

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING OF THE  
MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN  
OF THE TOWN OF VIDALIA, LOUISIANA,  
HELD ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 13, 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, August 13, 2019, at 6:00 p.m.

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

There were absent: NONE.

There were also present: Debra Moak, Town Accountant; Bill Murray, Town Manager; George C. Murray, Jr., Town Attorney; Jay LaSyone, Town Clerk, and Pam Middleton, Executive Secretary to the Mayor; 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 Special Meeting of June 25, 2019, and the regular meeting of July 9, 2019, were both approved, with the following change being made, at the request of Alderwoman Dore', to the July 9, 2019, minutes: In Agenda Item No. 8, the new hire for the Vidalia Police Department was not approved unanimously, as Alderwoman Dore' did not vote for approval. Motion for approval of both the Special Meeting of June 25, 2019, and July 9, 2019, was made by Alderwoman Dore', seconded by Alderman McCoy, 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 June, 2019. 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 several 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 June 30, 2019. Following her presentation, there being no questions or comments, the Mayor thanked Mrs. Moak for her usual thorough presentation.

Agenda Item No. 2 was the consideration of occupational license applications. The first application was by Tasha Minor for Uniques Sip & Sketch at 103 Carter Street. There were no questions or comments and it was moved by Alderwoman Dore', seconded by Alderman Gardner, and unanimously carried, that the application be granted. The second application was by Eddie White for Vidalia Laser Engraving Service at 917 MLK Avenue. There were no questions or comments and it was moved by Alderman McCoy, seconded by Alderman Probst, and unanimously carried, that the application be granted.

Agenda Item No. 3 was consideration of outdoor sign applications, and there were none.

Agenda Item No. 4 was a public hearing on an Ordinance adopting and enacting the Policies

& Procedures Manual for the Town of Vidalia. The Mayor reminded the Board that the proposed Ordinance had been introduced at the July 9, 2019, Regular Meeting of the Mayor and

Board of Aldermen and that due notice of the introduction of the Ordinance has been published and the Notice of a Public Hearing to be held at the August 13, 2019, Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Board had been given. The Mayor then asked for a motion to open the public hearing. A motion to open the public hearing was made by Alderman Gardner, seconded by Alderman McCoy, and unanimously carried. The Mayor announced that the public hearing was open. Following comments and questions about the bidding of contracts in the manual and comments concerning not identifying the Town personnel who were to follow and put some of the procedures into action were made, a motion was made to close the public hearing by Alderman McCoy, seconded by Alderman Gardner, and unanimously carried. The Mayor announced the public hearing closed.

Agenda Item No. 5 was Board consideration and adoption of an Ordinance adopting and enacting the Policies & Procedures Manual for the Town of Vidalia, Louisiana. The Mayor explained the necessity for the adoption of the Ordinance to enact the Policies & Procedures Manual and requested a motion for adoption of the Ordinance, as presented. The Mayor then asked if there were any discussions or questions and, there being no questions, a motion to approve and adopt and enact the Policies & Procedures Manual was made by Alderman McCoy, seconded by Alderman Betts, and unanimously carried.

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

Agenda Item No. 6, the Mayor explained the nature of the request by Entergy for the right-of-way and recalled on Mr. Bobby Paul for a further explanation of the request. Mr. Paul advised that Entergy is replacing a current phone line with fiber optics and detailed for the Aldermen where the servitude for that line would be located. At the conclusion of Mr. Paul's explanation, a motion to approve the right-of-way agreement, with the stipulations that a recordable property description and plat be obtained for use in putting the right-of-way agreement in proper form, be obtained. Subject to the stipulations, the motion to grant the right-of-way, as presented at the meeting, was unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 7 was Board approval of Intergovernmental Agreement between Town of Vidalia and Seventh Judicial District Attorney's Office establishing the Seventh Judicial District Attorney's Office as Vidalia City Court Prosecutor. At that time, the Mayor recognized District Attorney Brad Burget who requested, that should the Agreement be approved, he be allowed additional time to review the Agreement and to make any changes necessary, as he had not received his copy in time to study it closely. There being no discussion by the Board, a motion to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement was made by Alderman Betts, seconded by Alderman McCoy and the voice vote was as follows:

YEAS: Aldermen Betts and McCoy.

