

## REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

1/14/13  
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: ROBERT GREEN

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** - None

**DVA:** - Paula Toole presented to the Council activities from the DVA. She stated that she had met with Brad Hart concerning the Onion Festival and they were working together on the event. Mr. Torrance has signed the MOU, required by the State, in showing support for the Main Street program.

**ONION FESTIVAL** – Brad Hart brought the Council up to date on the progress of the 2013 Onion Festival. Mr. Torrance requested that Mr. Hart present the list of all voting committee members so that the Council could approve them. Mr. Hart presented the list to the Council. (See Attached List) A motion was made by Councilman Turner to approve the list. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Chesser. The vote was unanimous.

**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 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 December 12, 2012 meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thompson. The vote was unanimous.

### **AGENDA**

1. **MOU – DOT 292 PROJECT** – Mr. Torrance presented a Memorandum of Understanding from the DOT that needs to be executed relating to the 292 widening project. The DOT has agreed to bear the cost of moving and replacing all water and sewer infrastructure that belongs to the City, but will not pay for the engineering and design of said movement. The Council will need to approve the Mayor to sign the MOU. A motion was made by Councilman Frost to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thompson. The vote was unanimous.
2. **ALCOHOL PERMITS FOR ONION FESTIVAL** – Ingrid Varn is requesting two permits for alcohol sales at the 2013 Onion Festival. The first event is on March 15, 2013 held at the Pal Theater. The second request is for Friday and Saturday night April 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> at the Airport festival site. Both applications have been approved by the appropriate departments. Councilman Tyson made a motion to approve the March 15<sup>th</sup> event, but is requesting that the Festival Committee bring additional information to the Council concerning the events on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Chesser. The vote was unanimous. Councilman Thompson abstained.
3. **APPOINTMENT OF CITY ATTORNEY, CITY JUDGE AND CITY AUDITOR** – Councilman Turner made a motion to appoint Reid Threlkeld City Attorney, Macky Bryant City

Judge, and McLain, Calhoun, McCullough, Clark and Co. City Auditor. The motion was seconded by Councilman Frost. The vote was unanimous.

**BOARD APPOINTMENTS FOR 2013** – Councilman Turner made a motion to re-appoint Matt Oxley to a 4 year term on the Revolving Loan Committee. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thompson. The vote was unanimous. Councilman Tyson made a motion the appoint Russ Bell to a 5 year term on the Recreation Board replacing John Sharpe. The motion was seconded by Councilman Turner. The vote was unanimous. Councilman Thompson made a motion to appoint Billy Snell to a 4 year term on the Vidalia Planning Commission replacing Brain McDaniel, and to re-appoint Lorenzo Folsom to another 4 year term. The motion was seconded by Councilman Frost. The vote was unanimous. Councilman Turner made a motion the re-appoint Sherri Threlkeld to a 3 year term to the Vidalia Toombs Library Board of Trustees. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Chesser. The vote was unanimous. Councilwoman Chesser made a motion to re-appoint Chip Matheson to a 5 year term to the Vidalia Development Authority. The motion was seconded by Councilman Turner. The vote was unanimous. Councilwoman Chesser made a motion to re-appoint Wendell Dixon to a 6 year term to the Development Authority of Vidalia and to appoint Brian McDaniel and Tres Herin to a 6 year term. The motion was seconded by Councilman Turner. The vote was unanimous. Councilman Thompson made a motion to re-appoint Reese Thompson, Frank Sherman, Donald Estroff, and Terry Edmonds to a 4 year term to the Downtown Development Authority. The motion was seconded by Councilman Frost. The vote was unanimous.

**CITY MANAGERS REPORT** – Mr. Torrance asked the Council if they wanted to attend the Chamber Annual Meeting. Councilman Frost made a motion to purchase a table for ten and fill it on a first come first serve basis. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thompson. The vote was unanimous.

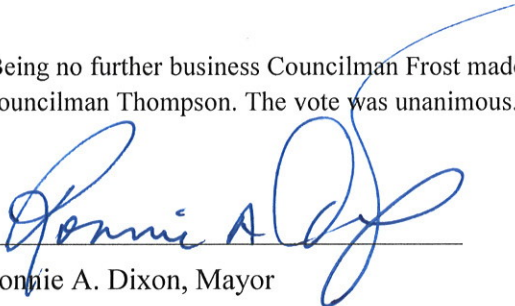
Mr. Torrance made a request to use \$116,000.00 from the 2012 fund balance to purchase capital in 2013. A motion was made by Councilman Turner to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Councilman Tyson. The vote was unanimous.

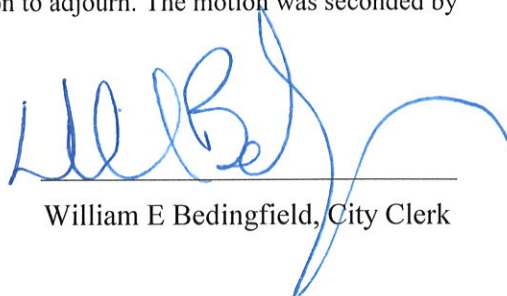
Chief Waits informed the Council that the weather siren system would be tested at 10:00 in the morning.

Councilwoman Chesser thanked Jeff West for the fine job of cleaning up the ball fields behind the new Boys and Girls Club.

