

**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MUNICIPAL ANNEX
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2023
6:00 P.M.**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Mayor and City council was held in the Municipal Annex on Monday, November 13, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

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

CITY STAFF: Bill Bedingfield, City Manager
Justin Franklin, City Attorney
Kellie Murray, City Clerk

A list of visitors is attached to the minutes.

1. CALL TO ORDER BY MAYOR ROPER WITH INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE LED BY PASTOR RICK DAVIS, BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH, VIDALIA, GA.

Mayor Roper called this meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Pastor Rick Davis, of Bible Baptist Church, gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. DISCUSSION / APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mayor Roper advised the agenda will be amended to include Item #21 -- Discussion and approval of quote submitted by Chief James Jermon to equip and decal 11 vehicles received from Walton County, Florida. A motion was made to approve the amended agenda by Councilmember Raymond Turner, with a second made by Councilmember Jennifer Evans. This motion passed unanimously.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Bernie Nelson addressed Mayor and Council to follow up from his August 14 appearance before Council and expressed his appreciation for actions taken since that time.

4. DISCUSSION / APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

- October 10, 2023, Workshop Session Minutes
- October 10, 2023, Council Meeting Minutes
- October 10, 2023, Executive Session Minutes
- October 27, 2023, Special Called Meeting Minutes
- October 27, 2023, Executive Session Minutes

A motion was made by Councilmember Raymond Turner to approve consent agenda. A second was made by Councilmember Jennifer Evans. This motion passed unanimously.

5. FINANCIAL REPORT

Finance Director Patricia Glover presented the financial report to Council. City Manager Bill Bedingfield presented the revenue and expenses report as of October 31, 2023, stating the financial accounts are balanced through October.

6. TOURISM / CHAMBER UPDATES

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

Jennifer Smith presented the Downtown Vidalia Association report in the absence of Tonya Parker. Mayor Roper advised City of Vidalia has received its “Rural Zone” designation and thanked Tonya and Jennifer for their work. Jake Cleghorn presented two (2) Onion Festival Committee position recommendations to Council. The first recommendation is Billy Goodwin as Member-At-Large and a member of the Executive Committee. The second recommendation is Heather Mead as Chair of Operations and a member of the Executive Committee. A motion was made by Councilmember Loyd Mobley to approve the recommendation of Billy Goodwin and Heather Mead. The second was made by Councilmember Bob Dixon. This motion passed unanimously.

7. DISCUSSION / APPROVAL OF SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT SUBMITTED BY TONYA PARKER, DVA DIRECTOR, FOR CITY CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING EVENT SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2023, FROM 5:00-7:00 PM AT RONNIE A DIXON CITY PARK.

A motion was made by Councilmember Raymond Turner to approve this event permit, with a second made by Councilmember Loyd Mobley. This motion passed unanimously.

- 8. DISCUSSION / APPROVAL OF SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT SUBMITTED BY TONYA PARKER, DVA DIRECTOR, FOR VIDALIA CHRISTMAS PARADE SCHEDULED SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2023, FROM 9:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M. ROAD CLOSURES REQUESTED: CHURCH STREET FROM HWY 280 TO 6TH STREET; AND HWY 280 FROM CHURCH STREET TO BROADFOOT.**

A motion to approve this event application was made by Councilmember Jennifer Evans, with a second made by Councilmember Bob Dixon. This motion passed unanimously.

- 9. DISCUSSION / APPROVAL TO RE-LOCATE A PORTION OF THE FENCE AROUND RONNIE A DIXON CITY PARK TO ACCOMMODATE THE ENTREPRENEUR CENTER UNDER CONSTRUCTION AT THE CORNER OF DURDEN STREET AND HWY 280. THERE WILL BE NO COST TO THE CITY OF VIDALIA.**

Councilmember Loyd Mobley made the motion to approve the relocation of a portion of the city park fence, with a second by Councilmember Raymond Turner. This motion passed unanimously.

- 10. DISCUSSION / APPROVAL TO APPOINT MS. SHANNA BURKETT TO THE VIDALIA HOUSING AUTHORITY BOARD TO THE POSITION MOST RECENTLY HELD BY MR. RAY BLOUNT. THIS IS A FIVE-YEAR TERM SET TO EXPIRE AUGUST 2028.**

The motion to approve this Board recommendation was made by Councilmember Jennifer Evans, with a second made by Councilmember Loyd Mobley. This motion passed unanimously.

- 11. DISCUSSION / APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION #23-013, GMA “CERTIFIED CITY OF ETHICS”. THIS RESOLUTION WILL ENABLE THE CITY OF VIDALIA TO RE-CERTIFY AS A GMA CERTIFIED CITY OF ETHICS.**

Councilmember Cecil Thompson made the motion to approve this resolution to recertify as a GMA “Certified City of Ethics”. The second was made by Councilmember Bob Dixon. This motion passed unanimously.

12. DISCUSSION / APPROVAL TO PURCHASE ONE (1) BILLY GOAT VAC QV 900HP FROM ALSTON SAW SHOP AT A COST OF \$5,380.00. THE FUND SOURCE IS SPLOST.

