

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

JULY 13, 2015

MINUTES

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

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

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

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

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

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

ONION FESTIVAL – No Report

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

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

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

AGENDA

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

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

CITY MANAGERS REPORT –

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

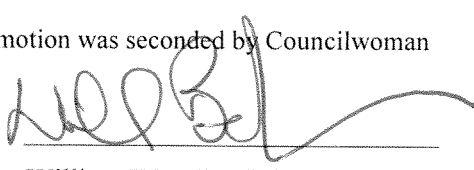
Mr. Torrance presented a request from the Altama Gallery for some support on replacing their current out dated HVAC units. The total cost is \$19,000.00, and the Gallery would appreciate any help the City might provide. Mr. Torrance stated that this was for information only, but wanted the Council to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

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

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



Ronnie A. Dixon, Mayor



William E Bedingfield, City Clerk

**CITY OF VIDALIA, GEORGIA
FOR THE ADOPTION OF
THE HIGHWAY 15 COALITION
RESOLUTION NUMBER _____**

AT A MEETING OF the Vidalia City Council ("the Council") HELD AT Vidalia, Georgia, ON July 13, 2015, the Council hereby find as follows:

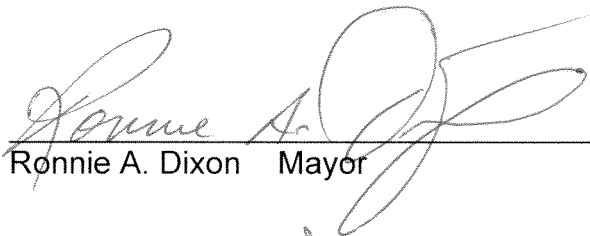
WHEREAS local governments along Highway 15 continue to work together by forming "The Coalition" among several communities located on the Highway 15 corridor to more effectively and efficiently to support economic development including tourism, and

WHEREAS, the collective input and guidance from all counties and cities has been and will continue to be vital to the success of "The Coalition", and

WHEREAS, it is necessary and desirable that all local governments and personnel coordinate their efforts to effectively and efficiently provide the highest levels of cooperation, and

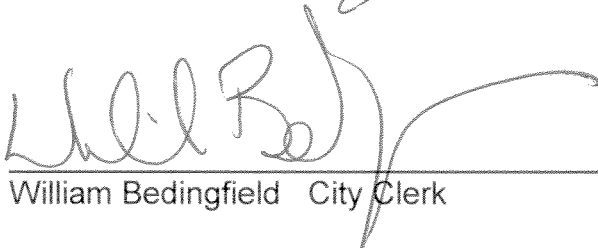
WHEREAS, the "The Coalition" provides an integral part of various tourism and economic development projects along the Highway 15 corridor.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY PROCLAIMED that the Vidalia City Council agrees to support the Highway 15 Coalition subject to the Memorandum of Understanding between those parties and abide by all of its provisions.



Ronnie A. Dixon Mayor

7/13/15
Date



William Bedingfield City Clerk