

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN
OF THE TOWN OF VIDALIA, LOUISIANA,
HELD ON TUESDAY, APRIL 10, 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, April 10, 2018, 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 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; 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 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 13, 2018, were approved, with no changes. The motion for approval of the minutes was made by Alderwoman Dore', seconded by Alderman Gardner, and unanimously carried.

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 February 28, 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. At this point, the Mayor commented on Project Blue and indicated that a meeting would be held in Alexandria on Wednesday, April 18, with the parties and the Lender in order to facilitate a closing. He also advised the Board of a special meeting to be held on Thursday, April 19, at 4:00 P.M. to discuss Project Pencil. There followed a question and answer session in which the Mayor was quizzed on the advisability of transferring money from the Hydro Reserve Fund. The Mayor was also asked that if Project Blue closes, could that money be used first to pay back the Hydro Funds. Following the question and answer period, the Mayor thanked Mrs. Moak for her report.

Agenda Item No. 2 was the consideration of an application for an occupational license by Bernice King Gaines d/b/a Shoe Divas at 210 S. Oak Street. The application stated that it would be a home business for the sale of women's shoes and accessories through an online store. Following a short discussion, a motion was made by Alderman Gardner to approve the application and grant the license, seconded by Alderwoman Dore' and unanimously carried.

Agenda Item No. 3 was the consideration of outdoor sign applications. The Mayor advised that there were no applications for outdoor signs to be considered at this meeting.

In addressing Agenda Item No. 4, the Mayor announced that the service has been made available by Air-Med Care Network and called upon Ms. Patricia Lozon who made a presentation

explaining the benefits of the Air Evacuation Service. There followed a discussion and questions by Board members and some in the audience concerning the particulars of the program. Following the question and answer session, a motion was made to continue to pay the Town's share of the cost of the program by Alderman McCoy, seconded by Alderman Gardner, and unanimously carried.

Agenda Item No. 5 was a discussion of temporary banners/signs inside the City Limits. The Mayor announced that Alderwoman Dore' had this matter put on the agenda as the Town needs a process for the approval of temporary signs and banners. Alderwoman Dore' spoke and advised that presently there is no code to provide for such temporary signs. There followed a discussion by the Board and members of the audience concerning the advisability of such an Ordinance and speaking in favor of obtaining one. Following the discussion, a motion was made by Alderman Betts, requesting that the City Attorney look into amending the present Code of Ordinances in order to have a process for obtaining approvals for such temporary signs and banners to include fees and penalties. The motion was seconded by Alderwoman Dore' and unanimously carried.

Agenda Item No. 6 was the opening of bids on City owned equipment (Case back-hoe). The Mayor proceeded to open the bids for the 1991 Case back-hoe and the bids were as follows:

- (1) \$5,777.00 by 96 Equipment Co., Inc.; and
- (2) \$5,650.00 by Richard O'Neal.

On motion by Alderman Probst, seconded by Alderman Gardner, and unanimously carried, the highest bid was accepted and the Mayor was authorized to proceed to sign all the necessary documents to dispose of the back-hoe to the highest bidder.

Agenda Item No. 7 was a discussion of the disposition of Vidalia Police Department Vehicles. The Mayor read from a list of seven (7) VPD vehicles which are excess and need to be disposed of. It was noted that one of the vehicles, a 2004 Ford Crown Victoria is presently being used for Riverfront Patrol and will not be disposed of. Following a discussion, during which Alderman Betts noted that we would need a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement to donate any of the vehicles to other public entities, and a consensus that a minimum of \$250.00 be set for any of the vehicles, the Mayor advised that he will check on the status of the vehicles and on setting minimum bids on each vehicle and will bring the matter back to the Board.

Addressing Agenda Item No. 8, the Mayor advised that it is necessary to re-advertise on the new garbage truck and called on City Clerk Jay LaSyone to explain the situation. Mr. LaSyone detailed the reasons that the Town has to re-advertise. Following his presentation, there was a discussion on how many garbage trucks we have and which ones are being leased and do we have any back-ups. Following the discussion, it was moved by Alderman Probst, seconded by Alderman McCoy, to re-advertise for the new garbage truck. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item No. 9 was a discussion of selection of engineer for utility rate analysis. The Mayor reported to the Board on his efforts to select an engineer to make a comprehensive utility rate analysis and to provide the Town with a detailed report and suggested procedures. There followed an extended discussion between the Mayor and the Board concerning the details of the agreement; the cost thereof; the type of interim reports to be made. During the discussion, it was brought out that the Town still needs to cut its expenses by utilizing employee attrition as well as other measures. Following the discussion, a motion was made by Alderman Betts to enter into the Agreement as presented by the Mayor and the motion was seconded by Alderman Gardner. The vote thereon was

as follows: Aldermen Betts, Gardner, Probst and Alderwoman Dore' vote FOR the motion and Alderman MCoy voted AGAINST the motion. The Mayor announced that the motion had carried and he would proceed to take the action to engage N&A, Inc. as the engineer in accordance with the letter agreement as presented at the meeting.

Agenda Item No. 10 was a discussion of the proposed Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development Street Project. The Mayor announced that he is going to skip this agenda item at this time as a meeting has been scheduled for 4:00 P.M. on Thursday, April 19, 2018, in order to have representatives of the firm who made the proposal on behalf of the Department of Transportation and Development speak with the Board by skype in order to answer questions from the Board and from the audience. It was requested that the information of the meeting be put on social media and the Mayor agreed.

Agenda Item No. 11 was a proposal to name council chambers in honor of Vicki C. Byrnes. The Mayor began the discussion by announcing that he had this put on the agenda because he thought that something should be done in honor of past City Clerk Vicki Byrnes. There followed an extended discussion in which Alderwoman Dore' indicated that a plaque for all persons who needed to be recognized might be appropriate and Mrs. Cassandra Lynch agreed and spoke on behalf of the use of plaques. Alderman McCoy spoke and was in favor of making other recognitions for employees who had long service. Alderwoman Dore' indicated that the Town should stop naming streets and buildings in honor of people and to find other ways to recognize them. Following the discussion, the Mayor advised that he will talk with the council members as well as other citizens and arrive at some criteria to be used in the future to honor persons for their public service.

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

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

/s/ Jay LaSyone
JAY LASYONE, CITY CLERK

/s/ Buz Craft
BUZ CRAFT, MAYOR