

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
DECEMBER 12, 2016
MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: RONNIE DIXON, RAYMOND TURNER, CECIL THOMPSON, KAILEY DEES, 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, ROBBIE AKINS -- ESG, BRIAN SIKES -- FIRE CHIEF, REID LOVETT -- ESG, CHRIS BLOXHAM -- REPUBLIC, JAMES O'NEAL - ESG

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

THE INVOCATION WAS GIVEN BY: ELDER BILL TORRANCE

PUBLIC COMMENTS: - Adriane Wood, with the DCA Plan First Community Program, informed the Council that their application for the Plan First Program had been approved. She complimented the Council and their staff on an excellent presentation, and highlighted some of the benefits of the program. The council thanked her, along with the DCA, for the support they provide for Cities.

Junior Elkithbab, with the Cruise-In Committee, Presented a plaque to the Council for their continued support of their First Saturday Cruise-In fund raising event.

Rev. Brown, with the Men of Action, asked the Council to approve the route for this year's MLK Parade. The route will be the same as last year. A motion was made by Councilwoman Dees to approve the request. Councilman Turner seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Mr. Overstreet asked Rev. Brown to get with him later to discuss the parade and the City's participation.

DVA: - Paula brought the Council up to date on activities of the DVA. She reported that the Christmas Parade was a huge success with one of the largest crowds in attendance ever.

VCVB -- Alexa Britton informed the Council of the activities of Tourism. She informed the Council that the Annual Meeting will be held at Downtown Bistro on January 12, 2016. Invitations will be coming in the mail shortly.

ONION FESTIVAL -- Alexa reported that the next Festival meeting will be this Wednesday the 14th here at the annex. It will be a noon meeting.

TOOMBS MONTGOMERY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE -- Bill Mitchell brought the Council up to date on activities of the Chamber. He thanked the Council for all their support during the recent remodel.

FINANCIAL REPORT - BILL BEDINGFIELD - Mr. Bedingfield gave the financial report for the month of November. 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 Councilman Turner to approve the minutes from the November 14, 2016 meeting. Councilwoman Chesser seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

AGENDA

1. **Planning and Zoning Committee Meeting 12/6/16** -- City Marshal Shaun Oliver presented the minutes of the meeting held on September 9, 2016. (See Attached) The Committee is requesting that the height variance for a Hotel planned at 202 Michael Collins Drive be approved. A motion was made by Councilman Thompson to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Councilman Turner. The vote was unanimous.

2. **Georgia Highway 15 Resolution** – Alexa Britton introduced a resolution request from the Highway 15 Coalition. This Resolution is requesting that the State Legislature take official action during the 2017 General Assembly and designate Highway 15 as “The Traditions Highway” in the Counties that participate in the Highway 15 Coalition. A motion was made by Councilwoman Chesser to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Councilman Turner. The vote was unanimous.
3. **Approval of the 2017 Budget** – Mr. Bedingfield presented the final reading of the 2017 Budget. He stated that there were no issues brought by the public at the budget meeting held today at 5:00 p.m. A motion was made by Councilman Turner to approve the budget. The motion was seconded by Councilman Tyson. The vote was unanimous.
4. **Letter authorizing use of Community Center Office** – Mr. Bedingfield informed the Council that a new letter of approval was needed by Congressman Rick Allen for use of the Community Center Office. This is something that is required at the beginning of each new Congressional term. A motion was made by Councilman Thompson to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Councilman Tyson. The vote was unanimous.
5. **2017 Tax Schedule** – Mr. Bedingfield presented the tax schedule for 2017. (See Attached) A motion was made by Councilwoman Chesser to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Councilman Turner. The vote was unanimous.
6. **2017 Alcohol, Game Room and Taxi service applications** – Mr. Overstreet presented the 2017 applications for the businesses attached. (See Attached File) He stated that all required departments had signed off on the applications. A motion was made by Councilwoman Chesser to approve the renewal list. The motion was seconded by Councilman Tyson. The vote was unanimous. Councilman Thompson abstained for business reasons. Councilman Turner abstained for business reasons.
7. **Pal Theatre update** – Bill Torrance brought the Council up to date on the Pal Renovation project. He stated that the final bid for construction is \$1,432,000.00, which will bring the total cost to the City to \$1,902,403.00. The additional funds are due to the inclusion of both phases of the project, and he needs the Council’s approval to proceed. He also informed the Council that all sub-contractors are from the Vidalia-Toombs County area. The only items not included in the bid are the Marquee, seating in the balcony, audio/lighting for plays and concert and stage rigging upgrades. He stated that fund raising would hopefully handle these items. A motion was made by Councilman Turner to approve the funding request. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Dees. The vote was unanimous.

CITY MANAGERS REPORT –

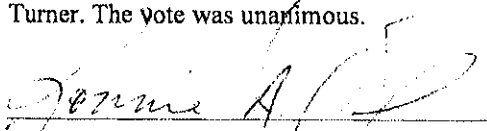
Mr. Overstreet gave an update on all the projects underway and those that are about to bid.

