

## REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

7/8/2013  
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, ZACK FOWLER- VIDALIA COMMUNICATION, JEFF WEST – ESG, ROBBIE AKINS – ESG, BUDDY COLEMAN – FIRE CHIEF, TOMMY SASSER, RECREATION DIRECTOR, FRANK WAITS – POLICE CHIEF

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

THE INVOCATION WAS GIVEN BY: JAMES JOYCE

### PUBLIC COMMENTS: -

**DVA:** - Paula brought the Council up to date on activities of the DVA. On June the 9<sup>th</sup> the DVA hosted several Main Street Programs in Vidalia. They discussed the merger, by DCA, of the Main Street Program with the Downtown Main Street program. The new program will be called the Classic Main Street Program, and allows Cities of any size to participate. This week's coffee before hours will be held at Meadows Regional Medical Center on July the 10<sup>th</sup>. She also updated the Council on the upcoming street dance being held in September

**TOOMBS MONTGOMERY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE** – Bill Mitchell brought the Council up to date on activities of the Chamber. He informed the Council of the ribbon cutting for Chick Fil A on July the 11<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m.

**RECREATION** – Tommy Sasser presented to the Council a slide show of the work that had been done on the Tennis Courts at the Ed Smith Complex. He also thanked the Council for help in funding the renovation of the courts. The Council thanked Mr. Sasser for the update and complimented him on the work done on the courts.

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** -A motion was made by Councilwoman Chesser to approve the minutes from the June 10, 2013 meeting. Councilman Tyson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

### AGENDA

1. **Planning and Zoning meeting 7/3/13** – Shaun Oliver presented the results from the Planning and Zoning meeting held on 7/3/13. He reported that the sign ordinance change approved at the May 13, 2013 Council meeting had been approved by the Committee. A motion was made at the May Council meeting by Councilman Turner to approve the change pending the Planning and Zoning Committee's approval. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thompson. The vote was unanimous with Councilwoman Chesser abstaining. The Ordinance change stands approved. (See Attached). Mr. Oliver also reported that the Planning and Zoning Committee approved the addition of mini-warehouses as an allowable use in the C-2, C-3, I-1 and I-2 zones. Councilman Tyson made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Committee. Councilman Thompson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.
2. **License and Permits meeting 6/14/13** – Mr. Torrance presented to the Council the two issues that were brought before the License and Permits Committee on June 14, 2013. No action was required by the Council. (See Attached Minutes)

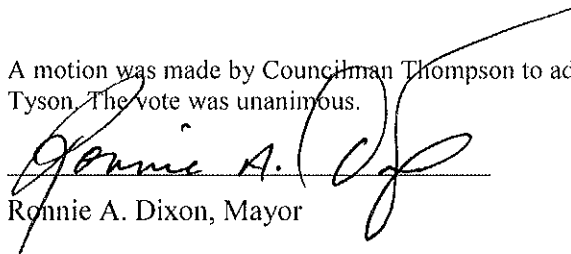
3. **Flea Markets and Yard Sales** – Mr. Torrance presented to the Council his recommendation for the handling of flea markets and yard sales that the Council had asked him to review. His recommendation is to delete in Section 10-16(a) of the City Ordinance the line referring to “other locations within the City” and “from the public right of way”. He also recommended that item (c) be deleted in its entirety. The Council tabled the issue for further review.
4. **Onion Festival meeting 7/1/13** – Mr. Torrance informed the Council that the new by-laws and Committee appointment recommendations were not complete at this time and that he would present them at a later date.

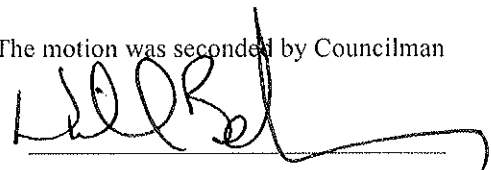
**City Manager’s Report** – Mr. Torrance stated that the City had a request from the Sweet Onion Classic Golf Tournament to put a person in the tournament at a cost of \$500.00. He stated that the City had always put the Mayor in the tournament. Councilman Tyson made a motion to put the Mayor in the tournament and to pay the fee from the Council’s legislative capital. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thompson. The vote was unanimous.

Police Chief Frank Waits brought the Council up to date on the drowning that occurred over the weekend at the City Pool on Bay Street. He stated that the case had been immediately turned over to the GBI for investigation. He did inform them that the pool had been released back to the Recreation Department.

Councilwoman Chesser asked Recreation Director Sasser when the City pool would be back in service. Mr. Sasser stated that he was hoping to have it open by next Monday morning. Mrs. Chesser asked if there was money available to help the swim team pay the fee they would be charged for the use of the pool at the wellness center. Councilman Tyson made a motion to pay up to \$200.00 from the Council’s legislative account to help the swim team with this expense. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thompson. The vote was unanimous.

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

  
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Ronnie A. Dixon, Mayor

  
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William E Bedingfield, City Clerk

**CALLED COUNCIL MEETING**

7/12/13  
MINUTES

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** RAYMOND TURNER, CECIL THOMPSON AND EDDIE TYSON

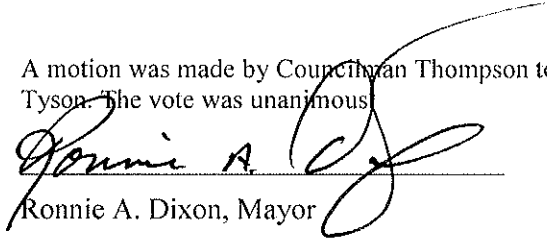
**NON-MEMBERS PRESENT:** BILL TORRANCE – CITY MANAGER, BILL BEDINGFIELD,  
FINANCE DIRECTOR/CITY CLERK, SHAUN OLIVER – CITY MARSHALL, MELISSA  
MOORE – ADMIN ASSISTANT AND FRANK WAITS – POLICE CHIEF

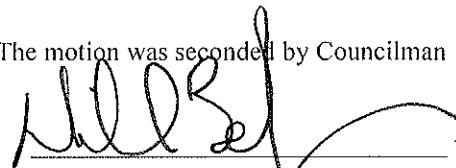
Mayor Pro-Tem Turner called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

**AGENDA**

1. **PLANNING AND ZONING MEETING 7/11/13** - City Marshall Shaun Oliver presented the results of the Planning and Zoning Meeting held on 7/11/13. He stated that a request for a variance on side and rear yard setbacks had been received from Eric Lindsey at 1528 Clydette Blvd. Mr. Oliver told the Committee that the home was in an R2 zone and required a 10 foot side yard and a 5 foot rear yard setback and that the structure in question violated both of these setbacks. The home owner cited that a tremendous hardship would be placed on him if the setback variance was not allowed. He explained to the Committee that to move the existing structure would be very costly. Mr. Oliver pointed out that no one was in attendance to oppose the request. On a motion by Committee Member Folsom and a second by Committee Member Langston. The Committee recommended the approval of the request. The Committee's vote was unanimous. Councilman Tyson stated that he had looked at the building and pointed out that he noticed another building that was in violation of this ordinance. Mr. Torrance stated that it was in violation of the ordinance, but that it was a portable building and could be moved more easily than the one in question. After some discussion Councilman Tyson made a motion to approve the Planning and Zoning Committee's recommendation. Councilman Thompson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

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

  
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Ronnie A. Dixon, Mayor

  
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William E Bedingfield, City Clerk

## REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

AUGUST 12, 2013

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, ZACK FOWLER- VIDALIA COMMUNICATION, JEFF WEST – ESG, ROBBIE AKINS – ESG, BUDDY COLEMAN – FIRE CHIEF, TOMMY SASSER, RECREATION DIRECTOR AND MELISSA MOORE – ADMIN. ASSISTANT

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

THE INVOCATION WAS GIVEN BY: RYAN BONCANNON

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** - None

**DVA:** - Paula brought the Council up to date on activities of the DVA. She will be attending the Georgia Downtown conference in Savannah on Tuesday August 13, 2013. Work on the Downtown Music Festival is proceeding as planned and should prove to be a great event. Mrs. Toole asked the Council to approve Thursday October 31, 2013 as the official Halloween night in Vidalia. The event would be from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m., and require the same street closings as last year. Councilman Tyson made a motion to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Councilman Turner. The vote was unanimous. She also asked the Council to approve the DVA's annual Fall into Christmas Spooktober on October 17, 2013. The event would require the same street closings as Halloween and be from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. Councilman Turner made a motion to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Councilman Frost. The vote was unanimous.

**TOOMBS MONTGOMERY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE** – Bill Mitchell brought the Council up to date on activities of the Chamber. He asked the Council to save October 24, 2013 for the annual Chamber Golf Tournament to be held at Rocky Creek Golf Club.

**FINANCIAL REPORT - BILL BEDINGFIELD** - Mr. Bedingfield gave the financial report for the month of July. 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 July 8, 2013 meeting and the July 12, 2013 meeting. Councilman Thompson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

### **AGENDA**

1. **2012 AUDIT – TRACY CLARK** – Tracy Clark, with Mclain Calhoun and Clark, reported to the Council that the 2012 audit was complete and had been reported to the DCA as required by law. He stated his firm found no significant errors or issues with the audit and issued an unqualified opinion. He complimented the City on the cooperation that he and his staff received from the City employees. In his management letter he recommended that the Onion Festival account had some overstated revenue that was due to invoices being receipted incorrectly. He also stated that the Recreation Department had not had the required number of board meetings in 2012 and needed to insure that they have the meetings. Mr. Torrance insured the Council that he along with Mr. Bedingfield and Recreation Director Tommy Sasser had met and the issues have been addressed.
2. **ONION FESTIVAL** – Mr. Torrance presented to the Council the new By-Laws for the Onion Festival Committee and also the slate of recommended appointees to the Committee. A motion was made by Councilwoman Chesser to approve the by-laws as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilman Turner. The vote was unanimous. A motion was made by Councilman Frost to approve the list of new members. ( see attached list) The motion was seconded by Councilman Thompson. The vote was unanimous.

3. **LICENSE AND PERMITS MEETING 7-22-13** Councilwoman Chesser informed the Council that the License and Permits Committee had met (See Attached Minutes) and is recommending that the ordinance pertaining to Yard Sales be amended. The recommended resolution is attached. Councilman Tyson made a motion to approve the Committee's recommendation. Councilman Frost seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.
4. **REVOLVING LOAN MEETING 8-5-13** – The Revolving Loan Committee met on 8-5-13 (See Attached Minutes) to discuss the application from WorldTrac LLC. The company is requesting a loan in the amount of \$180,000.00 at 3% interest with a 7.5 year term. The Committee has met with the company and reviewed all financial documentation and recommends that the loan be made. A motion was made by Councilman Frost to approve the loan. The motion was seconded by Councilman Tyson. The vote was unanimous.
5. **WATER AND SEWER MEETING 7-22-13** – Mr. Torrance told the Council that a Water and Sewer meeting was held on 7-22-13. (Minutes Attached) The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the new testing requirements that were being placed on the City in 2014 and beyond by the EPD, and of the impact that this would have on our budgeting process. This was for information only and requires no immediate action.
6. **LMIG PAVING BIDS** – Mr. Torrance presented to the Council the bids for the 2013 LMIG road projects in Vidalia. The low bidder was Ricketson Construction Company with a bid of \$163,383.90. Mr. Torrance also requested \$8500.00 in additional local money for patch work that has to be done by ESG. He also presented a slide presentation that outlined each project in the bid. A motion was made by Councilman Thompson to approve the bid from Ricketson Construction and the additional funding. The motion was seconded by Councilman Turner. The vote was unanimous.

#### **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

Mr. Torrance informed the Council that the HVAC unit at Fire Station on Aimwell had gone out and needed to be replaced. The recommended bid was from Alexander Brothers Air and was for \$4400.00. This is for a 15 SEER system with a 10 year warranty. He also stated that funding would come from contingency. A motion was made by Councilman Tyson to approve the bid. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thompson. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Torrance presented a proposal to the Council on remodeling the old Council chambers to add additional office space to City Hall, and a plan that included a pavilion for the parking lot where the old Police Station once stood. The pavilion and stage could be used for events that would be held in the downtown area. He also reported that in the current SPLOST call we have \$290,000.00 set aside for City Hall. The Council instructed the City Manager to get pricing on the parking lot plan and see what funds would be needed. Mr. Torrance stated that he would proceed by getting some pricing on the project.

Mr. Torrance explained that a section of Maple Drive had collapsed during a recent heavy rain and required emergency repairs. McLendon was called and gave an initial price of \$50,000. After some value engineering the City got the cost down to \$35,000.00. A motion was made by Councilman Turner to approve the repair. The motion was seconded by Councilman Tyson. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Torrance presented a plan to purchase two new diesel mowers for public works, and to use the equipment line item from SPLOST to pay for them. The request is to spend up to \$25,000.00 for the mowers. Councilman Tyson made a motion to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Councilman Turner. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Torrance had a request to rent the old fire station building on McIntosh Street. He is asking the Council their opinion on renting the building or selling it. The Council stated that they would prefer to sell the building, and instructed Mr. Torrance to review options available.

Mr. Torrance explained to the Council that the City's share of the DOT project to widen Hwy 292 had increased from \$32,519.12 to \$47,693.91 after the bids had come in, and that he would need Council

approval to pay the increased amount. Councilman Frost made a motion to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thompson. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Torrance informed the Council that we did not receive the 2013 CDBG grant and as soon as we received the comments from the DCA we would review them and make a determination if re-applying would be feasible. This project was for storm water, sewer and water improvements in the Bay Street area.

Mr. Torrance told the Council that Anita Estroff had resigned from the Library Board, and that the board was requesting that the Council appoint Reverend Jim Clendinen to fill her seat for the remainder of her term which expires on December 31, 2013, and to appoint him to a new term that will expire on December 31, 2015. Councilman Turner made a motion to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Councilman Tyson. The vote was unanimous.

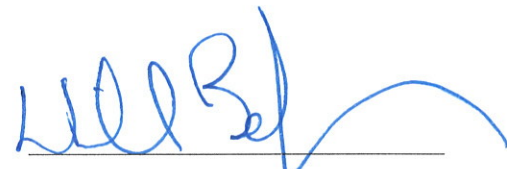
Recreation Director Tommy Sasser informed the Council that he received a letter from the health department stating that the City pool was in the best shape that they had seen it in 12 years. The Council thanked Mr. Sasser for his work on keeping the pool in excellent shape.

A motion was made by Councilman Frost to adjourn and enter executive session to discuss possible litigation. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thompson. The vote was unanimous.

