

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING OF THE  
MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN  
OF THE TOWN OF VIDALIA, LOUISIANA,  
HELD ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2018 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, November 13, 2018, at 6:00 p.m.

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

There were also present: Jay LaSyone, Town Clerk; Debra Moak, Town Accountant; George C. Murray, Jr. Town Attorney; Executive Secretary to the Mayor, Pam Middleton; Town Manager Bill Murray; 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 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 regular meeting of October 9, 2018, were approved, with no changes. The motion for approval of the minutes was made by Alderman Probst, seconded by Alderman Gardner, and unanimously carried.

Addressing Agenda Item No. 1, the Mayor called on the Town Accountant, Debra Moak, who presented the financial statements for the month of September, 2018, being a summary of the actual revenues and expenditures as of September 30, 2018. As customary, she explained fund balances for each of the funds and again reminded the Board that no comparison could be made of actual expenses to budgeted expenses as the current budget has not yet been enacted. She 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 September 30. There being no questions or comments on Mrs. Moak's report, the Mayor thanked her for her report.

Addressing Agenda Item No. 2, the Mayor reported that there was one occupational license application by Glenda F. Pennington and David W. Pennington, Sr. for the Anchor Holds B & B with Gift Shop at 112 Louisiana Avenue, Vidalia, LA. No one appeared to speak in favor of the application. There followed a short discussion during which the Board questioned whether or not the zoning was appropriate. A motion was made by Alderwoman Dore' to table the matter which was seconded by Alderman Probst. The motion carried unanimously. Following that action, a short discussion was held about the prospect of investigating and then granting the motion and a motion was made by Alderman McCoy to have the zoning investigated and that if it is appropriate that the occupational license should be granted. Alderwoman seconded that motion and it was unanimously carried.

In addressing Agenda Item No. 3, the Mayor advised that one outdoor sign application had been made by Southern Signs, Inc. for a lighted sign to advertise the Dollar Tree at 1600 Carter Street. After a short discussion, on motion by Alderwoman Dore', seconded by Alderman Gardner, and carried unanimously, the application was approved.

Agenda Item No. 4 was the introduction of the Ordinance adopting the Operating Budget of Revenues and Expenses for the Town of Vidalia, Louisiana, for the fiscal year 2018-2019. The Mayor then announced that he was introducing an Ordinance, as presented, and as given to the Aldermen previously, to adopt the Operating Budget of Revenues and Expenses for the Town of Vidalia, Louisiana, for the fiscal year 2018-2019. The Mayor announced that the Ordinance was available for public inspection at the Town Hall and that a public hearing will be held at a special meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen on Tuesday, November 27, 2018, at 6:00 o'clock P.M. in the Town Hall Meeting Room and that, thereafter, the Mayor and Board would consider the adoption of the Ordinance.

Agenda Item No. 5 was the opening and Board approval of bids on the new Town garbage truck. The Mayor asked Mr. Lee Staggs to address the Board concerning the purchase of the garbage truck. Mr. Staggs advised that the Town has received a bid from International Harvester for the lease of a 2020 garbage truck at a monthly rental of \$3,397.02 per month for 36 months and that the money is in the budget. The bid is from Scott Tractor in Monroe, LA. After discussion, a motion was made by Alderman Betts, seconded by Alderman Gardner, to enter into the lease agreement and a voice vote was called. The vote was as follows: Alderman Betts – YES; Alderman Gardner – YES; Alderwoman Dore' – NO; Alderman McCoy – YES; Alderman Probst – YES. By a vote of 4 to 1 in favor, the motion carried.

Agenda Item No. 6 was the opening and Board approval of bids on surplus Vidalia Police Department vehicles. The Mayor opened the bids and announced the name of the bidder and the amount of the bid on the various vehicles. Following a tally of the names and amounts of the bids on the various vehicles, it was moved by Alderman McCoy, seconded by Alderman Dore', and unanimously carried, to accept the following highest bids:

- (1) By Evelyn McGraw for \$600.00 for the 2010 Dodge Charger, VIN 283AA4CT8AH128774;
- (2) By J. Robinson for \$616.77 for the 2010 Dodge Charger, VIN 283AA4CT1AH128776;

Then a motion was made by Alderwoman Dore', seconded by Alderman McCoy, to accept the high bids as follows:

- (1) By Fred Ezell for \$788.00 for the 2002 Ford Crown Victoria, VIN FAFP71W32X157887;
- (2) By R. Robinson for \$977.00 for the 2002 Ford Crown Victoria, VIN FAFP71W13X197029.

Following the foregoing, it was the consensus of the Board that efforts be made to donate the remaining two vehicles to a public entity.

Agenda Item No. 7 was the opening and Board approval of bids on the surplus wood chipper. The Mayor announced that there had been no bids made on the surplus wood chipper. Following a short discussion, a motion to sell the surplus wood chipper as scrap was made by Alderwoman Dore', seconded by Alderman Probst, and unanimously carried.

Agenda Item No. 8 was a discussion of employee retention contracts for 2019. The Mayor commented on the need at this time to discuss deciding on the terms of any employee retention contracts to be granted for 2019. There followed a discussion among the Board, after noting that the proposed employee retention agreements for full-time and part-time employees had been provided to the Board members for review. Following the discussion, it was decided to utilize the full-time and part-time employee retention agreements, as presented at the meeting, with the amounts to be paid to the full-time employees to be \$650.00 each and the amounts to be paid to the part-time employees would be the sum of \$200.00 each. A motion was made by Alderman McCoy, seconded by Alderman Gardner, and unanimously carried, to adopt both the full-time and part-time employee retention agreements, as presented at the meeting to be used for 2019 with the sums to be paid for signing the agreements being \$650.00 for the full-time employees and \$200.00 for the part-time employees.

