

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

JULY 13, 2015

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: RONNIE DIXON, RAYMOND TURNER, CECIL THOMPSON, BRIAN FROST, LISA CHESSER

NON-MEMBERS PRESENT: BILL TORRANCE – CITY MANAGER, BILL BEDINGFIELD, FINANCE DIRECTOR/CITY CLERK, MELISSA MOORE - ADMIN ASSISTANT, REID THRELKELD – CITY ATTORNEY, FRANK WAITS –VPD, ZACK FOWLER- VIDALIA COMMUNICATION, KATHY HILT – THE ADVANCE, JAMES O’NEAL – ESG, BRIAN SIKES – FIRE CHIEF, TOMMY SASSER – RECREATION DIRECTOR

MAYOR DIXON BROUGHT THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 6:00p.m.

THE INVOCATION WAS GIVEN BY: REV. H. W. MILLER

PUBLIC COMMENTS: - Robert Colson is asking the Council to put a 3 way Stop sign at Gwendolyn Drive and Church Street Extension. He sighted safety as an issue as citizens are using this as a short cut to Hwy 130. Mayor Dixon sent this issue to the Streets and Sanitation Committee. He also asked the Council about having property cleaned up in his neighborhood. Mr. Torrance stated that he will get with the City Marshall and see what can be done. He also asked what could be done about neighbors and vines growing from their property on to his. Mr. Torrance told him that he would look into the issue and see what could be done. Mr. Torrance got Mr. Colson’s phone number, and promised to give him a call.

DVA: - Paula brought the Council up to date on activities of the DVA. She informed the Council that they are working on a walking brochure of the historic downtown. She also stated that they are making progress in planning the fall Music Festival. She also stated that the Christmas Parade Committee will meet on August 24, 2015 at 5:30. The meeting will be held at the Main Street Office.

ONION FESTIVAL – No Report

TOOMBS MONTGOMERY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE – BJ Davis reported that Becky Palmer has resigned from her position and that it is being advertised. She hopes to have some very qualified candidates to fill this position.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES -A motion was made by Councilman Turner to approve the minutes from the May 8, 2015 meeting. Councilman Frost seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

AGENDA

1. **Vidalia Tourism** – Alexa Britton presented to the Council a proposal from the Georgia Highway 15 Coalition. The goal of the group is to enhance economic development along the Highway 15 corridor by promoting tourism and supporting economic development, and including improvements to the corridor. The request is for those along the corridor to commit \$600.00 a year for 3 years to the project. Alexa stated that she feels that this would be a worthwhile endeavor and can be funded out of Tourism. The request before the Council is to adopt a resolution supporting the Highway 15 Coalition. (See Attached) A motion was made by Councilwoman Chesser to approve the resolution. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thompson. The vote was unanimous. Alexa also updated the Council on activities of the Vidalia Convention and Visitors Bureau. Mr. Torrance explained that the Committee was applying for a development grant for the Pal Theater.

2. **Sweet Onion Classic Alcohol Permit** – Rose Anne Holman is requesting two one day Alcohol permits for the Sweet Onion Classic Golf Tournament. The dates are September 23rd and 24th at the Vidalia Community Center and Hawks Point Golf Course. Mr. Torrance stated that the applications are complete and have been signed by the appropriate departments. A motion was made by Councilman Turner to approve the applications. The motion was seconded by Councilman Frost. The vote was unanimous. Councilman Thompson abstained for business reasons.
3. **T-N-T Alcohol Permit** – Mr. Torrance presented an application from T-N-T Lanes for an on premise beer and wine permit. The permit is also requesting Sunday sales. Mr. Bedingfield stated that he informed the owner, Gary Rodrick, of the ordinance requiring food sales and was told that he had a full kitchen and would comply with the ordinance. Mr. Torrance stated that the application is complete and has been signed by the appropriate departments. A motion was made by Councilman Frost to approve the application. The motion was seconded by Councilman Turner. The vote was unanimous. Councilman Thompson abstained for business reasons.
4. **Parker's Alcohol Permit** – Mr. Torrance presented the alcohol application for Parker's Convenience Store located at 105 Queen Street. The application is for off premise beer and wine. Mr. Torrance stated that the application is complete and has been signed by the appropriate departments, with the exception of the Fire Marshall. He is requesting that the License be approved pending the Fire Marshalls signature in an effort to help expedite the States approval of their license. Parker's intends to open in mid-August and before they do Brian Sikes, the City Fire Marshall, will have inspected the building. A motion was made by Councilman Turner to approve the application as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Chesser. The vote was unanimous. Councilman Thompson abstained for business reasons.
5. **Onion Museum HVAC** – Mr. Torrance explained to the Council that the last of the original HVAC units at the Museum had quit working. The estimate to repair the unit was \$1000.00. Mr. Torrance feels that with its age we don't need to spend funds patching it up. He is presenting 3 bids to replace the unit, with Premier coming in the lowest at \$5189.00. His recommendation to accept this low bid and pay for it from fund balance. This would have all the units in good shape and with a much higher SEER value. A motion was made by Councilman Thompson to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Chesser. The vote was unanimous.
6. **Tax Schedule Adjustment** – Mr. Bedingfield stated that due to the conversion to the new software this year his office needed addition time to prepare for the tax sale. His request is to move the sale back one month from August to September. The legal notifications would run the month of August. A motion was made by Councilwoman Chesser to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thompson. The vote was unanimous.

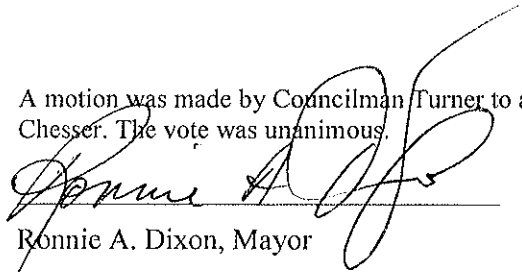
CITY MANAGERS REPORT –

Mr. Torrance presented a request from the Fire Department to purchase 4 SCBA air tanks complete with push to connect mask-mounted regulator, and air frame harness. The package also comes with a spare 4500 psi carbon filter tank. Chief Sikes stated that these are state of the art complete units. The total cost of these 4 units is \$17,700.00. The Fire Department had \$7992.00 in their capital line item to purchase 8 air tanks only. Mr. Torrance is recommending that we add \$9708.00 from SPLOST to fund the additional cost. A motion was made by Councilman Turner to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Councilman Tyson. The vote was unanimous.

