

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

OCTOBER 12, 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, JEFF WEST – ESG, ROBBIE AKINS – ESG, BRIAN SIKES – FIRE CHIEF, KATHY HILT – THE ADVANCE, CHRIS BLOXHAM – REPUBLIC SERVICES

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

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

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

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

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

ONION FESTIVAL – No Report

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

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

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

AGENDA

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

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

CITY MANAGERS REPORT –

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

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

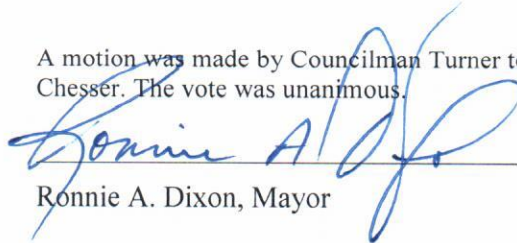
Mr. Torrance presented a request from the finance department to purchase 4 new credit card readers. The upgrade is required to prevent the City from being exposed to any liability during any attempted credit card fraud. The cost would be \$2596.00 and would come from funds remaining in the Tyler Software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

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


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

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

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



Ronnie A. Dixon, Mayor



William E Bedingfield, City Clerk

NAME	ADDRESS
Garnett Wilcox	720 Bogtrick Dr.
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Re Robert Brown	815 Arnav St Vidalia Ga 30474
Kody Banks	308 Donald Banks Blvd
Alexa Britton	VCHS
Paula Toole	DVA
Tim Trussel	1907 Oneal Circle Vidalia, Ga.
Rev H W Miller	1603 Raymond Dr Vidalia
Hal Chesser	616 Julie Dr -
Doug Chesser	
Melissa Moore	City of Vidalia