

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN
OF THE TOWN OF VIDALIA, LOUISIANA,
HELD ON THURSDAY, APRIL 19, 2018 AT 4:00 P.M.
IN THE TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM**

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Vidalia, Louisiana, met, in special session, in the Town Hall Meeting Room in Vidalia, Louisiana, on Thursday, April 19, 2018, at 4:00 P.M.

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

There was absent: None.

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

The meeting was opened by the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance, and the invocation was given by Alderman Probst.

A quorum being present, the Mayor declared the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Vidalia, Louisiana, to be duly convened, in special session, as the governing authority of said municipality and opened the meeting for the conduct of business.

Agenda Item No. 1 was the consideration of a proposed Board resolution for industrial tax exemption for Syrah Technologies, LLC (Project Pencil). After opening the meeting, the Mayor turned the floor over to Mrs. Heather L. Malone, Director of Concordia Economic Development, who spoke to the Board about the request for the tax exemption and the general nature of the company. She then recognized Mr. Paul John, CEO of Syrah Technologies, LLC, who further spoke to the Board about the Company and its plans for a plant in Louisiana. He concluded by indicating to the Board that Vidalia is still very much in competition for their plant to be located here. The Mayor thanked Mr. John for his comments and asked if there were a motion. Alderwoman Dore' offered a resolution, seconded by Alderman Probst, that the Resolution approving Syrah Technologies, LLC, for participation in the Industrial Tax Exemption Program at 2001 D. A. Biglane Road, Vidalia, LA, as presented to the Board, be passed. The motion for the adoption of the Resolution passed unanimously.

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

Agenda Item No. 2 was a scheduled video conference with La. DOTD representatives on proposed street project. The Mayor then announced that arrangements had been made for Mr. Martin Mourvant and Mr. Burt Moore to speak with the Board and those present at the meeting (via skype) and that it was time for the connections to be made for the interactive discussion. After the connection was made and Mr. Mourvant and Mr. Moore were viewable on the screen and the sound system had been set up, the Mayor and members of the Board and the group of citizens present, engaged in a discussion of the proposals by the DOTD for a street enhancement project to alleviate truck traffic problems on Riverside and Wilson Streets and additionally provide for safety enhancements, including a bike path from the Upper Elementary School along the South side of Concordia Avenue to approximately the Vidalia Elementary School. During the discussion,

questions to Mr. Mourvant and Mr. Moore concerning their thoughts on the advisability of trucks using Riverside were not answered as that particular issue was not addressed by the grant and the proposals which were made. Most of the persons who spoke were not in favor of the truck route or the intended improvements. It was brought out that the study had been requested on March of 2012. It was also brought out that various elements of the proposal could stand alone but would have to be reconsidered in light of their economic benefit. Aldermen Betts and Gardner expressed their thought that they ought to use some of the funds to correct some problems. Following the interactive discussion, the Mayor thanked Mr. Mourvant and Mr. Moore for their participation and released them from the meeting. Thereafter, after a short discussion, a motion was made by Alderman McCoy not to move forward on this project and the motion was seconded by Alderman Probst. The vote thereon was as follows:

YAYS: Aldermen McCoy, Probst and Alderwoman Dore’.

NAYS: Aldermen Gardner and Betts.

The motion carried.

Agenda Item No. 3 was a Board resolution to reduce Hydro Fund Reserves to amount required by Ordinance. The Mayor began the discussion by announcing that there is an approximate \$900,000.00 payment due for power costs on Friday, April 19. He stated that the alternatives were to either reduce the Hydro Reserve from its current 2.3 million dollars to the required amount of 1.9 million dollars and use that \$400,000.00 together with other town funds and approximately \$300,000.00 from the 2.5 million Certificate of Indebtedness with Concordia Bank or to use sufficient funds from the Certificate of Indebtedness only to pay the power costs. He noted that there should be a payment coming in May which would offset these amounts. Following a lengthy discussion between Board members and the Mayor, Alderwoman Dore’ moved that the Hydro Reserve should be maintained at the 2.3 million dollar amount at this time. Alderman McCoy seconded the motion. The vote thereon was as follows:

YAYS: Aldermen McCoy, Probst and Alderwoman Dore’.

NAYS: Aldermen Gardner and Betts.

The Mayor announced that the motion had carried.

Addressing Agenda Item No. 4, the Mayor advised the Board that, since the Board had decided not to use any of the excess Hydro Reserve monies, that he will request sufficient funds from Concordia Bank from the 2.5 million dollar Certificate of Indebtedness to pay the power cost bill.

There being no further business, on motion of Alderman Gardner, seconded by Alderman Probst, and unanimously carried, the special meeting was adjourned.

/s/ Jay LaSyone
JAY LASYONE, CITY CLERK

/s/ Buz Craft
BUZ CRAFT, MAYOR