

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
JULY 13, 2020
MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: CECIL THOMPSON, BOB DIXON, RAYMOND TURNER AND GREG JOHNSON, LOYD MOBLEY ATTEND BY PHONE.

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: REV. FRANK WILLIAMS – NEW HOPE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

DVA - Tonya Parker reported on the activities of the DVA. She informed the Council that the Brighten up Vidalia event was a huge success, reporting that over 250 pounds of onion rings were sold. She also reported that Boost Grant applications are now being accepted, and that the Christmas Parade planning was under way.

VCVB – Alexa Britton reported on the activities of the Vidalia Convention and Visitors Bureau. She stated that the Museum had 61 Visitors in June, with the YTD total standing at 335 from 33 States and 2 Countries. She also reported that the Kiosk for the Museum will be delivered this Thursday, and that 200 pieces of Onion Festival merchandise was sold during the Brighten Vidalia event.

ONION FESTIVAL – No Report

TOOMBS MONTGOMERY CHAMBER - Michele Johnson's report was passed out at the meeting.

FINANCIAL REPORT - BILL BEDINGFIELD - Mr. Bedingfield gave the financial report for the month of June. He also reported that the SPLOST fund had paid back the remaining \$200,000.00 owed to fund balance. A motion was made by Councilman Johnson to approve the report. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thompson. The vote was unanimous.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES -A motion was made by Councilman Johnson to approve the minutes from the June 8, 2020 meeting. Councilman Thompson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

AGENDA

1. **Police and Fire Committee Meeting 7/7/20** – City Manager Overstreet presented the results from the Police and Fire Committee held on July 7, 2020. (See Attached)
 - Police Commissioner Scott presented a new recommended organization chart that will effectively put a Captain over each of the three divisions in the department. He is requesting that the Council de-activate the Assistant Chief's position and to activate a third Captain's position, for the purpose of reorganizing the department. This request is not for cause as to any employee. A motion was made by Councilman Johnson to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Councilman Dixon. The vote was unanimous.
 - Commissioner Scott presented a request to enter into an agreement with Utilities, Inc. to utilize their body camera system. If approved the first year of the five-year contract would come from the equipment line item in SPLOST, and the remaining four years would come from the Police annual maintenance budget line item. A motion was made by Councilman Thompson to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Councilman Dixon. The vote was unanimous.

- Commissioner Scott also requested that he be allowed to use the seized funds in the drug account to purchase some non-lethal equipment. The total requested would not exceed \$12,000 dollars. A motion was made by Councilman Dixon to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Councilman Johnson. The vote was unanimous.
- 2. **Streets and Sanitation Meeting 7/8/20** – Mr. Overstreet presented the results from the Streets and Sanitation meeting held on July 8, 2020. (See Attached)
 - He presented the bid from McLendon Enterprises of \$18,200.00 that was approved by e-mail to repair McLendon Road. This was an emergency repair that needed to be handled quickly. This is for information only.
 - Mr. Overstreet presented the results of the bid opening for grass cutting in the City. The low bid for the right of way cutting was from Sweet City Landscapes for \$75,475.00. The low bid for the sidewalk and cemetery cutting was from The Yard Guy Landscaping for \$19,924.56. Mr. Overstreet reiterated that if approved this will replace two prison crews. A motion was made by Councilman Johnson to approve the two bids. The motion was seconded by Councilman Dixon. The vote was unanimous.
- 3. **Potential Funding for the Apron Rehab Project** – Mr. Overstreet presented a request for the Council to allow him to pursue \$1.4 million in GDOT funding for the Airport apron redesign project. This State funding will require a 25% match from the City which could total \$466,666.00. These funds would come from SPLOST if approved. A motion was made by Councilman Thompson to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Councilman Johnson. The vote was unanimous.
- 4. **Alcohol Permit for 114 Southwest Main St.** – Mr. Bedingfield presented an application for an on premise alcohol license from Joenice Vasques Valentin. The new restaurant is called Paradise 100X35 and is located at 114 Southwest Main Street. The application is complete and has been approved by the appropriate departments. A motion was made by Councilman Johnson to approve the application. The motion was seconded by Councilman Dixon. The vote was unanimous. Councilman Thompson abstained citing business reasons.
- 5. **Amendment #1 for Runway 7/25 Design** – Mr. Overstreet presented a request to accept a change order in the contract to design the slab replacement in runway 7/25 at the Airport. The change order is due to a clerical error on the part of WK Dickson Engineering. The GDOT Project Manager has signed off on the error and will reimburse the City 90% in our 2021 funding. A motion was made by Councilman Dixon to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Councilman Johnson. The vote was unanimous.
- 6. **Resolution for Public Works Assistance Program** – Mr. Overstreet presented a resolution that if approved will allow the City to apply for EDA Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance program funds for sewer improvements to prevent, prepare for and respond to economic injury as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. These funds would be used to rehabilitate of existing sewer infrastructure. A motion was made by Councilman Thompson to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Councilman Johnson. The vote was unanimous.
- 7. **Dilapidated Housing Request** – Mr. Overstreet presented a request to have six houses removed and the lots cleared in Vidalia. The total cost is \$26,700, which does include \$9000.00 for asbestos abatement in two of the properties. If approved the funds would come from fund balance. A motion was made by Councilman Dixon to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thompson. The vote was unanimous.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Overstreet reported that Billy Ragan has been named the new Vidalia Regional Airport Manager on an interim basis. He will become the full time Manager after a 6-month training period.