A motion was made by Councilman Frost to adjourn from executive session and re-enter open session. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thompson. The vote was unanimous.

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

  
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Ronnie A. Dixon, Mayor

  
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William E Bedingfield, City Clerk

ROSTER

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

DATE: 8-12-2013

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

NAME	ADDRESS
Melissa L. Moore	
Lee Burton	
Amber Cook	OVA
<del>Ellen</del>	
Louis Shaw	406 Dixon Village
Ray Hamilton	250 Boswick Cir.
Bob Dunn	166 Richwood Court.
Tom Nepeduta	406 Dixon St
<del>Chris</del>	
Frank White	
Robbie Atkins (ESG)	
Ray Nelson	605 Amwell Rd.
Bill Mitchell	
Tom CATO	





CITY OF VIDALIA  
AFFIDAVIT AS TO OPEN MEETING LAW

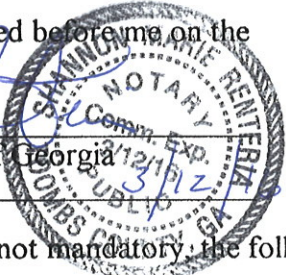
The undersigned chair or presiding officer, under oath, certifies that a meeting of the Mayor and Council held on the date identified below being the date of this document, the Board closed its meeting as permitted by the Open Meetings Act of Georgia. The only matters considered or discussed during the 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 12<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2013.

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

Sworn to and subscribed before me on the above indicated date:  
*Yanna Kent*  
Notary Public, State of Georgia  
Commission Expires 3/12/12



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

*Jessie Chesner* \_\_\_\_\_

*John Raymond Turner* \_\_\_\_\_

*[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**

SEPTEMBER 9, 2013

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: REV. H.W.MILLER

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** - Steven Miller, Director of the Boys and Girls Club, introduced himself to the Council by giving a short resume of his history with the Boys and Girls Club, and that he looked forward to the Council's continued support. The Mayor and Council welcomed Mr. Miller to Vidalia, and insured him of the commitment that the Council has for the Boys and Girls Club.

Ann Owens asked the Council about the possibility of closing the alley that is located by her business. She cited traffic speeding down the alley and the danger that it is to pedestrians. City Manager Torrance stated that there were numerous issues that would be involved that would impact the entire City and would need to be discussed in a City wide downtown meeting. Mayor Dixon suggested that the issue be sent to the Streets and Sanitation Committee for review.

Mrs. Geraldine Bell asked the Council to review the yard trash pick-up schedule on Ramonia Drive. She stated that she has been missed as many as four weeks in a row and that she had made several calls to Republic but that no action was taken. Mayor Dixon stated that the issues that she was describing were going to be addressed at tonight's meeting and that she should stay for the presentation.

Eugene Jackson, who lives at 706 Smith Street, complained about drug use in his neighborhood and the lack of police response to his calls. He also reported that the street light is continually being destroyed every time Georgia Power fixes it. He also complained that when the police do respond he is targeted by the drug dealers as the informant and his car is vandalized. Mr. Torrance stated that he would work with the Police Chief to provide better patrolling of the area and to work to protect his identity.

**DVA:** - Paula brought the Council up to date on activities of the DVA. She told the Council about the Downtown Music Festival being held this weekend on Saturday night, and reported that final plans were in place. She also stated she and her committee would be on Vidalia Today in the morning promoting the event. She reminded the Council of the 9/11 service being held on Wednesday of this week at 9:00 a.m.

**TOOMBS MONTGOMERY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE** – Bill Mitchell brought the Council up to date on activities of the Chamber. He reported that the Development Authority would meet on September 19, 2013 at 12:00 noon. He also reminded the Council of the upcoming Chamber Golf Tournament on October 24<sup>th</sup> at Rocky Creek. He also mentioned several new business opportunities that hold the possibility of a number of new jobs for the area.

**FINANCIAL REPORT - BILL BEDINGFIELD** - Mr. Bedingfield gave the financial report for the month of August. A motion was made by Councilman Thompson 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 August 12, 2013. Councilman Thompson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

## **AGENDA**

1. **Water and Sewer Meeting 8/15/13** – Councilman Tyson informed the Council that the Committee met to discuss the disposal fees charged to septic tank cleaning companies dumping at the Swift Creek plant. A request to lower the fee was brought by Darrel Mimbs, a local septic tank cleaning business owner. After some discussion Mr. Torrance made a recommendation to the Committee to set a \$50 per 1000 gallons fee for businesses located in Toombs County and to leave the fee at \$75 per 1000 gallons for all others. The Committee was in agreement. No action is required by the Council. (See Attached Minutes) Councilman Tyson also passed out a recommendation on water rates for the Council to review. He asked that they be prepared to discuss them at a later meeting.
2. **Airport Meeting 9/3/13** – Chairman Thompson told the Council that the Committee had met to review the RFP placed by Airport Manager Kevin Britton for fuel service. After much discussion it was decided that a letter be sent, by City Attorney Threlkeld, to the current supplier to outline our expectations for them to complete the agreement that we have with them. (See Attached Minutes)
3. **Alley Abandonment Request** – Sandy and Roger Calloway brought a request to the Council to abandon the 10 foot alley that is no longer used behind the property on Madison Street. Mr. Torrance stated that the City should not incur any cost in giving away property. City Attorney Reid Threlkeld stated that the entire ally would need to be quit claimed to all property owners involved. He recommended that all property owners be petitioned to see if they are interested in taking possession of the alley. Mr. Torrance stated that he would get the petition out as soon as possible.
4. **2013 Millage Rate** – Mr. Torrance presented the 2013 millage rate of 4.382 mils to the Council for their endorsement. He stated that this is rolled back from 4.5 mils due to inflationary growth in the digest. He also recommended a rate of 3.826 mils for Montgomery County residents that live in the City. This rate also meets the rollback requirement. The five year rate history has been advertised, as required by law, and the Council could approve the 2013 rate tonight. Councilwoman Chesser Made a motion to approve the millage rate for 2013. The motion was seconded by Councilman Tyson. The vote was unanimous.

## **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT –**

Mr. Torrance presented a proposal to the Council to expand the open pavilion at Flossie Hayes Park. This expansion would put the pavilion back to its original size by utilizing the existing foundation. The cost to complete the job would be \$5500.00 and would be done by Nicky Ray. A motion was made by Councilman Frost to approve and fund the request from SPLOST. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thompson. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Torrance presented a letter that he received from the County Commissioners concerning the paving of Ezra Taylor road. Their proposal is to move the project into band one of their TSPLOST projects to speed the completion of this much needed improvement. The cost for the project is projected at 2.2 million dollars and the County is requesting up to \$350,000.00 from the City of Vidalia to handle the part of the road that is in Vidalia. Councilman Frost made a motion to approve the funding for the City. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thompson. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Torrance presented a request to spend \$3500.00 on an architect to design the amphitheater being considered for the old police station parking lot. This project is on track to be completed by next year's Onion Festival. A motion was made by Councilman Frost to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Councilman Tyson. The vote was unanimous.

