

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
NOVEMBER 9, 2020
MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: CECIL THOMPSON, LOYD MOBLEY, BOB DIXON, RAYMOND TURNER AND DOUG ROPER

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:

INCOMING MAYOR DOUG P ROPER III WAS ADMISTERED THE OATH OF OFFICE BY JUDGE LARRY THRELKELD. AFTER TAKNG THE OATH MAYOR PRO TEM RAYMOND TURNER PRESENTED THE GAVEL TO MAYOR ROPER.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Vincent Drummer spoke to the Council concerning the camera speed detection devices located at the Vidalia School Zones. His concern is that the citizens of Vidalia were not informed of the times that the cameras would be in use. After some discussion City Manager Overstreet stated that he would go back and review the ordinance and the methods used to notify the public. He would then bring back a recommendation to the Police and Fire Committee based on his findings.

Mr. Drummer also asked the Council to consider paying for the damage that a fallen tree limb had caused to the car of a young lady parked on his property. The Tree was on the City right of way, but was deemed an act of nature by the City's insurance company. The Council stated they would take the issue under advisement, and look at the insurance company's denial report.

DVA - Tonya Parker brought the Council up to date on the activities of the DVA.

VCVB – Alexa Britton reported on the activities of the Vidalia Tourism and Convention Bureau. She reported that there were 97 visitors at the Museum in October which is approximately 80% of the 2019 number of visitors for the same period. The YTD visitors in 2020 is down 59% compared to 2019. She also informed the Council that the new sound equipment for the PAL has been ordered, and that the lighting equipment will be ordered soon. This is being paid in part with the GCA grant.

ONION FESTIVAL – Alexa also informed the Council that the next Onion Festival meeting will be held at the Dixon Center on November 10, 2020 at 12:00 noon.

TOOMBS MONTGOMERY CHAMBER – Debbie Evans brought the Council up to date on the activities of the Chamber.

FINANCIAL REPORT - BILL BEDINGFIELD - Mr. Bedingfield gave the financial report for the month of October. A motion was made by Councilman Turner to approve the report. The motion was seconded by Councilman Dixon. The vote was unanimous.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES -A motion was made by Councilman Dixon to approve the minutes from the October 12, 2020 meeting. Councilman Thompson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

AGENDA

1. **Streets and Sanitation Meeting 11/4/2020 -** Mr. Overstreet presented the results from the Streets and Sanitation Meeting held on November 4, 2020. (See Attached)
 - He presented the bids for the 2021 LMIG. The low bid was from East Coast Asphalt for \$188,004.98. The Committee recommends that the bid be approved. The City's share will come from the Streets line item in SPLOST. A motion was made by Councilman

Thompson to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Councilman Mobley. The vote was unanimous.

- Mr. Overstreet discussed the relocation of a 10” water line due to the Highway 1 bypass. The estimated cost of this project would be approximately \$150,000.00, and the DOT is recommending we fund the cost ourselves, but acknowledge that requesting Utility Aid was a possibility. After much discussion the Committee was in agreement that the City apply for Utility Aid to help with the cost of the project. A motion was made by Councilman Turner to approve the request that the City apply for the aid from the DOT. The motion was seconded by Councilman Mobley. The vote was unanimous.
 - Mr. Overstreet presented the contract for the engineering services for the TAP grant project. The fee for the services of Keck+Wood are a not to exceed amount of \$205,193.98. The City’s share of the TAP grant funds will come from the Street line item in SPLOST. A motion was made by Councilman Dixon to approve the contract. The motion was seconded by Councilman Turner. The vote was unanimous.
 - A request from Public Works to purchase new safety equipment consisting of barrels and cones was also presented to the Committee. The low bid from the Big Green Sign Company was for \$4623.87. The committee was in agreement to have the Council approve this bid. If approved by the Council, the funds would come from the SPLOST equipment line item. A motion was made by Councilman Mobley to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thompson. The vote was unanimous.
2. **Finance Committee Meeting 10/28/20** - Mr. Bedingfield presented the results of the Finance Committee meeting held on October 28, 2020. (See Attached) After much discussion the Committee was in agreement to present the 2021 budget to the Council for approval to allow Mr. Bedingfield to advertise the budget notifying the public that it will be available for view at City Hall, and that a public hearing will be held on December 14, 2020 at 5:00 P.M. prior to the regular Council Meeting, where the 2021 budget will be presented to the Council for final approval. A motion was made by Councilman Dixon to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Councilman Turner. The vote was unanimous.
 3. **Library Board Appointment Request** – Mr. Overstreet presented a request from the Library Board to add two additional trustees to the Board during the Library renovation project. The two requested members are Carol Rice and Lisa Chesser. A motion was made by Councilman Mobley to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thompson. The vote was unanimous.
 4. **Alcohol Permit Application** – Mr. Bedingfield presented an application from Natvarbhai Patel for an alcohol permit for Midtown Package located at 301 East North Street. This location is the site of the old Williamson Beverage Store. The application is complete and has been signed by the appropriate departments. A motion was made by Councilman Turner to approve the permit. The motion was seconded by Councilman Mobley. The vote was unanimous. Councilman Thompson abstained citing business reasons.
 5. **Hazard Mitigation Plan Resolution** – Mr. Overstreet presented a required resolution stating that the City is adopting the Toombs County Hazard Mitigation Plan. (See Attached) The resolution is pursuant to the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000. A motion was made by Councilman Mobley to approve the resolution. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thompson. The vote was unanimous.
 6. **Airport Maintenance Contract** –Mr. Overstreet presented the contract between Daniel Fountain and the City of Vidalia for the lease of hangar space for his Aviation Mechanic Shop. The three-year lease states the tenant shall pay \$125.00 per month for the first 24 months and \$150.00 for the remaining 12 months. A motion was made by Councilman Thompson to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Councilman Turner. The vote was unanimous.
 7. **Housing Authority Board Appointment** - Mr. Overstreet presented a request from the Housing Authority Board to have Angie McDaniel added to their Board to replace Barbara Reid who has

