

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

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Songe
Councilmember Lee
Councilmember McGowan
Councilmember Thompson
Councilmember Herrera

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Councilmember Weldon
Councilmember Barker

Administrative Personnel: Robbie Hood, City Manager; Chris Leavins, City Attorney; Rachel Duplechain City Secretary; and Rodney Johnson, Captain

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

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

A -3. Proclamation Mr. Dixson's 100th Birthday

Mayor Songe read the Proclamation for J.D. Dixson's 100th Birthday, paused for a quick group photo and then continued the meeting.

A -4. Citizen Comments - None

B. COUNCIL CONSENT AGENDA

B -1. Approval of Accounts Paid:

Paid Invoices:	General Fund –	\$268,567.55
	MCBSF –	\$346.26
	CDBG Fund -	\$26,601.50
	Federal Forfeiture Fund -	\$4,378.58
	Hotel Occupancy Fund -	\$101.67
	Judicial Efficiency Fee -	\$25.00
	Proprietary Fund –	\$34,836.43
	Employee Benefits Trust -	\$234,429.29
	Total:	\$569,286.28

B -2. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting – April 11, 2024

A motion to **approve the Consent Agenda** was made by Councilmember Thompson, seconded by Councilmember McGowan. The Council voted four (4) for and none (0) opposed. **The motion carried.**

C. COUNCIL REGULAR AGENDA

C -1. Discussion and possible action to approve the Vidor Visitor Center Committee's recommendations for the nominees to the Vidor Walk of Fame.

Mayor Songe, Johnnie you want to come forward. Johnnie Anderus, well we have a very interesting night here. Anderus, I don't know if everyone knows I am Johnnie Anderus, and I am kind of responsible for the creation of the Walk of Fame. I was elected the President of the Chamber of Commerce, which made me feel like I had to write a speech and say what I was going to do to improve Vidor. So, I and with the thoughts of others decided we would probably get the most amount of people interested in the Walk of Fame. That includes anything any kind of deal that you excel in the field you are in, not just music, it can be other things. So, I would like to read them to you and see, I think they all have, a list of what we have. Anderus, I assume you have a copy of all of these? Mayor Songe yes mam, Councilmember Herrera yes mam. Anderus, okay you want me to read them to you or you want me to just tell you the names? Mayor Songe yeah just give us a little bit about them. Anderus okay Keeli Jordan, I have known her since she was I think 6 years old and she played softball and her mother didn't know if she wanted to let her play but she did. This girl has made it to the top and she has also played pro ball, she played at A&M, then she transferred to Louisiana and then from there she got higher up and played for another team, but she ended up playing pro ball. So now she is still in Vidor, and she has a facility that has two batting cages, so she can teach the child and she has got them lined up every day. So that's a warrior, that's (appropriate? Inaudible). Anderus, any questions? Mayor Songe no. Anderus okay next is Michael McQuerry, and I don't know as much about him (McQuerry) as I do her (Keeli) cause I have known her since she was a little girl. He is a songwriter and has co-wrote with many and he also comes to us with some very good recommendations also. Councilmember Herrera who was the next one? Councilmember McGowan Michael McQuerry, Herrera what was it, McGowan Michael McQuerry. Anderus, he lives in Vidor in Crestview Apartments, and he lived in Buna. Anderus, he was co-writer with Willie Nelson and other outstanding ones. Anderus next? Mayor Songe yes mam you can keep going and we will just keep looking. Anderus the next one is Waylon Payne and this another I don't know a lot about, but I called Scott Frediac, and he said Johnnie you have never heard of Waylon Payne and Johnnie said no. Frediac said this guy is phenomenal, at the age of I think school age the mother and father took him to the Aunt's here in Vidor and left him. So, they could go and do their thing. His father played with Willie Nelson and uh the mother wrote a song that was very well known, and he has done a lot of things. He was just a young boy when he was here, but Scott was very interested in him, and he has always been in a lot of very high places, and he still is. Anderus so glance and see if you have any questions. Councilmember Herrera I noticed he left his childhood he left when he was in the 4th grade, so he has been gone from Vidor for a very long time. Anderus yes, he did, but he still claims Vidor and we are hoping he can come when we have the party and things. Anderus okay the next one is Mike Taliaferro he was with Joe Carter and uh at one time he was over taking care of Tracy Byrd, and then got (inaudible) but he has gone to school here all of his entire school years and so now he stays in Nashville. So, he is a current Road Manager to William Michael Morgan. Councilmember Herrera so he was a Road Manager? Anderus, what was that? Herrera he was the Road Manager? Anderus yes, he was the Road Manager to Tracy, he and Joe Carter worked together on that. Anderus he is now the Road Manager to William Michael Morgan and also