City Attorney Reid Threlkeld brought the Council up to date on the Supreme Courts visit on February 8, 2013.

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

  
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Ronnie A. Dixon, Mayor

  
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William E Bedingfield, City Clerk

## REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

2/11/13  
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, JEFF WEST – ESG, BUDDY COLEMAN – FIRE CHIEF, ROGER CALLOWAY – ASST POLICE CHIEF, CHRIS BLOXHAM – REPUBLIC, TOMMY SASSER – REC DIRECTOR

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

THE INVOCATION WAS GIVEN BY: JAMES JOYCE

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** - Tanja Gaffney, from the Boys and Girls Club, thanked the Council for their commitment to the Club and told them that the new facility was just fantastic. She reported that the number of participants has increased to the point that they have had to add new programs and also hire a program director. She also stated that the overall atmosphere at the new facility was one that made the students and staff feel safe. The Mayor and Council thanked her for her comments and for her hard work and dedication to the Boys and Girls Club.

**DVA:** - None

**ONION FESTIVAL** – No Report

**TOOMBS MONTGOMERY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE** – Bill Mitchell brought the Council up to date on the current activities of the Chamber. He presented a new brochure that the Chamber has put out for members that reflects their return on investment. He also asked the Council if anyone was interested in attending this year's Community Economic Development Orientation program in Atlanta. The program is sponsored by Altamaha EMC and will take place on March 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. He encouraged everyone to check their calendars and let Bill Bedingfield know if they could attend.

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** -A motion was made by Councilwoman Chesser to approve the minutes from the January 14, 2013 meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thompson. The vote was unanimous.

### **AGENDA**

1. **FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING 2/5/13** – Mr. Torrance presented to the Council the results of the Finance Committee meeting held on February 5, 2013. (See Attached Minutes) The committee is recommending that we award Tyler Technologies the bid to replace Harris Computer as the City's software vendor. The cost of the software is \$262,689.00 with an annual maintenance of \$45,649.00. The request is \$7233.00 higher than the approved amount from the finance committee due to a request from Mayor Dixon to add the E-Ticket module. This module will allow Police Officers to print citations directly from their cars. Councilwoman Chesser made a motion to approve the request with the addition of the E-Ticket module. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thompson. The vote was unanimous.
2. **WATER AND SEWER MEETING – 2/11/13** – Mr. Torrance presented the results from the water and sewer meeting held on 2/11/13. (See Attached Minutes) The committee is recommending that the City purchase a new Vac-Truck at a maximum cost of \$270,000.00. He suggested that we take \$150,000.00 from water/sewer reserves and the remainder from the

equipment line item from SPLOST. A motion was made by Councilman Frost to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thompson. The vote was unanimous

3. **ALCOHOL PERMIT FOR ONION FESTIVAL** – Ingrid Varn is requesting a one day permit for Saturday night during the Onion Festival. The application is complete and has been signed by the appropriate departments. Mayor Dixon tabled the request until the Onion Festival could bring more information to the Council concerning the sale of alcohol.

**CITY MANAGERS REPORT** – Mr. Torrance presented the 2013 CDBG application to the Council and is requesting direction from the Council with this year's application. He told the Council that the idea of an addition to the Boys and Girls Club would probably not be acceptable to the DCA and that his recommendation would be to look at putting in curb and gutter on Wynona Street to Bay Street and then down Bay Street, and also he is recommending that we put a bridge across the drainage ditch that separates the Boys and Girls Club from Bay Street. This would allow the children access to the City pool without walking in the street. Councilwoman Chesser made a motion that we approve the recommendation made by Mr. Torrance and apply for the curb and gutter work along Wynona and Bay Streets and also to approve the Resolution required by DCA to apply for the grant. The motion was seconded by Councilman Tyson. The vote was unanimous.

Hannah Solar contacted the City requesting to lease a 5 to 8 acre spot for 20 years to put a solar array to sell power to Georgia Power. Georgia Power is bidding out a certain number of KW's to solar power and will accept the best plan presented for their approval. Mr. Torrance stated that after having City Attorney Threlkeld review the contract a lot of questions needed to be answered before we could commit to this type of project. Mr. Threlkeld stated that we would have to advertise to the public if we intended to lease any property. The Council instructed Mr. Torrance to seek additional information and bring it back to the Council.

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

Councilman Frost made a motion to adjourn from executive session. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Chesser. 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.



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Ronnie A. Dixon, Mayor



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William E Bedingfield, City Clerk

## RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION by the Mayor and Council of the City of Vidalia, Georgia, to authorize submission of a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) for funding under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended.

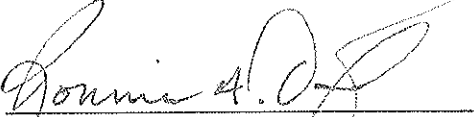
WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the City of Vidalia, Georgia, found that the program is necessary and desirable in order to improve the living conditions of low and moderate income persons living in Vidalia, Georgia; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the City of Vidalia, Georgia, desire that the CDBG application be submitted to the Georgia DCA for funding under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended;


NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Mayor and Council of the City of Vidalia, Georgia, that:

The Mayor of the City of Vidalia, or his/her successor, is hereby authorized to submit to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs a Community Development Block Grant application and such supporting and collateral material as shall be necessary.

