

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

1/9/2012
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, MARY MCINTYRE, REID THRELKELD – CITY ATTORNEY, FRANK WAITS – POLICE CHIEF, ZACK FOWLER – VIDALIA COMMUNICATION, KATHY BRADFORD – THE ADVANCE, CHRIS BLOXHAM – REPUBLIC, JEFF WEST – ESG, ROBBIE AKINS – ESG, BUDDY COLEMAN – FIRE CHIEF, TOMMY SASSER, RECREATION DIRECTOR

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

THE INVOCATION WAS GIVEN BY KEVIN HICKS.

OATH OF OFFICE – Toombs County Probate Court Judge Larry Threlkeld administered the Oath of Office to re-elected Councilmen Raymond Turner, Brian Frost and Councilwoman Lisa Chesser.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: - Teresa Ingley reported to the Council that February is spay and neuter month and that February 28, 2012 is the annual spaghetti supper to raise money for SOAPS.

Jerome Jones asked the Council if their License for the American Legion Post #313 included the game room that was previously open to the public. Mr. Torrance explained that the game room was a separate license issue and was not part of the American Legion approval. Mayor Dixon stated that this application needed to be reviewed by the license and permits committee and would be tabled until a meeting could be called.

DVA: - Paula Toole presented the new directors of the Downtown Vidalia Association to the Council. She also thanked the Council for their support in getting the lights replaced on the buildings in the downtown area. Also she updated the Council on activities that are under way in January.

TOOMBS MONTGOMERY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE – No report

FINANCIAL REPORT - BILL BEDINGFIELD – Mr. Bedingfield gave the financial report for the month of December. A motion was made by Councilman Tyson 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 December 12, 2011, the December 21, 2011 and the December 29, 2011 meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Chesser. The vote was unanimous.

AGENDA

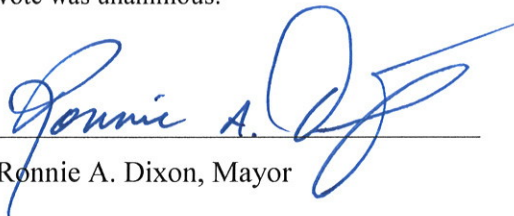
1. **SALE OF MONTGOMERY STREET PROPERTY** – Mr. Torrance informed the Council that, as requested at the December Council meeting, the property that was seized in a drug case was advertised for sale by sealed bids. The bid opening was Friday January 6, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. One bid was received from the Solomon Tabernacle Baptist Church in the amount of \$1500.00. Mr. Torrance explained that if sold the money would have to go back to the drug fund account, but that the account could be charged for the demolition of the houses that were removed from the property. Councilman Frost made a motion to approve the sale. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thompson. The vote was unanimous.
2. **GMEBS RETIREMENT PLAN** – Mr. Bedingfield presented the changes that were being adopted by the GMEBS Employee Retirement plan. He informed the Council that the City had to adopt the master plan annually and needed a motion to approve the Mayor to sign the agreement.

A motion was made by Councilman Tyson to approve the plan and allow Mayor Dixon to sign the document. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thompson. The vote was unanimous.

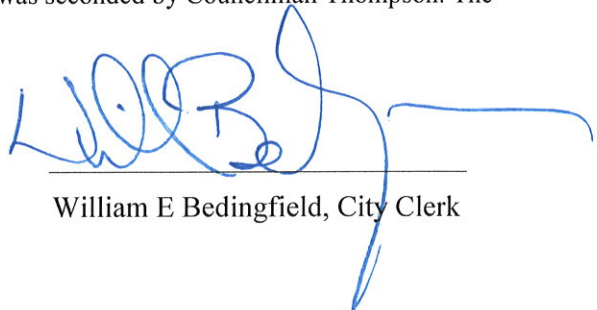
3. **HEALTH INSURANCE FUNDING** – Mr. Torrance asked the Council for approval to add \$30,000.00 to the health insurance escrow account. This would replace money approved by the Council in 2011 to fund an expense incurred by an employee that was not funded by the re-insurer. A motion was made by Councilman Tyson to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Councilman Turner. The vote was unanimous.
4. **ALCOHOL LICENSE APPLICATION FOR CANAPÉ** – Mr. Torrance presented a request from Canapé restaurant to add liquor to his alcohol permit for 2012. The application has met all requirements and the appropriate Department Heads have signed as required. A motion was made by Councilman Frost to approve the application. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Chesser. Councilman Thompson abstained. The vote was unanimous.
5. **ALCOHOL APPLICATION FOR THE ONION FESTIVAL** – Ingrid Varn from the Vidalia Area Convention and Visitors Bureau presented a request for an alcohol permit for the weekend of the Onion Festival. The application is complete and has been approved by all Department Heads. A motion was made by Councilman Frost to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Councilman Turner. The vote was unanimous. Councilman Thompson abstained.
6. **AMENDMENT TO THE ALCOHOL ORDINANCE** – Mr. Torrance presented to the Council an amendment to the alcohol ordinance that would strengthen the overall ordinance. Mr. Threlkeld stated that this would give the City greater latitude in protecting public safety. Councilman Tyson made a motion to approve the amendment. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Chesser. The vote was unanimous.
7. **2012 ANNUAL CHAMBER MEMBERSHIP DINNER** – Mr. Torrance reported that the deadline for the Chamber’s annual membership dinner was January 18, 2012 and those wishing to attend should contact Mary McIntyre by the deadline.
8. **MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS** – Mayor Dixon made no changes to the City Committee’s for 2012. He also presented the positions of City Attorney, City Auditors and City Judge to the city council for consideration and appointment for 2012. A motion was made by Councilman Turner to reappoint Reid Threlkeld as City Attorney, McLain, Calhoun, McCullough, Clark and company as city auditors and Mackey Bryant as City Judge. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thompson. The vote was unanimous.

CITY MANAGERS REPORT – No Report

Councilman Frost made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thompson. The vote was unanimous.



Ronnie A. Dixon, Mayor



William E Bedingfield, City Clerk

AMENDMENT TO CITY ORDINANCE

At a called meeting of the City Council of the City of Vidalia on January 9, 2012, upon motion by Councilman Tyson, with a second by Councilwoman Chesser, there was unanimous vote as follows:

That Chapter 4, Section 4-38 of the Code of Ordinances, City of Vidalia, Georgia, be and is hereby amended, adding a section to be numbered "J", which said section shall read as follows:

Sec. J. Supervision, Revocation, Non-Renewal or Probation.

1. The City Council may suspend, revoke, refuse to renew, or impose conditions of probation upon any license required under this chapter if:

(a) The violation by the license holder or his employee of any state or federal law or regulation, except misdemeanors or any ordinance of the city, other than traffic violations. The determination of whether any such violation has occurred shall be made by the hearing officer and an actual conviction in a court for such offense shall not be necessary in order to suspend or revoke the license.

(b) The failure of the license holder or his employee to report promptly to the police department any violation of law or municipal ordinance, breach of the peace, disturbance or altercation resulting in violence, occurring on the premises.

