

MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP
MUNICIPAL ANNEX
MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2023
5:30 P.M.

The Mayor and City Council held a workshop on the stated date, time, and place.

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

CITY STAFF: Bill Bedingfield, City Manager
Kellie Murray, City Clerk

The purpose of the workshop is for **DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY** on the following items:

I. CALL TO ORDER BY MAYOR DOUG P. ROPER, III

Mayor Roper called this meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

II. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Special Event Permits: Church of Christ/Solomon's Temple *Item #8*
- Alcohol License Renewals - 2024 *Item #9*
- Coin Operated Machine License Renewals - 2024 *Item #10*
- Short-Term Vacation Rentals *Item #11*
- Purchase requests: Award of Bid – Airport Runway, Lighting, Signage *Item #12*
Aluminum Bar Grating - ESG *Item #13*

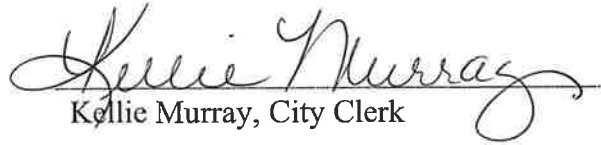
With no further business to discuss, Mayor Roper adjourned this meeting at 5:45 p.m.

AFFIRMATION

We affirm that these minutes are correct and true to form as presented to the Mayor and City Council on January 8, 2024.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Doug P. Roper, III", written over a horizontal line.

Doug P. Roper, III
Mayor

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kellie Murray", written over a horizontal line.

Kellie Murray, City Clerk

**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MUNICIPAL ANNEX
MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2023
6:00 P.M.**

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

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

CITY STAFF: Bill Bedingfield, City Manager
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 REV. RONALD MILLER, ST. PAUL A.M.E. CHURCH, VIDALIA, GA.

Mayor Roper called this meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with Rev. Ronald Miller giving the Invocation and leading all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. DISCUSSION / APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mayor Roper advised the agenda will be amended to include Mayor's comments, which include the announcement of Daniel J. O'Connor as our new City Attorney. Justin Franklin, who has been with the city for many years, has announced he will be stepping down as our City Attorney at the end of this year. Mr. Franklin's service to this City has been greatly appreciated. Councilmember Bob Dixon made the motion to approve the agenda with amendment. Councilmember Raymond Turner made the second to approve agenda. This motion passed unanimously.

3. PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATIONS TO VIDALIA HERITAGE ACADEMY BY MAYOR DOUG ROPER FOR THEIR 2023 STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS IN FOOTBALL AND ONE-ACT PLAY.

Mayor Roper made presentation to Vidalia Heritage Academy for their State Championships in Football and One-Act Play.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Rev. Ronald Miller addressed Mayor and Council expressing his thanks to Raymond Turner, Bill Bedingfield, and Chad Phillips for the assistance with the MLK project and cooperation with other groups for improvements made within this City.

SOAPS addressed Mayor and Council with an update on the progress within SOAPS and pet adoptions.

5. DISCUSSION / APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

November 13, 2023, Workshop Session Minutes

November 13, 2023, Council Meeting Minutes

November 13, 2023, Executive Session Minutes

A motion was made to approve the Consent Agenda by Councilmember Jennifer Evans, with a second by Councilmember Loyd Mobley. This motion passed unanimously.

6. FINANCIAL REPORT

Patricia Glover, Financial Director, presented monthly finance report, and Bill Bedingfield presented the Year-to-Date budget for review

7. 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	(Unable to attend)

Monthly updates were provided to Mayor and Council from the individuals indicated. There were no further questions and/or remarks.

- 8. DISCUSSION / APPROVAL OF SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT SUBMITTED BY DR. JESUS JIMENEZ AND DR. JAMES MASON OF CHURCH OF CHRIST/SOLOMON'S TEMPLE, SCHEDULED FOR FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2023, THROUGH SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2023, FROM 10:00 AM - 9:00 PM (OR BEFORE) AT PAUL THIGPEN CHEVROLET (MAP ATTACHED). THIS EVENT IS A REVIVAL, FREE FOOD, AND FREE CLOTHES.**

Following a brief discussion, with no local affiliation and for a 3-day event, a motion was made to table this event application for further discussion and research. Councilmember Raymond Turner made this motion, with a second by Councilmember Jennifer Evans. The motion to table this event application passed unanimously.

