

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING OF THE
MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN
OF THE TOWN OF VIDALIA, LOUISIANA,
HELD ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 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, September 11, 2018, at 6:00 p.m.

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

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

The meeting was opened by 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 from the regular meeting of August 16, 2018, were approved, with no changes. The motion for approval of the minutes was made by Alderwoman Dore', seconded by Alderman Probst, and unanimously carried by those present.

Addressing Agenda Item No. 1, the Mayor called on the Town Accountant, Debra Moak, who presented the financial statements for the end of the fiscal year, 2018, being a summary of the actual revenues and expenditures as of June 30, 2018. She also reviewed the summary sheets previously given to the Aldermen and advised that the figures were the fiscal year end figures in the various accounts. She then reported on the various positive and negative fund balances and the various funds and indicated the net changes in the various funds as of the end of the fiscal year. She also gave the budget to actual figures for those funds. She concluded her presentation by advising the Board that the figures will be given to the Town's Auditor in October. There being no questions, the Mayor thanked Mrs. Moak for her good work.

The Mayor then reported that, in connection with Agenda Items No. 2 and 3, there were no occupational license applications or outdoor sign applications.

Agenda Item No. 4 was a discussion of mutual aid agreement between the Vidalia Fire Department and Natchez Fire Department. The Mayor gave the purpose of the discussion and turned the floor over to Fire Chief Johnny Evans to present to the Board the request for a mutual aid agreement. He advised that as long as he has been chief there has been an understanding between the respective Fire Departments that they would render mutual aid to each other. During that time, Vidalia had not been called on to help until the recent fire in Natchez at the Prentiss Club and that the Natchez Fire Department has rendered aid in Vidalia several times. The Fire Chief then took questions from the Board and the audience. Some questions concerned insurance coverage for out of state trips and a general discussion of the merits of such an agreement. Alderman Gardner moved that the Town proceed to get an agreement in place with the Natchez Fire Department which will allow the departments to aid each other in an emergency. Alderman McCoy stated that he agreed and requested that the Town Attorney check with State regulations concerning out of state travel for Town vehicles as well as insurance coverage within thirty (30) days. The motion was seconded by

Alderman Probst and carried unanimously, Alderman Gardner having joined the meeting prior to this discussion.

Agenda Item No. 5 was a public hearing on Town of Vidalia Policies & Procedures Manual. The Mayor reported on the need to have the public hearing, the proposed Ordinance adopting those policies and procedures having been introduced at the August 16, 2018 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen. A motion was made by Alderman Probst, seconded by Alderman Betts, to open the Public Hearing. The motion carried unanimously. The Mayor then announced the public hearing to be open and gave an explanation of the need to pass an Ordinance providing for the Policies & Procedures Manual. He also noted that the Louisiana Legislative Auditors Office, in its annual report to the Town with comments and recommendations, had recommended that the Town adopt a Policies and Procedures Manual. There being no comments or questions, the Mayor asked for a motion to close the public hearing. The motion to close the public hearing was made by Alderwoman Dore', seconded by Alderman Gardner, and unanimously carried.

Addressing Agenda Item No. 6, the Mayor advised the Board that the proposed ordinance had been introduced at the August 16, 2018, meeting and the proposed Policies & Procedures Manual had been available for inspection since August 17, 2018. He then called for discussion by the Board. Alderwoman Dore' spoke first and asked if the budget to actual figures could be presented for the month just ending and not have a month delay as has been done in the past. There followed a discussion with Mrs. Moak, Town Accountant, who explained why it is not possible to have the figures for the month just ending. There were comments by other Board members and the Mayor. Thereafter, there followed a series of requested changes to the Policies & Procedures Manual, as well as an extended discussion with Chief of Police Merrill concerning a section on accounting for traffic citations. There also was extended discussions over the travel and expense reimbursement policy. After going through the Policy Manual and noting requests for several other changes, a motion to table the adoption of the Ordinance was made by Alderwoman Dore', seconded by Alderman McCoy, and unanimously carried.

Agenda Item No. 7 was Board approval to request submittal of bids for a new Town garbage truck. The Mayor advised the Board for the need to advertise for bids for a new Town garbage truck, and noted that it takes considerable time to go through the process. The Mayor called on Mr. Lee Staggs who spoke in need of the need to advertise now for bids and explained the process in some detail. Alderwoman Dore' requested that in the future she would like that a formal presentation be made of the request for submitting bids on garbage trucks. Following the discussion, a motion approving the Town's request for submittal of bids for a new Town garbage truck was made by Alderwoman Dore', seconded by Alderman Gardner, and unanimously carried.

Noting that there were no more items on the agenda, on motion Alderwoman Dore', seconded by Alderman Gardner, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned.

/s/ Jay LaSyone
JAY LASYONE, TOWN CLERK

/s/ Buz Craft
BUZ CRAFT, MAYOR