moved outside of the City. A motion was made by Councilman Dixon to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Councilman Turner. The vote was unanimous.

City Managers Report

- Mr. Overstreet brought the Council up to date on the Airport Apron Rehab project. He stated that he was hoping to have a Resolution from GDOT by tonight, but it was not ready. He then informed the Council that we may need to have a called meeting to approve the Resolution.
- Mr. Overstreet informed the Council that Recreation had the largest registration for Soccer than ever before. He stated that Rec. Director Smith had to cut off registration due to the number of kids. The registration numbered 182 kids.
- He also informed the Council that the City would be cutting off past due water bills beginning on November 17, 2020. The number on this list currently stands at 476.
- Chief Sikes presented a check from a Fire House Subs Grant for \$16,112.64. The Council thanked the owners of Fire House for their considerable gift. The monies will be used to purchase bunker gear for our firemen.

A motion was made by Councilman Turner to adjourn and enter executive session to discuss personnel and potential litigation. The motion was seconded by Councilman Dixon. The vote was unanimous.

A motion was made by Councilman Turner to adjourn from executive session and to enter open session. The motion was seconded by Councilman Dixon. The vote was unanimous.

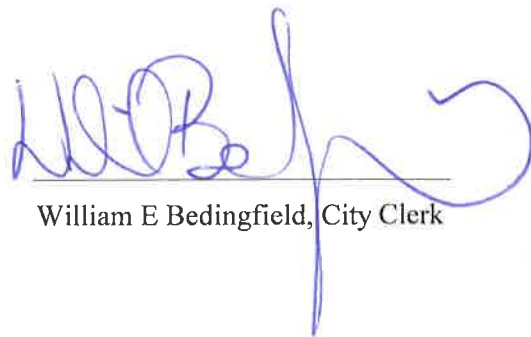
After some discussion a motion was made by Councilman Dixon to extend Brian Scott's current contract an additional six months to allow for the courts to hear his case. The motion was seconded by Councilman Mobley. The vote was unanimous. This will extend his contract until May 22, 2021.

A motion by Councilman Turner to approve the employee year end performance package consisting of a 2.5% cost of living adjustment and a 1% bonus for employees that meet the criteria. The motion was seconded by Councilman Dixon. The vote was unanimous. Mr. Overstreet also informed the Council that he was canceling all Christmas Parties due to the Covid-19 pandemic. He is recommending that the employees be given Christmas Eve off this year in lieu of the normal luncheon. The Council is in agreement.

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



Doug P. Roper, Mayor



William E Bedingfield, City Clerk

**STREETS AND SANITATION MEETING
NOVEMBER 4, 2020
7:30 A.M.**

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

Councilman Cecil Thompson called the meeting to order at 7:30.