READ, APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Mayor and Council of the City of Vidalia, Georgia on a motion made by Councilwoman Christ, seconded by Councilman Tyson, and adopted on this 11<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2013.

  
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Ronnie A. Dixon, Mayor  
City of Vidalia, Georgia

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk, City of Vidalia, Georgia



**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 11<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2013.

CITY OF VIDALIA

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Mayor or Presiding Officer

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public, State of Georgia  
Commission Expires \_\_\_\_\_



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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lisa Chess  
\_\_\_\_\_  
[Signature]  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
[Signature]  
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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

3/11/13  
MINUTES

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

**NON-MEMBERS PRESENT:** BILL TORRANCE – CITY MANAGER, BILL BEDINGFIELD, FINANCE DIRECTOR/CITY CLERK, REID THRELKELD – CITY ATTORNEY, CLINT KENNEDY –VPD, KATHY BRADFORD – THE ADVANCE, ZACK FOWLER- VIDALIA COMMUNICATION, JEFF WEST – 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: H.W. Miller

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** - Dr. Mitchell presented to the Council an update on Southeastern Technical College. She stated that over 40,000 people attend events held in the College auditoriums each year. She also passed out a brochure that outlined the programs available at STC. She identified numerous programs that help the students in this area. She also invited the Council to a Barbeque fund raiser being held on April 11, 2013 at the Shot Strange Club House in Oak Park. The Council thanked Dr. Mitchell for all the College does for the community.

**DVA:** - Paula Toole presented to the Council activities from the DVA. She stated that she had met with Brad Hart concerning the Onion Festival and they were working together on the Thursday night event. Paula thanked Laura Brown for her participation and help during this year's festival preparations. She also outlined the events planned for this year's downtown activities. She also asked that ESG get with her on putting up the welcome tent on Thursday April 18, 2013.

**ONION FESTIVAL** – Brad Hart brought the Council up to date on the Onion Festival. He stated that the Joint meeting held today at City Hall with Council members was very successful. (See attached minutes) Brad also presented a new layout plan for the festival that also included parking. He stated that the Vidalia Police were consulted in developing this plan. Mayor Dixon thanked Brad for his hard work and asked that he share this with his committee.

**TOOMBS MONTGOMERY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE** -- Bill Mitchell thanked the group that is going to Atlanta this week for the GEMC Development Authority Meeting. He stated we have a great group going and thanked the Council for their support.

**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 Thompson. The vote was unanimous.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** -A motion was made by Councilwoman Chessier to approve the minutes from the February 11, 2013 meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thompson. The vote was unanimous.

### **AGENDA**

1. **PLANNING AND ZONING MEETING** -- Shaun Oliver explained to the Council that a meeting had been held to discuss the building of storage warehouses in an OR zone that currently does not allow for their construction. After some research Mr. Oliver could not find a zone that they would be allowed. Mr. Oliver stated he presented this to the Committee for a recommendation, but they did not have a preference on allowing or banning them from these zones and deferred this to the Council. Councilwoman Chessier asked if this was a language issue in the zoning ordinance and did we need to address this problem by correcting the language. Mayor Dixon requested the

- License and Permits committee meet and review the issue. Councilwoman Chesser stated she would call a License and Permits meeting to discuss and make a recommendation.
2. **LICENSE AND PERMITS MEETING 2/22/13** – Mr. Torrance presented an application from Mrs. Tawanya Burkes to put a game room at 303 McIntosh Street. Councilwoman Chesser outlined the meeting held with Mrs. Burkes on 2/13/13 was to explain the problems that the City has had in the past with game rooms. (See attached minutes) A motion was made by Councilman Frost to approve the license request. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thompson. The vote was unanimous.
  3. **RED LIGHT MANAGEMENT REQUEST** – Mr. Torrance stated that Red Light Management has approached the City about using the airport for a large concert this fall. Their original request would have required the City issuing a Sunday alcohol permit. When the City advised they could not approve Sunday sales the company came back and asked if we would entertain a Friday and Saturday event. Mr. Torrance is asking the Council's approval to pursue the event with the promoters. The Council stated that they were interested in the event and gave the go ahead to contact the company.
  4. **ALCOHOL PERMITS FOR ONION FESTIVAL** – Ingrid Varn is requesting a one day alcohol permit for the onion festival. Requirements for this permit set by the Council are that the area has to be fenced and the hours of sale can only be from 4 p.m. until 10 p.m. A motion was made by Councilman Frost to approve the request as long as the requirements stated above are met. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Chesser. The vote was unanimous. Councilman Thompson abstained.
  5. **ELECTION CONTRACT WITH THE COUNTY** – City Clerk Bedingfield presented the contract with the County to handle this year's election. He stated that the contract was the same as the 2011 contract with no changes in fees. A motion was made by Councilman Frost to approve the Mayor to sign the contract. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thompson. The vote was unanimous.
  6. **HARRIS PRINTING CONTRACT** – City Clerk Bedingfield informed the Council that Harris Computer was requiring a one year contract to print water bills. If the City signed a contract there would be a 20% fee for breaking the agreement before the year was up. With our new contract with Tyler we would be leaving Harris in no more than six months. This would entail the City paying a fee for breaking the contract. Mr. Bedingfield stated that we would try to operate without a contract as long as we could, but if necessary we could print our own water bills as we had in the past. The Council was in agreement and instructed Mr. Bedingfield to proceed as planned.
  7. **ADVANCE AD FOR INDUSTRIAL INSERT** – Mr. Bedingfield presented a request from the Advance to have the City place an AD in their upcoming Industrial supplement to the paper. The cost for a full page AD is \$925.00. Mayor Dixon requested that we check with the County and the City of Lyons on doing a joint AD. The Council was in agreement. Mr. Torrance stated he would make contact with the others and then poll the Council with his findings.

