

**MINUTES  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
MUNICIPAL ANNEX  
MONDAY, JANUARY 9, 2023  
5:30 P.M.**

The regular scheduled council meeting was held in the Municipal Annex on Monday, December 12, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Doug P. Roper, III, Mayor  
Bob Dixon, Councilmember  
Jennifer Evans, Councilmember  
Loyd Mobley, Councilmember  
Cecil Thompson, Councilmember  
Raymond Turner, Councilmember

**CITY STAFF:** Nick Overstreet, City Manager  
Amy W. Murray, City Clerk  
Justin Franklin, City Attorney (Absent)  
Kellie Murray, Administrative Assistant  
Billy Ragan, Airport Manager  
James Jermon, Police Chief

A list of visitors is attached to the minutes.

**I. CALL TO ORDER BY MAYOR DOUG ROPER, III WITH INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE LED BY REVEREND EFTON GREEN OF CALVARY ON AIMWELL CHURCH**

Mayor Doug Roper called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. Reverend Efton Green of Calvary on Aimwell Church gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**II. DISCUSSION / APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Motion to approve the agenda made by Councilmember Raymond Turner, seconded by Councilmember Bob Dixon, and all were in favor.

**III. PUBLIC COMMENTS - None**

**IV. DISCUSSION / APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA (See attached)**

Motion to approve the consent agenda made by Councilmember Loyd Mobley, seconded by Councilmember Jennifer Evans, and all were in favor.

**V. TOURISM / CHAMBER UPDATES (See attached, if available)**

- Downtown Vidalia Association (DVA) – Tonya Parker
- Vidalia Convention & Visitors Bureau (VCVB) – Alexa Britton
- Greater Vidalia Chamber – Michele Johnson
- Vidalia Onion Festival Committee – Jake Cleghorn

**NOTE:** Executive Directors will NOT give verbal reports this month.

Chairman Jake Cleghorn did give an update on the Vidalia Onion Festival with plans for a four (4) day event.

**VI. DISCUSSION / APPROVAL OF SWEET ONION GOLF AUTHORITY (SOGA) BUDGET (See attached)**

**NOTE:** Andy Woodruff, Chairman and Jacob Woodfin will give an update and present budget.

Budget approved as presented with motion made by Councilmember Raymond Turner, seconded by Councilmember Bob Dixon, and all were in favor.

**VII. DISCUSSION / APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL RULES / POLICY GOVERNING SWEET ONION GOLF AUTHORITY (SOGA) (See attached)**

Financial policy as presented approved with motion made by Councilmember Loyd Mobley, seconded by Councilmember Bob Dixon, and all were in favor. Recommendation made to revisit the policy once golf course construction is completed.

**VIII. DISCUSSION / APPROVAL FOR SWEET ONION GOLF AUTHORITY (SOGA) TO AWARD GOLF COURSE LAND CLEARING TO MCLENDON ENTERPRISES FOR \$316,525.00 (See attached)**

**NOTE:** Only one (1) bid received.

**FUNDING SOURCE:** DNR Recreational Funds

Motion to approve award to McLendon Enterprises for \$316,525.00 made by Councilmember Cecil Thompson, seconded by Councilmember Bob Dixon, and all were in favor.

Question posed by City Clerk Amy Murray if such approval gave her the authorization to move these funds to the SOGA bank account? Mayor and Council said they would discuss and let her know. She asked that it be placed on the agenda for approval and record purposes. NOTE: E-mails dated January 19, 2023 approved the transfer of construction money of \$316,525.00 and \$100,000 in operating expenses completed on January 23, 2023 and will be on the February agenda as an acknowledgement of this approval.

**IX. APPOINTMENTS TO COUNCIL COMMITTEES BY MAYOR AS PER CITY CHARTER SECTION 2-31 (See attached)**

The Mayor made no changes to existing committee appointments.

**X. APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING APPOINTMENTS BY MAYOR & COUNCIL**

- Justin Franklin, City Attorney
- Daniel O’Conner, Municipal Court Judge
- Paul Calhoun, City Prosecutor
- Johnny Vines, Public Defender

Motion to approve appointments made by Councilmember Raymond Turner, seconded by Councilmember Jennifer Evans, and all were in favor.

