

**MINUTES OF A SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING OF THE  
MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN  
OF THE TOWN OF VIDALIA, LOUISIANA,  
HELD ON TUESDAY, JUNE 18, 2024, AT 5:00 P.M.  
AT THE VIDALIA TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM, 200 VERNON STEVENS  
BLVD., VIDALIA, LA**

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Vidalia, Louisiana, met, in special session, at the Vidalia Town Hall meeting room, in Vidalia, Louisiana, on Tuesday, June 18, 2024, at 5:00 P.M.

There were present: Mayor Buz Craft; Aldermen Jon Betts, Tommy Probst, Brent Smith, and Alderwoman Rosa I. Demby.

There were absent: Alderman Robert Gardner, and George C. Murray, Jr., Municipal Attorney.

There were also present: Piara Wilson, Municipal Clerk; Debra M. Moak, Municipal Accountant; Jay LaSyone Municipal Manager; and members of the press.

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

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

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

Agenda Item No. 1 was Public Hearing on an Ordinance Amending the Operating Budget of Revenues and Expenses for the Town of Vidalia, Louisiana, for the fiscal year 2023-2024. After announcing the agenda item, the Mayor asked for a motion to enter the public hearing. A motion to enter the public hearing was made by Alderman Probst, seconded by Alderman Betts, and unanimously carried by those present. The Mayor then announced that the Board was in public hearing and if anyone had any comments or questions on current agenda items. There being no questions or comments, hearing none, the Mayor said he would entertain a motion to exit the Public Hearing. Alderwoman Demby made the motion to exit the public hearing, which was seconded by Alderman Smith, and unanimously carried by those present.

Agenda Item No. 2 was Board discussion and vote on an Ordinance Amending the Operating Budget of Revenues and Expenses for the Town of Vidalia, Louisiana, for the fiscal year 2023-2024. The Mayor asked if there were any discussion or questions from the Board and hearing none, said he would take a motion to adopt the Ordinance. A motion to adopt the Ordinance was made by Alderman Probst, seconded by Alderman Betts, and unanimously carried by those present.

(A COPY OF THIS ORDINANCE IS ATTACHED HERETO AND MADE A PART HEREOF).

Agenda Item No. 3 was Public Hearing on an Ordinance Adopting the Operating Budget of Revenues and Expenses for the Town of Vidalia, Louisiana for the fiscal year 2024-

2025. After announcing the agenda item, the Mayor for a motion to enter into the public hearing. Motion made by Alderwoman Demby, seconded by Alderman Smith and unanimously carried. There being no comments, the Mayor asked for a motion to exit public hearing. Motion was made by Alderman Probst, seconded by Alderman Betts and unanimously carried.

Agenda Item No. 4 was Board discussion and vote on Adopting the Operating Budget of Revenues and Expenses for the Town of Vidalia, Louisiana for the fiscal year 2024-2025. The Mayor asked the Alderman to budget into this budget \$5,000 to the General Fund for each Alderman to select one person in each district as a Vidalia High School graduate going to college to work in the Street and Sanitation Department in a Summer Work Program. To finish painting standards, gateway and paver repairs to the Vidalia Riverfront. For the Aldermen to consider giving themselves a pay raise with conditions with making it contingent on attendance of meetings. The Mayor and Board then allowed the Department Heads to speak on items they were wanting and needing for their departments. The first person to speak was Fire Chief Johnny Evans. He asked the Board to consider an across the board raise or merit raises for his employees; pump and brake repairs on a fire truck; he expressed his concerns on employee shortage that he is experiencing and improvements, remodeling and adding on to the old Fire Department. Municipal Accountant Debra Moak expressed that the Police Department has asked for Protection Boards. The Mayor expressed that the Street and Sanitation Department has a garbage truck that is coming off of lease that he would like to keep and get rid of RG3. Alderman Probst asked about equipment for Eric that Town Manager Jay LaSyone expressed that has been budgeted. The Mayor expressed his concern about drainage issues along with other projects that he would like to get completed with the budget. He then asked if any Alderperson had anything they wanted to add to the budget. Being none, he asked the Board's opinion on the Summer Work Program. After discussion, the Board agreed to add \$5,000 into the budget for the Summer Work Program. The Mayor asked to add up to \$200,000 to the Riverfront Fund for Riverfront projects. Cornell Lewis, Department Head of the Utility Department and Lee Staggs, Department Head for the Street & Sanitation Department, expressed his reasoning on why the Board should consider an across the board raise for employees. The Mayor moved on to ask the Board for details on their raise. After discussion, the Board was in favor of giving themselves a raise of \$1,000 based on attendance. The Mayor moved on to the discussion of an across the board raise for employees. Aldermen Betts made a motion for a 5% across the board raise for all employees, seconded by Alderman Smith. Alderwoman Demby made a motion for a 7% across the board raise for all employees which did not get a second. A roll call vote was taken for the 5% across the board raise as follows: FOR: Alderman Betts, Probst, Smith; NAY: Alderwoman Demby; ABSENT: Alderman Gardner. The motion carried. The Mayor concluded by asking the Board to consider giving their selves \$1,000 raise with attendance being a contingency. The Mayor pointed out the shortage in the upcoming budget regarding City Court. After discussion on this matter, a motion was made by Alderman Probst to Adopt the Operating Budget of Revenues and Expenses for the Town of Vidalia, Louisiana for the fiscal year 2024-2025; seconded by Alderwoman Demby and unanimously carried.