#### **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT –**

Mr. Torrance reported that Hannah Solar has approached the City about placing solar panels at the LAS plant to produce and sell power to Georgia Power. The Mayor has signed a non-binding application that gives Hannah the right to pursue applying with Georgia Power. The Council is in agreement with the non-binding application.

Mr. Torrance asked the Council to allow him the opportunity to buy the two new Police cars from special purpose to alleviate some of the strain on the general fund due to the down turn in revenues. A motion was made by Councilman Tyson to approve the request. Councilman Frost seconded the request. The vote was unanimous.

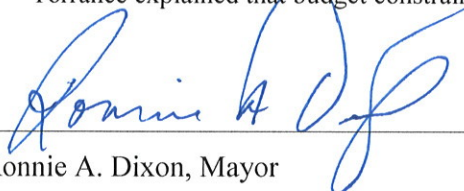
Mr. Torrance told the Council that he received an e-mail from FEMA explaining that we are still in the running for a new fire truck grant.

Mr. Torrance told the Council that we had put out an RFQ for airport civil engineers and would need an Airport Committee meeting. He stated he would get with Chairman Thompson and set the meeting.

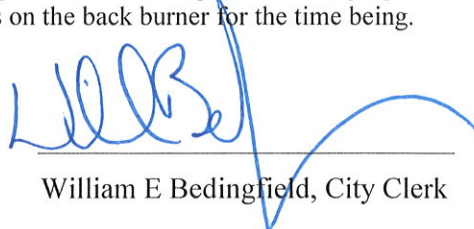


Mr. Torrance presented a plan to purchase some portable pitching mounds for the Recreation Department. This would allow for multiple uses of several fields. Councilman Frost made a motion we purchase 3 mounds and to pay for them out of SPLOST. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thompson. The vote was unanimous.

Councilman Thompson asked Mr. Torrance on the proposal to convert 6 police cars to propane. Mr. Torrance explained that budget constraints had put this on the back burner for the time being.



Ronnie A. Dixon, Mayor



William E Bedingfield, City Clerk







**CALLED COUNCIL MEETING**

3/26/13  
MINUTES

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** RONNIE DIXON, RAYMOND TURNER, BRIAN FROST, LISA CHESSER, AND EDDIE TYSON, COUNCILMAN THOMPSON WAS ABSENT

**NON-MEMBERS PRESENT:** BILL TORRANCE – CITY MANAGER, BILL BEDINGFIELD, FINANCE DIRECTOR/CITY CLERK, FRANK WAITS, POLICE CHIEF AND JEFF RAIFORD, VIDALIA COMMUNICATIONS

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

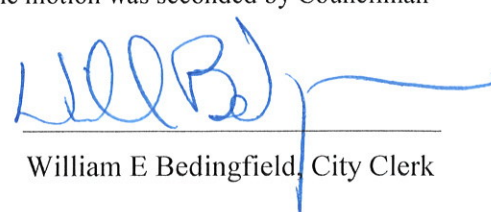
**AGENDA**

1. **Approval of CDBG 2013 Engineer and Administrator** – The Council reviewed the proposals received from Associates in Local Government and Bob Roberson and Associates for administration and Parker Engineering, EMC Engineering Services, Ben Turnipseed Engineers and Hofstadter and Associates for engineering services for the Community Development Block Grant. The Council reviewed the criteria for evaluation included in the Request for Proposals. A motion to approve Hofstadter and Associates as Engineer and Associates in Local Government as Grant Administrator was made by Councilman Frost. The motion was seconded by Councilman Tyson. The vote was unanimous.
2. **Request to waive sewer and water tap fees by the Mercy Clinic** – Mr. Torrance presented a request from Toombs County to waive the building permit and water/Sewer tap fees for the new Mercy Clinic that they will build with a CDBG grant that they have applied for. The request is conditional on them getting the grant. The fee for the building permit would be approximately \$816.00 and the cost of the 1 inch water meter and sewer tap would be around \$550.00 for a total of \$1366.00. A motion was made by Councilman Tyson to waive the fees contingent upon the County getting the grant. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Chesser. The vote was unanimous.
3. **Alcohol permit request by Ocean Galley Seafood** – Mr. Torrance presented an application from Ocean Galley Seafood for an on premise beer and wine license. The application is complete and has been approved and signed by the appropriate departments. A motion was made by Councilman Tyson to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Councilman Turner. The vote was unanimous.
4. **Alcohol permit request by TnT Lanes -** – Mr. Torrance presented an application from TnT Lanes for an on premise beer and wine license. The application is complete and has been approved and signed by the appropriate departments. A motion was made by Councilman Frost to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Councilman Turner. The vote was unanimous.

