

**CITY OF VIDOR  
VIDOR CITY COUNCIL  
Regular MEETING  
December 09, 2021**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mayor Misty Songe  
Councilmember Kelly Carder  
Councilmember Nicole McGowan  
Councilmember Jerry Aldridge  
Councilmember Jessica Barker  
Councilmember Gary Herrera  
Councilmember Jane Hill

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

**Administrative Personnel:** Robbie Hood, City Manager; Chris Leavins, City Attorney; Betty Strong, City Secretary; Cheryl Ray, Supervisor of Finance & Accounting; and, Rod Carroll, Police Chief

**A. OPENING, PRESENTATIONS, AND CITIZENS COMMENTS**

**A -1. Call to order and the establishment of a Quorum**

A quorum was present, and the Regular Meeting of the Vidor City Council began at 7:00 p.m., Mayor Songe presiding.

**A -2. Invocation and Pledge to the United States Flag and the State of Texas Flag**

Rod Carroll, Police Chief, gave the Invocation and led the Pledge to the United States Flag and the State of Texas Flag.

**A -3. Citizen Comments**

Zach Johnson (1635 Big Bend)-Special Advisor to Dade Phelan spoke on behalf of Dade Phelan's office. Informed the community they are here to assist with any state related concerns. Also wanted to express how exciting it is Vidor TX received the Music Friendly Community dedication.

**A -4. Chamber of Commerce- Discussion regarding Hometown Holidays and Christmas Cruise**

Atasha Quebedeaux with the Chamber of Commerce gave an overview of Saturday December 11, 2021, Hometown Holidays events. Robbie Hood, City Manager explained future Christmas events will possibly be a three (3) day event going forward. Discussion ensued.

**B. COUNCIL CONSENT AGENDA**

**B -1. Approval of Accounts Paid:**

**Paid Invoices:**

**General Fund - \$248,940.50**

**MCBSF - \$80.70**

**Municipal Court Technology Fund - \$787.86**

**Emergency Management - \$20,861.47**

**CDBG Fund - \$64,814.71**

**Juvenile Case Manager Fund - (\$250.00)**  
**-refund Lindsey Allen training**  
**Judicial Efficiency Fee - \$249.00**  
**Proprietary Fund - \$27,435.11**

**B -2. Approval of Minutes: Special Called Meeting – November 18, 2021**

**B -3. Ratification of the transfer of funds from Interest & Sinking 2013 General Obligation Refunding Bonds-Capital One Bank account to Interest & Sinking 2008/2016 General Obligation Refunding Bonds-TexPool account in the following amounts:**

|                           |                     |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>November 19, 2021:</b> | <b>\$ 4,835.63</b>  |
| <b>November 23, 2021:</b> | <b>\$ 7,111.20</b>  |
| <b>December 6, 2021:</b>  | <b>\$ 10,336.62</b> |

**B -4. Ratification of the payment of the monthly sales tax in the amount of \$6,222.54 for November out of General Account/Pooled Cash**

A motion was made by Councilmember McGowan, seconded by Councilmember Aldridge, to **APPROVE THE COUNCIL CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED**. The Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried.

## **C. COUNCIL REGULAR AGENDA**

**C -1. WORKSHOP – Public workshop to take up the following matters:**

- a. Receive information from Allison, Bass & Magee, LLP, a law firm retained to provide legal guidance on the process of redistricting of existing political boundaries**
- b. Take up for consideration and possible action the revision of existing political boundaries to address any unconstitutional imbalance of existing boundaries in excess of a total maximum deviation of 10%**
- c. Consider possible alternative boundaries to reduce any imbalance among the existing political districts, wards, or precincts to a legally suitable level and to address the voting rights of all residents of the jurisdiction.**
- d. Calendar future dates for public hearings to receive public comment on any plan or alternative plans for the redistricting of political boundaries, including a date for the possible adoption of a redistricting plan.**

Mayor Songe opened the **PUBLIC HEARING workshop** at 7:10 p.m.

Robert Bass from Allison, Bass & Magee, LLP joined by Zoom meeting. Mr. Bass explained the census and how this affects the wards being divided. He described the calculations needed to comply with the one (1) person one (1) vote standards and the Voting Rights Act. Mr. Bass went on to explain that districts two (2), three (3), and six (6) are overpopulated and districts one (1), four (4), and five (5) are under populated according to the calculations. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Bass requested addresses for the incumbents to evaluate the current populations and bring these in line within a 10% deviation and not disenfranchise the incumbents. Council requested more information and a population map to review further, as the presentation material presented on the Zoom meeting was not completely legible. Discussion ensued.

Discussion ensued about holding a special meeting in January 2022 to discuss further public meetings and to move forward with the redistricting plan.

Mayor Songe closed the **PUBLIC HEARING workshop** at 7:35 p.m.