(c) Any conduct on the part of the owner of the business, the license holder or his employee contrary to the public welfare, safety, health or morals. While not to be considered a comprehensive or exhaustive listing of prohibited behavior, specific instances of prohibited behavior by the owner, the license holder and/or his employee include, but are not limited to the following:

- (i) Consumption or under the influence of alcoholic beverage while working or on duty;
- (ii) Breach of the peace, disturbance or altercation resulting in violence;
- (iii) The solicitation on the licensed premises by the owner, the license holder or by any employee of the license holder, for the license holder or employee or for any person other than a patron and guest of a patron, the purchase by the patron of any drink, whether alcoholic or nonalcoholic, or money with which to purchase the drink; the paying by a license holder of a commission or any other compensation to any person frequenting the establishment of the license holder or to the agent, employee or manager of the license holder to solicit the purchase by the patron of any drink, whether alcoholic or nonalcoholic. For purposes of this subsection,

- neither the owner, the license holder nor any employee of such license holder shall be considered a guest of any patron;
- (iv) The conviction of the owner, license holder, or employee of any felony reasonably related to the ability of the license holder to operate and maintain the premises in a proper manner;
 - (v) The violation of any state law or regulation governing the manufacture, sale, distribution or transportation of alcoholic beverages;
 - (vi) The violation of any section of O.C.G.A. Tit. 10, Ch. 1, Art. 15, Pt. 1 (O.C.G.A. § 10-1-370 et seq.), the Uniform Deceptive Trade Practices Act, reasonably related to the operation of licensed establishments;
 - (vii) Failure by the license holder to adequately supervise and monitor the conduct of the employees, patrons and others on the licensed premises or on any property owned or leased by the owner or license holder, including but not limited to parking lots and parking areas, or on any parking lots or areas which may be lawfully used by patrons of a licensed establishment, in order to protect the safety and well-being of the general public and of those utilizing the premises.

2. Operating or conducting the business in a manner contrary to the public welfare, safety, health or morals, or in such manner as to constitute a nuisance. Any combination totaling three (3) or more of the following occurrences within any thirty-day period shall constitute prima facie evidence that the license holder is operating or conducting an alcoholic beverage business in a manner which is contrary to the public welfare, safety, health or morals, or in such manner as to constitute a nuisance: Three (3) or more violations of law, violations of municipal ordinances, breach of the peace, disturbance or altercation resulting in violence, all occurring on the premises. The business license holder shall, upon suspension of violations of this section, have the burden of proving such occurrences were beyond his control and not related to the operation of his business.

3. The violation of any state law or regulation or municipal ordinance pertaining to alcoholic beverages.

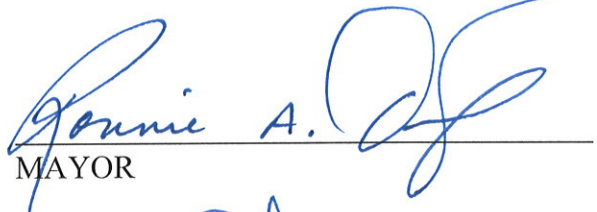
4. The violation of any provision contained in this article.

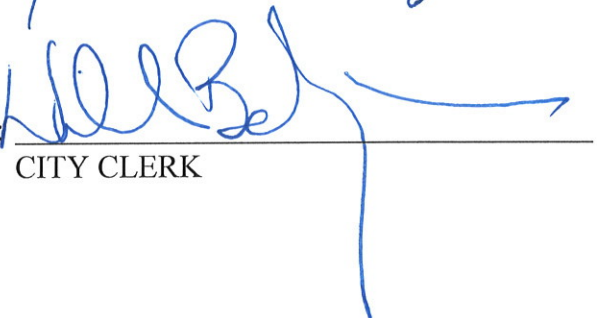
5. The selling or serving of any alcoholic beverage to any person that the license holder or the license holder's employee or agent knew or should have known to be in a state of intoxication.

6. If a firearm is discharged, or any other weapon, such as, but not limited to, a knife, brass knuckles, a blade etc., are used around a bar, on its grounds or approaches, including parking areas, or by any customer or employee upon leaving the bar while within 300 feet of the entrance to the bar, the police chief or his/her designee may place on suspension the liquor

license of any establishment for a period of three days; provided however, that if a firearm is discharged, or any person attempts to discharge a firearm, or any other weapon, such as, but not limited to, a knife, brass knuckles, a blade etc., is used within a bar's building premises the liquor license of such establishment shall be automatically placed on suspension for a three-day period and such period may be extended by the City Council as it sees fit for the process of a thorough investigation. Any such suspension of a liquor license for the discharge of a firearm, or other use or attempted use of a weapon, shall be accomplished by written notice to the licensee from the City Clerk or his/her designee of such suspension and the length of such suspension.

Approved this 9th day of January, 2012, by the Mayor and Council of the City of Vidalia.


MAYOR

Attest: 
CITY CLERK

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

2/13/12
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, MARY MCINTYRE, REID THRELKELD – CITY ATTORNEY, FRANK WAITS – POLICE CHIEF, KATHY BRADFORD – THE ADVANCE, JEFF WEST – ESG, ROBBIE AKINS – ESG, BUDDY COLEMAN – FIRE CHIEF, TOMMY SASSER, RECREATION DIRECTOR

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

THE INVOCATION WAS GIVEN BY REV. WILLIE HAYNES.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: - Pam Hamilton reported to the Council that February is spay and neuter month and that February 28, 2012 is the annual spaghetti supper to raise money for SOAPS. Mayor Dixon presented SOAPS with a Proclamation proclaiming February as Spay/Neuter awareness month and February 28, 2012 as Spay Day.

DVA: - Paula Toole presented to the Council activities of the DVA during the month. She noted that the DVA Committee was preparing for the Onion Festival by developing several activities for the Downtown area. She also reported that statements for 2012 dues had been mailed out to members.

TOOMBS MONTGOMERY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE – Bill Mitchell brought the Council up to date on activities of the Chamber. He thanked the Council for their participation at the Chamber's Annual Meeting. He also presented a list of upcoming meetings that the Council needed to be aware of including the Development Authority meeting on February 16, 2012 at 12:00 noon at the Chamber.

FINANCIAL REPORT - BILL BEDINGFIELD – Mr. Bedingfield gave the financial report for the month of January. A motion was made by Councilman Tyson 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 January 9, 2012 meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Chessier. The vote was unanimous.

AGENDA

1. **MEMBERSHIP IN THE GEORGIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE** – Mr. Torrance informed the Council that the City has been paying an annual membership fee of \$385.00 to the Georgia Chamber and that with the 2012 budget constraints he would like the Council's input on remaining a member. Mr. Torrance asked Bill Mitchell his opinion and he responded by saying the Georgia Chamber was very active is supporting the TSPLOST and he felt it was important to support the Chamber. Councilman Tyson made a motion to remain a member and to pay the dues. Councilman Turner seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.
2. **ENDORSEMENT OF AMERICAN LEGION GAME ROOM LICENSE** – Mr. Torrance asked the Council to affirm the administrative action which took place on January 19, 2012, approving the game room license of the American Legion Post #313 in Vidalia. No action was required, but the Council affirmed the decision made by the administration.
3. **APPROVAL OF THE LOCALIZER AND CLEARING PROJECT** – Mr. Torrance presented the contract for the localizer and clearing project at the Airport. This is the 2012 CIP funding from the FAA and the State of Georgia. The total project is for the \$332,382.00 and is funded with \$315,763.00 of federal, \$8310.00 of State and \$8309.00 of local money. The Council needs to

approve Mayor Dixon to sign the contract. A motion was made by Councilman Turner to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Councilman Frost. The vote was unanimous.

4. **STREETS AND SANITATION PUBLIC MEETING 1-25-2012-** Mr. Torrance updated the Council on the public meeting held on January 25, 2012. The subject of the meeting was traffic on Forest Lake Drive. (See attached minutes) Mr. Torrance stated that the vast majority of those in attendance were not in favor of any changes to the neighborhood. Mr. Torrance did recommend that new speed limit signs be erected from both directions and that the issue would be returned to the Streets and Sanitation Committee for further review.
5. **CDBG 2011 CONTRACT** – City Manager Bill Torrance gave an update of the changes that had been made to the Boys and Girls Club building to help bring the cost down. Mr. Torrance reported that the project, with the changes, is still under funded by approximately \$100,000.00, and funds need to be raised before the contract can be initiated. Mr. Torrance is recommending to the Council that the City match, up to \$50,000.00, funds that would be raised by the Boys and Girls Club Committee. The Committee feels they can get sufficient funds raised to get this project built with the City's match. The matching funds from the City would come from SPLOST. A motion was made by Councilwoman Chesser to approve the request and also give the Mayor authority to sign the contract to build the project. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thompson. The vote was unanimous. Councilman Turner abstained citing his association with the Club.

