

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

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Songe
Councilmember Thompson
Councilmember Barker
Councilmember Bourque

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Councilmember Lee
Councilmember McGowan

Administrative Personnel: Robbie Hood, City Manager, Pebbles Eckhoff, Finance Director; Rachel Duplechain City Secretary; Chris Leavins, City Attorney; and Rod Carroll, Chief,

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. Citizen Comments

B. COUNCIL CONSENT AGENDA

B -1. Approval of Accounts Paid:

Paid Invoices:	General Fund –	\$246,978.51
	MCBSF –	\$186.98
	Emergency MGMT Service-	\$197.38
	Hotel Occupancy –	\$1,265.48
	Disaster Fund-	\$148,417.57
	Judicial Efficiency Fee -	\$32.00
	Proprietary Fund –	\$39,129.88
	Total:	\$436,207.80

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

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

C. COUNCIL REGULAR AGENDA

- C -1. Consideration and possible action to approve an Ordinance amending Chapter 14 – Businesses, Article XI. – Amusement Redemption Machine Businesses, of the Vidor Code of Ordinances, regarding amusement redemption machines in the City; providing repeal of conflicting ordinances; providing for severability; and providing for publication and an effective date (Second Reading)**

A motion to **approve the Ordinance amending Chapter 14 – Businesses, Article XL – Amusement Redemption Machine Businesses, of the Vidor Code of Ordinances, regarding amusement redemption machines in the City, providing repeal of conflicting ordinances; providing severability and providing for publication and an effective date with the one fifty (150) number** was made by Councilmember McGowan, seconded by Councilmember Barker. The Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed. **The motion carried.**

- C -2. Discussion and presentation regarding City’s Budget, including process and scheduling.**

Pebbles Eckhoff, Finance Director, gave the Budget Presentation to the Mayor, Council, and audience. Eckhoff, gave a brief overview how the City of Vidor gets Revenue and the percentage each makes up in the Budget, the sales tax breakdown, property taxes breakdown and that we are on target to collect projected amounts for 23/24 FY, franchise fees, and fines and fees from the court. She explained that the tentative budget is based off of preliminary numbers received from the Tax Assessor’s office and the City of Vidor has not raised taxes in fifteen (15) years. She also stated that inflation is still affecting taxes, overall. Eckhoff, then gave an overview of the taxing entities and their tax rates and informed council and the audience what the City offers using these tax dollars, and what is projected tentatively for the 24/25 FY.

Discussion ensued.

- C -3. Consideration and/or possible approval of a Resolution to establish and file a tentative budget for the City of Vidor and the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2024, and terminating on September 30, 2025, and making appropriations for each department, project, and account and giving Notice of a public hearing.**

Pebbles Eckhoff, Finance Director, now this is just a tentative Budget, based off of preliminary numbers that you can take home with you and review. We will get the final numbers next month and at that time I can make changes where I need to make changes and bring it back to Council for review and approval.

A motion to **approve the Resolution to establish and file a tentative budget for the City of Vidor and the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2024, and terminating on September 30, 2025, and making appropriations for each department, project, and account and giving Notice of Public Hearing** was made by Councilmember McGowan and seconded by Councilmember Lee. The Council voted four (4) to one (1), Councilmember Barker abstained. **The motion carried.**

C -4. Consideration and possible action to approve a Resolution authorizing the execution of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement under the Department of Homeland Security for Detective Manny Castillo to be a part-time Taskforce Officer (TFO).

Rod Carroll, Chief, Detective Castillo is a bilingual and has assisted Homeland Security in two human trafficking investigations already that I can not go into a lot of detail on. One, you probably already know, was the massage parlor, he was very instrumental in that, due to that they have asked that he be allowed to become a Part-Time Task Force Officer with them, that is what I am asking the Council for. He will still be full-time with us, but he will be able to be utilized by us as a Task Force Officer when needed, like if anything comes up on the highway. Robbie Hood, City Manager, is that only in the City Limits? Chief, well he can go beyond that as well when needed, a lot of our investigations here go beyond the City Limits, like the trafficking incident at the massage parlor as it involved several other entities and we worked together with several other agencies. Hood, and we also get to keep the revenue of what is caught here as well. Chief, yes if they are involved in a seizure yes that is one of the things Homeland Security is also involved in money laundering so just last year, we had \$125,000 on a traffic stop, we had \$35,000.00 involved in a shooting over in Lafayette. Where we stopped the car and in the backseat was a bag with \$35,000.00, and about 18 grams of cocaine, and a firearm. So those things are involved with Homeland Security for money laundering and drug trafficking. Councilmember Barker, where does that money go? Chief, that money goes into a seizure fund that can be used for Capital Assets just like what I did with Axiom System. Chief, I used it earlier this year when our camera system went out. I was hoping to make it to the end of the year and that didn't happen, so I used these funds to make those first payments. It can be used for Capital Assets that are utilized for criminal activity.


A motion to **approve the Resolution authorizing execution of the MOU with Homeland Security for Detective Manny Castillo** was made by Councilmember McGowan, seconded by Councilmember Barker. The Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed. **The motion carried.**

C -5. Consideration of Adjournment

A motion for **Consideration of Adjournment** was made by Councilmember Barker and seconded by Councilmember McGowan. The Council voted unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

These minutes were approved on July 25, 2024.

ATTEST:


Rachel Duplechain, City Secretary


Misty Songe, Mayor

