

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING OF THE  
MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN  
OF THE TOWN OF VIDALIA, LOUISIANA,  
HELD ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 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, October 8, 2019, at 6:00 p.m.

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

There were absent: NONE.

There were also present: Debra Moak, Town Accountant; 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 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 of the Special Meeting of August 20, 2019, and the Regular Meeting of September 10, 2019, were approved. Motion for approval of both minutes 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 of August, 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 reviewed the several summary sheets, previously given to the Aldermen, and reported on the various and negative fund balances and indicated the net changes in the various funds through August 31, 2019. In summary, she noted that the current phase of the Port construction is expected to be completed by January. She also noted that the Auditors have completed their field work and should be on time on filing their report with the Legislative Auditor. Following her presentation, there being no questions or comments, the Mayor thanked Mrs. Moak for her thorough presentation.

Agenda Item No. 2 was the consideration of occupational license applications. The first application was by Professional Rehabilitation Hospital, LLC, d/b/a River Bridge Specialty Hospital at 209 Front Street, Vidalia, Louisiana. Mr. Mike Harrell spoke on behalf of the application. There being no questions, it was moved by Alderman Gardner, seconded by Alderwoman Dore’, and unanimously carried that the application be granted. The second application was by Mr. Byron Artis for House of Hope Christian Missions, d/b/a Hope Missions Thrift & Swap and 1611 Carter Street, Vidalia, Louisiana. There being no discussion, it was moved by Alderwoman Dore’, seconded by Alderman Betts, and unanimously carried that the application be granted. The third application was by David D. Maquera for ecoATM, LLC inside Walmart #1106 at 4283 Carter Street, Vidalia, Louisiana. Following a brief discussion, it was moved by Alderwoman Dore’, seconded by Alderman Betts, and unanimously carried that the application be granted. Next, the Mayor and Board reviewed the request by Vital Infuse of the Miss-Lou, LLC, for a change of address to 406

Sycamore Street, Vidalia, LA, 71373. It was moved by Alderman Gardner, seconded by Alderman Probst, and unanimously carried, to approve the change of address as requested.

Addressing Agenda Item No. 3, concerning outdoor sign applications, it was noted that there were no applications made.

Agenda Item No. 4 was the introduction of an ordinance amending Chapter 6 of Ordinance No. 664, the Town of Vidalia Code of Ordinances, pertaining to animals. The Mayor generally explained the need for the ordinance and gave some background on the amendment process. Following that, the Mayor introduced the ordinance, which will be on file with the Town for review prior to the public hearing which will be held by the Board of Aldermen on November 12, 2019, prior to considering passage.

Agenda Item No. 5 was an update on the status of street and sewer projects related to the 2018-19 flood. The Mayor began by giving an update on the status discussing the sewer projects as well as street repairs. The Mayor called on Mr. Lee Staggs to answer any questions from the audience. There was a question concerning the overlaying of Carter Street and the Mayor responded that the Town is still waiting on the State to give a timeline. Alderman McCoy asked about the truck route street and the Mayor advised that there are plans to improve the corner and reinforce it and adding speed bumps were discussed.

Agenda Item No. 6 was Board approval for a new hire replacement for the Vidalia Police Department. The Mayor discussed the need for the replacement with the Board as did Assistant Police Chief Dennis Cowan. Following a short discussion, on motion by Alderwoman Dore', seconded by Alderman Probst, and unanimously carried, the hire of Daphne Cooper as a full time dispatcher was approved.

Agenda Item No. 7 was Board approval to enter into Executive Session for personnel matter related to the Vidalia Police Department. The Mayor then asked for a motion to enter into Executive Session. A motion to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter relating to the Vidalia Police Department was made by Alderwoman Dore', seconded by Alderman Gardner, and unanimously carried. The Mayor and Board then went into Executive Session and left the meeting room.

Upon returning to the meeting room, a motion was made by Alderman McCoy, seconded by Alderman Betts, and unanimously carried, to return to Regular Session. The Mayor announced that the Mayor and Board were back in Regular Session. Thereupon, a motion was made by Alderman McCoy to approve the firing of the Vidalia Policeman who was the subject of the Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Alderman Dore' and a voice vote was called. The vote thereon was as follows:

Alderman Betts, Yea: Alderwoman Dore', Yea: Alderman Gardner, Nay: Alderman McCoy, Yea: Alderman Probst, Nay. The Clerk announced that there were three (3) YEAS to two (2) NAYS and the motion carried.

Thereafter, noting that there was no further business on the agenda, on motion by Alderman Gardner, seconded by Alderman Probst, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned.

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

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