

**CITY OF VIDOR
VIDOR CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
May 9, 2024**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Songe
Councilmember Lee
Councilmember McGowan
Councilmember Thompson
Councilmember Herrera
Councilmember Barker
Councilmember Bourque

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Councilmember Weldon

Administrative Personnel: Robbie Hood, City Manager; Chris Leavins, City Attorney; Rachel Duplechain City Secretary; Rod Carroll, Chief, and Judge Michael Abbott

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

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

A -4. Citizen Comments

Mayor Songe switched the order of the Proclamation Reading and Citizens Comments. Gary Herrera, 1018 Orange St., Councilmember of Ward 5, I just wanted to thank everybody, I want to thank the Citizens of Vidor for giving me the opportunity to represent them and this fine city, I appreciate all the hard work and dedication that the Counsel puts forth and it's been a really good honor and a blessed honor and I like to thank my family and wife and everyone that supported me. (Applauses all around)

A -3. Proclamation for Motorcycle Awareness Month for May

Mayor Songe read Motorcycle Awareness Proclamation and presented to the Christian Motorcycle Association. Christian Motorcycle Association thanked the Mayor, Council, and City of Vidor for their awareness. Brief pause for pictures with Mayor Songe, Councilmembers, and Motorcycle Association.

B. COUNCIL CONSENT AGENDA

B -1. Approval of Accounts Paid:

Paid Invoices:	General Fund –	\$497,847.17
	MCBSF –	\$369.20
	CDBG Fund-	\$353,007.80
	Hotel Occupancy –	\$10,085.91
	Disaster Fund-	\$118,019.46
	Juvenile Case Manager Fund-	\$350.00
	Proprietary Fund –	\$31,436.06
	Total:	\$1,011,115.60

B -2. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting April 25, 2024, Special Called Meeting May 2, 2024

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

C. COUNCIL REGULAR AGENDA

C -1. Present exiting Councilmember Ward 5 with certificate of appreciation.

Mayor Songe thanked Councilmember Herrera for his service of twelve (12) years and feels like they have accomplished a lot together. Mayor stated she was glad to see his long-term goal coming to light at Conn Park. Councilmember Thompspon thanked Councilmember Herrera for guidance and wise counsel and appreciates the groundwork Herrera laid for them all. Councilmember McGowan thanked Councilmember Herrera and told him he will be missed. Councilmember Lee to Councilmember Herrera, Gary you will absolutely be missed, I love that you ask the hard questions and that you taught me to think critically about everything that comes up here and I thank you for that. Councilmember Barker to Councilmember Herrera, okay I'm the last one I appreciate everything that you have done for this City, you have gone the extra mile and you have put in the extra work, I think you have shown everybody up here what it's like to really give back to the City and to the Community, you weren't afraid to ask questions and you weren't afraid to ask for clarity, it made me feel comfortable, because I do like to ask the questions, I do like to ask for clarity, it doesn't matter if we agree to disagree or agree, or see eye to eye, we are all here for one purpose and I know your vision has solely been for that and I appreciate that. Councilmember Herrera thanked everyone again and the Council and Staff and said he appreciated the honor to serve. (Applauses all around and Councilmember Herrera stepped down and signed his Certificate of Appreciation with Mayor Songe, Robbie Hood City Manager, and Rachel Duplechain, City Secretary.) Robbie Hood, City Manager, presented Councilmember Herrera with his plaque and said Gary I know I speak on behalf of all of my staff that they appreciate you never being rude with them. You approached me over three (3) years ago to come over here with you, and at first, I was real reluctant, but I came over here and it's been nothing, but a God send, you are going to be very well missed by me and my staff. I will never forget the things you have done for us. Councilmember Herrera stated he was wearing the shirt his mother had made for him. (Applauses all around)

C -2. Swearing in of the newly elected Council members of the City Council

Judge Michael Abbott swore in Ward 2 first, Councilmember Nicole McGowan. Councilmember McGowan signed Statement and Oath. Judge swore in Ward 3 next Councilmember Michael Thompson. Councilmember Thompson signed Statement and Oath. Judge swore in Ward 5 lastly, Councilmember MiKayla Bourque. Councilmember Bourque signed Statement and Oath.