CITY MANAGERS REPORT – Mr. Torrance presented to the Council a request by Tower Cloud to lease a 4'x4'x8' ground space at the Cities 1st Street well. The lease would provide Ethernet service to Verizon for their 4G network service. The lease calls for payment of \$150.00 per month with an annual 2% increase. The Contract would be for 5 years with options to re-new. Mr. Torrance is recommending that Mr. Bedingfield respond back to Tower Cloud with a counter offer of \$200.00 a month with a 3% annual increase. Councilman Tyson made a motion to counter the offer as requested by Mr. Torrance and to allow the Mayor to negotiate for the City and sign the lease agreement. The motion was seconded by Councilman Turner. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Torrance brought the Council information from the Airport Committee meeting that took place on February 9, 2012. No action was required by the Council. (See Attached Minutes)

Chief Waits presented to the Council a copy of the Police Departments 2011 annual report. The report shows that crime in Vidalia was down in 2011 in every category but one which was homicide, but that there had only been one homicide which is the same as in the past two years. Chief Waits complimented his department for this decrease in crime, and he thanked the Council for their support. The Council asked Chief Waits to convey their appreciation to his staff for a job well done.

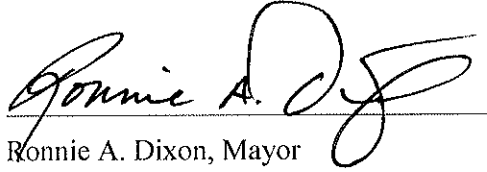
Mr. Torrance made the Council aware of a problem at our LAS treatment plant that would need to be addressed in the near future. The clarifier needs some repair and the settling pond needs to be dredged, and will probably cost in the \$40,000 range for each project. He pointed out that he has identified the availability of funds for these repairs from either SPLOST or from the water and sewer fund. He gave this report as information only and stated that as soon as he had final numbers he would bring it back to the Council for approval.

City Attorney Reid Threlkeld informed the Council that he received a letter from the Department of Justice approving the annexations presented to the department by the City. The properties are on Bob Sharpe Road and Ezra Taylor Road and were approved at the December 12, 2011 Council meeting. (See Attached)

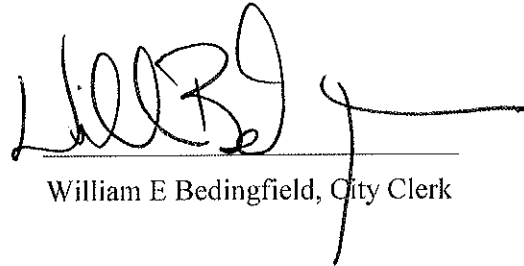
Councilwoman Chesser made a motion to adjourn and enter executive session to discuss possible litigation. The motion was seconded by Councilman Turner. The vote was unanimous.

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

Being no further business Councilman Frost made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thompson. The vote was unanimous.



Ronnie A. Dixon, Mayor



William E Bedingfield, City Clerk

**Streets and Sanitation
Public Hearing
January 25, 2012
5:30 p.m.**

PRESENT: Lisa Chesser, Raymond Turner, Ronnie Dixon -Non-members present - Bill Torrance, Bill Bedingfield, Frank Waits, Roger Calloway, Randy Clark, Shaun Oliver (See Attached List for Attendees)

- 1. Forest Lake Drive Traffic** – The public hearing was called to order by City Manager Bill Torrance. Mr. Torrance explained to those present that several complaints had been received concerning speeding on Forest Lake Drive. He then outlined how the Street came into existence and the concerns that had come up in the past. He pointed out that speed breakers had been used in the past, but caused more problems than they solved. He also told the audience that several traffic studies had been done and that the results indicated that the average speed was just 25.48 miles per hour. Of the 2216 cars that were recorded during the study only 3% were ticketable by the City. He then asked if anyone in attendance would like to speak concerning the issue. Don Davis who lives on Forest Lake Drive spoke on behalf of doing something about the speeding in the neighborhood. His concern was for safety and quality of life in the area and asked that the City look at several alternatives that would slow traffic down, but he did not advocate speed breakers. Several citizens then spoke against any major changes to the area, but recommended that speed limit signs needed to be put up in both directions approaching the curve located in front of Mr. Davis' house. Also it was recommended that the traffic study sign used by the City be placed in the opposite direction. Chief Waits responded that the results presented tonight represented studies that had been done in both directions. Dr. Wayne Williams pointed out that there were no accidents in the area and this would indicate that safety did not seem to be an issue. Gwen Davis responded that there were a number of accidents that have taken place on the street and proceeded to list them. Chief Waits pointed out that the accidents referred to were for DUIs and not directly related to speed. Mayor Dixon asked if anyone had a specific idea that they favored or opposed in addressing this issue. Judge Sherry McDonald spoke in favor of not making any changes to the street. Several others in the audience echoed her sentiment. Several property owners recommended that they talk among themselves and ask everyone in the neighborhood to obey the speed limit and see if this would solve the issue. Mr. Torrance thanked those in attendance for their input and recommended that we study this issue further by changing the radar sign to study the traffic from the opposite direction, and for the home owners to talk among themselves and bring back suggestions to the City. He stated that he would call another hearing in a few weeks and make every attempt to notify the public of the date and time. Being no further business the meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

3/12/12
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, MARY MCINTYRE, REID THRELKELD – CITY ATTORNEY, FRANK WAITS – POLICE CHIEF, KATHY BRADFORD – THE ADVANCE, ZACK FOWLER- VIDALIA COMMUNICATION, JEFF WEST – ESG, ROBBIE AKINS – ESG, BUDDY COLEMAN – FIRE CHIEF

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

THE INVOCATION WAS GIVEN BY BILL TORRANCE

PUBLIC COMMENTS: - None

DVA: - Paula Toole brought the Council up to date on activities of the DVA. Mrs. Toole asked the Council if she could close Meadows Street on March 26th and 27th for a Gospel Music Fest to be held in the Meadows Street Park. Mrs. Toole informed the Council that 10 groups would be performing at the event. The request would be to close Meadows Street on the west end and up to the entrance to the parking lot behind the old Darby Bank office building. A motion was made by Councilwoman Chesser to approve the closing. The motion was seconded by Councilman Tyson. The vote was unanimous.

TOOMBS MONTGOMERY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE – Bill Mitchell updated the Council on Activities of the Chamber. He asked the Council to save the date of May 11, 2012 for Showcasing Toombs-Montgomery. He said this year's theme was "Join Jack Sparrow," and that the event would be held at the Vidalia Community Center.

FINANCIAL REPORT - BILL BEDINGFIELD – Mr. Bedingfield gave the financial report for the month of February. 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 Councilwoman Chesser to approve the minutes from the February 13, 2012 meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thompson. The vote was unanimous.

AGENDA

- 1. STREETS AND SANITATION PUBLIC MEETING** – City Manager Bill Torrance brought the Council the recommendation from the Streets and Sanitation public meeting that took place on March 1, 2012. (see attached minutes) The meeting was a follow-up meeting concerning traffic on Forest Lake Drive. He outlined the results of the traffic study, and pointed out that new signs had been erected clearly identifying the 25 mile per hour limit, and identifying the area as a residential zone which allows, at the officers discretion, the issuance of citations at 1 m.p.h. over the speed limit. The committee, along with the additional signage, recommended that the Police put a priority on patrolling the area as well as all residential areas in the City. The Committee did not recommend speed breakers. Councilman Tyson made a motion to accept the Committee's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilman Frost. The vote was unanimous. Councilwoman Chesser pointed out that more than one City resident had complained about speeding in the neighborhood. She also pointed out that while the 1 week study done in January indicated over 100 cars were travelling in excess of 15 miles per hour over the speed limit, if you multiply that out over a full year, it may change your perspective of the issue in the area. She asked the Council to be cognizant of the fact that the residents in the area deal with the issue 52 weeks a year.

