

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING OF THE
MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN
OF THE TOWN OF VIDALIA, LOUISIANA,
HELD ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 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, February 12, 2019, at 6:00 p.m.

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

There were also present: Jay LaSyone, Town Clerk; Debra Moak, Town Accountant; George C. Murray, Jr., Town Attorney; 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 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 meeting of January 8, 2019, 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 called on the Town Accountant, Debra Moak, who presented the financial statement for the month of December, 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 December 31, 2018. There being no questions, the Mayor thanked Mrs. Moak for her thorough presentation.

Agenda Item No. 2 was presentation of the Town audit for 2017-2018 fiscal year. The Mayor recognized Mr. Wes Gore, representing Silas Simmons, LLP, the Town's external auditor, who made the presentation. Mr. Gore, step by step, explained the governance letter; the Executive summary and various provisions of the actual audit report. Following Mr. Gore's presentation, there being no questions, the Mayor thanked Mr. Gore for the excellent work done by the Silas Simmons, LLP Accounting firm in preparing the audit.

Agenda Item No. 3 was the application for an occupational license by The Café at 702 Carter Street, Vidalia, Louisiana, by Mr. David Parker, representing Café Vidalia, LLC. The Mayor introduced Mr. Parker who spoke in favor of the application and described what he planned for the restaurant. Following Mr. Parker's presentation, it was moved by Alderman Gardner, seconded by Alderman Probst, and carried unanimously, to grant the application.

Agenda Item No. 4 was the consideration by the Board for the following outdoor sign applications: (1) for The Café by David Parker, representing Café Vidalia, LLC, for a 4 foot by 8 foot sign and a 5 foot by 10 foot sign advertising the restaurant, as per the plans presented. After a short discussion, on motion by Alderman Probst, seconded by Alderwoman Dore', and unanimously carried, the application was approved; (2) For Town Place Suites, by Deon Smith, for a 6 foot by 2 foot vinyl banner and a 3 foot by 2 foot aluminum sign on square posts, at the intersection of Concordia Avenue and Riverside Street, facing Concordia Avenue. Following questions by

Alderwoman Dore', it was moved by Alderwoman Dore', seconded by Alderman McCoy, and unanimously carried, to approve the application; (3) for Reid's Lawn Service by Bryan Reid at 1112 Carter Street, Vidalia, Louisiana, for an aluminum composite panel 8 foot by 4 foot, as per the attached application. Following a short discussion, on motion by Alderwoman Dore', seconded by Alderman McCoy, and unanimously carried, the application was approved.

Agenda Item No. 5 was Board consideration for approval of applications for beer and liquor licenses as follows: (1) by Café Vidalia, LLC, d/b/a The Café, for a beer only permit, by David Parker as per the attached application; and (2) by Town Place Suites, for a beer and liquor license by Vidalia Hotel Group, LLC, as per the attached application. Following a short discussion by the Board concerning the two applications, a motion was made by Alderwoman Dore', seconded by Alderman McCoy, and unanimously carried, to grant both applications.

Agenda Item No. 6 was Board consideration for approval of a proposed new hire for the Vidalia Police Department of a part-time dispatcher. Following questions from Board members and a short discussion, a motion was made by Alderman McCoy to table this matter for further investigation, which motion was seconded by Alderman Dore', and unanimously carried.

Agenda Item No. 7 was a request for Board approval to request bids for a new bucket truck for the Utility Department, pursuant to the attached specifications. Mr. Mark Morace spoke to the Board concerning the Utility Department's request. Following questions by Alderwoman Dore' concerning leases vs. purchases and the amount of time it would take to get the new truck delivered, it was moved by Alderman Gardner, seconded by Alderwoman Dore', and unanimously carried, to approve the request to advertise for bids for a new bucket truck for the Utility Department in accordance with the presented specifications.

Agenda Item No. 8 was a request for Board approval of a resolution to accept DEQ audit of Town's waste water treatment facilities. The Mayor called on Mr. Mark Morace to explain the need for the Resolution. Following several questions from the audience concerning the audit, on motion by Alderman McCoy, seconded by Alderman Betts, and unanimously carried, the following Resolution approving the Louisiana Municipal Water Pollution Prevention Environmental audit was passed.

(RESOLUTION ATTACHED HERETO AND MADE A PART HEREOF).

Agenda Item No. 9 was a public hearing on an ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 678 to increase the compensation of the Clerk of the Town of Vidalia, Louisiana. The Mayor gave a brief explanation for the reasons for the public hearing and, on motion of Alderman Gardner, seconded by Alderman Betts, and unanimously carried, the public hearing was opened. There followed a spirited question and answer period between the public and the Mayor, with comments by several Aldermen. At the conclusion of the public hearing, the Mayor requested a motion to close the public hearing, which motion was made by Alderman McCoy, seconded by Alderman Betts, and unanimously carried.

Agenda Item No. 10 was Board consideration of an ordinance amending Ordinance No. 678 to increase the compensation of the Clerk of the Town of Vidalia, Louisiana. There being no further discussion of the matter by the Board, it was moved by Alderman McCoy, seconded by Alderman Betts, to pass the ordinance as introduced at the regular meeting of January 8, 2019, to increase the

salary of the Clerk of the Town of Vidalia to the sum of \$65,000.00 per year, to be effective March 1, 2019. The Mayor called the question and the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: Aldermen Betts, Gardner and McCoy.