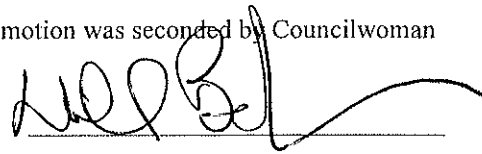
Mr. Torrance presented a request from the Altama Gallery for some support on replacing their current out dated HVAC units. The total cost is \$19,000.00, and the Gallery would appreciate any help the City might provide. Mr. Torrance stated that this was for information only, but wanted the Council to be aware of the needs at the Gallery.

Chief Frank Waits invited the Council to the first graduation of the Police Citizen Academy this Thursday at 6:00 p.m. The event will be held in Training room at the Police Department.

A motion was made by Councilman Turner to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Chesser. The vote was unanimous.



Ronnie A. Dixon, Mayor



William E Bedingfield, City Clerk

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

AUGUST 10, 2015

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: RONNIE DIXON, RAYMOND TURNER, CECIL THOMPSON, BRIAN FROST, LISA CHESSER, AND EDDIE TYSON

NON-MEMBERS PRESENT: BILL TORRANCE – CITY MANAGER, BILL BEDINGFIELD, FINANCE DIRECTOR/CITY CLERK, MELISSA MOORE - ADMIN ASSISTANT, REID THRELKELD – CITY ATTORNEY, FRANK WAITS –VPD, JAMES O’NEAL – ESG, ROBBIE AKINS – ESG, BRIAN SIKES – FIRE CHIEF, TOMMY SASSER – RECREATION DIRECTOR, CHRIS BLOXHAM - REPUBLIC

MAYOR DIXON BROUGHT THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 6:00p.m.

THE INVOCATION WAS GIVEN BY: REV. BUCKY KENNEDY

PUBLIC COMMENTS: - Kay Stafford informed the Council that he is very proud of the City and the work they are doing. He particularly mentioned the Navy Seal exercise that recently took place here in Vidalia, and would like for the Council to reach out to the military and have more events like this in future. The Council thanked him for his comments and stated that the City will continue to work to expand our relationship with the military.

DVA – Melissa Moore brought the Council up to date on activities of the DVA. She asked the Council to approve Thursday October 29th as the official day of trick or treating in downtown Vidalia. Councilwoman Chessser made a motion to approve the date. Councilman Turner seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VCVB – Alexa Britton reported that over 3000 people had visited the Onion Museum this year. She also gave a detailed account of the visitor’s home locations, which represented countries from all over the world. She also highlighted several upcoming activities including this Saturday’s Tailgating event featuring all the area schools.

ONION FESTIVAL – No Report

TOOMBS MONTGOMERY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE – No Report

FINANCIAL REPORT - BILL BEDINGFIELD - Mr. Bedingfield gave the financial report for the month of July. A motion was made by Councilwoman Chessser to approve the report. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thompson. The vote was unanimous.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES -A motion was made by Councilman Turner to approve the minutes from the July 13, 2015 meeting. Councilwoman Chessser seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

AGENDA

1. **VPD Re-Certification Presentation** – Police Chief Frank Waits introduced Chief Jack Lumpkin, Chief of Police for Chatham County, who presented the certificate of re-certification to the Vidalia Police Department. Chief Lumpkin commended the department for their commitment to the standards that are required to maintain this certification. Chief Lumpkin then recognized Lawanda Beasley with a plaque for her dedication in managing the program. Chief Waits then recognized Captain Kennedy as the first program leader and his role in the department’s efforts to become a certified department in 2007. The Council thanked Chief Lumpkin for honoring the City by being here to present the recertification, and also thanked Chief Waits and his staff for their dedication in maintaining certification.
2. **2015 Millage Rate** – Mr. Bedingfield presented the 2015 millage rate to the Council. He stated that the appropriate rollback due to inflationary growth has been applied, and the 5 year digest has

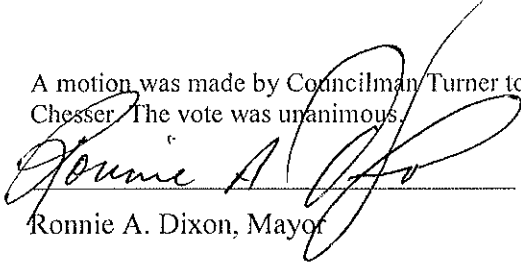
been advertised in the Advance. Mayor Dixon has set a called meeting on August 20, 2015 to approve the millage rate.

3. **Streets and Sanitation Meeting** – Mr. Torrance presented the results of the July 30, 2015 meeting. No action is required at tonight's meeting. (See Attached Minutes)
4. **Sweet Onion Classic Golf Tournament** – Mr. Torrance presented a request from the Sweet Onion Classic to place a player in their upcoming tournament. The cost is \$500.00 and the City has always put a player in the tournament. The entry fee would come from legislative capital. A motion was made by Councilman Frost to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thompson. The vote was unanimous.
5. **Tourism Committee** – Mr. Torrance presented a list of names as proposed Committee members for the new Vidalia Tourism. The recommendations are as follows:
Ann Todd
B.J. Davis
Carol Hansley
John Koon
Allison Osborn
Tiffany Underwood
Mr. Torrance stated that all but two of these have been approached and are committed to serve. Councilman Turner made a motion to approve the above list to serve on the board. The motion was seconded by Councilman Frost. The vote was unanimous.

