

**CITY OF VIDOR
VIDOR CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
March 14, 2024**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councilmember Barker
Councilmember Lee
Councilmember Herrera
Councilmember Thompson
Councilmember Weldon

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mayor Songe
Councilmember McGowan

Administrative Personnel: Robbie Hood, City Manager; Chris Leavins, City Attorney; Pebbles Eckhoff, Finance Director; Rachel Duplechain City Secretary; 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 7:01 p.m., Councilmember Herrera 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

None

B. COUNCIL CONSENT AGENDA

B -1. Approval of Accounts Paid:

Paid Invoices:	General Fund –	\$388,536.11
	MCBSF –	\$288.20
	CDBG Fund -	\$332,111.70
	Disaster Fund –	\$6,950.00
	Proprietary Fund -	\$60,127.80
	I&S Debt Serv 2008/2016	\$64,100.00
	Total:	\$852,113.81

B -2. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting – February 22, 2024

A motion to **approve the Consent Agenda** was made by Councilmember Thompson, seconded by Councilmember Lee. The Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried.

C. COUNCIL REGULAR AGENDA

C -1. Discussion and possible action to approve a Resolution appointing a member to the Civil Service Commission (term to expire on 9/6/2026)

Robbie Hood, City Manager, met with the board minus one, Mr. Lanny Brown and Johnnie Andrus are currently on that board. The Civil Service Commission Board is seeking to fill the empty 3rd position. Robbie Hood stated the gentleman that originally accepted the position has now declined, due to other circumstances. Robbie Hood spoke with Adam Mays upon the recommendation of Mr. Lanny Brown concerning the position. Robbie Hood stated that Mr. Adam Mays is interested in serving on the Civil Service Board. Robbie Hood stated the board rarely ever meets. Councilmember Barker asked General Public attendees if they knew what a Civil Service Board was, they did not. Councilmember Barker asked Robbie Hood to explain. Robbie Hood stated that the Civil Service Commission Board hears grievances for the Vidor Police Department as the Police Department is a union department. If an officer has a grievance, then the board would hear it and act on the officer's behalf. Gary Herrera stated the Civil Service Board can be dismantled by the citizens in a vote. Chris Leavins stated that was correct as it was voted in by the Citizens and would have to be voted out by the Citizens. Robbie Hood stated if the Council passed the Resolution the Civil Service Board would meet the following week with the Chief of Police Rod Carroll, Robbie Hood, and Jennifer Stevens who is the Civil Service Director appointed by Mr. Lanny Brown and Johnnie Andrus. Councilmember Barker asked did Adam Mays fill out an application or such. Robbie Hood stated no there was not an application for this position. Councilmember Herrera stated how should they be expected to vote on someone they do not know. Councilmember Weldon asked what qualifications were for the position for the Civil Service Commission Board, both Councilmember Herrera and Robbie Hood stated you had to live in Vidor city limits. Robbie Hood stated he was from Councilmember Barkers ward. Councilmember Barker stated it was hard for her to vote on someone she know nothing about and she does not want to vote someone into the 3rd position for Civil Service Board that is just a warm body, just because someone is needed. Not that she didn't trust anyone else's decision-making skills. Councilmember Herrera and Councilmember Weldon agreed, Councilmember Herrera stated they need more information on Adam Mays and meet him to decide. Chris Leavins, City Attorney, advised they could make a motion to take no action or to table until the next meeting.

A motion was made by Councilmember Thompson, seconded by Councilmember Lee, **to table the Resolution till next meeting in order to bring in Adam Mays and meet him and get to know his information.** The Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried.

C -2. Discussion on honoring Veterans at Veterans Memorial Park and possible action to appoint a three (3) member Veterans Memorial Park Committee

Robbie Hood, City Manager, stated years the Lions Club oversaw the memory bricks originally, but they have disbanded. Mr. Hood contacted Orange Monument who originally did the bricks already in place, the memory bricks for Veterans Memorial Park, they are \$95.00 a brick, but their equipment is way too heavy to bring over to the Memorial Park and do this. Mr. Hood stated he will now have to look at other avenues for this. Councilmember Herrera asked are their any families of Veterans that have paid for bricks that have not received them? Mr. Hood stated he was unaware of any if there were. Mr. Hood stated he would investigate it and try to find out from someone and see. Councilmember Herrera agreed the City did the right thing by picking up the parts.