**XI. APPOINTMENT / REAPPOINTMENT BY MAYOR & COUNCIL OF MEMBERS TO THE PLANNING & ZONING BOARD TO SERVE FOUR (4) YEAR TERMS ENDING AS BELOW:**

Pam Langston	12/31/2026 (Reappointment)
Brian McDaniel	12/31/2025 (Reappointment)
Billy Snell	12/31/2024 (Reappointment)
Russ Bell	12/31/2026 (Appointment)
Matt Oxley	12/31/2025 (Appointment to fill unexpired term)
Jackie Moses	12/31/2024 (Appointment to fill unexpired term)
Carol Hansley	12/31/2023 (Appointment to fill unexpired term)

Motion to approve made by Councilmember Bob Dixon, seconded by Councilmember Jennifer Evans, and all were in favor.

**XII. APPOINTMENT BY MAYOR & COUNCIL TO THE TOOMBS COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES TO SERVE A THREE (3) YEAR TERM ENDING JANUARY 31, 2026 (See attached letter from Library Board)**

- Dustin Booth

Motion to approve Councilmember Raymond Turner, seconded by Councilmember Loyd Mobley, and all were in favor.

**XIII. REAPPOINTMENT BY MAYOR & COUNCIL TO THE TOOMBS COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH TO SERVE A SIX (6) YEAR TERM ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2028**

- Shannon Hart

Motion to approve made Councilmember Bob Dixon, seconded by Councilmember Jennifer Evans, and all were in favor.

**XIV. APPOINTMENTS / REAPPOINTMENTS TO THE VIDALIA CONVENTION VISITORS BUREAU (VCVB) TO SERVE OR COMPLETE FOUR (4) YEAR TERMS ENDING AS BELOW:**

- Amanda Moore – Will fill unexpired term ending 12/31/2025
- Curtis McMichael – Appointment, term expires 12/31/2026
- Senecca Underwood – Reappointment, term expires 12/31/2026

Recommendation provided by the VCVB Board.

Motion to approve made Councilmember Loyd Mobley, seconded by Councilmember Jennifer Evans, and all were in favor.

**XV. REAPPOINTMENT BY MAYOR & COUNCIL TO THE RECREATION DEPARTMENT COMMITTEE TO SERVE FIVE (5) YEAR TERMS ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2027**

- Robert Toole
- Craig Adams

Motion to approve made by Councilmember Jennifer Evans, seconded by Councilmember Bob Dixon, and all were in favor.

**XVI. REAPPOINTMENT BY MAYOR & COUNCIL TO THE VIDALIA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY TO SERVE A FIVE (5) YEAR TERM ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2027**

- Garrett Wilcox

Motion to approve made by Councilmember Bob Dixon, seconded by Councilmember Cecil Thompson, and all were in favor.

**XVII. REAPPOINTMENTS BY MAYOR & COUNCIL TO THE DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (DDA) TO SERVE FOUR (4) YEAR TERMS ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2026**

- Sadia Ajohda
- Brandi Anthony
- Gray Meredith

Motion to approved made by Councilmember Raymond Turner, seconded by Councilmember Jennifer Evans, and all were in favor.

**XVIII. DISCUSSION / APPROVAL OF REQUEST FOR USE OF COMMUNITY CENTER BY CONGRESSMAN RICK ALLEN THROUGH JANUARY 2, 2025**

Motion to approve made by Councilmember Cecil Thompson, seconded by Councilmember Bob Dixon, and all were in favor.

**XIX. DISCUSSION / APPROVAL TO EXECUTE PROJECT FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT SUPPLEMENTAL NO. 1 FOR BETWEEN THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (GDOT) AND THE CITY OF VIDALIA, FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDS OF \$250,000, AS ASSOCIATED WITH THE TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM (TAP GRANT) (See attached)**

**NOTE:** Contract is an 80% Federal & 20% Local Match; City's portion = \$50,000.

**FUNDING SOURCE:** Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST)

Motion to approve made by Councilmember Loyd Mobley, seconded by Councilmember Cecil Thompson, and all were in favor.