the Real Heart Wreckers, but he still has a residence in Vidor. Anderus and the next one is really a winner, it's Megan Wright. She is uh still uh I believe she is still acting; she has done a lot. In her younger years she was in the performing arts and pageants and then at 16 she realized she wanted to be in the acting field and has done several roles and was TV series and a lot of ya'll are probably not going to remember, but Jeepers Creepers. She was in that also. Anderus and then I think that Robbie said ya'll wanted to go over the ones that we did not put them in for nomination, but we had gotten their information. Is that right or ya'll. Herrera yes. Mayor Songe yeah cause there's some really good one's alternates in here too. Councilmember Herrera oh yeah. Anderus did you get copies of those? Mayor Songe yes mam. Herrera yes. Anderus ya'll have any questions for them? We could only do 5 and that's uh so I understand that also. Anderus, any other questions? Councilmember McGowan so Don Barron, he is the one that is always playing. Mayor Songe yes, Councilmember Herrera he is with Crossroads Band so to me if we are going to open it up for discussion, I noticed that there's some things that have muddied the water a little bit. There are some great alternates which I don't understand didn't make the cut. You know I get it the guy was a Road Manager and a guy who been gone since he was in the 4th grade. When you have a guy named John Cessac and uh, Mayor Songe Bryan Barron, Herrera Bryan Barron who have been here all their life and graduated from here. Anderus well that's true Gary, but they aren't nationally known that's the only reason, I know Bryan Barron and I love him dearly. Herrera so when you say nationally known, and I mean your putting that very vague. You're saying they are nationally known and there are some of them I have never heard of. How does a Road Manager become nationally known? Anderus, well he was with Tracy Byrd. Herrera well there you go, Anderus okay, Herrera he isn't nationally known, he hasn't accomplished what Tracy Byrd done, he is just a Road Manager. Anderus yes, Herrera, So you've got Bryan Barron who has been all over the world actor, been in musicals, cruise ships and still is in Vidor, still has a band, still performs all over the Golden Triangle. So, I don't know how he got passed up. So, you know when we are starting to look at that there's some people in the City of Vidor that there's a guy Bill Smith and Carol Smith and they do so much for the Community, but they're not nationally known, but if we are starting to kind of blend the water together so I don't know. Anderus well see, Herrera I don't see how a Road Manager gets over John Cessac and Herrera & McGowan in unison Bryan Barron. Anderus, we have always had from the very beginning that they be nationally known in the field which they are, and I like all those guys that you are talking about, but they are not nationally known. They have played in Vidor and everywhere else, but they are not nationally known. Mayor Songe now under the, (background) Herrera Bryan Barron is more nationally known than a Road Manager. Mayor Songe now under who can be nominated it says actresses, writers, artists, that kind of leaves Keely out even though she has done amazing things, she is not under any of the categories that can be nominated for the Walk of Fame. Anderus, you talking about Keely? Mayor mmhmm, McGowan uh huh, Mayor because it says actors, writers, artists. Anderus yeah, she played pro ball at end of her career before she started her own facility in Vidor. Rachel Duplechain, City Secretary Mayor if you will look at the first page Vidor Walk of Fame Criteria, number 5 does say other. Herrera yeah, Robbie Hood, City Manager yeah, we kind of added that last year if you remember with the Astronaut and others we had. Mayor okay I was just reading the backside of it. Herrera other if you put other that just blows it up so broad you could put anyone you wanted. Hood the criteria hadn't been changed from years ago. Councilmember Lee I think the point Gary is. Anderus like Miss Texas, she is already on the wall. Lee the point is trying to honor people who excel in their field specifically no matter what the field is. Like the Road Manager you keep mentioning you may not have heard about him, but if you ask people in his field he is probably very well known. Anderus he is. Herrera, Bryan Barron if you ask people in his field he is very well known, I mean he still lives here. Lee, I mean I don't know that guy, I'm not arguing for or against him, I'm just telling you why the Road Manager would probably make it. Herrera, a Road Manager? Lee, I mean you may not think highly of him. Herrera, I've never heard of him, I mean I been knowing Tracy Byrd and I've never heard that name. I been here all of my life and I follow Tracy Byrd and I've never heard of him. Lee, that's fair. Anderus, well he and Joe Carter were with Tracy Byrd for quite a while, I mean they are not anymore, but uh didn't we give them, Robbie didn't we give them a list of

