

**MINUTES OF A SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING OF THE
MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN
OF THE TOWN OF VIDALIA, LOUISIANA,
HELD ON FRIDAY, JUNE 23, 2023 AT 12:00 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 Friday, June 23, 2023, at 12:00 P.M.

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

There were absent: Alderman Brent Smith.

There were also present: Piara Wilson, Municipal Clerk; Debra M. 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 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 2022-2023. 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 Alderwoman Demby, seconded by Alderman Probst, 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 Probst, 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 2022-2023. 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 Betts, seconded by Alderman Probst, and unanimously carried by those present. (A COPY OF THIS ORDINANCE IS ATTACHED HERETO AND MADE A PART HEREOF).

Agenda Item No. 3 was Board discussion to clarify the minutes from the Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Board of Alderman on June 13, 2023. After announcing the agenda item, the Mayor said that there were several things that needed to be clarified about the Board's decision on adopting the budget for 2023-2024. The Mayor then indicated that while the Board voted to give pay raises, it was not clear of what percentage pay raise should be given. He then opened a discussion with the Board about what percentage the pay raises should be. After a short discussion, a motion was made

by Alderman Gardner, seconded by Alderman Probst, that it should be an across-the-board 5% pay raise. The motion passed unanimously by those present.

The second item to be clarified was concerning the use of ARPA funds to pay the July, August and September LEPA 1 payments. After a short discussion, a motion was made by Alderman Betts, seconded by Alderman Gardner, to use the ARPA funds to pay the LEPA 1 payments for July, August and September. The motion carried unanimously by those present.

Agenda Item No. 4 was Board vote to enter Executive Session to discuss possible litigation. The Mayor then asked for a vote to enter Executive Session to discuss possible litigation. The motion to enter Executive Session was made by Alderman Gardner, seconded by Alderman Demby and unanimously carried by those present. The Mayor, Board and staff then exited to the kitchen area at the rear of the Council Chambers. On returning to the meeting room, the Mayor asked for a motion to exit the Executive Session. A motion to exit was made by Alderman Betts, seconded by Alderman Probst, and unanimously carried by those present. The Mayor then announced that the Board was back in regular session and was going to take a vote on the matters discussed in Executive Session and that basically what the Board is going to do is to proceed with the litigation attorney's recommendations in reference to some litigation which the Town is involved in and that the Mayor was to entertain that motion. Alderman Betts made the motion to proceed with the recommendations of the litigation attorney with reference to the considered litigation, which motion was seconded by Alderwoman Demby and passed unanimously by those present. 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 Betts to adjourn, seconded by Alderman Probst, and unanimously passed by those present. The Mayor declared the meeting adjourned.

PIARA WILSON, MUNICIPAL CLERK

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 2022-2023

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 13, 2023;
- 2) A public hearing was held by the Board of Aldermen on the 23rd day of June, 2023;

NOW THEREFORE, it is hereby declared and ordained that the attached Amendment of Revenues and Expenditures for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, institutes the following changes:

GENERAL FUND: Revenues and Other Financing Sources for the General Fund are expected to be approximately \$1.5 million higher than the original budget. The police department received an extra \$118k more from the Concordia Parish School Board for school resource officers and LWCC paid the town an addition \$60k premium. Interest earnings are higher than expected due to raise in interest rates on investments. Other financing sources included a transfer from the Hydro Fund to pay off the debt of the fire truck in the amount of \$545k. The overall change in fund balance is \$774k more than expected. The fund balance at the end of the fiscal year is expected to increase by \$1.6 million.

Total expenditures and other financing uses are higher than expected primarily due to the payoff of the fire truck and the increase in the number of leased vehicles not expected in the original budget.

SPECIAL REVENUE FUND: Revenues and Other Financing Sources for the Special Revenue Fund are much lower than originally expected by approximately \$1.5 million primarily due to lower hydro royalties received partially offset by the high sales tax received and higher interest earnings on the town's investments.

However, 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 \$8.7 million due to having paid of the municipal complex debt, the fire truck and the electric substation. The beginning fund balance is also higher than expected by \$158k. The change in net position is lower by \$290k. The ending fund balance is expected to be lower by \$131k.

In addition, the beginning fund balances for the Debt Service Fund, the Capital Fund, and the Enterprise Fund are being amended as well. The Debt Service Fund is showing a \$32 positive adjustment. The Capital Fund is showing a negative \$105,345 adjustment, and the Enterprise Fund is showing a positive \$108,877 adjustment to the original beginning of the year fund balance.

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

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

NAYS: NONE.

ABSTAINING: NONE.

ABSENT: Alderman Smith

WHEREUPON, the Mayor declared the foregoing ordinance to be duly adopted this 23rd day of June, 2023.

PIARA B. WILSON, CLERK

BUZ CRAFT, MAYOR