

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING OF THE
MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN
OF THE TOWN OF VIDALIA, LOUISIANA,
HELD ON TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2024 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, March 12, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

There were present: Mayor Buz Craft, Aldermen Jon Betts, Brent Smith, Robert Gardner, and Alderwoman Rosa I. Demby.

There was absent: Alderman Tommy Probst.

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 February 13, 2024, were approved with no changes. The motion for the approval of the minutes was made by Alderman Smith, seconded by Alderwoman Demby, and unanimously carried.

The Mayor then asked if anyone had any comments on current agenda items. Noting that there were none, the Mayor proceeded to the formal agenda.

Agenda Item No. 1 was the presentation of the financial statement for January 2024 by Debra Moak, CPA, and Municipal Accountant. Ms. Moak 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. She then 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 million. She explained that the reason is due to the \$3M rebate. She then touched on sales tax collection and hydro royalties, and she concluded by advising that the capital outlay is at 31% of budget, and other services and charges are at 41% of budget. She then advised that there are \$908K remaining undesignated in the ARPA funds and that these funds must be obligated by December 31, 2024, and expended by December 31, 2026. In conclusion, she advised that the budget process will begin the week of March 17, by having a meeting with all Department Head personnel. In addition, discussions on capital projects and the needs of each Department Head for the 2024-2025 budget year will commence. At this point, the Mayor elaborated on Ms. Moak's comments about the low hydro revenues and reminded everyone that after 5 years of high water, the Town has had 2 years of excessively low water in the Mississippi River which accounted for the reduction in Hydro

revenue. He also spoke about using ARPA funds and other funds to rebate to the Vidalia electric customers and that he hoped to continue these in the future. Following that, he thanked Mrs. Moak for the great work she does for the Town.

Agenda Item No. 2 was Board discussion and vote on approval of AirMedCare Network Municipal site membership for Town of Vidalia, Louisiana, for April 2024-April 2025. The Mayor began by explaining that the Town has offered this service for the citizens for as long as he has been in office and gave a general overview of the benefits of having the AirMedCare service. After generally explaining the benefits and giving an overview, the Mayor asked if there were any questions or comments about it. Alderman Gardner asked if it was the same as last time and the Mayor says it is the same with no changes. Alderman Gardner then made the motion to approve, which motion was seconded by Alderwoman Demby, and carried unanimously.

Agenda Item No. 3 was adjournment. The Mayor then asked for a motion to adjourn and the motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Gardner, seconded by Alderwoman Demby, and unanimously carried. The meeting was adjourned.

PIARA WILSON, MUNICIPAL CLERK

BUZ CRAFT, MAYOR

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