

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING OF THE  
MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN  
OF THE TOWN OF VIDALIA, LOUISIANA,  
HELD ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 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, October 9, 2018, at 6:00 p.m.

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

There were also present: Jay LaSyone, Town Clerk; Debra Moak, Town Accountant; Town Attorney George C. Murray, Jr.; Executive Secretary to the Mayor, Pam Middleton; Bill Murray, Town Manager; 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.

After being reviewed, the typed minutes from the regular meeting of September 11, 2018, were approved, with no changes. The motion for approval of the minutes was made by Alderman Probst, seconded by Alderwoman Dore', and unanimously carried by those present.

Addressing Agenda Item No. 1, the Mayor called on the Town Accountant, Debra Moak, who presented the financial statements for the months of July and August, 2018, being a summary of the actual revenues and expenditures as of August 31, 2018. She then explained fund balances for each of the funds and reminded the Board that no comparison could be made of actual expenses to budgeted expenses as the current budget has not yet been enacted. She then continued to review 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 August 31. At the conclusion of her presentation, Alderwoman Dore' asked when the Board could expect a proposed budget. The Mayor advised that the administration is meeting with Mr. Nowlin and that Mr. Nowlin will be preparing his recommendations and there will probably be a Special Meeting to consider those recommendations. Following some questions from the audience concerning the physical locations of the money on deposit and possible plans for the use of excess monies, the Mayor thanked Mrs. Moak for her report.

In connection with Agenda Item No. 2, the Mayor reported that there was one occupational license application by Keniesha Williams for First Fruits at 400 Carter Street, Vidalia, LA. Following a short discussion, on motion by Alderman Gardner, seconded by Alderwoman Dore', and unanimously carried by all present, the occupational license was approved.

The Mayor next reported that, in connection Agenda Item No. 3, three outdoor sign applications had been submitted. The first application was by The Barr Fitness Center, LLC, for an un-lighted sign to be placed on the right side of the building housing the business. On motion by Alderwoman Dore', seconded by Alderman Probst, and unanimously carried by all present, the application was approved. The second application was by Sign Lite for an internally illuminated sign on a pylon advertising "DOLLAR TREE" on Carter Street, Vidalia, LA. Following a short discussion over a possible conflict with McDonald's Restaurant, and being assured by the Town

Clerk that the matter has been discussed and the businesses have pledged to settle any conflict between themselves, on motion by Alderwoman Dore', seconded by Alderman Probst, and unanimously carried by all present, the application was approved. The third sign application was by Kara Barajas, for a lighted sign advertising Walmart's Pickup Service to be placed on the building at its present location at 4283 Carter Street, Vidalia, LA. On motion by Alderman Gardner, seconded by Alderman Probst, and unanimously carried by all present, the application was approved.

Agenda Item No. 4 was the discussion of a mutual aid agreement between the Vidalia Fire Department and Natchez Fire Department. The Mayor called on Fire Chief Johnnie Evans to explain to the Board the discussions between he and the Natchez Fire Department toward having a formal agreement in place for the departments to aid either other in times of emergency. Chief Evans spoke to the Board concerning the fact that the Fire Departments have assisted each other in the past and now feel that a formal agreement would be in the interest of both parties. Next, the Mayor called on the Town Clerk to explain the insurance situation. Clerk LaSyone explained that he has checked with the Town's insurer and is assured that the Town's equipment and personnel are fully covered for any damages received if they were to assist the Natchez Fire Department in Natchez, MS. The Mayor then called on the Town Attorney who explained his research on the legality of the Town taking equipment out of state and assisting the Natchez Fire Department. Attorney Murray advised the Board that he spoke with Ms. Karen White, Executive Counsel for the LMA, and discussed the matter as well as checked several citations that she gave him and that she and he both agreed that it is legal for the Town to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with Natchez for the respective Fire Departments to assist each other in time of need. Following a short discussion by the Board, and a review of the proposed Resolution prepared by the Town Attorney, on motion by Alderwoman Dore', seconded by Alderman Probst, and unanimously carried by all present, the Resolution to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the City of Natchez for reciprocal aid and assistance and to authorize the Mayor to negotiate and prepare the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement to be presented to the Board of Aldermen for approval, was adopted, and the vote was as follows:

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

NAYS: NONE.

