

MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MUNICIPAL ANNEX
MONDAY, MAY 13, 2024
6:00 P.M.

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Mayor and City Council was held on the date, time and location stated above.

PRESENT:

Doug P. Roper, III, Mayor
Raymond Turner, Mayor Pro-Tem
Cecil Thompson, Councilmember
Bob Dixon, Councilmember
Jennifer Evans, Councilmember
Loyd Mobley, Councilmember

CITY STAFF:

Bill Bedingfield, City Manager
Daniel O'Connor, City Attorney
Kellie Murray, City Clerk
Tonya Parker, DVA Director
Alexa Britton, CVB Director
Brian Sikes, Fire Chief
James Jermon, Police Chief
Tony Hall, ESG Project Manager
Scott Strickland, Recreation Director
Billy Ragan, Airport Manager
Chad Phillips, City Marshal

A list of visitors is attached.

1. CALL TO ORDER BY MAYOR DOUG P. ROPER, III, WITH INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE LED BY REVEREND BERNARD HILL, HARVEST TIME FAITH CENTER.

This meeting was opened by Mayor Roper. Reverend Bernard gave the Invocation Hill of Harvest Time Faith Center, who also led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. DISCUSSION / APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.

A motion was made by Councilmember Loyd Mobley to approve agenda as written. A second motion was made by Councilmember Bob Dixon. This motion passed unanimously.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS: Mr. Jesse Gillis was not present at this meeting.

4. DISCUSSION / APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Councilmember Raymond Turner made the motion to approve the consent agenda as written. A second motion was made by Councilmember Bob Dixon. This motion passed unanimously.

5. PINE CREST CEMETERY UPDATE:

Harry Moses presented an update on Pine Crest Cemetery Trust II. He distributed one (1) handout to Mayor and Council. Chair John Ladson thanks city officials for their help and support of Pine Crest Cemetery.

6. LYNN MOORE, TOOMBS COUNTY EMA: UPDATE ON EF-1 TORNADO AND UPDATE COUNTY-WIDE EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SYSTEM, I-PAWS.

Mr. Moore advised council the National Weather Service from Peachtree City declared an EF-1 tornado with 90 MPH winds did pass through Vidalia last Thursday afternoon; however, even with the damage that resulted from this storm, Toombs County does not qualify for FEMA assistance. Mr. Moore discussed the I-PAWS system currently in the testing stages.

7. TOURISM / CHAMBER UPDATE

- | | |
|---|-----------------|
| - Downtown Vidalia Association (DVA) | Tonya Parker |
| - Vidalia Convention & Visitors Bureau (VCVB) | Alexa Britton |
| - Greater Vidalia Chamber | Michele Johnson |
| - Vidalia Onion Festival | Jake Cleghorn |
| - Sweet Onion Golf Authority | Andy Woodruff |

Mayor Roper extended his thanks to all members of the Onion Festival Committee for their time and dedication. He also presented an update on the golf course advising council the status of the clubhouse and range.

8. FINANCIAL REPORT:

City Manager Bill Bedingfield presented the financial report to Mayor and Council for the month of April.

9. DISCUSSION / APPROVAL TO APPOINT JOSH BECK AS CITY MANAGER OF THE CITY OF VIDALIA. MR. BECK WAS NAMED SOLE FINALIST IN THE SEARCH TO FILL THE VACANT CITY MANAGER POSITION ON APRIL 12, 2024. HIS

APPOINTMENT WILL BE EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2024.

Mayor Roper advised the search for a City Manager has been officially suspended with a recommendation to approve Josh Beck as City Manager of the City of Vidalia to be effective June 1, 2024. Councilmember Loyd Mobley made the motion to approve the appointment of Josh Beck as City Manager. Councilmember Raymond made the second motion to approve and this motion passed unanimously.

10. DISCUSSION / APPROVAL OF SPECIAL EVENTS APPLICATION FOR DVA'S "SWEET SATURDAY" EVENTS TO BE HELD ON JUNE 8, JULY 13, AND AUGUST 10, 2024. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBMITTED BY DVA DIRECTOR, TONYA PARKER, AND ROAD CLOSURES REQUESTED INCLUDE JACKSON ST., MEADOWS ST., AND CHURCH ST. FROM 9:00 A.M. UNTIL 4:00 P.M.