A motion to approve the purchase of one (1) "Billy Goat" Vac was made by Councilmember Bob Dixon, with a second made by Councilmember Jennifer Evans. This motion passed unanimously.

13. DISCUSSION / APPROVAL TO AWARD BID TO REPLACE (2) 10-TON SPLIT HEAT PUMPS; (1) 5-TON SPLIT HEAT PUMP; AND (3) THERMOSTATS IN THE VIDALIA COMMUNITY CENTER. BIDS RECEIVED:

Premier Heating and Air Glenwood, GA	\$33,901.00
Rivers Heating and Air Vidalia, GA	\$48,959.00

RECOMMENDED VENDOR: Premier Heating and Air
FUND SOURCE: SPLOST

A motion to award this bid to Premier Heating and Air at the bid price of \$33,901.00 was made by Councilmember Cecil Thompson, with a second made by Councilmember Bob Dixon. This motion passed unanimously.

14. DISCUSSION / APPROVAL FOR MATT FOSKEY TO REPAIR ONION FOUNTAIN LOCATED IN THE RONNIE A DIXON CITY PARK AT A COST OF \$5,320.00. REPAIR COSTS WILL BE PAID BY SPLOST FUNDS.

****THIS SERVICE WILL INCLUDE ROUTINE MAINTENANCE OF CLEANING AND CHEMICALS TWICE PER MONTH AND WEEKLY VISITS WITH CLEANING/CHEMICALS, AS NEEDED, AT A MONTHLY COST OF \$450.00 TO BE PAID BY CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU.**

Councilmember Raymond Turner made the motion to approve the repairs and routine maintenance by Matt Foskey as submitted. The second was made by Councilmember Bob Dixon. This motion passed unanimously.

15. DISCUSSION / APPROVAL TO EXECUTE AGREEMENT BETWEEN SWEET UNION GOLF AUTHORITY AND MIKE YOUNG FOR SCOPE OF SERVICES AS SPECIFIED.

Councilmember Loyd Mobley made the motion to approve the agreement between SOGA and Mike Young for the scope of services submitted. The second was made by Councilmember Raymond Turner. This motion passed unanimously.

STREETS & SANITATION COMMITTEE MET NOVEMBER 7, 2023

Note: The Committee recommendation will serve as first motion, only a second motion is needed from Council.

16. DISCUSSION / APPROVAL TO AWARD BID FOR PURCHASE OF 280 FT 15x20 PIPE AND 100 FT 18x20 PIPE FOR PROPOSED HOUSING CONSTRUCTION ON W 9TH STREET. THE INSTALLATION COSTS WILL BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CONTRACTOR. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION IS TO APPROVE THE AWARD TO FEL-DIXIE PLUMBING AT A BID PRICE OF \$5,535.20. BIDS RECEIVED:

Fel-Dixie Plumbing Macon, GA	\$5,535.20
Coley Electric & Plumbing Lyons, GA	\$6,960.00
Macon Supply Macon, GA	\$7,572.40

RECOMMENDED VENDOR: Fel-Dixie Plumbing
FUND SOURCE: SPLOST

The Streets and Sanitation Committee's recommendation to approve bid award to Fel-Dixie is the first motion. The second was made by Councilmember Bob Dixon. This motion passed unanimously.

WATER & SEWER COMMITTEE MET ON NOVEMBER 8, 2023

Note: A first and second motion are needed to approve Committee recommendations due to Mayor Roper serving as Committee Member.

17. DISCUSSION / APPROVAL TO AWARD BID TO COMPLETE 2023 LMIG SIDEWALK PROJECT ON 6TH STREET.

A motion was made to award this bid to McLendon Enterprises. The motion was made by Councilmember Bob Dixon. The second was made by Councilmember Jennifer Evans. This motion passed unanimously.

18. DISCUSSION / APPROVAL TO PURCHASE (4) PUMPS AND (1) SLIDE RAIL ADAPTER FROM GLENNVILLE ELECTRIC MOTORS AT A COST OF \$14,375.00. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION IS TO APPROVE PURCHASE BID PRICE.

Councilmember Loyd Mobley made the motion to approve this purchase at a cost of \$14,375.00 to be paid from SPLOST funds. A second was made by Councilmember Raymond Turner. This motion passed unanimously.

19. DISCUSSION / APPROVAL OF PROPOSAL FROM K-DUG FOR AN EMERGENCY REPAIR OF BLOCKED SEWAGE LINES IN THE ALLEY OFF CHURCH STREET, BEHIND VINTAGE BARBERS. PROPOSED REPAIR COST IS \$95,152.04 TO BE PAID FROM SPLOST.

Councilmember Bob Dixon made the motion to approve the emergency repair of the sewer line at a cost of \$95,152.04 from SPLOST funds. A second was made by Councilmember Loyd Mobley. This motion passed unanimously.

20. DISCUSSION / APPROVAL OF BID TO EQUIP AND DECAL 11 VEHICLES RECEIVED FROM WALTON COUNTY, FLORIDA. THE TOTAL COST IS \$72,646.00. THIS WILL BE PAID FROM RED SPEED REVENUE.

