

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING OF THE  
MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN  
OF THE TOWN OF VIDALIA, LOUISIANA,  
HELD ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2023 AT 6:00 P.M.  
IN THE TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM, 200 VERNON STEVENS BLVD., VIDALIA,  
LOUISIANA**

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Vidalia, Louisiana, met, in regular session, in the Town Hall Meeting Room on Tuesday, December 12, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

There were present: Mayor Buz Craft, Aldermen Jon Betts, Brent Smith, Robert Gardner and Tommy Probst.

There was absent: Alderwoman Rosa I. Demby.

There were also present: Piara Wilson, Municipal Clerk; Debra Moak, Municipal Accountant; George C. Murray, Jr., Municipal Attorney; Jay LaSyone, Municipal Manager; and members of the press.

The meeting was opened by the Mayor and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present, followed by the invocation given by Alderman Betts.

A quorum being present, the Mayor declared the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Vidalia, Louisiana, to be duly convened, in regular session, as the governing authority of said municipality, and opened the meeting for the conduct of business.

After being reviewed, the typed minutes of the regular town meeting of November 14, 2023, were approved with no changes. The motion for the approval of the minutes was made by Alderman Smith, seconded by Alderman Gardner, and unanimously carried.

The Mayor then asked if anyone had any comments on current agenda items. Noting that no one had any questions or comments, he advised that he would continue with the formal agenda.

Agenda Item No. 1 was the presentation of the financial statement for October, 2023. The Mayor called on the Municipal Accountant, Debra Moak, CPA, who presented the financial statement. She began by explaining the various fund balances, which summaries included a comparison of actual expenses to budget expenses. Following that, the summary sheets, previously given to the Aldermen, were reviewed in detail, including a report on the positive and negative fund balances and indicated the net changes in the various funds. She then reported on which revenues are under budget and which are over budget at this time. Next, she brought the Aldermen up to date on several items of interest, which items included: cash in the bank; investments; total assets and liabilities; combined revenues and expenses, showing a change in net position of a negative \$3.0 million. She explained that the reason for the large negative net position is due to the accrual of the \$3.0 million rebate which was approved by the Board in September and which checks have gone out. She then touched on sales tax collections and hydro royalties; and she concluded by advising that the Auditors have completed their field work and will be sending the report to the Louisiana Legislative Auditor by the due date. There being no questions or comments, the Mayor thanked Mrs. Moak for her usual thorough presentation.

Agenda Item No. 2 was Board discussion and vote on 2024 Beer and Liquor Permits. The Mayor and Board then reviewed the 2024 Beer and Liquor permits paid at Town of Vidalia

and a motion to approve as per the list presented was made by Alderman Gardner, seconded by Alderman Smith, and unanimously carried.

Agenda Item No. 3 was Board discussion for Louisiana Legislative Auditor's compliance questionnaire. The Mayor and Board then engaged in a discussion of the Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire which had been submitted to the Town by the Louisiana Legislative Auditor, a copy of which had been given to the Aldermen prior to the meeting. Following a discussion of the proposed answers to the questions on the audit, a motion was made by Alderman Betts, to approve authorizing the Aldermen to sign the questionnaire, which motion was seconded by Alderman Smith, and unanimously carried.

Agenda Item No. 4 was Town project updates. After announcing the Agenda Item, the Mayor began to give an update on current Town projects, which included: (1) the Water Plant which is waiting on approval of Facility Planning to proceed; (2) the Port, which is waiting for peer reports from the Corps of Engineers in order to proceed; (3) transmission line and transformers, which project is waiting on transmission line poles which may have a 10 month out delivery date; (4) current road construction and re-surfacing is in its final stages and should be finished by the end of 2024, and additional roads have been selected; (5) the slough project, which is in progress; (6) waste water improvements, which will proceed once the high water allows for the work to proceed; (7) raising water wells on the Riverfront, which projects are long term and are proceeding on time; (8) Town of Vidalia sidewalks, which is waiting on State requirements for proceeding; (9) D. A. Biglane project; which is on hold to obtain sufficient funding for the \$3.0 million dollar road project.

Agenda Item No. 5 was Beautification Committee presentation to CASA – Sara Beth Randall (Cassandra Lynch).

The Mayor then made introductory remarks and brought everyone up to date on the lighting portion of the Beautification Project. He then called on Cassandra Lynch, current President of the Vidalia Beautification Committee to make the presentation. Ms. Lynch spoke first about the Committee's t-shirt project, which has been very successful. Then, commenting that she had once been a member of CASA, advised that the Committee is giving a \$1,000.00 donation to CASA which is being accepted by Sara Beth Randall. Ms. Randall made brief remarks accepting the donation and thanking the Committee for all of their good work in supporting CASA.

Agenda Item No. 6 was adjournment. The Mayor noting that there are no additional agenda items, he asked for a motion to adjourn. A motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Gardner, seconded by Alderman Betts, and unanimously carried.. The meeting was adjourned.

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PIARA WILSON, MUNICIPAL CLERK

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BUZ CRAFT, MAYOR

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