(A COPY OF THIS ORDINANCE IS ATTACHED HERETO AND MADE A PART  
HEREOF).

The Mayor then thanked the Board for their attendance at the meeting and asked for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by Alderman Smith to adjourn, seconded by Alderman Betts, and unanimously passed by those present. The Mayor declared the meeting adjourned.

/s/ Piara Wilson  
PIARA WILSON, MUNICIPAL CLERK

/s/ Buz Craft  
BUZ CRAFT, MAYOR

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**ORDINANCE NO.**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE OPERATING BUDGET OF REVENUES  
AND EXPENSES FOR THE TOWN OF VIDALIA, LOUISIANA, FOR THE  
FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024**

**BE IT ORDAINED** by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Vidalia, Louisiana, in regular session, duly convened as the governing authority of said municipality, that:

**WHEREAS:**

At this time there is a variance of greater than 5% in the general and special revenue funds and, therefore, pursuant to R.S. 39:1310 and R.S. 39:1311 it is necessary that the current annual budget be amended.

**AND WHEREAS:**

- 1) This proposed ordinance was previously introduced at a regular meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen held on June 11, 2024;
- 2) A public hearing was held by the Board of Aldermen on the 18th day of June, 2024;

**NOW THEREFORE**, it is hereby declared and ordained that the attached Amendment of Revenues and Expenditures for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, institutes the following changes:

**GENERAL FUND:** Revenues and Other Financing Sources for the General Fund are expected to be approximately \$1.3 million higher than the original budget. The IT department received \$243k from Facility Planning and Control for the broadband fiber optic project, LWCC paid the town \$394k dividend payment, and interest earnings are higher than expected due to raise in interest rates on investments. Other financing sources included a transfer of \$725k to cover excess of expenditures over revenue. The overall change in fund balance is \$837k more than expected. The fund balance at the end of the fiscal year is expected to increase to \$2.6 million.

Total expenditures and other financing uses are higher than expected primarily due to the increases in general liability insurance, salaries, wages and benefits, increase cost of supplies, petroleum, etc.

**SPECIAL REVENUE FUND:** Revenues and Other Financing Sources for the Special Revenue Fund are much lower than originally expected by approximately \$10 million primarily due to lower hydro royalties received partially offset by the higher interest earnings on the town's investments. Charges for services were lower due to the hydro power purchases were low than expected, and the timing of the government payments for the construction of the slough project did not happen as expected.

Total expenditures in the special revenue fund are lower than expected due to lower amount spent on other improvements from the Sales Tax Fund and lower than expected cost of power due to low levels of the Mississippi River. Other financing sources were higher by \$715k due to making transfers to help fund utility power costs. The beginning fund balance is being adjusted to the audited fund balance. The change in net position is expected to be lower than expected by \$4.8 million

In addition, the beginning fund balances for the Capital Fund and the Enterprise Fund are being amended as well. The Debt Service Fund is no longer in use since all the debt has been extinguished. The Capital Fund is showing a positive \$117k positive, and the Enterprise Fund is showing a positive \$1.2 million adjustment to the beginning of the year fund balance.