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT** – Mr. Torrance stated that the Ladson Library building roof was leaking and needed some repair. He has contacted Joey Veal and asked him to look at it and to give us a price on fixing the leak. He is asking the Council to approve him getting the roof fixed at a price not to exceed \$1500.00, and placing it under a maintenance agreement with Joey to keep the roof inspected and repaired. A motion was made by Councilman Tyson to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Councilman Frost. The vote was unanimous.

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

  
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Ronnie A. Dixon, Mayor

  
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William E Bedingfield, City Clerk

## REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

4/8/13  
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, CLINT KENNEDY –VPD, KATHY BRADFORD – THE ADVANCE, JEFF WEST – 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: Christopher Sheffield

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** -

**DVA:** - Paula Toole brought the Council up to date on activities of the DVA as they ready for the Onion Festival. She has Onion Festival souvenirs on sale at the DVA office for anyone that would be interested. She also outlined some of the new fund raisers that the DVA is undertaking. She also reported that they would be cooking onion rings at the Golden Onion competition this Sunday afternoon.

**ONION FESTIVAL** – Brad Hart brought the Council up to date on the Onion Festival. He stated that the Councils requirement on alcohol sales has been met by the committee. He also told the Council that the Blue Angels will have a jet with two pilots on the ground along with fat albert as a static display.

**TOOMBS MONTGOMERY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE** – Bill Mitchell informed the Council on several ribbon cuttings that are coming up in the community. He also stated that the new Cancer Center is having an open house next on Thursday the 28<sup>th</sup> of April. He also asked the Council to consider putting a person in the new class of Leadership Toombs.

**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 Turner. The vote was unanimous.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – A motion was made by Councilman Turner to approve the March 11, 2013 and the March 25, 2013 minutes. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Chesser. The vote was unanimous.

### **AGENDA**

1. **License and Permits Committee meeting** – Councilwoman Chesser told Council that after much discussion the committee was recommending that the City Ordinance be amended to allow mini-warehouses in C2 and C3 and Industrial zones, and require a site plan and construction approval that would insure compatibility with surrounding property when applying for a permit in an OR zone. An ad has been place in the paper advertising a public meeting for April 18<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. After the public meeting this will be brought back to the Council.
2. **Airport Committee Meeting** – Councilman Thompson informed the Council that a request for qualifications as Airport Engineer had been advertised and that four responses had been received. After careful review of the proposals the committee was recommending that we stay with Robert and Company as our Civil Engineer at the Airport. A motion was made by Councilman Frost to accept the proposal. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thompson. The vote was unanimous.

### **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT** –



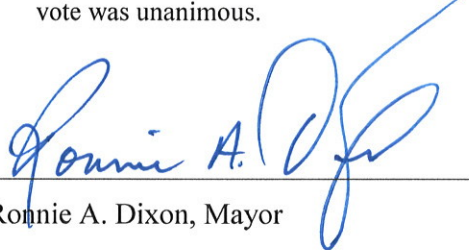
In February the City issued a request for proposals for our liability insurance. The City had two companies submit bids, with our current provider being the low bid at \$85,450.00. Councilwoman Chesser made a motion to accept the current low bidder GERMA as our liability insurance provider. The motion was seconded by Councilman Turner. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Torrance told the Council that Mr. Sasser had a request for a party at Flossie Hayes Park that included a Disc Jockey. During this event the Police had to be called after shots were fired and fights had broken out. Mr. Torrance is asking the Council for their support in not allowing disc jockeys at City Parks. Councilman Frost made a motion that Tommy Sasser and his staff develop a policy that could be used to control this type of activity, and bring this back to the Council for approval. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Chesser. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Torrance informed the Council of the number of yard sales that are being held in Vidalia, and those that are not meeting the current requirements set by the City Ordinance. Mr. Torrance is asking that the Council issue a moratorium on yard sales being held in other locations than their own yard and then have the License and Permits Committee meet and revise the language in the ordinance to address this moving from location to location. Councilwoman Chesser made a motion to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thompson. The vote was unanimous.

Robbie Akins, with ESG, informed the Council of several Gold Awards that the waste water treatment plants had received this year. The Council thanked Robbie and ESG for their hard work in keeping our plants in compliance with the EPD.

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



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Ronnie A. Dixon, Mayor



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William E Bedingfield, City Clerk

## REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

5/13/13  
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, CLINT KENNEDY –VPD, ZACK FOWLER- VIDALIA COMMUNICATION, 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: Jose Caraballo

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** - Lori Copeland, with the Cub Scout Pack 933, asked the Council for permission to close 2<sup>nd</sup> Street and part of Leader Street that adjoins the First United Methodist Church on June 8, 2013 between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon for bike safety training. This project is in conjunction with Bike Safety Week. The Troop meets at the Church monthly and has permission to use the vacant lot across from the social hall. A motion was made by Councilman Frost to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thompson. The vote was unanimous.

