

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN
OF THE TOWN OF VIDALIA, LOUISIANA,
HELD ON TUESDAY, JUNE 13, 2017 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 13, 2017, at 6:00 p.m.

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

There were absent: NONE.

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

The meeting was opened by the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance, and an 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 from the meetings of May 9, 2017, and May 16, 2017, were approved, without changes. The motion for approval of the May 9 meeting was made by Alderwoman Dore', seconded by Alderman Gardner, and unanimously carried; and the motion for approval of the May 16 special meeting was made by Alderwoman Dore', seconded by Alderman Gardner, and unanimously carried.

Addressing the first item on the agenda, the Mayor called on City Accountant, Debra Moak, who presented the financial statement, being a summary of the actual revenues over expenditures as of April 30, 2017. She reviewed the summary sheets previously given to the Aldermen and advised that they were available for distribution at the meeting. After reviewing the line items and answering several questions, she again reported that there is an ample surplus of revenues over expenditures at this time.

In addressing Agenda Item No. 2, the Mayor reported that there were no bids on the City vehicles which had previously been advertised for sale and that those vehicles would be re-bid for a future meeting.

Addressing Agenda Item No. 3, the Mayor explained the need to set the millage rate for taxes on the property subject to taxation as shown upon the assessment rolls of the Parish. He stated that the millage for the 2017 tax roll will be kept at the rate of 3.79 mills, which is the same as for the last year. There being no further discussion, on motion of Alderman McCoy, seconded by Alderman Probst, and unanimously carried, the millage was set at 3.79 mills on all the properties subject to taxation, as set forth in the following Resolution.

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

Addressing Agenda Item No. 4, the Mayor reminded the Board that the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance, to replace prior Ordinance No. 565, was pre-filed at the May 9, 2017 Regular Board Meeting and that it is now appropriate to hold a public hearing on that Ordinance and consider it for approval. A motion was made by Alderman Betts, seconded by Alderman Probst, to open the public hearing, which motion passed unanimously. Following a brief discussion of that Ordinance and having no questions from those in attendance, on motion of Alderwoman Dore', seconded by Alderman Gardner, and unanimously carried, the public hearing was closed. A motion was then made by Alderman Gardner, seconded by Alderman Probst, and unanimously carried, to adopt the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance as pre-filed.

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

Addressing Agenda Item No. 5, the Mayor announced that the Board needs to set the reserve amount for the Hydro Fund and explained that the calculations indicate that the reserve should be set at a minimum of 1.9 million dollars and that he suggested that it be set for something more than that. He also advised that the Town will be having the two meetings, as required by the Hydro Ordinance, to determine what those reserve funds will be spent on. He asked for a discussion and, following a short discussion, on motion by Alderman Probst, seconded by Alderman Betts, the reserve amount for the Hydro Fund for the fiscal year July 1, 2017, through June 30, 2018, was set at 2.3 million dollars. The motion carried unanimously.

In addressing Agenda Item No. 6, the Mayor and Board discussed the proposed sale of the Eleanor Street and John Dale Drive properties and the merits of a private sale, public sale or auction. During the discussion, Alderwoman Dore' advised the Board that she thought an auction would be best and that the auction should start at the appraised value of \$35,000.00 for the Eleanor Street

property and \$3,000.00 for the John Dale Drive property. Following further discussion, on motion of Alderwoman Dore', seconded by Alderman Betts, and unanimously carried, the Board decided to sell the properties at auction, beginning at the appraised values, and set the date of the auction to be 32 days from the meeting date at the Town Hall. The Mayor advised that the Notice thereof would be published.

Addressing Agenda Item No. 7, the Mayor recognized Mr. Keith Capdepon, with Bryant Hammett & Associates, who explained the project for the electrical distribution line to the Port of Vidalia and the contract with Line Tech Services, LLC. He advised the Board that the City has received the concurrence of the Office of Facility Planning and Control to award the project to the low bidder in the amount of \$203,086.28. After a brief discussion, on motion of Alderman Probst, seconded by Alderman McCoy, and unanimously carried, the Resolution was passed awarding the project for the Electrical Distribution Line to the Port of Vidalia to Line Tech Services, LLC.

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

In addressing Agenda Item No. 8, the Mayor again recognized Mr. Keith Capdepon, with Bryant Hammett & Associates, to discuss the adoption of a Resolution to award the contract for the Street Drainage Improvement Project on Front Street. Mr. Capdepon advised the Board that the bids were opened and read aloud on May 25, 2017, and Camo Construction, Inc. was the low bidder. He further stated that he projects that the entire cost of the project will be refunded by the State. After a brief discussion, on motion by Alderman Probst, seconded by Alderwoman Dore', and unanimously carried, the Resolution was passed to award the contract to Camo Construction Company, Inc.

