

**CITY OF VIDOR  
VIDOR CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
January 25, 2024**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mayor Songe  
Councilmember Barker  
Councilmember Herrera  
Councilmember Weldon

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Councilmember Lee  
Councilmember McGowan  
Councilmember Thompson

**Administrative Personnel:** Chris Leavins, City Attorney; Pebbles Eckhoff, Finance Director; Rod Carroll, Police Chief; Jennifer Stevens, HR; and Vicki Watson, Interim City Secretary

**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 7:02 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**

Adam Dilley, 1180 Orange Street, discussed information from Facebook and in the Examiner regarding the administration under the City Manager and the number of employees who have left employment in the past two years.

John D. Mesker, 2675 Lincoln, discussed an Open Records request he had submitted regarding the investigation of the City Manager and expressed his concerns regarding the response he received from the City Attorney.

Gary Herrera, 1018 Orange Street, recognized the hard-working people in the Street & Drainage Department and their efforts to improve the drainage in the City of Vidor. Mr. Herrera stated the City received over 7 inches of rain in the past two days with no big problems and commended all of the work that has been done and is being done.

## **B. COUNCIL CONSENT AGENDA**

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

<b>Paid Invoices:</b>	General Fund - \$310,385.59
	MCBSF - \$105.36
	Hotel Occupancy Tax Fund - \$10,390.43
	Disaster Fund - \$12,810.60
	Proprietary Fund - \$38,649.47
	Employee Benefits Trust - \$79,495.90
	<b>Grand Total: \$451,837.35</b>

**B-2. Approval of Minutes:** Regular Meeting – January 11, 2024  
Special Called Meeting – January 17, 2024

A motion to **remove the Special Called Meeting minutes from the Consent Agenda and approve the rest of the Consent Agenda** was made by Councilmember Barker, seconded by Councilmember Herrera. The Council voted three (3) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilmember Barker, seconded by Councilmember Herrera, to **bring the minutes from the Special Called Meeting back at the next meeting with more detail**. The Council voted three (3) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried.

## **C. COUNCIL REGULAR AGENDA**

### **C-1. Presentation and discussion regarding Quarterly Report from the Vidor Chamber of Commerce**

Atasha Quebedeaux, Vidor Chamber of Commerce, reviewed the different events sponsored by the Chamber in 2023, including a pageant, purse bingo, partnering with the City of Vidor for the Vidor Music Friendly Jam, trivia, and the Chamber banquet. Ms. Quebedeaux explained the purse bingo has become their largest fundraiser, and Hometown Holidays has now become a three-day event. Ms. Quebedeaux stated the lunches have gotten so big, they have had to go to a new venue (Woods Event Center instead of the Community Center).

Ms. Quebedeaux explained the membership has continued to grow every year and discussed goals for 2024. A brief discussion ensued regarding the relationship and communication which the Chamber offices being located in City Hall allows. Councilmember Herrera questioned if the Chamber still allows individuals who are not business owners to join, and Ms. Quebedeaux affirmed it is still in the bylaws. Councilmember Barker expressed her appreciation to the Chamber for working together, not only to show the citizens a united front, but working as one entity toward one goal. The Mayor and other members of Council agreed.

**C -2. Discussion and possible action to approve an Ordinance calling for the Election of Three (3) Council Members in a City Election to be held on May 4, 2024, and setting up the procedures for the Election, the provisions for the Officers of the Election, establishing a Voting Precinct, and Polling Place, ordering a Runoff Election, if necessary to be held on June 15, 2024**

***Considerar y posiblemente aprobar UNA ORDENANZA DE LLAMAR A LA ELECCIÓN DEL TRES (3) MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO EN UNA ELECCIÓN DE LA CIUDAD QUE SE CELEBRARÁ DEL 04 DE MAYO, 2024, Y CONFIGURACIÓN DE LOS PROCEDIMIENTOS PARA LA ELECCIÓN, LAS DISPOSICIONES DE LA MESA DE LA ELECCION, SE ESTABLECE UNA VOTACIÓN RECINTO ELECTORAL Y CENTROS ELECTORALES, Y OTRA ORDENANZA DE UNA SEGUNDA VUELTA ELECTORAL, SI ES NECESARIO, QUE SE CELEBRARÁ DEL 15 DE JUNIO 2024***

Chris Leavins, City Attorney, explained this is an Ordinance calling for the election of three Council members to be held on May 4<sup>th</sup>, a runoff to be held on June 15<sup>th</sup>, if necessary, and. must be done by February 16, 2024

A motion was made by Councilmember Herrera, seconded by Councilmember Barker, to **approve the Ordinance**. The Council voted three (3) for and none (0) opposed.. The motion carried.

**C -3. Discussion and possible action to approve a Resolution authorizing the City to enter into a Joint Election Agreement Services Contract with Orange County Elections Administrator for the 2024 Elections**

Chris Leavins, City Attorney, explained the City usually joins with other entities in Orange County holding elections and shares the election expenses. Mr. Leavins stated this joint election contract allows us to contract with the Elections Administrator who puts on the election, and then bills us for our part.

Councilmember Weldon made a motion to **approve the Resolution**. Councilmember Barker seconded. The Council voted three (3) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried.


**C -4. Discussion and possible action to approve a Resolution amending the Personnel Policies as set forth in the Vidor Employee Handbook (Section 303 Vacation Benefits)**

Jennifer Stevens, Payroll/HR, discussed the proposed changes and stated it will put into policy the current practice of allowing employees who have been with the City for ten or more years to sell back up to 40 hours of vacation once per year. Ms. Stevens also discussed the occasional need for employees to roll-over vacation and reviewed the proposed requirements for this. Councilmember Barker stated she would like it put into the policy who the City Manager goes to for approval of his/her vacation buy-back or carryover. A brief discussion ensued.

A motion to **approve the Resolution amending the Personnel Policies with the addition of language stating the City Manager's requests are to be approved by the Mayor** was made by Councilmember Barker, seconded by Councilmember Weldon. The Council voted three (3) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried.

**C-5. Consideration of Adjournment**

A motion for **Consideration of Adjournment** was made by Councilmember Barker, seconded by Councilmember Herrera. The Council voted unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

  
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Misty Songe, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Vicki Watson, Interim City Secretary