

**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP
MUNICIPAL ANNEX
MONDAY, JANUARY 8, 2024
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
Patricia Glover, Finance Director
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

- Adoption of the 2024 City of Vidalia operating budget
- 2024 City of Vidalia Holidays
- Alcohol & Coin-Operated Game room Licenses for 2024
- Approval of City of Vidalia Council Committees, Boards and Authorities
- Resolution #24-001: “Adoption of the Downtown Master Plan”
- Proposal – Hofstadter & Associates, Inc.: MLK Drive
- Proceed with legal review of “Short-Term Vacation Rentals”
- Addition / Revision of alcohol license fee structure

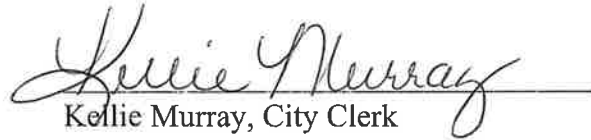
With no further business to discuss, Mayor Roper adjourned this meeting at 5:45 p.m.

AFFIRMATION

We affirm that these minutes are correct and true to form as presented to the Mayor and City Council on February 12, 2024.

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

Doug R. Roper, III
Mayor

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

Kellie Murray, City Clerk

**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MUNICIPAL ANNEX
MONDAY, JANUARY 8, 2024
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
Patricia Glover, Finance Director
Tonya Parker, DVA Director
Alexa Britton, CVB Director
James Jermon, Police Chief
Brian Sikes, Fire Chief
Tony Hall, ESG, Project Manager
Scott Strickland, Recreation Director
Billy Ragan, Airport Manager
Chad Phillips, City Marshal

A list of visitors is attached to the minutes.

1. CALL TO ORDER BY MAYOR DOUG P. ROPER, III, WITH INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE LED BY PASTOR BOBBY THOMPSON OF TABERNACLE BAPTIST CHURCH.

Mayor Roper called this meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with Pastor Bobby Thompson of Tabernacle Baptist Church giving the Invocation and leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. DISCUSSION / APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mayor Roper amended this agenda omitting items 16, 19, 21, and 22. There are no reappointments needed on the listed Board or Authority at this time. Also, Mr. Craig George of Gardens of Hope will address Council during Public Comments. A motion was made by Councilmember Raymond Turner, with a second made by Councilmember Jennifer

Evans to approve with amendments. This motion passed unanimously.

3. APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING APPOINTMENTS BY MAYOR & COUNCIL:

- Daniel J. O'Connor, City Attorney
- Paul Cook, Municipal Judge
- Paul Calhoun, City Prosecutor
- Johnny Vines, Public Defender

Mayor Roper made appointments as listed. Councilmember Bob Dixon made the motion to approve, with a second made by Councilmember Loyd Mobley. This motion passed unanimously.

4. SWEARING IN BY PROBATE JUDGE TINA LINDSEY OF THE FOLLOWING:

Kellie Murray, City Clerk
Paul Cook, Municipal Court Judge
Daniel J. O'Connor, City Attorney
John Raymond Turner, Councilmember, Ward 3
Loyd Mobley, Councilmember, Ward 4
Bob Dixon, Councilmember, Councilman-at-Large

Probate Judge Tina Lindsey completed the swearing-in of all individuals in positions noted.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Craig George, with Gardens of Hope, provided an update and information on the services provided by this organization and how they have assisted individuals in the community as of this date.

6. DISCUSSION / APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

- Workshop Meeting Minutes dated December 11, 2023
- Regular Council Meeting Minutes dated December 11, 2023
- Executive Session Minutes dated December 11, 2023

Councilmember Jennifer Evans made a motion to approve Consent Agenda as written, with a second made by Councilmember Bob Dixon. This motion passed unanimously.

7. FINANCIAL REPORT - Patricia Glover, Finance Director

Finance Director Patricia Glover presented the financial report to Mayor and Council.

8. DISCUSSION / APPROVAL TO ADOPT THE 2024 CITY OF VIDALIA OPERATING BUDGET. NOTE: Public Hearing was conducted Monday, January 8, 2024, at 5:00 p.m.

City Manager Bill Bedingfield advised a public hearing was conducted at 5:00 p.m. today to address the proposed 2024 Vidalia operating budget. There were no attendees. A motion was made by Councilmember Bob Dixon to approve the City of Vidalia 2024 Operating Budget as submitted. A second was made by Councilmember Raymond Turner. This motion passed unanimously.

9. TOURISM / CHAMBER UPDATE

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

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

10. DISCUSSION / APPROVAL OF 2024 CITY OF VIDALIA HOLIDAYS.

Councilmember Jennifer Evans made a motion to approve the 2024 City of Vidalia holiday schedule as submitted. A second was made by Councilmember Raymond Turner. This motion passed unanimously.