Agenda Item No. 9 was Board approval for a resolution to accept funding from Delta Regional Authority for the extension of gas line and to appoint Mayor Craft to administer and perform all duties in association with the award. The Mayor briefly explained the reasons for the needed resolution and called on Mr. Wiley Gilfoil to speak to the Board about the matter. Mr. Gilfoil explained the need to extend the gas line to the port and advise the Board of the cost and the source of funding. Mrs. Heather Malone was called on and also explained the funding to the Board. Mr. Guy Murray, then explained to the Board the exact route that the pipeline would take from the Town to the port. The Mayor noted that the necessary resolution, drafted by the Delta Regional Authority had been made available to the Board members and were in their packet. Following some discussion, it was moved by Alderman McCoy, seconded by Alderman Probst, to pass the Resolution as presented to the Board. A voice vote was called for. The vote thereon was as follows: Alderman Betts – FOR; Alderman Gardner – FOR; Alderman McCoy – FOR; Alderman Probst – FOR; Alderwoman Dore’ – AGAINST. The vote being 4 FOR and 1 AGAINST, the Resolution was adopted.

(RESOLUTION ATTACHED HERETO AND MADE A PART HEREOF).

Agenda Item No. 10 was a discussion of establishing payroll date for Board members. The Mayor then opened this matter up for discussion by the Board. Alderman Gardner explained to the Board his reasons for requesting this matter be placed on the agenda. The Town Clerk then explained to the Board various problems in adjusting the payroll to comply with changing the date of the payment of the Board’s monthly salary. Following further discussion, it was the consensus of the Board that they would add the matter of the date of the payment to the Board members to the Town’s Policies and Procedures Manual.

Agenda Item No. 11 was the review and discussion of the Louisiana Legislative Auditor’s Advisory Services Report, issued June 27, 2018, to the Town of Vidalia. The Mayor then explained that the report had been made available to the Aldermen previously and had been available at Town Hall for inspection. He further explained the purpose of the discussion to review the steps that have been taken by the Town to address the items listed by the Legislative Auditor. There followed a discussion, item by item, from the report, as well as the explanation of the responses to the Legislative Auditor’s Comments. At one point during the discussion, Alderman McCoy excused himself to attend to a personal matter. After that, the discussion continued for some time. At the

conclusion of the foregoing discussion, the Mayor advised that there were no further agenda items and asked for a motion to adjourn. Thereupon, on motion by Alderwoman Dore', seconded by Alderman Gardner, and unanimously carried by those present, the meeting was adjourned.

/s/ Jay LaSyone  
JAY LASYONE, TOWN CLERK

/s/ Buz Craft  
BUZ CRAFT, MAYOR

## RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Delta Regional Authority (hereinafter “DRA”) was created by Congress by the Delta Regional Authority Act of 2000, as amended, as a federal/state partnership now comprised of 252 counties and parishes within the eight states of Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri and Tennessee in order to remedy severe and chronic economic distress by stimulating economic development and fostering partnerships that will have a positive impact on the Delta Region’s economy;

WHEREAS, the Town of Vidalia, Louisiana, acting by and through its Mayor and Board of Aldermen proposes to accept an award with DRA for the Fiscal Year 20\_\_ federal award program cycle;

WHEREAS, DRA requires that a person be designated, appointed, and given the authority to perform certain duties and administration of said award for and on behalf of the Awardee;

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Board of Aldermen met in a regular session on November 13, 2018 whereby Aldermen Betts, Gardner, McCoy ,Probst, and Alderwoman Dore’ were present, constituting a quorum;

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Board of Aldermen designate and appoint Mayor, Buz Craft to perform all duties and administration of said award,

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Board of Aldermen will use approved State Capital Outlay funds dedicated for Vidalia Industrial Park Development Project # 50-MU2-04-01 in the amount of \$226,672.58;

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Board of Aldermen will commit additional funds from Vidalia Industrial Park Fund for the difference in DRA and State funds to complete the project’s total funding; and

WHEREAS, in the event of an administration change, the new Mayor shall continue to have such authority under this resolution.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Vidalia, State of Louisiana (“The Governing Authority”), that:

THAT, Mayor Buz Craft, be and is hereby designated and appointed to perform on behalf of the Town of Vidalia, Louisiana and has the authority to make those acts and assume any and all duties in dealing with the award with DRA for the Fiscal Year 20\_\_ federal award program cycle;

THAT, Mayor Buz Craft is hereby authorizing to execute and submit any and all documents including, but not limited to, applications, award closing documents, request for funds, status reports to DRA for the Fiscal Year 20\_\_ federal award program cycle;

THAT, the Awardee agrees to use approved State Capital Outlay funds in the amount of \$226,672.58 to said award;

THAT, the Awardee agrees to provide additional funds to cover the balance of the project costs, estimated at \$164,500, to said award;

THAT, in the event of an administration change, the new Mayor shall continue to have such authority under this Resolution.

The foregoing having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: Aldermen Betts, Gardner, McCoy & Probst

NAYS: Alderwoman Dore'

ABSENT: None

And the resolution was declared adopted on this, the 13<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2018.

/s/ Jay LaSyone  
**JAY LASYONE, TOWN CLERK**

/s/ Buz Craft  
**BUZ CRAFT, MAYOR**