The motion to approve special events application for "Sweet Saturday" was made by Councilmember Bob Dixon with a second motion made by Councilmember Jennifer Evans. This motion passed unanimously.

11. DISCUSSION / APPROVAL OF SPECIAL EVENTS PERMIT FOR VIDALIA'S "ONE LOVE" JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION SUBMITTED BY MELISSA DURDEN. THIS EVENT IS SCHEDULED SATURDAY, JUNE 22, 2024, FROM 3:00 PM UNTIL 10:00 PM AT RONNIE A DIXON CITY PARK. ONE ROAD CLOSURE IS REQUESTED: DURDEN STREET FROM 9:00 AM UNTIL 12:00 MIDNIGHT.

Councilmember Raymond Turner made the motion to approve the special events application for the Juneteenth celebration at Ronnie A Dixon City Park. A second motion was made by Councilmember Jennifer Evans and this motion passed unanimously.

12. DISCUSSION / APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION #24-002: AMENDMENT OF 2024 GENERAL FUND BUDGET. THIS AMENDMENT WAS APPROVED FEBRUARY 12, 2024, TO PROVIDE FUNDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF DERELICT PROPERTY.

Councilmember Bob Dixon made the motion to approve this budget amendment with a second motion made by councilmember Loyd Mobley. This motion passed unanimously.

13. DISCUSSION / APPROVAL OF ORDINANCE #24-003: 2023-2025 GMEBS DEFINED BENEFIT AMENDED AND RESTATED ADOPTION AGREEMENT. THIS ORDINANCE ADOPTS AMENDMENTS AND RESTATES THE RETIREMENT PLAN FOR THE EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF VIDALIA AND THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF VIDALIA.

A motion was made by Councilmember Raymond Turner to approve the amended and restated adoption agreement with GMEBS Defined Benefit Plan. A second motion was made by Councilmember Loyd Mobley and this motion passed unanimously.

14. DISCUSSION / APPROVAL TO AWARD BID SUBMITTED FOR STORM DRAIN IMPROVEMENTS – CALHOUN STREET TO S A BROWN ENTERPRISES, INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$148,800.00 WITH THE FUND SOURCE OF LRA (LOCAL ROAD ASSISTANCE) GRANT. THIS GRANT HAS A ZERO MATCH REQUIREMENT.

<u>BIDDER</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
S A Brown Enterprises, Inc.	\$148,800.00
McLendon Enterprises, Inc.	158,550.28
Sikes Brothers, Inc.	215,370.00

A motion was made to approve the award to SA Brown Enterprises, Inc. with a bid of \$148,800.00 to be paid from fund source LMIG-LRA grant by Councilmember Loyd Mobley. A second motion was made by Councilmember Jennifer Evans. This motion passed unanimously.

15. DISCUSSION / APPROVAL TO PURCHASE ONE BILLY GOAT VAC FROM ALSTON SAW SHOP, INC. AT A COST OF \$5,380.00 FROM FUND SOURCE: SPLOST.

Councilmember Bob Dixon made the motion to approve this purchase of one (1) Billy Goat Vac at a cost of \$5,380.00 to be paid from SPLOST. A second motion was made by Councilmember Loyd Mobley. This motion passed unanimously.

16. DISCUSSION / APPROVAL OF EMERGENCY REPAIR COST TO WELL #4 BY MCLENDON ENTERPRISES AT A COST OF \$8,650.00 TO BE PAID FROM SPLOST.

By the motion to approve the repair of well #4, it was acknowledged this was an emergency repair at a cost of \$8,650.00 to be paid from SPLOST. The motion was made by Councilmember Jennifer Evans with a second motion made by Councilmember

Raymond Turner. This motion passed unanimously.

17. DISCUSSION / APPROVAL OF RECOMMENDATION OF AWARD SUBMITTED BY ESG ENGINEERING FOR LIFT STATIONS 2, 6, AND 26 UPGRADES. RECOMMENDED BIDDER IS MCLENDON ENTERPRISES WITH A LOW BID OF \$1,907,557.50.