- 9. DISCUSSION / APPROVAL OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE RENEWALS FOR 2024. A LIST OF COMPLETED APPLICANTS IS ATTACHED. ALL APPLICATIONS HAVE BEEN REVIEWED AND ALL REQUIREMENTS HAVE BEEN MET.**

A motion was made to approve the renewal of the listed applicants after having reviewed and assured all requirements have been met. Councilmember Jennifer Evans made this motion, with a second made by Councilmember Loyd Mobley. This motion passed unanimously.

- 10. DISCUSSION / APPROVAL OF COIN-OPERATED MACHINE LICENSE RENEWALS FOR 2024. A LIST OF COMPLETED APPLICANTS IS ATTACHED. ALL APPLICATIONS HAVE BEEN REVIEWED AND ALL REQUIREMENTS HAVE BEEN MET.**

A motion was made to approve the listed coin-operated machine licenses for renewal following review and assurance all requirements have been met. Councilmember Raymond Turner made this motion, with a second by Councilmember Jennifer Evans. This motion passed unanimously.

LICENSING & PERMITTING COMMITTEE MET ON DECEMBER 7, 2023

NOTE: Committee recommendation serves as first motion.

- 11. DISCUSSION / APPROVAL TO DECLARE A MORATORIUM ON SHORT-TERM VACATION RENTALS (STVR) WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS UNTIL SUCH TIME AN ORDINANCE CAN BE DEVELOPED AND AN APPLICATION PROCESS APPROVED.**

City Manager Bill Bedingfield advised City Marshal, Chad Phillips, has researched this issue and contacted other municipalities concerning their ordinances addressing short-term rentals. A discussion of a proposed ordinance/procedure continues, and it is requested a 60-day moratorium be placed on short-term rentals within the city limits until such time an ordinance is perfected. The first motion is the committee recommendation to approve a 60-day moratorium, with a second made by Councilmember Raymond Turner. This motion passed unanimously.

12. DISCUSSION / APPROVAL TO AWARD BID, AS RECOMMENDED BY PASSERO ENGINEERING, TO TCA IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CONDITIONS OF AWARD STIPULATED IN BID DOCUMENTS AND CONTINGENT UPON GA D.O.T. CONCURRENCE AND FUNDING. THIS AWARD IS FOR THE VIDALIA REGIONAL AIRPORT – REHABILITATE/REPLACE RUNWAY 7/25 LIGHTING & SIGNAGE. (LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION, BID TABULATION, AND PROPOSAL DOCUMENTS ARE INCLUDED)

A motion was made to approve the recommendation of Passero Engineering to award this bid to TCA for the rehabilitation/replacement of runway lighting and signage. Councilmember Bob Dixon made the motion, with a second made by Councilmember Cecil Thompson. This motion passed unanimously.

13. DISCUSSION / APPROVAL OF BID SUBMITTED BY TAYLOR INDUSTRIAL MILL SUPPLY FOR THE PURCHASE OF 8 ALUMINUM BAR GRATING AT A COST OF \$13,884.72. THIS WAS THE ONLY BID/RESPONSE RECEIVED. THIS BAR GRATING IS FOR SAND FILTERS AT SWIFT CREEK.

FUND SOURCE: WATER/SEWER FUND (Approved 2023 Budget)

Project Manager Tony Hall advised this purchase is an improvement to a safety issue for personnel at the WWTP. Councilmember Bob Dixon made the motion to approve this purchase at a cost of \$13,884.72 from the Water/Sewer Fund. A second was made by Councilmember Loyd Mobley. This motion passed unanimously.

14. DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

The following reports were presented to Mayor and Council:

Brian Sikes, Fire Chief
James Jermond, Police Chief
Tony Hall, ESG, Project Manager
Scott Strickland, Recreation Director
Billy Ragan, Airport Manager
Chad Phillips, City Marshal

15. CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Bill Bedingfield presented his report to Mayor and Council. Bill advised the Council and Mayor and those in attendance, the 2024 proposed operating budget is available for review at City Hall prior to the public budget hearing and adoption.

16. EXECUTIVE SESSION, AS PER O.C.G.A. §50-14-3(b)(2) – PERSONNEL

Mayor Roper advised Executive Session is needed for the purpose of personnel. A motion was made to enter Executive Session by Councilmember Raymond Turner, with a second made by Councilmember Jennifer Evans. This motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made to return to regular session by Councilmember Loyd Mobley, with a second made by Councilmember Raymond Turner. This motion passed unanimously.

Upon returning to regular session, a motion was made to adopt the revisions to the City personnel compensation and comp-time policy submitted by City Manager Bill Bedingfield. Councilmember Jennifer Evans made a motion to adopt new policy, and a second was made by Councilmember Raymond Turner. This motion passed unanimously.

17. ADJOURN

There being no further business to conduct, a motion was made to adjourn by Councilmember Loyd Mobley, with a second made by Councilmember Bob Dixon. This motion passed unanimously, and this meeting of the Mayor and City Council was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

AFFIRMATION

We affirm that these minutes are correct and true to form as presented to the Mayor and City Council on January 8, 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 11 day of December, 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 _____

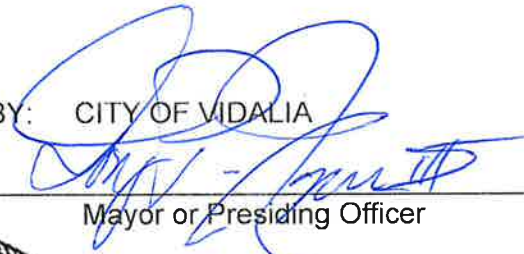
[Identify the matter only].
 - I. Staff meeting held for investigative purposes under duties or responsibilities imposed by law as provided by **Georgia Code Section 50-14-3(a)(1)**.

- 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.

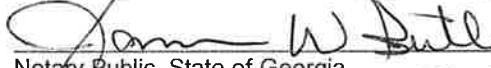
This th day of December, 2023

BY: CITY OF VIDALIA



Mayor or Presiding Officer





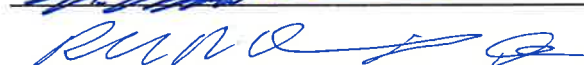
Sworn to and subscribed before me on the above indicated date.



Notary Public, State of Georgia
Commission Expires 5-18-24



(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: **DECEMBER 11, 2023**

NAME	ADDRESS
Charles Faulk	VIDALIA
BERRIE NELSON	Vidalia
Alexa Britton	CKB
Matt Oxley	VID
Billy Ragan	Airport
Tonya Parker	DVA
ERLE NORTON	VIDALIA
Brian Sikes	VFO
Bentley Jackson	Vidalia
Quincy Jackson	Vidalia
Tommy Hester	ESG
Heraldine Bell	Vidalia
Pastor Ronald Miller	Vidalia
Rosemarie Miller	Vidalia
Ken Mosley	Vidalia
James (Edmond)	J.P.O.
Wilson Johnson	St. Paul A.M.E.
James Olan	ESG
Fully Turner	Vidalia Ga
James Hester	Vidalia Ga
Tommy Oxley	Vidalia Ga
Bob Hambley	Vidalia Ga
Quincy Hambley	Chamber
Robert Egan	Vidalia
Lyndi Wren	Vidalia
Quincy	Colleton
Debbie Pharr	vidalia GA
William Johns	vidalia GA
Misty Bell	vidalia GA
Cathy Bell	vidalia GA
Frank Hester	Dublin, Ga
Tommy Hester	Lyons, Ga
Tommy Hester	Vidalia Ga
Ken White	Ken White
Brent Buddy	Adrian GA
Rachelle Reddick	206 Timothy Ct Vidalia
Jennifere McCrae	313 Symonds St. Vidalia

