"Opposing with
an exception"

Mrs. Stoker then stated that she was not opposing but wanted everyone to understand that the Jury was not billing the haulers but IESI. She also thought it should be a time limit since we have to re-negotiate a contract with IESI.

President Dollar then recognized Mr. J. W. Scarborough who told the Jury that he was present to ask for a resolution of support in reference to Highway 84 El Camino corridor. Mr. Scarborough asked the Jury to consider passing this resolution. Relative to this, the following action was taken:

On motion by Mr. Paige, duly seconded by Mr. Hymes, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby adopt a resolution supporting and endorsing the request of funding for the Highway 84 El Camino Corridor.

Motion Carried

President Dollar then asked if there were any other visitors who were present not opposing the hauling ordinance. He then recognized Ms. Njeri Camara, Assistant Director with the Alliance for Education, who told the Jury that she had come before the Police Jury back in January and asked them to appoint someone from Natchitoches Parish so that the Region will move forward. She stated that Mr. Hymes was appointed and she was basically here to provide a report to the Jury on the actions that have been taken since the committee has been working.

President Dollar then recognized Mr. Ronnie Owens who stated that he had lived in Natchitoches Parish for 30 years and has a poultry and cattle business. He stated that he was at the Police Jury Meeting to represent the Farm Bureau Board. He also stated that he was not just representing the Board but the Parish. Mr. Owens stated that there are crops to produce, contractors like a little Joe Blow in the Parish building a small house in which they have to haul dirt. He then asked what did the Jury consider as a heavy load? He also asked if the Jury had it in writing some place? Mr. Owens went on to say that there was a problem with this ordinance. He stated that he has never seen a weight limit sign on a parish road. He also told the Jury that he was not sure if they understood the effect that this ordinance would cause. Mr. Paige then stated that he would like to hear why it was on the agenda because he knew nothing of the ordinance except that it was going to be addressed tonight. Mr. Longlois then stated that the only thing behind this was the way the parish roads are right now and to see that they do not get any worse. Mr. Longlois went on to say that we have nothing in place except for a few ordinances that states the tonnage on roads. He also stated that he was not trying to pin point anyone but felt we needed to put something in place since we could not get any help from the State. Mr. Longlois told the audience that we have 86 bridges and three of them were closed. He said all we can do is patch when we receive a call for a road to be fixed. President Dollar stated that this is basically for the ones that don't get a permit but it sounds like we have to do something to get the limits up. President Dollar then recognized Mr. Buck Vandersteen, who thanked the Jury for entertaining their concerns on the ordinance. He stated that he knew that the Jurors did not want to harm the forestry, construction, oil and gas production in the parish. Mr. Vandersteen stated that in the 80's they had worked together with the Parish to help protect the roads and bring the one that are responsible for the damage to correct the problem. He then stated that they wanted to continue to that and pledge to work with the Jury. Mr. Vandersteen also told the Jury that he had spoken with an insurance agent who told him that a performance bond is a guarantee to pay. He stated that a small logger or homeowner would have to go to an insurance company and show their financials and must have the money to back it up. In conclusion, Mr. Vandersteen stated that they wanted Natchitoches Parish to continue to grow and felt that they all can solve these problems without harming the small businesses. Mrs. Stoker then stated that by invitation the Jury could ask the State to begin patrolling on Parish roads. She stated they would stop trucks just like they do on interstates and State highways, weigh and inspect them.

After a lengthy discussion, the following action was taken:

On motion by Mr. Longlois, duly seconded by Mr. Paige, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby close the public hearing.

Motion Carried

Relative to above matter, the following action was taken:

President Dollar then appointed Mr. Buck Vandersteen, Mr. Ronnie Owens, Mr. Mike Wolff, Mr. Gerald Longlois, Mrs. Mimi Stoker, and Mr. L. E. Skylar, Jr., Mr. Brent Deen and Ms. Mary Anthony to the committee. Mrs. Stoker then asked the haulers what they thought about asking the State for assistance?