2. **GAME ROOM APPLICATION** – Mr. Torrance presented to the Council a request by Tabatha Morris for a game room license on Mose Coleman Drive. The application for Coop and Tuck's Game Room is complete and all department heads have signed the application. Councilman Frost made a motion to approve the application. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thompson. The vote was unanimous.
3. **REVOLVING LOAN** – Mr. Torrance presented to the Council the recommendation of the Revolving Loan Committee requesting a change to Riley McDonald's loan. (see attached minutes) The request is to amend the current loan by extending it an additional 18 months. This would reduce the payment to a manageable amount that Mr. McDonald could handle. Councilman Tyson made a motion to approve the request. Councilman Thompson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

CITY MANAGERS REPORT –


Mr. Torrance asked the Council to come to the Boys and Girls Club ground breaking on Tuesday, March 15, 2012 at 10:00 o'clock. He also informed the Council that he would be discussing the CDBG and FAA grants on Vidalia today Tuesday morning. Mr. Torrance also outlined a plan to repair some of the worst areas on Adams Street at a cost of around \$25,000. Councilman Tyson made a motion to approve getting bids on the project and to fund it from SPLOST. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Chesser. The vote was unanimous.

Councilwoman Chesser informed the Council that Ann Owens had called her to compliment the Police Department on their handling of a high speed chase that had taken place in the City. Mrs. Chesser complimented the Police Chief and asked that he pass this along to his staff.

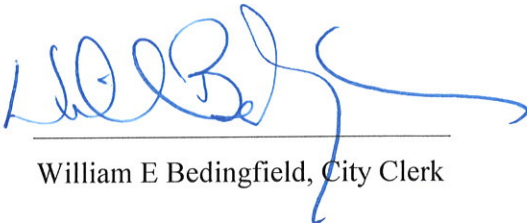
Councilwoman Chesser made a motion to adjourn and enter executive session to discuss potential litigation. The motion was seconded by Councilman Tyson. The vote was unanimous.

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

Being no further business Councilman Frost made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thompson. The vote was unanimous.



Ronnie A. Dixon, Mayor



William E Bedingfield, City Clerk

**Airport Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 9, 2012
10:00 am**

**PRESENT: Members – Mayor Dixon, Cecil Thompson, Brian Frost
Non-members - Bill Torrance, Bill Bedingfield and Bobby Smith**

1. **Bobby Smith Hangar Rent** – Bobby Smith asked the committee to reduce his hanger rent from the current \$250.00 to an amount more manageable. His rationale is that business is not sufficient enough to support the current rent and that he is not getting credit for all the fuel he is buying in Vidalia. The rent calls for Bobby to pay on a sliding scale based on the amount of fuel he purchases during the month. The rate could be a high of \$250 a month with no fuel purchased to a low of \$100 a month with 425 gallons purchased. Airport Manager Kevin Britton presented to the committee a report that showed the monthly rate Mr. Smith had been paying based on his purchase of fuel since he signed the lease agreement. Mr. Smith assured the committee that he was making every attempt to purchase fuel and generate business in Vidalia, but that the economy was preventing him from meeting his goal. After much discussion the committee recommended that Mr. Smith's rent be reduced to a flat \$150.00 a month, and that he was to keep a log of fuel that was purchased in Vidalia and give a copy to Airport Manager Kevin Britton with all back up receipts and supporting documentation.
2. **Building additional hangar** – Kevin Britton outlined a plan to build an additional hanger at the Airport that would be 7200 square feet in size and could possibly be financed by FAA money. The plan calls for adding this project to our five year CIP for the Airport and then getting FAA approval. The hangar would house the Air-Evac helicopter and one fixed wing aircraft, a Beech King Air 200. The Airport would need to build office and crew quarters that would not be funded by FAA money, which would require the Airport to fund this construction on its own. Mr. Britton presented several financing options that would be paid for by revenue generated from the lease to Air-Evac. The Committee instructed Mr. Britton to pursue funding from the FAA and to see if Air-Evac would be willing to sign a long term lease if the hangar was built. The Committee would re-visit the construction of the hangar when more information was gathered.
3. **Approach Light Road** – City Manager Bill Torrance brought the committee up to date on the beaver problem that was causing the approach light road to erode. He stated that more work needed to be done, but it was a long term process that required removing the beavers from the area, and ensuring that they don't return.

**Revolving Loan
Meeting Minutes
February 26, 2012
1:30 pm**

PRESENT: **Members – Bill Torrance, Les Ramsey, Michelle Johnson, Archie Branch**
 Non-members – Bill Bedingfield

- 1. Loan Restructure for Riley McDonald** – Mr. Riley McDonald asked the committee to restructure the revolving loan on his failed barbeque business to allow him time to payout the note and avoid foreclosure. The request would extend the loan an additional 18 months and thereby reduce the payment to \$605.00 a month. All collateral would remain the same. Chairman Ramsey stated that the request was reasonable and in line with what any bank would allow. Mr. Torrance made a motion to accept the request and extend the note. The motion was seconded by Archie Branch. The vote was unanimous.

Being no further business the meeting adjourned.

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

April 9, 2012
MINUTES

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

NON-MEMBERS PRESENT: BILL TORRANCE – CITY MANAGER, BILL BEDINGFIELD - FINANCE DIRECTOR/CITY CLERK, REID THRELKELD – CITY ATTORNEY, FRANK WAITS – POLICE CHIEF, KATHY BRADFORD – THE ADVANCE, ZACK FOWLER-VIDALIA COMMUNICATION, JEFF WEST – ESG, ROBBIE AKINS – ESG, BUDDY COLEMAN – FIRE CHIEF, TOMMY SASSER – RECREATION DIRECTOR, ROGER CALLOWAY – ASSISTANT POLICE CHIEF, CAPTAIN RANDY CLARK – VIDALIA POLICE, CAPTAIN CLINT KENNEDY – VIDALIA POLICE

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

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS: - Tim Truxell, Chairman of the 2012 Vidalia Onion Festival, presented to the Council the official T-shirt of the 2012 Festival along with their VIP passes to this year's hospitality tent. He also thanked the Council for their support of the Festival Committee and pointed out that this year will bring many changes to the festival and he hopes that the feedback from the public will be mostly positive. He specifically outlined this year's festival format for the Council.

Robbie Akins of ESG presented to the Council an award for Water System of the Year presented by the Georgia Association of Water Professionals. He also presented a Gold award for the City's water and sewer department and a Safety award for the City's water system. The Council thanked Robbie for the outstanding job and asked that he pass along the Council's appreciation to the rest of his staff.

Sandra Key asked the Council for an update on the graffiti that vandals had done in the downtown area, and would any repainting be done before the Onion Festival. Mr. Torrance explained that the City could not go onto private property and do any repainting, but assured Mrs. Key that the investigation was continuing. The Property owners, according to Mr. Torrance, would need to handle the removal of graffiti on their own. The Council instructed Mr. Torrance to identify the areas that needed to be repainted and get with the owners to see what could be done to remove or lessen the unsightliness of the graffiti before the Onion Festival.

DVA: - None

TOOMBS MONTGOMERY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE – Bill Mitchell brought the Council up to date on activities of the Chamber of Commerce for the month of April. He asked the Council to plan to attend the Showcasing Toombs Montgomery event on Friday May 11, 2012, at the Vidalia Community Center. He also stated that the new community map is at the Chamber and would like to invite the Council to drop by to review it on Wednesday April 11, 2012, between the hours of two and five p.m.

