

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

AUGUST 8, 2016

MINUTES

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

NON-MEMBERS PRESENT: BILL TORRANCE – CITY MANAGER, NICK OVERSTREET – ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER, BILL BEDINGFIELD - FINANCE DIRECTOR/CITY CLERK, MELISSA MOORE - ADMIN ASSISTANT, REID THRELKELD – CITY ATTORNEY, ROGER CALLOWAY –VPD, JOHN KOON- VIDALIA COMMUNICATION, REID LOVETT – ESG, ROBBIE AKINS – ESG, BRIAN SIKES – FIRE CHIEF, SHAUN OLIVER – CITY MARSHALL, CHRIS BLOXHAM - REPUBLIC

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

THE INVOCATION WAS GIVEN BY: REV. KIMBERLY MCMICHAEL

PUBLIC COMMENTS: - Diane Green, with Vidalia Victoria Vixens, asked the Council if they could hold their 3rd annual Color Walk on September 10, 2016. The walk would start on Airport Road next to the Arts and Crafts venue and proceed along Harris Industrial, and ending back on Airport Road. They are also asking that Airport Road from Harris Industrial to Old Airport Road have barricades placed to help control traffic. The walk would begin at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday. Councilman Turner made a motion to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thompson. The vote was unanimous.

Trey Lesley, with Georgia Power, informed the Council of the closing of the Jackson Street Office on October 20, 2016. He stated that efforts have been made to find jobs for the employees affected, and that customers will have several locations to pay their bills in Vidalia.

DVA: - In Paula's absence Mr. Overstreet presented the DVA update.

VCVB/ONION FESTIVAL – Alexa Britton gave an update of the activities of the Convention and Visitors Bureau. She reminded everyone of the Friday night Back to School event being held at the Stage at City Park. Zootopia will be the free movie being shown.

TOOMBS MONTGOMERY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE – John Koon, filling in for Bill Mitchell, gave a brief report of Chamber activities.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES -A motion was made by Councilman Turner to approve the minutes from the July 11, 2016 meeting. Councilwoman Chesser seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

AGENDA

1. **Auditors 2015 Report** – Tracy Clark reported the findings of the 2015 audit. He reported that they found no major problems and was able to give an unqualified opinion, but did have some observations that could improve internal controls. He stated that these had been addressed with management. Mr. Overstreet informed the Council that the mentioned findings had all been corrected by Mr. Bedingfield and his staff.
2. **Audit Engagement Letter 2016** – Mr. Clark presented the engagement letter from Mclean, Calhoun, McCullough, Clark and Co. for the 2016 Audit. He reported that there was no change in the cost from previous years. Their fee, including expenses, will not exceed \$38,000.00. A motion was made by Councilman Turner to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Dees. The vote was unanimous.

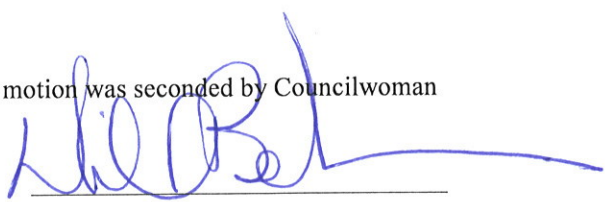
3. **License and Permits Meeting 8/4/16** – Councilwoman Chesser gave a report of the License and Permits Committee meeting held on August 4, 2016. (See Attached Minutes) Although no action is required tonight, the Committee is recommending that two sections of the sign ordinance be amended to reflect Institutional uses in residential and agricultural zones. Once the Planning and Zoning Committee has reviewed the changes they will be brought back to the Council for approval.
4. **Sweet Onion Classic Alcohol Permit** – Rose Ann Holman has applied for an alcohol permit for the Sweet Onion Classic Golf Tournament. The application is complete and has been signed by the appropriate departments. A motion was made by Councilman Tyson to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Chesser. The vote was unanimous. Councilwoman Dees and Councilman Thompson abstained citing business reasons.
5. **Sweet Onion Classic Tournament** – Mr. Overstreet presented a request from the Sweet Onion Classic Tournament to have the City place a player in the Tournament at a cost of \$500.00. A motion was made by Councilman Tyson to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Councilman Turner. The vote was unanimous.
6. **Game Room License Application** – Mr. Overstreet presented an application from Friendly Foods to add game machines to their business. These machines are controlled by the Georgia Lottery Corporation. The application is complete and has been signed by the appropriate departments. A motion was made by Councilman Turner to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thompson. The vote was unanimous.
7. **Camera Bids for Recreation** – Mr. Overstreet presented two bids to install cameras at Ed Smith Complex and at the Splash Pad. The low bidder is ADS with a bid of \$2025.00 for Ed Smith and \$1460.00 for the Splash Pad at Ben Smith Park. The funds would come from the recreation 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.
8. **Onion Festival Bylaws** – Mr. Overstreet presented some changes to the Onion Festival Bylaws that he is recommending be adopted. (See Attached Bylaws) A motion was made by Councilman Turner to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Chesser. The vote was unanimous.
9. **City Manager Project Update** – Mr. Overstreet gave a brief overview of the projects the City has coming up. He informed the Council that the Boys and Girls Club construction would begin on August 15th. He stated that he had met with the Architect on the City Hall project and that we would have some renderings soon to review. He also informed the Council of the upcoming pool committee meeting on August 10th. He then highlighted the status on the band 2 TSPLOST projects that we hope to have under construction very soon.

Bill Torrance introduced Reid Lovett who has been hired by ESG. Reid is training to be the Project Manager, replacing Jeff West who will be overseeing several projects. The Council welcomed Reid and expressed their anticipation of a long and successful working relationship with him.

Council Comments – None

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