NAYS: Alderman Probst and Alderwoman Dore’.

The Mayor announced that the motion passes and the Ordinance is duly adopted.

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

Agenda Item No. 11 was a public hearing on an ordinance establishing and adopting electrical power, gas, water, sewer and garbage rates for the Town of Vidalia and repealing all previously adopted ordinances dealing therewith. The Mayor then explained the need for the public hearing and a motion was made to open the public hearing by Alderman Betts, seconded by Alderman Dore’, and unanimously carried. The Mayor opened the public hearing. Following considerable discussion and questions and statements from various members of the audience, it was moved by Alderman Betts, seconded by Alderman McCoy, and unanimously carried to close the public hearing.

Agenda Item No. 12 was Board consideration of the Ordinance which was the subject of the foregoing public hearing. Thereupon it was moved by Alderman Betts, seconded by Alderman McCoy, to pass the ordinance adopting the electric power and other rates as previously introduced at the January 8, 2019, regular meeting and which was the subject of the foregoing public hearing. There followed a discussion among the Board members and, following the discussion, the Mayor called the question and the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: Aldermen Betts, Gardner, McCoy and Probst.

NAYS: Alderwoman Dore’

The Mayor announced that the motion to adopt the Ordinance had passed and the Ordinance is duly adopted to become effective immediately.

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

There being no further business, on motion by Alderman McCoy, seconded by Alderman Probst, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned.

/s/ Jay LaSvone
JAY LASYONE, TOWN CLERK

/s/ Buz Craft
BUZ CRAFT, MAYOR

ORDINANCE NO. ____

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 678 TO INCREASE THE COMPENSATION OF THE CLERK OF THE TOWN OF VIDALIA, LOUISIANA

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:

Section 1. This proposed Ordinance was previously introduced at the regular meeting of January 8, 2019; and

Section 2. After due notice of advertising of this proposed ordinance in the official journal on the 16th day of January, 2019, and public hearing held at the Mayor and Board's regular meeting on the 12th day of February 2019, it is hereby ordained and adopted as an Ordinance of the Town of Vidalia, Louisiana, that:

WHEREAS, the Board of Aldermen may, by Ordinance, increase the compensation of the Clerk; and

WHEREAS, the compensation of the current Clerk, Jay LaSyone, was fixed by Ordinance No. 678 upon the retirement of the former Clerk, Vicki Byrnes, at \$55,000.00 per year, to be effective February 1, 2018; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Aldermen wish to increase the compensation for the current Clerk, Jay LaSyone, to \$65,000.00 per year, to be effective March 1, 2019;

THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Vidalia, Louisiana, that the compensation for the current Clerk is hereby fixed at \$65,000.00 per year, to be effective March 1, 2019.

The foregoing Ordinance was read and considered, section by section, and then on motion to adopt by _____, seconded by _____, was submitted to a vote, as a whole, and the vote thereon was as follows:

- YEAS:
- NAYS:
- ABSTAINING:
- ABSENT:

WHEREUPON, the foregoing ordinance was declared to be duly adopted this 12th day of February, 2019, to be effective March 1, 2019.

JAY LASYONE, CITY CLERK

BUZ CRAFT, MAYOR

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING AND ADOPTING ELECTRIC POWER, GAS, WATER, SEWER AND GARBAGE RATES FOR THE TOWN OF VIDALIA, LOUISIANA, AND REPEALING ALL PREVIOUSLY ADOPTED ORDINANCES DEALING WITH SAID RATES

WHEREAS:

1. This proposed Ordinance was previously introduced at the January 8, 2019, regular meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen; and
2. Due notice of the introduction of this proposed Ordinance was advertised in the official journal on the 16th day of January, 2019; and
3. A public hearing was held by the Board of Aldermen on the 12th day of February, 2019.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and the Board of Alderman of the Town of Vidalia, Louisiana, in regular session, duly convened as the governing authority of said municipality that:

Section 1:

This Ordinance shall be known as the “UTILITY RATE ORDINANCE” and shall establish and adopt natural gas, electricity, water, sewer and sanitation rates for the Town of Vidalia, Louisiana, and repeals all previously adopted ordinances dealing with said rates.

Section 2:

NATURAL GAS RATES

RESIDENTIAL (PER CCF)

Availability Charge \$10.50 per month + CPI

Gas Service (Consumption Charge) (WACOG + \$0.80/ccf) + CPI +
RSF + LAUF Factor

COMMERCIAL (PER CCF)

Availability Charge \$15.00 per month + CPI

Gas Service (Consumption Charge) (WACOG + 0.775/ccf) + CPI +
RSF + LAUF Factor

INDUSTRIAL (PER MCF)

For customer whose 12-month gas consumption averages 1,000 MCF or more per month.