FINANCIAL REPORT - BILL BEDINGFIELD – Mr. Bedingfield gave the financial report for the month of March. A motion was made by Councilman Frost 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 March 12, 2012 meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thompson. The vote was unanimous.

AGENDA

1. **Certification of Police Department** – Chief Waits introduced Frank Rotondo, Executive Director of the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police, who presented to the City Police Department their

State Re-certification Award. He complimented the Department on achieving this prestigious award, and spoke to the Council about the difficulty of becoming a certified department. He then pointed out that after becoming certified the difficulty was to maintain certification. He said he was especially proud of the City of Vidalia's Department for maintaining their certification. He then presented the award to Mayor Dixon and Chief Waits. He also presented a certificate of appreciation to Lawanda Beasley for her work, in not only securing this award, but for maintaining the records that help keep the department in compliance.

2. **Donald Brantley Request for sewer at Church** – Donald Brantley, representing the North Thompson Baptist Church, is requesting that the City allow the Church to tap into the sewer system without purchasing water. Mr. Torrance informed the Council that the installation was not something that would cost the City any money because the Church would install a lift station to pump the sewer to one of our manholes, but that we would not be able to accurately track what the flow into our system would be without water being metered. Mayor Dixon tabled the request and referred it back to the water and sewer committee.
3. **Internet Café Moratorium** – Mr. Torrance brought the Council up to date on the 270 day moratorium on internet sweepstakes gambling passed by the Council on August 8, 2011. The effective end date of the moratorium is May 4, 2012, and the Council needs to decide whether to extend the moratorium or to pass an ordinance effectively banning internet cafés from operating in Vidalia. Mr. Torrance recommended that the License, Taxes and Permits committee meet and investigate the bill passed by the Legislature and see if the new law will meet the needs of the City. The Council agreed and asked City Attorney Reid Threlkeld to check with the State and get back to the committee on the new law.
4. **Capital Change Request for Fire Department** – Mr. Torrance would like the Council's approval to change the Fire Department's capital request by not purchasing the approved breathing apparatus and two oxygen tanks and allocating the money to a new lawn mower. Mr. Torrance pointed out to the Council that the Fire Department had been using a handed down mower for a number of years, but that it was in terrible disrepair and needed to be replaced. He also stated that the breathing equipment was not an emergency need and could be added back to next year's capital request. A motion was made by Councilman Turner to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Chesser. The vote was unanimous.
5. **Benches and Trash Can for 280 West** – Mr. Torrance presented a request to add two benches and a trash receptacle, at a cost of \$3698.60, to Hwy 280 West between Church Street and Leader Street. He pointed out that this could be added to the Street Scape project that will be coming up next year on the north side of town, and paid from that SPLOST project. A motion was made by Councilwoman Chesser to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thompson. The vote was unanimous.
6. **United Way Rent** – Mr. Torrance brought it to the Council's attention that Darby Bank had always paid the rent of the United Way office located in the Vidalia Museum building, but that Ameris Bank was not going to continue the practice. The rent has always been paid annually from April to March and was for the prior year. Mr. Torrance explained that Patricia Dixon has sent a check in for the rent, but was requesting that the money be used for the current year's rent and that the Council forgive the rent for the previous year. Councilman Turner made a motion to forgive the past year's rent. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thompson. The vote was unanimous.
7. **Onion Festival Ad** – Daniel Ford, with the Vidalia Advance, submitted a request for the Council to again place an ad in the newspaper's annual Onion Festival edition. The full page ad would be in color this year at a cost of \$425.00. Councilwoman Chesser made a motion to place the ad and to pay for it out of the Council's legislative capital account. The motion was seconded by Councilman Frost. The vote was unanimous.

8. **Street Name Request from the Braden Group** – Mr. Torrance presented a request from the Braden Group, the company building Faith Crossing Apartments, to name the new street that services the apartments Agan Drive. The apartments are located on Hwy 292 across from the Bethany Home. Mr. Torrance recommended to the Council that the City approve the name contingent upon the completed street meeting all city standards. A motion was made by Councilwoman Chesser to approve the recommendation made by Mr. Torrance. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thompson. The vote was unanimous.
9. **Alcohol Permit – Pal Theater** – A request for an alcohol permit was submitted by Ann Owens of the Pal Theater in Vidalia. All departments have reviewed the application and have signed where required. A motion was made by Councilman Frost to approve the application. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Chesser. The vote was unanimous. Councilman Thompson abstained.
10. **Alcohol Permit – Chamber One Day Request** - A request for a one day alcohol permit for Friday May 11, 2012, was submitted by Debbie Evans of the Chamber of Commerce. All departments have reviewed the application and have signed where required. A motion was made by Councilman Frost to approve the application. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Chesser. The vote was unanimous. Councilman Thompson abstained.

CITY MANAGERS REPORT – Mr. Torrance presented a request to have Harry Harper clean up the Meadows Street Park for \$1500.00. This would include replacing worn and weathered wood on benches and repainting them, also pressure washing the gazebo and other general repairs. Mr. Torrance stated that Harry Harper would have this work done before the Onion Festival. Councilwoman Chesser made a motion to approve the request with funding coming from the Council's legislative capital. The motion was seconded by Councilman Turner. The vote was unanimous.

He also presented a request to replace the camera that ESG uses to monitor sewer lines in the City. Mr. Torrance explained that the existing camera was in need of repair and would cost about as much as a new one to repair. He also pointed out that this new model comes with a lifetime warranty. The camera would cost approximately \$11,000.00. Mr. Torrance proposed the funding come from the equipment line item in SPLOST. Councilman Thompson made a motion to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Councilman Frost. The vote was unanimous.

Councilwoman Chesser made a motion to adjourn and enter executive session to discuss potential litigation. The motion was seconded by Councilman Turner. The vote was unanimous.

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

Being no further business Councilman Frost made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thompson. The vote was unanimous.



Ronnie A. Dixon, Mayor



William E Bedingfield, City Clerk

WATER/SEWER COMMITTEE MEETING

April 24, 2012

9:30 a.m.

PRESENT: Eddie Tyson, Lisa Chesser, Cecil Thompson was present by phone. Non-members present Bill Torrance, Bill Bedingfield, Donald Brantley, Jeff West and Robbie Akins.

1. **North Thompson Baptist Church** – Mr. Torrance presented to the committee a request from Donald Brantley, on behalf of the North Thompson Baptist Church, to hook onto the city's sewer system. The Church is not located in the City and would need to run a sewer line approximately 188 feet to reach a City manhole. This connection might require a lift station that would be installed and maintained by the Church, to help pump the sewer to the manhole. Mr. Torrance explained that all cost associated with this installation would be the Church's responsibility. Mr. Torrance also explained that the only way the City could meter the sewer activity was if the Church also hooked up to the City's water system. Mr. Brantley informed the Committee that hooking up to both water and sewer was not a problem, and was asking the Committee to allow the Church to make both connections. He also explained that they were going to install a lift station rather than try to use gravity for the sewer hookup. Jeff West told the Committee that the fees from the City, to provide the necessary taps, would be about \$1500.00. Finance Director Bedingfield explained that the out of town rates are \$8.50 for 2000 gallons on both water and sewer and would result in the Church having a minimum bill of \$17.00 per month. He also informed them that there was a required \$100.00 refundable deposit on the account. The Committee was in agreement that the request be approved and that it be recommended to the Council. Mr. Torrance informed Mr. Brantley that the recommendation would be presented to the full Council at the regular meeting on May 14, 2012, at 6:00 p.m.
2. **Lift Station #2** – Mr. Torrance explained to the Committee that an 88 hp pump at lift station #2 had gone out and was not working, and that to repair it would cost \$22, 000.00. Mr. Torrance stated that this pump is 20 years old and it would be his recommendation to purchase a new pump and not repair the old one. Mr. Torrance explained that a new more efficient pump could be purchased for \$32,780.85. Mr. Torrance recommended that the new pump be paid from SPLOST. The Committee was in agreement that the City purchases the new pump and to take this recommendation to the Council.

