

**CITY OF VIDOR
VIDOR CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
JULY 9, 2020**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Kelly Carder
Councilmember Angela Jordan
Councilmember Misty Songe
Councilmember Keith Buesing
Councilmember Gary Herrera
Councilmember Jane Hill

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Administrative Personnel: Robbie Hood, City Manager; Chris Leavins, City Attorney; Cheryl Ray, Supervisor of Finance & Accounting; and Rod Carroll, Chief of Police (*Vicki Watson, City Secretary, was on vacation.*)

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 Carder presiding.

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

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

A -3. Citizen Comments

Robert Crane, 5624 Pine Needle Dr., Orange, Texas, spoke regarding Acadian Ambulance. Mr. Crane stated the number of units Allegiance is providing is insufficient and explained there were 3-5 calls per hour prior to COVID-19. Mr. Crane stated community involvement with Acadian is high and expressed his concerns about going with someone else's choice.

B. COUNCIL CONSENT AGENDA

B -1. Approval of Accounts Paid:

Paid Invoices:	General Fund – \$122,489.88
	Sanitation Fund – \$22,121.25
	Municipal Court Building Security Fund – \$33.10
	Library Fund – \$541.22
	Emergency Management – \$5,683.91
	LEOSE – \$725.00
	Hotel Occupancy – \$2,300.00
	Disaster Fund – \$3,434.49
	Juvenile Case Management – \$68.19

B -2. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting – June 25, 2020

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:

June 29, 2020: \$ 863.73

A motion was made by Councilmember Herrera, seconded by Councilmember Hill, to **APPROVE THE COUNCIL CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED**. The Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried.

C. COUNCIL REGULAR AGENDA

C -1. Consideration and possible action to appoint an individual to fill the Councilmember Ward 1 vacancy

Councilmember Jordan introduced Julie Hannon and recommended Council use her. Julie Hannon, 2645 Lincoln, stated she is a 30-year resident of Vidor and is interested in giving back to the community at this point. Ms. Hannon stated she is available to attend meetings, in response to Councilmember Jordan's question, except for the next one as she will be on vacation. In response to Councilmember Herrera's question regarding her main concerns, Ms. Hannon responded roads, drainage, and the perception of our City. Councilmember Songe questioned Ms. Hannon as to why she thinks her area has flooded twice and explained digging her ditch out is not going to keep her from flooding. Ms. Hannon responded she understands Interstate 10 is a problem, and Mayor Carder stated volume is also an issue. Discussion ensued.

A motion was made by Councilmember Jordan, seconded by Councilmember Buesing, to **appoint Julie Hannon to fill the Councilmember Ward 1 vacancy**. ROLL CALL VOTE: Councilmember Jordan, aye; Councilmember Songe, aye; Councilmember Buesing, aye; Councilmember Herrera, aye; and Councilmember Hill, aye. The motion carried.

C -2. Presentation and discussion of budget process

Cheryl Ray, Supervisor of Finance & Accounting, gave a presentation regarding the budget process. Ms. Ray reviewed the ways the City of Vidor receives revenue (*property taxes, sales tax, franchise fees, fines and forfeitures, donations, grants, etc.*) and the different types of funds (*General Fund, Sanitation, Municipal Court Security, Emergency Management, Hotel Occupancy Tax, and others*). Ms. Ray explained the largest portion of the City's revenue (48%) comes from sales tax and compared this fiscal year with 2017/2018 and 2018/2019.

Ms. Ray discussed the Economic Progress line item which was established in 2015/2016 with a baseline of \$2,400,000 and captures 50% of the projected sales tax increase for the coming fiscal year. Ms. Ray explained \$150,000 was budgeted for 2019/2020, but due to disasters, we have not had a chance to use but \$2,664 so far (legal fees). Ms. Ray discussed projections for the 2020/2021 fiscal year.

Ms. Ray reviewed the property tax rate for the current year and the past several years, the preliminary appraised values, and property tax caps. Ms. Ray gave an overview of the other sources of revenue and explained we are significantly under budget in fines and fees due to fewer citations, disasters, and legislation regarding indigency status.