The foregoing ordinance was read and considered, section by section, and then on motion by Alderman Probst, seconded by Alderman Smith, was submitted to a vote, as a whole, and the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: Alderman Betts, Alderwoman Demby, Alderman Probst, Alderman Smith

NAYS: NONE

ABSTAINING: NONE

ABSENT: Alderman Gardner

WHEREUPON, the Mayor declared the foregoing ordinance to be duly adopted this 18th day of June, 2024

          /s/ Piara Wilson            
PIARA WILSON, CLERK

          /s/ Buz Craft            
BUZ CRAFT, MAYOR

TOWN OF VIDALIA  
SPECIAL REVENUE FUND  
BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 1  
ORDINANCE # \_\_\_\_\_  
ADOPTED JUNE \_\_\_\_\_ 2024  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING  
JUNE 30, 2024

	<b>CURRENT BUDGET</b>	<b>ADJUSTMENT</b>	<b>AMENDED BUDGET</b>
<b>REVENUES</b>			
SALES TAX	3,700,000	221,000	3,921,000
OTHER INTER GOV REVENUE	1,002,600	(945,000)	57,600
CHARGES FOR SERVICES	2,000,000	(1,050,000)	950,000
FINES & FORFEITS	82,300	-	82,300
OTHER	30,805,150	(8,300,000)	22,505,150
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>37,590,050</b>	<b>(10,074,000)</b>	<b>27,516,050</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>			
SALES TAX AMBULANCE FUND	2,311,000	(1,190,000)	1,121,000
HYDRO FUND	1,163,800	(225,500)	938,300
CITY COURT	13,450,000	(3,575,000)	9,875,000
CITY MARSHAL	241,850	-	241,850
HOTEL OCCUPANCY	33,050	-	33,050
	15,000	-	15,000
	<b>17,214,700</b>	<b>(4,990,500)</b>	<b>12,224,200</b>
<b>EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>20,375,350</b>	<b>(5,083,500)</b>	<b>15,291,850</b>
<b>OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)</b>			
TRANSFERS IN	175,300	-	175,300
TRANSFERS OUT	9,868,950	715,000	10,583,950
<b>NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE</b>	<b>10,681,700</b>	<b>(5,798,500)</b>	<b>4,883,200</b>
<b>FUND BALANCE AT BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	<b>24,798,082</b>	<b>966,705</b>	<b>25,764,787</b>
<b>FUND BALANCE AT END OF YEAR</b>	<b>35,479,782</b>	<b>(4,831,795)</b>	<b>30,647,987</b>

TOWN OF VIDALIA  
GENERAL FUND  
BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 1  
ORDINANCE # \_\_\_\_\_  
ADOPTED JUNE \_\_\_\_\_ 2024  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING  
JUNE 30, 2024

	<b>CURREN T BUDGET</b>	<b>ADJUSTMEN T</b>	<b>AMENDE D BUDGET</b>
<b>REVENUES</b>			
TAXES	130,000	-	130,000
LICENSE & PERMITS	245,000	15,000	260,000
FINES & FORFEITS	40,000	-	40,000
INTERGOVERNMENTA L	514,400	310,000	824,400
CHARGES FOR SERVICES	575,000	-	575,000
OTHER	248,000	245,500	493,500
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>1,752,400</b>	<b>570,500</b>	<b>2,322,900</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE S</b>			
ADMINISTRATION	1,661,800	39,000	1,700,800
STREET	1,972,300	136,500	2,108,800
SANITATION	900,750	(179,000)	721,750
POLICE	3,368,400	109,000	3,477,400
FIRE	1,932,100	172,500	2,104,600
MECHANIC INFORMATION	372,900	-	372,900
TECHNOLOGY	515,400	180,000	695,400
RECREATION	321,000	-	321,000
	11,044,650	458,000	11,502,650
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES	(9,292,250)	112,500	(9,179,750)
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)			
TRANSFERS IN	9,475,000	725,000	10,200,000
TRANSFERS OUT	175,300	-	175,300
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE	7,450	837,500	844,950
FUND BALANCE AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	2,763,192	(1,004,174)	1,759,018
FUND BALANCE AT END OF YEAR	2,770,642	(166,674)	2,603,968

