

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING OF THE
MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN
OF THE TOWN OF VIDALIA, LOUISIANA,
HELD ON TUESDAY, JUNE 11, 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, June 11, 2019, at 6:00 p.m.

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

There were absent: NONE.

There were also present: Debra Moak, Town Accountant; Bill Murray, Town Manager; 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.

Prior to addressing the formal agenda, the Mayor recognized the following persons: Mr. Glen Womack, who is running for the State Senate; Mr. Paul Jahn, Chief Operating Officer of Syrah Technologies, LLC, and his Plant Manager; and then Alderwoman Dore’ who told those in attendance about the specific plans for the Third Annual Fourth of July Festival which is to be held on the Vidalia Riverfront from 3:00 P.M. until 9:00 P.M.

Next, after being reviewed, the typed minutes of the regular meeting of May 14, 2019, were approved, without changes. 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 statement for the month of April, 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 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 April 30, 2019. Following her presentation, there being no questions, the Mayor thanked Mrs. Moak for her usual thorough presentation.

Agenda Item No. 2 was the consideration of occupational license applications. The first application was by Stephanie Farmer for “POSH & Co., LLC” at 2000 Carter Street, Suite 4, Vidalia, LA (old Pizza Hut location). There were no questions, and on motion to approve by Alderwoman Dore’, seconded by Alderman Gardner, and unanimously carried, the application was granted.

The second application was by Steven J. Reed for “Vital Nutrition, LLC” at 1642 Carter Street. There were no questions and it was moved by Alderwoman Dore’, seconded by Alderman McCoy, and unanimously carried, that the application be granted.

Agenda Item No. 3 was the application for an outdoor sign by “POSH & Co.” for an unlighted 4 foot by 3 foot sign advertising POSH & Co. a Salon & Blow Dry Bar, as pictured with

the application. There were no questions and it was moved by Alderman Probst, seconded by Alderman Betts, and unanimously carried, to grant the application.

Agenda Item No. 4 was a Mississippi River update by the Mayor. He reported that there is good news and that the weather forecasts are favorable and the predictions are for a crest in several weeks and after that a slow fall. He reported that the River has been over flood stage for 156 days at this time. There were no questions of the Mayor on his report.

Addressing Agenda Item No. 5, the Mayor advised the Board that he is introducing, at this meeting, the proposed Ordinance amending the Operating Budget of Revenues and Expenses for the Town of Vidalia, Louisiana, for the fiscal year 2018-2019. He explained the need for the ordinance so that the budgetary figures will be in line with the State's Budgeting Laws. He further reported that the Notice of Intent and the Notice of Public Hearing will be advertised as soon as the dates are decided.

Agenda Item No. 6 was the request for a Board Resolution amending a Resolution approving Syrah Technologies, LLC, for participation in the Industrial Tax Exemption Program at the 2001 D. A. Biglane Road address. The Mayor then called on Mrs. Heather Malone to address the Board on the reasons for amending the prior budget dealing with the Industrial Tax Exemption. After her presentation, Mr. Paul Johns, President of Syrah Technologies, LLC spoke to the Board in favor of granting the Amendment. There followed questions both from the Board members and audience concerning the pros and cons of adopting the Amending Resolution. Following the discussion, a motion was made to adopt the Amending Resolution by Alderman Betts, seconded by Alderman McCoy, and the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: Aldermen Betts, Gardner and McCoy.

NAYS: Alderwoman Dore' and Alderman Probst.

The vote being 3 YEAS and 2 NAYS, the motion carried.

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

Agenda Item No. 7 was a discussion of adding an assessment to the utility bills for non-accessible utility meters. The Mayor began the discussion by explaining the need for such assessments because there are several locations in town where the meters are inaccessible to the meter readers, and the Town needs to decide on a mechanism to encourage the utility customers to voluntarily make their meters accessible. After comments from several in the audience, it was the consensus that the Mayor's office should investigate the possibility of either putting a fee on the utility bill or possibly making it a misdemeanor offense to not provide access, which would go through the City Court for collection.

Agenda Item No. 8 was an update on the Town's Risk Management Program pertaining to general liability and worker's compensation insurance. The Mayor gave an update on the current status of the worker's comp insurance, noting that his administration has been able to reduce the premium each year he has been in office and that he is working with Reed Insurance for a change in liability insurance to reduce the cost. At that point, Mr. Beau Pilgrim, with Reed Insurance Company, spoke to the Board about the project to reduce liability insurance costs.

Following the update, the Mayor took a moment to recognize Mr. Mark Morace, Department Head for the Utility Department for his 45 years faithful and excellent service to the Town of Vidalia. The Mayor then called Mr. Morace forward and presented him with a plaque for his service.

Agenda Item No. 9 was an update on the Major League Fishing event and a preview of upcoming National Broadcast commercial featuring the Town of Vidalia in connection therewith. The Mayor then reported on the Major League Fishing's 3rd General Tire World Championship Fishing event held on Saturday, March 2, on Lake St. John, Louisiana. He also gave the audience and the Board a preview of a National Broadcast commercial which features the Town of Vidalia which has been done at absolutely no cost to the Town. The audience gave the Mayor a round of applause for hosting the event and for obtaining the commercial.

There being no further business, the Mayor asked for a motion to adjourn, which motion was made by Alderman Betts, seconded by Alderwoman Dore', and unanimously carried, and the meeting was adjourned.

