

**MINUTES  
CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP  
MUNICIPAL ANNEX  
MONDAY, APRIL 8, 2024  
5:30 P.M.**

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

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

**CITY STAFF:** Bill Bedingfield, City Manager  
Daniel O'Connor, City Attorney  
Kellie Murray, City Clerk

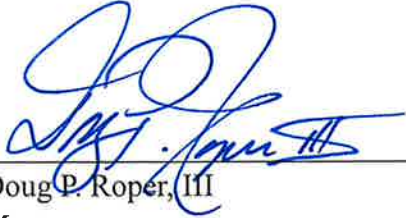
The purpose of the workshop is for **DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY** on the following items:

- Quitclaim Deed between City of Vidalia and Pine Crest Perpetual Cemetery Trust II
- Perpetual easement by City of Vidalia to Altamaha EMC
- Approval/Disapproval of zoning request by City of Vidalia at Tract 1A, Parcel V11-005, 200 W First Street
- Request to amend minutes of February 12, 2024, meeting to include Church Street in Vidalia Onion Festival road closures.
- Review/award bid for sewer improvements on Charles Andrews Drive
- Review/award bid to provide labor, materials, and equipment to install sliding gate at WWTP.

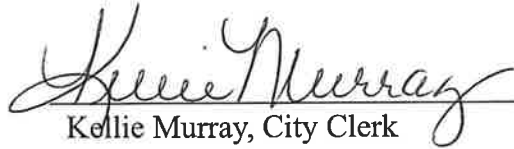
With no further business to discuss, Mayor Roper adjourned this meeting at 5:45 p.m.

**AFFIRMATION**

We affirm that these minutes are correct and true to form as presented to the Mayor and City Council on May 13, 2024.



Doug P. Roper, III  
Mayor



Kellie Murray, City Clerk

**MINUTES  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
MUNICIPAL ANNEX  
MONDAY, APRIL 8, 2024  
6:00 P.M.**

The Mayor and City Council held their regularly scheduled meeting on the date, time and location stated above.

A list of visitors is attached to these minutes.

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

**CITY STAFF:** Bill Bedingfield, City Manager  
Daniel O'Connor, City Attorney  
Kellie Murray, City Clerk  
Tonya Parker, DVA Director  
Alexa Britton, CVB Director  
Brian Sikes, Fire Chief  
James Jermon, Police Chief  
Tony Hall, ESG Project Mgr.  
Scott Strickland, Recreation Director  
Billy Ragan, Airport Manager  
Chad Phillips, City Marshal

**1. CALL TO ORDER BY MAYOR DOUG P. ROPER, III, WITH  
INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE LED BY PASTOR  
JOSH MAY, VIDALIA CHURCH OF GOD.**

Mayor Roper called this meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with Pastor Josh May, Vidalia Church of God, giving the Invocation and leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. DISCUSSION / APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.**

Mayor Roper advised agenda item #11 will be revised to include the closing of Durden Street from Tuesday, April 23, at 3:00 p.m. until Saturday, April 27, at 2:00 a.m. A motion was made by Councilmember Raymond Turner to approve the agenda as amended, with a

second made by Councilmember Jennifer Evans. This motion passed unanimously.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Mr. Luther Williams was on the agenda for public comments but was not present.

Ms. Connie Williams addressed the Mayor and Council referencing the same issue she has addressed previously which is the property on 2<sup>nd</sup> and Epstein.

**4. DISCUSSION / APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:**

- Workshop Meeting Minutes dated March 11, 2024
- Regular Council Meeting Minutes dated March 11, 2024
- Executive Session Minutes dated March 11, 2024

A motion was made to approve as written by Councilmember Bob Dixon with a second motion made by Councilmember Jennifer Evans. This motion passed unanimously.

