

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

JANUARY 11, 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, JAMES O’NEAL - ESG BRIAN SIKES – FIRE CHIEF, KATHY HILT – THE ADVANCE

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

THE INVOCATION WAS GIVEN BY: REV. EFTON GREEN

OATH OF OFFICE – Judge Larry Threlkeld administered the oath of office to Raymond Turner, Councilman from the 3rd ward, and Lisa Chesser, Councilwoman from the 4th ward, who were both re-elected to office in November. He then administered the oath to Kailey Dees, Councilwoman elect from the at large seat. Mayor Dixon thanked Councilman Turner and Councilwoman Chesser for their service to the City. He then welcomed and congratulated Kailey Dees as the City’s newly elected at large Councilwoman.

Mayor Dixon introduced Nick Overstreet, the new Assistant City Manager. Nick thanked Mayor Dixon and the Council for having the confidence in him to offer him the job, and that he was looking forward to working with everyone.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: - Terry Durance brought an appeal of his building permit denial to the Council. Mr. Torrance brought the Council up to date on why the permit was denied, explaining that the issue was a double edge sword in that the proposed metal building was a violation of the neighborhood covenants, and that the City had already lost a prior case in court after issuing a permit that violated existing covenants. Mayor Dixon stated that he wanted the License and Permits Committee to meet and bring back a recommendation to the Council. Committee Chairwoman Chesser set Thursday the 13th at 5:00 pm for the meeting. This meeting will be held at City Hall.

Cruise - In for a Cause presented the Council with a plaque in appreciation of their support in allowing the group to use the City Park on the first Saturday of each month. They reported that almost \$30,000.00 had been raised for charity at their events.

DVA: - Paula brought the Council up to date on activities of the DVA.

VCVB – Alexa Britton gave an update of the activities of the Convention and Visitors Bureau. She invited the Council to the annual meeting which will be held on January 19, 2016 at Rialto’s beginning at 6:30 pm. She also informed the Council that 3 architects are coming to look at the PAL Theater tomorrow. Mr. Torrance informed the Council that the decision has been made to hire a contractor at risk manager for the PAL project, and that RFP’s have been sent out for this position and also for architects.

ONION FESTIVAL – No Report

TOOMBS MONTGOMERY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE – Bill Mitchell brought the Council up to date on activities of the Chamber. The Development authority will meet on January 21, 2016 at noon. He also reported that the ground breaking at the DOT Foods expansion will be held tomorrow at 10:30 am.

FINANCIAL REPORT - BILL BEDINGFIELD - Mr. Bedingfield gave the financial report for the month of December. A motion was made by Councilman Tyson 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 December 14, 2015 meeting and the December 17, 2015 called meeting. Councilman Thompson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

AGENDA

1. **DOT Contract for Airport Drainage Improvements** – Mr. Torrance is requesting that the Council approve and allow the Mayor to sign the 2016 DOT contract for drainage improvements at the airport. The contract which includes \$242,072.00 in Federal funds and \$13,250.00 in State funds will require a match of \$13,689.29 from the City. A motion was made by Councilwoman Chesser to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Councilman Turner. The vote was unanimous.
2. **Ed Smith Complex Concession and Field House Contract** – Mr. Torrance presented the bid for the additional work at the Ed Smith Complex from MMI Construction. The additional work is for \$124,640.45 and will complete the demolition and construction of the two press boxes and storage facilities located in front of the new concession and restroom facility. Mr. Torrance asked the Council to approve \$150,000.00 for the work which will allow for any contingencies that might arise. He pointed out that the funds are already allocated in the 2016 SPLOST call. A motion was made by Councilman Turner to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Chesser. The vote was unanimous.
3. **Community Center Sound System** – Mr. Torrance presented a proposal to completely redo the sound system at the Community Center. The current system has been inadequate from the very beginning and needs to be replaced. The cost is \$24,658.65 and will insure that all three zones have adequate sound, and can be controlled independently. The funds would come from SPLOST. A motion was made by Councilwoman Chesser to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Councilman Tyson. The vote was unanimous.