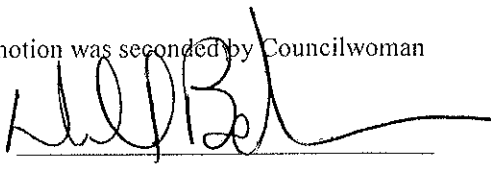
CITY MANAGER'S REPORT –

Mr. Torrance requested that the Council donate \$2500.00 to the Vidalia City School System to use in the new drug program. The funds would come from their legislative capital. A motion was made by Councilwoman Chesser. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thompson. The vote was unanimous.

A motion was made by Councilman Turner to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Chesser. The vote was unanimous.



Ronnie A. Dixon, Mayor



William E Bedingfield, City Clerk

CALLED COUNCIL MEETING

AUGUST 20, 2015

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: RONNIE DIXON, RAYMOND TURNER, CECIL THOMPSON, BRIAN FROST, LISA CHESSER, AND EDDIE TYSON

NON-MEMBERS PRESENT: BILL TORRANCE – CITY MANAGER, BILL BEDINGFIELD, FINANCE DIRECTOR/CITY CLERK, MELISSA MOORE - ADMIN ASSISTANT, REID THRELKELD – CITY ATTORNEY, JAMES O’NEAL - ESG

MAYOR DIXON BROUGHT THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 11:00 A.M.

AGENDA

1. **Approval of the 2015 Millage Rate** – Mr. Torrance presented the 2015 millage rate that was discussed at the August 10, 2015 Council Meeting. The 5 year digest was run in the paper as required so a motion is needed to approve the rate. A motion was made by Councilman Frost to approve the millage rate. The motion was seconded by Councilman Turner. The vote was unanimous. (See Attached Digest)
2. **Tourism Board** – Mr. Torrance informed the council that the new Tourism Committee would meet next Monday the 24th. He also informed the Council that Allison Osborne could not commit to serve on the board at this time, but that John Tyson was very interested and eager to serve. He is asking the Council to approve John as a member of the Tourism Board. A motion was made by Councilman Thompson to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Councilman Frost. The vote was unanimous.
3. **Toombs County Library Request** – Mr. Torrance explained that the Library is requesting \$20,000.00 from the City and \$20,000.00 from the County so that, along with in house funds, they would have the necessary matching funds to apply for a State Grant. The funds will be used for much needed repairs to the building, including the roof, HVAC, flooring, and technology infrastructure. Councilwoman Chesser made a motion to approve the request and to take the funds from fund balance. Councilman Turner seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

CITY MANAGERS REPORT –

Mr. Torrance presented a request from the Second Harvest Food Bank to acquire approximately an acre of land from the City to build a warehouse for food storage and distribution. It would create about 3 jobs to start with, but could add more as they grow. The land in question is on Mathews Industrial and Harris Industrial. City Attorney Reid Threlkeld recommended property located on Harris Industrial. The Council is in agreement to pursue this proposal.

Mr. Torrance explained to the Council that the Pages are again trying to close Country Club Road. The Council asked that Mr. Torrance and City Attorney Threlkeld keep an eye of this, and bring back to the Council if necessary.

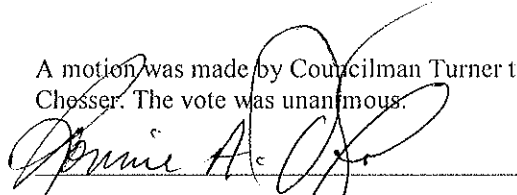
Mr. Torrance informed the Council of a 4” sewer line, located on 4th Street East, that has collapsed and needs to be replaced. The total cost is \$24,630.25, and will come from the water and sewer line item in SPLOST. A motion was made by Councilman Turner to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Councilman Tyson, The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Torrance informed the Council of a lawsuit that was filed against the City that was actually concerning an alleged incident at Meadows Regional Hospital. City Attorney Reid Threlkeld stated that this did not involve the City, and that he would reply informing the claimant’s Attorney of this fact. Councilman

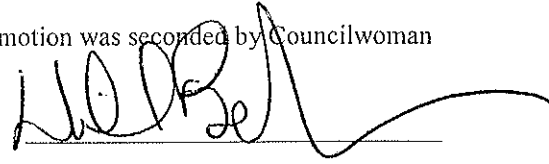
Turner made a motion to have Mr. Threlkeld respond accordingly. The motion was seconded by Councilman Frost. The vote was unanimous.

The Mayor set September 9, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. for a Council work session. The session will be at the Training room located at the Annex.

A motion was made by Councilman Turner to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Chesser. The vote was unanimous.



Ronnie A. Dixon, Mayor



William E Bedingfield, City Clerk

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

SEPTEMBER 14, 2015

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: RONNIE DIXON, RAYMOND TURNER, CECIL THOMPSON, BRIAN FROST, LISA CHESSER, AND EDDIE TYSON

NON-MEMBERS PRESENT: BILL TORRANCE – CITY MANAGER, BILL BEDINGFIELD, FINANCE DIRECTOR/CITY CLERK, MELISSA MOORE - ADMIN ASSISTANT, REID THRELKELD – CITY ATTORNEY, FRANK WAITS –VPD, ZACK FOWLER- VIDALIA COMMUNICATION, ROBBIE AKINS – ESG, BRIAN SIKES – FIRE CHIEF, TOMMY SASSER, RECREATION DIRECTOR, JAMES O'NEAL- ESG AND BEN ALLEN, ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF, KATHY HILT-THE ADVANCE

MAYOR DIXON BROUGHT THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 6:00p.m.

THE INVOCATION WAS GIVEN BY: KURT TOOTLE

PUBLIC COMMENTS: - Tracy Todd thanked the Council for their participation and cooperation in the Win Shape Camp this summer. He reported that the camp turned out to be one of the largest in the nation. He also asked the Council if the Vidalia First Baptist Church could close 2nd Street on October 25th from 2 until 7, they also need to close Church Street from Hwy 280 to 2nd Street. This is for the Church's Fall Festival and 5k run. Councilman Frost made a motion to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thompson. The vote was unanimous.

