

**CITY OF VIDOR  
VIDOR CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
February 27, 2025**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

**Administrative Personnel:** Robbie Hood, City Manager; Brooke Carroll, HR Director; 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., Misty Songe, Mayor, presiding.

**A -2. Invocation and Pledge to the United States Flag and the State of Texas Flag**

Rod Carroll, Chief, 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:**

<b>General Fund -</b>	<b>\$212,682.22</b>
<b>Police Seizure Fund</b>	<b>\$1,662.50</b>
<b>MCBSF -</b>	<b>\$452.59</b>
<b>Emergency MGMT Service -</b>	<b>\$196.84</b>
<b>CDBG Fund -</b>	<b>\$408,318.27</b>
<b>Hotel Occupancy Fund -</b>	<b>\$800.97</b>
<b>Disaster Fund -</b>	<b>\$52,825.00</b>
<b>Proprietary Fund -</b>	<b>\$36,420.02</b>
<b>Grand Total -</b>	<b>\$713,358.41</b>

## **B -2. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting – February 13, 2025**

A motion to **approve the Consent Agenda** was made by Councilmember McGowan, seconded by Councilmember Thompson. The Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed. **The motion carried.**

## **C. COUNCIL REGULAR AGENDA**

### **C -1. Discussion and possible action regarding update from Code Enforcement on ninety (90) day extension of time for a recreational vehicle's placement on property located at 615 Lyndale, including possible actions arising from update.**

Robbie Hood, City Manager, Mayor, Council, this should have been placed on the agenda last Council meeting, but we omitted it. Code Enforcement has been out to the property several times and in your packet, you have a letter from the contractor that she was going to hire, indicating that she has no intentions to build a house there and she's seeking placement of that RV in an RV park. Misty Songe, Mayor, so when is she going to have it moved? Hood didn't get an answer from her, we tried to call and left notes, and she ghosted us. Songe, so Chris, Council needs to put a firm date I am assuming. I mean the ninety (90) days is up. Hood, yes, it is up. Songe, the motion needs to have an actual action date. Chris Leavins, Attorney, I do not have that resolution. Hood, there is not a resolution. Leavins, yes if Council wants to take action now to have her move, then they are in their right to do so, and City staff can pursue that. Leavins, I mean I assume you are not wanting to give her an extension. Songe, no. Hood, good we just need a date that it has to be moved by. Songe, tomorrow. Jessica Barker, Council Member, why don't we say the last day of March 2025. Songe why are we going to give her another thirty (30) days. MiKayla Bourque, Council Member, another thirty (30) days for what? To move? Songe, yes. Bourque, I mean that takes time. Songe, it's just an RV. Barker, it's just thirty (30) days. Hood, I can't make it happen tomorrow, we have to send letters and go through the process. Songe, well the letter process could start tomorrow. Hood, I agree. Songe, I mean I don't know why she would need another thirty (30) days to move if she already has some place in mind that she is moving it. Nicole McGowan, Council Member, how old is this person? Songe, it's the son that lives there, it's not even the lady, he's an adult, but it's not the lady that lives there. It's a man that lives there, her son. Bourque, I think 30 days' notice is needed. Leavins, so is that would be to provide notice, tomorrow or early next week. McGowan, no later than March 31st, 2025. Leavins, so that you've got to March 31<sup>st</sup>, ok. Kathryn Weldon, Council Member, I have a question and what happens on the last day of March? Hood, she will be cited. Songe, But that technically gives her 120 days. Nobody else gets that she had a 90-day notice that this was happening, and she had to make progress. Hood, all we can do is cite her, we have no control over the court and the jury that hears that. Weldon, right, that's what I am asking. Leavins, right and if the trial is put off. Songe, So if we wait 30 days to even do it. Leavins, I mean, there's a secondary thing you could do. Me counsel could authorize to go file some type of injunction. You know, in the District Court of Orange County. That naturally cost money to do that. And then there's I mean, we and we've talked about it briefly, but we can't do it now changing stuff with the court. Becoming a court of record and things that that might get more that injunctive power here locally, but as it sits right now, the only injunctive relief would be going to the district court. Songe, But if we give her 30 days, which means if her citation still can't be written for days. And then that's going to extended way farther than if we start the process now. Mercedes Lee, Council Member, what does it look like to start the process now? Is that the same as the citation or do we deliver a letter? And then there's so much time between that and the citation. Songe, Letter that had the 90 days. Did that tell her at the end of 90 days if there was no progress, then it had to be moved or what was in that letter. Hood, I do not have that in front of me, but normally yes mam that is what is said in those letters when they are sent out. Songe, so she already knew when the time was going to be up. Weldon, what is the fine? It cheaper for her to just pay the fine than paying RV rent somewhere else. Hood, well just to let you know Ms. Weldon, at some Chris and I had visited about this, especially where it pertains to Code violations, enhancing the