Being no further business the Committee adjourned.

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 9th day of April, 2012.

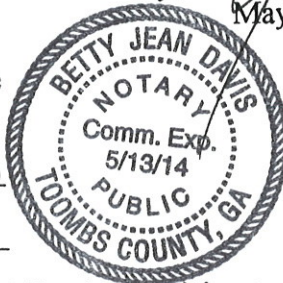
CITY OF VIDALIA

By: _____

Mayor or Presiding Officer

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

Betty Jean Davis
Notary Public, State of Georgia
Commission Expires 5-13-14



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

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

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

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

May 14, 2012

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, REID THRELKELD – CITY ATTORNEY, FRANK WAITS – POLICE CHIEF, KATHY BRADFORD – THE ADVANCE, ZACK FOWLER-VIDALIA COMMUNICATION, JEFF WEST – ESG, BUDDY COLEMAN – FIRE CHIEF

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

THE INVOCATION WAS GIVEN BY BOBBY THOMPSON

PUBLIC COMMENTS: - Ann Owens requested that the Council allow the DVA to close the alley next to her business on May 21, 2012, between the hours of 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. The request is for a fundraising dinner for Alicia Salgado, a DVA member who passed away last month. A motion was made by Councilman Frost to allow the closing. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thompson. The vote was unanimous.

Dr. Tracy Williams addressed the Council and requested their support for the Triathlon that will take place on October 6, 2012. She told the Council that all proceeds from the event would go to benefit Pretty in Pink and the United Way. She also asked the Council for use of the Community Center for an after party on the evening of the 6th. Also on October 5, 2012, registration for the event will be held in the Meadows Street Park and she is asking the Council if Meadows Street can be closed from 6 pm until 9:30 pm. Councilman Turner made a motion to approve the closing. The motion was seconded by Councilman Tyson. The vote was unanimous.

DVA: - No Report

TOOMBS MONTGOMERY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE – Bill Mitchell presented to the Council the activities of the Toombs Montgomery Chamber for the month. He thanked the Council and expressed his appreciation for the donation of the Community Center for the Showcasing Toombs Montgomery event held last weekend. Mr. Mitchell told the Council that this year's event was one of the most successful ever. He also told the Council that Chicken of the Sea announced that they are adding an additional 40% capacity to their freezer space which will add approximately 50 jobs to the area.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – A motion was made by Councilman Frost to approve the minutes from the April 9, 2012, meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Turner. The vote was unanimous.

AGENDA

1. **WATER AND SEWER MEETING 4/24/12** – Mr. Torrance presented a request from the Thompson Street Baptist Church to hook to the City's water and sewer system. The committee met on April 24, 2012, and is recommending the Church be allowed to hook onto both water and sewer. (see attached minutes) There would be no cost to the City. Donald Brantley, representing the Church, stated that the Church was willing to pay the necessary fees associated with the hook-up. A motion was made by Councilman Thompson to allow the Church to hook to the water sewer system. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Chessier. The vote was unanimous. The committee also recommended that a new 88hp pump be purchased for lift station #2 at a cost of \$32,780.85. The current pump is over 20 years old as is not worth re-building. The funds would

come from the SPLOST equipment line item. Councilman Tyson made a motion to approve the purchase. The motion was seconded by Councilman Turner. The vote was unanimous.

2. **DOWNTOWN BUILDING LIGHTS** – Mr. Torrance reported to the Council that the City would need approximately 1100 additional LED lights to finish replacing the defective ones in the downtown area. After researching pricing from numerous sources the best price found would be \$1.15 each. The Council recommended that the City go back and research the bulbs and see if we could find a light that would be a better value than the ones used now. It was also recommended that we turn the lights off until we find a satisfactory light at a reasonable price.
3. **UNITED WAY GOLF TOURNAMENT** – This years United Way Golf Tournament will be held on May 24, 2012. Mr. Torrance stated that the Council usually puts a team in the Tournament and would like to know if they will do so again this year. He also stated that ESG and SES are putting in a team. A motion was made by Councilman Tyson to put a team in for the City and pay for it from the Councils legislative capital. The motion was seconded by Councilman Turner. The vote was unanimous.
4. **ALLEY WAY FROM SEVENTH TO SYMONDS** – Mr. Torrance presented a request from a property owner on Seventh Avenue for the City to quit claim the alley, which the City no longer uses, to him and the other property owners along the alleyway that bounds their property. City Attorney Reid Threlkeld stated that all property owners would need to petition the City together before the city could deed the property over. Councilman Turner stated that he would get with the property owners and inform them of the process they needed to follow.
5. **ALCOHOL PERMIT E-Z TRIP AND T-N-T LANES** – Mr. Torrance presented to the Council a request by E-Z Tripp for an off-premise beer only alcohol permit. All departments have reviewed the application and signed where needed. 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.
Mr. Torrance presented to the Council a request by T-N-T Lanes for an on-premise beer and wine alcohol permit. All departments have reviewed the application and signed where needed. 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.
6. **INTERNET CAFÉ ORDINANCE** – City Attorney Reid Threlkeld brought the Council up to date on the new law passed by the legislature that addresses internet cafes. He presented an Ordinance Amendment for the City that meets the new requirements of this legislation and stated that it needs to be approved by the Council. Councilman Tyson made a motion to approve the ordinance. Councilwoman Chesser seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

CITY MANAGERS REPORT –

Mr. Torrance presented the minutes from the Revolving Loan Committee held May 10, 2012. (See attached) The committee is recommending a loan to US Energy Sciences in the amount of \$100,000.00 for parking and fencing improvements and for approximately \$67,000.00 to pay off an existing revolving loan from the Development Authority. The terms of the loan are for 84 months at 3% interest. A second position on the land and building at 406 Dixon Street would be collateral along with the personal guaranties of Cynthia Hicks and Andy Loosberg. A motion was made by Councilwoman Chesser to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thompson. The vote was unanimous.

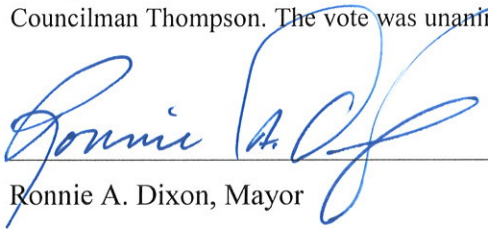
Mr. Torrance presented to the Council a report showing the monthly cost for the street lights on the new road that the City will acquire from Faith Crossing Apartments. The cost would be \$89.90 per month, and will need Council approval when the road is accepted by the City. Councilwoman Chesser questioned the use of a 250 watt light versus the 100 watt lights and asked Mr. Torrance his rational for using the larger bulb. Mr. Torrance stated that Georgia Power had done a study and has recommended five 250 watt lights to sufficiently cover the area. Councilman Turner made a motion to accept the recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thompson. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Torrance recommended to the Council that one certified police officer position be replaced with one certified probation officer at the same pay grade. A motion was made by Councilman Turner to approve the recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilman Frost. The vote was unanimous.

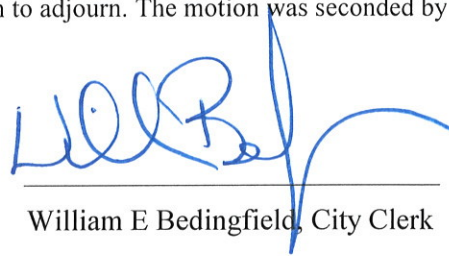
Councilman Turner made a motion to adjourn and enter executive session. The motion was seconded by Councilman Tyson. The vote was unanimous.

