

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

August 16, 2010

5:00 P. M.

The Police Jury of the Parish of Natchitoches, State of Louisiana, met in regular and legal session in the Police Jury Board Room of the Natchitoches Parish Courthouse, on Monday, August 16, 2010 at five o'clock (5:00) p.m.

The Invocation was given by Juror William Hymes, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Juror Mimi Stoker.

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

There were absent: None.

Staff Present: Parish Administrator Catherine Hamilton, Corrine Young, Sharon Harris, Judi Barnum, Erica Dupree, Earl Townsend and Penny Niette.

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

President Jacobs then recognized Representative Rick Nowlin who told the Jury in case some of you have not heard the Police Jury has been awarded a Community Development Block Grant in the amount of 599,308.00. Representative Nowlin stated that the purpose of the grant is for street improvement in the cedar grove area. The application was send in several the in the pasted and finally we was successful this year getting that funded.

President Jacobs then asked if there were any more visitors. Since there was none, he stated that he would entertain the next item on the agenda, New Business. He then recognized Mrs. Stoker who told the Jury that most of them have probably read the decision on the shooting range. She stated that she wanted to thank everyone that supported the ongoing situation. Mrs. Stoker told the Jury that the Group has 37 days to appeal but the Jury did receive a very sure decision. She also stated that Catherine has submitted a letter requesting some additional reports from the OSC and the Headstart findings. Mrs. Stoker told the Jury that she thought most of them had received the report from the findings of the Headstart. She stated they had had 18 deficiencies and some of them were on the Jury. She stated that there are some reports that the Jury should be getting monthly that are reflected in the list. Mrs. Stoker went on to say of the 18 deficiencies, some of the Jury's portion would be cleared up once the Jury receives the right monthly reports which would give the Jury a better view of what is going with Head Start finances on a month to month basis and an overall understanding of the program itself.

President Jacobs then recognized Mrs. Harris who told the Jury that they did not have 18 deficiencies but were non-compliance. She stated that this meant there were some areas that are not being done the way they should be done.

President Jacobs then recognized Mr. Paige who stated that at some point he thought the Jury should entertain not selling the shooting range or any other properties of the Jury. Mr. Paige stated that maybe the Jury should lease the property but not sale. He also stated that the Jury is having a bad time right now and needed money but if they sold the property, the Jury would have nothing after it had been sold.

President Jacobs then asked if they were going to listen to the people that work over at the Shooting Range. He stated that he was pretty sure they would come back with an appeal and hope by next month the Jury could vote on the matter.

Mr. Paige then stated that at this time this was how he felt. He stated that it was not long ago the Jury was talking about getting rid of the Old Highway Department and when the Jury get rid of it they would not get anything for the property and once it gone it gone. Mr. Paige also stated if someone wanted to cut the Jury a deal like the property that the detention center is setting on, they should consider the deal but just to give it away for the prisoner upkeep, is just not right. Mr. Garrett stated that he would second the motion to put it on next month's agenda.

On motion by Mr. Dollar, duly seconded by Mr. Longlois, 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 19, 2010 and the Special meeting held Thursday, July 29, 2010.