On motion by Mr. Longlois, duly seconded by Mr. Paige, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby table adopting an Ordinance requiring any person, firm, contractors, corporation, loggers or entity to apply for a written permit and posting of a bond when using the Parish maintained roads and bridges for hauling purposes or for any damages to property belonging to the Parish of Natchitoches for any purpose.

Motion Carried

President Dollar then stated that the Public Hearing was open to hear any and all comments or objections relative to adopting an ordinance allowing video bingo in Natchitoches Parish. He then recognized Mr. Paige who stated that video bingo was already allowed in the state. Mr. Paige then stated that he thought they had the right to have video bingo in our parish and since that is possible we will be able to receive some of the revenues.

President Dollar then stated that he do not endorse video bingo but it would be amending the Jury's charitable gaming ordinance that currently in place. He stated that if video bingo is adopted into the Parish of Natchitoches it would set the same rules for the Parish as for the City. Mr. Hoffpauir stated that we are doing this with prairie lawyer that is a non-licensed lawyer. He said it was his understanding of the law is that you could have video bingo if the governing body votes to allow it in the City or Parish. He stated that the City of Natchitoches had hearings and voted to allow it inside the city limits. Mr. Hoffpauir went on to say that it was his understanding to have it in the rural area, the Jury would have to vote to allow it in the Parish in order to collect a few dollars. Mr. Kip Fair then told the Jury that the state statue says that each parish must have an ordinance to have video bingo in the parish. If they try to apply for a permit without this ordinance in place they could not get one. After a lengthy discussion, the following action was taken:

On motion by Mrs. Stoker, duly seconded by Mr. Garrett, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby close the public hearing.

Motion Carried

Relative to this, the following action was taken:

On motion by Mr. Longlois, duly seconded by Mr. Garrett, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby adopt an ordinance to allow video bingo in the Parish of Natchitoches.

Motion Carried

President Dollar then stated that the Public Hearing was open to hear any and all comments or objections relative to amending Section 2-45 - Annual Leave of the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury Code of Ordinances. He then recognized the Parish Administrator who told the Jury that they should have received a copy of the amendment to the annual leave policy but since that time she had added a few more things. She then stated that the purpose of this amendment was to address annual leave time for employees who received funds through grants. President Dollar then recognized Mrs. Harris who stated that she did not understand. She stated that she have 900 hours of annual leave and asked if she would be able to accumulate more hours or will she have to use the time she have before she get anymore? Mrs. Stoker then stated that the main reason for the change is because of the money the Jury would have to come up with to pay to employees who are terminated or separated from employment. She stated that this is the main reason. Mrs. Harris then stated that the grant pays for the program based on the ability of the funds. Mrs. Stoker replied that if the grant pays for the annual leave then the employees would still received payment for annual leave but if it does not pay for the leave the employees would not get payment for the leave. Mrs. Hamilton then told Mrs. Harris that her leave was already grandfathered but if she left the Jury would not be responsible for the annual leave. Mrs. Harris then stated that it was her understanding the grant would not pay for them anyway. The Grant pays for leave not the Police Jury. After a lengthy discussion, the following action was taken:

On motion by Mr. Longlois, duly seconded by Mr. Jacobs, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby close the public hearing.

Motion Carried

Relative to this, the following action was taken:

On motion by Mr. Garrett, duly seconded by Mr. Longlois, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby amend the Annual Leave Policy of Section 6.2 of the NPPJ Personnel Policy and Procedures Manual.

