

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

APRIL 13, 2015
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 –VPD, ZACK FOWLER- VIDALIA COMMUNICATION, JEFF WEST – ESG, JAMES O’NEAL – ESG, BRIAN SIKES – FIRE CHIEF, KATHY HILT – ADVANCE, TOMMY SASSER – RECREATION DIRECTOR

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

THE INVOCATION WAS GIVEN BY: REV. EFTON GREEN

PUBLIC COMMENTS: -

DVA: - Paula brought the Council up to date on activities of the DVA. She highlighted the upcoming Miss Vidalia Onion Beauty Pageant taking place this weekend.

VCVB – No Report

ONION FESTIVAL – Tom Cato brought the Council up to date on activities of the Onion Festival Committee. He explained that the Blue Angels will arrive next Thursday and should create some buzz as they fly over Vidalia. He stated that there would be a Committee meeting in the morning at 12 noon at City Hall.

TOOMBS MONTGOMERY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE – Bill Mitchell brought the Council up to date on activities of the Chamber. Showcasing Toombs-Montgomery will be held on May 1st at the Vidalia Community Center beginning at 6:00p.m. He also informed the Council of several companies that have shown some interest in investing in our community.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES -A motion was made by Councilwoman Chesser to approve the minutes from the March 9, 2015 meeting. Councilman Tyson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

AGENDA

1. **Streets and Sanitation meeting 3/25/15** – Mr. Torrance presented a request from Massie McIntyre, representing Altamaha Bank, to close Wendell Street. (See Attached Minutes) A Motion was made by Councilman Turner to approve the request pending Attorney Reid Threlkeld’s review. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thompson. The vote was unanimous. Councilman Frost abstained for business reasons. The Committee also requested that a section of Anderson Street be closed and deeded back to the adjoining property owners. (See Attached Minutes) Councilman Frost made a motion to approve the recommendation. Councilwoman Chesser seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.
2. **Request from Naval Warfare Group Two** – Mr. Torrance presented a request from Naval Special Warfare Group TWO to hold training exercises in the old Thomas and Betts building owned by Meadows Regional Hospital. The training will take place on July 24th through July 27th 2015. The Hospital has already given their permission for them to use the building. The request is also to allow the unit to set up camp during this period in the unused area of the City Hall Annex. Councilman Turner made a motion to approve the request and allow the Mayor to sign the

document approving the exercise. The motion was seconded Councilwoman Chesser. The vote was unanimous.

3. **Toombs Montgomery Relocation Guide Ad** – Mr. Bedingfield presented a request from the Vidalia Advance for the City to place an ad in the Toombs-Montgomery Relocation guide that is printed every three years. The cost of the full page color ad is \$1450.00. Also the request is for an ad in the Advance for next week's Onion Festival. The cost of this ad is \$475.00. Councilman Tyson made a motion to approve both ads, and to pay for it from the Council's legislative capital. The motion was seconded by Councilman Turner. The vote was unanimous.

CITY MANAGERS REPORT –

Mr. Torrance presented a request from Recreation Director Tommy Sasser to have a 2004 van painted. The van is in such bad shape that it needs to be painted and the Recreation Department does not have sufficient funding available. Councilman Tyson made a motion that the City pay to have the van painted and to take the funds from the general fund contingency line item. Councilman Frost seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Torrance informed the Council that the GMA regional meeting has been called for the 23rd of April in Lyons, GA. This of course is the night of the Movie under the Stars Festival event. Yalonde Tanner, with GMA, has been notified that the City would not be able to participate.

Mr. Torrance explained that we are still working with the Vidalia City School System on their program to employ at risk students. He requested that the Council approve \$5000.00 in the budget so that as soon as the final approvals are in place we can move forward and hire two positions. Councilwoman Chesser made a motion to approve the request. Councilman Turner seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Torrance explained that the City has a drainage problem on Lofton Lane that will require a fix similar to the one repaired on Brumette Street. Water is coming off Hwy 280 and causing a number of issues for several home owners. The cost will be approximately \$3300.00 to correct, and the funds would come from the SPLOST streets line item. The City has met with each property owner and will get the proper easements needed to fix this issue. A motion was made by Councilman Tyson to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Councilman Frost. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Torrance informed the Council about several issues that are being addressed before the Onion Festival next weekend. He stated that the light over the sign on the back of the Amphitheater would be changed to a smaller light. He also reported that two new security lights had been installed at City Hall, and that one was on order for the entrance to the City Hall Annex from Hwy 280 West.

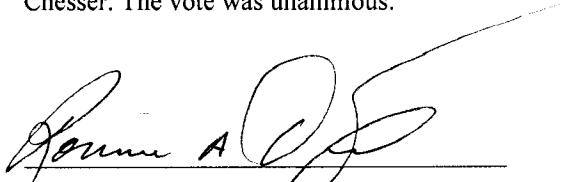
A motion was made by Councilman Turner to adjourn and enter executive session to discuss personnel and the acquisition of real estate. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Chesser. The vote was unanimous.

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


Mr. Torrance presented a request from Fire Chief Brian Sikes to add a 4th Captain by promoting from within, and then hiring two additional entry level firemen. This would improve our overall coverage and help with our next ISO review. The funding would partially come from the upcoming retirement of long time Captain Frank Williams. A motion was made by Councilman Turner to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Councilman Frost. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Torrance informed the Council that the restroom and concession building next to the Community Center, which was built by the Kiwanis Club, is no longer needed by the club. He feels that, although the City owns the property, we should at least offer the Club \$1000.00 for the building. We would then maintain it and be able to use it for events like the upcoming Onion Festival. A motion to offer the Kiwanis Club \$1000.00 was made by Councilman Tyson. The motion was seconded by Councilman Frost. The vote was unanimous.

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

STREETS AND SANITATION MEETING

March 23, 2015

10:00 a.m.

PRESENT: Cecil Thompson and Raymond Turner, Non-members present: Bill Torrance, Melissa Moore, Massie McIntyre and Bill Bedingfield. Councilman Frost was absent.

AGENDA

1. **Closing of Wendell Street** – Mr. Torrance presented a request from Massie McIntyre, Attorney representing Altamaha Bank, to close Wendell Street and to quit claim the property to the adjoining property owner. City Attorney Reid Threlkeld stated that no property owners would be affected because the bank owns all the surrounding property, therefore no advertising would be required on closing the street and quit claiming it to the bank. Attorney Massie McIntyre also requested that the City do a sewer availability study and provide a letter as to the outcome of this availability. Mr. Torrance stated that after his review there was no downside for the City. The Committee is in agreement to recommend the request as presented.
2. **Closing of a section of Anderson Street** – Bill Torrance is requesting that the City close approximately 400 ft. of what is described as part of Anderson Street. This has never been developed as a street and serves no useful purpose. His request is to close this section and quit claim it back to the adjoining property owners. Bill Torrance, who is one of the adjoining property owners, stepped out of the meeting during the discussion and recommendation phase of the meeting. After some discussion the Committee was in agreement to recommend the request as presented.

Being no further business the meeting was adjourned.