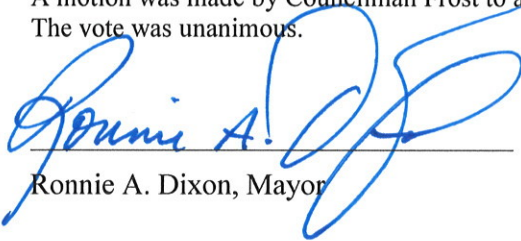
Mr. Torrance asked Chris Bloxham, Manager of Republic Services, to address the Council on issues he is facing with staying on schedule picking up yard trash in the City. Mr. Bloxham presented numerous photos

of houses that have had trees cut down and then placed out on the right of way where they expect Republic to remove them. He explained how these piles have affected his ability to keep up with the normal schedule of service required in the City. Mr. Torrance stated that he wanted Republic to always get the normal yard trash and to notify City Hall of the problem piles. This information needs to get to City Marshall Shaun Oliver so he can notify the home owner of the problem and to develop a cost and a schedule for removing the pile of trash. The Council is in agreement with Mr. Torrance's suggestion. Mr. Bloxham apologized to Mrs. Bell for the problems she has had with his service and promised to meet with his staff and address those issues.

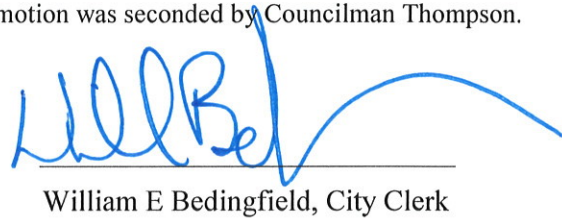
Mr. Torrance informed the Council that the City would not have an election due to no one qualifying against those up for re-election. He also stated that the question has been asked by numerous citizens if the City would consider an ordinance to allow the residents to vote on the Sunday sale of alcohol for both on – premise by the drink and off-premise package sales. He stated that if the Council was interested in allowing this they would need to act tonight to get it on the November 5, 2013 ballot. Councilwoman Chesser made a motion to approve the ordinance for both questions and to have them placed on the November 5, 2013 ballot. The motion was seconded by Councilman Turner. The vote was unanimous. Councilman Thompson abstained for business reasons.

Police Chief Frank Waits thanked the Council for their kind prayers and generosity during the funeral service for Officer Brad Bradley. Officer Bradley's untimely death is a tremendous loss to the City's Police force. The shadow box containing his badge, shoulder patch and insignia was presented to his family at the service. He also thanked the Mayor for the proclamation retiring Officer Bradley's badge number with the City of Vidalia. (Badge #280) The Mayor and Council extend their deepest sympathies to the family of Officer Brad Bradley.

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



Ronnie A. Dixon, Mayor



William E Bedingfield, City Clerk

ROSTER

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

DATE: 9-9-13

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

NAME	ADDRESS
Melissa Moore	City Hall
Sindy Calloway	415 Lynch Dr., Vidalia, GA
Eugene Jackson	706 S. 4th St. Vidalia GA
Roger Calloway	VPD
Seraldine Bell	905 Raymond Drive
Stephen L. Miller	205 West 4th St. Apt. 6
Bria Williams	





**CALLED COUNCIL MEETING**

10/11/13  
MINUTES

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

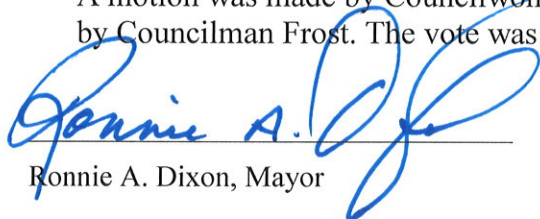
**NON-MEMBERS PRESENT:** BILL TORRANCE – CITY MANAGER, BILL BEDINGFIELD, FINANCE DIRECTOR/CITY CLERK, MELISSA MOORE, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT, JOHN JONES, COUNTY MANAGER AND BLAKE TILLERY, COMMISSION CHAIRMAN

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

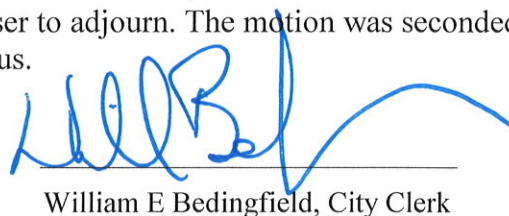
**AGENDA**

1. **SUPREME COURT DECISION ON LOST** – City Manager Bill Torrance brought the Council up to date on the latest information concerning the Supreme Court's decision to rule that all LOST decisions decided by baseball arbitration are unconstitutional and therefore invalid. The Court declared that this legislative process that could not be resolved locally could not be sent to the courts. Mr. Torrance has spoken with Buddy Welch, our attorney, and Mr. Welch has recommended that the Councils of Vidalia, Lyons, Santa Clause and the County Commission re-sign a LOST certificate to present to the revenue department. He stated that there is no guarantee that it will be accepted, but it is our best chance at getting this issue resolved without losing LOST all together. The vote today is to allow the Mayor to sign the resolution (See Attached) adopting the already agreed upon LOST splits. He also stated that time is of the essence and that we need this document presented in Atlanta by next Tuesday. A motion was made by Councilman Frost to approve the request to allow the Mayor to sign the resolution and all documents pertaining to this issue. The motion was seconded by Councilman Turner. The vote was unanimous

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



\_\_\_\_\_  
Ronnie A. Dixon, Mayor



\_\_\_\_\_  
William E Bedingfield, City Clerk

## REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

OCTOBER 15, 2013

MINUTES

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

**NON-MEMBERS PRESENT:** BILL TORRANCE – CITY MANAGER, BILL BEDINGFIELD, FINANCE DIRECTOR/CITY CLERK, REID THRELKELD – CITY ATTORNEY, ZACK FOWLER- VIDALIA COMMUNICATION, JEFF WEST – ESG, ROBBIE AKINS – ESG, BUDDY COLEMAN – FIRE CHIEF, TOMMY SASSER, RECREATION DIRECTOR, MELISSA MOORE – ADMIN ASSISTANT, FRANK WAITS – POLICE CHIEF

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

THE INVOCATION WAS GIVEN BY: REV. JOHNNYE JOHNSON

Mayor Dixon asked that the following be read into the minutes of tonight's meeting: The City of Vidalia mourns the loss of John C. "Chip" Matheson. Chip passed away on October 15, 2013 at his home. He was a long term Councilman for the City of Vidalia taking office in January 1988 and serving until December 2007. Councilman Matheson held the position as chairman of the finance committee and served on many other committees of the Council during his five terms in office. He was Mayor Pro-Tem from 1996 through 2007. Councilman Matheson was involved and instrumental in developing a business-like approach to city government. He believed in open government and was always available and accessible to citizens of Vidalia. Councilman Matheson took the leadership of the Vidalia Onion Festival in 1995, reforming the festival to insure financial strength and organization that ensured an appropriate celebration of the Vidalia Onion for our community. Mayor Ronnie Dixon said "The City of Vidalia and her citizens have lost a great friend and leader. Chip led in difficult times with integrity and honesty. It was a great honor to serve with him. I have lost a dear friend".

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** - Jason Colbert, with Community Hospice, thanked the Council for their support of the Downtown Street Dance held on September 14, 2013. He stated that the event raised money for childhood cancer and furthered awareness of this terrible disease. He stated that he felt the success of the event was an indication that the Onion Festival Street Dance could be moved back downtown and be as successful. The Council agreed and thanked him for having the event in conjunction with the DVA.