**5. INTRODUCTION OF NEWLY SWORN POLICE DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL BY CHIEF JAMES JERMON.**

Police Chief James Jermon introduced and congratulated the following personnel:

**Newly Sworn Officers**

Officer Barbara Deen

Officer Dre Mayweather

Officer Robert Wickstrom

**Communications Unit**

Ms. Terri Graffagnino

**Promotion**

Sgt. SanAntonio Wilcher

**6. FINANCIAL REPORT**

Bill Bedingfield, City Manager, presented the financial report advising full financial was emailed today. Mr. Bedingfield reviewed revenues and status of current projects.

**7. TOURISM / CHAMBER UPDATE**

- |   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| - Downtown Vidalia Association (DVA)          | 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 presented to Mayor and Council and Jake Cleghorn, Chair, Vidalia Onion Festival Committee presented Mayor and Council with official Onion Festival t-shirts.

**8. DISCUSSION / APPROVAL OF QUITCLAIM DEED BETWEEN CITY OF VIDALIA (GRANTOR) AND CITY OF VIDALIA, TRUSTEE OF THE PINE CREST PERPETUAL CEMETERY TRUST II (GRANTEE) AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE QUITCLAIM DEED CONVEYING TITLE OF PROPERTY TO GRANTEE.**

Councilmember Jennifer Evans made the motion to approve quitclaim deed and authorize Mayor Roper to execute deed conveying title of property to Grantee, the Pine Crest Perpetual Cemetery Trust II. A second motion was made by Councilmember Loyd Mobley. This motion passed unanimously.

**9. DISCUSSION / APPROVAL OF A PERPETUAL EASEMENT BY CITY OF VIDALIA (GRANTOR) TO ALTAMAHA ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION (GRANTEE) OF TEN FEET IN WIDTH FOR INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE OF A BURIED 12CT FLAT DROP WITH TONER WIRE.**

Councilmember Bob Dixon made the motion to approve the perpetual easement to Altamaha EMC for the purpose of installing and maintaining toner wire. A second Councilmember Raymond Turner made motion. This motion passed unanimously.

**10. DISCUSSION / (APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL) OF ZONING REQUEST OF CITY OF VIDALIA TO REZONE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 200 W FIRST STREET, PARCEL V11-005, FROM I-1, LIGHT INDUSTRIAL, TO C-3, HIGHWAY ORIENTED COMMERCIAL DISTRICT.**

**PROPOSED USE:** CONSTRUCTION OF FOOD SERVICE ESTABLISHMENT  
**PLANNING & ZONING BOARD DECISION:** By unanimous vote of Commission

members present it is recommended to leave zoning as I-1, Light Industrial. Commission members present: Chair Billy Snell, Jackie Moses, Carol Hansley, Pam Langston, Matt Oxley, and Russ Bell.

Councilmember Jennifer Evans made the motion to withdraw this request on behalf of the City of Vidalia and a second motion was made by Councilmember Loyd Mobley. This motion passed unanimously.

Councilmember Raymond Turner made the motion to reapply for a zoning change to C-1, Commercial, at a later date and a second motion was made by Councilmember Bob Dixon. This motion passed unanimously.

**11. DISCUSSION / APPROVAL TO AMEND THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 12, 2024, TO INCLUDE THE CLOSURE OF CHURCH STREET IN ADDITION TO PREVIOUSLY APPROVED ROAD CLOSURES. ROAD CLOSURE OF CHURCH STREET WILL BE THURSDAY, APRIL 24 AT 9:00 A.M. THROUGH 2:00 A.M. SATURDAY, APRIL 26. MINUTES WILL BE AMENDED TO READ:**

| <u>STREET</u>         | <u>DATE</u>                                     | <u>TIMES</u>                       |
|-----------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| Durden Street         | Tuesday, April 22<br>through Saturday, April 26 | 3:00 p.m. to<br>2:00 a.m. Saturday |
| Jackson Street        | Closing on                                      |                                    |
| Meadows Street        | Thursday, April 24                              | 9:00 a.m. Thursday through         |
| Meadows St. Extension | through Saturday, April 26                      | 2:00 a.m. Saturday                 |
| Church Street         |   |                                    |

This agenda item was amended to include the closing of Durden Street from Tuesday, April 22, at 3:00 p.m. until Saturday, April 26, at 2:00 a.m. Councilmember Raymond Turner made the motion to approve the closing of Durden Street and including Church Street closure. A second motion was made by Councilmember Bob Dixon. This motion passed unanimously.