Motion Carried

President Jacobs then recognized Mr. Dollar who asked the Jury to interject something since it was his wife and grandson birthday stated that the Jury has been talking about this matter forever and much more about the last month or so. He then stated that the different between the blue ribbon and the charter commission. Mr. Dollar stated that in his letter that went out to everyone, he received a lot of feedback from the time the Jury had the meeting with Gordon Burgess, which was received by a lot of folks in this room, was from a lot of interest in supporting such committee. He stated that there were more concerns to do this quickly. He stated that the most concerns are that the Jury needed to get a tax passed for criminal justice and nothing else that we have discussed is going to be meaningful. Mr. Dollar stated that he has talked with folks from the city, the mayor, several councilmen, the sheriff and some of his staff. I also talked to businessmen and women, some are in the chamber and some are not. He also stated that these folks are afraid that the Jury will not have time to have a non-binding committee to study this thing for six months or whatever and still get the change they need. Mr. Dollar stated that even if the commission came back and said the city parish form of government is what we recommend, we would only have half that vote. He stated that the Jury could not force the city into that and the Jury could put it before the voters would not have any teeth in it. Mr. Dollar then stated that what he heard and what Tangipahoe Parish when through to move to home room charter they could establish two things. One thing would be to establish a parishwide elected president that would be answerable to the people, just like the mayor and sheriff. He stated everyone would be on equal footing instead of having someone who goes in and tries to work things out like that. Mr. Dollar stated that the other thing he was presenting is to appoint the charter committee and that it would not be like the Jury was turning over this decision to a talaband. He stated that he was talking about the Jury choosing people from their district, profession, neighborhood, church, or whatever the Jury wanted. He also stated that the Jury could stay in contact with them over the next several months or whatever it takes to get it done. Mr. Dollar told the Jury they would remain in communication with the members and will help guide them through the process. He stated he hope the Jury would appoint people that will do the same thing. He went on to say what this would accomplish by the Jury's vote is to put it to a vote of people of Natchitoches Parish. He stated that if they got the most perfect blue ribbon report the Jury could throw it in the trash eight months from now but the people in the parish want the Jury to commit to something that is going to make a change and then they would commit to helping with the tax. Mr. Dollar stated that he believed this is the right thing to do.

President Jacobs then stated that with the charter commission the parish would be over here and the city will be over there. Mr. Dollar stated yes that would be correct and it would allow the Jury over the next 4 to 8 years or however long it takes to sit down and look over ways to incorporate. He also stated that this could help with health insurance saving.

Mr. Hoffpauir then told Mr. Dollar that the people elected them to do what needs to be done and now he was going to give that authority to someone else. He then asked what will happen when they get off? Mr. Hoffpauir stated that the group of do-gooders will appoint their replacement, not them.

Mr. Dollar replied that he would imagine that being able to happen.

Mr. Hoffpauir then stated that it is in black and white all over this paper.

Mr. Paige stated that last month the Jury talked about a Blue Ribbon Committee and that is what he came here to do today. He stated that he had talked to various people about the committee and now Jurors are talking about putting the authority into one person's hand on this charter commission. Mr. Paige stated that they had agreed to a Blue Ribbon Committee at the last meeting and somehow between last month and now it has changed. He also stated that the Jury was caught up in these games. Mr. Paige then stated that he hope the Jury leave tonight appointing some kind of committee and it does not have to be a charter commission. He also stated that the person he was going to appoint from his community was going to listen to what the community say. Mr. Paige stated that each Juror should appoint however many persons to this committee to look at this matter and then have them come back with whatever form of government that would be best for the Parish. He went on to say that this was the agreement that he thought the Jury had to look at but now it has changed here tonight. Mr. Paige told the Jury he would like to go forward with the Blue Ribbon Committee.

Mr. Hymes stated that once the Jury get this ball rolling, he thought the Jury was in a good position for the City and Police Jury to work together. He stated to change the direction of the Police Jury, I still feel like there is change in the air. Mr. Hymes then stated that he was not letting the recent change of direction change his thought but he was ready to throw it on the table because it is becoming a moving target. At first the target was solid support for a tax from the public because we thought it was the Judges and the DA's office that needed this money and not for the roads or anything like that and now they are talking about providing a service for the people. Mr. Hymes also stated that the Jury was supposed to have a committee and now Jurors are saying let us just go ahead and choose the form of government right now. Mr. Hymes went on to say that what he was hearing let the people choose and, in the past, the Police Jury has said that they were going to remain as the Police Jury in this form of government but now he was hearing the Police Jury say let the people choose. Mr. Hymes stated that they were going back to the same people that killed the tax in the first place he was not willing to go for that because this charter commission will choose the form of government not the people. He then stated to Let the People Choose!

Mr. Dollar then stated if the Jury had 18 months to study this he would be willing to do it but they do not have that long. He stated that he thought the people would have the ability to choose whatever the charter commission comes up with. They would get the chance to vote on whether or not they want things to change or remain the same.