Availability Charge \$150.00 per month

Gas Service (Consumption Charge) Negotiated at sole discretion of
Town of Vidalia
***Economic Development
Incentive can also be applicable

CPI – Consumer Price Index
WACOG – Weighted Average Cost of Gas
RSF – Rate Stabilization Factor
LAUF – Lost and Unaccounted For

Section 3:

ELECTRIC RATES

RESIDENTIAL (Per KWH)

Minimum Charge	100	0.1692 =	16.92
Next	200	0.1092 =	21.84
Next	700	0.1002 =	70.14
Excess		0.0924	

COMMERCIAL (Per KWH)

A commercial customer is defined as any electrical customer who is non-residential and whose 12-month electrical load averages less than 3 MW (3,000 kW).

	<u>USAGE</u>		<u>CHARGE (Per KWH)</u>
Minimum Charge	100	0.1710 =	17.10
Next	200	0.1112 =	22.24
Next	700	0.1032 =	72.24
Excess		0.0995	

INDUSTRIAL (Per KWH)

For customer whose 12-month electrical load averages 3 MW (3,000 kW), but less than 10 MW (10,000 kW).

	<u>KWH</u>		
First	50,000	=	0.0834
Next	200,000	=	0.0717
Next	250,000	=	0.0650
Above	500,000	=	0.0490

Demand Charge = \$7.50/kw

LARGE INDUSTRIAL (Per KWH)

For customer whose 12-month electrical load averages 10 MW (10,000 kW) or greater.

	<u>KWH</u>		
First	250,000	=	0.0650
Next	500,000	=	0.0510
Next	750,000	=	0.0425
Above	1,500,000	=	0.0349

Demand charge = \$7.50/kw

+: FOR ALL RATE CLASSES: All KWH's will be charged (or credited) a Power Cost Adjustment equal to the cost of power and energy as billed by the Town's electric service provider, adjusted for system losses, less 5.278 cents per KWH on a monthly basis.

*Additional Facility Charges may apply to industrial customers.

Section 4:

WATER RATES

RESIDENTIAL (W-R)

First 4,000 gallons	\$0.5000 per 100 gallons
Next 16,000 gallons	\$0.3100 per 100 gallons
Over 20,000 gallons	\$0.2000 per 100 gallons
Minimum charge	\$20.00

COMMERCIAL (W-C)

First 4,000 gallons	\$0.5000 per 100 gallons
Next 16,000 gallons	\$0.3100 per 100 gallons
Over 20,000 gallons	\$0.2000 per 100 gallons
Minimum charge	\$20.00

INDUSTRIAL (W-1)

First 4,000 gallons	\$0.5000 per 100 gallons
Next 16,000 gallons	\$0.3100 per 100 gallons
Over 20,000 gallons	\$0.2000 per 100 gallons
Minimum charge	\$100.00

Section 5:

RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL SEWER RATES

C – 100	G – Gallons	USAGE	CHARGE (Per CG)	
Minimum charge		40	0.4910	= 19.64
Next		160	0.0972	= 15.55
Excess			0.1356	

Section 6:

SANITATION RATES

COMMERCIAL

Minimum Charge	\$ 50
4 YARD DUMPSTER	\$120
6 YARD DUMPSTER	\$160
8 YARD DUMPSTER	\$190

All commercial accounts are picked up three (3) times per week. Dumpsters are not furnished by the Town.

RESIDENTIAL

\$21.95 Per Month

All residential customers receive pick up two (2) times per week. Canisters are not furnished by the Town.

Section 7:

The Town may negotiate an economic development incentive for Large Commercial/Industrial utility Customers (“Qualifying Business”) in order to attract new business that creates substantial additional jobs and greater substantial tax revenues within the corporate limits of the Town. The Incentive Rate allows the Town to enter into a cooperative endeavor agreement with a Qualifying Business in order to set forth the salient terms of the utility Incentive Rate, which cooperative endeavor agreement may include but not limited to, (1) the length of time the Incentive Rate will be offered to the Qualifying Business; (2) the method of calculating the Incentive Rate; (3) whether the Incentive Rate will be limited to a certain amount; and (4) any other pertinent details that are negotiated between the Town and the Qualifying Business.

Section 8:

A committee made up of the Mayor, Mayor Pro Temp, an Alderperson at large to be selected by the Mayor, the Economic Development Director, the Town Accountant, the Town Attorney and the Town Manager shall be established and will have the authority to negotiate a cooperative endeavor agreement with each participating Qualifying Business in order to set forth the salient terms of the Incentive Rate. The final Cooperative Endeavor Agreement will require approval of the Board of Aldermen.

Section 9:

Louisiana State Sales Tax is charged on gas, electric, and water bills at a rate of 4% on non-residential and non-governmental customers. (As enacted during the 2016 Special Legislative Session).

The above and foregoing Ordinance was read and considered, section by section, and then on motion by _____, and then on motion to adopt by _____, and seconded by _____, was submitted to a vote, as a whole, and the vote thereon was as follows:

- YEAS:
- NAYS:
- ABSTAINING:
- ABSENT:

WHEREUPON, the Mayor declared the foregoing Ordinance to be duly adopted this ____ day of February, 2019, to be effective immediately.

JAY LAYSONE, TOWN CLERK

BUZ CRAFT, MAYOR