all of the qualifications of what they had to do. Hood, they have them in front of them. Mayor, yeah but it does get harder each year, but we have um 2 that made it 2 that only lived in Vidor for 5 years verses some that have a lot more of their life invested in here as well. Hood, Mayor Council I am just saying that this is just a recommendation board ya'll have the right to set the recommendations, alter the recommendations, or add to the recommendations. Herrera, thank you sir. Mayor, it's hard there's a lot of good choices and it's such a variety. Herrera, to me I would recommend taking Mike and Mr. Payne off the recommend and put Cessac and Bryan Barron. McGowan, Cessac. Anderus, but they don't meet the qualifications so. Hood, that's their fault. Herrera but as a committee you bring us the recommendations to us, we have the final say, we do what we can move them around change them or do whatever we want too. Or we can do away with the committee and the Council can start doing it all over again. Anderus, but Gary what I am saying is why the selectiveness, because they meet the qualifications. Herrera, I mean I get it ya'll did your job and brought it up to us and now we can do what we feel is best for the City as Elected Officials. So, we change it and take 2 away and add 2 or put 10 or however we want to do it as a committee ya'll just make recommendations. Mayor, technically that doesn't mean that they don't go forward at all, they can be looked at next time next year. Herrera, yeah, they can be next year or the next year so we can make changes and recommendations to things we see cause we may have more information than you do. Anderus, you might do that, I don't understand why the qualifications then. Herrera, so so do we. Mayor, so hold on hold on so okay Council said ya'll kinda said the same things remove which 2 was the suggestion. There is a Mike and Michael. Herrera, uh Mike, Mayor, Taliafero, Herrera, yes, Mayor, okay and which one, Herrera Payne, Mr. Payne. Mayor, so that would be leaving John Cessac, Bryan Barron, Michael McCurry, Keeli Milligan, and Megan Wright is that what I am understanding. Herrera, that's correct, that's correct. Chris Leavins, City Attorney, is that in a form of a motion? Mayor, it's still Council discussion. Herrera, no not yet. Mayor, no not yet I was just clarifying as there were 2 mics and that way Council look at what. McGowan, I make a motion, Herrera, I second.

A motion was made by Councilmember McGowan, seconded by Councilmember Herrera **to approve Cessac, Barron, McCurry, Milligan, and Wright**. The Council voted three (3) for and one (1) opposed. **The motion carried.**

C -2. Discussion and possible action to approve a Resolution appointing 2 members to the Zoning Board of Adjustment (term to expire on 9/6/2026)

Robbie Hood, City Manager Mayor/Council we have two (2) positions open as you have stated, uh they are both uh applicants are both in the Audience, Mayor once I go through this, ya'll can call them if ya'll have any questions. Mayor Songe, okay. Mayor called up Vicki Smith to ask questions. Vicki Smith, I am Vicki Smith, I live at 365 W. Tram, and I have lived in Vidor since December of 2001. My kids both graduated from here and after the Autism event I realized just how much I enjoyed working with everyone and I have always had service first in my life and so this give me another opportunity in which to serve my community, I have become attached to this town and made it my hometown. I would appreciate your consideration, I am hard-working, I have plenty of time, I'm a homemaker and an empty nester now so. Songe, where's Jerrod. (Inaudible discussion between Councilmembers and Mayor) Songe, do you what the Zoning Board actually does, like what the purpose of it is? V. Smith, it was to my understanding that it's a place for people to come if there is a variance that's needed for our Zoning that we adopted. I was here for the public hearing for the Zoning, so I understand the importance and the value cause we are trying to grow the City and bring in business, and the more areas more real American. And so, uh it's basically my understanding that if someone needs to come in and they are trying to do something other than what the Zoning allows, it's for like the gray areas. Councilmember Herrera, right, Songe, okay that's what I was looking for because your description thank you that clarified that for me. Songe, anymore questions for her, Councilmembers unison, no. Songe, okay thank you mam. Songe, called Dawn Schexneider. Dawn Schexneider read

her comments from her application to the Mayor and Council. Mayor, any questions, Councilmembers in unison, no. Chris Leavins, City Attorney, Council I will note that uh the term for this will actually expire on September 30, 2025. Herrera, so two (2) positions and two (2) people put in applications.

A motion was made by Councilmember Thompson, seconded by Councilmember Herrera **to accept both individuals**. The Council voted four (4) for and none (0) opposed. **The motion carried.**

C -3. Discussion and possible action to swear in newly appointed Zoning Board of Adjustment Board members from C -2.