Richard Peterson presented a request to dig a well for the purpose of putting in a geothermal HVAC unit in his home. Mr. Torrance explained that the issue of the discharge was a violation of EPD regulations and needed to be reviewed by them. Mayor Dixon requested that this issue be taken to the Water and Sewer Committee next week. Councilman Tyson, Chairman of the Committee, set May the 21<sup>st</sup> at 9:00 a.m. for the meeting. The meeting is to be held at City Hall. Mayor Dixon set a called meeting of the Council for Tuesday the 28<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. The meeting will be held in the Council Chambers at the Annex.

Mr. Dean Mill's introduced to the Council 3 Boy Scouts that are working on their Eagle Scout Badges. They are Jessie Stephens, Wyatt Bruce and Walker James. The Mayor and Council thanked the boys for coming and wished them well on their journey to becoming Eagle Scouts.

**DVA:** - Paula brought the Council up to date on activities of the DVA. She reported that the Onion Festival was a great success in the Downtown area, and merchants were happy that so many people were in the downtown area for the event. Jason Colbert, the DVA President, brought a request to the Council to have a street dance in downtown Vidalia in conjunction with Hospice. The event would be called "Dancing for a Cause". The date would be September 14, 2013 on Saturday afternoon starting at 4:00 p.m. and ending at 9:00 p.m. The event would include closing all of Meadows and Leader Streets and McIntosh from 280 West to 280 East. The event would feature the Swinging Medallions and two other acts on three stages located in the downtown area. All merchants would be encouraged to have sidewalk sales. There would be a \$10.00 charge to enter the dance as this would be a fund raiser for the DVA. Councilman Turner made a motion to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Councilman Frost. The vote was unanimous.

**ONION FESTIVAL** – Brad Hart spoke to the Council and requested that a meeting be set up so his full committee and the Council could sit down together and discuss this year's past festival. Mayor Dixon asked Brad to get with Bill Torrance and set a date for the meeting. Mayor Dixon also stated that he was asking Bill Torrance and Brian Frost to attend all Onion Festival meetings in the future to help keep the Council up dated.

**TOOMBS MONTGOMERY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE** – Bill Mitchell brought the Council up to date on activities of the Chamber. He reported that the article in the Georgia Trend magazine featuring Toombs County was excellent. Leadership Toombs applications are coming to a close and need to be turned in as soon as possible.

**FINANCIAL REPORT - BILL BEDINGFIELD** - Mr. Bedingfield gave the financial report for the month of April. 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 April 8, 2013 meeting. Councilman Thompson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

## **AGENDA**

1. **LICENSE AND PERMITS MEETING 4-29-13 – ( See Attached Minutes)** -Mr. Torrance stated that the current sign ordinance does not allow for the type of sign that has been installed by Vidalia Federal Savings. The sign is a replacement for the old sign and therefore did not require a permit. The new sign has 3 color and graphic capability and the committee does not believe that the City intended to prohibit this new type of technology in outdoor signs. The Committee is recommending that changes be made to the ordinance that limits these signs. The changes would be to delete in Section 1916 item (4) and item (16) and to delete two sentences in Section 1917 of the City Ordinance. (See Attached Amendment) Councilman Turner made a motion to approve the recommendation subject to the approval by the Planning and Zoning Board. Councilman Thompson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Councilwoman Chesser abstained. Councilwoman Chesser informed the Council that a request had come to City Hall to build mini-warehouses in an OR zone. Upon review of the application it was noted that this type of business was not currently excluded from an OR zone or any other zone in the ordinance. After some discussion the Committee decided to hold a public meeting on the OR zone request. After holding the public meeting to review the issue the committee is recommending that this type of business not be allowed in an OR zone. The Committee also recommended that they be excluded in C1, OR and R zones and included in C3, Industrial and C2 with some additional requirements to meet visual compatibility of adjoining a residential zone. The Council is requesting that this be sent back to the Zoning Committee for a recommendation. Mr. Torrance also presented to the Council an issue with the Peddlers License and would like to do some further research and bring it back to the License and Permits Committee. The Council agreed.
2. **RESOURCE OFFICER GRANT** – Frank Waits presented a request to apply for a COPS Employment grant that would provide money to hire two resource officers at a 75/25 split. The Vidalia School system has agreed to split the 25% required local match. Councilman Frost made a motion to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Councilman Turner. The vote was unanimous.
3. **ALCOHOL LICENSE BILL'S BEVERAGE** – Mr. Torrance presented an application by Elaine Holmes for an alcohol permit for beer, wine and liquor. The application request is due to the passing of her husband and business partner Henry Holmes, and meets all City ordinance requirements. All departments have signed the application where appropriate. A motion was made by Councilwoman Chesser to approve the application. The motion was seconded by Councilman Frost. The vote was unanimous. Councilman Thompson abstained.
4. **UNITED WAY GOLF TOURNAMENT 5-23-13** – Mr. Torrance presented a request from the United Way to put a team in their annual golf tournament. The cost of a four man team is \$500.00. A motion was made by Councilman Turner to put a team in the tournament. The motion was seconded by Councilman Frost. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Torrance informed the Council that ESG was having an appreciation cookout on June the 5<sup>th</sup> to celebrate being in Vidalia for 10 years and wanted all the Council to attend.

Mr. Torrance also informed the Council that Taylor Benefits, our health insurance administrator, has invited those attending the GMA Conference to dinner on the same night as the Hofstadter dinner. The Council asked Mr. Torrance to explain to them the conflict and give their best regards.

