

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN
OF THE TOWN OF VIDALIA, LOUISIANA,
HELD ON TUESDAY, MARCH 13, 2018 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, March 13, 2018, at 6:00 p.m.

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

There was absent: Alderman Robert Gardner.

There were also present: Jay LaSyone, 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 Probst.

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 February 13, 2018, and the Emergency meeting of February 28, 2018, were approved, with no changes. The motion for approval of the two sets of minutes was made by Alderman Betts, seconded by Alderman Probst, and unanimously carried by those present.

Addressing Agenda Item No. 1, the Mayor called on City Accountant, Debra Moak, who presented the financial statements, being a summary of the actual revenues over expenditures as of January 31, 2018. As customary, she reviewed the summary sheets previously given to the Aldermen and advised that they were available for distribution. She then reported on the various positive and negative fund balances and concluded with a summary of the results. After a brief question and answer period, the Mayor thanked her for her report.

Agenda Item No. 2 was the consideration of occupational license applications. The Mayor reported that there were none.

Agenda Item No. 3 was the consideration of the following outdoor sign applications:

- (1) McDonald's Restaurant for two (2) 42 inch "arches" sign; one 12 inch Welcome letters and one set of 24 inch channel letters in accordance with the submitted architectural plans, at 1600 Carter Street, Vidalia, LA. After considering the request, as well as copies of the architectural plans showing the proposed signage, a motion was made by Alderwoman Dore', seconded by Alderman Probst, and unanimously carried (Alderman Gardner having joined the meeting) to grant the sign application.
- (2) Laurie Pinckney (A&L Sweet Boutique) for 24 inch letters on the front of the building and a 4' x 6' sign, in accordance with the pictures submitted with the application at 1642 Carter Street, Suite 5, Vidalia, LA. After considering the request, as well as the

pictures submitted with the request, a motion was made by Alderwoman Dore', seconded by Alderman McCoy, and unanimously carried, to grant the sign application.

- (3) Southern Signs, Inc., for a non-lighted 8' x 4' sign on the front of the building at St. Andrews Thrift Store, 1611 Carter Street, Vidalia, LA. After considering the request, as well as the representation of the sign attached to the request, a motion was made by Alderman Probst, seconded by Alderwoman Dore', and unanimously carried, to grant the sign application.

In addressing Agenda Item No. 4, the Mayor called on Mr. Mark Morace, Utility Department Superintendent, who spoke to the Board about the March 10, 2018, Municipal Water Pollution Prevention Audit by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality. After explaining the audit and taking questions, Mr. Morace asked that the Board accept the audit, as presented, and further asked for a resolution confirming the Board's acceptance in a form as presented at the meeting. The following resolution was offered by Alderman Gardner, seconded by Alderwoman Dore', and unanimously carried, accepting the results of the audit as presented in accordance with the proposed form Resolution.

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

Agenda Item No. 5 was a discussion of the disposition of a 1991 Case Backhoe which is presently surplus and not needed by the Utility Department. Mr. Mark Morace advised the Board that the backhoe has been replaced and is no longer needed and suggested that it be sold. Following the discussion, a motion was made by Alderman Betts, seconded by Alderman Dore', and unanimously carried, that Mr. Morace proceed to have the backhoe advertised for sale.

Agenda Item No. 6 was the continuation of the discussion of the proposal by the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development for a street enhancement program to alleviate truck traffic problems on Riverside Drive and Wilson Street and to additionally provide a bike path from the Upper Elementary School, by the levee, along the south side of Concordia Avenue to the Vidalia Elementary School. The Mayor gave an overview of the project, which had been discussed at the February 13 regular meeting of the Mayor and Board, and opened the floor for discussion. There followed an extended discussion where various citizens in attendance spoke on the issue as well as most of the Aldermen. The comments from those present were varied, some voicing adamant disapproval and some voicing approval. As the discussion died down, a motion for approval of the project was made by Alderman Gardner but died for lack of a second. Thereafter, Alderwoman Dore' moved to table the issue, which was seconded by Alderman McCoy, and unanimously carried.

Addressing Agenda Item No. 7, the Mayor gave an update on the La. ELASTOMER matter. He reminded the Board that LA ELASTOMER had defaulted and the Town is presently required to pay, and has been making significant payments, on a \$919,000.00 debt of that entity. He indicated that the Town is proceeding to determine what, if any, remedies the Town has to recover those funds. Following a short question and answer period, the Mayor concluded his presentation by announcing that, at this time, there is a prospect for purchasing the facility.

Agenda Item No. 8 was a flood control update by the Mayor. He reported on the flooding situation and advised that the Corps of Engineers expects no major flooding provided that there is not significant rain in the Mississippi River Basin above Vidalia. He indicated that the Town has

proceeded with the work necessary to prevent flooding of our water well which is outside the levee on the East side of Town.

Agenda Item No. 9 was a discussion of utility rates. The Mayor moderated the discussion and began by advising the Board that he is suggesting that a study be done to provide the necessary information for the Town to pass a comprehensive ordinance which would set the rate structure for all utilities and would give guidelines for getting the Town's utility rates where they should be. Following the Mayor's comments, there followed an extended discussion on the pros and cons of having a study made and of the general rate structure with various Aldermen giving their opinions and including comments from the audience. No formal action was taken by the Board and the Mayor advised that there have been two bids made by firms to draft the proposed comprehensive ordinance and that he is continuing discussion with those firms.

Agenda Item No. 10 was an update on Project Blue by Heather Malone. She reported on the status of the project and without giving specific details on a timeline. She indicated that final documents are in circulation at this time and that an announcement should be forthcoming in the near future as to the start-up of the project.

The Mayor then indicated that there were no more items on the agenda.

THEREUPON, on motion by Alderman Gardner, seconded by Alderman Probst, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned.

/s/ Jay LaSyone
JAY LASYONE, CITY CLERK

/s/ Buz Craft
BUZ CRAFT, MAYOR

The following resolution was offered by Alderman Gardner and seconded by Alderwoman Dore’:

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGING THE REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE LOUISIANA MUNICIPAL WATER POLLUTION PREVENTION ENVIRONMENTAL AUDIT AND PROVIDING FOR SUBMISSION TO THE LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY FOR LPDES PERMIT NO. LA0032994

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Board of Alderman of the Town of Vidalia, “THE TOWN”, duly convened for its regular meeting on March 13, 2018, were presented with and reviewed the Louisiana Municipal Water Pollution Prevention Environmental Audit Report; and, therefore:

BE IT RESOLVED that The Town of Vidalia, hereby acknowledges receipt and approval of the audit, dated March 10, 2018, prepared by Utility Superintendent Mark Morace; and that THE TOWN will take actions to address the problems identified in said Audit Report, as follows:

- (1) Continue to install liners in manholes and sewer mains to reduce infiltration.

The above RESOLUTION was called to a vote and passed by unanimous vote.

AND THE RESOLUTION was declared adopted on this the 13th day of March, 2018.

/s/ Jay LaSyone
JAY LASYONE, CLERK

/s/ Buz Craft
BUZ CRAFT, MAYOR