

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING OF THE
MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN
OF THE TOWN OF VIDALIA, LOUISIANA,
HELD ON TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 2020 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 9, 2020, at 6:00 p.m.

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

There was absent: NONE.

There were also present: Jay LaSyone, Town Clerk; Debra Moak, Town Accountant; and George C. Murray, Jr., Town Attorney by telephone.

The meeting was opened by the Mayor and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present, followed by the invocation 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 May 12, 2020, were approved. The motion for approval was made by Alderwoman Dore', seconded by Alderman Probst, 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 ending April, 2020. As customary, she explained the various fund balances, which summaries included a comparison of actual expenses to budget expenses. She also reviewed 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 April 30, 2020. She then specifically reported on the amounts in the various fund balances, and reminded the Aldermen that those statements were provided to them in their meeting packet. She then informed the Aldermen of the reasons for the need to pass a resolution to amend the budget for 2019-2020 as required by the Louisiana Budgetary Act. There being no comments or questions of her, the Mayor commended Mrs. Moak for her presentation.

Following Mrs. Moak's presentation, Alderman Probst had several questions of the Mayor, who responded to him. The Mayor then informed those present that there will be a meeting at a future date to determine how to use the excess Hydro Funds from last year.

Agenda Item No. 2 was the consideration of occupational license applications. The first application was by Northland Hearing Centers, Inc. for a change of ownership. There being no questions or comments, it was moved by Alderman Probst, seconded by Alderwoman Dore', and unanimously carried, that the application be granted. The second application was by Jane Netterville for "Jane Netterville Broker & Associates" at 1507 Carter Street. Mrs. Netterville was present to speak on behalf of her application. Following her presentation, there being no questions or comments, it was moved by Alderwoman Dore', seconded by Alderman Betts, and unanimously carried, that the application be granted.

Agenda Item No. 3 was the consideration of outdoor sign applications. The first application was by Jane Netterville for an unlighted sign to replace the existing signs in front of the building at 1507 Carter Street, in accordance with the information attached to the application. There being no questions or comments, it was moved by Alderman Probst, seconded by Alderman Gardner, and unanimously carried, that the application be granted. The second application was by Southern Signs, Inc. for a lighted sign for Reeves Drug Store on Carter Street, in accordance with the information attached to the application. There being no comments or questions, it was moved by Alderman Probst, seconded by Alderman Betts, and unanimously carried, that the application be granted.

Agenda Item No. 4 was an application by BB's Fish Fry for a beer license. Alderwoman Dore' asked if the fees have been paid and the Town Clerk replied that they had. There being no

further comments or questions, it was moved by Alderwoman Dore', seconded by Alderman McCoy, and unanimously carried, that the license be granted.

Addressing Agenda Item No. 5, the Mayor advised the Board that he was introducing, at this time, the proposed Ordinance amending the operating budget of revenues and expenses for the Town of Vidalia, Louisiana, for the fiscal year 2019-2020, and explained the need for the amendment. The Mayor then advised that the amending Ordinance would be available for inspection at Town Hall. He further stated that he will be calling a special meeting for the purpose of having a public hearing and considering adoption and asked for input from the Aldermen on their preference for a date and time. Alderwoman Dore' spoke up and indicated that he just set the meeting. The Mayor advised he will give them due notice of the date and time.

Agenda Item No. 6 was the property tax assessment report. The Mayor then recognized Jeannie Archer, representing the Tax Assessor's Office, who gave the property tax assessment report. She explained the procedure involved in arriving at the proposed tax millage for the year 2020 and stated that the tax millage has a maximum of 3.39 mills and the Assessor is recommending 3.37 mills. Following her presentation, the Mayor thanked Ms. Archer for her report.

Agenda Item No. 7 was Board discussion and vote on adopting a Resolution setting millage being levied on the 2020 tax roll on all property subject to taxation by the Town of Vidalia, Louisiana. Following brief remarks by the Mayor, and a short discussion, a motion was made by Alderman Betts, seconded by Alderman McCoy, and unanimously carried, to set the millage for 2020 at 3.37 mills.

