

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN
OF THE TOWN OF VIDALIA, LOUISIANA,
HELD ON TUESDAY, JUNE 12, 2018 AT 6:00 P.M.
IN THE TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM**

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Vidalia, Louisiana, met, in regular session, in the Town Hall Meeting Room in Vidalia, Louisiana, on Tuesday, June 12, 2018, at 6:00 p.m.

There were present: Mayor Buz Craft, Aldermen Jon Betts, Tommy Probst, Tron McCoy, Robert Gardner and Alderwoman Sabrina Dore'.

There were also present: Jay LaSyone, City Clerk; Debra Moak, City Accountant; City Attorney George C. Murray, Jr.; Executive Secretary to the Mayor, Pam Middleton; Bill Murray, City Manager; and representatives of the press.

The meeting was opened by the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance, and the invocation was given by Alderman Probst.

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 from the regular meeting of May 8, 2018, were approved, with no changes. The motion for approval of the minutes was made by Alderwoman Dore', seconded by Alderman Gardner, and unanimously carried.

Addressing Agenda Item No. 1, the Mayor explained that, while not required, a Notice had been given that a Public Hearing would be held at the April, 2018 Regular Meeting regarding amending the 2017-2018 Annual Budget. He further explained the need to amend the 2017-2018 annual budget at this time and asked for a motion to open the public hearing. A motion was made by Alderwoman Dore', seconded by Alderman Betts, and unanimously carried, that the Public Hearing be opened. The Mayor then asked for comments or questions regarding amending the 2017-2018 Annual Budget and there were none. Thereupon, a motion to close the public hearing was made by Alderman Gardner, seconded by Alderman Betts, and unanimously carried. The Mayor then announced the public hearing to be closed.

Agenda Item No. 2 was the introduction of an Ordinance to amend the 2017-2018 budget. The Mayor then announced that he was introducing an Ordinance to amend the 2017-2018 Annual Budget and advised that the Aldermen had been given a copy in their packet. The mayor then announced that the Ordinance was available for public inspection at the Town Hall and that a public hearing will be held at a Special Meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen on June 22, 2018, at noon and that thereafter the Mayor and Board would consider the adoption of the Ordinance.

Addressing Agenda Item No. 3, the Mayor called on the City Accountant, Debra Moak, who presented the financial statements, being a summary of the actual revenues over expenditures as of April 30, 2018. As customary, she reviewed the summary sheets previously given to the Aldermen and advised that they were available for distribution. She then reported on the various positive and negative fund balances and concluded with a summary of the results. Following a brief question and answer session, at which the timeline for concluding Project Blue was discussed, and questions

concerning various details of Project Blue, at which Mrs. Heather Malone advised that the plans are to close by the 28th of June and record documents on the 29th. Following her presentation, the Mayor thanked Mrs. Moak for her presentation.

Agenda Item No. 4 was the consideration of Occupational License applications. The Mayor advised that there were none.

Agenda Item No. 5 was the consideration of outdoor sign applications. The Mayor advised that there were none.

Addressing Agenda Item No. 6, the Mayor recognized Police Chief Joey Merrill who presented a plaque to Gayle Cowan for her 20 years of service at the Vidalia Police Department. Mrs. Cowan was present to accept the plaque and thanked everyone for having been given the honor of service to the Town.

Agenda Item No. 7 was the consideration of a Resolution to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the State of Louisiana to lease office space at the Vidalia Convention and Conference Center and to authorize Mayor Craft to execute the Agreement on behalf of the Town. The Mayor explained the need for such a Resolution and asked for comments. There were questions concerning why some of the agencies which were vacating the Old Courthouse such as Council on Aging; DA Bad Check Unit; DA Child Support Unit and the County Agent could not be located in the Convention Center. City Manager Bill Murray spoke at this point to advise that the Town was considering housing some of those people in the Hydro Building but that it is not yet available. He indicated that the CEA with the State would bring approximately \$10,000.00 a year which would more than pay for keeping the Convention Center open. On motion by Alderwoman Dore', seconded by Alderman Probst, and unanimously carried, the Board authorized the Resolution to enter into the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement as presented at the meeting and authorized the Mayor to sign all documents necessary to complete the agreement.

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

In Addressing Agenda Item No. 8, the Mayor advised that it is now time for the Board to pass a Resolution to set the reserve amount for the Hydro Fund for the 2018-2019 fiscal year. The Mayor advised that the computations have been made and that the minimum for that reserve should be 1.98 million dollars and that we presently have 2.3 million dollars in reserve. There followed a discussion among the Board members on whether to reduce the amount to the minimum or to keep it at the present level of 2.3 million. At the conclusion of the discussions, it was the consensus that the reserve amount should be kept at 2.3 million and that the excess over 1.98 million could be used to pay expenses of the Town but that any use of the funds for expenses should require Board approval. On motion by Alderman Betts, seconded by Alderman Probst, and unanimously carried, the Aldermen requested that a Resolution be adopted to keep the reserve amount for the Hydro Fund at 2.3 million and to allow the excess over the minimum of 1.98 million be used, as necessary, to pay Town expenses but that before such expenses are paid there must be Board approval. The vote on the Resolution was called and the result was

YEAS: Aldermen Betts, McCoy, Gardner, Probst and Alderwoman Dore'.