AGENDA

1. **2021 LMIG** – Mr. Overstreet presented the bids for the 2021 LMIG project. He reported that the East Coast Asphalt low bid of \$188,004.98, if accepted, would only require an additional \$1,474.75 above the required \$16,957.29 in local match funds. The Committee was in agreement to request the Council accept the bid from East Coast Asphalt.
2. **Water Line Relocation for Hwy 1 Bypass** – Mr. Overstreet presented a letter from the DOT stating that the City will have to relocate their 10” water main along Hwy 292 to make way for the Hwy 1 bypass project, and that the City will have to do it at their own expense. The letter stated that a third option would be to apply for Utility Aid, but that with given known factors the City would more than likely not qualify and would have to budget for it themselves. Mr. Overstreet then presented an e-mail from our Engineer where he had addressed the known factors with the DOT indicating that we should qualify for the Utility Aid. Mr. Overstreet stated that our only option, at this time, is to apply for Utility Aid with the hope that things could change by the time this project is bid. According to the DOT this project will not be funded until 2027. The Committee is in agreement.
3. **TAP Grant Engineering Agreement** – Mr. Overstreet presented the contract from the Engineering firm that was chosen for the Tap Grant project. The contract is broken down into 3 phases with a not to exceed hourly rate. They are:
Phase 1: Surveying/Subsurface Utility engineering - \$54,850.00
Phase 2: Concept Phase - \$56,349.00
Phase 3: Environmental Resource Identification - \$93,994.98
The total not to exceed fee will be - \$205,193.98
After much discussion the Committee recommends that the Council approve the contract.
4. **Street Safety Equipment** – Mr. Overstreet presented a request from Public Works to purchase new barrels and cones to replace old and damaged ones. The low bid is from The Big Green Sign Company for \$4623.87. If approved the funds would come from the SPLOT equipment line item. The Committee is in agreement to proceed with presenting this request to the Council.

FINANCE COMMITTEE
OCTOBER 28, 2020
7:20 A.M.

PRESENT: Raymond Turner and Bob Dixon, Non-members present: Bill Bedingfield and Nick Overstreet

Mayor Pro Tem Raymond Turner called the meeting to order at 7:20.

AGENDA

1. **Review of 2021 Budgets** – Mr. Overstreet presented the 2021 budgets for the General Fund, Recreation, Water and Sewer and the Airport. He reported that the General Fund budget was balanced and did not require any increase in property taxes. The total General Fund Budget for 2021 is \$8,998,900.00. This is an increase of 3.07% over the 2020 budget.

The Water and Sewer budget is balanced and totals \$2,418,453.00 for 2021, which is a 1.38% increase over 2020.

The Recreation budget is balanced and totals \$583,658.00 for 2021. This is an increase of .87% over the 2020 budget.

The Airport budget is balanced and totals \$515,500.00 for 2021. This is an increase .65% over the 2020 budget.

After much discussion the Committee was in favor of having Mr. Bedingfield advertise the budget and set a public hearing for December 14th at 5:00 p.m., with approval of the budgets to follow at the regular Council meeting held at 6:00 p.m. This recommendation will be voted on at the November 9th 2020 Council Meeting.

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

**A RESOLUTION OF THE
VIDALIA CITY COUNCIL
PURSUANT TO THE DISASTER MITIGATION ACT OF 2000
AUTHORIZING ADOPTION OF THE
TOOMBS COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN**


WHEREAS, Toombs County and its municipal governments are required to complete a Hazard Mitigation Plan by the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000; and

WHEREAS, under the provisions of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, local governments that complete Hazard Mitigation Plans will remain eligible for Federal mitigation funding; and


WHEREAS, Toombs County and its municipal governments have completed an updated Hazard Mitigation Plan that fulfills the Federal requirements of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000.

NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT THE VIDALIA CITY COUNCIL FORMALLY ADOPTS THIS UPDATED HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN.

RESOLVED THIS 9th DAY OF October, 2020


Signed: Doug P. Roper, III, Mayor

(City Seal)


Attest: William Bedingfield, Vidalia City Clerk

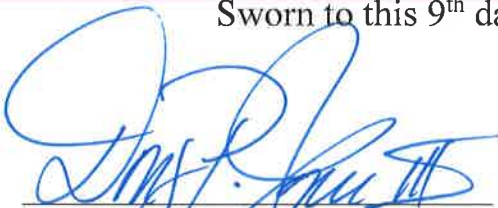
LOYALTY OATH

**STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF TOOMBS**

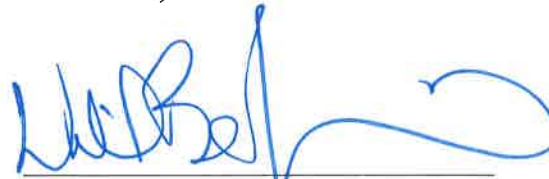
I, Doug P. Roper III, a citizen of the City of Vidalia, Toombs County, Georgia and being Mayor for the City of Vidalia, an employee of the City of Vidalia and the recipient of public funds for services rendered as such employee, do hereby solemnly swear or affirm that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of Georgia, and the Charter of the City of Vidalia.