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

Being no further business, Councilman Frost made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thompson. The vote was unanimous.



Ronnie A. Dixon, Mayor



William E Bedingfield, City Clerk

**Revolving Loan
Meeting Minutes
May 10, 2012
10:00 a.m.**

PRESENT: **Members – Bill Torrance, Les Ramsey, Michelle Johnson, Archie Branch, Tom Peterson and Matt Oxley**
 Non-members – Bill Bedingfield

- 1. US ENERGY SCIENCES, INC.** – Chairman Les Ramsey presented a revolving loan application from US Energy Sciences requesting \$100,000.00 for parking lot improvements and for security fencing. The request is also to consolidate an existing revolving loan with the development authority. This would bring the request to approximately 167,000.00. Mr. Ramsey informed the committee that the collateral, which included taking a second position on 406 Dixon Street, would be sufficient to cover the request, but also recommended that personal guaranties be required. He stated the company had sufficient cash flow that would easily cover the loan. Mr. Bedingfield told the committee that the revolving loan account had \$205,000.00 in the bank and could fund the request. He also stated that the request was for 84 months at 3% interest. Mr. Torrance made a motion to accept the request and to include paying out the development authority. His motion included taking a second position on the land and building at 406 Dixon Street and requiring the personal guaranty of the principal owners Cynthia Hicks and Andy Loosberg. The motion was seconded by Archie Branch. The vote was unanimous.

Being no further business the meeting adjourned.

WATER/SEWER COMMITTEE MEETING

April 24, 2012

9:30 a.m.

PRESENT: Eddie Tyson, Lisa Chesser, Cecil Thompson was present by phone. Non-members present Bill Torrance, Bill Bedingfield, Donald Brantley, Jeff West and Robbie Akins.

1. **North Thompson Baptist Church** – Mr. Torrance presented to the committee a request from Donald Brantley, on behalf of the North Thompson Baptist Church, to hook onto the city's sewer system. The Church is not located in the City and would need to run a sewer line approximately 188 feet to reach a City manhole. This connection might require a lift station that would be installed and maintained by the Church, to help pump the sewer to the manhole. Mr. Torrance explained that all cost associated with this installation would be the Church's responsibility. Mr. Torrance also explained that the only way the City could meter the sewer activity was if the Church also hooked up to the City's water system. Mr. Brantley informed the Committee that hooking up to both water and sewer was not a problem, and was asking the Committee to allow the Church to make both connections. He also explained that they were going to install a lift station rather than try to use gravity for the sewer hookup. Jeff West told the Committee that the fees from the City, to provide the necessary taps, would be about \$1500.00. Finance Director Bedingfield explained that the out of town rates are \$8.50 for 2000 gallons on both water and sewer and would result in the Church having a minimum bill of \$17.00 per month. He also informed them that there was a required \$100.00 refundable deposit on the account. The Committee was in agreement that the request be approved and that it be recommended to the Council. Mr. Torrance informed Mr. Brantley that the recommendation would be presented to the full Council at the regular meeting on May 14, 2012, at 6:00 p.m.
2. **Lift Station #2** – Mr. Torrance explained to the Committee that an 88 hp pump at lift station #2 had gone out and was not working, and that to repair it would cost \$22, 000.00. Mr. Torrance stated that this pump is 20 years old and it would be his recommendation to purchase a new pump and not repair the old one. Mr. Torrance explained that a new more efficient pump could be purchased for \$32,780.85. Mr. Torrance recommended that the new pump be paid from SPLOST. The Committee was in agreement that the City purchases the new pump and to take this recommendation to the Council.

Being no further business the Committee adjourned.

ROSTER

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

DATE: 5/14/2012

WE WELCOME ALL OF OUR VISITORS TO THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING. PLEASE PRINT YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS FOR OUR RECORDS.

NAME	ADDRESS
Tracey Leaver-Williams	1912 Lakewood Dr Vidalia
Richard Williams	as above
Ann E Powers	100 SW Main, Vidalia
James Jordan	5006 Hwy 15
Virsula Spence	P.O. Box 1328, Vidalia (GA 30475)
John Spence	" "
Bill Wadsworth	
Bobby Thompson	



REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

06/11/2012

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: RAYMOND TURNER, CECIL THOMPSON, BRIAN FROST, AND EDDIE TYSON

NON-MEMBERS PRESENT: BILL TORRANCE – CITY MANAGER, BILL BEDINGFIELD, FINANCE DIRECTOR/CITY CLERK, MARY MCINTYRE, REID THRELKELD – CITY ATTORNEY, FRANK WAITS – POLICE CHIEF, JOHN COON - VIDALIA COMMUNICATION, JEFF WEST – ESG, CHRIS BLOXHAM – REPUBLIC, BUDDY COLEMAN - FIRE CHIEF, TOMMY SASSER – RECREATION DIRECTOR

MAYOR PRO TEM TURNER BROUGHT THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 6:00p.m.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS: - Tim Truxel, Chairman of the 2012 Vidalia Onion Festival, gave the Council an update on the festivals overall success. Mr. Truxel stated that this year's festival was very successful and was able to increase the reserves by \$45,402.00 in 2012. He presented a 5 year budget that proposes to take the reserved funds to approximately \$179,402.00. He thanked the Council for all of their support and promised that the committee has learned from their mistakes and would carry this knowledge forward. He presented Les Salter and Tom Cato as two new members to the committee and requested that the Council approve these members. Mr. Torrance explained that the Committee needed to make the recommendation to the Council after they had recommended the new members. Mr. Truxel stated that he would take that back to the Committee and then bring back the request to the Council when approved.

Ophelia Gaines, from the Concerted Services, wanted to thank the Council for their support during the past 15 years. She also introduced Mr. Bryan Singleton, Concerted Services Human Resource Director, who made a short presentation outlining the activities of the center and the work they do for senior citizens in Vidalia. He stated that 105 hot meals a week are provided for local seniors at the center and that 400 meals a week are delivered to local homes. The Council thanked them for the work they do for the community and for bringing this activity to the Council's attention.

DVA: - Paula Toole gave the Council an update on activities of the DVA for the month. Mrs. Toole informed the Council that the fund raiser held for deceased DVA member Alicia Salgado raised almost \$5000.00 dollars. The money from this event will be presented to the Salgado family at a memorial service on June 24, 2012. The event will be held at the First Baptist Church at 2:00 pm and the DVA would like all Council members to attend if possible. She also informed the Council that the Downtown Vidalia and Main Street Vidalia had again been designated as an accredited National Main Street Program. All 10 standards and criteria were met in 2012 and the letter of approval was received in April.

TOOMBS MONTGOMERY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE – Bill Mitchell gave an update of Chamber activities for the upcoming month. He pointed out that the Toombs County Development Authority will meet Thursday June 21, 2012, at the Chamber office at 12:00 noon. Mr. Mitchell also informed the Council that the Chamber was in talks with a company that could possibly be bringing 50 high paying jobs to the area, but discussions are still in the development phase.

FINANCIAL REPORT - BILL BEDINGFIELD – Mr. Bedingfield gave the financial report for the month of May. 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 Tyson to approve the minutes from the May 14, 2012 meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thompson. The vote was unanimous.

