

## REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

SEPTEMBER 14, 2015

MINUTES

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** RONNIE DIXON, RAYMOND TURNER, CECIL THOMPSON, BRIAN FROST, LISA CHESSER, AND EDDIE TYSON

**NON-MEMBERS PRESENT:** BILL TORRANCE – CITY MANAGER, BILL BEDINGFIELD, FINANCE DIRECTOR/CITY CLERK, MELISSA MOORE - ADMIN ASSISTANT, REID THRELKELD – CITY ATTORNEY, FRANK WAITS –VPD, ZACK FOWLER- VIDALIA COMMUNICATION, ROBBIE AKINS – ESG, BRIAN SIKES – FIRE CHIEF, TOMMY SASSER, RECREATION DIRECTOR, JAMES O’NEAL- ESG AND BEN ALLEN, ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF, KATHY HILT-THE ADVANCE

MAYOR DIXON BROUGHT THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 6:00p.m.

THE INVOCATION WAS GIVEN BY: KURT TOOTLE

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** - Tracy Todd thanked the Council for their participation and cooperation in the Win Shape Camp this summer. He reported that the camp turned out to be one of the largest in the nation. He also asked the Council if the Vidalia First Baptist Church could close 2<sup>nd</sup> Street on October 25<sup>th</sup> from 2 until 7, they also need to close Church Street from Hwy 280 to 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. This is for the Church’s Fall Festival and 5k run. Councilman Frost made a motion to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thompson. The vote was unanimous.

**DVA:** - Paula brought the Council up to date on activities of the DVA. She stated that the 9/11 memorial service was a huge success. She thanked the City for their participation and the girl scouts for sponsoring the event. She also pointed out that this year’s Christmas Parade will be on December 5<sup>th</sup>.

**VCVB** – Alexa Britton brought the Council up to date on activities of Tourism. She also presented a calendar of events, for the remainder of the year, which will be held at the stage at City Park. She stated that the new Committee will meet on the 21<sup>st</sup> from 12 until 2, and hoped to have a Pal Theater Committee appointed at this meeting.

**ONION FESTIVAL** – Dustin Booth brought to the Council a proposed list of committee members for their approval. (See Attached List) Councilman Frost made a motion to approve the list. Councilwoman Chesser seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

**TOOMBS MONTGOMERY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE** – Bill Mitchell brought the Council up to date on activities of the Chamber. He reported that we are still in the running for a new business that has been in the works for about seven months. The company will announce their decision on Friday.

**FINANCIAL REPORT - BILL BEDINGFIELD** - Mr. Bedingfield gave the financial report for the month of August. A motion was made by Councilwoman Chesser to approve the report. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thompson. The vote was unanimous.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** -A motion was made by Councilman Turner to approve the minutes from the August 10, 2015 meeting and the August 20, 2015 called meeting. Councilman Frost seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

### **AGENDA**

1. **Brian Sikes Presentation** – Fire Chief Brian Sikes presented the Ben Franklin Medal to Assistant Chief Ben Allen. This award is presented to him by his peers represented by five area Fire Departments. His commitment and resolve were proven during the 2015 Combined National Professional Firefighter 1 Class. The Council congratulated Ben on an outstanding job and for being recognized by his peers.

2. **License and Permits Meeting -8/27/15** – Councilwoman Chesser presented the minutes from the August 27, 2015 License and Permits Committee meeting. (See Attached Minutes) No action is required by the Council.
3. **Alcohol Permit Save-A-Lot** – Mr. Torrance presented an application for beer and wine off premise for the new Save-A-Lot food store located at 619 A East First Street. The application is complete and has been signed by all required departments. A motion to approve the application was made by Councilman Tyson. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Chesser. The vote was unanimous. Councilman Thompson abstained for business reasons.