Hughes Threlkeld reported to the Council that he and his wife had noticed small kids driving a golf cart on a City Street, and that one of the kids was on the roof of the vehicle. His concern is only for the safety of children and not on the legality of golf carts on City Streets. Mr. Torrance stated that the City would investigate the issue concerning golf carts on City Streets and our ordinance pertaining to them. Mayor Dixon asked the License and Permits Committee to review the City's ordinance and bring back a recommendation to the Council.

Chief Frank Waits thanked Hughes Threlkeld, Chairman of the Vidalia Housing Authority, for the Housing Authority Grant recently awarded to the City for camera equipment to help prevent crime. The Council also thanked Mr. Threlkeld for the much needed grant.

The family of Cassie Wells, who lost her life in an apparent suicide at the City Swimming pool, brought a request to the Council to allow a cross to be placed along the fence where the tragedy occurred. The Recreation Board had already discussed this and had denied the request. Mr. Torrance explained why the City could not allow this on public property, and that the decision by the Recreation Board was the right decision. Councilwoman Chesser recommended that we could plant a tree in her honor and would hope that the family would find that acceptable. Ms. Mann stated that the family would discuss it and get back to the Council.

Tracy Todd from the First Baptist Church asked for the closing of 2<sup>nd</sup> street from Church to Jackson St. on October 27, 2013 for the churches annual fall Festival. The event would be from 2 to 7 p.m. He also asked for approval to hold a 5K run in Vidalia on October 19, 2013. This event would require closing Church Street from Hwy 280 to 2<sup>nd</sup> Street for staging of the runners. Councilman Frost made a motion to approve

both events. Councilman Thompson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Mr. Torrance told Tracy to call Chief Frank Waits and organize with police where needed.

**ESG:**-Clay Sikes, Owner of ESG, presented the Council with an award commemorating 10 years of partnering with the City of Vidalia. Mr. Sikes thanked the Council for having the faith and confidence in them by becoming their first client. The Mayor and Council thanked ESG for their 10 years of dedication to the City of Vidalia and stated that they looked forward to another 10 years of collaboration.

**DVA:** - Laura Brown brought the Council up to date on activities of the DVA. The annual Fall Festival event will be held on Thursday the 17<sup>th</sup> from 5 till 8 p.m. The annual downtown Halloween trick or treat night will be held on Thursday the 31<sup>st</sup> of October from 5 till 7 p.m.

**ONION FESTIVAL** – Les Salter brought the Council up to date on the Onion Festival for 2014. He told the Council that the plan now is to have the opening ceremony downtown on Thursday night in conjunction with the movie under the stars event. The Street Dance will feature the Temptations and be held Friday night at the new amphitheater located downtown behind City Hall. Saturday night will include the musical act Uncle Kracker, and other, to be announced events, at the airport. Admission to Friday and Saturday nights will be \$5.00.

**TOOMBS MONTGOMERY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE** – No report

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** -A motion was made by Councilman Turner to approve the minutes from the September 9, 2013 meeting and the October 11, 2013 meeting. Councilman Thompson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

## **AGENDA**

1. **Resolution for 2014 Airport project** – Mr. Torrance presented a resolution that needs to be approved allowing the Mayor to sign all documents pertaining to the 2014 FAA grant money for the engineering design and planning services at the Vidalia Airport. The grant provides \$123,266.00 in FAA money and \$6142.00 in State funds. The cost to the City will be \$6142.00. A motion was made by Councilwoman Chesser to approve the resolution. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thompson. The vote was unanimous.
2. **Hannah Solar** – Mr. Torrance presented the current status of the Hannah Solar lease to the Council. The lease would be for 20 years at \$15,000.00 per year. He stated that several details had not been ironed out, but could be resolved soon. City Attorney Reid Threlkeld stated that the Council could approve the lease and allow the Mayor to sign pending the final agreement meeting the City's requirements. A motion to approve the lease pending the approval of the City Attorney and City Manager was made by Councilman Turner. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thompson. The vote was unanimous. Councilman Thompson abstained.
3. **One day alcohol permit Quint Shrine** – Robbie Akins, with the Quint Shrine Club, is requesting a one day permit for a charity golf tournament to be held on November 8, 2013 at Hawks Point Golf Club. A motion to approve the request was made by Councilwoman Chesser. The motion was seconded by Councilman Turner. The vote was unanimous. Councilman Thompson abstained.
4. **One day alcohol permit Ducks Unlimited** – Nicholas Metzler, with Ducks Unlimited, is requesting a one day alcohol permit for November 7, 2013 for their annual banquet being held at Hawks Point Golf Club. A motion to approve the request was made by Councilman Frost. The motion was seconded by Councilman Turner. The vote was unanimous. Councilman Thompson abstained.
5. **2014 LMIG Projects** - Mr. Torrance present the 2014 LMIG projects to the Council for their review. The plan includes paving on Currie Street, College Street, Peachtree Street, Airport Road, Orange Street, Willis Street, Moxley Street, 9th Street, Dogwood Street and Anderson Street. The



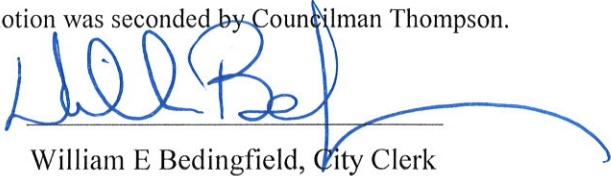
total cost would be \$198,214.00. LMIG funding of \$125,000 would leave the City's share at \$73,214.00. This would be funded from SPLOST.

**City Managers Report –**

Phil Best Jr., with Premier Construction, presented to the Council two preliminary plans for the amphitheater project. The very preliminary cost estimates would be around \$694,000.00 as presented. Mr. Torrance explained that the Council would need first to decide to proceed and then to value engineer the project to bring the cost down substantially. Mr. Torrance recommends that the Council set a budget of \$600,000 so that Premier can continue engineering the design. Councilman Turner made a motion to approve the recommendation of Mr. Torrance, and to select plan A, of the two plans presented, with some noted modifications as the preferred plan. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Chesser. The vote was unanimous.

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

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ronnie A. Dixon, Mayor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
William E Bedingfield, City Clerk

ROSTER

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

DATE: 10/15/13

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

NAME	ADDRESS
Scott Kilgore, Hannah Solan	1311 Collier Rd Atl - Ga 30318
Pete Marte, Hannah Solan	1311 Collier Rd Atl. Ga 30318
CLAY SYKES ESG	6200 PEAKE RD 30201
Melissa & Noor	
Les Salter	
Tracy Todd	FBC
Hughes Threlkeld	✓
Laura Brown	DVA
James Colbert	Community Hospice / DVA
Pearl Mays	700 Green St Vidalia
Dolores Elrod	704 Green St Vid
Johnaye Johnson	1802 Ross Way Vidalia
Shikima Johnson	1801 Ross Way Vidalia



**CALLED COUNCIL MEETING**

NOVEMBER 6, 2013

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, MELISSA MOORE – ADMIN ASSISTANT AND GREG KELLY – HANNAH SOLAR

MAYOR DIXON BROUGHT THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 10:30 A.M.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** - Reverend Willy Haynes is asking the Council to allow the Smith Street Baptist Church to close Smith Street between 3<sup>rd</sup> Street East and Rhodus Drive from 12 to 3 on Saturday November 9<sup>th</sup>. The reason is child safety during a church event. Councilwoman Chesser made a motion to approve the request. Councilman Frost seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.


