

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING OF THE
MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN
OF THE TOWN OF VIDALIA, LOUISIANA,
HELD ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2020 AT 6:00 P.M.
IN THE TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM, 200 VERNON STEVENS BLVD., VIDALIA,
LOUISIANA**

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Vidalia, Louisiana, met, in regular session, in the Town Hall Meeting Room on Tuesday, September 8, 2020, at 6:00 p.m.

There were present: Mayor Buz Craft, (by telephone), Aldermen Brent Smith, Robert Gardner, Tommy Probst, and Alderwoman Rosa I. Demby.

There was absent: Alderman Jon Betts.

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

The meeting was opened by the Mayor and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present, followed by the invocation given by Mayor Craft.

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 special meeting of July 31, 2020, and the regular meeting of August 11, 2020, were approved. The motion for approval for both sets of minutes was made by Alderman Smith, seconded by Alderwoman Demby, and unanimously carried by those present. The Mayor then asked for a motion to open the public hearing to hear public comments on current agenda items. A motion to open the meeting was made by Alderwoman Demby, seconded by Alderman Smith, and unanimously carried by those present. After the Mayor determined that there were no comments or questions, on motion by Alderman Probst, seconded by Alderwoman Demby, the public hearing for comments on current agenda items was closed.

Addressing Agenda Item No. 1, the Mayor called on the Town Accountant, Debra Moak, who presented the financial statement for the month ending July 31, 2020. As customary, she explained the various fund balances, which summaries included a comparison of actual expenses to budget expenses. She then 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 July 31, 2020. After specifically reporting on the amounts in the various fund balances, she reminded the Aldermen that those statements were provided to them in their meeting packet. Upon the conclusion of Mrs. Moak's presentation, the Mayor thanked her for her usual thorough presentation

Agenda Item No. 2 was the consideration of occupational license applications. The Mayor then advised the Board that the application by Harry Joe Ainsworth had been removed from consideration. The first application to be considered was by Sharon D. Clark for "SC Squeaky Clean Service Corp" at 33 Alabama Street. There being no comments or questions, on motion by Alderman Gardner, seconded by Alderman Probst, and unanimously carried by those present, the application was granted. The second application was by Marilyn Williams-Hunter for "Miss-Lou Phlebotomy, LLC" at 2000 Carter Street B. There being no comments or questions, it was moved by Alderman Gardner, seconded by Alderman Smith, and unanimously carried by all present that the application be granted.

Agenda Item No. 3 was the consideration of outdoor sign applications. The first application was by John H. Fairbanks, M.D., for "Riverfront Urgent Care" at 107 Front Street, in accordance with the sign application. The signs would be an addition to existing sign on MOPAC Railroad bed, Carter Street; addition to existing sign at foot of bridge, Carter Street; a new sign at the end of Concordia Avenue; an addition to the existing sign at the corner of Concordia Avenue and Louisiana Street; and a new sign at Magnolia Street and Highway 425, all in accordance with the application.

There being no comments or questions, it was moved by Alderman Probst, seconded by Alderwoman Demby, and unanimously carried by those present, that the application be granted. The next application was by Marilyn Williams-Hunter for an unlighted sign to be placed on the building at 2000 Carter Street, advertising her business, "Miss-Lou Phlebotomy, LLC". There being no comments or questions, it was moved by Alderman Gardner, seconded by Alderwoman Demby, and unanimously carried by those present, to grant the requested application.

Agenda Item No. 4 was Board discussion and vote to approve a resolution accepting all bids for transformer/breaker additions (Substation Project) and awarding project to Substation Enterprises, Inc. in the amount of \$582,000.00. The Mayor then explained the need for the approval of the Resolution accepting the bids and awarding the project to those present and the Board. Following his presentation, there being no discussion, a motion to approve the Resolution, as submitted at the meeting, was made by Alderman Probst, seconded by Alderman Smith, and unanimously carried by those present.

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

Agenda Item No. 5 was Board discussion and vote to approve a Resolution accepting bid for control building additions (Substation Project) and awarding project to Wilmar Construction in the amount of \$43,300.00. The Mayor then proceeded to explain the need for the Resolution and the project and, following his presentation, there being no discussion, a motion to approve the Resolution as presented was made by Alderwoman Demby, seconded by Alderman Probst, and unanimously carried by those present.