DVA: - Paula brought the Council up to date on activities of the DVA. She stated that the 9/11 memorial service was a huge success. She thanked the City for their participation and the girl scouts for sponsoring the event. She also pointed out that this year's Christmas Parade will be on December 5th.

VCVB – Alexa Britton brought the Council up to date on activities of Tourism. She also presented a calendar of events, for the remainder of the year, which will be held at the stage at City Park. She stated that the new Committee will meet on the 21st from 12 until 2, and hoped to have a Pal Theater Committee appointed at this meeting.

ONION FESTIVAL – Dustin Booth brought to the Council a proposed list of committee members for their approval. (See Attached List) Councilman Frost made a motion to approve the list. Councilwoman Chesser seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

TOOMBS MONTGOMERY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE – Bill Mitchell brought the Council up to date on activities of the Chamber. He reported that we are still in the running for a new business that has been in the works for about seven months. The company will announce their decision on Friday.

FINANCIAL REPORT - BILL BEDINGFIELD - Mr. Bedingfield gave the financial report for the month of August. A motion was made by Councilwoman Chesser to approve the report. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thompson. The vote was unanimous.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES -A motion was made by Councilman Turner to approve the minutes from the August 10, 2015 meeting and the August 20, 2015 called meeting. Councilman Frost seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

AGENDA

1. **Brian Sikes Presentation** – Fire Chief Brian Sikes presented the Ben Franklin Medal to Assistant Chief Ben Allen. This award is presented to him by his peers represented by five area Fire Departments. His commitment and resolve were proven during the 2015 Combined National Professional Firefighter 1 Class. The Council congratulated Ben on an outstanding job and for being recognized by his peers.

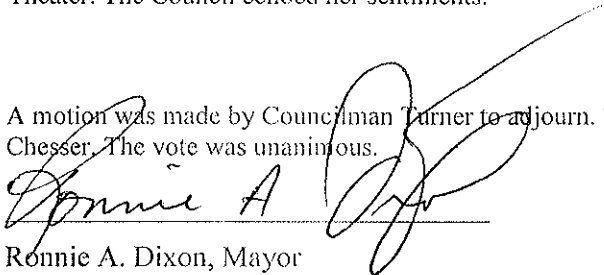
2. **License and Permits Meeting -8/27/15** – Councilwoman Chesser presented the minutes from the August 27, 2015 License and Permits Committee meeting. (See Attached Minutes) No action is required by the Council.
3. **Alcohol Permit Save-A- Lot** – Mr. Torrance presented an application for beer and wine off premise for the new Save-A-Lot food store located at 619 A East First Street. The application is complete and has been signed by all required departments. A motion to approve the application was made by Councilman Tyson. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Chesser. The vote was unanimous. Councilman Thompson abstained for business reasons.

CITY MANAGERS REPORT –

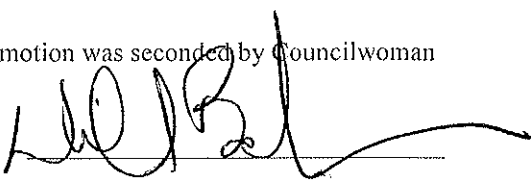
Mr. Torrance presented a bid from Joe Veal to repair the roof on the Annex building. The bid from Top Coats Roofing is for \$123,993.00. Councilman Turner made a motion to approve the bid and to take it from SPLOST funds. Councilman Frost seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Mr. Torrance informed the Council that we would be doing Vidalia Today in the morning, and would be discussing the watershed assessment ordinance along with several other issues.

Councilwoman Chesser complimented the Fire Department and the Police Department on their commitment to the citizens of our community. She highlighted several activities, like volunteer reading to the children by the Police, which are making a difference in how public safety is perceived in our community. She also reinforced the importance of the upcoming Town Hall meeting on the 21st at the Pal Theater. The Council echoed her sentiments.

A motion was made by Councilman Turner to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Chesser. The vote was unanimous.



Ronnie A. Dixon, Mayor



William E Bedingfield, City Clerk

COUNCIL MEETING - PLEASE SIGN IN

9/14/15

NAME	ADDRESS
Melissa Moore	
Alexa Britton	CVB
Curt Foutley	
Bill Mitchell	
Don M. Grier	

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

OCTOBER 12, 2015

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: RONNIE DIXON, RAYMOND TURNER, CECIL THOMPSON, BRIAN FROST, LISA CHESSE

NON-MEMBERS PRESENT: BILL TORRANCE – CITY MANAGER, BILL BEDINGFIELD, FINANCE DIRECTOR/CITY CLERK, MELISSA MOORE - ADMIN ASSISTANT, REID THRELKELD – CITY ATTORNEY, FRANK WAITS –VPD, ZACK FOWLER- VIDALIA COMMUNICATION, JEFF WEST – ESG, ROBBIE AKINS – ESG, BRIAN SIKES – FIRE CHIEF, KATHY HILT – THE ADVANCE, CHRIS BLOXHAM – REPUBLIC SERVICES

MAYOR DIXON BROUGHT THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 6:00p.m.

THE INVOCATION WAS GIVEN BY: REV. H. W. MILLER

PUBLIC COMMENTS: - Team Steppin for Ta Ta's is requesting to have a Glow Run 5K and to hold it at the Arts and Crafts area on Airport Road. The requested date is April 30, 2016. The group is proposing two routes for the night run. City Manager Bill Torrance requested that this be tabled until we can meet and develop all the required criteria to hold the event. When completed he would bring it back to the Council. The Council was in agreement.

DVA: - Paula brought the Council up to date on activities of the DVA. She thanked the Council for their support and outstanding work on the north side project. In particular she felt that the ribbon cutting today on the splash pad was a huge success. She also reminded them of the Fall Festival event on Thursday the 29th. The festivities are from 5 to 7 pm at the New City Park.

VCVB – Alexa Britton brought the Council up to date on activities of the Vidalia Convention and Visitors Bureau. She passed out a calendar of the remaining events scheduled for the Amphitheater in 2015.

