

**City Of Vidor  
Vidor City Council  
Regular Meeting  
March 23, 2023**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Councilmember Nicole McGowan  
Councilmember Michael Thompson  
Councilmember Jessica Barker  
Councilmember Jane Hill

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Mayor Misty Songe  
Councilmember Kelly Carder  
Councilmember Gary Herrera

**Administrative Personnel:** Robbie Hood, City Manager; Betty Strong, City Secretary; Katrina Jones, Finance Director; Chris Leavins, City Attorney; Rod Carrol, Police 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 Pro-tem McGowan presiding.

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

Ms. Steele, Citizen in the audience gave the Invocation and led the Pledges.

**A -3. Citizen Comments**

No Citizen comments.

**B. COUNCIL CONSENT AGENDA**

**B -1. Approval of Accounts Paid:**

<b>Paid Invoices:</b>	<b>General Fund - \$329,731.15</b>
	<b>MCBSF - \$260.86</b>
	<b>CDBG Fund - \$76,364.10</b>
	<b>Hotel Occupancy Tax Fund - \$3,006.95</b>
	<b>Disaster Fund – 48,301.10</b>
	<b>Juvenile Case Manager Fund - \$264.51</b>
	<b>Proprietary Fund - \$51,097.90</b>
	<b>Employee Benefits Trust - \$75,713.26</b>

**B -2. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting – March 09, 2023**

**B -3. Ratification of the transfer of funds from Interest & Sinking 2013 General Obligation Refunding Bonds-Capital One Bank account to Interest & Sinking 2008/2016 General Obligation Refunding Bonds-TexPool account in the following amounts:**

<b>March 07, 2023:</b>	<b>\$ 9,317.49</b>
<b>March 14, 2023:</b>	<b>\$ 885.49</b>

**B -4. Ratification of the payment of the monthly sales tax in the amount of \$6,355.54 for February out of General Account/Pooled Cash**

A motion was made by Councilmember Thompson, seconded by Councilmember Barker, to **APPROVE THE COUNCIL CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED**. The Council voted four (4) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried.

**C. COUNCIL REGULAR AGENDA**

**C -1. Discussion and possible approval of a Resolution selecting the staff's recommendation of an administrator for the GLO Resilient Communities Program (RCP)**

Betty Strong, City Secretary explained this is the \$300,000.00 grant that can assist with updating codes, zoning Ordinances and Public Service activities with no match. Mrs. Strong informed council Traylor & Associates was the administrator to submit a bid and it is the staff's recommendation to proceed with them.

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

**C -2. Report and update from LEAD (Leavins Engineering & Design, LLC) regarding street improvement projects and use of possible funds from TxCDBG grant(s) from Texas Department of Agriculture**

Jeff Leavins with LEAD informed the council that he and the City Staff met about ZoAnn Street and Delores. Mr. Leavins explained the condition of the mentioned roads and the qualifications of the grant. The grant is \$500,000.00 and the City match for this grant is \$50,000.00. Robbie Hood, City Manager asked Mr. Leavins to update the council on West Davis and Jennings. Mr. Hood discussed some of the current projects going on in the city with other grants. Mr. Hood explained all projects being funded by grants and informed council about two (2) \$1million dollar grants the City was just awarded. Mr. Hood informed council this will finish Archie St all the way from I-10 to Tram and Orange Street all the way from Woodlawn to Sargent Street. Mr. Hood stated we will get almost a mile of a road with this TXCDBG and it will show work being done in all parts of the City. A brief discussion ensued. Mr. Leavins gave council an update on West Davis and Jennings and informed council there is a pre bid meeting on March 29, 2023 and the bid opening will be April 5, 2023 for these projects.

**C -3. Discussion of Mayor's Main Street and City Clean up-Earth Day**

Betty Strong, City Secretary explained this event will happen on Earth Day April 22,2023. Mrs. Strong informed the council and audience there will be two (2) dumpsters donated by Republic and placed at the Vidor Police Department for citizens to do household clean up. Mrs. Strong explained there will be more details and a flyer coming soon.