11. DISCUSSION / APPROVAL TO RENEW 2024 ALCOHOL LICENSE, COIN-OPERATED GAMING LICENSE, AND TAXI LICENSES.

Councilmember Bob Dixon made a motion to approve the listed alcohol license, coin-operated gaming license, and taxi licenses listed for renewal for 2024. A second was made by Councilmember Loyd Mobley. This motion passed unanimously.

12. APPOINTMENTS TO *COUNCIL COMMITTEES* BY MAYOR AS PER CITY CHARTER, SECTION 2-31.

- Finance & Personnel Committee
- Water & Sewer Committee
- Police & Fire Committee
- Streets & Sanitation Committee
- Licenses, Taxes, & Permits Committee
- Airport Committee
- Community Center Committee
- Liaison – Onion Festival Committee
- Liaison - Heart of GA Regional Commission

A motion was made to approve Council Committees as listed by Councilmember Raymond Turner, with a second made by Councilmember Bob Dixon. This motion passed unanimously.

13. APPOINTMENT BY MAYOR & COUNCIL OF MEMBERS TO THE *PLANNING & ZONING BOARD* TO COMPLETE CURRENT TERMS, TO INCLUDE REAPPOINTMENT OF THE FOLLOWING:

- Carol Hansley Term Expiration: 12/31/2027

Motion to approve made by Councilmember Raymond Turner, with a second made by Councilmember Jennifer Evans. This motion passed unanimously.

14. APPOINTMENT BY MAYOR & COUNCIL OF MEMBERS TO THE *DOWNTOWN VIDALIA ASSOCIATION BOARD* TO COMPLETE CURRENT TERMS AS LISTED, TO INCLUDE REAPPOINTMENT OF THE FOLLOWING:

- Julia McKenzie Term Expiration: 12/31/2027
- Terri Humphrey Term Expiration: 12/31/2027

Motion to approve made by Councilmember Loyd Mobley, with a second made by Councilmember Jennifer Evans. This motion passed unanimously.

15. APPOINTMENT BY MAYOR & COUNCIL OF MEMBERS TO THE TOOMBS COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR THE CITY OF VIDALIA TO COMPLETE CURRENT TERMS AS LISTED, TO INCLUDE REAPPOINTMENT OF THE FOLLOWING:

- Carol Rice Term Expiration: 12/31/2027
- Lisa Chesser Term Expiration: 12/31/2047

Motion to approve was made by Councilmember Bob Dixon, with a second made by Councilmember Raymond Turner. This motion passed unanimously.

16. APPOINTMENT BY MAYOR & COUNCIL OF MEMBERS TO THE VIDALIA CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU TO COMPLETE CURRENT TERMS AS LISTED, TO INCLUDE REAPPOINTMENT OF THE FOLLOWING:

- Pat Mitchell Term Expiration: 12/31/2027

Motion to approve was made by Councilmember Jennifer Evans, with a second made by Councilmember Bob Dixon. This motion passed unanimously.

17. APPOINTMENT BY MAYOR & COUNCIL OF MEMBERS TO THE RECREATION BOARD TO COMPLETE CURRENT TERMS AS LISTED, TO INCLUDE REAPPOINTMENT OF THE FOLLOWING:

- Demondrea Wallace Term Expiration: 12/31/2027

Motion to approve made by Councilmember Loyd Mobley, with a second made by Councilmember Bob Dixon. This motion passed unanimously.

18. APPOINTMENT BY MAYOR & COUNCIL OF MEMBERS TO THE VIDALIA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY TO COMPLETE CURRENT TERMS AS LISTED, TO INCLUDE REAPPOINTMENT OF THE FOLLOWING:

- Blake Brown Term Expiration: 12/31/2027

Motion to approve made by Councilmember Bob Dixon, with a second made by Councilmember Jennifer Evans. This motion passed unanimously.

19. APPOINTMENT OF MAYOR & COUNCIL OF MEMBER TO THE SWEET ONION GOLF AUTHORITY TO COMPLETE TERMS AS LISTED, TO INCLUDE REAPPOINTMENT OF THE FOLLOWING:

- Kareem Owens Term Expiration: 10/01/2028
- Jacob Woodfin Term Expiration: 10/01/2028

Motion to approve made by Councilmember Loyd Mobley, with a second made by Councilmember Jennifer Evans. This motion passed unanimously.

20. DISCUSSION / APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION #24-001, “ADOPTION OF THE DOWNTOWN VIDALIA MASTER PLAN”.

Mayor Roper stated DVA Director Tonya Parker will be providing additional information concerning the Downtown Master Plan and its benefit to the City of Vidalia. A motion to adopt this resolution as written was made by Councilmember Raymond Turner, with a second made by Councilmember Jennifer Evans. This motion passed unanimously.

STREETS & SANITATION COMMITTEE MET JANUARY 3, 2024

NOTE: Committee recommendation is first motion, only a second motion is needed to approve.