CITY MANAGERS REPORT –

Mr. Torrance presented the 2015 crime report from Chief Frank Waits. (See Attached Report) He was happy to report that overall crime was down in 2015. Mayor Dixon thanked Chief Waits and his staff for their excellent work.

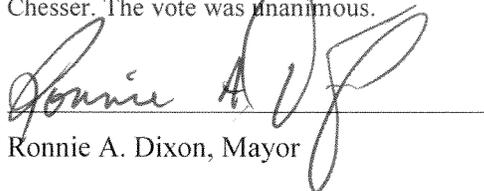
Mr. Torrance informed the Council that the Martin Luther King Parade was being finalized for Saturday the 16th of January. He reported that the parade would end at Flossie Hayes Park, where a cookout would be held. He encouraged everyone to attend.

Mayor Dixon asked the Council to approve the appointment of Reid Threlkeld as City Attorney. Councilman Turner made a motion to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Chesser. The vote was unanimous.

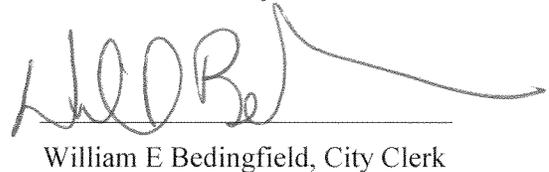
Mayor Dixon asked the Council to approve Mackey Bryant as the City Judge. Councilman Tyson made a motion to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Chesser. The vote was unanimous.

Mayor Dixon then announced his 2016 Committee appointments. (See Attached List)

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

2016

MAYORAL COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

MAYOR PRO-TEM

Raymond Turner

FINANCE & PERSONNEL

Ronnie Dixon, Chairman
Lisa Chesser
Eddie Tyson

WATER & SEWER

Eddie Tyson, Chairman
Cecil Thompson
Lisa Chesser

POLICE & FIRE

Ronnie Dixon, Chairman
Raymond Turner
Cecil Thompson

RDC REPRESENTATIVE

Raymond Turner

VIDALIA CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

Bill Torrance
Bill Bedingfield

ONION FESTIVAL

Bill Torrance
Kailey Dees

STREETS & SANITATION

Raymond Turner, Chairman
Cecil Thompson
Kailey Dees

LICENSES, TAXES & PERMITS

Lisa Chesser, Chairman
Kailey Dees
Eddie Tyson

AIRPORT

Cecil Thompson, Chairman
Raymond Turner
Ronnie Dixon

RECREATION DEPT. LIAISON

Lisa Chesser
Kailey Dees

DOWNTOWN VIDALIA ASSOCIATION

Lisa Chesser
Eddie Tyson

COMMUNITY BUILDING

Kailey Dees, Chairman
Cecil Thompson
Eddie Tyson

MAYOR & CITY COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS

CITY ATTORNEY

Reid Threlkeld
1978

CITY JUDGE

Malcolm F. Bryant
1985

CITY AUDITOR

McLain, Calhoun, McCullough, Clark & Co.,PC

VIDALIA POLICE DEPARTMENT
Crime Stat Comparison

	December 2015	December 2014
Calls for Service	23307 ↑	22329
Felony		
Homicide	0 ↓	2
Rape	1 ↓	3
Aggravated Assault	48 ↓	50
Burglary	145 ↓	148
Armed Robbery	9 ↓	18
Robbery	12 ↑	9
Arrest		
Arrest – ADULT	560 ↑	559
Arrest – JUVENILE	31 ↓	50
Misdemeanor		
Criminal Trespass	254 ↓	332
Family Violence	241 ↑	176
Assault/Battery	263 ↑	240
Traffic		
Accidents	849 ↑	628
Traffic Tickets	1338 ↑	918
Warning Tickets	1178 ↓	1466

OFFICIAL OATH OF CITY COUNCIL MEMBER

I, Lisa Chesser, do solemnly swear or affirm that:

I will faithfully perform the duties of Councilman of the City of Vidalia and to the best of my ability support and defend the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of Georgia, and the Charter, ordinances, and regulations of the City of Vidalia;

I am not the holder of any unaccounted for public money due this state or any political subdivision or authority thereof;