NAYS: NONE.

ABSENT: NONE.

ABSTAINING: NONE.

The Mayor thereafter declared the Resolution adopted to be effective immediately upon signing.
(A COPY OF THE RESOLUTION IS ATTACHED HERETO AND MADE A PART HEREOF)

Agenda Item No. 9 was a discussion of the Summer Youth Program. Rev. Raymond Riley, who conducts the program, spoke on behalf of the Program. There was an extended discussion of the matter in which Mr. Riley gave the pros for the program and there were several citizens who had concerns. During the discussion, the Mayor advised Rev. Riley that he had been advised by counsel that it would not be permissible to give the funds to Rev. Riley but it would need to go to a separate organization who would disburse the monies. Following additional discussion, Rev. Riley advised that there was an appropriate program which could receive the money and would disburse it for the program and that the program's annual cost was \$4,224.00. Following the discussion, it was moved by Alderman Gardner, seconded by Alderman Probst, and unanimously carried, that the Town pay the \$4,224.00 to the appropriate Church Agency who would disburse the funds. Alderman McCoy called for a roll call and the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Aldermen Betts, McCoy, Gardner, Probst and Alderwoman Dore'.

The Mayor then announced that the motion is passed and that he will discuss with Rev. Riley the appropriate parties and the transfer of funds.

Agenda Item No. 10 was a discussion of the July 4th Festivities planned for the Town which was moderated by Alderwoman Dore'. She explained the events that are planned for the River Front between 10:00 A.M. and 10:00 P.M. as set forth in the official flyer which was presented at the meeting. This is being done under the auspices of the Vidalia Beautification Committee and is a free community event. Following her presentation, the Mayor thanked Alderwoman Dore' for her participation and the Beautification Committee in general for sponsoring the event.

The Mayor then indicated that there were no more agenda items and, thereupon, on motion by Alderman McCoy, seconded by Alderman Probst, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned.

/s/ Jay LaSyone
JAY LASYONE, CITY CLERK

/s/ Buz Craft
BUZ CRAFT, MAYOR

The following resolution was offered by Alderwoman Dore' and seconded by Alderman Probst:

RESOLUTION

A resolution to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the State of Louisiana to lease office space in the Vidalia Convention and Conference Center for certain State agencies and to authorize Mayor Buz Craft to enter into said Agreement in order to implement the terms thereof.

WHEREAS, the Town of Vidalia and the State of Louisiana have reached an Agreement to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement whereby the Town shall lease office space in the Vidalia Convention and Conference Center to the State of Louisiana on the terms and conditions as presented at this meeting; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Vidalia, convened for its regular meeting on June 12, 2018, determined that it is in the best interest of the citizens of the Town to enter into the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the State of Louisiana, as presented at this meeting, and, therefore, it is necessary to authorize the Mayor, Buz Craft, to enter into said Agreement in order to implement the terms thereof;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor, Buz Craft, is hereby authorized to enter into the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the State of Louisiana, as presented at this meeting, and which is on file at the Town Hall for review and inspection, and to sign and execute all documents necessary to confect said Agreement.

The above RESOLUTION was adopted at the June 12, 2018, regular meeting, and the vote was recorded as follows:

YEAS: Aldermen Betts, McCoy, Gardner, Probst and Alderwoman Dore'.

NAYS: NONE.

ABSTAINING: NONE.

ABSENT: NONE.

And the resolution was declared adopted on this the 12th day of June, 2018.

/s/ Jay LaSyone
JAY LASYONE, CLERK

/s/ Buz Craft
BUZ CRAFT, MAYOR

The following resolution was offered by Alderman Betts and seconded by Alderman Probst:

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION FIXING THE AMOUNT TO BE MAINTAINED IN THE HYDRO RESERVE FUND IN ACCORDANCE WITH ORDINANCE NO. 588

WHEREAS, the Town of Vidalia, in accordance with Ordinance No. 588, desires to fix the amount to be maintained in the Hydro Reserve Fund; and

WHEREAS, the Hydro Reserve Fund is presently being maintained at \$2,300,000.00; and

WHEREAS, after due consideration and deliberation, the Board has decided to maintain the fund at \$2,300,000.00 but to allow the difference between the current minimum balance of \$1,980,000.00 and the amount to be maintained, aforesaid, be utilized to pay expenses of the Town, subject to Board approval; therefore:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Hydro Reserve Fund for the current fiscal year be maintained at its current level of \$2,300,000.00 and that the excess between the minimum required balance of \$1,980,000.00 and the amount to be maintained of \$2,300,000.00 may be used to pay Town expenses, as may be approved by the Board of Aldermen.

The above RESOLUTION was called to a vote and the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: Aldermen Betts, McCoy, Gardner, Probst and Alderwoman Dore'.

NAYS: NONE.

ABSENT: NONE.

ABSTAINING: NONE.

AND THE RESOLUTION was declared adopted on this the 12th day of June, 2018.

/s/ Jay LaSyone
JAY LASYONE, CLERK

/s/ Buz Craft
BUZ CRAFT, MAYOR