

**CITY OF VIDOR
VIDOR CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
MAY 27, 2021**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councilmember Nicole McGowan
Councilmember Misty Songe
Councilmember Jessica Barker
Councilmember Gary Herrera
Councilmember Larry Williams

MEMBERS ABSENT:

(Mayor's Position - Vacant)
Councilmember Kelly Carder

Administrative Personnel: Robbie Hood, City Manager; Vicki Watson, City Secretary; Chris Leavins, City Attorney; Cheryl Ray, Supervisor of Finance & Accounting; Rod Carroll, Chief of Police; and Aleta Cappen, Police Captain & Emergency Management Coordinator

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 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

There were no citizen comments.

B. COUNCIL CONSENT AGENDA

B -1. Approval of Accounts Paid:

Paid Invoices:	General Fund - \$58,838.88
	Emergency Management - \$156.50
	LEOSE - \$26.14
	Federal Forfeiture - \$6,600.00
	Sanitation Fund - \$12,310.67

B -2. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting – May 13, 2021

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:

May 17, 2021:	\$ 1,012.05
May 24, 2021:	\$ 919.49

B -4. Ratification of the payment of the monthly sales tax in the amount of \$6,019.15 out of General Account/Pooled Cash

A motion was made by Councilmember Herrera, seconded by Councilmember Williams, to **APPROVE THE COUNCIL CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED**. The Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried.

C. COUNCIL REGULAR AGENDA

C -1. Discussion and possible approval of a Resolution approving City of Vidor Park Master Plan

Joey Scott, Stephens Engineering, discussed the plan development and public input process. Mr. Scott reviewed demographics from the 2010 census and the current 2021 estimated population (10,841) for the City of Vidor. Mr. Scott defined the three park categories (neighborhood parks, community parks, and greenbelts & open space) and reviewed the City's existing parks. Councilmember Herrera asked about Joe Hopkins Park, and Mr. Scott explained Texas Parks & Wildlife will not pay for park development outside of the city limits.

Mr. Scott reviewed the goals, objectives, acreage, and recommended facility guidelines for 2021-2026 and 2026-2031 as outlined in the proposed Park Master Plan. Mr. Scott also discussed needs assessment and identification based on survey results and explained the highest priorities were splash pad, hike & bike trails, playgrounds, and picnic areas. Mr. Scott reviewed the medium (*indoor recreation center, baseball/softball, basketball courts & fishing access*) and moderate (*skate park, dog park, disc golf, senior activity & wildlife viewing*) priorities. Mr. Scott gave an overview of potential park improvement projects including Maple Wood Park, Conn Park Sports Complex, Evangeline Drive Dog Park, City Hall Park, and Lytton Park. A brief discussion ensued regarding future maintenance costs.

Aleta Cappen, Police Captain & Emergency Management Coordinator, stated the results just came out today, and it does not appear the City of Vidor got the \$300,000 grant we applied for last year. Mr. Scott explained the grants will come open again in August, and the City will score points for having a Master Plan. Discussion ensued regarding Conn Park and drainage issues and the grant processes going forward.

A motion was made by Councilmember Herrera, seconded by Councilmember McGowan, to **approve the Parks Master Plan as proposed by Stephens Engineering**. The Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried.

C -2. Consideration and possible approval of an Ordinance finding certain buildings, dwellings and/or structures located at 770 West Railroad and 880 West Davis, Vidor, Texas, to be public nuisances and ordering the demolition and/or repair of buildings, dwellings, or structures; providing for severability and providing for a penalty (*Second Reading*)

Mayor Pro-tem Songe explained this is a second reading as all of Council was not in attendance at the last meeting. Chris Leavins, City Attorney, stated this is the same Ordinance finding that those buildings either need to be repaired or plans submitted, and if that is not done, they are to be demolished. Mr. Leavins explained we had the public hearings last time, and Linda Cathey, Code Enforcement Officer, presented evidence and talked about the structures. Mr. Leavins stated Council did vote at the last meeting, but because all Council members were not present, it had to come back for a second reading.

Councilmember Williams made a motion to **approve Ordinance finding the buildings located at 770 West Railroad and 880 West Davis be demolished or repaired**. Councilmember McGowan seconded. The Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried.

C -3. Discussion of tentative budget schedule

Cheryl Ray, Supervisor of Finance & Accounting, explained budget documents have already been sent out to Department Heads. Ms. Ray stated all of the meetings will be regular meetings this year and explained we will approve the tentative budget on August 23, 2021, and (tentatively) adopt the budget on September 23, 2021. Ms. Ray stressed the adoption of the budget requires a super majority, so all Council members will need to be present. Mr. Ray stated she will probably have a power point presentation on the budget at the next meeting.

C -4. Discussion and possible approval of a Resolution approving and adopting changes to the City's Purchasing Policies and Procedures

Cheryl Ray, Supervisor of Finance & Accounting, explained the proposed changes will give the City Manager the ability to spend a little more. Ms. Ray stated the amount for routine purchases by Department Heads will increase from \$3,000 to \$4,000 and up to \$10,000 for the City Manager without having to come to Council. Ms. Ray stated prices have gone up, and things have come up where we cannot always wait until the next meeting. Ms. Ray stated this does not mean we will take any less care when making purchases, and we will still come to Council to ratify. A brief discussion ensued.

A motion was made by Councilmember McGowan, seconded by Councilmember Barker, **to approve Resolution 1002**. The Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried.

