

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 11, 2020
MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: CECIL THOMPSON, LOYD MOBLEY, BOB DIXON, RAYMOND TURNER
AND GREG JOHNSON

NON-MEMBERS PRESENT: NICK OVERSTREET – CITY MANAGER, BILL BEDINGFIELD,
FINANCE DIRECTOR/CITY CLERK, JUSTIN FRANKLIN – CITY ATTORNEY

MAYOR PRO TEM TURNER BROUGHT THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 6:00 p.m.

THE INVOCATION WAS GIVEN BY: Bob Dixon

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

DVA - Tonya Parker's May report was included in the Council's packet.

VCVB – Alexa Britton's May report for Tourism and the Pal Theatre was included in the Council's packet.

ONION FESTIVAL – No Report

TOOMBS MONTGOMERY CHAMBER - Michele Johnson's report was passed out at the meeting. Mr. Overstreet gave a brief overview of the 2020 census numbers and the ranking of each City within the County. He stressed the importance of getting the census count completed accurately.

FINANCIAL REPORT - BILL BEDINGFIELD - Mr. Bedingfield gave the financial report for the month of April. During the Recreation presentation he mentioned the possibility of having to refund \$23,010.00 in registration fees if the summer season is canceled. After much discussion a motion was made by Councilman Johnson to allow the Recreation Department to refund any fees to those requesting them, but to wait until July 1, 2020 before making a decision on the cancellation of the rest of the season. The motion was seconded by Councilman Dixon. The vote was unanimous. Mr. Bedingfield gave a brief overview of the SPLOST account reminding the Council that the 2021 call was on the upcoming ballot. A motion was made by Councilman Johnson to approve the financial report. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thompson. The vote was unanimous.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES -A motion was made by Councilman Mobley to approve the minutes from the March 8, 2020 and the April 1, 2020 meetings. Councilman Johnson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

AGENDA

1. **Alcohol Permit for Elcentenario Tienda** – Mr. Bedingfield explained to the Council that this application was approved by e-mail back in March. He is recommending that it officially be recorded in the minutes at the May meeting. A motion was made by Councilman Mobley to approve the request by Mr. Bedingfield. The motion was seconded by Councilman Johnson. The vote was unanimous. Councilman Thompson abstained citing business reason.
2. **Approval of Airport 7-25 Slab Rehab Design Project** – Mr. Overstreet presented the fully executed contract with the DOT that was approved by e-mail back in April. He is requesting that this contract be officially placed in the minutes during the May meeting. The total cost of the design phase is \$67,096.25, with the cost to the City being \$4653.75. These funds will come from the Airport line item in SPLOST. A motion was made by Councilman Thompson to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Councilman Dixon. The vote was unanimous.
3. **Police Capital Request** – Mr. Overstreet presented a request for \$4520.00 to purchase new radios for the Police Department. The bid is from HUB Communications, and if approved will come

from the equipment line item in SPLOST. A motion was made by Councilman Johnson to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thompson. The vote was unanimous.

4. **Water Sewer Repair Request for Lift Station #2** – Mr. Overstreet presented a request for \$51,400.00 to repair lift station #2. The work requires a new 4-foot manhole replacing the one there now, and would be done by L & L Utilities. Also included in this request is \$7,700.00 for electrical work provided by Rhodes Electric, and \$517.50 for some excavation work from McLendon Enterprises. This work has been completed due to the emergency created by spillage of raw sewage into the surrounding creek. The Council was notified of this situation by e-mail. The funds will be paid from the Water Sewer line item in SPLOST. A motion was made by Councilman Johnson to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Councilman Dixon. The vote was unanimous.
5. **The Stage at City Park Fencing Bids** – Mr. Overstreet presented bids for the fencing of the area surrounding the Stage at City Park. The low bid is from Progressive Landscaping at \$102,645.68. Mr. Overstreet informed the Council that this major project was one of the last that Mayor Dixon wanted completed before his term was up next year. Mayor Dixon had actually called for a Finance Committee meeting to discuss the bids on Monday the day after he entered the hospital. Mr. Overstreet is requesting that the Council approve the bid from Progressive so we can complete this much needed improvement to the Park at City Hall. If approved the funds will come from the City Hall line item in SPLOST. After much discussion a motion was made by Councilman Mobley to table the bid until the Council can see examples of the fence and to review the engineering specks. The motion was seconded by Councilman Johnson. The vote was unanimous.
6. **Capital Request for Recreation** – Mr. Overstreet presented a number of bids for a new 60 inch 25 hp lawn mower for the Recreation Department. He is recommending that we purchase the John Deere from Lassiter Tractor company for \$7100.00. A motion was made by Councilman Mobley to approve the bid from Lassiter. The motion was seconded by Councilman Johnson. The vote was unanimous.
7. **Police Voice Print Replacement** – Mr. Bedingfield presented a request to replace the current provider of voice print with Equature. The current system, from Replay, does not support our server and needs to be replaced. Replay's bid to upgrade the system is \$12,067.00. The low bid from Equature has an up-front cost of \$11,764.00 which includes the annual maintenance for the first year. The maintenance for years 2-5 will be \$1539.60 annually, and will replace the current maintenance of \$2491.00. The annual maintenance fee comes from the Police Annual Maintenance line item in the General Fund. The funds to upgrade the system would come from the Equipment line item in SPLOST if approved. A motion was made by Councilman Dixon to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Councilman Johnson. The vote was unanimous.