**XX. DISCUSSION / APPROVAL OF LETTER STATING THE CITY WILL NOT SEEK BACK TAXES FROM PINE CREST CEMETERY DUE TO PARCEL # V21 044 BEING MISCLASSIFIED BY THE COUNTY AS EXEMPT (See attached)**

**NOTE:** Per the county, the property has been returned to the Tax Digest and reclassified correctly for 2023 taxes.

Motion to approve, contingent on the executed Quit Claim to the City, made by Councilmember Jennifer Evans, seconded by Councilmember Cecil Thompson, and all were in favor.

**XXI. DISCUSSION / APPROVAL TO ACCEPT THE PINE CREST CEMETERY MAP (See attached)**

Motion to approve made by Councilmember Loyd Mobley, seconded by Councilmember Bob Dixon, and all were in favor.

**NOTE:** After our meeting, City Manager Overstreet learned that the map was correct, but the actual names of the new streets would change as the plan evolves. Acceptance of the actual street names will come back to the Mayor and Council for approval at a later time.

**XXII. DISCUSSION / APPROVAL TO PAY HUB ELECTRONICS INVOICE FOR DIGITAL RADIO SYSTEM FOR \$45,160.50 FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT FROM SPLOST FUNDS (See attached)**

**NOTE:** This was an approved budget item of \$45,000 in the 2022 SPLOST Budget.

Motion to approve made by Councilmember Bob Dixon, seconded by Councilmember Raymond Turner, and all were in favor.

**XXIII. DISCUSSION / APPROVAL OF AWARD TO PASSERO ENGINEERING FOR ENGINEERING DESIGN & BID PHASE FOR PHASE 2 OF RUNWAY 7/25 SLAB REPLACEMENT AT THE VIDALIA REGIONAL AIRPORT FOR \$69,700 (See attached)**

Federal - \$62,730 \*\*\*See note below for updated information\*\*\*  
Local Match - \$ 6,970

**NOTE:** GDOT reported 1-9-23 that the Airport would have to pay total expense upfront but would reimburse the City at 90% on the next federal contract.

**FUNDING SOURCE:** Airport Fund (550)

Motion to approve made by Councilmember Cecil Thompson, seconded by Councilmember Bob Dixon, and all were in favor.

**NOTE:** Received letter from Lynn Thompson with GDOT approving Phase 2 expenses for \$58,675.00. Passero changed their contract to this amount. Therefore, federal amount should be \$52,807.50 and Local \$5,867.50

**XXIV. DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS (See attached, if available)**

- a. Brian Sikes, Fire Chief
- b. James Jermon, Police Chief
- c. Tony Hall, ESG Project Manager
- d. Scott Strickland, Recreation Director
- e. Billy Ragan, Airport Manager
- f. Shaun Oliver, City Marshal
- g. Amie Vassey, Operations Manager with Republic Services

**NOTE:** Department Heads will NOT give verbal reports this month.

**XXV. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT (See attached)**

City Manager gave his report.

**XXVI. EXECUTIVE SESSION IF NEEDED AS PER O.C.G.A §50-14-3**

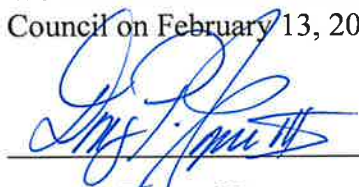

There was no need for executive session.

**XXVII. ADJOURN**

With all items discussed, Councilmember Loyd Mobley made the motion, seconded by Councilmember Raymond Turner, and all were in favor.

**AFFIRMATION**

We affirm that these minutes are correct and true to form as presented to the Mayor and City Council on February 13, 2023.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Doug P. Roper, III, Mayor  
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Amy W. Murray, City Clerk

NAME	ADDRESS
Billy	Airport
Ben	Fire / Airport
Matkey Lee	Newspaper
Jermom	SPD
Aray Woodruff	Vof
Kellie Murray	City of Vidalia
Jake Cleghorn	Vof
John	605 Amwell Rd
Debbie Evans	Chamber
DOUG ROPIER, JR	407 Darden St.
Lyndi Dean	Toombs County
Jacob Woodlin	407 5th Ave V19910
Bruce Asberry	