

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN
OF THE TOWN OF VIDALIA, LOUISIANA,
HELD ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2017 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, October 10, 2017, 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: Jay LaSyone, Assistant City Clerk; Debra Moak, City Accountant; City Attorney George C. Murray, Jr.; Executive Secretary to the Mayor, Pam Middleton; Bill Murray, City Manager; Police Chief, Joey Merrill; Johnny Evans, Fire Chief; and representatives of the press.

The meeting was opened by 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.

Before addressing the agenda items, the Mayor announced that he had not read a "thank you" at the last meeting and that he wished to thank Tracy Dean with the Woodmen of the World for presenting a new American flag for the Town Hall. He also thanked them for providing their disaster trailer for the fishing event which was recently held at the City Pond.

After being reviewed, the typed minutes from the meeting of September 12, 2017, were approved, without changes. The motion for approval was made by Alderman Betts, seconded by Alderman Probst, and unanimously carried.

Addressing Agenda Item No. 1, the Mayor called on City Accountant, Debra Moak, who presented the financial statement, being a summary of the actual revenues over expenditures as of September 30, 2017. She then reviewed the summary sheets previously given to the Aldermen and advised that they were available for distribution at the meeting. Following her presentation, she answered several questions and reported that while there is showing a negative fund balance at this time, there will be funds deposited early in October which would place the Town in a positive balance so that there would continue to be a surplus of revenues over expenditures.

Agenda Item No. 2 was the consideration of requests for the following:

- (1) Gary Caldwell, LLC, Professional Land Surveyor, for an occupational license at 2062 Bill Johnson Drive (no sign application submitted). After discussion, motion was made by Alderwoman Dore', seconded by Alderman Probst, and unanimously carried, to approve the issuance of the occupational license.
- (2) An occupational license for Profusion Vascular Lab of Vidalia, by Shaun Carpenter, CEO, and Todd Shaffett, President, at 107 Front Street, Suite 1207. After discussion, and noting that this is the previous Wound Care Associates location, a motion was made

by Alderwoman Dore', seconded by Alderman Gardner, and unanimously carried, to approve the issuance of the occupational license.

Agenda Item No. 3, was the consideration of an outdoor sign application by Gloria's Hot Tamales (Gloria Mason, owner, at 707 Carter Street). After a brief discussion, and noting that the sign has been erected and approved by the Building Inspector, a motion was made by Alderwoman Dore', seconded by Alderman Gardner, and unanimously carried, that the outdoor sign application be approved.

In addressing Agenda Item No. 4, the Mayor explained that it is a pat on the back for the Utility Department and particularly the Water Department because of the quality of water for the Town of Vidalia. He reported that the Town has been given a "Class I Report" for having good water quality and receiving a report on the water survey that there are no violations. He went on to compliment the Utility Department on the quick response to the outage caused by the squirrels getting into a substation.

Agenda Item No. 5 was the opening of bids for City vehicles, which had been authorized at the September regular meeting. The Mayor proceeded to open the bids as follows:

- (1) By William Bradford of \$300.00 for the 2002 Chevrolet Ventura Van;
- (2) By Crystal Durham for Watson Auto of \$77.00 for the 2006 Ford 350 van; \$77.00 for the 1997 Ford F-250 P/U; and \$137.00 for the 1994 Chevrolet P/U;
- (3) By Kevin Davis of \$325.00 for the 2002 Chevrolet Ventura van;
- (4) By George Latham of \$526.00 for the 1998 Ford F- 250 P/U;
- (5) By Kevin Davis of \$250.00 for the 1998 Ford F-250 P/U;
- (6) By Christina Latham of \$676.80 for the 1998 GMC Sierra P/U; and
- (7) By Jerry Whitley of \$465.00 for the 1998 GMC Sierra P/U.

Following a short discussion, a motion by Alderman Probst, seconded by Alderman Gardner, and unanimously carried, the Mayor was authorized to accept the high bids and notify the successful bidders.

Agenda Item No. 6, was the public hearing and the adoption of an Ordinance amending Ordinance No. 664 regarding Blighted Properties. He reminded the Board that the Ordinance to revise City Ordinance No. 664 was introduced at the September 12, 2017, regular Board meeting and that the Notice of Public Hearing and Notice of Intent in connection with that Ordinance was advertised in the Town's official journal on September 27, 2017; and that it was now time to open a public hearing concerning the proposed Ordinance. On motion by Alderwoman Dore', seconded by Alderman Betts, and unanimously carried, the public hearing was opened for discussion. The Mayor then called on Bill Murray to explain the changes and following his explanation, the floor was open for questions. There were no questions or discussion. On motion by Alderman Gardner, seconded by Alderman Probst, and unanimously carried, the public hearing was closed. Following a brief discussion by the members of the Board, the Mayor called for a vote and on motion by Alderwoman Dore', seconded by Alderman Gardner, the vote was taken and the vote thereon was as follows:

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

NAYS: NONE.

ABSTAINING: NONE.