**AGENDA**

1. **Hannah Solar Project** – Mr. Torrance brought the Council up to date on the Solar Project at the Swift Creek Plant. He explained that the process of getting the information needed to City Attorney Reid Threlkeld had not been a smooth one, and that some confusion over who was at fault had become a concern. Mr. Torrance explained that he called this meeting because his level of confidence in the project had been severely eroded, to the point that he was ready to recommend that we deny the project. Mr. Torrance went on to explain that the documents are now in our hands and then explained that he has gone over them line by line and is comfortable with going forward. Reid Threlkeld and Mr. Torrance are in agreement that the documents are in order and could be signed as soon as some easement clarifications have been resolved. Greg Kelly, with Hannah Solar, apologized for the confusion and assured the Council that they have always been excited about working with Vidalia and that the desire to move forward is still priority one for his company. Councilman Tyson stated that the selling of the contract to Washington Gas and Electric was a shock to him when he first found out, but that he now understands that this will only make the company stronger. A motion was made by Councilman Frost to allow the Mayor to sign any and all documents pertaining to the lease with Hannah Solar provided that the remaining changes to the documents are provided and subject to approval by the City Manager and City Attorney. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thompson. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Torrance requested that the Council approve the purchase of a new vehicle in Administration, and then move the older Crown Vic down to the police. The funds would come from the equipment line item in SPLOST. A motion was made by Councilman Tyson to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Councilman Turner. The vote was unanimous.

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

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ronnie A. Dixon, Mayor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
William E Bedingfield, City Clerk

## REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

NOVEMBER 11, 2013

MINUTES

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

**NON-MEMBERS PRESENT:** BILL TORRANCE – CITY MANAGER, BILL BEDINGFIELD, FINANCE DIRECTOR/CITY CLERK, REID THRELKELD – CITY ATTORNEY, FRANK WAITS –VPD, ZACK FOWLER- VIDALIA COMMUNICATION, JEFF WEST – ESG, TOMMY SASSER - RECREATION DIRECTOR, BUDDY COLEMAN – FIRE CHIEF, KATHY BRADFORD - ADVANCE

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

THE INVOCATION WAS GIVEN BY: JAMES JOYCE

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** - Mr. Torrance introduced Royce Nettles and thanked him for his work on re-building the wetlands area at the Vidalia Community Center. Royce is working on his Eagle Scout badge and repaired the wetlands observation deck as a project toward his goal. The Council thanked Mr. Nettles for a job well done.

**DVA:** - Melissa Moore brought the Council up to date on activities of the DVA. She informed the Council that the 2013 Christmas Parade will be held December 7<sup>th</sup> and hoped that all would attend.

**ONION FESTIVAL –** Richard Williams brought the Council up to date on the latest activities of the 2014 Festival Committee. He also invited the Council to the sponsor banquet this Thursday evening at Hawks Point from 5:30 until 8:00 p.m.

**TOOMBS MONTGOMERY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE –** Bill Mitchell brought the Council up to date on activities of the Chamber. He reminded the Council that the Fall Ag Tour would be November 22, 2013 from 8:15 a.m. until 3:00 p.m., and asked that they reserve a spot by contacting Michele at the Chamber.

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** -A motion was made by Councilman Turner to approve the minutes from the October 15, 2013 meeting and the November 6, 2013 meeting. Councilman Thompson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

### **AGENDA**

1. **2014 Budget Presentation –** Mr. Torrance presented the 2014 budgets for the General Fund, Water/Sewer and the Airport as discussed at the November 4, 2013 Finance Committee meeting. (See attached minutes) He explained that the notice advertising that the budgets would be on display for 30 days had been placed in the paper, and that a public hearing would be held on December 9, 2013 at 11:00 a.m. in the old Council Chambers at City Hall. This meeting would be to answer any and all questions concerning the budgets. The final adoption of the budgets would be at the December 9, 2013 Council meeting.
2. **License and Permits Meeting 11/6/13 –** Councilwoman Chesser presented an application from Shannon Kirkland for a beer and wine license located at 215 Northwest Main Street. This is the old Hilton/Shooters building located next to 201 Cafe. The Committee has reviewed the application, and has met with one of the owners to discuss their plans for the night club. (See attached minutes) The Committee is in agreement that the license be approved. Mr. Torrance pointed out that the new ordinance allowing Sunday sales, that will take effect in January, would

- apply to food service establishments and not to night clubs. A Motion was made by Councilwoman Chesser to approve the license. The motion was seconded by Councilman Turner. The vote was unanimous. Councilman Thompson abstained.
3. **Streets and Sanitation Meeting 11/6/13** - Mr. Torrance presented to the Council the minutes of the Streets and Sanitation meeting held on November 6, 2013 at City Hall.(See attached minutes) The first request for a four way stop at Waters and Hallway was not recommended by the Committee. He then presented the 2014 LMIG projects that the Committee is recommending be approved. A motion was made by Councilman Turner to approve the 2014 LMIG projects as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilman Tyson. The vote was unanimous.
  4. **Adams Street Bids** – Mr. Torrance explained to the Council that the bids for the Adams Street project were opened on October 29, 2013 and the low bidder was McLendon Enterprises with a bid of \$1,537,556.37. A motion was made by Councilman Thompson to approve McLendon’s bid and award the contract to them, and to allow Mayor Dixon to sign all contract documents. The motion was seconded by Councilman Tyson. The vote was unanimous.
  5. **WTOC Christmas Parade AD** – Mr. Torrance presented a request from WTOC for an AD to be placed during the coverage of the Vidalia Christmas Parade. This is an AD that we sponsor every year at the \$500.00 level. The funds come from the Council’s legislative account. A motion was made by Councilwoman Chesser to approve the Ad at \$500.00. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thompson. The vote was unanimous.
  6. **Election Certification** – Mr. Torrance presented the official results of the November 5, 2013 election held in Vidalia. The results for off – premise Sunday alcohol sales were 328 yes and 250 no votes. The results for on – premise Sunday alcohol sales were 339 yes and 234 no votes. Both measures passed. (See attached results) A motion was made by Councilwoman Chesser to accept the results of the election. The motion was seconded by Councilman Turner. The vote was unanimous. Councilman Thompson abstained.

### **City Manager’s Report**

Mr. Torrance brought a request from Jeff West to rent a skid steer for 60 days to clear all right of ways along our sewer lines. The cost would be \$2200 per month or \$4400.00 for the 60 days requested. This would come from the SPLOST water and Sewer line item. Councilman Thompson made a motion to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Councilman Turner. The vote was unanimous.

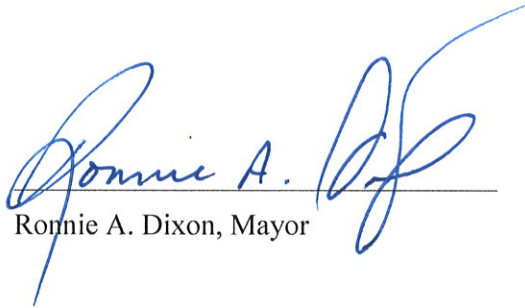
Mr. Torrance brought a request to repair a ditch on Roosevelt and 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue for \$3500.00. This will stop the flooding that is continually occurring in Pete Habersham’s yard. The funds will come from SPLOST. A motion was made by Councilman Turner to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Councilman Tyson. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Torrance also brought a request from Mr. James Stokes to increase the lease on the property that we use on MLK and Grand Street. The current lease is \$1200.00 per year and he is requesting that we pay him \$1800.00 per year plus his property tax bill for a total of \$1870.79. Councilman Turner made a motion that we offer \$1500.00 for the property and no more. The motion was seconded by Councilman Tyson. The vote was unanimous.