Councilmember Bob Dixon made the motion to approve this bid at a cost of \$72,646.00, to be paid from Red Speed revenue. A second was made by Councilmember Raymond Turner. This motion passed unanimously.

20. DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

The following monthly reports were presented to Mayor and Council:

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

21. CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Bill Bedingfield presented the City Manager's report to Mayor and Council.

22. EXECUTIVE SESSION, IF NEEDED, AS PER O.C.G.A. §50-14-3(b)(2) - PERSONNEL & §50-14-3(b)(1)(E) REAL ESTATE

Executive Session was needed for the purpose of Personnel-related discussion and real estate discussion. Councilmember Raymond Turner made the motion to enter Executive Session, with a second made by Councilmember Raymond Turner. This motion passed unanimously.

Councilmember Raymond Turner made the motion to exit Executive Session and return to regular session. A second was made by Councilmember Bob Dixon, and this motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilmember Loyd Mobley not to accept bid received on the Truman Street property. A second was made by Councilmember Jennifer Evans, and this motion passed unanimously.

A weekly salary of \$3,000.00 per week, with no benefits, was established for Interim City Manager Bill Bedingfield. Councilmember Cecil Thompson made the motion to approve with a second made by Councilmember Bob Dixon. This motion passed unanimously.

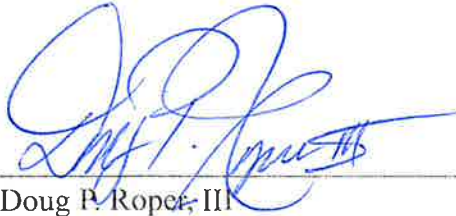
A one-time salary payback in an amount equal to one week of salary was recommended for City of Vidalia employees to be paid in December. Motion to approve this recommendation was made by Councilmember Bob Dixon, with a second made by Councilmember Cecil Thompson. This motion passed unanimously.

23. ADJOURN

With no further business to discuss, Councilmember Raymond Turner made the motion to adjourn this regularly scheduled meeting of the Mayor and City Council. This meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

AFFIRMATION

We affirm that these minutes are correct and true to form as presented to the Mayor and City Council on December 11, 2023.



Doug P. Roper, III
MAYOR



Kellie Murray, City Clerk

**CITY OF VIDALIA
EXECUTIVE SESSION AFFIDAVIT**

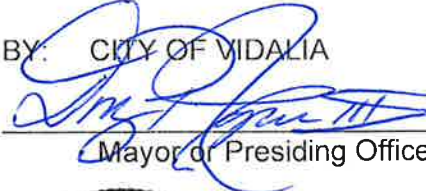
- (1) Pursuant to my duties as Mayor, I was the presiding officer of a meeting of the Vidalia City Council held on the **13th** day of **NOVEMBER, 2023**. A portion of said meeting was closed to the public.
- (2) I am competent to make this Affidavit and have personal knowledge of the matters set forth 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 NOVEMBER, 2023.

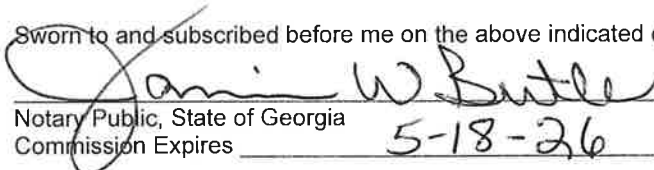
BY: CITY OF VIDALIA



Mayor or Presiding Officer

Sworn to and subscribed before me on the above indicated date


Notary Public, State of Georgia
Commission Expires





5-18-26




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









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: NOVEMBER 13, 2023

NAME	ADDRESS
Billy Chord	Airport City Marshall
Matt Oxley	300 Atlantic Av.
Mike DeWald	1007 Currier Dr.
Michelle Johnson	611/1011
Bill Torrance	307 Michell Rd
Tony Nda	ESG
Ricky Mitchell	Village
Missie Mitchell	201 Nichoney Viel
Abera Britton	CVS
JAMES JERMON	USD
Andy Woodruff	611
James O'Neal	ESG
Jennifer Smith	DVA
Scott Strickland	VRD
Maria Ellis	VINNIA, GA.
Aidan Ellis	Vidalia, GA
Pat Ellis	Vidalia
Amy Robinson	Vidalia
Kelli Jo Robinson	vidalia
Kathy Stelt	Radio Jones
Kelly Tippet	504 Darden St.
Shaun Oliver	504 Darden St.
Ricky Denis	Bas - Bksden Dr
Pastor Miller	1117 Raymond Cir
Rosemarie Khoder	Raymond Cir
Lynne Dean	407 Darden St.
Bernice Nelson	
Garry Colton	VPP
Debrah Remell	151 Pheasant Dr.
Connie Williams	108 Louisiana Dr. Vid. Ga.
Wilke Green	109 W Tombst Vidalia
Alena Green	109 W. Tombst Vid.
Jake Cleghorn	1082 Glen James Rd Lyons, GA 30456