ONION FESTIVAL – No Report

TOOMBS MONTGOMERY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE – Bill Mitchell brought the Council up to date on activities of the Chamber. He stated that the Chamber golf tournament is October 22, 2015 at Hawks Point, and was hoping the Council would put a team in the tournament.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES -A motion was made by Councilman Frost to approve the minutes from the September 14, 2015 meeting. Councilwoman Chesser seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

AGENDA

1. **Garrett Wilcox** – Dr. Wilcox, Superintendent of the Vidalia City Schools, presented to the Council information on the bond referendum that is on the upcoming November ballot. He stated that the decision to build a new high school was not taken lightly, and that the funds raised by the bonds would be paid from ESPLOST revenue. He stated that the funds available from the State were more favorable to build a new school versus remodeling the current building. He also informed the Council that he and his board had no intention of raising property taxes to pay for this new construction. Mayor Dixon asked the question of what would happen if the next ESPLOST failed to pass. Dr. Wilcox stated that if that scenario came to pass then a tax increase would be necessary. He also pointed out that Toombs County was in the same position and needed to work to pass the next ESPLOST. Mayor Dixon thanked Dr. Wilcox and his staff and board for the outstanding job that they do in our community.

2. **Tracy Clark – Audit Report** – Tracy Clark presented the results of the 2014 audit. He highlighted some of the comments in the management letter that was presented to the Council. He also reviewed the financials with the Council, and stated that the City had improved its financial position over last year. He stated that he was able to give the City an unqualified opinion and found no material deficiencies. The Council thanked him for his report and the job his company does in auditing the City.
3. **McLean Calhoun Engagement Letter** – Mr. Torrance presented the 2015 Audit Engagement letter from McLean, Calhoun, McCullough, Clark & Co. There is no change in pricing from last year. A motion was made by Councilman Frost to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Councilman Turner. The vote was unanimous.
4. **Parade Permit Request** – Karen Silva, representing the Pentecostal Church of God in Vidalia, has applied for a parade permit. The event is to be held on October 24th at 1:00pm. The request is for a Hispanic community outreach program to help bring focus on their new Church located on Hwy 297. Councilman Frost pointed out that this Church is outside the City limits. Mayor Dixon tabled the request due to the lack of information presented, and asked that the group meet with Bill Torrance and work out the details of the event and then the Council can be polled for approval.
5. **Water Sewer Debt Write Down** – Mr. Bedingfield presented a request to take a write down of uncollectable debt that has been on the books for a very long time. He is proposing that everything up to December 31, 2012 be moved to an uncollectable account. Then the City can attempt to collect on anything going forward. This process has been streamlined and made easier by the new software that the City purchased in 2014. This write down consists of \$180,307.35 from Water and Sewer and \$44,862.88 from General Fund. A motion was made by Councilman Turner to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Councilman Frost. The vote was unanimous.
6. **Dilapidated Houses Funding** – Mr. Torrance informed the Council that four houses had been identified for demolition and were ready to be removed. His request is add \$25,000 to the dilapidated houses program, which will allow him to proceed with the removal. The funds will come from fund balance. A motion was made by Councilwoman Chesser to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thompson. The vote was unanimous.
7. **Chamber Golf Tournament** – Mr. Torrance presented a request from the Toombs Montgomery Chamber to have the Council place a team in this year's Golf Tournament. The cost is \$700.00, which is the same as last year. He is recommending that the funds come from the Council's miscellaneous account. A motion was made by Councilman Turner to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Councilman Frost. The vote was unanimous.

CITY MANAGERS REPORT –

Mr. Torrance presented the LMIG bids for 2015. Sikes Brothers was the low bidder at \$226,294.39. He stated that the LMIG program had committed \$127,106.00 leaving a balance of \$99,188.39 to come from SPLOST. He also presented 7 additional locations that need paving or repair that will add an additional \$52,165.00 to the project. After some discussion Councilman Frost made a motion to allow up to \$175,000.00 coming from SPLOST to complete this work. Councilman Thompson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Torrance presented a request to apply for a matching grant from the Georgia Transportation Infrastructure Bank. The project, located on Maple Drive and Meadows Lane, would cost \$1,079,200.93. The grant would be \$539,600.46. The project would include much needed drainage improvements and new paving with curbing. It will also include a single lane roundabout at the intersection of Maple and Meadows Lane. Councilman Thompson made a motion to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Councilman Turner. The vote was unanimous.

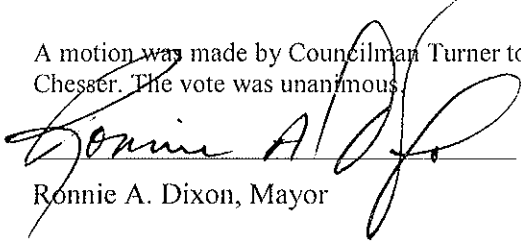
Mr. Torrance presented a request from the finance department to purchase 4 new credit card readers. The upgrade is required to prevent the City from being exposed to any liability during any attempted credit card fraud. The cost would be \$2596.00 and would come from funds remaining in the Tyler Software SPLOST

line item. Councilman Frost made a motion to approve the request. Councilman Thompson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Torrance asked the Council to consider purchasing a Ford Explorer as the third vehicle purchase for 2015. Mayor Dixon asked could we price a Tahoe and see if the pricing would be similar. Councilman Turner made a motion to allow Mr. Torrance to spend up to \$30,000.00 on which ever vehicle was cost effective. The motion was seconded by Councilman Frost. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Torrance presented a request from the local NAACP chapter to participate in their Fall Freedom Fund Banquet. The cost for a table for 7 with dinner is \$150.00. Councilman Frost made a motion to approve the request. Councilman Thompson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

A motion was made by Councilman Turner to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Chesser. The vote was unanimous.