So Help Me God.

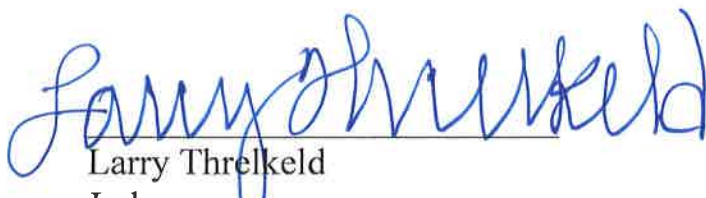
Sworn to this 9th day of November, 2020.



Doug P. Roper III



William Bedingfield
City Clerk



Larry Threlkeld
Judge
Probate Court Toombs County

STATE OF GEORGIA

COUNTY OF TOOMBS

I, the undersigned, do hereby certify to the Judge of Probate Court of Toombs County, that in obedience to the foregoing DEDIMUS POTESATEM, Doug P. Roper III, has come before me and taken and subscribed the official oath, which was required by the Charter for the City of Vidalia and the Laws of the State of Georgia, for him, dated this date, and I have delivered to him said commission.

Given under my hand an official signature of this 9th day of November, 2020.



Larry Threlkeld
Judge

Probate Court Toombs County

**OFFICIAL OATH OF THE MAYOR FOR THE CITY
OF VIDALIA**

I, Doug P. Roper III, do solemnly swear or affirm that:

I will faithfully perform the duties of Mayor of the City of Vidalia and to the best of my ability support and defend the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of Georgia, and the Charter, ordinances, and regulations of the City of Vidalia;

I am not the holder of any unaccounted for public money due this state or any political subdivision or authority thereof;

I am not the holder of any office of trust under the government of the United States, and other state, or any foreign state which I by the laws of the State of Georgia am prohibited from holding;

I am otherwise qualified to hold said office according to the Constitution and laws of Georgia;

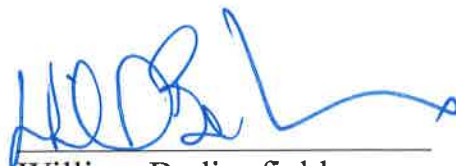
I have been a resident of the City of Vidalia for the time required by the Constitution and laws of this state;

I will perform the duties of my office in the best interest of the City of Vidalia to the best of my ability without fear, favor, affection, reward or expectation thereof.


Sworn to this 9th day of November, 2020.



Doug P Roper III



William Bedingfield
City Clerk



Larry Threlkeld
Judge
Probate Court Toombs County

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 9th day of November, 2020

CITY OF VIDALIA
By: [Signature]
Mayor or Presiding Officer

Sworn to and subscribed before me on the above indicated date:
[Signature]
Notary Public, State of Georgia
Commission Expires 3/31/24



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

[Signature] _____
[Signature] _____
John B. Irvine _____
[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.

COUNCIL MEETING - PLEASE SIGN IN

NAME	ADDRESS
Kellie Murray	City of Vidalia
Roger Calloway	"
Advance Carpenter	VFD
Rolokh Bernard	Advance
Alexa Button	CVB
Bas Gurb	Vidalia
Joseph Barker	DVA
Paula Paper	Vidalia Rec Dept
Wayne Roper	1300 Loop Rdo
Brenda Green	1300 Loop Road
Rennie Green	243 Green Zippert Rd Vidalia
JAMES JEDMON	"
Public Ears	JPD
Roger	Chamber
Leid McCreath	1039 Taylor Rowles Dr
Linda Diane Smith	1404 1st St. Vidalia
Marly Roper	1704 Aimwell ROAD
Julia P. Musgrove	3114 North St E
James D. Musgrove	3120 North St E
Great R. Drummer	3170 North St E
Katey Drummer	606 Washington St
Shirley C Ford	1506 Perryman Dr
Cynthia Green	801 West St. Vidalia
Pat Jones	210 Washupl Street
Dalxrit Jones	206 Canal Dr Vidalia
Shyannah Smith	0006 Coson Plr Vidalia
Barbara Thamm	Chas... St, Vidalia
Kathy Hart	
Joe Oldiey	U.S. Cour.
Lareem Owens	
Missy Owens	186 Julie Dr. Vidalia
Heather & Brian Stanley	251 Bud Clifton Rd. Lyons GA
Stone & Brantley Grace Smith	" " "
Heather Lisa Chesser	Vidalia
Bernard Hill	Vidalia
Jacob Wooten	Lyons