**C -4. Consideration and/or possible approval of Residential Homestead Exemptions regarding Property Tax for the Tax Year 2023:**

1. **Local Option Percentage Homestead**
2. **65 Years of Age**
3. **Disability**

Katrina Jones, Finance Director explained this is an approval requested each year. Ms. Jones informed council it is recommended that the local option percentage is 20% with \$15,000 for the portion of value for each the 65 years of Age and Disability exemptions. This is the max allowed.

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

**C -5. Discussion and possible approval of a Resolution approving bid / estimate for replacement and installation of HVAC equipment with Gallo Mechanical Services, LLC and authorizing the execution of contractual documents, if necessary**

Katrina Jones, Finance Director explained City Hall has four (4) units that the heat exchangers are out on. These units are about twelve (12) years old. Ms. Jones explained the difference in just replacing the heat exchangers vs. each unit. The cost difference is minimal and recommends replacing each unit at \$43,753.00. Chris Leavins, City Attorney stated this will be in conjunction with the roof repair and explained the City went out for bids for the roof repair. The companies will work together to replace the units and roof at the same time. A brief discussion ensued.

A motion was made by Councilmember Barker, seconded by Councilmember Hill, to approve the **Resolution**. The Council voted four (4) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried.

**C- 6. Discussion and possible action to approve a Resolution authorizing the execution of Amendment No. 1 to the DR-4332 HMGP contract for the Anderson Gully Crossings**

Betty Strong, City Secretary informed the council the amendment is setting up the firm fixed price and milestones for billing based on the projects selected. Mr. Hood clarified the billing criteria process. Chris Leavins informed council this is an amendment to the professional services agreement with Traylor & Associates.

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

**C- 7. Discussion and possible action to approve a Resolution authorizing the submittal of a 23/24 TxCDBG application to the Texas Department of Agriculture, committing matching funds, agreeing to comply with programmatic requirements, and adopting/reaffirming civil right policies.**

Robbie Hood, City Manager asked Percy Flanigan to discuss the recommended project for this grant application. Percy Flanigan, Street and Drainage Supervisor explained this would replace about 9/10 of a mile on ZoAnn and Delores Streets.

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

**C-8. Consideration and possible action to approve a Resolution authorizing the execution of the Second Amended City Manager Employment Agreement**

Chris Leavins, City Attorney stated this amendment is from the previous meeting and changes the contract to expire on December 31, 2032, reflects Robbie Hood's current rate of pay since the last contract, and updates Mr. Hood's fuel allowance.

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

**C-9. EXECUTIVE SESSION pursuant to Section 551.071 of the Texas Government Code – Consultation with Attorney, regarding legal advice and consultation related to possible Point of Distribution (POD) for Orange County, Texas**

Mayor Pro Tem McGowan recessed the regular meeting at 7:19 p.m.

**C-10. Consideration and possible action resulting from Executive Session under C-9 regarding the possible Point of Distribution (POD) for Orange County TX**

Mayor Pro-tem McGowan reconvened the regular meeting at 7:34 p.m.

Mayor Pro-tem McGowan made a motion to move forward with the Point of Distribution pending Robbie Hood and Chris Leavins reviewing the real estate matters and negotiations.

Mayor Pro-tem invited Judge Gothia to speak. John Gothia, Orange County Judge thanked council and explained during disasters they need a location in each precinct of the county. Judge Gothia informed the Council and Audience the buildings will be 60'x80' with two 12' garage doors and a small office area. The main use will be for the military to distribute supplies during an emergency.

Councilmember Ward 3 seconded the motion after Judge Gothia's discussion.

A motion was made by Councilmember McGowan, seconded by Councilmember Thompson, to approve **moving forward regarding the POD for Orange County TX pending Robbie Hood and Chris Leavins reviewing the Real Estate matters and negotiations**. The Council voted four (4) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried.

**C-11. Consideration of Adjournment**

A motion was made by Councilmember Thompson, seconded by Councilmember Barker, for **Consideration of Adjournment**. The Council voted four (4) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried, and the Regular Meeting of the Vidor City Council adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

*These minutes approved April 13, 2023.*

  
Misty Songe, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Betty Strong, City Secretary