TOWN OF VIDALIA  
ENTERPRISE FUND  
BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 1  
ORDINANCE # \_\_\_\_\_  
ADOPTED JUNE \_\_\_\_\_ 2024  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING  
JUNE 30, 2024

	CURRENT	ADJUSTMEN	AMENDED
REVENUES	BUDGET	T	BUDGET
TAXES		-	
LICENSE & PERMITS		-	
FINES & FORFEITS		-	
INTERGOVERNMENTAL	1,207,200	-	-
CHARGES FOR			
SERVICES	16,120,000	-	-
OTHER	527,750	-	-
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>17,854,950</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>			
ELECTRIC	8,695,600	-	-
GAS	3,352,150	-	-
WATER	2,873,800	-	-
SEWER	598,050	-	-
CITY HALL	601,300	-	-
CONVENTION CENTER	877,700	-	-
	<b>16,998,600</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES	856,350	-	-
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)			
TRANSFERS IN	9,179,600	-	-
TRANSFERS OUT	9,992,350	-	-
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE	43,600	-	-
FUND BALANCE AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	12,701,149	1,213,339	13,914,488
FUND BALANCE AT END OF YEAR	12,744,749	1,213,339	13,914,488



TOWN OF VIDALIA  
 CAPITAL FUND  
 BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 1  
 ORDINANCE # \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADOPTED JUNE \_\_\_\_\_ 2024  
 FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING  
 JUNE 30, 2024

	CURRENT BUDGET	ADJUSTMEN T	AMENDED BUDGET
<b>REVENUES</b>			
TAXES		-	
LICENSE & PERMITS		-	
FINES & FORFEITS	-	-	
INTERGOVERNMENTAL CHARGES FOR SERVICES	-	-	-
	30,000	-	-
OTHER	300	-	-
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	30,300	-	-
 <b>EXPENDITURES</b>			
INDUSTRIAL PARK	272,500	-	-
PORT CONSTRUCTION	971,000	-	-
	1,243,500	-	-
 EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES	 (1,213,200)	 -	 -
 OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)			
TRANSFERS IN	1,206,700	-	-
TRANSFERS OUT	-	-	-
 NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE	 (6,500)	 -	 -
 FUND BALANCE AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	 (238,345)	 116,603	 (121,742)
 FUND BALANCE AT END OF YEAR	 (244,845)	 116,603	 -

**ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

**AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE OPERATING BUDGET OF REVENUES AND EXPENSES FOR THE TOWN OF VIDALIA, LOUISIANA, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025**

**WHEREAS:**

- 1) This proposed ordinance was previously introduced at the May 14, 2024 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen;
- 2) Due notice of the introduction of this proposed Ordinance was advertised in the official journal on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2024; and
- 3) A public hearing was held by the Board of Aldermen on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2024;

**NOW THEREFORE:**

**BE IT ORDAINED**, by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Vidalia, Louisiana, in Regular Session duly convened as the governing authority of said municipality, that:

SECTION I. The attached detailed estimate of revenues and expenditures by Departments, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025, be and the same is hereby adopted to serve as “Budget of Revenues and Expenditures” for the Town of Vidalia during the said period.

SECTION II. The adoption of this Operating Budget of Revenues and Expenditures by and the same is declared to operate as an appropriation of the amounts therein set forth with the terms of the budget classifications.

SECTION III. The Mayor is hereby authorized to take all actions necessary and appropriate for the implementation of the Operating Budget of Revenues and Expenditures for the fiscal year 2024-2025. All such actions must be in compliance with La. R.S. 33:321. et seq.

The above and foregoing Ordinance was read and considered, section by section, and then on motion by Alderman Probst, seconded by Alderwoman Demby, was submitted to a vote, as a whole, and the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: Alderman Betts, Alderwoman Demby, Alderman Probst, Alderman Smith

NAYS: NONE

ABSTAINING: NONE

ABSENT: Alderman Gardner

WHEREUPON, the Mayor declared the foregoing Ordinance to be duly adopted this 18<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2024.

/s/ Piara Wilson  
PIARA WILSON, MUNICIPAL CLERK

/s/ Buz Craft  
BUZ CRAFT, MAYOR

