

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING OF THE
MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN
OF THE TOWN OF VIDALIA, LOUISIANA,
HELD ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2019 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, January 8, 2019, at 6:00 p.m.

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

There was absent: Alderman Jon Betts.

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

The meeting was opened with the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance and the invocation was given by Alderman Gardner.

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 meeting of December 11, 2018, were approved, with no changes. The motion for approval of the minutes was made by Alderman McCoy, and seconded by Alderman Gardner. Following a short discussion concerning the possibility of attaching the video of the meeting to the minutes, a voice vote was requested and the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Aldermen Gardner, McCoy and Probst;

NAYS: Alderwoman Dore';

ABSENT: Alderman Betts.

The motion for approval carried.

Addressing Agenda Item No. 1, the Mayor called on the Town Accountant, Debra Moak, who presented the financial statement for the month of November, 2018, being a summary of the actual revenues and expenditures as of November 30, 2018. As customary, she explained the fund balances for each of the funds, which summaries included a comparison of actual expenses to budget expenses. She also reviewed the summary sheets, previously given to the Aldermen, and reported on the various positive and negative fund balances and indicated the net changes in the various funds through November 30, 2018. There were no questions.

Addressing Agenda Item No. 2, the Mayor reported that there were no occupational license applications for consideration at this meeting

Agenda Item No. 3 was an outdoor sign application by Barry Richardson for a lighted sign on the face of the building and a free standing sign on the premises, as outlined in the application, to advertise his business, Craws, Claws & Tails, at 304 Carter Street, Vidalia, LA. Mr. Richardson spoke to the Board and explained the application. Following a short discussion, on motion by Alderman McCoy, seconded by Alderman Gardner, and unanimously carried by those present, the application was approved.

In addressing Agenda Item No. 4, the Mayor advised that Mr. Richardson has applied for approval of an amended beer and liquor license for Craws, Claws & Tails. Mr. Richardson again spoke explaining the need for the amended license. Following a short discussion, a motion was made by Alderman Gardner, seconded by Alderman Probst, and unanimously carried by those present, to grant the requested amendment to the beer and liquor license.

Addressing Agenda Item No. 5, the Mayor advised the Board that Police Chief Merrill is requesting Board approval for him to hire Darryl Miller as a full-time patrol officer for the Vidalia Police Department. Chief Merrill spoke to the Board in favor of the hire and explained the need to do so. Following a short discussion, on motion by Alderman Gardner, seconded by Alderman Probst, and unanimously carried by all present, the new hire was approved.

Agenda Item No. 6 was an economic development report by Mrs. Heather Malone. She reported on various items of interest which included: the Town Place Suites Hotel which is now open on the Riverfront and will hold a grand opening in February; Syrah Technologies which presently continues installing equipment at its site and which advises that they hope to be in production by the end of the first quarter; Vidalia Denim which has considerable cotton on site for future processing and continues with installing equipment; and the Vidalia Port which continues working on installing its equipment. Her report also covered several ongoing matters pertaining to local economic development. Mrs. Malone concluded her report and the Mayor thanked her for her efforts.

Agenda Item No. 7 was the introduction of an ordinance, amending Ordinance No. 678 (setting salary of Town Clerk). The Mayor recognized Alderman McCoy for the introduction of the ordinance. Alderman McCoy spoke in support of the present Town Clerk, and gave his reasons for introducing an ordinance to increase the Clerk's salary at this time. Alderman McCoy then introduced the ordinance, as presented, and as given to the Aldermen previously, to amend Ordinance No. 678 to increase the salary for the Town Clerk from \$55,000.00 to \$65,000.00 per year, to be effective March 1, 2019. 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 the Board's regular meeting on February 12, 2019, at 6:00 P.M. in the Town meeting hall room and that, thereafter, the Mayor and Board would consider the adoption of the Ordinance.

Agenda Item No. 8 was the introduction of the Utility Rate Ordinance. The Mayor announced that he is introducing an ordinance, as presented, and as given to the Aldermen previously, to establish and adopt electric power, gas, water, sewer and garbage rates for the Town of Vidalia. The Mayor announced that the ordinance was available for public inspection at the Town Hall and that a public meeting will be held at the regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen on February 12, 2019, at 6:00 P.M. in the Town Hall meeting room and that, thereafter, the Mayor and Board would consider the adoption of the ordinance.

Addressing Agenda Item No. 9, the Mayor reminded the Board that when the Town took bids for the sale of several old and no longer needed police vehicles recently, all but two of the vehicles were sold and that the Town began looking for another governmental entity who would have a use for those unsold vehicles. The Village of Ridgecrest has indicated that they would like to have one of those vehicles. The Mayor then advised the Board that it is necessary to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement in order to properly transfer the vehicle to the Village of Ridgecrest.

After discussion, on motion by Alderwoman Dore', seconded by Alderman Probst, and unanimously carried by those present, the Board authorized the resolution to enter into the Intergovernmental Agreement with the Village of Ridgecrest, as presented at the meeting, and authorized the Mayor to sign all documents necessary to confect the agreement.