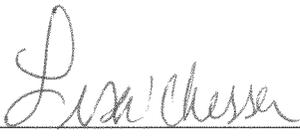
I am not the holder of any office of trust under the government of the United States, and other state, or any foreign state which I by the laws of the State of Georgia am prohibited from holding;

I am otherwise qualified to hold said office according to the Constitution and laws of Georgia;

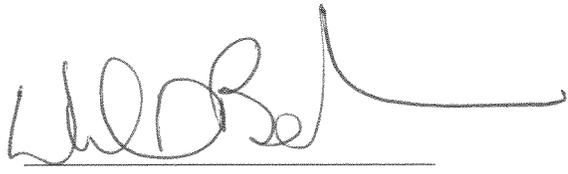
I have been a resident of my district and the City of Vidalia for the time required by the Constitution and laws of this state;

I will perform the duties of my office in the best interest of the City of Vidalia to the best of my ability without fear, favor, affection, reward or expectation thereof.

Sworn to this 11th day of January, 2016.



Lisa Chesser



Witness



Larry Threlkeld
Judge
Probate Court Toombs County

LOYALTY OATH

**STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF TOOMBS**

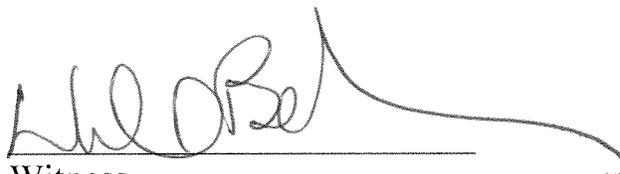
I, Lisa Chesser, a citizen of the City of Vidalia, Toombs County, Georgia and being a member of the City Council for the City of Vidalia, an employee of the City of Vidalia and the recipient of public funds for services rendered as such employee, do hereby solemnly swear or affirm that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of Georgia, and the Charter of the City of the City of Vidalia; and that I am not a member of the Communist Party.

So Help Me God.

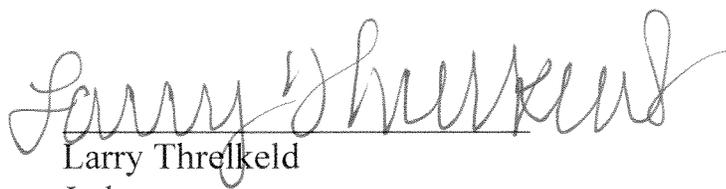
Sworn to this 11th day of January, 2016.



Lisa Chesser



Witness



Larry Threlkeld
Judge
Probate Court Toombs County

STATE OF GEORGIA

COUNTY OF TOOMBS

I, the undersigned, do hereby certify to the Judge of Probate Court of Toombs County, that in obedience to the foregoing DEDIMUS POTESTATEM, Lisa Chesser, has come before me and taken and subscribed the official oath, which was required by the Charter for the City of Vidalia and the Laws of the State of Georgia, for her, dated this date, and I have delivered to her said commission.

Given under my hand an official signature of this 11th day of January, 2016.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Larry Threlkeld", written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and extends to the right with a long, sweeping tail.

Larry Threlkeld
Judge

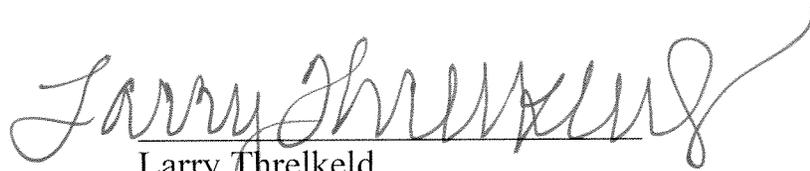
Probate Court Toombs County

STATE OF GEORGIA

COUNTY OF TOOMBS

I, the undersigned, do hereby certify to the Judge of Probate Court of Toombs County, that in obedience to the foregoing DEDIMUS POTESTATEM, Kailey Dees, has come before me and taken and subscribed the official oath, which was required by the Charter for the City of Vidalia and the Laws of the State of Georgia, for her, dated this date, and I have delivered to her said commission.

