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WILLIAM ALAN PESNELL AND DOUGLAS WADE PESNELL
BY CLERK OF COURT NATCHITOCHE PARISH, LA
DOCKET NO.: 94689-B

VERSUS

10TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR. AND
STACY MCQUERY

NATCHITOCHE PARISH, LOUISIANA

FINAL JUDGMENT

THIS CAUSE COMES BEFORE THIS HONORABLE COURT on a *Petition to Compel Disclosure of Public Records* filed April 9, 2024, by Plaintiffs herein, William Alan Pesnell and Douglas Wade Pesnell. On April 12, 2024, Defendants, in their official capacities as Mayor and Clerk of the City of Natchitoches, respectively, via counsel, filed an answer, reconventional demands, a Peremptory Exception of No Cause of Action, and a Dilatory Exception of Prematurity. Trial was held on April 15, 2024, at 3:30 p.m., at which the following persons appeared: Plaintiffs, William Alan Pesnell and Douglas Wade Pesnell, represented by their attorneys of record, Ronald E. Corkern and William Alan Pesnell (the latter also appearing in proper person as a named co-plaintiff); and Morgan Briggs and Connor Headrick, attorneys of record for Defendants. Defendants, Mayor Ronnie Williams, Jr. and City Clerk Stacy McQuery (hereinafter sometimes jointly referred to as “Defendants” or “the City”), did not appear. After an hour recess for Defendants to produce additional documents, upon agreement of counsel, the matter was continued to April 23, 2024, to allow Defendants to complete production of the requested documents by close of business on April 17, 2024.

On April 23, 2024, trial resumed with William Alan Pesnell, Douglas Wade Pesnell, Ronald E. Corkern, Morgan Briggs, and Connor Headrick appearing. Defendants, Mayor Ronnie Williams, Jr. and City Clerk Stacy McQuery did not appear. During trial, it was uncontested that on April 17, 2024, Defendants produced all of the records to Plaintiffs concerning the subject public records request as certified by Co-Defendant, City Clerk Stacy McQuery. *See* Exh. P-7. At the close of trial, the court denied Defendants' Peremptory Exception of No Cause of Action and Dilatory Exception of Prematurity. As the subject records had been produced, Plaintiffs' request for an order compelling Defendants to produce the subject records is rendered moot leaving only the issues of attorney fees, costs, and civil penalties. The court then ordered a post-trial briefing schedule directing Plaintiffs to file a letter brief within seven days and Defendants to file a response letter brief within seven days thereafter. Plaintiffs filed a letter brief on April 24, 2024. No letter brief was filed by Defendants. The matter was submitted to the court for discernment and judgment on the morning of Thursday, May 2, 2024.


AFTER CAREFUL CONSIDERATION OF THE LAW, EVIDENCE, TESTIMONY, AND THE ORAL AND WRITTEN LEGAL ARGUMENTS OF DISTINGUISHED COUNSEL, IT IS ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED THAT:

1. Judgment is rendered in favor of Plaintiffs, William Alan Pesnell and Douglas Wade Pesnell, and against Defendants, Ronnie Williams, Jr. and Stacy McQuery, in their official capacities as Mayor and City Clerk of the City of Natchitoches, respectively, for reasonable attorney fees and costs;
2. Ronald E. Corkern is awarded reasonable attorney fees in the amount of FOUR THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED SIXTY-FIVE DOLLARS AND NO CENTS (\$4,165.00 USD);

3. William Alan Pesnell is awarded reasonable attorney fees in the amount of ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED FORTY DOLLARS AND NO CENTS (\$1,540.00 USD);
4. William Alan Pesnell is awarded expenses in the amount of TWENTY ONE DOLLARS AND FIFTY CENTS (\$21.50 USD);
5. Plaintiffs, William Alan Pesnell and Douglas Wade Pesnell, are awarded civil penalties in the amount of EIGHT HUNDRED DOLLARS AND NO CENTS (\$800.00 USD)
6. Defendants, Ronnie Williams, Jr. and Stacy McQuery, in their official capacities as Mayor and City Clerk of the City of Natchitoches, respectively, are cast with court costs;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Clerk of Court notify the parties of the signing of this Final Judgment.

THUS DONE AND SIGNED in Chambers, in the City and Parish of Natchitoches, and State of Louisiana, on this, the 13th day of May, 2024.



HON. LALA B. SYLVESTER
DISTRICT COURT JUDGE
DIVISION B

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