penalties. Weldon, okay yes. Hood, they could justify a maximum fine of up to \$500.00, which isn't that high, but it's something. Chris usually tries to work with them though just to gain compliance instead. Weldon, right okay. Hood, so it's something just to get the problem solved and that may or may not happen. Weldon, I understand. Hood, but if we continue to have written citations, then I would ask that they be enhanced, which Chris will probably ask for the same thing. McGowan, so she has had no citations. Hood, no, we have given the letter where the Council said ninety (90) days and stayed connected with her as to what was going on and stayed connected with the contractor as well. McGowan, okay. Lee, what's the time frame Robbie between the letter that would be sent next and the citation. Songe shouldn't have to be a letter; it should be a citation. Hood, ultimately, we could write a citation right now. Lee, okay. Hood, but it's whatever the pleasure of the council is, let's just for example send out a letter for ten (10) days, she has to move the rv in ten (10) days and she doesn't write a citation on the eleventh day. Lee, so if we decide now that she has ten (10) days and then at the tenth day she will get a citation? Hood, yes. McGowan and Lee both, I think that's fair. Leavins, so just so I'm not fully starting it over, but just saying if you want to move that way then Code Enforcement could issue the letter tomorrow providing for 10 days of compliance and then they can move forward. McGowan, yes and then she gets her citation, after ten (10) days. Leavins, it's just a normal procedure then.

A motion to **approve Code Enforcement to send a letter tomorrow informing Gloria Parent, she has ten (10) days in which to re-locate the RV and then a citation will be issued**, was made by Councilmember Lee, seconded by Councilmember McGowan. The Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed. **The motion carried.**

**C -2. Consideration and possible action to approve a Resolution authorizing the use of ARPA funds for the purchase of 1155 W. Circuit Dr., in the amount of \$175,000.00 (to be reimbursed under Grant No. 22-119-013-D523).**

Aleta Cappen, Emergency Management, this house is on West Circuit, and it is not being purchased, by the other grant we have that are doing all the other buyouts grants, because he is not the original owner when Harvey occurred, so he wasn't going to get hardly anything for it, and he's remodeled it and all that. We can purchase it through the Infrastructure Grant, which is also going to build the retention pond that we want to do. So, if we don't buy this house, it will be the lone house on W. Circuit, which creates a problem to make the retention pond work. We could make it work but it would look silly. You know you're going to have a house in the middle of a... Nicole McGowan, Council Member, this is a flooded house? Cappen, yes it has flooded in the past numerous times. Misty Songe, Mayor, this is a very repetitious street for flooding. Cappen, right? Robbie Hood, City Manager, W Circuit off of Highway 12, right? Cappen, yes that is correct. McGowan, I mean does someone currently live in this house? Songe, she said somebody obviously bought it and redid it. McGowan, oh I was going to say why are we paying a \$175,000.00 for it. Songe, so how much money is in that particular grant, because that is a lot of money. Cappen for the ARPA grant? Songe, no for the grant that will reimburse. Cappen, that's already been approved by the state, and it will be reimbursed. It doesn't affect the rest of the money we need to do the detention pond with. The budget has all be realigned to allow for this purchase and the state has approved it. It will be reimbursed. It will take thirty (30) to maybe forty-five (45) days to get the money back.

