

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE  
MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN  
OF THE TOWN OF VIDALIA, LOUISIANA,  
HELD ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2018 AT 5:00 P.M.  
IN THE TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM**

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Vidalia, Louisiana, met, in special session, in the Town Hall Meeting Room in Vidalia, Louisiana, on Tuesday, December 4, 2018, at 5:00 P.M.

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

There was absent: Alderman Tron McCoy.

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

The meeting was opened by 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 special session, as the governing authority of said municipality and opened the meeting for the conduct of business.

Agenda Item No. 1 was the presentation of the Town of Vidalia Utility Rate Study. The mayor introduced Mr. Rick Nowlin of Nowlin & Associates and turned the floor over to him for his presentation of the rate study. Mr. Nowlin explained the purpose of a rate study and how he had approached the task. During his presentation, he cited statistics on the various ways to increase revenues in order to arriving at a balanced budget. He reminded the Board that the study was a presentation of the situation as it exists and various ways of arriving at a balanced budget. During his presentation, Alderman McCoy arrived at the meeting. Upon concluding his presentation, Mr. Nowlin opened the floor for questions. There were questions from several aldermen and Mr. Nowlin responded to their questions. At the conclusion of the question and answer period, Mr. Nowlin made his closing remarks. The Mayor then thanked Mr. Nowlin for his efforts.

The Mayor then addressed Agenda Item No. 2 which was the current status of the Town's financial position as it relates to Louisiana Revised Statute 39:1312. Following the Mayor's presentation, there were no questions and the Mayor moved on to Agenda Item No. 3,

Agenda Item No 3 was a public hearing on Ordinance adopting the operating budget of revenues and expenses for the Town of Vidalia, Louisiana, for the fiscal year 2018-2019. The Mayor explained the reasons for the public hearing and asked for a motion to open the public hearing. A motion to open the public hearing was made by Alderwoman Dore', seconded by Alderman McCoy, and unanimously carried. The Mayor then declared the public hearing open. There were several questions from a few members of the audience concerning various portions of the budget and the Mayor, and Mrs. Moak, Town Accountant, responded to the questions. On finding that there were no further questions, a motion to close the public hearing was made by Alderman Gardner, seconded

by Alderman Betts, and unanimously carried. The Mayor then announced that the public hearing was closed.

Agenda Item No. 4 was Board consideration of the Ordinance adopting the operating budget revenues and expenses for the Town of Vidalia, Louisiana, for the fiscal year 2018-2019. The Mayor explained why it was necessary to adopt the operating budget at this time and requested a motion be made to adopt the budget so that the matter could be discussed. Alderman Betts made the motion to adopt the budget for the fiscal year 2018-19, as presented to the Board. The motion was seconded by Alderman Gardner. The Mayor then called for discussion. There followed a lengthy discussion between the Mayor and Board Members concerning various aspects of the proposed budget. When it became apparent that there was no more discussion to be had, the Mayor called for the vote: The vote on the motion to adopt the fiscal year 2018-19 Budget as presented to the Board was as follows:

Alderman Betts – YEA;

Alderwoman Dore’ – YEA;

Alderman Gardner – YEA;

Alderman McCoy – NO

Alderman Probst – NO.

The vote being three YEAS to two NO’S, the Mayor declared the motion to adopt the budget passes and declared that the Ordinance, previously introduced at the November 13, 2018 regular meeting, and after due public notice and deliberation, adopting the operating budget of revenues and expenses of the Town of Vidalia, Louisiana for the fiscal year 2018-2019 to be duly adopted.

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

Addressing Agenda Item No. 5, a discussion of future operations of the Town Departments related to La. R.S. 38:1312, the Mayor noted that since the Ordinance adopting the operating budget for the fiscal year 2018-2019 has been passed, there would be no need to discuss Agenda Item No. 5.

Noting that there were no further agenda items, 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

ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE OPERATING BUDGET OF REVENUES AND EXPENSES FOR THE TOWN OF VIDALIA, LOUISIANA, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019**

**WHEREAS:**

- 1) This proposed ordinance was previously introduced at the November 13, 2018 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen;
- 2) Due notice of the introduction of this proposed Ordinance was advertised in the official journal on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2018; and
- 3) A public hearing was held by the Board of Aldermen on the 4<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2018;

**NOW THEREFORE:**

**BE IT ORDAINED**, by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Vidalia, Louisiana, in Special Session duly convened as the governing authority of said municipality, that:

SECTION I. The attached detailed estimate of revenues and expenditures by Departments, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2018, and ending June 30, 2019, be and the same is hereby adopted to serve as "Budget of Revenues and Expenditures" for the Town of Vidalia during the said period.

SECTION II. The adoption of this Operating Budget of Revenues and Expenditures by and the same is declared to operate as an appropriation of the amounts therein set forth with the terms of the budget classifications.

SECTION III. The Mayor is hereby authorized to take all actions necessary and appropriate for the implementation of the Operating Budget of Revenues and Expenditures for the fiscal year 2018-2019. All such actions must be in compliance with La. R.S. 33:321.et seq.

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

YEAS: Aldermen Betts, Gardner and Dore'.

NAYS: Aldermen McCoy and Probst.

ABSTAINING: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

WHEREUPON, the Mayor declared the foregoing Ordinance to be duly adopted this 4th day of December, 2018.

/s/ Jay LaSyone  
JAY LASYONE, CLERK

/s/ Buz Craft  
BUZ CRAFT, MAYOR