He also brought the Council up to date on the Vann Street Extension and Dykes Circle issues.

He reported that the RFQ's for the Tap Grant (Sidewalks) are due the 29th of July, and that once the Engineering firm is selected the project should begin to move forward.

He informed the Council that the Cares Act, administered by the GMA, was also moving forward, and that we would be requesting reimbursement for Covid 19 expenditures soon.

Councilman Johnson asked Mr. Overstreet about the status of the sidewalk repairs done by Georgia Safe Sidewalks. Mr. Overstreet stated that the project had been completed and that he was going to take the list and check each location for the effectiveness of the repairs.

Councilman Johnson also inquired about the street striping project and it's estimated completion date. Mr. Overstreet stated that all but four streets have been striped, and that he would follow up on getting those completed.

Councilman Johnson also reminded everyone of the census event being held in Lyons on August the 8, 2020.

A motion was made by Councilman Johnson to adjourn and enter executive session to discuss personnel. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thompson. The vote was unanimous.

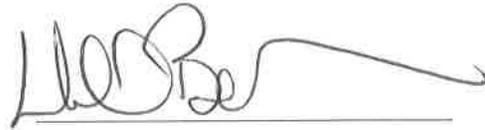
A motion was made by Councilman Mobley to adjourn from executive session and re-enter open session. The motion was seconded by Councilman Johnson. The vote was unanimous.

After some discussion A motion was made by Councilman Johnson to approve a three-year extension to Nick Overstreet's contract. The motion was seconded by Councilman Dixon. The vote was unanimous.

Being no further business A motion was made by Councilman Johnson to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thompson. The vote was unanimous.



Raymond Turner, Mayor Pro Tem



William E Bedingfield, City Clerk

FIRE AND POLICE MEETING

JULY 7, 2020

11:00 A.M.

PRESENT: Raymond Turner, Cecil Thompson and Greg Johnson, Non-members
present: Bill Bedingfield and Nick Overstreet