A motion to **approve a Resolution authorizing the use of ARPA funds for the purchase of 1155 W. Circuit Dr., in the amount of \$175,000.00 (to be reimbursed under Grant No. 22-119-013-D523)**, was made by Councilmember McGowan, seconded by Councilmember Thompson. The Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed. **The motion carried.**

**C -3. Consideration and possible action to approve a Resolution permitting the Orange County Mosquito Control to fly at low altitudes in territory under the City to abate mosquitos**

A motion to **approve a Resolution permitting the Orange County Mosquito Control to fly at low altitudes in territory under the City to abate mosquitos**, was made by Councilmember Thompson, seconded by Councilmember Barker. The Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed. **The motion carried.**

**C -4. Consideration and possible action to approve an Ordinance amending ORDINANCE 1476 calling for the election of the Mayor and three (3) Council members in a City Election to be held on May 3, 2025, and setting up the procedures for the election, the provisions for the officers of the election, establishing a voting precinct and polling place, and ordering a Runoff Election, if necessary, to be held on June 7, 2025 (to amend voting locations)**

**Consideración y/o posible aprobación de una Ordenanza que modifica la ORDENANZA 1476 convocando a las elecciones del Alcalde y tres (3) miembros del Concejo en unas Elecciones Municipales que se llevarán a cabo el 3 de mayo de 2025, y estableciendo los procedimientos para la elección, las disposiciones para los oficiales de la elección, estableciendo un distrito electoral y un lugar de votación, y ordenando una Elección de Segunda Vuelta, si es necesario, que se llevará a cabo el 7 de junio de 2025. (para modificar los lugares de votación)**

Rachel Duplechain, City Secretary, Mayor/Council, we had to amend the Ordinance to update the polling locations as they had to change per Orange County.

A motion to **approve an Ordinance amending ORDINANCE 1476 calling for the election of the Mayor and three (3) Council members in a City Election to be held on May 3, 2025, and setting up the procedures for the election, the provisions for the officers of the election, establishing a voting precinct and polling place, and ordering a Runoff Election, if necessary, to be held on June 7, 2025 (to amend voting locations)**, was made by Councilmember McGowan, seconded by Councilmember Thompson. The Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed. **The motion carried.**

**C -5. Consideration and possible action to approve the recommendation of the Selection Review Committee to award by Resolution a Capital Purchasing Agreement for the Mack truck LR64 Sidewinder for the Sanitation Department and authorizing execution of the agreement**

Pebbles Eckhoff, Finance Director, we only had one bid from Government Capitals Corporation, and they gave us a few options and terms. My recommendation is to go with the seven-year term. It's the best option for us, it's the lowest interest rate and it's a good payment for the amount of increase that we did in the Sanitation Department. Clif Parker, Sanitation Supervisor, I expect the life span of the truck to outlast the financing on the term.

A motion to **approve the recommendation of the Selection Review Committee to award by Resolution a Capital Purchasing Agreement for the Mack truck LR64 Sidewinder for the Sanitation Department and authorizing execution of the agreement**, was made by Councilmember McGowan, seconded by Councilmember Thompson. The Council voted five (5) for, none (0) opposed, and one (1) abstain Councilmember Barker. **The motion carried.**



**C -6. Discussion and possible action to approve a Resolution creating a full-time floater position for the Streets, Maintenance, and Sanitation Departments**

Pebbles Eckhoff, Finance Director, so in the past we had a part time employee that worked Thursdays and Saturdays collecting the roll off money for the roll dumpster over by streets, she resigned. And so, we went back to the drawing board and decided that it would be more beneficial to the city if we had a full-time person to work Tuesday through Saturday in a 40-hour week capacity and to help the other departments that are over there that. Would 2 reasons benefit 3 departments, and it would probably be easier to fill it as a full-time position versus a part-time position? Sanitation is going to have first dibs on the person, and then when there's nothing for sanitation, then it would help the other two departments, sanitation fund. Take 75% of the salary from Sanitation while the general Fund would only have to absorb 25%. And with the increase in the sanitation services that we did to cover the trash truck; it leaves enough room to be able to cover the 75% as well.