Given under my hand an official signature of this 11th day of January, 2016.


Larry Threlkeld
Judge
Probate Court Toombs County

OFFICIAL OATH OF CITY COUNCIL MEMBER

I, Kailey Dees, do solemnly swear or affirm that:

I will faithfully perform the duties of Councilman of the City of Vidalia and to the best of my ability support and defend the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of Georgia, and the Charter, ordinances, and regulations of the City of Vidalia;

I am not the holder of any unaccounted for public money due this state or any political subdivision or authority thereof;

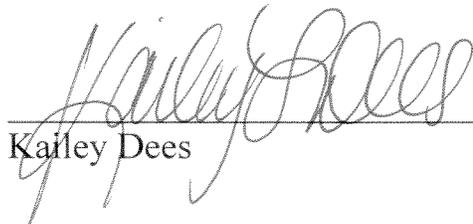
I am not the holder of any office of trust under the government of the United States, and other state, or any foreign state which I by the laws of the State of Georgia am prohibited from holding;

I am otherwise qualified to hold said office according to the Constitution and laws of Georgia;

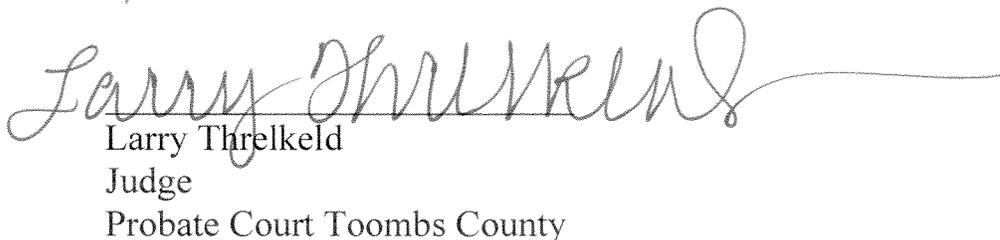
I have been a resident of my district and the City of Vidalia for the time required by the Constitution and laws of this state;

I will perform the duties of my office in the best interest of the City of Vidalia to the best of my ability without fear, favor, affection, reward or expectation thereof.

Sworn to this 11th day of January, 2016.


Kailey Dees


Witness


Larry Threlkeld
Judge
Probate Court Toombs County

LOYALTY OATH

**STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF TOOMBS**

I, Kailey Dees, a citizen of the City of Vidalia, Toombs County, Georgia and being a member of the City Council for the City of Vidalia, an employee of the City of Vidalia and the recipient of public funds for services rendered as such employee, do hereby solemnly swear or affirm that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of Georgia, and the Charter of the City of the City of Vidalia; and that I am not a member of the Communist Party.

So Help Me God.

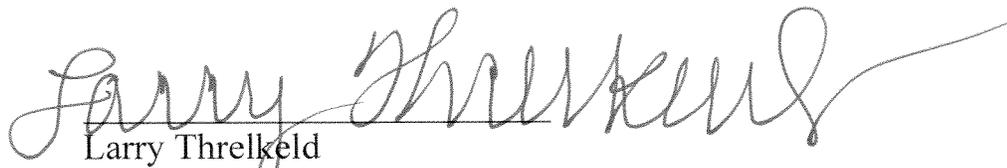
Sworn to this 11th day of January, 2016.



Kailey Dees



Witness



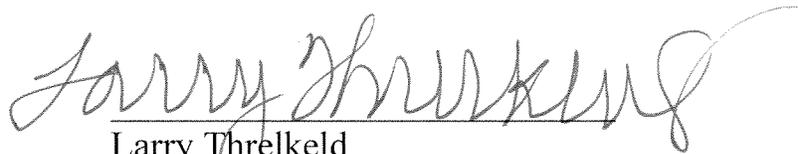
Larry Threlkeld
Judge
Probate Court Toombs County

STATE OF GEORGIA

COUNTY OF TOOMBS

I, the undersigned, do hereby certify to the Judge of Probate Court of Toombs County, that in obedience to the foregoing DEDIMUS POTESTATEM, Kailey Dees, has come before me and taken and subscribed the official oath, which was required by the Charter for the City of Vidalia and the Laws of the State of Georgia, for her, dated this date, and I have delivered to her said commission.