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

Agenda Item No. 6 was an update on the Fire Rating improvement for the Town of Vidalia. The Mayor updated the Board and those present on recent changes to the Fire Ratings from a 3 to a 2 which became effective on September 7. He called on Fire Chief Evans who advised the Board and those present on the process of obtaining an improvement of the Town's rating from a 3 to a 2 and how significant that is. There being no questions, the Mayor thanked the Fire Chief for his presentation.

Agenda Item No. 7 was a presentation of the organizational chart for the Vidalia Police Department by Police Chief Joey Merrill. Chief Merrill had a power point presentation which showed the organizational chart for the Vidalia Police Department which is essentially the same as it has been for the last 4 years. He noted that the number of employees has been reduced to 33 and that the chart is structured for 36 employees. He indicates that he has 4 shifts and he has an officer in all 4 schools. There followed comments from the Board concerning reducing the number of employees in the Police Department by attrition as well as comments about the Police Department having too many people. The Mayor then called for the conclusion of the presentation and thanked the chief for his presentation.

Agenda Item No. 8 was an update on the status of operations at River Bend Land Fill. The Mayor gave the update on the landfill status and indicated that it has been shut down because of a fire and then asked Mr. LaSyone, Town Clerk, to talk on the issues. Following Mr LaSyone's presentation, which included comments on needing to make sure that the land fill is safe and that there is a new company, Greenway Environmentals, who is interested in handling the Town's landfill needs. There being no further questions or comments, the Mayor thanked Mr. LaSyone for his presentation.

Agenda Item No.9 was Board discussion and vote on determination and fixing of the amount of excess Hydroelectric revenues to be distributed as rebates to the retail utility customers of the Town of Vidalia. The Mayor explained the process of the Board determining and fixing the amount of excess Hydroelectric revenues to be distributed. Following a short discussion, the consensus of the Board was that the maximum amount available for rebates should be fixed. A motion was made by Alderman Gardner, seconded by Alderman Probst, and carried unanimously by those present, to fix the amount of excess Hydroelectric revenues to be distributed as rebates at the maximum under the ordinance.

There being no further business on the agenda, a motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Probst, seconded by Alderman Smith, and unanimously carried by all present., and the meeting was declared adjourned.

/s/ Jay LaSyone
JAY LASYONE, TOWN CLERK

/s/ Buz Craft
BUZ CRAFT, MAYOR

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The following resolution was offered by Alderman Probst, duly seconded by Alderman Smith:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the following Bids were opened and read aloud on Thursday, August 6, 2020, Electrical Upgrades – Industrial park Steel/Switch Package Substation & Vidalia Steel/Switch Packaged Substation Addition. Bids received were as follows:

Substation Enterprises, Inc.	\$ 582,000.00
Peak Substation Services	624,900.00
Dis-Tran Packaged Substations	711,554.00
M.D. Henry Co., Inc.	768,327.75

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Vidalia accept all bids received and award the project as follows:

Substation Enterprises, Inc.	\$ 582,000.00
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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor is authorized to execute any and all documents including contracts, estimates and change orders between the Town of Vidalia and the Equipment suppliers for the above equipment purchases.

This Resolution adopted this 8th day of September, 2020, with the vote recorded as follows:

YEAS: Aldermen Probst, Gardner, Smith and Alderwoman Demby.

NAYS: NONE.

ABSENT: Alderman Betts.

And the Resolution was declared adopted on this 8th day of September, 2020.

/s/ Jay LaSyone
JAY LASYONE, TOWN CLERK

/s/ Buz Craft
BUZ CRAFT, MAYOR

The following resolution was offered by Alderwoman Demby, seconded by Alderman Probst:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Proposals were received on August 20, 2020, for the Control Building Addition at the Existing Vidalia Substation:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Vidalia awards the project to Wilmar Construction in the amount of \$43,300.00 for additions to the existing control building.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor is authorized to execute any and all documents including contracts, estimates and change orders between the Town of Vidalia and Wilmar Construction.

This Resolution adopted this 8th day of September, 2020, with the vote recorded as follows:

YEAS: Aldermen Probst, Gardner, Smith and Alderwoman Demby.

NAYS: NONE.

ABSENT: Alderman Betts.

And the Resolution was declared adopted on this 8th day of September, 2020.

/s/ Jay LaSyone
JAY LASYONE, TOWN CLERK

/s/ Buz Craft
BUZ CRAFT, MAYOR