

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING OF THE
MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN
OF THE TOWN OF VIDALIA, LOUISIANA,
HELD ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2021 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, January 12, 2021, at 6:00 p.m.

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

There were absent: NONE.

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 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 December 8, 2020, were approved. The motion for approval of the minutes of the regular meeting of December 8, 2020, was made by Alderman Smith, seconded by Alderwoman Demby, and unanimously carried.

The Mayor then opened the floor for public comments on current agenda items. No one made any public comments. There being no comments, the Mayor closed the floor for comments.

Addressing Agenda Item No. 1, the Mayor called on the Town Accountant, Debra Moak, who presented the financial statement for the month ending November 30, 2020. She began by explaining the various fund balances, which summaries included a comparison of actual expenses to budget expenses. The summary sheets, previously given to the Aldermen, were reviewed and she reported on the various positive and negative fund balances and indicated the net changes in the various funds through November 30, 2020. Then, 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. There being no questions, the Mayor thanked Mrs. Moak, and before he went any further, Alderman Gardner, who was attending by telephone, stated that he had something to say pertaining to he could not hear when the Board approved the minutes of the previous meeting and that he does have something to say about the approval of the agenda of the previous meeting in that Agenda Item No. 10, the verbage was not clear to what actually transpired and he asked that the Board go back and review and that the minutes did not exactly say what he had to say. After an extended discussion of that issue between Alderman Gardner, the Mayor and the Town Clerk, the Town Attorney indicated that he would review the minutes and would prepare a correction for the next meeting and Alderman Gardner thanked him. The Mayor resumed with Agenda Item No. 1 and again thanked Mrs. Moak and advised the Aldermen that the Town's auditors have completed the Town's audit and that it has been turned in on time.

Agenda Item No. 2 was the consideration of occupational license applications. The first application was by Jeremy Taylor representing Carter Street Grill, LLC, for "Carter Street Grill" at 106 Carter Street, Vidalia, LA. It was noted that the application included a sign application and a request for a liquor and beer permit. Mr. Taylor spoke on behalf of the application. The only question concerned whether or not the sign applications and the liquor and beer permit application could be combined with the occupational license and the Town Clerk advised that he had done so in the interest of saving time and the Town Attorney advised that he saw no problem. There being no other questions or comments, on motion by Alderman Smith, seconded by Alderman Gardner, and unanimously carried, the application for the occupational license, the sign application, and the liquor

and beer permits, were approved. The second application was by DC AG, LLC, represented by Mr. Dennis Cooper, for “DC AG, LLC” at 1910 Carter Street. Mr. Cooper spoke in favor of the applications, which again, included a sign application. There being no comments or questions, it was moved by Alderman Betts, seconded by Alderman Smith, and unanimously carried, that the applications be granted.

Agenda Item No. 3 was Board discussion and vote on approval of Resolution to accept an award bid for Palm Street Sewer Main Repair and improvements to Mitchell Contracting, Inc. in the amount of \$67,302.00 and to authorize the Mayor to execute any and all documents relating to said project. The Mayor explained the need for the Resolution to accept and award the bid on the project and advised the Board that Mr. Ricky Roth was available to answer questions. There being no comments or questions, a motion was made by Alderman Betts, seconded by Alderman Probst, and unanimously carried, to approve the Resolution and accept and award the bid as requested, in accordance with the Resolution previously presented to the Board in the packet.

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

Agenda Item No. 4 was a report on status of request from Vidalia Cemetery Association for Town-owned re-claimed asphalt material for use on Cemetery roads. The Mayor explained to the Board that the Town Attorney continues to research whether or not the Town may legally comply with the request of the Cemetery Association. Alderman Gardner suggested that an Attorney General’s Opinion be requested. There followed a short discussion between members of the Cemetery Association and the Mayor concerning obtaining an Attorney General’s Opinion.

Agenda Item No. 5 was discussion related to enforcement and possible revisions of various Ordinances, currently in place in the Municipal Code. The Mayor began by explaining that the initial Ordinance concerning fireworks is a 1942 Ordinance which has not been amended and was placed in the current Municipal Code Revisions. There followed a general discussion between the Board, Mayor and several attendees concerning the need to revise the current revisions in the Vidalia Municipal Code to clarify issues and to bring the Ordinances up to date with current practices. After the somewhat extended discussion, the Mayor suggested that Alderwoman Demby and Alderman Smith form a committee to consider updates to the current Vidalia Municipal Code with reference to a number of items. There being no further questions or comments, the discussion was terminated. There being no additional agenda items, motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Gardner, seconded by Alderwoman Demby, and unanimously carried, and the meeting was declared adjourned.

/s/ Jay LaSyone
JAY LASYONE, TOWN CLERK

/s/ Buz Craft
BUZ CRAFT, MAYOR

The following resolution was offered by Alderman Betts, seconded by Alderman Probst:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, proposals were submitted to the following contractors for Wastewater Improvements on Palm Street, on December 17, 2020:

Jabar Corporation
Mitchell Contracting, Inc.
BLD, LLC
Suncoast Infrastructure

Proposals were received on January 6, 2021, and only one proposal was received, as follows:

Mitchell Contracting, Inc.	\$ 67,302.00
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THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Vidalia awards the project to Mitchell Contracting, Inc., in the amount of \$67,302.00.

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 Mitchell Contracting, Inc.

This Resolution adopted this 12th day of January, 2021, with the vote recorded as follows:

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

NAYS: NONE.

ABSENT: NONE.

And the Resolution was declared adopted on this 12th day of January, 2021.

/s/ Jay LaSyone
JAY LASYONE, TOWN CLERK

/s/ Buz Craft
BUZ CRAFT, MAYOR