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

Agenda Item No. 10 was Board approval for the Town of Vidalia to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with Point Man Ministries (transfer of funds for Vietnam Wall project). The Mayor explained the need for the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement and highlighted the circumstances surrounding the need for the transfer of funds for the Vietnam Wall project. Mr. Douglas McCallister was present, representing Point Man International Ministries Miss-Lou, to answer questions and address concerns that the Board may have. Following a brief discussion, on motion by Alderman Gardner, seconded by Alderwoman Dore', and unanimously carried by those present, 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 confect the agreement.

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

Agenda Item No. 11 was a discussion of formation of committee to review Town of Vidalia's current animal control ordinance. The Mayor reviewed the situation pertaining to the Town's current animal control ordinance and the steps that have been taken to bring it into compliance with State law. He stated that he is forming a committee to review the matter and to present amendments to the Town's Animal Control Ordinance. In order to do that, he requested two volunteers from the Board to serve on the committee. Alderwoman Dore' and Alderman McCoy volunteered to serve on the committee.

Agenda Item No. 12 was Board approval to enter into executive session (personnel matter). The Mayor requested a motion to enter into executive session. A motion was made by Alderman Gardner, seconded by Alderwoman Dore', to go into an executive session. The vote thereon was as follows:

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

NAYS: NONE.

ABSENT: Alderman Betts.

The motion having received the affirmative vote of 2/3rds of the members present, the motion passed and the Mayor and Board adjourned into executive session.

Upon returning from executive session, a motion was made by Alderman Probst, seconded by Alderman Gardner, and unanimously carried by those present, to return to regular session.

Upon returning to regular session, and noting that there was no further business, on motion by Alderman Gardner, seconded by Alderman McCoy, and unanimously carried by those present, the meeting was adjourned.

/s/ Jay LaSyone
JAY LASYONE, TOWN 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 an Intergovernmental Agreement and transfer of movable property with the Village of Ridgecrest, Louisiana, to transfer a surplus, no longer needed, vehicle to the Village of Ridgecrest 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 Village of Ridgecrest have reached an Agreement to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement and Transfer of Movable Property whereby the Town of Vidalia shall transfer to the Village of Ridgecrest an old, no longer needed police vehicle, namely: A 2006 Ford Crown Victoria, VIN#2FAFP71WX6X137299, on the terms and conditions as presented at this meeting; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Vidalia, convened in regular session on January 8, 2019, determine that it is in the best interest of the citizens of the Town of Vidalia to enter into the Intergovernmental Agreement with the Village of Ridgecrest, 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, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor, Buz Craft, is hereby authorized to enter into the Intergovernmental Agreement and Transfer of Movable Property, 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 implement said Agreement.

The above Resolution was adopted at the January 8, 2019, regular meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen, and the vote thereon was recorded as follows:

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

NAYS: NONE.

ABSTAINING: NONE.

ABENT: Alderman Betts.

and the resolution was declared adopted on this 8th day of January, 2019.

/s/ Jay LaSyone
JAY LASYONE, TOWN CLERK

/s/ Buz Craft
BUZ CRAFT, MAYOR

The following Resolution was offered by Alderman Gardner, and seconded by Alderwoman Dore’:

RESOLUTION

A resolution to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with Point Man International Ministries Miss-Lou to accept funds from Point Man International Ministries Miss-Lou, and thereafter make a grant to Point Man International Ministries Miss-Lou to aid in the construction and placement of a permanent Vietnam Memorial Wall in the Town of Vidalia, Louisiana; and to authorize Mayor Buz Craft to enter into said Agreement in order to implement the terms thereof.

WHEREAS, the Town of Vidalia (hereafter “TOWN”) and POINT MAN INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES MISS-LOU (hereafter “POINT MAN”) have reached an agreement to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement whereby the TOWN shall accept funds from POINT MAN and thereafter shall make a grant to POINT MAN in like amount, to aid in the construction and placement of a permanent Vietnam Memorial Wall in the Town of Vidalia, and for the reasons given and such conditions as presented at this meeting; and

WHEREAS, the TOWN, convened for its regular meeting on January 8, 2019, determined that it is in the best interest of the citizens of the Town to enter into the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with POINT MAN, as presented at this meeting, for the reasons and under the conditions set forth therein, 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 Mayor Buz Craft is hereby authorized to enter into the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with POINT MAN INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES MISS-LOU, 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 January 8, 2019, regular meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen, and the vote thereon was recorded as follows:

YEAS: Aldermen Gardner, McCoy, Probst and Alderwoman Dore’.

NAYS: NONE.

ABSTAINING: NONE.

ABENT: Alderman Betts.

And the resolution was declared adopted on this 8th day of January, 2019.

/s/ Jay LaSyone
JAY LASYONE, TOWN CLERK

/s/ Buz Craft
BUZ CRAFT, MAYOR