C -3. Presentation of Certificates of Election to newly elected Council members of the City Council

Mayor Songe stated no one wanted pictures this time so she just handed Councilmember McGowan, Councilmember Thompson, and Councilmember Bourque their Certificates of Election.

C -4. Election of new officers of the Vidor City Council — Mayor Pro-tem, Treasurer

Councilmember Thompson nominated **Councilmember McGowan as Mayor Pro-Tem**, Councilmember Lee seconded motion. The Council voted four (4) for and none (0) opposed. **The motion carried.**

Councilmember McGowan nominated **Councilmember Thompson as Treasurer**, Councilmember Lee seconded motion. The Council voted four (4) for and one (1) opposed. **The motion carried.**

C-5. Consideration and possible action to approve a Resolution approving and authorizing signatories for all City of Vidor Banking Accounts

Pebbles Eckhoff, Finance Director explained we just need a Resolution to remove Gary Herrera from the bank accounts and add MiKayla Bourque now that she has been sworn in.

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

C -12. EXECUTIVE SESSION pursuant to Section 551.074 of the Texas Government Code - Personnel Matter, to deliberate the appointment of an Interim Associate Judge

Mayor Songe convened into executive session at 7:25 pm. Mayor Songe re-convened the regular meeting at 8:09 pm.

C-6. Consideration and possible approval of Resolution approving and authorizing the use of ARPA funds for repairs to the Mini Split AC in the Server Room

Mayor Songe, for those that don't know it is not working and that is where the servers are. Pebbles Eckhoff, Finance Director, explained we had an estimate to repair the mini split for \$5,700.00 and it does fall under ARPA. Councilmember Barker, why do we have to have a mini split in the server room? Finance, because it has to have its own system, it has to have its own exhaust and own air completely separate. Barker, okay.

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-7. Consideration and possible action to approve a Resolution approving the Service Order and Statement of Work with ClearGov to provide for the ClearPlans and Capital Budgeting Add-On to the agreement with ClearGov for services and software, and pricing for two (2) years.

Pebbles Eckhoff, Finance Director stated originally Cleargov was setup for 100% transparency for the City, under our current agreement we are not in compliance with that, there are two other tiers that needed to be included with that previously that were just missed. This will bring us up to complete transparency. Next year we will be able to go live online for the Citizens of Vidor to be able to see everything we do here, y'all's goals that you want to reach on there you can put out there, our progress for Law Enforcement will all be out there. Robbie Hood, City Manager, stated one of the main objectives is our grants the status of all our grants that we are working on and this being out there for the public to see where we are at in our grants status and so they can know the difference in allocated and awarded funds, letting them know we not having the money in the bank account we are at a certain step in the project and just complete transparency that way they know what we are doing with those grant monies. Councilmember McGowan and what is the price on that? Finance, it will be \$19, 730, it's another \$9,700. City Manager, we are currently in a contract until 2026 this is just to add on and provide transparency. Councilmember Thompson and without this we would not have transparency? Finance, correct and it was just missed. Mayor Songe, and that is what we wanted. City Manager, correct for everyone to see what is going on with the grants.

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

C-8. Joint Public Meeting for discussion between City Council and Zoning Board of Adjustments regarding zoning in the City