Mr. Hoffpauir then stated that one of the things Mr. Dollar stated about retaining the power to downsize or whatever, the charter commission will do exactly whatever they wanted to do and the Jury would not have any choice once they have taken office. He stated that is what the law states and if you do not know what the law states you need to know. He told Mr. Dollar he needs to know what he was talking about before he brought it up. Mr. Hoffpauir then stated that this Jury had an agreement last month and people went home and talked to other people about the committee and now it has changed and that is not how you do business. He stated that this is one reason why the public have no trust in the Jury.

Mr. Paige then stated that this is for the people and he thought the Jury needed to educate the people on what they are trying to do.

Mr. Hymes stated if you look at this table close enough all of the Jurors want to hear from the people and want to move forward.

Mr. Hoffpauir stated that the Jury had a firm standard agreement among each Juror to support the Blue Ribbon Committee and now some of the Jurors want to go with a charter commission. Mr. Hoffpauir told the Jury he was not supporting this and that he was going to work really hard so that it would not pass. He then stated that he was going to tell everyone to say not to this tax because this body can not collect what is owed to them and has not even made an effort to collect the money. He also stated that anyone with sense knew that the Jury was going broke. He stated that you do not change a budget every month. If you have a budget and something comes out every month, break it into twelves and give them one twelfth of the money and stay with the budget. Mr. Hoffpauir stated that his comments fell on deaf ears.

Mr. Dollar stated that he had his name tonight and some of the other Jurors may have their name and he was hoping if this passed the Commission could have the first meeting by the first of September.

President Jacobs then recognized Ms. Erica Dupree who stated that she was from the NPPJOCS Head Start Program. Ms. Dupree told the Jury that they have been fighting for a year now and all of them knew the Jury was broke and Head Start owe them money. She stated her question to the Jury is are we talking about this charter commission, blue ribbon commission or about the tax? She also asked was the tax going to get the Jury out of the mess they are in?

Mr. Dollar stated that it will clear the General Fund but it want help OCS.

President Jacobs then read Item #20 on the agenda and the following action was taken:

On motion by Mr. Dollar, duly seconded by Mrs. Stoker, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby adopt a resolution to appoint a Natchitoches Parish Blue Ribbon Charter Commission consisting of not less than seven or more than eleven members with each Police Juror to appoint one Charter Commission member.

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

YES: Longlois, Dollar, Huggins, Martin, Stoker and Jacobs.

NO: Paige, Garrett, Hymes, Collier and Hoffpauir.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

With the vote being six (6) yes and five (5) no, the motion to adopt a resolution to appoint a Natchitoches Parish Blue Ribbon Charter Commission consisting of not less than seven or more than eleven members passed.

Motion Carried

On motion by Mr. Dollar, duly seconded by Mrs. Stoker, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby adopt approving the calling of a parishwide election for a ½% sales tax for a period of four (4) years to be used for paying the local cost of the Criminal Justice System, prisoner detention, the coroner's office and the court system.

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

YES: Longlois, Paige, Garrett, Dollar, Hymes, Huggins, Martin, Collier, Stoker and Jacobs.

NO: Hoffpauir

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

With the vote being ten (10) yes and one (1) no, the motion to adopt approving the calling of a parishwide election for a ½% sales tax for a period of four (4) years passed.

Motion Carried

On motion by Mr. Hoffpauir, duly seconded by Mr. Hymes, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby adopt a resolution authorizing the President to sign the necessary forms to submit a grant to the Louisiana Government Assistance Program for the Shady Grove Community Center in the amount of \$15,000.00 for replacement of a Hvac System and repairs to the center.

Motion Carried

On motion by Mr. Hymes, duly seconded by Mr. Martin, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby adopt a resolution authorizing the President to sign the necessary forms to submit a grant to the Louisiana Government Assistance Program for the Chee Chee Bay Water System in the amount of \$25,000.00 for the replacement and upgrade of booster pumps, well pumps and chlorinator.