**C -2. Consideration and possible action to approve a Resolution Establishing Criteria for Redistricting of Political Boundaries**

Chris Leavins, City Attorney explained this is to pass the criteria that is recommended by Allison, Bass & Magee, LLP.

A motion was made by Councilmember Carter, seconded by Councilmember McGowan, to **APPROVE the Resolution**. The Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried.

**C -3. PUBLIC HEARING – Discussion regarding the renewal, amendment and reauthorization of the guidelines and criteria for residential tax abatements within the City wherein members of the public will be given an opportunity to be heard.**

Mayor Songe opened the public hearing to discuss the renewal, amendment, and reauthorization of the guidelines and criteria for residential tax abatements at 7:04pm.

Chris Leavins, City Attorney explained the guidelines and requirements on this public hearing.

Jared Spencer (1125 S. Main) thanked the council for the tax abatements explaining how it is helping bring people to our community.

Atasha Quebedeaux explained the difference she has seen since 2005 and the difference that the abatements and Pride and Progress has made for the people and builders in our community.

Councilmember Herrera explained the future hopes of the Pride and Progress program.

Mayor Songe closed the public hearing at 7:09pm.

**C -4. Discussion and possible action to approve a Resolution ratifying and approving the renewal and reauthorization of the guidelines and criteria for residential tax abatements within the city.**

A motion was made by Councilmember Hill seconded by Councilmember McGowan, to **APPROVE the Resolution**. The Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried.

**C -5. Consideration and possible approval of an Ordinance finding certain buildings, dwellings and/or structures located at 3060 Ward, Vidor, Texas, to be public nuisances and ordering the demolition and/or repair of buildings, dwellings, or structures: providing for severability and providing for a penalty (second reading)**

A motion was made by Councilmember Carter, seconded by Councilmember Hill, to **APPROVE the Ordinance**. The Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried.

**C -6. Discussion and possible action to cancel the December 23, 2021, regular meeting**

A motion was made by Councilmember Carter, seconded by Councilmember McGowan, to **cancel the December 23, 2021 meeting**. The Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried.

**C -7. Discussion and possible action to approve use of American Relief funds**

Robbie Hood, City Manager explained we will receive about \$2.6 million in funds having received half this year and will receive half next year. Mr. Hood explained they did meet with the Water district Police Chief and the Fire Chief. The Fire Chief was unable to make the meeting today.

Cheryl Ray, Supervisor of Finance & Accounting, explained the restrictions and the proposed use of the funds to support the Police, Fire and Water departments. Ms. Ray read the needs and cost for each department.

Rod Carroll, Police Chief explained the need for tasers, portable radios and backrests. Discussion ensued.

Rayford Ackley (5592 W. Grigsby) OCWCID#1 employee explained the need for the lift station upgrade.

Discussion ensued.

A motion was made by Councilmember Herrera, seconded by Councilmember Hill, to **approve the use of the American Relief funds**. The Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried.

**C -8. Consideration and possible approval to set up new bank account for CDBG-MIT grant funds and ratification of the closing of the VPD Trust Fund and TDA Grant #7217480 accounts.**

Cheryl Ray, Supervisor of Finance & Accounting explained with the new grant we are required to set up a separate account. The VPD and TDA accounts are no longer needed and since the balances are zero, we need to close these.

A motion was made by Councilmember Carter, seconded by Councilmember McGowan, to **Approve to set up the new bank account for CDBG-MIT and close the VPD and TDA accounts**. The Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried.

**C -9. Discussion and possible action to approve the nominees for the Vidor Walk of Fame**

Robbie Hood, City Manager explained the nominees the Music Friendly committee presented. He also explained the excitement and the need to continue the momentum of being selected for a Texas Music Friendly City. Mr. Hood explained going forward we will limit the nominees to 5.

Mr. Hood called on Atasha Quebedeaux to introduce her nomination of Johnnie Andrus. Ms. Quebedeaux also explained the need for and importance of including all genres going forward in our nominations.

Johnnie Andrus explained how proud she is for the City of Vidor and for all the nominees.

John Nickum thanked council for the opportunity and explained the marketability of this program for the City of Vidor.

Discussion ensued.

A motion was made by Councilmember McGowan, seconded by Councilmember Carter, to **APPROVE the ten (10) Nominees**. The Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried.

**C-10.** Discussion and possible action to approve a Resolution appointing a member to the Planning and Zoning Commission

No names presented. No action taken

**C-11. Consideration of Adjournment**

A motion was made by Councilmember Carter, seconded by Councilmember McGowan, for **Consideration of Adjournment**. The Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried, and the Regular Meeting of the Vidor City Council adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

*These minutes approved January 4, 2021.*

  
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Misty Songe, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Betty Strong, City Secretary