Motion Carried

President Dollar then stated that the Public Hearing to hear any and all comments or objections relative to overturning the decision of the Natchitoches Parish Planning Commission denying the request of Ms. Shantel Hardison to rezone Lots E & F of Payne Subdivision, Unit #1 located in Section 4, T9N, R7W on Louisiana Highway 6 East from B-2 to B-3 to develop an amusement entertainment center. He then recognized Mr. John Morrison who told the Jury that he was a homeowner in the area. Mr. Morrison stated that he thought the decision should not be overturned and asked how are the kids going to get to the place and will they have to walk on a State highway? President Dollar recognized Mr. Tony Swords who stated that he owned a business beside this piece of property. He then asked what kind of center are they talking about? President Dollar then recognized Ms. Shantel Hardison who stated that they were just trying to provide a place for kids or adults to have birthday parties or fashion shows. She stated that it was not a club. She stated that she would not be there until 3:00 in the morning. Ms. Hardison went on to state that this was not the purpose of her business. She then stated that she was going to have speakers and formal athletes to come in and speak to the children, have coat drive for kids in the wintertime and help kids with school supplies and uniforms. She stated that she was told that she would need a B3 zone in order to operate the business that she was trying to operate. Ms. Hardison stated that she did not want a club because she does not go out to clubs. President Dollar then recognized Coach Garrett who stated that he understood where she was coming from because he had been around kids all of his life and they need something to do. Coach Garrett then stated that if you look around, what are the kids doing, they are hurting one another. He said that we need to get the young people to pull together because Ms. Hardison was trying to help young people. After a lengthy discussion, the following action was taken:

On motion by Mr. Paige, duly seconded by Mr. Garrett, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby close the public hearing.

Motion Carried

Relative to this, the following action was taken:

On motion by Mr. Jacobs, duly seconded by Mr. Paige, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby table overturning the decision of the Natchitoches Parish Planning Commission denying the request of Ms. Shantel Hardison to rezone Lots E & F of Payne Subdivision, Unit #1 located in Section 4, T9N, R7W on Louisiana Highway 6 East from B-2 to B-3 to develop an amusement entertainment center.

Motion Carried

President Dollar then asked Ms. Hardison to get with the people who were opposed to overturning the decision and see if they could work out an agreement. He then stated that they would address the matter at next month's meeting.

On motion by Mr. Paige, duly seconded by Mr. Huggins, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby adopt the minutes of the Work Session/Regular meeting held Monday, July 13, 2009.

Motion Carried

President Dollar then recognized Mr. John Batten and Mr. Ted Duggan who told the Jury that they were present to ask for re-appointment to the Waterworks District #2 Board. Relative to this, the following action was taken:

On motion by Mr. Huggins, duly seconded by Mr. Longlois, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby start the process to appoint/reappoint members to the Waterworks District #2 Board of Commissioners due to Mr. John Batten, Jr. and Mr. Emile Metoyer's four year term expiring and Mr. Ted Duggan's two year term expiring.

Motion Carried

On motion by Mr. Martin, duly seconded by Mr. Garrett, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby reappoint Mrs. Ella Marie Harris to the Natchitoches Parish Tourist Commission.

Motion Carried

On motion by Mr. Paige, duly seconded by Mr. Jacobs, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby adopt a resolution supporting continued, expedited funding for Camp Minden's Regional Training Institute.

Motion Carried

On motion by Mr. Martin, duly seconded by Mrs. Stoker, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby adopt resolutions authorizing the President to sign the necessary forms to submit a grant to the Louisiana Government Assistance Program for the Readhimer Community Center and the Shady Grove Community Center in the amount of \$10,000.00 for each grant.

Motion Carried

On motion by Mr. Collier, duly seconded by Mr. Jacobs, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby authorize the Parish Treasurer to seek insurance proposals for 2010.

Motion Carried

President Dollar then recognized Mrs. Sharon Harris, Executive Director of the OCS/HS Department, who gave a brief synopsis of her report.

President Dollar then recognized Ms. Debbie Miley, Parish Treasurer, who told the Jury that she had adjusted a few things in the General Fund due to the severance tax being down. Ms. Miley stated that other things are down so she tried to adjust other line items as well. She also stated that she had given \$3,000.00 more dollars to Criminal Court Fund and told the Jury they had no more money for the coroner expenses at this time. Ms. Miley then also presented a report of fund cash balances as of July 31, 2009. Following her presentations, the following action was taken:

On motion by Mr. Huggins, duly seconded by Mr. Longlois, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby approve the budget revisions.