Motion Carried

On motion by Mrs. Stoker, duly seconded by Mr. Longlois, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby adopt a resolution authorizing the President to sign the necessary forms to submit a grant to the Louisiana Government Assistance Program for the Flora Community Center in the amount of \$25,000.00 for repairs to the center.

Motion Carried

On motion by Mr. Hymes, duly seconded by Mr. Longlois, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby adopt a resolution authorizing the President to sign the necessary forms to submit a grant to the Louisiana Government Assistance Program for the Fire Protection District #5 in the amount of \$20,000.00 for extrication equipment.

Motion Carried

On motion by Mr. Hymes, duly seconded by Mr. Longlois, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby adopt a resolution authorizing the President to sign the necessary forms to submit a grant to the Louisiana Government Assistance Program for the Creston Water System in the amount of \$15,000.00 to replace pipes.

Motion Carried

On motion by Mr. Hymes, duly seconded by Mrs. Stoker, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby adopt a resolution endorsing and supporting the passage of Amendment # 2 on the November 2, 2010 statewide election ballot.

Motion Carried

On motion by Mr. Hymes, duly seconded by Mr. Longlois, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby adopt a resolution to adopt plans and policies, making appointments and authorization of individuals to sign all documents, request for payments for the LCDBG Street Improvement Grant.

Motion Carried

On motion by Mr. Hymes, duly seconded by Mrs. Stoker, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby start the process to appoint someone to the Natchitoches Parish Hospital Board of Directors to replace Dr. Phyllis Mason.

Motion Carried

On motion by Mr. Paige, duly seconded by Mr. Garrett, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby start the process to appoint someone to the Fire Protection District #8, due to Mr. Edward Conlay resigning for health reasons.

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 accept the Report of the Office of Community Services/Head Start Program.

Motion Carried

President Jacobs then recognized Mr. Earl Townsend, Director of Public Works, who reported emergency expenditures for the period of July 20, 2010 through August 16, 2010.

On motion by Mr. Garrett, duly seconded by Mr. Longlois, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby approve expenditures for the period of July 20, 2010 through August 16, 2010 in the Amount of **\$899,936.11.**

Motion Carried

On motion by Mr. Dollar, duly seconded by Mr. Longlois, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby strike appointing a Blue Ribbon Commission to search and explore alternative forms of government for the Police Jury from the agenda.

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

YES: Longlois, Paige, Garrett, Dollar, Hymes, Huggins, Martin, Collier, Hoffpauir, Stoker and Jacobs.

NO: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

With the vote being eleven (11) yes and zero (0) no, the motion to strike appointing a Blue Ribbon Commission to search and explore alternative forms of government for the Police Jury from the agenda passed.

Motion Carried

President Jacobs then recognized the Parish Administrator who told the Jury that the Parish Treasurer Debbie Miley was doing better and sends a thank you to the Jury for the flowers. She then presented them with a report that Ms. Miley had prepared for the Jury.

President Jacobs then recognized Mr. Collier who stated that he would like to add to the agenda adopting a resolution authorizing the president to sign the necessary forms to submit a grant to the Louisiana Government Assistance Program for repairs to the Old Campti City Bank building in the amount of \$20,000.00. Relative to this, the following action was taken:

On motion by Mr. Collier, duly seconded by Mr. Paige, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby add to the agenda adopting a resolution authorizing the president to sign the necessary forms to submit a grant to the Louisiana Government Assistance Program for repairs to the Old Campti City Bank building in the amount of \$20,000.00.

Motion Carried

On motion by Mr. Collier, duly seconded by Mr. Paige, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby adopt a resolution authorizing the president to sign the necessary forms to submit a grant to the Louisiana Government Assistance Program for repairs to the Old Campti City Bank building in the amount of \$20,000.00.

Motion Carried

On motion by Mrs. Stoker, duly seconded by Mr. Longlois, 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:

Fred Jacobs, President

Catherine Hamilton,
Parish Administrator