

**CITY OF VIDOR
VIDOR CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
JULY 1, 2021**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Misty Songe
Councilmember Kelly Carder
Councilmember Nicole McGowan
Councilmember Jessica Barker
Councilmember Gary Herrera
Councilmember Larry Williams

MEMBERS ABSENT:

(Ward 3 Position - Vacant)

Administrative Personnel: Robbie Hood, City Manager; Vicki Watson, City Secretary; Chris Leavins, City Attorney; 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 Special Called 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

Chris Leavins, City Attorney, gave the Invocation and led the Pledge to the United States Flag and the State of Texas Flag.

A -3. Citizen Comments

Jamie Schiesler, 410 Jeanette, introduced herself to the Mayor and Council, gave an overview of her background, and expressed her interest in filling the vacant Ward 3 seat. Ms. Schiesler stated she is thrilled that Ms. Songe is now the Mayor, but there is no one representing her ward.

B. COUNCIL CONSENT AGENDA

B -1. Approval of Accounts Paid:

Paid Invoices:	General Fund - \$22,892.91
	Hotel Occupancy Fund - \$2,020.00
	Sanitation Fund - \$11,546.09

B -2. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting – June 10, 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:

June 07, 2021:	\$ 1,832.84
June 14, 2021:	\$ 1,902.78

A motion was made by Councilmember McGowan, seconded by Councilmember Barker, 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. Discussion and possible action to appoint members to the Texas Music Friendly Community Advisory Board

Robbie Hood, City Manager, thanked the proposed appointees who were present and explained the eleven recommended board members (*Kara Phillips, Johnnie Andrus, Robby Steptoe, Ronnie Herrera, Jerad Spencer, Atasha Quebedeaux, Terry Woodard, David Varnado, Deanna Brewer, Keith Wallace, and Donice Morace*) will serve a one-year term to start. Atasha Quebedeaux, Vidor Chamber of Commerce, and John Nickum, Vidor Chamber of Commerce President, approached the podium to discuss the Advisory Board and answer questions. Ms. Quebedeaux explained the Texas Music Friendly designation comes from the Governor's Office and is a really big deal. Ms. Quebedeaux explained this would be a City office, but the Chamber would help to facilitate it and discussed Captain Aleta Cappen's idea regarding granite stars and bringing tourism in. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Hood stated once Council approves, he will let Chip at the Governor's Office know and hopefully they will set a time and date to announce the designation of this. Mr. Hood stated he will have a ribbon cutting and make a big deal out of it. Mayor Songe asked if any of the recommended board members in the audience would like to speak. Johnnie Andrus, Vidor Chamber of Commerce, stated she feels this will increase activity with what we already have going on in the City. Ms. Andrus stated this designation is really important and not everybody can get it. Ms. Quebedeaux explained there are two other cities around us competing for this designation. A brief discussion ensued.

Robbie Steptoe, Sunday's Kind of Country, stated there is a lot of great history we will be able to project going forward, and if we all actually work together and throw away our personal agendas, this can be great.

A motion was made by Councilmember Barker, seconded by Councilmember Herrera, **to appoint the recommended members to the Texas Music Friendly Community Advisory Board**. The Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried.

C -2. Discussion and possible action to execute a MOU between the City of Vidor and the Texas Music Office

Robbie Hood, City Manager, explained this is another one of the steps in order to be designated.

Councilmember Carder made a motion **to execute the MOU**, and Councilmember McGowan seconded. The Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried.

C -3. Discussion and possible action to create a Vidor Visitors Center

Robbie Hood, City Manager, explained there is a vacant office next to the Chamber of Commerce, and he would like to use it to get a Visitors Center started. Atasha Quebedeaux, Vidor Chamber of Commerce, stated when you look at other cities' websites, it typically goes to a Visitors Center. Ms. Quebedeaux explained Vidor does not have any other venues, just music, which ties into the Texas Music Friendly Community designation. Ms. Quebedeaux explained it would be one office that helps each other, and the Chamber would help get it started. Mr. Hood stated HOT funds could be used in the future for this position,

and Chris Leavins, City Attorney, stated one of the nine categories for the use of HOT funds is a Visitors Center. Discussion ensued.