Ronnie A. Dixon, Mayor



William E Bedingfield, City Clerk

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

NOVEMBER 9, 2015

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: RONNIE DIXON, RAYMOND TURNER, CECIL THOMPSON, BRIAN FROST, LISA CHESSER, AND EDDIE TYSON

NON-MEMBERS PRESENT: BILL TORRANCE – CITY MANAGER, BILL BEDINGFIELD, FINANCE DIRECTOR/CITY CLERK, MELISSA MOORE - ADMIN ASSISTANT, REID THRELKELD – CITY ATTORNEY, FRANK WAITS –VPD, ZACK FOWLER- VIDALIA COMMUNICATION, ROBBIE AKINS – ESG, BRIAN SIKES – FIRE CHIEF

MAYOR DIXON BROUGHT THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 6:00p.m.

THE INVOCATION WAS GIVEN BY: REV. KEVIN HICKS

PUBLIC COMMENTS: - None

DVA: - Paula brought the Council up to date on activities of the DVA. Senator Jack Hill will be the speaker at the annual Veterans Luncheon held at the Community Center this Wednesday at noon. Everyone is encouraged to attend. She also informed everyone that the Christmas Parade deadline is November 20, 2015.

VCVB – Alexa Britton gave an update of the activities of the Area Convention and Visitors Bureau. She informed the Council that the Pal Theater Committee met last week for the first time and that some very good ideas were exchanged. She also passed out a schedule of the November and December events that will take place at the City Park. Alexa also complimented Brenda Carroll for her outstanding job.

ONION FESTIVAL – No Report

TOOMBS MONTGOMERY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE – Bill Mitchell brought the Council up to date on activities of the Chamber. Parker's will have a ribbon cutting on Wednesday at 4:00 p.m., and everyone is invited to attend.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES -A motion was made by Councilwoman Chesser to approve the minutes from the October 12, 2015. Councilman Turner seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

AGENDA

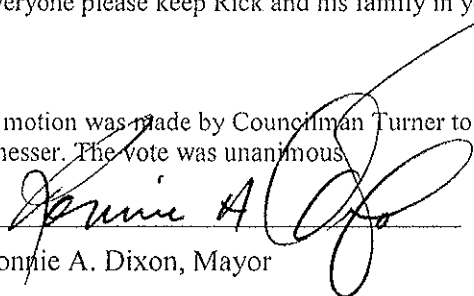
1. **Finance Committee Meeting 11/9/15**– Mr. Torrance presented the results of the Finance Committee meeting held this morning. (See Attached Minutes) The budgets will be advertised for 30 days and then a public hearing will be held on December 17, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. at City Hall. Mayor Dixon has called a Council Meeting to follow the public hearing at 12:00 noon to approve the budget. This meeting will also be held at City Hall.
2. **Election Results** – City Manager Bill Torrance presented the results of the November 2015 election and stated that the results had been certified as accurate by the County Election Superintendent. (See Attached Results) Mayor Dixon asked for a motion to accept the results. A motion was made by Councilwoman Chesser to accept the results as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilman Turner. The vote was unanimous.
3. **License and Permits Meeting 11/9/15** – Councilwoman Chesser presented the results of the License and Permits Committee meeting held this morning. (See Attached Minutes) She informed the Council that she would get back with Mr. Torrance and have a proposal for the Council next month concerning mobile food vending units.

4. **Revolving Loan Committee 10/19/15** -- Mr. Torrance presented the results of the Revolving Loan Committee held on October 19, 2015. (See Attached Minutes) A motion was made by Councilman Turner to accept the request of the Committee. The motion was seconded by Councilman Frost. The vote was unanimous.
5. **Operation Rouge Viper Request** -- The United States Special Operations Command is requesting to again hold a Navy Seal training exercise in Vidalia. Mr. Torrance met with the Commander and discussed some of the issues that had arisen from the first exercise held in Vidalia, and was assured by the Commander that those issues would not happen again. Councilman Turner made a motion to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Councilman Frost. The vote was unanimous.
6. **Christmas Parade AD with WTOC** -- Mr. Bedingfield presented a request for the City to purchase a \$500.00 ad that will run when WTOC airs the Christmas Parade. DVA Director Paula Toole stated that WTOC needed a \$3500 commitment before they would agree to air the parade, and from commitments so far she felt a \$500.00 ad would hit the \$3500.00 goal. Councilwoman Chesser made a motion the purchase a \$500.00 ad. The motion was seconded by Councilman Tyson. The vote was unanimous. This purchase would come from fund balance.
7. **Donation of Lockers Vidalia City Schools** -- Fire Chief Brian Sikes informed the Council that the Vidalia School System has donated 12 lockers to the department. The much needed lockers were split between to two stations. The Council expressed their gratitude to the School System for the donation. Chief Sikes also introduced Robert Tillman and Jeremy Newell to the Council. Both men have just been promoted to the rank of Captain with the Vidalia Fire Department. The Council congratulated both men.

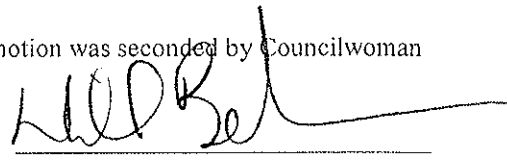
CITY MANAGERS REPORT --

Cecil Thompson informed the Council that Rick Jordan was in the hospital in Savannah and asked that everyone please keep Rick and his family in your prayers.

A motion was made by Councilman Turner to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Chesser. The vote was unanimous.



Ronnie A. Dixon, Mayor



William E Bedingfield, City Clerk

COUNCIL MEETING - PLEASE SIGN IN

November 9th

NAME	ADDRESS
John Jones	
Melissa Brown	
Paula Taylor	
Alexa Britton	VCVB
James A. Stokes	

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

DECEMBER 14, 2015

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: RONNIE DIXON, RAYMOND TURNER, CECIL THOMPSON, BRIAN FROST, LISA CHESSER, AND EDDIE TYSON

NON-MEMBERS PRESENT: BILL TORRANCE – CITY MANAGER, BILL BEDINGFIELD, FINANCE DIRECTOR/CITY CLERK, MELISSA MOORE - ADMIN ASSISTANT, REID THRELKELD – CITY ATTORNEY, CHRIS BLOXHAM – REPUBLIC SERVICES, FRANK WAITS –VPD, ZACK FOWLER- VIDALIA COMMUNICATION, JEFF WEST – ESG, ROBBIE AKINS – ESG, BRIAN SIKES – FIRE CHIEF

MAYOR DIXON BROUGHT THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 6:00p.m.