ABSENT: Alderman McCoy.

Whereupon, the Mayor declared the Ordinance to be duly adopted.

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

Agenda Item No. 7 was a public hearing and adoption of an Ordinance to Fix Municipal Officers' Salaries. The Mayor then advised the Board that the Ordinance fixing the compensation of the Mayor, the Aldermen, Clerk and Chief of Police, was introduced at the September 12, 2017, regular meeting of the Board; that due notice of that introduction and the public hearing to be held at this meeting, was advertised in The Concordia Sentinel on September 27, 2017; and that it was now time to open the public hearing concerning the proposed Ordinance. On motion by Alderman Gardner, seconded by Alderwoman Dore', and unanimously carried, the public hearing was opened for discussion. After several questions from the audience, on motion by Alderman Probst, seconded by Alderman Gardner, and unanimously carried, the public hearing was closed. After a brief discussion by the Board, the Mayor called the question and on motion of Alderman Gardner, seconded by Alderman Betts, the vote was taken and was as follows:

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

NAYS: NONE.

ABSTAINING: NONE.

ABSENT: Alderman McCoy.

WHEREUPON, the Mayor declared the Ordinance to be duly adopted.

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

Agenda Item No. 8 was a request by Janice Sumrall of Jo-Jo's Drive Thru for a variance to be allowed to sell alcoholic beverages at a river front event, being the flea market to be held on the weekend of October 20-21, 2017. After some discussion, with Ms. Sumrall answering some questions from the Board, it was moved by Alderman Gardner to allow the sale of alcoholic beverages with certain restrictions. There being no second, the Mayor declared that the motion failed for a lack of a second and that the request was denied.

Agenda Item No. 9 concerned Board approval for the Concordia Parish School Board to collect Sales and Use Tax for the Vidalia Riverfront Economic Development District. After some discussion between Board members concerning exactly who the parties were to the agreement, it was moved by Alderwoman Dore', seconded by Alderman Probst, to table this matter for further investigation.

Agenda Item No. 10 was a discussion of providing additional compensation to the members of the Board of Aldermen for attendance at special meetings of the Board. The members of the Board discussed the matter between themselves and took some questions and comments from the audience. During the discussion, it was decided that no action will be taken at this time and is tabled for further discussion.

Agenda Item No. 11 was the discussion of the manner in which to have the City grass cutting performed due to developments with inmate work crews. The Mayor explained that the State will soon be releasing a large number of inmates and that inmate work crews may not be readily available in the near future. He further explained the problems of using inmate crews and the cost to the Town. The Mayor suggested that there be further investigation into various measures in order to be able to stop utilizing inmate work crews. It was the consensus of the Board that the matter will be examined further for review at a later date.

Agenda Item No. 12, the Mayor explained the need to adopt the Concordia Parish Hazard Mitigation Plan 2017 in order to be qualified to receive reimbursements for monies spent on hazard mitigation. Following a short discussion, on motion by Alderman Betts, seconded by Alderman Probst, and unanimously carried, the Resolution adopting the Concordia Parish Hazard Mitigation Plan 2017 was passed.

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

Agenda Item No. 13 was a discussion on restricting door to door sales within the City limits. The Mayor briefly explained the problems the Town is having with door to door solicitations and then asked the Aldermen to discuss the matter. He pointed out that there is currently Ordinance No. 555 which was passed in June, 1987, and which has been included in the new Recodification of ordinances in the Muni-Codes. During the discussion, it was pointed out that the section on “peddlers” is somewhat vague and suggested the need to put restrictions on the peddlers. There followed more discussion on who should be exempt from having to have an occupational license and to be covered by the Ordinance, such as children selling items for school projects. At the conclusion of the discussion, the consensus of the Board was to have the Mayor continue to research the problem to be discussed at a later meeting.

Agenda Item No. 14 was a continuation of a discussion of the disposition of the City owned property adjacent to the Riverside Baptist Church. The Mayor explained to the Board what has been done so far and reported on progress of solving the problems involved. The consensus of the Board was to have the Mayor continue to look into the possibilities and procedures for transferring the property.

Addressing Agenda Item No. 15, the Mayor reported to the Board on the status of the auction of the Eleanor Street and John Dale Drive properties, which has been previously authorized. He reported that the auction of those two properties will be held on Tuesday, October 17, 2017, at noon at the Vidalia City Hall. The notice to the bidders has been published in The Concordia Sentinel on October 4, and October 11, 2017.

Addressing Agenda Item No. 16, the Mayor advised the Board that the Board of Adjustment is a five-member board and only has four members at present. Therefore, it is necessary to appoint another member to the Board of Adjustment. The Mayor then recommended Mr. David Knapp as the fifth member for the Board of Adjustment. After a short discussion, on motion by Alderman Probst, seconded by Alderman Betts, and unanimously carried, the Board approved Mr. Knapp’s appointment to the Board of Adjustment.

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

VICKI BYRNES, CITY CLERK

BUZ CRAFT, MAYOR