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

Agenda Item No 8 was Board discussion and vote on acceptance of engagement letter for Silas Simmons, LLP, to provide audit services for the Town of Vidalia for fiscal year ending June 30, 2020. The Mayor reminded the Board that in their packet was the engagement letter dated May 26, 2020, that had been explained previously and asked for questions. There being no questions or comments, it was moved by Alderman McCoy, seconded by Alderman Gardner, and unanimously carried to accept the engagement letter of Silas Simmons, LLP, dated May 26, 2020, as presented at the meeting.

Agenda Item No. 9 was Board discussion and vote on adopting resolution awarding project for procurement of (3) 115 kv-SF6 gas circuit breakers to Electric Equipment Enterprises on behalf of ABB, Inc and to authorize Mayor Buz Craft to execute any and all documents necessary to complete project. The Mayor explained that the bids had previously been opened and that it is time to award the contract. There being no comments or questions, on motion by Alderman Betts, seconded by Alderman McCoy, the following resolution was offered that the contract be awarded to Electric Equipment Enterprises on behalf of ABB, Inc, in the amount of \$146,880.00. A roll call vote was held and the motion passed unanimously.

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

Agenda Item No. 10 was Board discussion and vote on adopting resolution awarding project for procurement of (2) 20 MVA 115-13.2 kv two-winding transformers to Pennsylvania Transformer Technology, Inc and to authorize Mayor Buz Craft to execute any and all documents necessary to complete project. The Mayor explained that the bids had previously been opened and that it is time to award the contract. There being no comments or questions, on motion by Alderwoman Dore', seconded by Alderman McCoy, the following resolution was offered that the contract be awarded to Pennsylvania Transformer Technology, Inc., in the amount of \$1,431,634.00. A roll call vote was held and the motion passed unanimously.

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

At this point, Alderwoman Dore' moved to add an item to the agenda to discuss issues concerning the Slackwater Port, which was seconded by Alderman Probst, and unanimously carried. Economic Director, Heather Malone, was called on to discuss the Board's concerns.

Agenda Item No. 11 was Board approval to enter into executive session to discuss personnel issues of the Vidalia Police Department. At this point, the Mayor asked for a motion to enter into executive session. A motion to enter into executive session was made by Alderman Gardner,

seconded by Alderman McCoy, and the vote thereon was unanimous. Thereupon the Mayor and Board, and Town Clerk left the meeting room to go into Executive Session.

On returning to the meeting room, it was moved by Alderman Betts, seconded by Alderman McCoy, to exit the Executive Session and resume the regular meeting, and the vote thereon was unanimous. Thereupon the Mayor announced that the first item of business is to ratify the Police Chief's action taken in connection with Issue A. A motion was made by Alderman Probst, seconded by Alderman Betts, to accept the Police Chief's action taken in connection with Issue A. The roll call vote was as follows:

YEAS: Aldermen Betts and Probst.

NAYS: Aldermen Gardner and McCoy.

ABSTAINING: Alderwoman Dore'.

Motion failed because of tie vote and Town Clerk advised that the Mayor cannot break the tie vote in this situation.

A motion to accept the Police Chief's action taken in connection with Issue B was made by Alderman Betts and seconded by Alderman Probst. The roll call vote was as follows:

YEAS: Aldermen Betts and Probst.

NAYS: Aldermen Gardner, McCoy and Dore'.

MOTION FAILS.

At this point, Alderman McCoy moved to table Issue A, which was seconded by Alderman Probst. The roll call vote was as follows:

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

NAYS: Alderman Gardner.

MOTION PASSES.

A motion was made by Alderman McCoy and seconded by Alderman Probst, to table Issue B for further study. The roll call vote was as follows:

YEAS: Aldermen Betts, McCoy and Probst.