Councilman Tyson made a motion to enter executive session to discuss personnel issues. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Chesser. The vote was unanimous.

Councilwoman Chesser made a motion to exit executive session and re-enter regular session. The motion was seconded by Councilman Tyson.

Councilman Turner 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



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 November, 2013.

CITY OF VIDALIA

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

Mayor or Presiding Officer

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

Melissa R. Moore  
Notary Public, State of Georgia  
Commission Expires 8/2/14



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

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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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.



ROSTER

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

DATE: 11-11-13

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

NAME	ADDRESS
Melissa Moore	City of Vidalia
Rick Williams	CVB
Kathy Bradford	See Advance
Shannon Kukland	Vidalia GA
Ben Sanders, Jr	Vidalia GA
Royce Nettles	Vidalia GA
Wanda Kenney	Hyams
Wendell Dixon	Vidalia



**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**  
DECEMBER 9, 2013  
MINUTES

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

**NON-MEMBERS PRESENT:** BILL TORRANCE – CITY MANAGER, BILL BEDINGFIELD, FINANCE DIRECTOR/CITY CLERK, MELISSA MOORE - ADMIN ASSISTANT, REID THRELKELD – CITY ATTORNEY, FRANK WAITS – POLICE CHIEF, ZACK FOWLER-VIDALIA COMMUNICATION, JEFF WEST – ESG, BRIAN SIKES – FIRE ASST. CHIEF, TOMMY SASSER, RECREATION DIRECTOR

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

THE INVOCATION WAS GIVEN BY: FATHER JIM CLENDINEN

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** - None

**DVA:** - Paula brought the Council up to date on activities of the DVA. She reminded the Council of the Christmas Social being held at Canapé tomorrow evening at 6:30. She also thanked all those that helped with this year's Christmas Parade.

**ONION FESTIVAL:** - Les Salter presented to the Council an update on the 2014 Onion Festival. He reported that the band Parmalee would be the opening act at Saturday's concert.

**TOURISM:** - Richard Williams brought the Council up to date on activities of the Convention and Visitors Bureau.

**TOOMBS MONTGOMERY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE** – No Report

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** -A motion was made by Councilman Frost to approve the minutes from the November 11, 2013 meeting. Councilman Turner seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

**AGENDA**

1. **2014 Budget** – Mr. Torrance informed the Council that the public meeting required by Georgia law was held today at 11:00 a.m. to discuss the 2014 budget. A motion was made by Councilman Frost to approve the 2014 budget. The motion was seconded by Councilman Turner. The vote was unanimous.
2. **Vidalia Development Authority Meeting** – Mr. Torrance presented the results of the Development Authority meeting held on November 14, 2013. (See Attached Minutes) The Committee agreed to lease the property on Swift Creek Road from the City of Vidalia and to Sub-lease it to Hannah Solar so they could construct a solar energy plant. A motion was made by Councilman Frost to approve the Committee's decision. The motion was seconded by Councilman Tyson. The vote was unanimous.
3. **License and Permits Meeting** – Councilwoman Chesser presented the results of the License and Permits meeting held on November 19, 2013. (See Attached Minutes) She presented an alcohol ordinance change and new pricing for an alcohol license. The Committee was in agreement with the above changes. Councilman Tyson made a motion to approve the recommendations. Councilman Turner seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. The second issue was a discussion on golf carts and their use in Vidalia. Reid Threlkeld was asked to draft an ordinance to bring back to the Committee for review. At the License and Permits meeting held on December 5, 2013 (See Attached Minutes) City Attorney Reid Threlkeld presented an ordinance that was

- drafted in Metter Georgia. After much discussion it was decided that further changes needed to be made to the ordinance, and that another meeting would be called to review the changes.
4. **Alcohol License 2014 Renewals** – Mr. Torrance presented the 2014 alcohol license renewals to the Council. (See Attached List) Councilman Turner made a motion to approve the list. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Chesser. The vote was unanimous.
  5. **Water Meter Tampering Ordinance** – Mr. Torrance presented a request to amend the City Ordinance in Sec. 12-43 to allow the Judge to charge a person found guilty of tampering with a water meter. (See Attached Ordinance) Councilman Tyson made a motion to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Councilman Frost. The vote was unanimous. Mr. Torrance also suggested that the following wording be added to section 12-43 (b): Any person who intentionally injures, destroys, or permits same to any water meter, pipe, conduit, line or other apparatus belonging to or operated by the city.
  6. **Committee Appointments for 2014** – Mayor Dixon presented a list of Committee members that would need to be reappointed or replaced in 2014. He asked the Council to review the list and bring recommendations for the January Meeting.

#### **City Managers Report -**

Mr. Torrance presented the 2013 tax collection schedule to the Council for their approval. (See attached Schedule) A motion was made by Councilman Turner to approve the schedule. The motion was seconded by Councilman Tyson. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Torrance presented the performance package for the City employees for 2013. He is asking that the Council approve doubling the performance bonus because of the lack of a cost of a living raise. This would be the same as last year's bonus. The total cost of the package would be \$73,130.61. Councilman Frost made a motion to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Councilman Turner. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Torrance brought a recommendation to the Council to appoint a member to a Recreation Advisory Committee that would look at recreation in Toombs County. This Committee would not have any authority other than reviewing the overall status of recreation in the County. Mayor Dixon suggested that the Council bring a name to him in the next week .

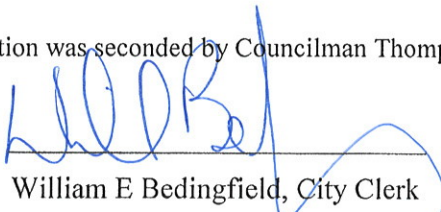
Councilman Turner made a motion to adjourn and to enter executive session to discuss a personnel issue. The motion was seconded by Councilman Tyson. The vote was unanimous.

A motion was made by Councilman Frost to adjourn from executive session a re-enter open session. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thompson. The vote was unanimous.

Chief Frank Waits requested that Lawanda Beasley who is currently at a pay grade of 22/8, which is a dispatcher's pay grade, be moved to a grade of 28/4. Lawanda is our full time evidence officer and also our compliance officer and deserves to be at this increased pay grade. A motion was made by Councilman Frost to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Chesser. The vote was unanimous.

