

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING OF THE
MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN
OF THE TOWN OF VIDALIA, LOUISIANA,
HELD ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2020 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, February 11, 2020, at 6:00 p.m.

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

There was absent: Alderman Tron McCoy.

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 with 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 January 14, 2020, were approved. The motion for approval was made by Alderwoman Dore', seconded by Alderman Probst, and unanimously carried by all present.

Addressing Agenda Item No. 1, the Mayor called on the Town Accountant, Debra Moak, who presented the financial statement for the month of December, 2019. As customary, she explained the various fund balances, which summaries included a comparison of actual expenses to budget expenses. 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 December 31, 2019. She then specifically reported on the amounts in the various fund balances. There being no comments or questions, the Mayor commented on the report and thanked Mrs. Moak for her thorough presentation.

Agenda Item No. 2 was the consideration of occupational license applications. The first application was by Cortney Welch for "Holy Rollers, LLC", an ice cream parlor at 1642 Carter Street, being a change of address only. There being no questions or comments, it was moved by Alderwoman Dore', seconded by Alderman Betts, and unanimously carried by all present, that the application for change of address be granted. The next application was by Dr. Wesley Faulk for "Wes Faulk Photography", at 717 Carter Street. It being noted that no sign application is being made at this time, and there being no questions or comments, it was moved by Alderman Gardner, seconded by Alderwoman Dore', and unanimously carried by all present, that the application be granted. The next application was by Brianna Johnson, Branch Manager of Security Finance of Louisiana, for "Security Finance of Louisiana #0531" at 1191 Carter Street. There being no questions or comments, it was moved by Alderman Probst, seconded by Alderman Betts, and unanimously carried by all present, that the application be granted. The next application was by

Abner Blaylock for “Blaylock Enterprises, LLC” for a site to buy or rent-to-own portable buildings and carports at 1634 Carter Street. It being noted that no sign application was being made at this time, and there being no comments or questions, it was moved by Alderwoman Dore’, seconded by Alderman Betts, and unanimously carried by those present, to grant the application. The final application was by Kim Bowlin for “Trinkets and Treasures”, a flea market, at 1642 Carter Street, Suite 6, Vidalia. It being noted that no sign application is being made at this time, and there being no comments or questions, it was moved by Alderman Betts, seconded by Alderman Probst, 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 Security Finance for a 5’ X 4’ lighted sign in accordance with the picture attached to the application, at 1911 Carter Street. There being no comments or questions, a motion was made by Alderwoman Dore’, seconded by Alderman Betts, and unanimously carried by all present that the application be granted. The next application was by Brent Smith for lighted signs at 1700 Carter Street, in accordance with the attachments to the application, advertising his business, “American National Insurance”. Mr. Smith spoke in favor of his application. There being no comments or questions, on motion by Alderwoman Dore’, seconded by Alderman Probst, and unanimously carried by all present, the application was granted. The final application was by Lamar Advertising of Alexandria for a double-face, pole billboard sign approximately 750 West of the westernmost entrance to Walmart Supercenter as more particularly described in the application and in accordance with the attached images to the application. Mr. Kelly Sellers spoke in favor of the application. There was considerable discussion by the Board concerning not having new billboards in Town; advertising businesses located outside of Town; and the placement of the requested billboard. After the considerable discussion by the Board, including questions and comments from Mr. Sellers, it was moved by Alderwoman Dore’, seconded by Alderman Betts, to deny the application. The voice vote thereon was as follows: YAYS: Aldermen Betts and Probst and Alderwoman Dore’; NAY: Alderman Gardner. The motion to deny the application carried.

Agenda Item No. 4 was an update on street and sewer projects by the Town. The Mayor discussed the various ongoing projects as well as the different time lines for the projects. He reminded the Board that it is still impossible to undertake many of the projects as they will have to wait until the River goes down. Mrs. Robb spoke to comment concerning the continuing problems with Linden Street.

Agenda Item No. 5 was Board discussion and vote on a Resolution authorizing the Vidalia Fire Department to perform initial cause and origin investigations and authorizing Mayor Craft to sign all documents necessary to implement said Resolution. The Mayor opened the floor for public comments. There being no public comments, he closed the public comment section and opened the floor for Board discussion and vote. Following a short discussion, the Mayor called the question and a motion was made by Alderwoman Dore’, seconded by Alderman Betts, and unanimously carried by all present, to pass the Resolution as presented to the Board at the meeting.

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

The Mayor then recognized Mrs. Cassandra Lynch who spoke to those present about the upcoming Mardi Gras parade which was being held Saturday, February 15, 2020, at 3:00 o'clock P.M. and invited those who wish to have floats in the parade to do so and those who wish to watch to please come out and watch the parade.

It being noted that there were no additional agenda items, a motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Betts, seconded by Alderman Probst, and unanimously carried by those present. The meeting was declared adjourned.

/s/ Jay LaSyone
JAY LASYONE, TOWN CLERK

/s/ Buz Craft
BUZ CRAFT, MAYOR

The following resolution was offered by Alderwoman Dore', and seconded by Alderman Betts:

RESOLUTION

A resolution authorizing the Vidalia Fire Department to perform initial cause and origin investigations; and authorizing Mayor Buz Craft to sign all documents necessary to implement said Resolution.

WHEREAS, the Vidalia Fire Department is presently submitting information to the Property Insurance Association of Louisiana (PIAL) in order to obtain the best possible fire insurance rating for the Town of Vidalia; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary that the Town of Vidalia give the Vidalia Fire Department the authority to perform initial cause and origin investigations; and that it is necessary to authorize Mayor Buz Craft to sign all documents necessary to implement the adoption of said Resolution:

NOW, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Aldermen of the Town of Vidalia, Louisiana, hereby adopts the following Resolution and authorizes Mayor Buz Craft to sign all documents necessary to implement said adoption; said Resolution to become effective immediately.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that to determine the cause of any fire, the Chief of the Vidalia Fire Department, or other authorized fire fighter, may enter the scene of such fire within a forty-eight (48) hour period after such fire has been extinguished. If there is evidence that a fire was of incendiary origin, the Fire Chief, or other authorized fire fighter, may control who may enter the scene of such fire by posting no trespassing signs at such scene for a period of forty-eight (48) hours after such fire has been extinguished. During the period that the scene of a fire is posted against trespassing, no person shall enter such scene, except that an owner, lessee, or any other person having personal property at such scene, may enter at any time after such scene has been declared safe by authorized Fire Department officials, to recover or salvage personal property if said owner, lessee, or person, if accompanied by or is granted permission to enter such scene by an authorized Fire Department official.

The Chief of the Fire Department, or any other fire line officer, the Fire Chief, or any member serving in the capacity of a fire line officer in charge of fire fighters at the scene of any fire, is authorized and empowered to take and preserve any property which indicates that the fire was intentionally set. Any person whose property is so held may petition the District Court of the Parish within which the property was taken for return of the property, and the Court may order restitution upon such conditions as are appropriate for the preservation of evidence, including requiring the posting of a bond.

The above Resolution was presented for adoption at the February 11, 2020, Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Vidalia, Louisiana, and the vote thereon was recorded as follows:

YEAS: Aldermen Betts, Gardner, Probst and Alderwoman Dore'.

NAYS: NONE.

ABSTAINING: NONE.

ABSENT: Alderman McCoy

And the Resolution was declared adopted on this 11th day of February, 2020, to be effective immediately.

/s/ Jay LaSyone
JAY LASYONE, CLERK

/s/ Buz Craft
BUZ CRAFT, MAYOR