C -5. Discussion and possible action to select an auditor for FYE 9/30/21 – 9/30/25

Cheryl Ray, Supervisor of Finance & Accounting, explained the selection committee (*the City Manager, Councilmember McGowan, and herself*) got together and reviewed and scored the three responses. Ms. Ray explained the proposals were scored on experience, references, and completeness of their proposal and stated the committee recommends Brooks Watson & Co. continue as our auditors for the next five years. Ms. Ray stated Brooks, Watson and Mitchell Fontenote were very close in price, but Wathen, DeShong & Junker was quite a bit higher. Councilmember Herrera stated he has been very impressed with Brooks, Watson in the past and the report they give Council, and Ms. Ray stated they perform a very thorough audit.

Councilmember Herrera moved **to select Brooks, Watson & Co. to be the City's auditors for the next five (5) years**, and Councilmember Williams seconded. The Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried.

C -6. Discussion and possible action regarding grants awarded to the City and possible grant applications that the City may submit

Cheryl Ray, Supervisor of Finance & Accounting, stated as everyone is aware, the City was just awarded a mitigation grant in the amount of \$15.8 million. Ms. Ray thanked all of the citizens who completed the surveys and stated she does not feel we would have gotten the grant without them. Ms. Ray reviewed some of the grants going on right now (*CDBG infrastructure grant, CDBG buyout grant, and FMA buyout grant*) and other grants we have put in for including HMGP for 4 crossings on Terry Gully, HMGP supplemental for Old Spanish Trail and some Terry Gully work, and the \$2.68 million American Rescue Plan (*ARP*) grant. Ms. Ray stated we still do not know what we will be able to use the ARP grant funds for, but we are hoping to use it for possible drainage work and/or work for the Water District. Ms. Ray stated we will also be submitting something for other grants including HMGP Laura, HMGP Winter Storms, and CDBG Laura.

When Councilmember Herrera asked about Council's input for future projects, Aleta Cappen, Police Captain & Emergency Management Coordinator, stated this is where the Mitigation Action Plan comes in. Captain Cappen explained if Council suggests something that is not in our Plan, the county-wide Plan, or the regional Plan, it will need to be updated in order to be considered. Discussion ensued.

Percy Flanigan, Street/Drainage/Parks Supervisor, updated Council on the drainage work being done and explained the Drainage District has been working on the Terry Gully extension off of Orange Street, and they are doing an awesome job. Mr. Flanigan also commended the City Manager and explained he has been out with him many, many hours digging trenches and getting water off of the streets.

Mr. Flanigan stated the Drainage District has also been working on School House Ditch and are supposed to start working in the Dogwood area a week from Monday and working their way north. Mr. Flanigan explained when he asked the Drainage District about getting the section of (School House) ditch cleaned between Highway 105 and Orange Street, he was told they were having trouble getting the landowners to agree to let them go through. Mr. Flanigan stated he has been able to get permission from six of the eight property owners.

Discussion ensued regarding mowing the ditches and the improved water flow due to all of the work that has been done by the Drainage District and the City employees. Rod Carroll, Chief of Police, commended all of the hard work and stated we got as much rain earlier in the week as we did with Imelda, but the water quickly left the subdivisions and the roadways when the rain slowed.

C -7. Discussion and possible approval of a Resolution approving and authorizing the execution of an Interlocal Agreement between the City and the South East Texas Regional Planning Commission for Planning, Development, Operation and Provision of 9-1-1 Service and use of 9-1-1 Funds

Rod Carroll, Chief of Police, stated this has to be renewed every two years and explained 9-1-1 collects funds from phone bills. A brief discussion ensued regarding the ownership of the equipment. Chris Leavins, City Attorney, explained the interlocal agreement allows them to use that money to provide us equipment.

A motion was made by Councilmember Williams to approve the Resolution approving and authorizing the execution of an Interlocal Agreement between the City and the South East Texas Regional Planning Commission for Planning, Development, Operation and Provision of 9-1-1 service and use of 9-1-1 funds. Councilmember McGowan seconded. The Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried.

C -8. Discussion and possible action to approve a bid submitted to Orange County Tax Assessor-Collector on trust property located at 1085 Tannahill, Vidor, Texas

Chris Leavins, City Attorney, explained the agenda item states possible action, but no action is needed as this is just informative. Cheryl Ray, Supervisor of Finance & Accounting, stated this is just to show Council that the property did sell. Karen Fisher, Orange County Tax Assessor-Collector, explained Commissioners Court approved the sale of the property located at 1085 Tannahill in the amount of \$6,005. Ms. Fisher stated the goal is to get the property back on the tax roll so that there is more tax revenue coming in. A brief discussion ensued.

C -9 Discussion and possible action to approve a bid submitted to Orange County Tax Assessor-Collector on trust property located at 215 Cady Rd., Vidor, Texas

Karen Fisher, Orange County Tax Assessor-Collector, advised the bid on the property located at 215 Cady in the amount of \$9,500 was approved by Commissioners Court. Ms. Fisher reiterated the main thing is getting the property back on the tax roll.

C-10. Consideration of Adjournment

A motion was made by Councilmember Songe, seconded by Councilmember Herrera, for **Consideration of Adjournment**. The Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried, and the Regular Meeting of the Vidor City Council adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

These minutes approved June 10, 2021.


Misty Songe, Mayor Pro-tem

ATTEST:


Vicki Watson, City Secretary