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

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ronnie A. Dixon, Mayor

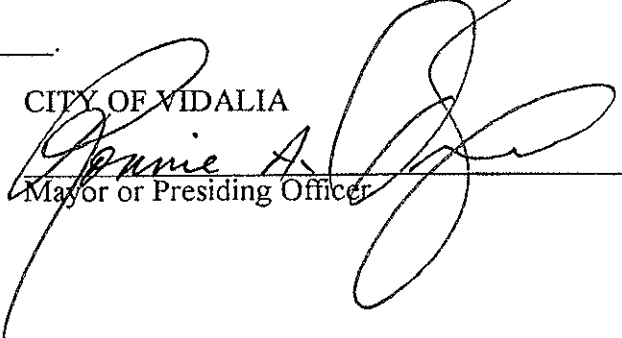
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
William E Bedingfield, City Clerk


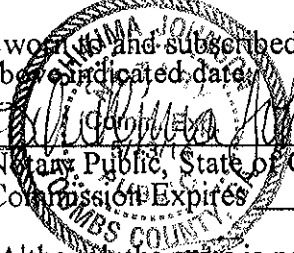
**CITY OF VIDALIA**  
**AFFIDAVIT AS TO OPEN MEETING LAW**

The undersigned chair or presiding officer, under oath, certifies that a meeting of the Mayor and Council held on the date identified below being the date of this document, the Board closed its meeting as permitted by the Open Meetings Act of Georgia. The only matters considered or discussed during the closed portion or executive session of its meetings is as checked below:

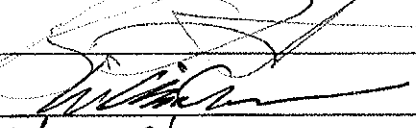
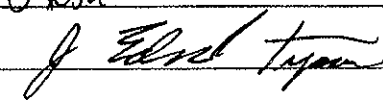
- Staff meetings held for investigative purposes under duties or responsibilities imposed by law.  
[O.C.G.A. §50-14-3]
- Meetings when discussing or deliberating upon the appointment, employment, compensation, hiring disciplinary action or dismissal or periodic evaluation or rating of a city official or an employee. (Note: The final vote if made is open to the public.)  
[O.C.G.A. §50-14-3 (6)]
- To consult and meet with legal counsel pertaining to pending or potential litigation, settlement, claims, administrative proceedings, or other judicial actions brought or to be brought by or against the City or an officer or employee or in which the officer or employee may be directly involved;  
[O.C.G.A. §50-14-2]
- To discuss the future acquisition of real estate;  
[O.C.G.A. §50-14-3 (4)]

This the 9<sup>th</sup> day of December, 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 5-3-2014  


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

 _____ Lisa Chesser	_____
 _____ Edsel [unclear]	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

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

ROSTER

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

DATE:

12/9/13

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

NAME	ADDRESS
Melissa Moore	
Rich Williams	
Lee Salto	
Jim Clendinen	
Wendell Dixon	
Paula Toole	



## CALLED COUNCIL MEETING

DECEMBER 19, 2013

### MINUTES

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** RONNIE DIXON, CECIL THOMPSON, LISA CHESSER, AND EDDIE TYSON

**NON-MEMBERS PRESENT:** BILL TORRANCE – CITY MANAGER, BILL BEDINGFIELD, FINANCE DIRECTOR/CITY CLERK, MELISSA MOORE - ADMIN ASSISTANT, REID THRELKELD – CITY ATTORNEY, KATHY BRADFORD – THE ADVANCE, FRANK WAITS – POLICE CHIEF

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

### PUBLIC COMMENTS: -

### AGENDA

1. **License and Permits meeting 12/13/13-** Councilwoman Chesser presented to the Council the final draft of the new Golf Cart Ordinance that the Committee had approved. She outlined the changes that had been made from the original draft. (See attached minutes) Chief Frank Waits stated that he felt that the ordinance should state that only licensed drivers be allowed to operate the vehicles. After some discussion Mr. Tyson made a motion to approve the ordinance with the addition; “that a licensed driver must be in the vehicle at all times”. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Chesser. The vote was unanimous. (See attached ordinance)
2. **Finance Committee Meeting 12/13/13 –** Mr. Torrance presented a proposal from ESG to add to their contract the management of the City’s shop. ESG’s contract proposal is \$94,000.00 per year. The City currently spends approximately \$99,000.00 per year running the shop so there would be a net savings of \$5000.00. (See attached minutes) The Committee is recommending that the City approve this proposal, and feels that additional savings will come from the supervision that ESG will provide and from the use of their software that will track all maintenance and repairs of the City’s equipment. A motion by Councilman Tyson was made to approve the request and to allow the Mayor to sign the new contract. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thompson. The vote was unanimous.
3. **Water meter tampering ordinance –**Mr. Torrance presented an amendment to section 12-43 of the City’s ordinance pertaining to water meter tampering and damage. The amendment will strengthen the City’s ability to charge and fine those that damage meters. This request was brought about by a court case that has been aggressively argued before the Judge claiming that no one saw them damage the meter and therefore should not be charged. A decision in this case is still pending. Councilman Tyson made a motion to approve the amendment. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thompson. The vote was unanimous. (See attached amendment)

### CITY MANAGER’S REPORT

Mr. Torrance presented a bill from Attorney Buddy Welch’s office that was incurred during the recent Supreme Court decision concerning LOST negotiations. His recommendation is that we pay the bill at the same split we had with Lyons and Santa Claus previously. Councilman Thompson made a motion to approve the request. Councilwoman Chesser seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

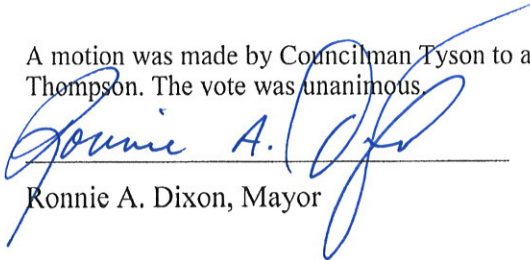
Mr. Torrance asked the Council to approve \$75,000.00 to fund the health insurance escrow account for the remainder of 2013 and help to carry the City into the new budget year. He reminded the Council that we have increased our funding to the health escrow account in 2014. He was hopeful that the additional funding in 2014 would be adequate to meet the health insurance requirement. The money would come from

fund balance. Councilwoman Chesser made a motion to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thompson. The vote was unanimous.

A motion was made by Councilman Tyson to adjourn and enter executive session to discuss the acquisition of real estate. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thompson. The vote was unanimous.

A motion was made by Councilman Thompson to adjourn and enter regular session. The motion was seconded by Councilman Tyson. The vote was unanimous.

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



\_\_\_\_\_

Ronnie A. Dixon, Mayor



\_\_\_\_\_

William E Bedingfield, City Clerk



**CITY OF VIDALIA  
AFFIDAVIT AS TO OPEN MEETING LAW**

The undersigned chair or presiding officer, under oath, certifies that a meeting of the Mayor and Council held on the date identified below being the date of this document, the Board closed its meeting as permitted by the Open Meetings Act of Georgia. The only matters considered or discussed during the closed portion or executive session of its meetings is as checked below:

- Staff meetings held for investigative purposes under duties or responsibilities imposed by law.  
[O.C.G.A. §50-14-3]
- Meetings when discussing or deliberating upon the appointment, employment, compensation, hiring disciplinary action or dismissal or periodic evaluation or rating of a city official or an employee. (Note: The final vote if made is open to the public.)  
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- 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 19<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2013.

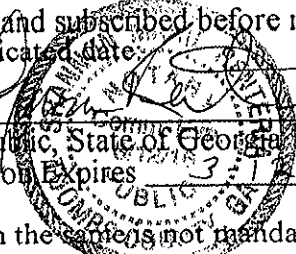
CITY OF VIDALIA

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

Mayor or Presiding Officer

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

Notary Public, State of Georgia  
Commission Expires 3-1-16



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

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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