21. DISCUSSION / APPROVAL OF PROPOSAL FROM HOFSTADTER & ASSOCIATES TO RESURFACE MLK DRIVE FROM MORRIS TO EPSTEIN AT A COST OF \$71,393.40.

FUND SOURCE: SPLOST

The Committee recommendation to approve proposal is the first motion. The second was made by Councilmember Bob Dixon. This motion was approved unanimously.

LICENSE, TAXES, & PERMIT COMMITTEE MET ON JANUARY 3, 2024

NOTE: Committee recommendation is first motion, only a second motion is needed to approve.

22. DISCUSSION / APPROVAL TO FORWARD “SHORT-TERM VACATION RENTALS” ORDINANCE TO CITY ATTORNEY, DANIEL J. O’CONNOR FOR LEGAL REVIEW.

Motion to proceed with legal review of “Short-Term Vacation Rentals” ordinance by City Attorney Daniel J. O’Connor was made by Councilmember Loyd Mobley, with a second

made by Councilmember Raymond Turner. This motion passed unanimously.

23. DISCUSSION / APPROVAL TO REVISE / ADD THE FOLLOWING FEE STRUCTURE TO ALCOHOL LICENSING. FEE STRUCTURE WILL INCLUDE BREWER AND MANUFACTURER FEES:

- Growler Sales Fee: \$250.00
- Taproom Fee: \$300.00
- Brewer, Manufacturer of Malt Beverage License: \$1,500.00
- Retail Liquor, Beer, & Wine
Hotel/Motel Tax (in-room mini-bar sales only): \$1,800.00

A motion was made to approve Growler Sales Fee, Brewer, Manufacturer of Malt Beverage License fee, and Retail Liquor, Beer, & Wine for mini-bar sales. Taproom Fee will be omitted from approval. Councilmember Raymond made this motion Turner, with a second made by Councilmember Loyd Mobley. This motion was approved unanimously.

24. DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

- 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

Police Chief James Jermon presented the Fire Chief report. During Chief Jermon's report, he provided an update on the Flock Camera system, and Mayor Roper presented the monthly report for the Recreation Department.

25. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Bill Bedingfield advised Recreation Director Scott Strickland would join him on Vidalia Today radio program in the morning.

26. EXECUTIVE SESSION, IF NEEDED AS PER O.C.G.A. §50-14-3

An Executive Session was needed for the purpose of Real Estate discussion and employee compensation. Councilmember Raymond Turner made the motion to enter

into Executive Session, with a second made by Councilmember Bob Dixon. This motion passed unanimously.

Councilmember Jennifer Evans made a motion to return to regular session, with a second made by Councilmember Bob Dixon. This motion passed unanimously.

Upon returning to regular session, Councilmember Bob Dixon made a motion to approve a 2.5% increase for all employees with no disciplinary actions. A second was made by Councilmember Raymond Turner. This motion passed unanimously.

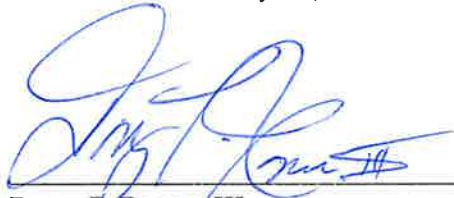
A motion to approve the Separation Agreement of Nick Overstreet, as amended, was made by Councilmember Loyd Mobley, with a second by Councilmember Jennifer Evans. This motion passed unanimously.

27. ADJOURN

There being no further business to discuss, this meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

AFFIRMATION

We affirm that these minutes are correct and true to form as presented to the Mayor and City Council on February 11, 2024.



Doug P. Roper, III
Mayor



Kellie Murray, City Clerk

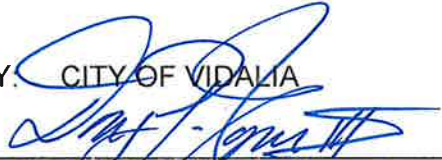
**CITY OF VIDALIA
EXECUTIVE SESSION AFFIDAVIT**

- (1) Pursuant to my duties as Mayor, I was the presiding officer of a meeting of the Vidalia City Council held on the **8th** day of **January**, 2024. 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].

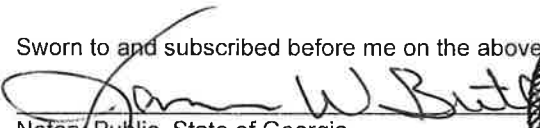
- I. Staff meeting held for investigative purposes under duties or responsibilities imposed by law as provided by **Georgia Code Section 50-14-3(a)(1)**.
- J. Meeting to consider records or portions of records exempt from public inspection or disclosure pursuant to **Article 4 of Chapter 18 of Title 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 **8th** day of **January, 2024**.

BY: CITY OF VIDALIA


 Mayor or Presiding Officer

Sworn to and subscribed before me on the above stated day

 Notary Public, State of Georgia
 Commission Expires 5-18-2026



(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.