THE INVOCATION WAS GIVEN BY: REV. KEVIN HICKS

PUBLIC COMMENTS: - Reverend Robert Brown, with The Community Men in Action, is requesting to have a Martin Luther King Parade on Monday January 18, 2015. The route would be from MLK Avenue at the First African Baptist Church, preceding east, then turning north on Washington Street to Hwy 292, then turning west on Hwy 292 to Roosevelt Street, preceding north to Flossie Hayes Park. Mr. Torrance requested that the Council allow him to work with Reverend Brown to work out the details. Councilman Turner made a motion to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thompson. The vote was unanimous.

Dr. Geoff Conner is requesting that they be allowed to hold a Weight Loss walking event on January 9th and on April 30th. They would expect to have about 50-70 participants, and would not be crossing any major highways. Councilman Frost made a motion to approve the event, but asked that they work out the details with Bill Torrance. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thompson. The vote was unanimous.

Melissa Hightower, with Chick-fil-A, is requesting to hold a Series Race to raise money for the Windshape Camp and the Paul Anderson Youth Home. The date of the event will be on March 12, 2016. Councilwoman Chesser made a motion to approve the event with the stipulation that they get with City Manager Bill Torrance and work out the details. Councilman Turner seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

DVA: - Paula brought the Council up to date on activities of the DVA. She thanked the Council for their support and effort in making this year's Christmas Parade a huge success.

VCVB – Alexa Britton gave an update of the activities of the Vidalia Convention and Visitors Bureau.

TOOMBS MONTGOMERY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE – Bill Mitchell brought the Council up to date on activities of the Chamber. He also invited everyone to this year's Pre-Legislative Breakfast to be held on January 7, 2016.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES -A motion was made by Councilman Turner to approve the minutes from the November 9, 2015 meeting. Councilwoman Chesser seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

AGENDA

1. **Vidalia City Swimming Pool** – Mr. Torrance presented a proposal to add two new filtration systems to the current City pool at a cost of approximately \$40,000.00. These would be ones that could be moved to a new pool if the Council decides to build one in the near future. A motion was made by Councilwoman Chesser to approve the request for the filters and to develop a plan to

build a new pool. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thompson. The vote was unanimous. Councilwoman Chesser presented the Council with a letter from Sara Frederick encouraging the Council to consider building a new pool. Her letter outlined the importance of swimming and the impact of having competitive swimming as a sport offered here in Vidalia.

2. **Ed Smith Complex Bids** – Mr. Torrance presented the results of the Ed Smith Complex bid opening. The low bid for the new concession area and restrooms was MMI Construction, with a bid of \$240,066.74. The funds are set aside in the current SPLOST call. A motion was made by Councilman Frost to approve the bid. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thompson. The vote was unanimous.
3. **2016 Property Tax Schedule** – Mr. Bedingfield presented the Council with the proposed 2016 property tax schedule. (See Attached Schedule) A motion was made by Councilman Frost to approve the schedule. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thompson. The vote was unanimous.
4. **Streets and Sanitation Meeting 12/3/15** – Mr. Torrance presented the results of the Streets and Sanitation meeting held on December 3, 2015. (See attached Minutes) No action was needed by the Council.
5. **Alcohol License Renewals** – Mr. Bedingfield presented to the Council the 2016 Alcohol License renewals. Also listed is the Taxi service license renewal. (See Attached List) A motion was made by Councilwoman Chesser to approve the list. The motion was seconded by Councilman Turner. The vote was unanimous.
6. **Game Room License Applications** – Mr. Bedingfield informed the Council that some applications had come in late so he would present the list at the called meeting to be held December 17, 2016 at City Hall.
7. **Darnel Quick Recovery** – Mr. Bedingfield presented the contract with Darnel Quick Recover Services that will allow them to collect past due water bills. The contract has been reviewed by City Attorney Reid Threlkeld. A motion was made by Councilwoman Chesser to approve the contract. The motion was seconded by Councilman Turner. The vote was unanimous.
8. **License and Permits Committee Meeting 12/10/15** – Councilwoman Chesser presented the results of the License and Permits Committee meeting held on December 10, 2015. (See Minutes) The Committee was in agreement to issue a 120 day moratorium on residential permits in the historic C-1 zone. This would allow the Council time to review the issue and come up with a policy for future permitting. A motion was made by Councilman Turner to approve the moratorium. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Chesser. The vote was unanimous.

CITY MANAGERS REPORT –

Mr. Torrance presented a request that the Council approve an Architect/Construction Manager at risk approach on the renovation of the Pal Theater. A motion was made by Councilwoman Chesser to approve the plan. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thompson. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Torrance informed the Council that the DOT was planning on closing the Hazlehurst Bridge on Hwy 221 for approximately 24 months so that they could demolish and build a new bridge. A hearing was held on Thursday December 10th in Hazlehurst. There was a large group in attendance, including our State Senator and Representative. Both were opposed to the closing, as well as the majority of the crowd in attendance. Mr. Torrance stated that he would keep the Council informed.

A motion was made by Councilman Turner to adjourn and enter executive session to discuss periodic evaluation of City employees. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Chesser. The vote was unanimous.

A motion was made by Councilman Turner to adjourn and enter regular session. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Chesser. The vote was unanimous.