City Managers Report

Mr. Overstreet informed the Council that Albert Strickland, a former Captain with the Fire Department, passed away this past weekend. His funeral will be held on Tuesday May 13, 2020. The Council expressed their condolences.

Mr. Overstreet informed the Council that the Georgia Department of Corrections were raising their price from \$39,500.00 to \$49,318.00 a year for each prison crew. He is recommending that he be allowed to investigate cancelling two of the crews and contracting out the services that they currently provide. The Council is in agreement to have Mr. Overstreet investigate the possibility of contracting out these services and to bring it back to the Council for review.

Mr. Overstreet presented a letter from Sandi Calloway, a teacher at Vidalia High School, requesting the possibility of having a parade on Church Street honoring this year's graduating seniors. Councilman Mobley made a motion to approve the request provided that the route and Police requirements meet City approval. Councilman Johnson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Mr. Overstreet stated that he would put together a detailed map of the proposed route and get it to the Council.

Mr. Overstreet informed the Council that last week was City Clerk Week in Georgia. He wanted to thank City Clerk Bedingfield for his service to the City. The Council also thanked Mr. Bedingfield for his service.

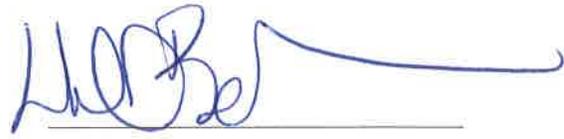
Councilman Johnson made a motion to adjourn and enter executive session to discuss personnel and also the possible acquisition of real estate. Councilman Mobley seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Councilman Thompson made a motion to adjourn from executive session and enter open session. The motion was seconded by Councilman Johnson. The vote was unanimous.

Being no further business a motion was made by Councilman Dixon to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilman Mobley. The vote was unanimous.



Raymond Turner, Mayor Pro Tem



William E Bedingfield, City Clerk

CITY OF VIDALIA
AFFIDAVIT AS TO OPEN MEETING LAW

The undersigned chair or presiding officer, under oath, certifies that a meeting of the Mayor and Council held on the date identified below being the date of this document, the Board closed its meeting as permitted by the Open Meetings Act of Georgia. The only matters considered or discussed during the closed portion or executive session of its meetings is as checked below:

- Staff meetings held for investigative purposes under duties or responsibilities imposed by law.
[O.C.G.A. §50-14-3]
- Meetings when discussing or deliberating upon the appointment, employment, compensation, hiring disciplinary action or dismissal or periodic evaluation or rating of a city official or an employee. (Note: The final vote if made is open to the public.)
[O.C.G.A. §50-14-3 (6)]
- 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 City or an officer or employee or in which the officer or employee may be directly involved;
[O.C.G.A. §50-14-2]
- To discuss the future acquisition of real estate;
[O.C.G.A. §50-14-3 (4)]

This the 11th day of May, 2020

CITY OF VIDALIA
By: John R. Turner
Mayor or Presiding Officer

Sworn to and subscribed before me on the above indicated date:
Shannon Renteria
Notary Public, State of Georgia
Commission Expires 3/09/24



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

[Signature] _____

[Signature] _____

[Signature] _____

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