Given under my hand an official signature of this 11th day of January, 2016.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Larry Threlkeld". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Larry Threlkeld
Judge

Probate Court Toombs County

OFFICIAL OATH OF CITY COUNCIL MEMBER

I, Raymond Turner, do solemnly swear or affirm that:

I will faithfully perform the duties of Councilman of the City of Vidalia and to the best of my ability support and defend the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of Georgia, and the Charter, ordinances, and regulations of the City of Vidalia;

I am not the holder of any unaccounted for public money due this state or any political subdivision or authority thereof;

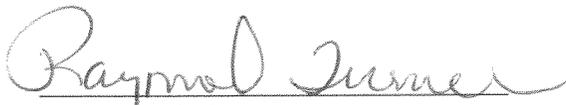
I am not the holder of any office of trust under the government of the United States, and other state, or any foreign state which I by the laws of the State of Georgia am prohibited from holding;

I am otherwise qualified to hold said office according to the Constitution and laws of Georgia;

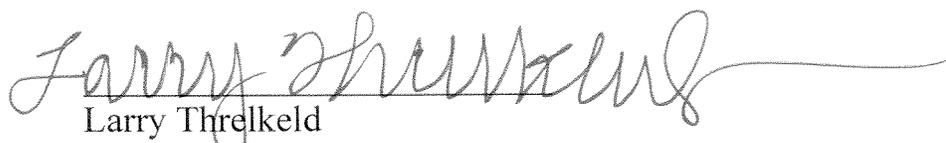
I have been a resident of my district and the City of Vidalia for the time required by the Constitution and laws of this state;

I will perform the duties of my office in the best interest of the City of Vidalia to the best of my ability without fear, favor, affection, reward or expectation thereof.

Sworn to this 11th day of January, 2016.


Raymond Turner


Witness


Larry Threlkeld
Judge
Probate Court Toombs County

LOYALTY OATH

**STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF TOOMBS**

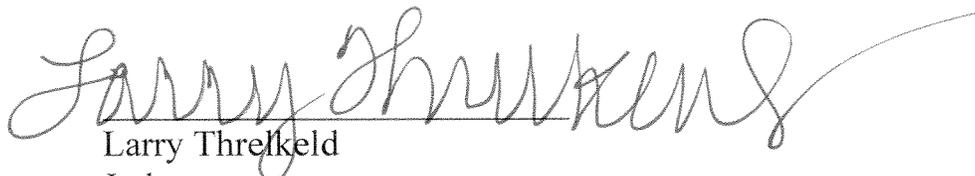
I, Raymond Turner, a citizen of the City of Vidalia, Toombs County, Georgia and being a member of the City Council for the City of Vidalia, an employee of the City of Vidalia and the recipient of public funds for services rendered as such employee, do hereby solemnly swear or affirm that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of Georgia, and the Charter of the City of the City of Vidalia; and that I am not a member of the Communist Party.

So Help Me God.

Sworn to this 11th day of January, 2016.


Raymond Turner


Witness

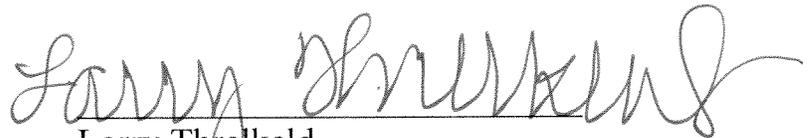

Larry Threlkeld
Judge
Probate Court Toombs County

STATE OF GEORGIA

COUNTY OF TOOMBS

I, the undersigned, do hereby certify to the Judge of Probate Court of Toombs County, that in obedience to the foregoing DEDIMUS POTESTATEM, Raymond Turner, has come before me and taken and subscribed the official oath, which was required by the Charter for the City of Vidalia and the Laws of the State of Georgia, for her, dated this date, and I have delivered to her said commission.

Given under my hand an official signature of this 11th day of January, 2016.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Larry Threlkeld". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Larry Threlkeld
Judge

Probate Court Toombs County