A motion to **approve a Resolution creating a full-time floater position for the Streets, Maintenance, and Sanitation Departments**, was made by Councilmember Bourque, seconded by Councilmember McGowan. The Council voted five (5) for, none (0) opposed, and one (1) abstain Councilmember Barker. **The motion carried.**

**C -7. Consideration and possible action to approve an Ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances by amending Chapter 58 – Streets, Sidewalks and Other Public Places, Article III. – Driveway and Culverts, Section 58-64. Permit Fees to establish fees for installation of driveway, culverts, or landscape culverts and to address the driveway and landscaping culvert permit application**

Percy Flanigan, Streets Supervisor, right now we are only charging \$10.00 a linear foot for setting these and then anything 24 inches and above if \$20.00 linear foot. Flanigan, which we are not making money on, that per what we are billed to do this. Robbie Hood, City Manager, SO we are asking for an increase in our rates, so we are not just breaking even. Jessica Barker, Council Member, does that cover labor to or is that just materials, this is just the materials. Flanigan, not just materials. Hood, we don't charge for the labor as we as tax paying citizens should have that covered.

A motion to **approve an Ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances by amending Chapter 58 – Streets, Sidewalks and Other Public Places, Article III. – Driveway and Culverts, Section 58-64. Permit Fees to establish fees for installation of driveway, culverts, or landscape culverts and to address the driveway and landscaping culvert permit application**, was made by Councilmember Bourque, seconded by Councilmember Barker. The Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed. **The motion carried.**

**C -8. Consideration and possible approval of a Resolution authorizing the Finance Director to initiate an electronic funds transfer in the amount of \$59,600.00, from the Tex Pool Account to BOK Financial, for payment of City Hall Building.**

Pebbles Eckhoff, Finance Director, so as we discovered in our investment policy that you passed last Council meeting, anytime I do a wire transfer, it has to be with the approval of Council and the only way we pay the building note is by wire transfer. It just gets wired out of the insurance account and TexPool straight over to Bob Financial and this is just our annual interest payment. And then the large principal payment gets made towards the end of the year.

A motion to **approve a Resolution authorizing the Finance Director to initiate an electronic funds transfer in the amount of \$59,600.00, from the Tex Pool Account to BOK Financial, for payment of City Hall Building**, was made by Councilmember McGowan, seconded by Councilmember Thompson. The Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed. **The motion carried.**

**C -9. Consideration and possible action to approve an Ordinance consenting to the Orangefield Water Supply Corporation petition and Resolution regarding application for creation of the Orangefield Special Utility District**

Chris Leavins, Attorney, So this is a petition that I understand was or is going to be followed by the Orangeville Water Supply Corporation to convert to a special utility district as a water supply corporation or nonprofit corporation. They're limited in what they can do for the people that take service from them. So, the conversion I believe is so they have more options for infrastructure bonds and stuff like that, that they can't do now. Beyond that, I don't know a lot else of really what the rationale is behind it other than the representation that on 2. One it because it's going to operate in the city's ETJ under the guidelines whenever they petition TCEQ for this conversion, they have to get any city ET JS consent. For the petition to be filed so that would be the City of Vidor, the City of Orange in the City of Bridge City. I believe the City of Orange considered it may be on Tuesday, and Monday or Tuesday, Bridge City is considering a next month and then it's on our agenda tonight. So, the representation is that it's not going to expand the boundaries, and it will not tax the constituents in the city's ETJ. That's not the purpose of it, at least for now. So that's what they need is the City Council's consent for them to be able to file it with TCEQ? Then to convert from the Water Supply Corporation to a special utility district. Misty Songe, Mayor, do we know if the City of Orange approved it? Leavins, it's my understanding they did, I have not seen the ordinance, but it understood that they did. But I don't have 100% confirmation of that. Jessica Barker, Council Member, so it's a tax burden on the citizens. Robbie Hood, City Manager, well, not in the city limits, it's in the ETJ. Leavins, I don't know fully what they intend to do with it beyond there, but at least initially, their representation is it not, with they're not planning to tax the constituents for that. But I don't know what the future holds, but this again, this is related to the city's ETJ, not the actual city limits.

A motion to **approve an Ordinance consenting to the Orangefield Water Supply Corporation petition and Resolution regarding application for creation of the Orangefield Special Utility District**, was made by Councilmember McGowan, seconded by Councilmember Weldon. The Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed. **The motion carried.**

**C -10. Consideration of Adjournment**

A motion for **Consideration of Adjournment**, was made by Councilmember McGowan, seconded by Councilmember Thompson. The Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed. **The motion carried.** The meeting adjourned at 7:32 pm.

*These minutes were approved on February 27, 2025.*

ATTEST:



Rachel Duplechain, City Secretary



Misty Songe, Mayor