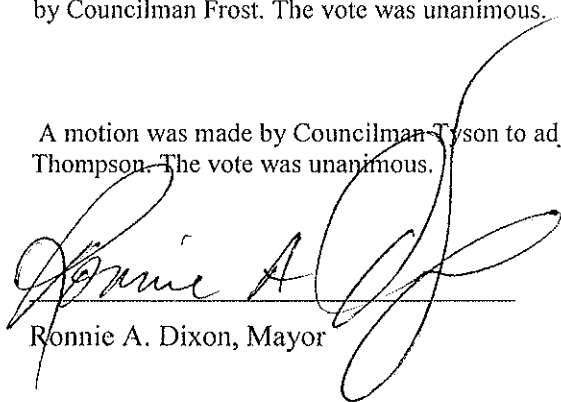
Mr. Torrance requested that the Council allow him to move the Assistant Fire Chief to a merit grade of 44-1. This would be about a \$2000.00 increase in the position, but is needed to allow some spread between the Assistant Chief and the Captain position. A motion was made by Councilman Frost to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Chesser. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Torrance presented the employee performance package to the Council. He is asking the Council to approve a 3.5% bonus, the same as last year. He reminded the Council that no cost of living has been given for a number of years. A motion was by Councilman Tyson to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Chesser. The vote was unanimous.


Mr. Torrance presented a request to have the Fire Chief apply for a FEMA grant that would fund 90% of two additional firemen for three years. This would allow the City to have two men at each Fire Station on duty at all times. Mr. Torrance felt that in three years the City would be able to pick up the cost of the additional firemen. Councilman Turner made a motion to allow the Fire Chief to apply for the grant. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Chesser. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Torrance presented a request to allow the Airport to move Billy Regan from a contract employee to a full time City merit based employee. He informed the Council that Billy had been with the City for a number of years and was an excellent employee. The merit grade would be a 24-1 with the title of Airport Support. A motion was made by Councilman Thompson to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Councilman Frost. The vote was unanimous.

A motion was made by Councilman Tyson to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thompson. The vote was unanimous.



Ronnie A. Dixon, Mayor



William E. Bedingfield, City Clerk

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 14 day of December, 2015

CITY OF VIDALIA
Annice A. [Signature]

Mayor or Presiding Officer

Sworn to and subscribed before me on the above indicated date:
Shanna Lester

Notary Public, State of Georgia
Commission Expires 3/12/16



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

[Signature] _____
[Signature] _____
[Signature] _____
Lisa Chess _____

Note: This form is to be used on all meetings of the City of Vidalia when four (4) or more council members are present.

CALLED COUNCIL MEETING

DECEMBER 17, 2015

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: RONNIE DIXON, RAYMOND TURNER, CECIL THOMPSON, BRIAN FROST, LISA CHESSER, AND EDDIE TYSON

NON-MEMBERS PRESENT: BILL TORRANCE – CITY MANAGER, BILL BEDINGFIELD - FINANCE DIRECTOR/CITY CLERK, MELISSA MOORE – ADMIN ASSISTANT, ZACK FOWLER – VIDALIA COMMUNICATIONS

MAYOR DIXON BROUGHT THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 11:00A.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: - None

AGENDA

1. **Approval of 2016 Budget** – Mr. Torrance presented the 2016 Budget for final adoption. The public hearing on the budget was today and he reported that no one attended. A motion was made by Councilman Thompson to adopt the budget. The motion was seconded by Councilman Frost. The vote was unanimous.
2. **Credit Card Policy** – Mr. Torrance presented a policy that outlines the use of purchase and credit cards when carried by elected officials. He stated the policy was required by law and had to be in effect on January 1, 2016. A motion was made by Councilman Turner to approve the policy. The motion was seconded by Councilman Tyson. The vote was unanimous.
3. **Alcohol Permit – American Legion** – Mr. Torrance presented an alcohol permit request from the American Legion. He stated that all departments had signed where appropriate. Councilman Frost made a motion to approve the request. Councilman Tyson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Councilman Thompson and Turner abstained for business reasons.
4. **Game Room License Approvals** – Mr. Bedingfield presented the list of Game Room license applications for 2016. Councilwoman Chesser made a motion to approve the list. Councilman Thompson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. (See Attached List)
5. **Mobile Vending Ordinance** – Mr. Torrance presented a draft of the mobile vending ordinance with the changes that had been recommended by the License and Permits Committee. After review of the ordinance a motion was made by Councilwoman Chesser to approve the ordinance as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilman Turner. The vote was unanimous.

CITY MANAGERS REPORT –

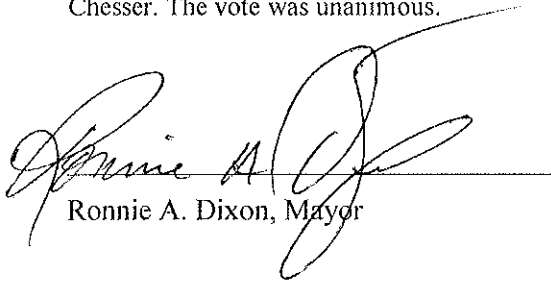
Mr. Torrance presented a request to trade the old 2004 Suburban for a truck that would be used at the Fire Department. He reported that he had looked at both used and new trucks in the process and is recommending that we purchase a new GMC truck at a cost of approximately \$26,862.00. The funds will come from the old SPLOST call. After some discussion Councilman Turner made a motion to approve the purchase. The motion was seconded by Councilman Tyson. The vote was unanimous.

A motion was made by Councilman Turner to adjourn and enter executive session. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Chesser. The vote was unanimous.

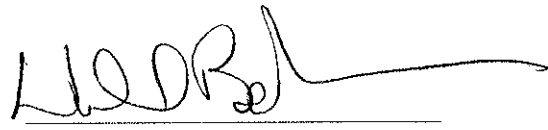
A motion was made by Councilman Turner to adjourn and enter regular session. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Chesser. The vote was unanimous.

A motion was made by Councilman Thompson to offer the Assistant City Manager position to Nick Overstreet and to allow the Mayor and Bill Torrance to work out the salary and contract agreement. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Chesser. The vote was unanimous.

A motion was made by Councilman Turner to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Chesser. The vote was unanimous.



Ronnie A. Dixon, Mayor



William E Bedingfield, City Clerk