**WATER & SEWER COMMITTEE MET ON APRIL 3, 2024**

**Note: Recommendation of Committee will need a first and second motion due to Mayor Roper serving as Committee member.**

**12. DISCUSSION / APPROVAL TO AWARD BID SUBMITTED FOR SEWER IMPROVEMENTS ON CHARLES ANDREW DRIVE. RECOMMENDATION IS AWARD TO MCLENDON ENTERPRISES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$53,100.00. FUND SOURCE IS SPLOST.**

A motion was made to award McLendon Enterprises the bid for sewer improvements on Charles Andrew Drive in the amount of \$53,000.00, to be paid by SPLOST, by Councilmember Bob Dixon. Councilmember Loyd made a second motion Mobley. This motion passed unanimously.

**13. DISCUSSION / APPROVAL TO AWARD BID TO PROVIDE LABOR, MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT TO INSTALL SLIDING GATE AT WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT.**

**BIDDERS:**

|                            |             |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| POPCO, INC.                | \$61,355.00 |
| ROWELL CONSTRUCTION        | NO BID      |
| DUBLIN CONSTRUCTION        | NO BID      |
| <b>RECOMMENDED VENDOR:</b> | POPCO, INC. |
| <b>FUND SOURCE:</b>        | SPLOST      |

A motion was made to award POPCO, Inc. bid to provide labor, materials, and equipment to install sliding gate at a cost of \$61,355.00 to be paid from SPLOST. The motion was made by Councilmember Bob Dixon, with a second motion made by Councilmember Loyd Mobley. This motion passed unanimously.

**14. DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:**

- a. Brian Sikes, Fire Chief
- b. James Jermon, Police Chief
- c. Tony Hall, Project Manager – ESG
- d. Scott Strickland, Recreation Director
- e. Billy Ragan, Airport Manager
- f. Chad Phillips, City Marshal

During the Department Head presentation of monthly reports, Mayor Roper asked Police Chief James Jermon to include a line item for “Litter Citations.” City Marshal Chad Phillips request \$7,699.88 for RV Park improvements to picnic tables and to replace grills. A motion was made to approve by Councilmember Loyd Mobley, with a second

made by Councilmember Raymond Turner. This motion passed unanimously.

**15. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

City Manager Bill Bedingfield presented his monthly report and updates to Mayor and Council.

**16. EXECUTIVE SESSION PER O.C.G.A. §50-14-4, FOR THE PURPOSE OF PERSONNEL.**

Executive Session was needed for the purpose of Personnel. A motion was made by Councilmember Raymond Turner to enter into Executive Session, with a second motion made by Councilmember Bob Dixon. This motion passed unanimously.

Councilmember Bob Dixon made the motion to return to regular session, with a second motion made by Councilmember Loyd Mobley. This motion passed unanimously.

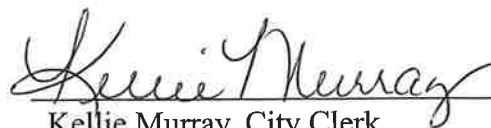
**17. ADJOURN**

With no further business to discuss, a motion was made to adjourn this meeting of the Mayor and City Council. Motion made by Councilmember Cecil Thompson, with a second motion made by Councilmember Loyd Mobley. This motion passed unanimously.

**AFFIRMATION**

We affirm that these minutes are correct and true to form as presented to the Mayor and City Council on May 13, 2024.

  
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Doug P. Roper, III  
Mayor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kellie Murray, City Clerk