Ms. Ray discussed the other taxing entities for residents of the City of Vidor. Ms. Ray compared tax rates for each and explained the benefits citizens receive for their tax dollars. Ms. Ray explained the budget process begins in May, and a tentative budget and proposed tax rate will be presented to Council based on

the preliminary values provided by the Orange County Tax Assessor-Collector. Ms. Ray stated there are generally 3-4 drafts of the budget before a tax rate is set and the budget is finalized in late September, but once Council receives the tentative budget, nothing is added or deleted without Council's approval. Discussion ensued.

C -3. Discussion and possible approval to direct the Orange County Tax Assessor Collector to calculate an 8 percent voter-approval tax rate rather than the 3.5% voter-approval tax rate as allowed by S.B. 2 for a City located in a disaster area

Councilmember Hill moved to **direct the Orange County Tax Assessor Collector to calculate an 8% voter approval tax rate**. Councilmember Songe seconded. The Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried.

C -4. Ratify acceptance of invitation to apply for CDBG-Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) HMGP Supplemental Funding for Alamo Street Bridge Crossing (DR-4332-130) and the Cow Bayou Watershed retention pond with outfall to Terry Gully (DR-4332-132)

Cheryl Ray, Supervisor of Finance & Accounting, explained we received notification of the CDBG mitigation supplemental grant funding for these two things. Ms. Ray stated the purpose of the CDBG-MIT was to fund some of the HMPG projects that did not get funded, and we were able to get two more grants, but the time period was so short, we had to move forward with it. Ms. Ray stated we will need a Resolution to go with this and will do that at the next meeting.

A motion was made by Councilmember Songe, seconded by Councilmember Herrera, to **ratify acceptance of invitation to apply for CDBG-Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) HMGP Supplemental Funding for Alamo Street Bridge Crossing (DR-4332-130) and the Cow Bayou Watershed retention pond with outfall to Terry Gully (DR-4332-132)**. The Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried.

C -5. Presentation by Johnnie Andrus on Walk of Fame, etc. and approval of names to be added

Johnnie Andrus stated music makes a difference in Vidor and gave a brief overview of the proposed new additions to the Walk of Fame (*Robby Lynn Steptoe, Brad and Shelly Brinkley, Emmitt Brinkley, Donice Morace, Clayton Keen, David Varnado, Billie Carter, and Billy Jack Sanford*). Ms. Andrus explained the Music Fest is scheduled for October 9-10, and the dedication of the stars will be on Thursday before the festival begins, followed by entertainment on Friday.

A motion was made by Councilmember Jordan, seconded by Councilmember Songe, to **approve the names to be added to the Walk of Fame**. The Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried.

C -6. Consideration and possible action to approve AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF VIDOR, TEXAS AMENDING THE VIDOR CODE OF ORDINANCES BY AMENDING CHAPTER 21 – EMERGENCY SERVICES, ARTICLE II. – EMERGENCY AND NONEMERGENCY AMBULANCE SERVICES, REGARDING CAAS CERTIFICATION AND PERMITTING OF AMBULANCES ON THE CITY; PROVIDING FOR A REPEALING CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE (*second reading*)

Councilmember Herrera made a motion to **approve the Ordinance amending Chapter 21**, and Councilmember Buesing seconded. The Council voted four (4) for and one (1) opposed. (*Councilmember Songe was the nay vote.*) The motion carried.

C -7. Consideration and possible approval of AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF VIDOR, TEXAS, AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES BY AMENDING CHAPTER 70 – TRAFFIC AND VEHICLES REGARDING RENAMING OF CHAPTER TO INCLUDE PEDESTRIANS AND CREATION OF ARTICLE VII. – PEDESTRIANS TO ADDRESS PEDSTRIAN TRAFFIC AND MOVEMENT ON PUBLIC ROADWAYS; PROVIDING FOR A REPEALING CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR A PENALTY; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE

Chris Leavins, City Attorney, discussed the change in section 70.225 regarding the requirement that reflective outerwear be visible at 100 feet. Councilmember Herrera expressed his concerns that no one else has done this, and Councilmember Buesing discussed the bad lighting in the City. Rod Carroll, Chief of Police, stated Beaumont had two pedestrian fatalities over the weekend, and Bridge City had one. Discussion ensued.

A motion was made by Councilmember Songe, seconded by Councilmember Jordan, **to approve the Ordinance.** The Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried.

