

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING OF THE  
MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN  
OF THE TOWN OF VIDALIA, LOUISIANA,  
HELD ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 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, September 10, 2019, at 6:00 p.m.

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

There were absent: Alderman Tron McCoy.

There were also present: Debra Moak, Town Accountant; 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 Regular Meeting of August 13, 2019, were approved. Motion for approval was made by Alderwoman Dore’, seconded by Alderman Gardner, and unanimously carried by those present.

Addressing Agenda Item No. 1, the Mayor called on the Town Accountant, Debra Moak, who presented the financial statement for the month of July, 2019. Mrs. Moak noted that the 2019 fiscal year has ended and that the information has been sent to the Auditors. She also reported that the Town now has Cyber Security Insurance. She then 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 July 31, 2019. Following her presentation, there being no questions or comments, the Mayor thanked Mrs. Moak for her thorough presentation.

Agenda Item No. 2 was the consideration of occupational license applications. The first application was by Marie Johnson-Calhoun for Vital Infuse of the Miss-Lou, LLC, at 214 Wallace Circle. There was no application for a sign. Ms. Johnson-Calhoun spoke on behalf of the application. After answering several questions, it was moved by Alderwoman Dore’, seconded by Alderman Gardner, and unanimously carried by those present, that the application be granted. The second application was by Karen Sanders for Tiger Tracks Driving Academy, Inc. at 2201 Murray Drive. There was no sign application. It was noted that this is a driver’s education program to be held at the High School Library. Following a short discussion, it was moved by Alderwoman Dore’, seconded by Alderman Gardner, and unanimously carried by those present, that the application be granted.

Agenda Item No. 3 was consideration of outdoor sign applications. There was only one application, by Derrick Means, representing Vidalia Mills, at 1 King Timhoe Drive, for a sign at the front entrance to the plant. Mr. Means spoke on behalf of the application and showed the sign and its dimensions were included with the application. Following that, he gave an update on the progress and number of employees at the plant. Following Mr. Means' presentation, it was moved by Alderwoman Dore', seconded by Alderman Gardner, and unanimously carried by those present, to grant the application.

Agenda Item No. 4 was a discussion of potential cost to the Town related to maintaining the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall. The Mayor gave a short history of the project and then introduced Mr. Doug McCallister, representing Point Man International Ministries of the Miss-Lou, who spoke to the Board about the project and the means to finance the construction and placement of the wall. There was an extended discussion at which Mr. McCallister indicated that the wall is being placed at 270 Front Street, across the levee, and indicated who will be responsible for maintenance of the wall for such items as adding and updating names; damages to the wall because of things such as vandalism or other such damages. He also discussed the responsibility for the manufacture and placement of the wall, including landscaping, lighting, etc. He further discussed the responsibilities once the placement of the wall and landscaping and lighting have been done; and for routine maintenance, such as cleaning the wall and keeping any lighting working. Following his presentation, it was the consensus of the Board that Mr. McCallister and the Town Attorney will meet and discuss the changes to the current draft of the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement, so that it may be put in final form and signed.

Agenda Item No. 5 was Board approval and signatures on liaison agreement to comply with required emergency response procedures for the town gas system. The Mayor spoke of the need for this agreement and then gave the floor to Mr. Brian Allred who reported to the Board on the various reasons for the signing of the agreement. Following his presentation, there being no questions or comments, the Mayor and Board signed the agreement as presented to the Board prior to the meeting.

Agenda Item No. 6 was Board approval of Audit Questionnaire to comply with Louisiana Legislative Auditor requirements. The Mayor explained the need for approval of the Audit questionnaire. After a short discussion, Alderman Gardner offered a resolution for approval of the Audit questionnaire, the motion was seconded by Alderwoman Dore', and unanimously carried by those present.

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

Agenda Item No. 7 was the opening and approval of bids on sale of surplus Town vehicle (2004 Ford Taurus).

The Mayor announced that there was only one bid by Lynn's Enterprise of \$377.00. On motion by Alderman Probst, seconded by Alderman Gardner, and unanimously carried by those present, the bid was accepted.

Agenda Item No. 8 was the opening and approval of bids on new Town grapple truck. The Mayor proceeded to open the bids and announced them as follows:

- (1) By Empire Truck Sales in the amount of \$140,849.00;
- (2) By Waters International in the amount of \$142,607.86;

- (3) By Scott Truck, LLC, in the amount of \$138,177.00; and
- (4) By Scott Truck, LLC, for \$144,122.00.

The Mayor noted that all bids included a TAC MAC loader and some contained alternate bids. Following a brief discussion, it was moved by Alderman Dore', seconded by Alderman Probst, and unanimously carried by those present that the bids be taken under advisement for comparison with the published specifications and that the bid be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder meeting those specifications; and that, thereafter, the Mayor proceed to notify the successful bidder and proceed with the purchase of the grapple truck.

Agenda Item No. 9 was a discussion of proposed projects for surplus hydroelectric royalties. The Mayor began by explaining the procedure for deciding which projects are to be undertaken. The Mayor and Board generally discussed the project suggestions resulting from the public hearings of August 27, 2019, and September 3, 2019, and briefly discussed those suggestions which had been included in the packet for the meeting. As a result of the discussions, the consensus was that no action would be taken at this meeting and that the Board will get a list of their suggestions and put a cost on them and will meet, two at a time, to come up with a list to present to the Mayor who would then research the cost issues.

The Mayor noting that there was nothing else on the agenda, asked for a motion to adjourn. A motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Gardner, seconded by Alderwoman Dore', and unanimously carried by those present, and the meeting was adjourned.

/s/ Jay LaSyone  
JAY LASYONE, TOWN CLERK

/s/ Buz Craft  
BUZ CRAFT, MAYOR