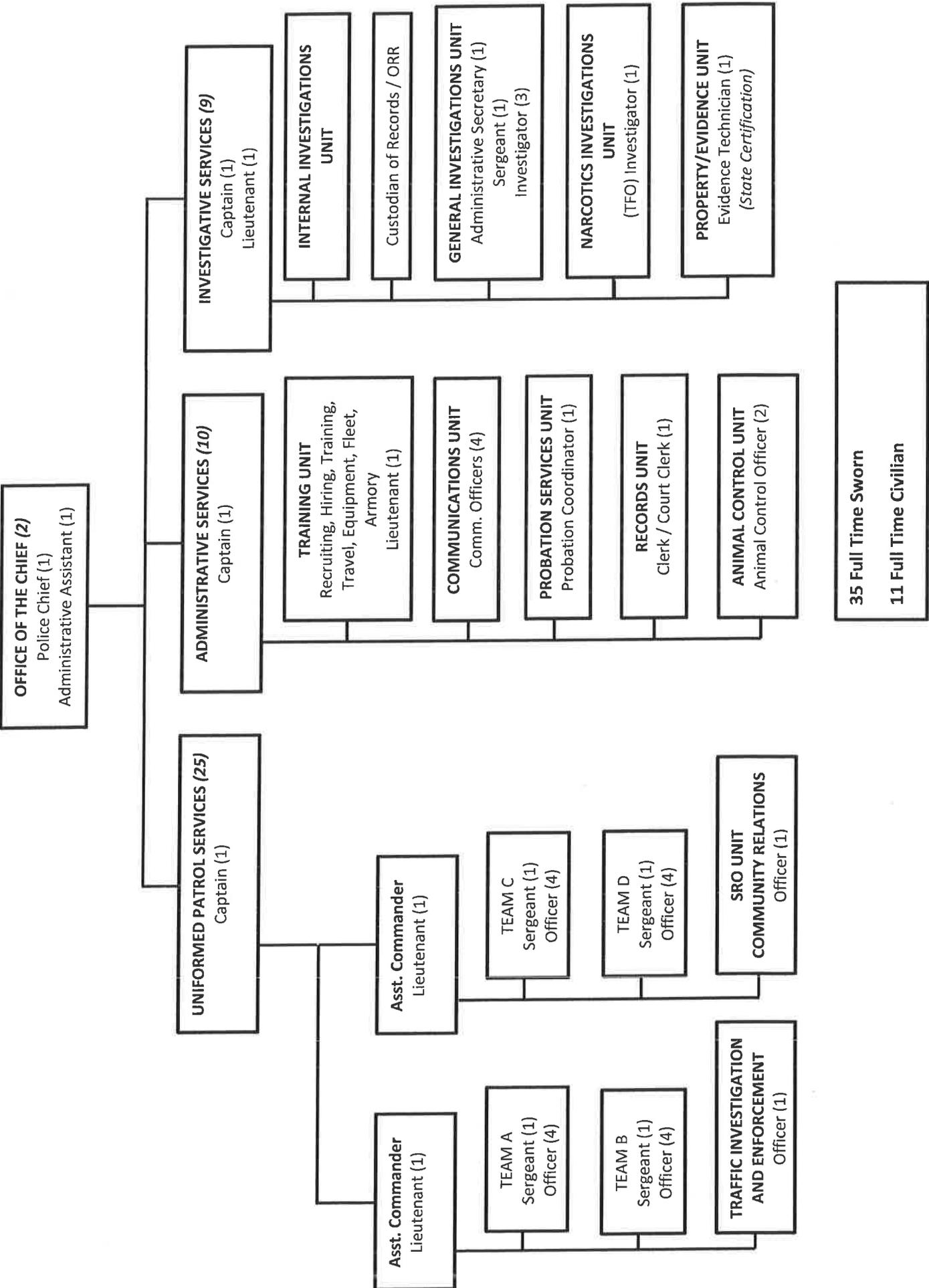
Councilman Turner called the meeting to order at 11:00.

AGENDA

1. **Position Reclassification and Reorganization of the Police Dept.** – Police Commissioner Brian Scott presented an organization chart that proposes to eliminate the current Assistant Chief position and re-establishing a third Captain's position. This would effectively put a Captain in charge of each of the three divisions of Patrol, Investigations and Administration. It is the opinion of Commissioner Scott that the size of the Vidalia force does not require an Assistant Chief position, and that a line of succession can be outlined in policy and can also be delineated through memorandum in the absence of the CEO. After much discussion the Committee agrees with the proposal.
2. **Proposal for the Purchase of Body Cameras** – Commissioner Scott is recommending that the City enter into an agreement with Utility, Inc. to purchase their Body Worn camera system. This system provides body cameras, in car cameras, interview room cameras, real time vehicle and body camera GPS, officer down alerts, geo-fencing, and unlimited cloud storage. The cost would be \$51,411.00 per year for five years for a total cost of \$257,055.00. The request is for SPLOST to make the initial purchase for the first year and have the remaining four years come from the Police annual maintenance line item. It was noted that there are less expensive alternatives available, but this program provides additional features like GPS tracking, that the Council had ask the Commissioner to look into. After much discussion the Committee was in agreement to purchase the Body worn Camera system as outlined.
3. **Request for the Purchase of Gun Holsters, Gun Lights and less Lethal Weapons** – Commissioner Scott also requested that he be allowed to purchase approximately \$12,000.00 in capital that will include non-lethal equipment. These items include gun mounted flash lights with new holsters, cans of oleoresin capsicum spray with belt holsters and expandable batons with belt holsters. The funding for these items would come from the Department's seized funds account, and would be bid out separately. The Committee was in agreement to allow the purchase of the above equipment from seized funds.

