

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE TOWN OF VIDALIA, LOUISIANA, HELD ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 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, November 14, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

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

There were absent: Alderman Robert Gardner.

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 October 10, 2023, were approved with no changes. The motion for the approval of the minutes was made by Alderman Betts, seconded by Alderman Probst, and unanimously carried.

The Mayor then asked if anyone had 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 September, 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 indicating 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 \$2,300,000.00. She next noted that the Town is in the process of getting the checks out for the Hydro rebate and touched on sales tax collections and hydro royalties; and she concluded by advising that the Auditors have completed their field work. There being no questions, the Mayor thanked Mrs. Moak for her usual thorough presentation.

Agenda Item No. 2 was Board discussion on approval of occupational license applications. The first application was by Robin Christian for "Miss-Lou Restore Health and Wellness" at 101 Carter Street. The application also had a request for approval of a sign application. There being no questions or comments, a motion to approve both the occupational license and the sign application was made by Alderman Betts, seconded by Alderwoman Demby, and unanimously carried. The

second application was by Jim Graves for "Diabetic Care Centers of Louisiana, d/b/a Luxe Wellness & Spa" at 200 Carter Street. There being no questions or comments, a motion to approve the occupational license was made by Alderman Probst, seconded by Alderman Betts, and unanimously carried.

Agenda Item No. 3 was Board discussion and approval of a Resolution of support of the Community Water Enrichment Fund (CWEF) for fiscal year 2023-2024. The Mayor then explained the reasons for supporting the Community Water Enrichment Fund and passing a Resolution approving the filing of an application for funding of up to \$35,000.00 to that fund and appointing the Mayor as the Agent for the Town to conduct all negotiations and sign all documents. There being no questions or comments, a motion to approve the Resolution supporting the Community Water Enrichment Fund for fiscal year 2023-2024 as presented at the meeting, was made by Alderman Probst, seconded by Alderman Smith, and unanimously carried.

(A COPY OF THE RESOLUTION IS ATTACHED HERETO AND MADE A PART HEREOF).

Agenda Item No. 4 was Board discussion and approval of a Resolution of support of the Local Government Assistance Program (LGAP) for fiscal year 2023-2024. The Mayor advised the Board of the reasons that the Town should support the local government assistance program for the coming fiscal year. There being no questions or comments, the Mayor asked for a motion to approve the Resolution as presented, which motion was made by Alderwoman Demby, seconded by Alderman Smith, and unanimously carried.

(A COPY OF THE RESOLUTION IS ATTACHED HERETO AND MADE A PART HEREOF).

Agenda Item No. 5 was Board discussion and vote of approval to grant Louisiana Renewable Facility, LLC, d/b/a Splitwater of Vidalia, an option to purchase approximately 75 acres of land located in the Industrial Park of the Town of Vidalia. The Mayor first gave the Board a general overview of the project and indicated that he believes that it would be a beneficial addition to the Town's Industrial Park. The Mayor then called on Mr. Paul Hudson who spoke to the Board giving his qualifications and history in the oil, gas and energy industries and giving the reasons that his firm has been successful and has several locations which are producing an alternate ecology friendly power source, which most ocean-going vessels will be utilizing in the very near future. Following Mr. Hudson's presentation, and after the Mayor commented thereon, a motion was made by Alderman Probst, seconded by Alderman Smith, and unanimously carried to approve moving forward with the project.

Agenda Item No. 6 was Board discussion and vote on approval of renewal of communication tower lease between Town of Vidalia and NCWPCS MPL 27-YEAR SITES TOWER HOLDINGS, LLC, subject to review by counsel. The Mayor explained to the Board that this is a renewal of the current communication tower lease between the Town of Vidalia and the Lessor, which original agreement was dated November 23, 1998, and was amended by agreement dated March 21, 2001, and that the agreement, as amended, will terminate on December 31, 2023. The Mayor feels that the terms as provided in the second amendment as presented at the meeting, are very favorable and recommends that they be accepted. The Board had the second amendment in the packet for their review. Following a short discussion a motion was made by Alderman Betts, seconded by Alderwoman Demby, and unanimously carried, to approve the Second Amendment to Lease and Lease

Agreement as presented at the meeting, subject to review and approval by the Town Attorney.

Agenda Item No. 7 was adjournment. Noting that there was no further agenda items, the Mayor asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Probst, seconded by Alderman Smith, and unanimously carried.

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PIARA WILSON, MUNICIPAL CLERK

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BUZ CRAFT, MAYOR

The following Resolution was offered by Alderman Probst, seconded by Alderman Smith:

**RESOLUTION**

**A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT OF THE COMMUNITY WATER ENRICHMENT FUND FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024**

**WHEREAS**, the Division of Administration, State of Louisiana, has been delegated the responsibility of the administration of the Community Water Enrichment Fund, authorized by the Louisiana State Legislature, setting up necessary procedures governing the project application under the program; and

**WHEREAS**, said procedures established by the Division of Administration require a Resolution certifying the approval of the filing of the application before submission of the application:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Mayor and Board of the Town of Vidalia, Louisiana, that the said Town of Vidalia hereby:

- (1) Approves the filing of an application for funding of up to \$35,000.00 to the Community Water Enrichment Fund; and
- (2) Appoints Mayor Buz Craft as Agent of the Town of Vidalia to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents, including, but not limited to, applications, agreements, payment requests and any other documents which may be necessary for the completion of the aforementioned project.

**THE ABOVE RESOLUTION** was called for a vote and the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: Aldermen Betts, Probst, Smith and Alderwoman Demby.

NAYS: NONE.

ABSTAINING: NONE.

ABSENT: Alderman Gardner.

**AND THE RESOLUTION** was declared adopted on this the 14<sup>th</sup> of November, 2023.

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PIARA WILSON, MUNICIPAL CLERK

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BUZ CRAFT, MAYOR

The following Resolution was offered by Alderwoman Demby, seconded by Alderman Smith:

**RESOLUTION**

**A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LGAP) 2023-2024 GRANT APPLICATION**

**WHEREAS**, a 2023-2024 Grant for up to \$35,000.00 is available from the local Government Assistance Program (LGAP) for the funding of public works equipment; and

**WHEREAS**, Mayor Buz Craft needs to be authorized to sign all documents and contracts pertaining to the local Government Assistance (LGAP) Grant;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mayor and board of Aldermen of the Town of Vidalia, Louisiana, are in support of the local Government Assistance Program (LGAP) 2023-2024 Grant; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Mayor Buz Craft is hereby authorized to sign all documents and contracts pertaining to the local Government Assistance Program (LGAP) 2023-2024 Grant.

**THE ABOVE RESOLUTION** was called to a vote and the vote thereon was recorded as follows:

YEAS: Aldermen Betts, Probst, Smith and Alderwoman Demby.

NAYS: NONE.

ABSTAINING: NONE.

ABSENT: Alderman Gardner.

**AND THE RESOLUTION** was declared adopted on this the 14<sup>th</sup> of November, 2023.

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PIARA WILSON, MUNICIPAL CLERK

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BUZ CRAFT, MAYOR