NAYS: Aldermen Gardner, Probst and Alderwoman Dore.

ABSENT: NONE.

ABSTAINING: NONE.

The Town Clerk then announced that by a vote of 2 YEAS and 3 NAYS, the motion to approve failed.

Agenda Item No. 8 was Board approval of new hires for the Vidalia Police Department: Sam King – Full-time narcotics officer; and Angel Colon-Miranda – Part-time crossing guard (VLE). There being no questions or comments from the Board, the Mayor asked for a motion to

approve. A motion to approve both hires was made by Alderman Betts, seconded by Alderman McCoy, and their voice vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: Aldermen Betts, Gardner and McCoy.

NAYS: Aldermen Probst and Alderwoman Dore.

Following the vote, the Clerk announced by a vote of 3 YEAS to 2 NAYS, the hires were approved.

Agenda Item No. 9 was Board approval for removal of surplus Town vehicles/equipment for various departments as per the list submitted by the Departments. The Mayor explained the need to dispose of the various equipment and vehicles and gave a brief explanation of what vehicles and equipment were being disposed of. He also called on Officer Frankie Carroll to give the status of the properties. The property listed for disposal was:

IT Department – 2004 Ford Taurus, recommended to advertise for bids;

Recreation Department – Z-trak zero turn John Deere mower body and two 8 yard garbage dumpsters (rusted out), recommendation being junk;

Police Department – A 2006 Ford Crown Victoria and a 2002 Crown Victoria, the recommendation being to junk.

Following a brief discussion, a motion to follow the recommendations of the Departments on the equipment for disposition was made by Alderwoman Dore', seconded by Alderman Gardner, and unanimously carried.

Agenda Item No. 10 was an update on LEPA Unit #1. The Mayor gave the update and reminded those present of the status of the unit and advised that it is at present not operating and will probably be down for at least 6 months. The generator either needs repair or replacing and the various governmental units who own an interest in LEPA Unit #1 are in consultation with each other, attorneys and the manufacturer of the generator unit to find a solution to the current problem.

At that point, Alderwoman Dore' asked to be recognized and commented that since the City Prosecutor's position is being eliminated, asked who was going to prosecute in the interim. The Mayor advised that City Judge Scott McLemore will probably be calling on the District Attorney to supply a prosecutor.

Following the foregoing comments, there being no further business, the Mayor asked for a motion to adjourn, which motion was made by Alderwoman Dore', seconded by Alderman Betts, and unanimously carried, and the meeting was adjourned.

/s/ Jay LaSyone  
JAY LASYONE, TOWN CLERK

/s/ Buz Craft  
BUZ CRAFT, MAYOR

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

**AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES MANUAL FOR  
THE TOWN OF VIDALIA, LOUISIANA**

**WHEREAS:**

- 1) This proposed ordinance was previously introduced at the July 9, 2019 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen;
- 2) Due notice of the introduction of this proposed Ordinance was advertised in The Concordia Sentinel, the official journal of the Town of Vidalia, on the 17th day of July, 2019; and
- 3) A public hearing was held by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2019;

**NOW THEREFORE:**

**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 I. The Policies and Procedures Manual for the Town of Vidalia, Louisiana, as presented to the Board of Aldermen when this Ordinance was introduced on July 9, 2019, and which was available for public inspection at the Vidalia Town Hall since July 10, 2019, is hereby adopted.

SECTION II. A certified copy of the Policies and Procedures Manual, as adopted hereby, shall be on file at the Vidalia Town Hall for public inspection once this Ordinance becomes effective, pursuant to statute.

SECTION III. The Mayor is hereby authorized to take all actions necessary and appropriate for the implementation of the Policy and Procedure Manual herein adopted.

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

YEAS: Aldermen Betts, Gardner, Probst, McCoy and Alderwoman Dore’.

NAYS: NONE.

ABSTAINING: NONE.

ABSENT: NONE.

WHEREUPON, the Mayor declared the foregoing Ordinance to be duly adopted this 13th day of August, 2019.

/s/ Jay LaSyone  
JAY LASYONE, CLERK

/s/ Buz Craft  
BUZ CRAFT, MAYOR