

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING OF THE
MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN
OF THE TOWN OF VIDALIA, LOUISIANA,
HELD ON TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2020 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, April 14, 2020, at 6:00 p.m.

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

There was absent: NONE.

There were also present: Jay LaSyone, Town Clerk; Debra Moak, Town Accountant; and George C. Murray, Jr., Town Attorney. Town Clerk LaSyone noted that due to the COVID-19 outbreak and subsequent orders limiting the number of persons allowed at gatherings, public access is restricted. He further advised how citizens wishing to submit comments may do so and advised that the meeting may be viewed on Facebook live or citizens are invited to park around the Municipal Complex and listen on the radio at 96.5 FM.

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 from the regular meeting of March 10, 2020, and the Emergency Meeting of March 17, 2020, were both approved. The motion for approval in globo was made by Alderwoman Dore', seconded by Alderman Probst, and unanimously carried.

Addressing Agenda Item No. 1, the Mayor called on the Town Accountant, Debra Moak, who presented the financial statement for the month ending February, 2020. As customary, she explained the various fund balances, 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 February 29, 2020. She then specifically reported on the amounts in the various fund balances and reminded the Aldermen that those statements were provided to them in their meeting packet. There being no comments or questions, the Mayor commented on the report, indicating that the Town's finances are in good shape and that the Hydropower plant is generating more than usual electricity due to the high river water. He then thanked Mrs. Moak for her thorough presentation.

Agenda Item No. 2 was the consideration of occupational license applications. The first application was by Alma Jean Bowman for "Bowman Home Daycare" at 618 Riverside Street. It was noted that the application is for an existing business which is moving its location to 618 Riverside Street. There being no questions or comments, it was moved by Alderwoman Dore', seconded by Alderman Probst, and unanimously carried that the application be granted. The second application was by Eric M. Finley for "River Park Dermatology Services, LLC", at 107 Front Street. There being no questions or comments, it was moved by Alderwoman Dore', seconded by Alderman Gardner, and unanimously carried, that the application be granted.

Agenda Item No. 3 was the consideration of outdoor sign applications, and the Mayor noted there were none.

Agenda Item No. 4 was an update and discussion by the Mayor on Town services and on-going projects as related to the COVID-19 outbreak and its ramifications. The Mayor began by reminding everyone that the river is still high so that although several streets have been completed, or partially completed, including Apple, Peach, Azalea, Hickory and South Spruce,

the Town cannot do much more until the river goes down. He reminded everyone that the curfew is still in effect from 10:00 P.M. through 5:00 A.M. He also noted that the elections have been moved – the primary being July 11, 2020, and the general election being August 13, 2020. He also reported that trash pick-up is back to its normal schedule. Following his presentation, Alderwoman Dore’ said she had had questions about code enforcement, particularly grass which is too high. The Mayor advised that there will be code enforcement and that the person should advise Town Hall of the problem. Alderman Probst added that he has been concerned over the lack of enforcing the grass cutting laws in the past and would like to amend the ordinance to provide for fines for habitual offenders who do not cut the grass. The Mayor indicated that he would look into that. Alderwoman Dore’ also commented concerning using Hydro funds to give the utility users a break on their utility bills. Her suggestion was to drop the power adjustment to zero. The Mayor indicated that he is not able to do that as the new Power Ordinance which we passed recently addresses that item. It was the consensus that the Board will work with the Mayor on providing a break to the utility customers on their utility bills.

It being noted that there were no additional agenda items, a motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Gardner, seconded by Alderman Betts, and unanimously carried. The meeting was declared adjourned.

/s/ Jay LaSyone
JAY LASYONE, TOWN CLERK

/s/ Buz Craft
BUZ CRAFT, MAYOR