Mr. Overstreet asked Jeff West to present the 2017 LMIG projects for the Council’s review. The list is due to the DOT by December 31, 2016, and needs to be approved by the Council. Councilman Turner made a motion to approve the list. Councilwoman Chesser seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Jeff stated that as soon as total pricing was completed he would return to the Council to recommend additional funding from SPLOST.

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

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

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



Ronnie A. Dixon, Mayor



William E Bedingfield, City Clerk

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT RESOLUTION
FOR THE NAMING OF
GEORGIA STATE HIGHWAY 15 AS "THE TRADITIONS HIGHWAY"
RESOLUTION NUMBER _____**

AT A MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VIDALIA HELD IN THE VIDALIA MUNICIPAL ANNEX IN VIDALIA, GEORGIA, ON DECEMBER 12, 2016, the Council hereby finds as follows:

WHEREAS several local governments and interested parties along Highway 15 continue to work together and these parties have formed "The Highway 15 Coalition" to promote economic development and tourism along this important corridor, and

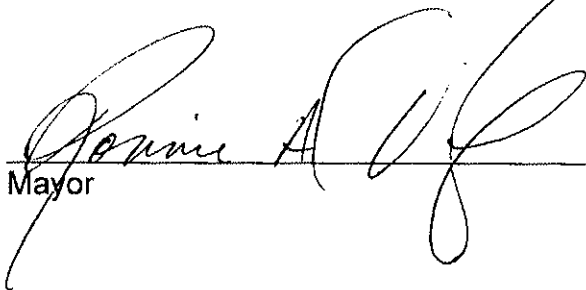
WHEREAS it is well known that the Highway 15 corridor traverses the state from the North Carolina state line to the Florida state line and is a traditional route for travelers to the Georgia coast, the Classic City (Athens/UGA) and to the northeast Georgia mountains, and

WHEREAS the Highway 15 corridor contains numerous features and stops promoted by both the State of Georgia Department of Tourism and "The Highway 15 Coalition" that may be enjoyed by travelers, and

WHEREAS it is the desire of "The Highway 15 Coalition" to stretch from state line to state line promoting this corridor for tourism and economic development,

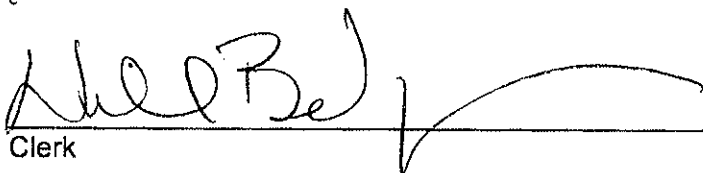
WHEREAS, already several local governments and interested parties along Highway 15 Corridor believe that a common designation of the highway will increase the recognition of the highway as a traditional route used,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that the CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VIDALIA hereby requests that the Georgia State Legislature and the Georgia Department of Transportation take official action during the 2017 General Assembly Session to designate Highway 15 as "The Traditions Highway" in the counties that participate in the "The Highway 15 Coalition".



Mayor

Date 12/12/16



Clerk

Date 12/12/16

CITY OF VIDALIA

COUNCIL:
JOHN RAYMOND TURNER, Mayor Pro-Tem
J. EDWARD TYSON
W. CECIL THOMPSON
LISA CHESSEY
KAILEY DEES



VIDALIA, GEORGIA

RONNIE A. DIXON
MAYOR

BILL TORRANCE
CITY MANAGER

WILLIAM E. BEDINGFIELD
CITY CLERK

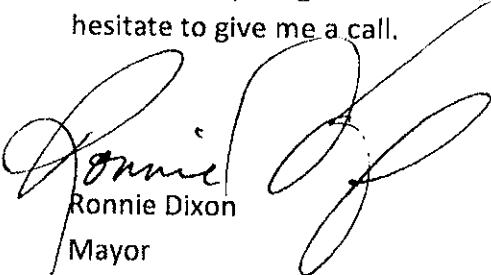
12/13/16

Congressman Rick Allen
2743 Perimeter Parkway
Augusta, GA 30909

Dear Congressman Allen,

The Mayor and Council, of the City of Vidalia, voted at their regular December 12, 2016 meeting to offer you an office located at 107 Old Airport Road in Vidalia at no charge. We look forward to you establishing this office to better meet the needs of your constituents in our area. The term of this offer will expire at the end of your current term which is December 31, 2017.

If there is anything we can do to make this transition as smooth as possible please don't hesitate to give me a call.


Ronnie Dixon
Mayor
City of Vidalia



114 Jackson Street
P.O. Box 280
Vidalia, Georgia 30475-0280
Phone (912) 537-7661
Fax (912) 537-7708
www.vidallaga.gov



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 12th day of December, 2016

CITY OF VIDALIA
By: [Signature]
Mayor or Presiding Officer

Sworn to and subscribed before me on the above indicated date:
[Signature]
Notary Public, State of Georgia
Commission Expires 3/13/20



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

[Signature] _____
[Signature] _____
[Signature] _____

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