NAYS: Alderman Gardner and Alderwoman Dore'.

MOTION PASSES.

Agenda Item No. 12 was adjournment, and there being no further agenda items, a motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Gardner, seconded by Alderman Probst, and unanimously carried, and the meeting was adjourned.

/s/ Jay LaSyone
JAY LASYONE, TOWN CLERK

/s/ Buz Craft
BUZ CRAFT, MAYOR

The following resolution was offered by Alderman Betts, seconded by Alderman McCoy:

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION SETTING MILLAGE BEING LEVIED ON THE 2020 TAX ROLL ON ALL PROPERTIES SUBJECT TO TAXATION BY THE TOWN OF VIDALIA, LOUISIANA.

MILLAGE

General Alimony 3.37 mills

BE IT RESOLVED that the property administrative officials of the Parish of Concordia, State of Louisiana, be and they are hereby empowered, authorized, and directed to spread said taxes, as hereinabove set forth, upon the assessment roll of said Parish for the year 2020 and that the tax herein levied shall become a permanent lien and privilege on all property subject to taxation as herein set forth, and the collection thereof shall be enforceable in the manner provided by law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the foregoing Resolution was called for a vote on the adoption thereof, and the vote was recorded as follows:

YEAS: Aldermen Betts, Gardner, McCoy, Probst and Alderwoman Dore’.

NAYS: NONE.

ABSTAINING: NONE.

ABSENT: NONE.

And the resolution was declared adopted on this the 9th day of June, 2020.

/s/ Jay LaSyone
JAY LASYONE, CLERK

/s/ Buz Craft
BUZ CRAFT, MAYOR

On a motion by Alderman Betts, duly seconded by Alderman McCoy, the following resolution was offered to-wit:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the following Bids were opened and read aloud on Thursday, May 14, 2020, for the Town of Vidalia – Electrical Upgrade/ Procurement of Breakers.

<u>BIDDER</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Electric Equipment Enterprises	\$146,880.00
WESCO Distribution	150,624.00

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Vidalia awards the project to Electric Equipment Enterprises on behalf of ABB, Inc., in the amount of \$146,880.00 for three (3) 115 kv SF6 gas circuit breakers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor is authorized to execute any and all documents including contracts, estimates and change orders between the Town of Vidalia and Electric Equipment Enterprises.

This Resolution adopted this 9th day of June, 2020, with the vote recorded as follows:

YEAS: Aldermen Betts, McCoy, Probst, Gardner and Alderwoman Dore’.

NAYS: NONE.

And the Resolution was declared adopted on this 9th day of June, 2020.

/s/ Jay LaSyone
JAY LASYONE, CLERK

/s/ Buz Craft
BUZ CRAFT, MAYOR

On a motion by Alderwoman Dore', duly seconded by Alderman McCoy, the following resolution was offered to-wit:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the following Bids were opened and read aloud on Thursday, May 14, 2020, for the Town of Vidalia – Electrical Upgrade/ Procurement of Transformers.

<u>BIDDER</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Pennsylvania Transformer Technology, Inc.	\$1,431,634.00
Howard Industries	1,438,000.00
Electric Equipment Enterprise	1,646,100.00
SPX Transformer Solutions	1,748,578.86

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Vidalia awards the project to Pennsylvania Transformer Technology, Inc. (PTTI), in the amount of \$1,432,634.00 for two (2) 20 MVA, 115-13.2 kv two-winding transformers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor is authorized to execute any and all documents including contracts, estimates and change orders between the Town of Vidalia and Pennsylvania Transformer Technology, Inc.. (PTTI).

This Resolution adopted this 9th day of June, 2020, with the vote recorded as follows:

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

NAYS: NONE.

And the Resolution was declared adopted on this 9th day of June, 2020.

/s/ Jay LaSyone
JAY LASYONE, CLERK

/s/ Buz Craft
BUZ CRAFT, MAYOR