

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE  
MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN  
OF THE TOWN OF VIDALIA, LOUISIANA,  
HELD ON THURSDAY, MAY 30, 2019 AT 5:00 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, May 30, 2019, at 5:00 P.M.

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

There was absent: NONE.

There were also present: Town Clerk, Jay LaSyone; Town Accountant, Debra Moak; Town Attorney, George C. Murray, Jr.; Town Manager, Bill Murray; Pam Middleton, Executive Secretary to the Mayor; Police Chief, Joey Merrill and Fire Chief, Johnny Evans, 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 special session, as the governing authority of said municipality and opened the meeting for the conduct of business.

Agenda Item No. 1 was a public hearing on an Ordinance adopting the Operating Budget of Revenues and Expenses for the Town of Vidalia, Louisiana, for the fiscal year 2019-2020. The Mayor began by giving the reasons for having a public hearing on the proposed Ordinance adopting the operating budget for the coming fiscal year. He reminded the Board of the requirements of the Louisiana's Budget Act, and requested a motion to open the public hearing. A motion to open the public hearing was made by Alderman McCoy, seconded by Alderman Betts, and unanimously carried. The Mayor then declared the public hearing to be open. Mr. Ray Ainsworth first spoke concerning the Legislative Auditor's at risk list of municipalities and told the Board that the Town of Vidalia is on that list. There followed a brief discussion of the matter. Next, Mrs. Cassandra Lynch was recognized and stated that although she has not seen the budget yet, she believed that the public ought to get a chance to ask questions about the budget after the Board has discussed it. The Mayor discussed this matter with her and advised of the procedures for the public hearing. There being no further questions, a motion to close the public hearing was made by Alderman McCoy, seconded by Alderman Betts, and unanimously carried. The Mayor announced that the public hearing was closed.

Agenda Item No. 2 was Board consideration of an Ordinance adopting the Operating Budget of Revenues and Expenses for the Town of Vidalia, Louisiana, for the fiscal year 2019-2020. The Mayor began by an explanation of why it was necessary to adopt the Operating Budget at this time and requested a motion be made to adopt the budget as presented. Alderman Betts made the motion to adopt the budget for the fiscal year 2019-2020, as presented to the Board and Alderman McCoy seconded the motion. The Mayor then called on the Board for discussion. There followed a lengthy discussion between the Mayor and Board members concerning various aspects of the

proposed budget. Alderwoman Dore' began the discussion with a request for a freeze on all expenses not absolutely necessary and a proposal that monies be allocated because of the danger of the flood situation. Alderman McCoy followed voicing his support of the budget as the needs of the community need to be taken into account especially in light of the problems caused by the high water. Alderman Probst then spoke with arguments against the proposed budget. Alderman Gardner then expressed his support for the budget but stated concerns over the street problems and the flood situation. The Mayor then recognized Police Chief Merrill who advised that his review of the budget indicated that his budget had been cut. There followed a discussion between the Mayor, Chief Merrill and the Aldermen concerning the Chief's concerns. At the conclusion of the discussion, it was moved by Alderman Probst, seconded by Alderman McCoy, and unanimously carried, that \$106,000.00 be placed back in the police budget. Thereafter, there was a discussion by the Board and the Mayor over budgeting money for capital outlay to cover the possible repairs to streets and other utilities which may be necessary because of the flood situation and the high water and seepage water. Following that discussion, a motion was made by Alderman McCoy, seconded by Alderman Gardner, and unanimously carried, to put \$500,000.00 in the capital outlay budget to cover such expenses. Thereafter, it being apparent that there was no further discussion to be had, the Mayor called for a vote. The vote on the motion to adopt the fiscal year 2019-2020 budget, as amended by the Board, was as follows:

YEAS: Alderman Betts, Alderman Gardner, Alderman McCoy and Alderwoman Dore'

NAYS: Alderman Probst.

The vote being four YEAS to two NAYS, the Mayor declared the motion to adopt the budget, as amended, passes and declared that the Ordinance, previously introduced at the May 14, 2019, regular meeting, and after due public notice and deliberation, with the amendments made this day, adopting the Operating Budget of Revenues and Expenses of the Town of Vidalia, Louisiana, for the fiscal year 2019-2020, to be duly adopted.

(COPY OF ORDINANCE ATTACHED HERETO AND MADE A PART HEREOF).

There being no further items on the agenda, on motion by Alderman McCoy, seconded by Alderman Betts, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned.

/s/ Jay LaSyone  
JAY LASYONE, CITY CLERK

/s/ Buz Craft  
BUZ CRAFT, MAYOR

ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE OPERATING BUDGET OF REVENUES AND EXPENSES FOR THE TOWN OF VIDALIA, LOUISIANA, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019**

**BE IT ORDAINED** by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Vidalia, Louisiana, in regular session, duly convened as the governing authority of said municipality, that:

**WHEREAS:**

At this time there is a variance of greater than 5% in the general and special revenue funds and, therefore, pursuant to R.S. 39:1310 and R.S. 39:1311 it is necessary that the current annual budget be amended.

**AND WHEREAS:**

- 1) This proposed ordinance was previously introduced at the June 11, 2019 meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen;
- 2) Due notice of the introduction of this proposed Ordinance was advertised in the official journal on the 19<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2019; and
- 3) A public hearing was held by the Board of Aldermen on the 25th day of June, 2019;

**NOW THEREFORE**, it is hereby declared and ordained that the attached Amendment of Revenues and Expenditures for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019, institutes the following changes:

**SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS**

The hydro royalty fund is expected to have approximately a 30% increase in net change in fund balance for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019. Revenue is expected to exceed the original budget by \$1,331,830, but total expenditures and other financing uses are expected to be \$708,200 higher than the original budget. The net change in fund balance will create a \$623,630 increase.

The foregoing ordinance was read and considered, and the vote thereon was as follows:

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

NAYS: Alderman Probst.

ABSTAINING: NONE.

ABSENT: NONE.

WHEREUPON, the Mayor declared the foregoing ordinance to be duly adopted this 25th day of June, 2019.

/s/ Jay LaSyone  
JAY LASYONE, CLERK

/s/ Buz Craft  
BUZ CRAFT, MAYOR