

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

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

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 November 12, 2019, were approved. The motion for approval was made by Alderwoman Dore', seconded by Alderman McCoy, and unanimously carried.

Addressing Agenda Item No. 1, the Mayor called on the Town Accountant, Debra Moak, who presented the financial statements for the month of October, 2019. As customary, she explained the fund balances for each of the funds, 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 October 31, 2019. She specifically reported on the amounts and the various fund balances and noted that the Town is presently at 33% of the total budget. The Mayor then advised that the Town is being taken off the "List of Distressed Cities" and that the State will be making a public announcement to that effect in the near future. There being no further comments or questions, the Mayor thanked Mrs. Moak for her thorough presentation.

Agenda Item No. 2 was the consideration of occupational license applications. The only application was by Nora L. Hernandez for "Mom's Cafe", at 4004 Carter Street, for a restaurant. There being no questions or comments, it was moved by Alderman Probst, seconded by Alderman Betts, and unanimously carried, that the application be granted.

Agenda Item No. 3 was the consideration of outdoor sign applications. The only application was made by Nora Lopez for a lighted sign 4' high by 12' long, as per the attached specifications. There being no comments or questions, it was moved by Alderwoman Dore', seconded by Alderman Gardner, and unanimously carried, that the application be granted.

Agenda Item No. 4 was Board consideration for approval of liquor and beer license applications for 2020. The Mayor reminded the Board that the list of the applications was in their packet and the Board members reviewed those applications. During that time, the Town Clerk advised the Aldermen that the application marked "PENDING" has been paid and that all applications have been paid. It was moved by Alderwoman Dore', seconded by Alderman Gardner,

and unanimously carried, that all liquor and beer license applications for 2020, as presented at the meeting, be approved.

(THE LIQUOR AND BEER LICENSE APPLICATIONS FOR 2020 ARE ATTACHED HERETO AND MADE A PART HEREOF)

Addressing Agenda Item No. 5, the Mayor advised that it was appropriate to introduce an Ordinance authorizing the issuance of Seven Million Dollars (\$7,000,000.00) of electric utility bonds. He then advised the Board that the Bond Counsel have requested a formal Motion be passed to introduce the Ordinance. Thereupon, a motion that the Ordinance authorizing the issuance of the electric utility bonds be introduced was made by Alderman Gardner, seconded by Alderman McCoy, and unanimously carried. Following that, the Mayor introduced the Ordinance, which will be on file with the Town for review prior to the public hearing which will be held by the Board of Aldermen on January 14, 2020, prior to considering passage.

Agenda Item No. 6 was Board discussion vote on a Resolution awarding bid for roadway improvements. The Mayor spoke and explained the need for the Resolution. The Mayor then opened the floor for public comment. There were comments from several persons in the audience concerning methods of paying for the improvements and from which Town funds the monies should be taken. The Mayor also explained, using a chart, where the money could possibly be obtained. Following comments and the Mayor's remarks, the public comments session was closed. The Mayor then requested the Board to discuss and vote. There followed an extended discussion on where the funds to pay for the roadway improvements should be taken. Following those discussions, the Board was polled and each Alderman gave his suggestion for how the improvements be funded. Following further discussion, on motion by Alderwoman Dore', seconded by Alderman Gardner, and unanimously carried, the following Resolution was offered that the contract be awarded to W. E. Blain & Sons, Inc., in the amount of \$1,731,952.25; that the funds to pay for the contract be obtained as follows: \$1,500,000.00 be taken from the Sales Tax Fund and the balance of \$231,952.25 be taken from the General Fund; and further that any and all funds received from FEMA or GOHESP in reimbursement shall first be paid back into the General Fund and any excess be paid into the Sales Tax Fund; and the voice vote was 5 YEAS, 0 NAYS.

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

Agenda Item No. 7 was a discussion of requests for proposals for cleaning ditches throughout the City limits. The Mayor explained to the Board the need for cleaning out several ditches within the Town and advised the Board that he had previously asked for RFP's and obtained two quotes: one from Casey Novak for \$50,000.00, and one from Curtis Nelson for \$30,450.00. He further explained that these RFP's can be authorized without actual bidding. Following a short discussion, on motion by Alderwoman Dore', seconded by Alderman McCoy, and unanimously carried, the Mayor was authorized to accept the proposal by Curtis Nelson and so notify him.

Agenda Item No. 8 was an update by the Mayor on the Sewer projects. The Mayor then updated the Board on several sewer projects which are ongoing and advised the Board that later in the meeting, he will be asking that an agenda item be added to award the contract for Waste Water Collection System and improvements on Jefferson Street and McCoy Lane.