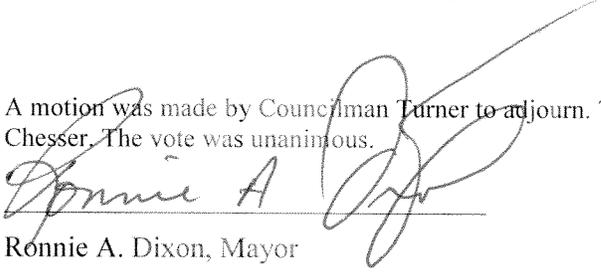
#### **CITY MANAGERS REPORT –**

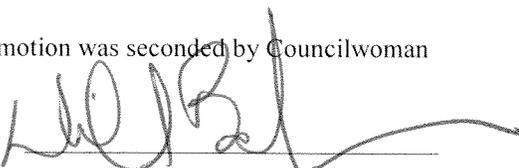
Mr. Torrance presented a bid from Joe Veal to repair the roof on the Annex building. The bid from Top Coats Roofing is for \$123,993.00. Councilman Turner made a motion to approve the bid and to take it from SPLOST funds. Councilman Frost seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Torrance informed the Council that we would be doing Vidalia Today in the morning, and would be discussing the watershed assessment ordinance along with several other issues.

Councilwoman Chesser complimented the Fire Department and the Police Department on their commitment to the citizens of our community. She highlighted several activities, like volunteer reading to the children by the Police, which are making a difference in how public safety is perceived in our community. She also reinforced the importance of the upcoming Town Hall meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> at the Pal Theater. The Council echoed her sentiments.

A motion was made by Councilman Turner to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Chesser. The vote was unanimous.

  
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Ronnie A. Dixon, Mayor

  
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William E Bedingfield, City Clerk

**LICENSE AND PERMITS MEETING**  
**AUGUST 27, 2015**  
**10:00 A.M.**

**PRESENT:** Lisa Chesser, Eddie Tyson and Raymond Turner, Non-members present: Bill Torrance, Randy Clark, Shaun Oliver, Bill Bedingfield, Bill Faircloth and Sue Faircloth

**AGENDA**

1. **Alcohol License Application 401 A McIntosh Street** – Mr. Torrance stated that Regina Moss has applied for an on-premise beer and wine license at 401 A McIntosh Street. He also explained that the business does not meet the requirements of a commercial kitchen as stated in Sec. 4-50 of the City Ordinance, and therefore is not qualified for an on-premise alcohol license. The Committee is in agreement. Miss Moss was invited to this meeting, but failed to attend.
2. **Flea Market Hwy 292** - Councilwoman Chesser opened the meeting by reading the business plan, which has been submitted to the City along with the application from Mr. and Mrs. Bill Faircloth, to operate a flea market at 300 East North Street. Mr. Torrance asked the Faircloths if they were living at the location and they replied that they were staying there to prevent some theft that had taken place previously, but that they had a home and intended to not stay at their business permanently. Mr. Torrance discussed the issue of cleanliness and the requirements in the ordinance that address this issue. He also stressed that the ordinance did not allow animals to be sold under this license. The owners stated that they understood and would follow the requirements of the ordinance, and intended to run a business that the City would be proud of. Mr. Torrance informed the Committee that his recommendation would be to issue the business license. The Committee was in agreement.

Being no further business Councilwoman Chesser adjourned the meeting.

## 2016 Vidalia Onion Festival Committee Roster

Chairman- Dustin Booth

Chair Elect- Vacant

Past Chair- Tom Cato

Chair of Events- Karen Ouzts

Chair of Merchandising- Rachel Tufts

Chair of Operations- Shannon Brantley

Secretary- Lauren Hofmann

Treasurer- Blythe Wilcox

Member at Large- Josh Giles

Marketing/Advertising- Alexa Britton

Chair of Airport Operations (Airshow)- Kevin Britton

Chair of Entertainment- Tim Jones

Chair of Vendors- Julie Cook

Advisor- Les Salter

City Manager- Bill Torrance

