

**MINUTES OF A SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING OF THE  
MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN  
OF THE TOWN OF VIDALIA, LOUISIANA,  
HELD ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 20, 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, August 20, 2024, at 5:00 P.M.

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

There was absent: Alderman Robert Gardner.

There were also present: Piara Wilson, Municipal Clerk, Jay LaSyone, Municipal Manager, Debra Moak, Municipal Accountant, Brad Burget, representative of Smith, Taliaferro and Purvis Law Firm, 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 Mayor and 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.

Before addressing the agenda items, the Mayor explained that any actions taken this evening will not impact the utility rebates and continued to explain the procedures for computing the surplus hydro royalties. There followed a Board discussion and the Mayor gave his list of projects. His project list consisted of, renovation to the upstairs of the Hydro Building, renovate the Hydro Museum, continue the painting on the Riverfront, replace the air conditioners in the Convention Center, add \$500,000 to the street overlay project, add decorative street signs, add solar lights on walking trails and to continue with the ongoing tree cutting project.

Alderman Probst then spoke on his projects which included: to continue the ongoing tree cutting project and the ditch between Eleanor and Viking Streets; and he ended with his observation that the Town does not need to provide nets at the ball fields, as that should be a Recreation Board responsibility.

Alderman Betts spoke next and stated that he would like to continue the Polk Park Project; repair roads on the Riverfront; he reiterated his concern for the Riverfront repairs project; and continue with special projects for the Veterans and the Beautification Committee.

Next, Alderman McCoy spoke about his concerns for the roads on Front St., which is located on the Riverfront; the Vietnam Memorial Site, continue the tree cutting project, continue Code Enforcement especially for the Vidalia Junior High School, add lights to the walking trail, construct a park in District 1 and adding seating to the tree on Clinton St., repairs to City Court and to continue with Blight throughout the Town.

Alderman Smith was the final Board speaker whose projects included: netting for the ball fields, the Memorial Wall, and turf a field for Special Needs activities.

Agenda Item No. 2 was Board vote to enter into public hearing to receive public input concerning possible alternative uses of surplus hydroelectric royalties. The Mayor called for a

motion to enter the public hearing. A motion was made by Alderman Probst, seconded by Alderman McCoy, to enter the public hearing which carried unanimously. The first person to speak was Mr. McClure who spoke about the Memorial Wall.

Kevin Friloux spoke next suggesting that Concordia Avenue Extension to Murray Drive be overlaid, repairs to Front Street and the Memorial Wall.

Next, Cindy Galloway, President of the Vidalia Garden Club, suggested we register the older live Oak Trees and incorporate Mural Art within the Town.

Cassandra Lynch spoke next about the ongoing projects for the Beautification Committee.

Next, James with the Recreation Board spoke about resurfacing the ball fields and outfield cutting.

There being no further input from the audience, the Mayor moved to the next Agenda item.

Agenda Item No. 3 was Board vote to exit the public hearing. Alderman Smith moved to exit the public hearing, which was seconded by Alderman McCoy, and unanimously carried.

Agenda Item No. 4 was adjournment. The Mayor announced that there was no further business and asked for a motion to adjourn. A motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Betts, seconded by Alderman McCoy, and unanimously carried. The meeting was adjourned.

/s/ Piara Wilson  
PIARA WILSON, MUNICIPAL CLERK

/s/ Buz Craft  
BUZ CRAFT, MAYOR