Agenda Item No. 9 was Board approval of replacement hire for Vidalia Police Department, Suzanna "Paige" Welch, full time administrative secretary. The Mayor explained that the Police

Chief has requested approval of the foregoing hire and asked the Board for discussion. There followed a discussion at which several members of the audience commented on various aspects of the proposed hire and Chief Merrill responded to those comments. At one point it was suggested that possibly the matter be taken up in Executive Session, but it was decided not to do so. Following discussion, it was moved by Alderman McCoy, and seconded by Alderman Probst, to approve the requested hire of Suzanna “Paige” Welch and the motion unanimously carried.

The Mayor then again expressed his request to be allowed to add an agenda item, as follows: Board discussion and vote on a Resolution awarding bid for Waste Water Collection System Improvements on Jefferson Street & McCoy Lane. Thereafter, a motion was made by Alderman McCoy, seconded by Alderman Betts, that the requested agenda item be added. The voice vote thereon was as follows: YEAS: Betts, Dore’, Gardner, McCoy and Probst. NAYS: NONE; ABSENT: NONE. The vote being unanimous, the agenda item was added. The Mayor then opened the floor for public comment. There being no comments or further discussion, on motion by Alderwoman Dore’, seconded by Alderman McCoy, the Resolution was offered accepting the bid of Mitchell Contracting, Inc. in the amount of \$209,820.00 and the vote thereon was YEAS: Betts, Dore’, Gardner, McCoy and Probst. NAYS: NONE. ABSENT: NONE. Thereupon the Resolution was declared adopted accepting the bid.

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

There being no further business, on motion by Alderman McCoy, seconded by Alderwoman Dore’, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned.

/s/ Jay LaSyone
JAY LASYONE, TOWN CLERK

/s/ Buz Craft
BUZ CRAFT, MAYOR

**TOWN OF VIDALIA, LOUISIANA
LIQUOR AND BEER LICENSE APPLICATIONS FOR
2020**

LIQUOR & BEER

D. K. FOOD MART

MCDONOUGH'S LIQUOR

COMFORT SUITES

PAPA T'S

AGAVE CAFÉ' MEXICAN RESTAURANT

DANNY'S RESTAURANT & LOUNGE – Pending

TOBACCO MART

HAMMER'S DRIVE-THRU

B-KWIK #7

JOHNNIE MAE'S SEAFOOD & GRILLE

VICTORY MARKETING LLC – SPRINT MART #72

VICTORY MARKETING LLC – SPRINT MART #67

RAINBOW QUICK STOP LLC

WALMART

MURPHY'S OIL USA, INC.

EL RANCHERO MEXICAN RESTAURANT

CLAWS, CRAWLS & TAILS

BEER ONLY

JOHNNY'S PIZZA

SUPERMARKET OPERATIONS

The following resolution was offered by Alderwoman Dore', seconded by Alderman Gardner, the following Resolution was offered to wit:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the following Bids were opened and read aloud on Thursday, November 21, 2019, for the City of Vidalia – Roadway Improvements project.

<u>BIDDER</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
W. E. Blain & Sons, Inc.	\$1,731,952.25
T. L. Construction, LLC	1,754,071.00
D & J Construction Company, Inc.	2,149,095.00

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the contract be awarded to W. E. Blain & Sons, Inc., in the amount of \$1,731,952.25.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor is authorized to execute any and all contracts, estimates and change orders between the Town of Vidalia and the contractor.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVE, that the funds to pay for the contract be obtained as follows: \$1,500,000.00 be taken from the Sales Tax Fund and the balance of \$231,952.25 be taken from the General Fund; and further that any and all funds received from FEMA or GOHESP in reimbursement shall first be paid back into the General Fund, and any excess funds obtained be paid into the Sales Tax Fund.

This Resolution adopted this 10th day of December, 2019, with the vote recorded as follows:

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

NAYS: NONE.

And the Resolution was declared adopted on this 10th day of December, 2019.

/s/ Jay LaSyone
JAY LASYONE, TOWN CLERK

/s/ Buz Craft
BUZ CRAFT, MAYOR

The following resolution was offered by Alderwoman Dore', seconded by Alderman McCoy, the following Resolution was offered to wit:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the following quotes were opened and read aloud on Thursday, October 17, 2019 for the City of Vidalia – Wastewater Collection System Improvements (Jefferson Street & McCoy Lane) project.

<u>BIDDER</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Mitchell Contracting, Inc.	\$209,820.00
Womack & Sons Construction Group, Inc.	222,698.00
Jabar Corporation	229,279.80

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the contract be awarded to Mitchell Contracting, Inc. in the amount of \$209,820.00.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor is authorized to execute any and all contracts, estimates and change orders between the Town of Vidalia and the contractor.

This Resolution adopted this 10th day of December, 2019, with the vote recorded as follows:

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

NAYS: NONE.

And the Resolution was declared adopted on this 10th day of December, 2019.

/s/ Jay LaSyone
JAY LASYONE, TOWN CLERK

/s/ Buz Craft
BUZ CRAFT, MAYOR