Motion Carried

On motion by Mr. Paige, duly seconded by Mr. Jacobs, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby authorize the purchase of three (3) new trucks for the Natchitoches Parish Health Unit.

Motion Carried

On motion by Mr. Collier, duly seconded by Mrs. Stoker, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby adopt a resolution authorizing the President to enter into negotiations and to sign any and all documents necessary with Sheriff Victor Jones and the Natchitoches Parish Law Enforcement District for the sale of the Natchitoches Parish Shooting Range subject to the acknowledgment of the Natchitoches Shooting Range.

Motion Carried

President Dollar then recognized Mr. Bill Crews who told the Jury that in regards to the resolution, the range simply wanted to see support of the proposed resolution. He stated that they had met with Sheriff Jones last Thursday and he was not totally sold on the sale but wanted to discuss whether or not he would purchase the property. Mr. Crews stated that the Sheriff did not want any issues raised to him and wanted to stay free and clear of all issues. He then stated that they had given the Sheriff a copy of all documents related to the range and the existing lease was on the table for discussion.

On motion by Mr. Garrett, duly seconded by Mr. Huggins, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby started the process to appoint/ reappoint members to the Natchitoches Parish Library Board of Directors due to Mrs. Karen Terrell, Mr. James Guin and Mr. Tommy Roque terms expiring.

Motion Carried

President Dollar then recognized Mr. Earl Townsend, Director of Public Works, who reported emergency expenditures for the period of July 14, 2009 through August 17, 2009 in the amount of \$975.52.

Motion Carried

On motion by Mr. Garrett, duly seconded by Mr. Huggins, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby approve expenditures for the period of July 14, 2009 through August 17, 2009 in the amount of **\$1,666,985.86.**

Motion Carried

President Dollar then stated that he would go around the table. He then recognized the Jurors and Administrator as follows:

Mr. Jacobs stated that the Jury needed to do something with the jail and that George Minturn is supposed to give us a drawing. Mr. Paige then stated that the Jury could not do anything with out the Sheriff agreeing to work with the Jury. President Dollar stated that he would talk to the Sheriff about the jail.

President Dollar then recognized Mrs. Stoker who stated that she wanted to relay the information right that work will begin on the Eight Mile Loop Bridge in October. Mrs. Hamilton then stated that the state had agreed to pay \$13,000.00 on the bridge. Mrs. Stoker then stated that she was going to try to get it out to the lady that writes the news for that area.

President Dollar then recognized Mr. Collier who stated that the Jury had passed a resolution requesting the State to place a turning lane at the Fairview elementary school. Mr. Collier told the Jury that the State had notified the School Board that they were going to put turning lane in place. He then stated that he hope they would put it in place before someone gets killed.

President Dollar then recognized Mr. Paige who stated that he wanted to bring up the money for signs. He stated that comments were made that it would only cost a thousand dollars or something like that, and by the end of that night I said I would not hold anything up and supported the motion. Mr. Paige then told the Jury lets be real because the price of the signs will probably cost a lot for 80 bridges. He stated that the Jury is looking at a \$100.00 per sign totaling around \$8,000.00. Mr. Longlois then stated that 3-M has a grant that you can get some sign through for the bridges. He also asked the Jury to realize where he was going with the hauling ordinance and that every Juror have people in their district who call about their roads and the Jury is not doing anything to support these calls. We go to the state and ask for money to repair a bridge we might get it and we might not get it.

President Dollar then stated that he had a call with the administrator from Desoto Parish police jury who asked the Jury for a letter of support for a regional animal shelter.

Relative to this, the following action was taken:

On motion by Mr. Paige, duly seconded by Mr. Longlois, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby add to the agenda authorizing writing a letter of support for a regional animal shelter.

Motion Carried

On motion by Mr. Paige, duly seconded by Mr. Collier, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby authorize writing a letter of support for a regional animal shelter.

Motion Carried

On motion by Mr. Longlois, duly seconded by Mrs. Stoker, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby adjourn until the next regular or called meeting of the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury.

Motion Carried

Attest:

David Dollar, President

Catherine Hamilton,
Parish Administrator