A motion was made by Councilmember McGowan, seconded by Councilmember Williams, **to create a Vidor Visitors Center**. The Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried.

C -4. Discussion and possible action regarding ROW mowing within the City of Vidor

Robbie Hood, City Manager, explained this topic of discussion came up when Councilmember Herrera was riding around with him in Ward 5. Mr. Herrera explained deep in the neighborhoods, some ditches are not done and discussed the possibility of having our mower operators work 10-hour days during the summer. Mr. Herrera suggested starting in one ward and working their way around it. Mr. Herrera stated the other option would be to buy another mower at a cost of approximately \$123K. Discussion ensued.

Councilmember Williams stated he would love to see the numbers of how much we are currently cutting and how much productivity would increase. Discussion ensued regarding chemical spraying and the severe ditch erosion that can be caused if too much is used. Mr. Hood suggested tabling this item, so that he can do his homework. No action was taken.

C -5. Discussion and possible action to appoint a member to the Planning and Zoning Commission

Chris Leavins, City Attorney, explained the term for this position will not expire until May of 2023. There were no names brought forth by Council, and no action was taken.

C -6. EXECUTIVE SESSION pursuant to Section 551.071 of the Texas Local Government Code – Consultation with Attorney, regarding process and requirements for vacancies on City Council

Mayor Songe skipped this agenda item.

C -7. Discussion and possible action to appoint someone to fill the Ward 3 City Council vacancy

Chris Leavins, City Attorney, explained as presiding officer, the Mayor can allow people to speak who may not have signed up during Citizen Comments. Mayor Songe allowed Jamie Schiesler (*410 Jeanette*) who had spoken during Citizen Comments to return to the podium to answer questions. Ms. Schiesler gave an overview of her short-term and long-term goals when questioned by Councilmember Herrera. When asked by Councilmember Barker what makes her want to do this, Ms. Schiesler responded she is very active in Jefferson County where she works, but she is missing an opportunity to be active in her own town.

Jerry Aldridge (*360 West Railroad*) stated he has been a citizen of Vidor for 43 years and active in the Fire Department for 31 years. Mr. Aldridge explained he retired as a Captain and also served as Interim Fire Chief for 11 ½ months. Mr. Aldridge stated he has experience in operating a 1.2-million-dollar budget and purchasing equipment and is well versed in how to plan for something and make it happen. Mayor Songe asked Mr. Aldridge if he had previously run for Council, and he stated he ran in 2015. Mr. Aldridge explained when he first turned in his application, nobody was running. Mr. Aldridge stated once he saw Ms. Songe was running, he did not actively campaign. A brief discussion ensued.

A motion was made by Councilmember Herrera, seconded by Councilmember Carder, **to appoint Jerry Aldridge to fill the Ward 3 vacancy**. ROLL CALL VOTE: Councilmember Carder, aye; Councilmember McGowan, aye; Councilmember Barker, nay; Councilmember Herrera, aye; and Councilmember Williams, aye. The Council voted four (4) for and one (1) opposed. The motion carried.

C -8. Election of new officers of the Vidor City Council – Mayor Pro-tem, Treasurer

Elección de los nuevos funcionarios del Concejo de Municipal de Vidor – alcalde provisional, Tesorero

Mayor Songe stated she feels this should wait until the newly appointed Council Member is seated. A brief discussion ensued.

Councilmember McGowan made a motion **to table this agenda item until the next meeting.** Councilmember Herrera seconded. The Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried.

C -9. Consideration of Adjournment


A motion was made by Councilmember Carder, seconded by Councilmember Herrera, for **Consideration of Adjournment.** The Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried, and the Special Called Meeting of the Vidor City Council adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

These minutes approved July 8, 2021.



Misty Songe, Mayor

ATTEST:



Vicki Watson, City Secretary