Council passed on this item.

C -3. Consideration and possible action to approve an Ordinance of the City of Vidor, Texas renewing and redesignating and/or establishing and designating five (5) residential investment zones for the purpose of Residential Tax Abatement; finding that the meeting complies with the Open Meetings Act; providing for a repealing clause; providing for a severability clause; providing for an effective date

Chris Leavins, City Attorney, stated there was a public hearing held on these 5 residential investment zones. These are the same zones as they have been since their existence back in 2016, there is no difference. Councilmember Barker asked about the “red shaded” areas on the map, what are they? Mr. Leavins stated that these areas when these investment zones were first set were determined to be impractical for residential development. Therefore, they have been designated as Commercial. Mr. Leavins stated anytime you do tax abatements that you have to establish these zones.

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

C -4. Consideration and possible action to approve a Resolution approving the Agreement between the State of Texas and the City for the maintenance, control, supervision, and regulation of certain State highways and/or portions of State highways in the City

Chris Leavins, City Attorney, stated TXDot approached the city about updating and renewing our agreement from 2010. Mr. Leavins stated the new agreement is similar, but different. Mr. Leavins said that he wanted to note that one of the biggest changes was when they talked about the maintenance and repair of drainage facilities. TXDot has inserted the word structural maintenance and repair as opposed to just maintenance and repair. Mr. Leavins stated he does not know how that plays out, what does Structural maintenance mean in TXDot terms. Mr. Leavins said they did enlarge some things where it was left a little narrower and it now includes the right of ways as well, which is good. But it does put some regular cleanups and litter control on the city. This language was not in the original agreement. There are a few items of this nature that are like this. Mr. Leavins stated we could go back and get further clarification on these items and terms from TXDot. Robbie Hood, City Manager, stated yes that is what he wanted to do. Councilmember Herrera brought up the Hwy 90 incident and that it is tricky about working with the state. Councilmember Barker stated they wanted a copy of the original agreement. Mr. Leavins stated he certainly could send it over to them. Councilmember Weldon asked if structural means that their engineers would have to approve the changes. Mr. Leavins stated he would certainly clarify. Mr. Leavins stated we do not want to agree to be more responsible for something than we want.

A motion was made by Councilmember Barker, seconded by Councilmember Thompson **to table this Resolution, pending further investigation into agreement.** The Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried.

C -5. Discussion and possible action to approve a Resolution authorizing the City’s application and participation in the DJ-Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program No. 5100501 for in-car camera system.

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

C -6. Discussion and possible action to approve a Resolution for the secondary debris contract with DRC.

Robbie Hood, City Manager, explained secondary means if primary is unable to reach us in an appropriate amount of time, we may call on secondary, being DRC. We will not be billed unless called out by the City of Vidor. Councilmember Barker asked what was their response time? Chris Leavins, City Attorney, responded saying he will find out.

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

C -7. Consideration and possible action to approve the issuance of a Request for Qualifications for an Associate Municipal Judge position for the City

Chris Leavins, City Attorney, stated this position was created years ago, Council will have to give the permission for the issuance of a Request for Qualifications to the City of Vidor. Councilmember Barker asked what the requirements are. Mr. Leavins stated that the only requirement was that they be a registered voter in the City of Vidor, there is not a requirement listed in the Charter. Councilmember Herrera stated that he thinks that is definitely something that needs to be changed and have qualifications added to the job description. Herrera stated it would probably cost about \$20k for a Charter change, but sometimes it is necessary.

A motion was made by Councilmember Lee, seconded by Councilmember Thompson **to approve the issuance of a Request for Qualifications for an Associate Judge position for the city**. The Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried.

C-8. Consideration of Adjournment

A motion for **Consideration of Adjournment** was made by Councilmember Barker, seconded by Councilmember Thompson. The Council voted unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

These minutes were approved on March 28, 2024.

ATTEST:



Rachel Duplechain, City Secretary



Misty Songe, Mayor