

PROCEEDINGS OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
NATCHITOCHE PARISH POLICE JURY
HELD THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2009

5:00 P.M.

The Police Jury of the Parish of Natchitoches, State of Louisiana, met in special session in the Police Jury Board Room of the Natchitoches Parish Courthouse, on Thursday, November 19, 2009 at five (5:00) o'clock p.m.

The invocation was given by Juror Coach Garrett and the Pledge of Allegiance led by Juror Jessie Hoffpauir.

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

There was absent: Hymes.

President Dollar stated that the purpose of this meeting was to approve cost saving measures for the Office of Community Services and Head Start Programs.

President Dollar then stated that it had been requested the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury go into Executive Session to personnel litigation. Relative to this, the following action was taken:

On motion by Mr. Collier, duly seconded by Mr. Garrett, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in special and legal session convened, does hereby go into Executive Session to discuss personnel litigation.

Motion Carried

After resuming regular session, President Dollar then stated that since there were only three of the eleven policy council member present and the Jury have reviewed several matters legal and physical, the Jury would consider what is before them Option #2. He then stated that Option #2 was presented the other night along with some fine-tuning of the fringed benefits, health insurance, across the board administrative staff reduction of 4% and some specific lay off. President Dollar also stated that it may not be employee wise but program wise that is what is before the Jury and if a motion and a vote are offered, the Jury was going to vote on option #2. It would then be submitted back to the policy council for review as soon as possible to reconsider this proposal. A Policy Council member then asked what he was talking about. President Dollar then apologized and told him that on the agenda the item being discussed is basically from the other night in which the Jury is deciding Option #2 instead of option #4. He stated that they saw Monday night it was straight across the board cut for everyone.

One of the options the policy council discussed but did not accept had to do with administrative staff reductions only, such as the head start director, executive director, assistant treasurer, purchasing agent, accountant, and data manager taking 4% across the board and layoffs totally not affecting the whole staff but layoffs of the Desoto supervisor, the Education Coordinator, the two janitors and the food tech, effective January 1, 2010.

Mr. Hoffpauir then stated that another thing that all this stuff runs together after you listen to it enough. But it doesn't cut any of the hours of the hourly workers. I think that addresses the concerns that you had it eliminated some position that was already in the proposal. Option #4 cut the salary but kept certain people and you either wind up hurting everybody or you are hurting some and it is real hard to make those decisions. But I think the most of the people the other night expressed a concern that they rather have the money and people laid off. If other thing are not done besides this, this program is not going to exist very long because the Police Jury does not have enough money to pay the prisoners and the Sheriff and the Judges do not have enough pay people to be witnesses in court. Mr. Hoffpauir also stated that the Jury cannot take money out of general fund and put it in this program, something has to happen and Head Start has to stand on Head Start's feet. 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 special and legal session convened, does hereby approve Option #2 as presented on the cost saving measures for the Office of Community Services and Head Start Programs.

Motion Carried
With
Mr. Paige
"abstaining"

On motion by Mrs. Stoker, duly seconded by Mr. Garrett, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in special and legal session convened, does hereby award the Administrative Consultant proposal for the Martco LCDBG Economic Development Project to the only firm submitting a proposal, Frye-Magee, LLC.

Motion Carried

President Dollar then recognized Parish Administrator Catherine Hamilton who told the Jury she had received a request from Buford Media asking for an extension on the cable franchise until a new one had been created. Relative to this, the following action was taken:

On motion by Mr. Longlois, duly seconded by Mr. Huggins, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in special and legal session convened, does hereby add to the agenda approving an extension on the Cable Franchise to Buford Media until a new one is created.

Motion Carried

On motion by Mr. Longlois, duly seconded by Mr. Huggins, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in special and legal session convened, does hereby approve an extension on the Cable Franchise to Buford Media until a new one is created

Motion Carried

Since there were no other business to come before the Jury, a motion was made by Mrs. Stoker, duly seconded by Mr. Martin, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in special and legal session convened, does hereby adjourn until its next regular or called meeting.

Motion Carried

ATTEST:

David Dollar, President

Catherine Hamilton,
Parish Administrator