C -8. Presentation and discussion regarding update on surveys for CDBG-MIT grant (*drainage*)

Robbie Hood, City Manager, explained right now, we are at 46%. Mr. Hood commended Council on their hard work and encouraged them to keep pushing forward. Discussion ensued regarding ways to improve participation. Councilmember Jordan stated she does not work and is willing to set up somewhere if she can find a place that will allow it. Councilmember Buesing offered to contact Walmart again.

C -9. Discussion and possible action of “no truck zone” for railroad crossing at North DeWitt and Old Highway 90

Rod Carroll, Chief of Police, explained we have had several 18-wheelers get hung up at that railroad crossing on North DeWitt at Old Highway 90. Chief Carroll stated he went by and talked to STI and Orange County Building Material, and both stated they have advised their drivers not to go that way because of the grade. Chief Carroll stated it not only tears up the road and grade, but it is extremely dangerous if a train comes along. Chris Leavins, City Attorney, explained an Ordinance will need to be brought back.

A motion was made by Councilmember Hill, seconded by Councilmember Buesing, **to make the intersection a “no truck zone.”** The Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried.

C-10. Consideration and possible approval of a Resolution appointing/reappointing members to the Planning & Zoning Commission

Robbie Hood, City Manager, explained he spoke with all six members of the Commission. Mr. Hood stated Jay Odom’s and Karen Trahan’s terms do not expire until May of next year, and they are both willing to continue to serve out the remainder of their terms. Mr. Hood stated the terms for Ms. Hearne and Mr. Spencer expired in May of this year, and both are willing to be reappointed if that is Council’s pleasure. Mr. Hood explained Scott Desormeaux and Paul Davis have both moved outside of the city limits, so Council has two reappointments, if they so choose, and two appointments. Discussion ensued.

Chris Leavins, City Attorney, explained Jerad (Spencer) and Jeanine (Hearne) can just be reappointed since their terms expired this year. Mr. Leavins stated Scott Desormeaux’s term has also expired, so Council will be filling that one, and Paul Davis’ term is unexpired, so Council will need to appoint someone to serve the remainder of his term. Discussion ensued.

Councilmember Songe moved to **reappoint Jerad Spencer and Jeanine Hearne to the Planning & Zoning Commission.** Councilmember Herrera seconded. The Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried.

C-11. Discussion and possible action to begin the process for the City of Vidor to become a Music Friendly Community

Robbie Hood, City Manager, stated this is very exciting for the City of Vidor. Mr. Hood stated there is an opportunity for us through the Office of the Governor to pursue this avenue. Atasha Quebedeaux, Vidor Chamber of Commerce, explained Kari (Milligan) and John (Nickum) went to a meeting to see if we fit the criteria, and we fit so well. Ms. Quebedeaux stated there are quite a few grants available to us and reviewed the process. Ms. Quebedeaux stated there are several others around us interested in this, so if we want to pursue it, we need to move quickly.


Mr. Nickum stated we need to tell people who we are instead of letting them hear about us. Mr. Nickum stated you develop the resources you have, and we have an amazing resource to pull from. Mr. Nickum explained to change our image, we need to change our culture. Mr. Nickum stated there are eleven cities that have this designation and reviewed the grants available including children's music, movie makers, guitars in classrooms, musicians on call, music without borders, etc. Mr. Hood stated he spoke with Chip Adams, Texas Music Office (*Office of the Governor*), yesterday, and they are willing to do Zoom meetings to expedite it and get the ball rolling. Mr. Hood stated step two is establishing a liaison office within a governmental entity. Mr. Hood explained he has spoken with the Chamber of Commerce, and they are willing to do it, which will qualify us. Mr. Hood stated he is asking Council for permission to use the Chamber as the liaison in this program in order to expedite this and so that we do not have to come back to Council. A brief discussion ensued.

A motion was made by Councilmember Herrera, seconded by Councilmember Jordan, to **move forward in the process to become a Music Friendly Community and authorize the City Manager to use the Chamber of Commerce Office as a liaison.** The Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried.

C-12. Consideration of Adjournment


A motion was made by Councilmember Songe, seconded by Councilmember Herrera, for **Consideration of Adjournment.** The Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried, and the Regular Meeting of the Vidor City Council adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

These minutes approved July 23, 2020.



Kelly Carder, Mayor

ATTEST:



Vicki Watson, City Secretary