ABSTAINING: NONE.

ABSENT: Alderman McCoy.

(RESOLUTION ATTACHED HERETO AND MADE A PART HEREOF).

Agenda Item No. 5 was Board approval to sell surplus VPD vehicles. The Mayor advised the Board that the Police Department has presented a list of surplus vehicles as follows: Two (2) 2010 Dodge Chargers; one (1) 2006 Ford Crown Vic; one (1) 2004 Ford Crown Vic; and two (2) 2002 Ford Crown Vics. The Police Department has indicated that these vehicles, some of which run and some of which do not, are surplus and need to be disposed of. The Mayor asked Chief Merrill if he had any concrete plans to dispose of the vehicles, and the Chief advised that he is planning on checking with neighboring municipalities to see if they would need them and, if not, to advertise for bids to sell the vehicles. On motion by Alderman Probst, seconded by Alderman Gardner, and carried unanimously by those present, Chief Merrill was authorized to proceed with the disposal of the vehicles.

Agenda Item No. 6 was Board approval to sell surplus street department equipment. The Mayor announced that the Street Department has a surplus wood chipper, being a 1998 Bandit 250 XT wood chipper with JD Diesel engine. He further advised that the Street Department has advised that it probably should be sold as scrap, not as a working unit, as it has been standing idle for some time. Following a short discussion, on motion by Alderman Gardner, seconded by Alderwoman Dore', and unanimously carried by all present, the Town was authorized to advertise for bids to sell the wood chipper for scrap.

The Mayor then advised that there being no further agenda items, he would entertain a motion to adjourn. Alderwoman Dore' then spoke up and brought up the fact that there have been discussions about the Mayor reducing his salary, and asked the Mayor if anything had been done about that. The Mayor advised that it was not on the agenda. He acknowledged that there had been previous discussions, but that no one had contacted him about the matter. Alderwoman Dore' then brought up the fact that they had tabled consideration of the Ordinance to adopt Policies and Procedures and noted that the matter was not on the current agenda. The Mayor advised that there were many items that needed to be changed and that work on making the changes was in progress. The Mayor then recognized Mr. Ray Ainsworth who said he had a question about that Ordinance. There followed a discussion between Mr. Ainsworth and the Mayor about some of the particular provisions of that proposed Ordinance. Following that discussion, the Mayor again asked for a motion to adjourn, and on motion by Alderman Betts, seconded by Alderman Gardner, and unanimously carried by those present, the meeting was adjourned.

/s/ Jay LaSyone  
JAY LASYONE, TOWN CLERK

/s/ Buz Craft  
BUZ CRAFT, MAYOR

The following resolution was offered by Alderwoman Dore', seconded by Alderman Probst:

**RESOLUTION**

A resolution to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with The City of Natchez, Mississippi, for reciprocal aid and assistance in the case of request by either party for aid in fighting fires.

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Vidalia, Louisiana, and the City of Natchez, Mississippi, have agreed that it is in their best interest, and the best interest of the Citizens of Vidalia and the Citizens of Natchez, that to secure to each the benefits of reciprocal aid and assistance to all incidents in which a fire may be involved, a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement be entered into and, therefore, it is necessary to authorize the Mayor, Buz Craft, to enter into an Agreement in order to implement the terms of said Agreement:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that Mayor Buz Craft is hereby authorized to negotiate and prepare a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the City of Natchez to be presented to the Board of Aldermen for approval.

The above RESOLUTION was adopted at the October 9, 2018, regular meeting and the vote thereon was recorded as follows:

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

NAYS: NONE.

ABSTAINING: NONE.

ABSENT: Alderman McCoy.

And the resolution was declared adopted on this the 9<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2018.

/s/ Jay LaSyone  
**JAY LASYONE, TOWN CLERK**

/s/ Buz Craft  
**BUZ CRAFT, MAYOR**