FUND SOURCE: GEFA GRANT

Councilmember Raymond Turner made the motion to approve the award of this bid to McLendon Enterprises with a low bid of \$1,907,557.50 to be paid from the remaining GEFA Grant. A second motion was made by Councilmember Bob Dixon. This motion passed unanimously.

18. DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

- a. Brian Sikes, Fire Chief
- b. James Jermon, Police Chief
- c. Tony Hall, Project Manager – ESG
- d. Scott Strickland, Recreation Director
- e. Billy Ragan, Airport Manager
- f. Chad Phillips, City Marshal

Police Chief James Jermon reported GDOT permits have been approved and all FLOCK cameras should be installed by June 1st. The Vidalia Animal Control is also participating in an animal adoption event to be held at Jack Hill State Park in Reidsville, GA.

ESG Project Mgr., Tony Hall, stated his monthly report has been submitted in a revised format to provide additional information. Mr. Hall also discussed debris collection from the most recent storm.

Recreation Director Scott Strickland requested approval to proceed applying for a grant. Councilmember Loyd Mobley made the motion to approve with a second motion made by Councilmember Raymond Turner. This motion passed unanimously.

Airport Manager, Billy Ragan advised he will host a Legislative fly-in on Wednesday, May 15. A tour of the airport and lunch will be provided.

19. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Bill Bedingfield stated all items on his report have been addressed with previous agenda items.

20. EXECUTIVE SESSION PER O.C.G.A. §50-14-4, FOR THE PURPOSE OF PERSONNEL.

With a need to enter Executive Session, Councilmember Raymond Turner made the motion to enter Executive Session with a second motion made by Councilmember Jennifer Evans. This motion passed unanimously.

Councilmember Loyd Mobley made the motion to exit from Executive Session and return to regular session. A second motion was made by Councilmember Bob Dixon. This motion was unanimous.


City Manager Bill Bedingfield made a request to move the pay scale of the Utility Billing Clerk position to Paygrade 13 / Step 1. This moves the starting pay for this position to \$15.28 per hour. Councilmember Loyd Mobley made the motion to approve this request with a second motion made by Councilmember Bob Dixon. The vote 4-1 to approve the motion.

21. ADJOURN


With no further business to address, Councilmember Bob Dixon made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Raymond Turner. This motion passed unanimously.

AFFIRMATION

We affirm that these minutes are correct and true to form as presented to the Mayor and City Council on June 10, 2024.



Doug P. Roper, III, Mayor



Kellie Murray, City Clerk

CITY OF VIDALIA

EXECUTIVE SESSION AFFIDAVIT

- (1) Pursuant to my duties as Mayor, I was the presiding officer of a meeting of the Vidalia City Council held on the **13th** day of **MAY, 2024**. A portion of said meeting was closed to the public.
- (2) I am competent to make this Affidavit and have personal knowledge of the matters set forth herein.
- (3) It is my understanding that **O.C.G.A. § 50-14-4(b)** provides as follows: When any meeting of an agency is closed to the public pursuant to subsection (a) of this Code section, the person presiding over such meeting or, if the agency's policy so provides, each member of the governing body of the agency attending such meeting, shall execute and file with the official minutes of the meeting a notarized affidavit stating under oath that the subject matter of the meeting or the closed portion thereof was devoted to matters within the exceptions provided by law and identifying the specific relevant exception.
- (4) The subject matter of said meeting, or the closed portion thereof, was devoted to matters within exceptions to public disclosure provided by law. Those specific relevant exceptions are identified as follows: **[Circle relevant item(s)]**
 - A. Meeting to discuss or vote to authorize the settlement of a matter covered by the attorney-client privilege as provided in **Georgia Code Section 50-14-2(1) and 50-14-3(b)(1)(A)**. The subject discussed was _____
(Identify the case or claim discussed).
 - B. Meeting to discuss or vote to authorize negotiations to purchase, dispose of or lease property as provided in **Georgia Code Section 50-14-3(b)(1)(B)**.
 - C. Meeting to discuss or vote to authorize the ordering of an appraisal related to the acquisition or disposal of real estate as provided in **Georgia Code Section 50-14-3(b)(1)(C)**.
 - D. Meeting to discuss or vote to enter into a contract to purchase, dispose of, or lease property subject to approval in a subsequent public vote as provided in **Georgia Code Section 50-14-3(b)(1)(D)**.
 - E. Meeting to discuss or vote to enter into an option to purchase, dispose of, or lease real estate subject to approval in a subsequent public vote as provided in **Georgia Code Section 50-14-3(b)(1)(E)**.
 - F. Meeting to discuss or deliberate upon the appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary action or dismissal, or periodic evaluation or rating of a public officer or employee as provided in **Georgia Code Section 50-14-3(b)(2)**.
 - G. Meeting to interview one or more applicants for the position of the executive head of an agency as provided in **Georgia Code Section 50-14-3(b)(2)**.
 - H. Pursuant to the attorney-client privilege and as provided by **Georgia Code Section 50-14-2(1)**, a meeting otherwise required to be open was closed to the public in order to consult and meet with legal counsel pertaining to pending or potential litigation, settlement, claims, administrative proceedings, or other judicial actions brought or to be brought by or against the agency or any officer or employee or in which the agency or any officer or employee may be directly involved and the matter discussed was _____
[Identify the matter only].