Robbie Hood, City Manager called Dawn Schexneider and Vicki Smith to the front. Rachel Duplechain, City Secretary had both Schexneider and Smith swear their statements and then swear their Oath for the office of Zoning Board Member. Councilmembers and Mayor congratulated and applauded them.

C -4. Discussion and possible action to set a joint public meeting for the Zoning Board of Adjustment and City Council.

After short discussion with Attorney, Chris Leavins, Robbie Hood requested that we set a joint meeting with the Zoning Board and the Council jointly. All agreed they were free for May 9th, 2024.

A motion was made by Councilmember Herrera, seconded by Councilmember McGowan **to approve the Joint Meeting for May 9, 2024**. The Council voted four (4) for and none (0) opposed. **The motion carried.**

C-5. Discussion and possible action to place Municipal Court under the Finance Department

Robbie Hood, City Manager Mayor/Council, as you will recall the Court Department was led by the Chief Court Clerk, which is now the Supervisor and she will retain that role, and it was recently under the Finance Director's Supervision. The previous Finance Director there several things happening so it got under my control. To move it forward I am now going to be spending most of my time in Code Enforcement doing Supervising activities trying to promote the businesses here and get the businesses here. For the past three weeks the Court has been under my Finance Director's Supervision on a temporary basis my Finance Director has a paralegal background and has been helping the courts catch up on warrants and things like that, they work real well together, had a conversation with both of them and they are both excited to work together. I request Court be moved back under Finance's Supervision.

A motion was made by Councilmember McGowan, seconded by Councilmember Thompson **to move Court back under Finance's Supervision**. The Council voted four (4) for and none (0) opposed. **The motion carried.**

C-6. Discussion and possible action to approve a temporary increase in wages for Susan Rushing, Code Enforcement Officer

Robbie Hood, City Manager, Mayor I request to pass, I am going to stay playing the role of Supervisor until I move to fill that position.

C-7. Discussion and possible action to approve an Ordinance of the City of Vidor, Texas, annexing an approximate 27.265 acres of land out of the D.A. Myers Survey, Abstract No. 280, and the J. H. Patillo Survey, Abstract No. 146, James H. Patillo Survey, Abstract No. 146, being part of the S. T. Patillo Subdivision, more commonly known as 17160 IH-10, Vidor, Texas, into the corporate limits of the City of Vidor, Texas; said tracts being located within Orange County, Texas, and the extraterritorial jurisdiction of the City of Vidor, Texas; adopting a service plan for the Property annexed; and establishing the zoning for the Property Annexed

Robbie Hood, City Manager, Mayor/Council this was a very long story she told in short, this the Road Ranger and we have gone back and forth for a very long time working to annex them. Councilmember Herrera, Robbie just kind for the audience they asked us to annex them explain what this is. Hood, I sure will Gary basically what Gary is talking is a friendly annexation, so they have to petition the Council to be annexed into our City. At that point the City must provide services that we currently provide to citizens in our City limits. Councilmember McGowan the property he is talking about is at 1132. Hood, that is correct 1132 and I10. Our Mayor mentioned our extraterritorial jurisdiction, basically that is a one (1) mile buffer around our City limits to keep people from growing in on top of us. So, this is just outside of our ETJ, so we just stepped off I10 and grabbed after they petitioned us. It was a long process, got Zoning in place and it will be a much needed value to our City to bring property tax base and that's what the goal of the Council has always been is to keep your property taxes low and they haven't raised property taxes in 12 years and the way we are doing that is because of the Commercial businesses going forward with the Zoning Board is to get more Commercial Businesses to get the Sales Tax basis up to where we can kind of level off Ad Valorem taxes.

A motion was made by Councilmember McGowan, seconded by Councilmember Thompson **to approve Ordinance No. 1461 to annex the Road Ranger into the City limits.** The Council voted four (4) for and none (0) opposed. **The motion carried.**

C-8. EXECUTIVE SESSION pursuant to Section 551.071 of the Texas Government Code – Consultation with Attorney regarding pending or contemplated litigation, a settlement offer, or on a matter in which the duty of the attorney to the governmental body under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas conflicts with Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code.

Mayor Songe, convened into executive session at 7:39 pm. Mayor Songe, re-convened the regular meeting at 7:56pm.

C -9. Consideration and possible action arising out of or related to Executive Session under C - 8.


No comment or remark

C-10. Consideration of Adjournment

A motion for **Consideration of Adjournment** was made by Councilmember McGowan, seconded by Councilmember Thompson. The Council voted unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:57p.m.

These minutes were approved on May 9, 2024.

ATTEST:



Rachel Duplechain, City Secretary



Misty Songe, Mayor