Robbie Hood, City Manager the Zoning board of Adjustments met for the 1st time after they were appointed by City Council. I explained went over the Zoning rules that City Council and the then Planning Commission had worked so tirelessly to get to this point. Let them know about the Zoning requirements and what is required, we also discussed in quite some length about variances and how those work with people wanting to ask for variances to what is zoned now, rather it be residential or commercial there are several stipulations. Just both City Council and Zoning Board understand what the variances are: when a variance request is asked there are several steps that have to be taken before coming before the Board of Adjustments, notifications have to be given to people within 200ft of that property that is requesting a zoning variance, and they have an opportunity to come be heard before the Zoning Board, there is a 10 day window before we can even hold a public hearing, in addition to a request for a re-zoning classification by the Zoning Board there is also a \$250.00 fee that is non-refundable, just basically just to be heard by the Zoning Board. There are rules in place it has to cause undue hardships, different things like that, there are variance requests for building permit issuances but like I indicated to the Zoning board the other night when our staff denies a building permit, we have exhausted all remedies of making that application go forward. So, when that request for variance comes forward my staff will be here in attendance as well to kind of talk on behave of the City in front of the Zoning Board as well. I, Robbie Hood, City Manager, will be the liaison along with our City Secretary, Rachel Duplechain, we will attend all meetings with the Zoning Board. Ya'll were grateful enough to men and women in this place, I have my trust in them to make the right decisions for the City of Vidor, as I mentioned we worked very tirelessly to get Zoning, it has been several years in the making to get home, I think we have done our due diligence in capturing the essence of making Vidor move forward for by both residential and commercial growth, and to allow for low-income to moderate income to be here as well. Mayor Songe, I agree. Councilmembers amongst themselves questioning what is the Zoning Board of Adjustments. Robbie Hood, City Manager, Mayor I'm sorry I overheard your question. So, most cities have Planning and Zoning combined, but like previous cities that I have come from our Charter calls for Planning and Zoning to be separated. It was always referred to as P&Z, but really was just the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission is who worked with the City

Council a few years ago to get the Zoning put in place for the City of Vidor. Mayor Songe, correct and they (Planning Commission) are an advisory board, they have no ruling. These five (5) people in front of us (Zoning Board of Adjustments) have all of the power and we (City Council) have none. Hood, they do have one avenue of appeal and it is not before local City Council it is before a Court of Jurisdiction, correct? Chris Leavins, City Attorney, right. Hood, so that would be the appeal, if someone is aggravated by the decision of the Adjustment Board they can appeal to a higher court. Mayor Songe, I feel like you (Robbie Hood) did a good job of talking them everything on Monday and I have a lot of faith in these five (5) people (Zoning Board of Adjustments) sitting in front of us, that they understand where we are trying to go with this and the purpose and where it got us to where we are at on the Zoning and how many years it took us to get there, so. Hood to Zoning Board of Adjustments do any of you have questions for the City Council? All Zoning Board Members unanimously say no. Hood, just so City Council knows this is not a board that meets just to meet every month, there are no rules in place in the charter to meet, the board will meet on the call of the Chairman, and that call will be made by staff that say hey we have variance requests and once we have done our due diligence and sent out notifications to people within 200ft of that property and set the public hearing and stuff, 10 days after that is when the Chairman will call the meeting, and it is open to the public just your meetings are.

C -9. Consideration and possible action arising out of Joint Public Meeting between City Council and Zoning Board of Adjustments regarding zoning in the City.

Mayor Songe, no action

C -10. Discussion and possible action to designate surplus property and approve a Resolution authorizing the Vidor Police Department to donate their Watchguard Body Cameras and vehicle Video Cameras to other smaller agencies.

Rod Carroll, Chief passes on item to be brought back later.

C -11. Discussion and report regarding City Pool, including Opening Day and Dollar Days

Robbie Hood, City Manager announces City Of Vidor Public Pool opening is May 25th, 2024, and that weekend the 25th & 26th will be Dollar Day weekend for our Citizens, which is Memorial Day weekend. Mayor Songe, can we do Dollar Day through Monday 27th, 2024. Hood, we will and pass it on to the Manager of the pool. No rate changes, all amounts stay the same. Closing day for the pool will be August 11th, 2024.

C -13. Consideration and possible action arising out of or related to Executive Session under C -12 regarding the appointment of an Interim Associate Judge.

A motion was made by Councilmember Thompson, seconded by Councilmember McGowan **to appoint Hal Lapray, as Assistant Municipal Judge and Alex Stelly, as Interim Assistant Municipal Judge.** The Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed. **The motion carried.**

C-14. 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 8:21p.m.

These minutes were approved on May 23, 2024.



ATTEST:



Rachel Duplechain, City Secretary


Misty Songe, Mayor