- I. Staff meeting held for investigative purposes under duties or responsibilities imposed by law as provided by **Georgia Code Section 50-14-3(a)(1)**.
- J. Meeting to consider records or portions of records exempt from public inspection or disclosure pursuant to **Article 4 of Chapter 18 of Title 50 of the Georgia Code** because there are no reasonable means to consider the record without disclosing the exempt portions.

This Affidavit is executed for the purpose of complying with the mandate of **O.C.G.A. § 50-14-4(b)** and is to be filed with the official minutes for the aforementioned meeting.

This 13th day of May, 2024

BY: CITY OF VIDALIA

Mayor Doug F. Roper, III, Presiding Officer

Sworn to and subscribed before me on the above indicated date.

Stephanie Michelle Bryson
Notary Public, State of Georgia
Commission Expires 10/26/27



(Although the same is not mandatory, the following parties concur with the accuracy of this Affidavit)

[Signature]
John R. Turner
[Signature]
[Signature]
[Signature]

Cecil Thompson

John Raymond Turner

Jennifer Evans

Loyd Mobley

Bob Dixon

NOTE: This form is to be used on all meetings of the City of Vidalia when four (4) or more council members are present.

COUNCIL MEETING - PLEASE SIGN IN

DATE OF MEETING: 5/13/2024

NAME	ADDRESS
Cihad Phillips	City Marshal
Brian Sikes	WFD
Lyne Moore	TEMP
Kathy Hill	radio Jones
HARRY MOSES	105 EG
Sean	ESG
Aaron Motter	City Employee
Alexa Britton	CVIS
Billy Sowell	
William G. Under	Samuel's
Melissa Williams	My Sweet Sleeping
Barney Wiggins	John SR
Josh Beck	Bethel Cr.
Caleb Bell	Bethel Cr.
Cole Porter	Bennette St.
William Coney	Conay's Supreme Detailing
Emma Beck	
Sarah, Caleb, Janie,	
Josh Beck	
Billy Ragan	Airport
Ken Mosley	Vidalia
Janice O'Neil	ESG
Jacqueline Jacobs	Vidalia GA
GIBBY STOKES	Vidalia GA 603 Mike St.
Richeta Stokes	Vidalia
Robert Turner	Utah
SEAN	PVA
Tony Parker	1309 Brummette
Mike Walton	Durden St.
Shaun Oliver	Hanna Cir
Bernard Hill	108 Louisiana Dr. Vidalia
Connie & Wellham	407 Durden St.
Zynda Jean	Vidalia, GA
GHILL	Vidalia, GA
Marissa Holway	109 W. Toombs St.
Glenda Green	109 N Toombs St. Vidalia
Walter Dow	VIDALIA
Charles Frank	V.I.D
MATT OXLEY	

DATE OF MEETING:[illegible]