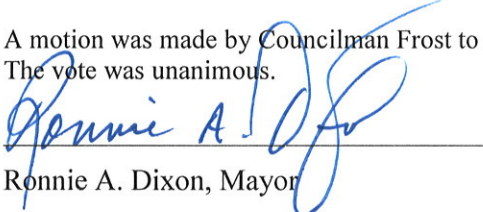
Mr. Torrance also informed the Council that he had breakfast with Blake Tillery last week and discussed the upcoming SPLOST call. He also stated that he presented to him a request to help with fixing the tennis courts in Vidalia. Mr. Torrance stated to the Council that regardless of their participation we would need to make a decision on repairing or replacing the courts soon.

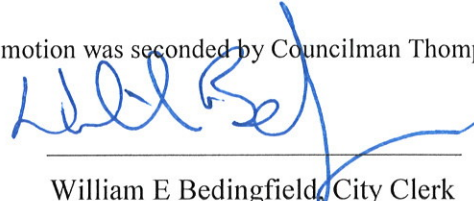
Mayor Dixon appointed Lisa Chesser along with Brian Frost to serve as liaisons for the Recreation Board. He appointed Bill Torrance and Brian Frost to serve as liaisons for the Onion Festival, and appointed Eddie Tyson along with Lisa Chesser to serve with the DVA.

Cecil Thompson reported that the traffic light at Aimwell and Estroff is holding people on Aimwell to long. Jeff West will check the timer.

Reid Threlkeld reported that the lawsuit against the City concerning the gunshots that damaged the ladies car at the American Legion has been dismissed.

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

  
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Ronnie A. Dixon, Mayor

  
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William E Bedingfield, City Clerk

**CALLED COUNCIL MEETING**

5/28/13  
MINUTES

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** RAYMOND TURNER, BRIAN FROST, LISA CHESSER, CECIL THOMPSON, COUNCILMAN TYSON AND MAYOR DIXON WERE ABSENT

**NON-MEMBERS PRESENT:** BILL TORRANCE – CITY MANAGER, BILL BEDINGFIELD, FINANCE DIRECTOR/CITY CLERK, FRANK WAITS, POLICE CHIEF AND MELISSA MOORE, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

RAYMOND TURNER BROUGHT THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 11:00 a.m.

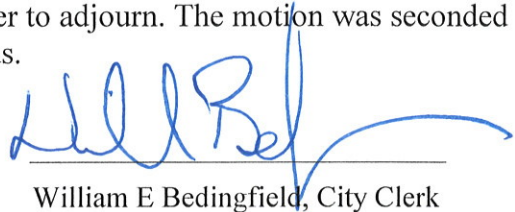
**AGENDA**

1. **Water well application by Mr. Peterson** – Mr. Torrance opened the meeting by outlining the May 21, 2013 Water and Sewer meeting. (See Attached Minutes) He stated that due to a hardship the request from Mr. Richard Peterson to drill a well to install a new geothermal HVAC unit was being recommended by the Committee. The Committee had discussed every viable alternative, but each was very cost prohibitive. Councilwoman Chesser made a motion to approve the application from Mr. Peterson. The motion was seconded by Councilman Frost. The vote was unanimous.
2. **Stop Sign on Jenkins Street** – After some discussion Councilman Thompson made a motion to make the intersection of Jenkins and Shumpert Street a four way stop. Councilman Frost seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous
3. **Parking limit on Meadows** – Councilwoman Chesser brought up an issue with downtown parking during the lunch rush hour. After much discussion Councilwoman Chesser made a motion to limit the four parking spaces on the south side of Meadows street between Church and Leader Street to 30 minutes. The motion was seconded by Councilman Frost. The vote was unanimous.

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT** – Mr. Torrance reported that the County would not be able to help us with the tennis courts at Ed Smith Complex. He told the Council we would need to address the rehab of the courts at the next meeting.

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

  
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Ronnie A. Dixon, Mayor

  
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William E Bedingfield, City Clerk



## REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

6/10/13

### 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, FRANK WAITS –VPD, ZACK FOWLER- VIDALIA COMMUNICATION, 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

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** - Mayor Dixon introduced Lauren McDonald, a journalism student at the University of Georgia, who is working this summer as an intern with the Vidalia Advance. The Mayor also introduced Cameron Gibson, a local Boy Scout, who is attending tonight's Council meeting as part of earning his government badge.

Police Chief Frank Waits informed the Council the 2013 DARE conference was being held in Vidalia on June 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. He stated that over 120 officers and their families would be in Vidalia for the event. The conference will be held at the Vidalia Community Center.

**DVA:** - Melissa Moore brought the Council up to date on the DVA's music festival coming up in September. She requested a change in the time of the street closing from 8 am to 7 am because of the stage set up. Councilwoman Chessser made a motion to approve the closing time change. The motion was seconded by Councilman Tyson. The vote was unanimous.

**ONION FESTIVAL** – Bill Torrance brought the Council up to date on the status of the 2013 Onion Festival. He stated that the festival lost approximately \$18,000.00 due in part to the rain on Friday night. Richard Williams, representing the Festival informed the Council that Warren Sowell had decided to not participate in the 2014 Festival and that he would need someone to fill his position. Mr. Torrance stated that the Council has put off any approval of new members to the Festival committee until the new bylaws are approved.