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

Proposed Vidalia Police Department Organizational Chart



STREETS AND SANITATION MEETING

JULY 8, 2020

4:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Cecil Thompson, Loyd Mobley and Greg Johnson, Non-members
Present: Bill Bedingfield and Nick Overstreet

Councilman Cecil Thompson called the meeting to order at 4:00.

AGENDA

1. **Paving of McLendon Road** – Mr. Overstreet presented a bid to have approximately 440 by 22 feet of McLendon road paved. The bid of \$18,200.10 is from McLendon Enterprises. This was a necessary emergency fix that was approved by the Council through e-mail and is for information only.
2. **Grass Cutting Bids** – Mr. Overstreet presented the bids for the recent RFP's on grass cutting in Vidalia. He reported that we had 7 bids for the two separate RFP's. The low bid of \$75,475.00 for the right of way cutting was from Sweet City Landscapes. The low bid of \$19,924.56 for the cemeteries and sidewalk maintenance was from The Yard Guy Landscaping. If approved this will eliminate two prison crews. After much discussion the Committee was in agreement to recommend approving the two bids.

RESOLUTION
OF THE CITY OF VIDALIA
TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO OBTAIN
FY 2020 PUBLIC WORKS AND ECONOMIC ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
TO ASSIST IN SEWER IMPROVEMENTS

WHEREAS, the City of Vidalia supports sound economic development initiatives within the City, realizing that such activity is in the best interest of Toombs County and the Heart of Georgia Altamaha Region, and resulting in the creation of new jobs and increased capital investment in and around the City of Vidalia; and

WHEREAS, the City of Vidalia has recognized the need for sewer improvements to support economic resiliency to prevent, prepare for and respond to economic injury as a result of coronavirus; and

WHEREAS, the City of Vidalia has identified a lack of sufficient funds to address the rehabilitation of existing sewer infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, City of Vidalia and Economic Development Administration (EDA) Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Program for Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) Recovery Assistance funds are sufficient to address this need; and

WHEREAS, the City of Vidalia has agreed apply for EDA P Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Program funds to address this need; and

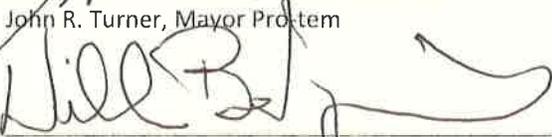
WHEREAS, the City of Vidalia has requested that the staff of the Heart of Georgia Altamaha Regional Commission assist in the preparation of the EDA application and the administration of the EDA project, if awarded.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Vidalia will apply to EDA for Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Program funds to address the identified needs and will accept EDA funding if awarded.

SO RESOLVED this 6th day of June, 2020.



John R. Turner, Mayor Pro Tem



William E. Bedingfield, City Clerk

(SEAL)

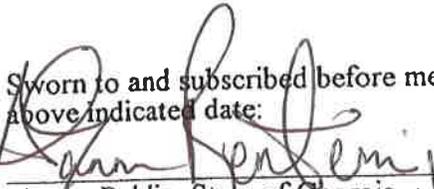
CITY OF VIDALIA
AFFIDAVIT AS TO OPEN MEETING LAW

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 13th day of July, 2020

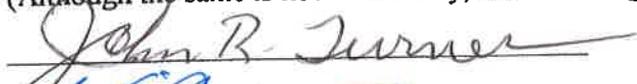
CITY OF VIDALIA

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

Notary Public, State of Georgia
Commission Expires 3/09/24



Mayor or Presiding Officer

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

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