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

Addressing Agenda Item No. 9, the Mayor advised that the Ordinance to annex Cypress Pointe Subdivision had been pre-filed at the October, 2016, Board meeting, and that all the issues have been resolved and that all applications and permits have been made and granted. He then asked that the public hearing be opened. On motion by Alderwoman Dore', and seconded by Alderman McCoy, and unanimously carried, the public hearing was opened. The Mayor asked for questions and comments. Mrs. Cassandra Lynch, Chairman of the Planning Commission, spoke and advised the Board that she gave commendations to the Committee with the Planning Commission that met and actually made an on-site visit to observe the improvements and that they found that the project has been done in accordance with the Zoning Ordinances and Planning Commission recommendations. She then commended the Developer for his efforts. There being no other questions or comments, on motion by Alderwoman Dore', seconded by Alderman Probst, and

unanimously carried, the public hearing was closed. After a short discussion with the Board, it was moved by Alderwoman Dore', seconded by Alderman Probst, to adopt the ordinance as pre-filed. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Agenda Item No. 10 was the consideration of requests for the following occupational licenses:

- (1) CP & DR VENTURES, LLC, d/b/a THE BUTT HUTT at 1100 Carter Street, for a change of ownership. Mr. Christopher Patterson spoke on behalf of granting the change of ownership and, after a brief discussion, a motion was made by Alderman Betts, seconded by Alderwoman Dore', and unanimously carried, to grant the change of ownership status;
- (2) PEOPLE CHOICE'S STAFFING, LLC, for an occupational license at 309 Texas Street, Suite 3, Vidalia, LA, 71373. Mrs. Beatrice Cummings spoke on behalf of the application. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Alderman McCoy, seconded by Alderman Gardner, and unanimously carried, to approve the issuance of the occupational license.

The Mayor then addressed Agenda Item No. 11, and discussed with the Board the adoption of the new employee handbook. The Mayor advised that the Handbook is just about complete and copies have been distributed to the Departments for their review and comments. He advised that he would like to see the adoption of the Handbook on the agenda for the July meeting.

In addressing Agenda Item No. 12, the Mayor requested that the Board adopt a new rental agreement with the Department of Motor Vehicles for their rental of the building where driver's licenses are issued. Bill Murray, City Manager, explained the current arrangement whereby a \$3 dollar fee on certain transactions are paid to the City in order for the City to make repairs and improvements on the premises. He indicated that the Town is responsible for the maintenance of the building and for the utilities. He told the Board that he is requesting and the DMV has advised that they are able to go to a maximum of \$4.50 per transaction. There followed a somewhat extended discussion of the \$1.50 increase in the fee whereby several residents voiced their disapproval. As that discussion drew to an end, the Mayor advised that it appears that a vote should be taken. Thereupon, upon motion by Alderwoman Dore', seconded by Alderman Probst, and unanimously carried, it was decided to leave the current arrangement in place and keep the fee at \$3.00.

The Mayor next addressed Agenda Item No. 13 and requested a Resolution to approve the application for grant funds from the FHWA Recreational Trails Program. The Mayor explained the purpose was to provide for a walking and biking trail from the Riverfront to the Town Park by City Hall. He noted that this does not obligate the Town to actually build such a trail but only to make application for the grant. That grant, if approved, would provide monies to fund the project. Thereafter, on motion by Alderman Gardner, seconded by Alderwoman Dore', and unanimously carried, the Mayor was authorized to apply for the funds and make application to obtain the grant. (A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION IS ATTACHED HERETO AND MADE A PART HEREOF).

At this point, several residents of D. A. Biglane Road asked to be heard in connection with their complaints of the maintenance of that road. After some discussion with the Mayor, it was noted that they were not on the agenda and could not be heard but that, after the meeting, the Mayor would be glad to stay and discuss the situation with them.

The Mayor then announced that Agenda Item No. 14 was an executive session to discuss personnel matters. Thereupon, upon motion of Alderman Gardner, seconded by Alderman Probst, and unanimously carried, the Mayor and Board adjourned into Executive Session.

Upon returning from Executive Session, a motion was made by Alderman Betts, seconded by Alderman Probst, and unanimously carried, to return to regular session. Thereupon, the Mayor announced that in the Executive Session, they had considered actions taken by Police Chief Merrill and that his actions were supported.

Thereupon, on motion by Alderman Betts, seconded by Alderman McCoy, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned.

/s/ Vicki Byrnes
CITY CLERK

/s/ Buz Craft
MAYOR