**TOOMBS MONTGOMERY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE** – Bill Mitchell brought the Council up to date on activities of the Chamber. He reported that the Executive Committee is meeting this Thursday. He also reported the Development Authority is hoping to put the new speck building out for bid in July.

**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 Thompson. The vote was unanimous.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** -A motion was made by Councilman Turner to approve the minutes from the May 13, 2013 and the May 28, 2013 meetings. Councilman Tyson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

### **AGENDA**

1. **CASA Request to use the Arts and Crafts site** – CASA, a court appointed organization that is an advocate for children, is having a fund raiser on June 30, 2013 and would like to use the Kiwanis Fair Ground and the Arts and Craft area on Airport Road. Mr. Torrance stated that both the Kiwanis Club and the Lions Club had given their approval for the use of the sites. Councilman Frost made a motion to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thompson. The vote was unanimous.

2. **License and Permits Meeting 5/28/13** – Councilwoman Chesser explained that Parlay Entertainment had come back to the License and Permits Committee requesting that their license be changed from a game room to a party entertainment business. Their request is based on the required closing hours for a game room. The owners were told that they would have to remove the game tables from the establishment to comply with the request and also meet the square footage requirement. They stated that they would remove them immediately if the Committee would honor their request. The Committee was in agreement that if these requirements were met then the license could be changed. Fire Chief Buddy Coleman has established that the facility meets the square footage requirement. The license has been changed and the club is operating as a party – entertainment center. This is for information only and no action by the Council is needed. (See Attached Minutes)
3. **Taxi License Application** – Mr. Torrance presented to the Council an application for a Taxi service in Vidalia from Amanda Ann Swinton. G-A Taxi Service has completed the application and all necessary departments have reviewed and signed where appropriate. A motion was made by Councilman Thompson to approve the application. The motion was seconded by Councilman Frost. The vote was unanimous.
4. **One Day Alcohol Permit Request Sweet Onion Classic** – Mr. Torrance presented an application from Rose Ann Holman, representing the Sweet Onion Classic golf tournament, for a one day alcohol permit. The application is complete and has been reviewed and signed by the appropriate departments. 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 plan to resurface and repair the tennis courts at the Ed Smith Complex. The cost would be \$24,200. The Recreation Board has approved spending from \$3000.00 to \$5000.00 to help with the project. Councilman Frost made a motion to repair the courts funding \$20,000 from SPLOST and to let Recreation fund the remaining balance. Councilman Thompson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Torrance reported to the Council that an individual had applied for a business license in a residential neighborhood. The business was to sell bees and honey using the internet as his source for customers. The application was turned down because it violated the use permitted in a residential area. After some discussion Mayor Dixon referred this to the License and Permits Committee.

Robbie Akins, representing the Shriners, is requesting that they be allowed to have a parade on November 9, 2013 starting at 10:00 am and ending at 12:00 noon. The parade route would be from 2<sup>nd</sup> Street and Church and then proceed east on Hwy 280 to Green Street. The parade would line up at the First Baptist Church parking lots. Councilman Turner made a motion to approve the request. Councilman Frost seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

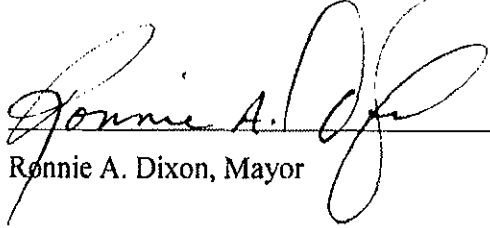
Mr. Torrance brought the Council up to date on the LMIG program. He also asked the Council to review the streets on the list and stated that a copy could be picked up at City Hall.

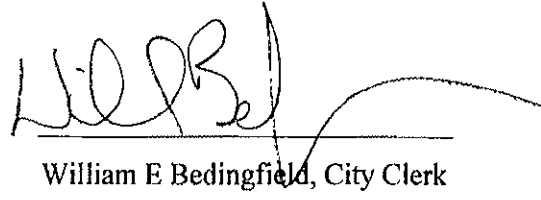
At the May 28, 2013 called meeting the Council had asked about purchasing flashing lights for the new four way stop at Jenkins and Shumpert Street. Mr. Torrance informed the Council that he had pricing for the additional lights and that the cost was approximately \$4000.00. The Council was in agreement to use existing lights at the intersection.

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

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

Being no further business Councilman Frost made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Chesser. 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:

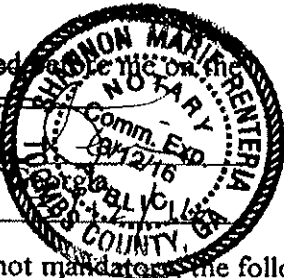
- Staff meetings held for investigative purposes under duties or responsibilities imposed by law.  
[O.C.G.A. §50-14-3]
- Meetings when discussing or deliberating upon the appointment, employment, compensation, hiring disciplinary action or dismissal or periodic evaluation or rating of a city official 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 10<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2013

CITY OF VIDALIA  
By: *Donnie A. [Signature]*  
Mayor or Presiding Officer

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

*[Signature]*  
Notary Public, State of Georgia  
Commission Expires \_\_\_\_\_



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

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