/s/ Jay LaSyone
JAY LASYONE, TOWN CLERK

/s/ Buz Craft
BUZ CRAFT, MAYOR

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION AMENDING A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF VIDALIA APPROVING SYRAH TECHNOLOGIES, LLC FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE INDUSTRIAL TAX EXEMPTION PROGRAM AT 2001 D. A. BIGLANE ROAD, VIDALIA, LA

WHEREAS, Article 7, Section 21(F) of the Louisiana Constitution provides for the Board of Commerce and Industry (“BCI”), with the approval of the Governor, to approve contracts for the exemption of ad valorem taxes of a new manufacturing establishment or an addition to an existing manufacturing establishment, on such terms and conditions as the board, with the approval of the Governor, deems in the best interest of the state; and

WHEREAS, SYRAH TECHNOLOGIES, LLC has applied for an Industrial Tax Exemption (“ITE”) and seeks approval of the BCI and the Governor for a contract granting that exemption; and

WHEREAS, Governor Edwards, through Executive Order JBE 16-73, has set forth the conditions for his approval of ITE contracts, and affirmed that those conditions are in the best interest of the state of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order JBE 16-73 provides that ITE contracts should be premised upon job and payroll creation at new or expanded manufacturing plants or establishments, and that the percentage of exemption from ad valorem taxes, and length of the contract for such exemption, may vary depending upon the nature of the project and its economic development benefit in accordance with guidance received from the Secretary of Economic Development and concurred in by the appropriate parish and/or municipal council, school board, and sheriff; and

WHEREAS, Concordia Parish borders the Mississippi River in eastern central Louisiana and shares two river crossing bridges totaling a 1-mile distance from Natchez, MS, and

WHEREAS, Concordia Parish is part of the Natchez, MS – LA Micropolitan Statistical Area, and

WHEREAS, this board recognizes that Concordia Parish’s workforce commuter patterns include neighboring counties in Mississippi and neighboring parish residents, and

WHEREAS, this Board recognizes a regional economic development approach, which includes at times, partnering with neighboring parishes and Mississippi communities to attract new and expanding business opportunities, provides the greatest value and economic opportunity for Concordia Parish and its residents thereof, and

WHEREAS, this Board supports and appreciates the efforts of Governor John Bel Edwards to implement requirements for local input into the Louisiana Industrial Property Tax Exemption Program application approval process, and

WHEREAS, Executive Order JBE 16-73 mandates that each exemption contract approved by the Governor shall include as Exhibit “A” a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement for the ITE between the State of Louisiana, the Louisiana Department of Economic Development, and the applicant for the ITE contract, which provides for the creation of retention of jobs, and provides for the exercise of the option in the Louisiana Constitution for the term or percentage of the parish ad valorem tax exemption granted in the contract, and provides for the reduction or loss of the exemption based upon the applicant’s compliance with the contract.

WHEREAS, Executive Order JBE 16-73 further requires that this TOWN OF VIDALIA, together with the other required local governmental entities signify consent to the terms of the exemption by resolution and the sheriff of this parish shall signify consent to the terms of the exemption by letter. Executive Order JBE 16-73 further provides that the resolutions of approval and the sheriff’s approval shall be attached as Exhibit “B” to the ITE contract between the BCI and SYRAH TECHNOLOGIES, LLC; and

WHEREAS, SYRAH TECHNOLOGIES, LLC and the Louisiana Department of Economic Development have advised that certain terms and conditions forming Exhibit "A" to the Industrial Tax Exemption Contract pending approval before the Louisiana Board of Commerce and Industry have been reached and have conveyed the same to this MUNICIPALITY, and thus this matter is now ready for a determination of approval of the TOWN OF VIDALIA as required by Executive Order JBE 16-73.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, upon consideration of the foregoing and the public discussion held this day, this this TOWN OF VIDALIA approves the terms of the Industrial Tax Exemption contract based on the inclusion of the following terms and conditions into Exhibit "A" (the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between the State of Louisiana, the Louisiana Department of Economic Development, and SYRAH TECHNOLOGIES, LLC) to the Industrial Tax Exemption contract between the Board of Commerce and Industry and SYRAH TECHNOLOGIES, LLC, with respect to its manufacturing plant located at 2001 D. A. Biglane Road, Vidalia, Concordia Parish, Louisiana.

25 Total New Direct Permanent Jobs at the Manufacturing Establishment

15 of the Total New Direct Permanent Jobs shall be filled by Louisiana residents

\$1,500,000 Annual Payroll

5 Years Term of Initial Exemption Contract

100% Percentage of Initial Exemption Contract

3 Years Term of Renewal Exemption Contract

80% Percentage of Renewal Exemption Contract

90% Threshold of Total New Direct Permanent Jobs at the Manufacturing Establishment that must be reported to LED for annual compliance

90% Threshold of Total New Direct Permanent Jobs at the Manufacturing Establishment to be filled by Louisiana residents that must be reported to LED for annual compliance

This MUNICIPALITY further authorizes the Louisiana Department of Economic Development, on behalf of the Board of Commerce and Industry, to include this resolution in Exhibit "B" to the Industrial Tax Exemption Contract between the Board of Commerce and Industry and SYRAH TECHNOLOGIES, LLC.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by this TOWN OF VIDALIA that a copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to Board of Commerce and Industry and the Louisiana Department of Economic Development.

THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION WAS READ, AND, AFTER PUBLIC DISCUSSION, THE ROLL WAS CALLED ON THE ADOPTION THEREOF AND RESULTED AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Aldermen Betts, Gardner and McCoy.

NAYS: Alderman Probst and Alderwoman Dore'.

ABSENT: NONE.

ABSTAIN: NONE.

AND the resolution was declared adopted on this June 11, 2019.

/s/ Jay LaSyone
JAY LASYONE, TOWN CLERK

/s/ Buz Craft
BUZ CRAFT, MAYOR