AGENDA

1. **DELETING RIGHTS TO JURY TRIAL IN A DISORDERLY CONDUCT CASE** – Mr. Torrance presented to the Council a request to amend the City Ordinance by deleting paragraph (d) of Chapter 13, Section 13 of the City Code of Ordinances. Reid Threlkeld told the Council that the current ordinance, allowing for a jury trial in a disorderly conduct case, was not consistent with our City Court and needed to be changed. A motion was made by Councilman Thompson to amend the Ordinance as recommended. The motion was seconded by Councilman Frost. The vote was unanimous.
2. **OUTDOOR BUILDING LIGHTS** – Mr. Torrance presented to the Council the updated list of vendors and their pricing for the LED lights needed to replace the ones no longer working in the downtown area. The list included two local vendors that were not included in the original bid process. He stated that the additional vendors were not any lower in price and that December Lights was still the best deal. After much discussion Councilman Tyson made a motion to purchase the lights from the low bidder December Lights. Councilman Frost seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.
3. **ALCOHOL PERMIT SHINES** – Mr. Torrance presented an application from Joshua Moxley for an alcohol permit for Shines Convenience Store located on 701 Orange Street. The application is in order. A motion was made by Councilman Frost to approve the application. The motion was seconded by Councilman Tyson. The vote was unanimous. Councilman Thompson abstained.
4. **ALCOHOL ONE DAY PERMIT SPORTS BOOSTER'S GOLF TOURNAMENT** – Mr. Torrance presented a one day alcohol application from Wayne Wheeler for the Vidalia Sports Boosters annual Golf Tournament. The Tournament will be held on June 21, 2012 at the Rocky Creek Golf Club. The application is in order. A motion was made by Councilman Frost to approve the application. The motion was seconded by Councilman Tyson. The vote was unanimous. Councilman Thompson abstained.

CITY MANAGERS REPORT –

TYLER SOFTWARE – Mr. Torrance presented to the Council the status of the search for an upgrade to the computer software for the City. He told the Council that the internal committee had narrowed the search down to Tyler Software, but was trying to negotiate pricing at this time. He recommended that the issue be taken to the finance committee for further study. The council agreed that it be taken to the Finance committee.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY SALES TAX ISSUE – Mr. Torrance explained that he had contacted the Commissioners of Montgomery County about including Vidalia in their sales tax negotiations with all qualified Cities. He pointed out that Vidalia, being a qualified City, had to be included in the process or their plan would not meet State requirements. He was assured that the Commissioners would meet and get back to him on this issue.

RECYCLING CENTER SALARY – Mr. Torrance explained to the Council that the \$5000.00 in the 2012 budget for salary, at the Recycling Center had been exhausted. He is requesting that the Council amend the budget and approve an additional \$7500.00 to continue funding this position until the end of the year at reduced hours per week. Mr. Torrance explained that community service workers would be used to supplement the hours. Councilman Frost made a motion to approve the request. Councilman Thompson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

HEALTH INSURANCE ESCROW – Mr. Torrance explained to the Council that the health insurance escrow had been hit by some extremely large claims during the first part of this year, and this has depleted the escrow account. He is recommending that the Council approve pre-funding the escrow account in the amount of \$125,000.00 dollars. \$100,000.00 would come from general fund and \$25,000.00 would come from the water and sewer fund. His plan is to have the additional funds in place to help flush out these claims that need to be paid. Mr. Torrance stated that he is hopeful that claims should normalize and be back within budget by years end. Councilman Tyson made a motion to approve the request. Councilman Thompson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

METHODIST CHURCH DEVELOPMENT – Mr. Torrance brought it to the council’s attention a project by the Vidalia Methodist Church that could have a drainage impact on Adams Street. He stated that he was meeting with our City engineer and Church officials next week to review the project and evaluate the impact on the City. He told the Council that this was for information only and that he would keep them informed.

MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT WITH SWAINSBORO – Mr. Torrance explained that the mutual aid agreement concerning fire protection with Swainsboro had not been signed since 2007, and needs to be resigned. This mutual aid agreement has been in place a long time and is good for both Cities. Mr. Torrance is asking the Council to approve the agreement and that it be renewed on an annual basis going forward. A motion was made by Councilman Tyson to approve the agreement as amended by Mr. Torrance. Councilman Thompson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

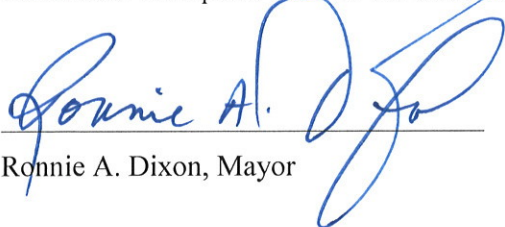
FOUR RIVERS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB – Mr. Torrance presented a request by the Amateur Radio Club to use the arts and crafts area on Airport Road for their annual ARRL Field Day event. The event will be held on June 23-24, 2012. The Council was in agreement that the Club be allowed to use the facilities for the event.

BUSINESS LICENSE FOR ICE CREAM TRUCK – Mr. Torrance explained to the Council that there is no provision with in the Cities Ordinance for a business license, which would provide for a mobile truck to sell packaged ice cream in City neighborhoods. City Attorney Reid Threlkeld stated that the City could issue a provisional permit for 90 days under the peddler’s section of the ordinance so the License and Permit committee could review the ordinance and make a recommendation to the Council. Councilman Frost made a motion to issue the provisional permit and have the License and Permit Committee review the ordinance. Councilman Thompson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

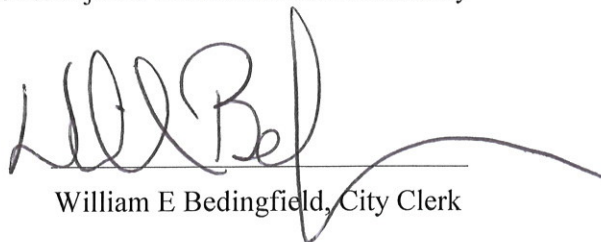
JARRELL STREET CURB REQUEST – Mr. Torrance presented a request from Mac Jordan to curb and gutter a section Jarrell Street to better facilitate drainage along some apartments that he owns. The rain runoff from the street is continually flooding the area. Mr. Torrance stated that the project is much needed and would consist of 350 feet of curb and gutter and a 15 foot by 4 foot wide concrete flume and a concrete drive way at a cost of \$7663.25. The project would be constructed by McLendon Enterprises and be paid from SPLOST. Councilman Tyson made a motion to approve the request. Councilman Thompson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

CLOSING OF STREET BY CHURCH – Mr. Torrance presented a request from the New Vision Baptist Church to close a section of Smith Street, which is between 2nd St. and 3rd St., from 7 to 8:30 pm on June 19th, 20th and 21st for their Vacation Bible School. The closed area is directly in front of the Church and would not interfere with any neighbor or business. Councilman Frost made a motion to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thompson. The vote was unanimous.

Being no further business Councilman Frost made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thompson. The vote was unanimous.



Ronnie A. Dixon, Mayor



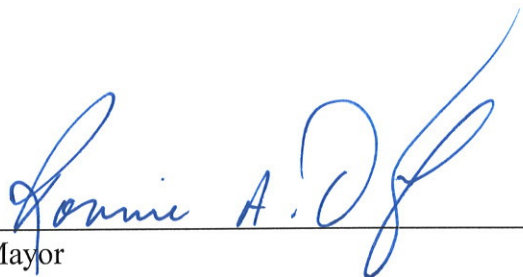
William E Bedingfield, City Clerk

AMENDMENT TO CITY ORDINANCE

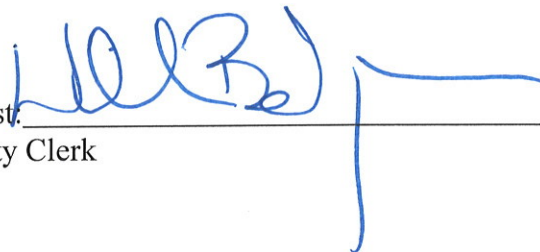
At the regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Vidalia on June 11, 2012, upon motion by Councilman William Thompson, with a second by Councilman Brian Frost, there was unanimous vote as follows:

“That Chapter 13, Section 13, of the Code of Ordinances, City of Vidalia, Georgia, be and is hereby amended by deleting Paragraph (d) of said section.

Approved this 11th day of June, 2012.



Mayor



Attest:
City Clerk

