

**CITY OF VIDOR
VIDOR CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
December 12, 2024**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Administrative Personnel: 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., 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:	General Fund –	\$854,996.64
	MCBSF –	\$1,086.17
	Emergency Mgmt. Fund -	\$197.38
	CDBG Fund -	\$520,797.75
	Hotel Occupancy –	\$22,062.75
	Disaster Fund -	\$14,215.00
	Proprietary Fund –	\$123,677.48
	Total:	\$1,537,033.37

B-2. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting – November 14, 2024

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. Consideration and possible action to approve cancellation of the regularly scheduled Council meeting on December 26, 2024, due to Christmas Holiday.

A motion to **approve cancellation of the regularly scheduled Council meeting on December 26, 2024, due to Christmas Holiday**, was made by Councilmember McGowan, seconded by Councilmember Thompson. The Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed. **The motion carried.**

C-2. Discussion and possible action to approve a Resolution adopting the 2025 Holiday Schedule.

Misty Songe, Mayor, so this is the standard holidays' that the employees get every year and then they have 1 floating holiday. Nicole McGowan, Councilmember, it was brought to my attention that we may want to add Juneteenth as well, like we have Texas Independence Day, it's not really a big deal, so maybe we can switch it out for Juneteenth. Songe, I am looking at the actual definition of the floating holiday. Rachel, what's the actual definition of the floating holiday? Rachel Duplechain, City Secretary, the floating holiday is an extra day that can be taken at any time throughout the year like a vacation day, basically like flex time, it is does not rollover. Rod Carroll, Chief, it is actually for the employee's birthday, they used to get their birthday off, but now they can that day at anytime throughout the year. Jessica Barker, Councilmember, that's nice, can we just add Juneteenth to this? McGowan, can we add a holiday, Chris? Songe, do we know what day of the week that is? Chris Leavins, City Attorney, yeah, that's if the City wants to be closed that day, you can. Songe, right, what day of the week is what I meant. Mercedes Lee, Councilmember, well Juneteenth is always the same day. Kathryn Weldon, Councilmember, it's always the same day June 19th. Songe & Leavins, but if it's on a weekend it doesn't matter. Songe, that's why I was asking. Lee, would we not observe it on another day? Leavins, yeah you could push it and observe it. Leavins, okay Rachel says it is on a Thursday.

A motion to **add Juneteenth to the City of Vidor Holiday Calendar for 2025**, 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 approval of a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Vidor, Texas, authorizing the City's ballot to vote for the 2025-2027 Board of Directors for the Orange County Appraisal District

Chris Leavins, City Attorney, what you see there is that you have got 122 votes, you can split those up or you can put all your votes towards one. Discussion ensued between Council, it was decided that votes would be split equally between Andy Haegguist and Jay Odom.

A motion to **split the votes between Andy Haegguist and Jay Odom**, was made by Councilmember McGowan, seconded by Councilmember Barker. The Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed. **The motion carried.**

C -4. Discussion and possible action to approve an Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Vidor, Texas authorizing participation with other Entergy service area cities in matters concerning Entergy Texas, Inc. at the Public Utility Commission of Texas in 2025; authorizing the hiring of lawyers and rate expelis; authorizing the City s participation to the full extent permitted by law at the Public Utility Commission of Texas; finding that the meeting complies with the Open Meetings Act; and declaring an effective date

Council passed on this item; Entergy has not sent over their information.

C -5. Consideration and possible approval of a Resolution authorizing the engagement of Brooks Watson & Co, CPAs to complete an audit for the fiscal year 2023-2024 and approving and authorizing the Mayor to sign an engagement letter.

Misty Songe, Mayor, and this is actually adding the single audit because we already have approval for this fiscal year. Nicole McGowan, Councilmember, because we got all the grants, right? Rachel Duplechain, City Secretary, yes, we received over \$750,000.00 in grant monies for the 23-24 FY, so we have to perform a single audit for state requirements.

A motion to approve **of a Resolution authorizing the engagement of Brooks Watson & Co, CPAs to complete an audit for the fiscal year 2023-2024 and approving and authorizing the Mayor to sign an engagement letter**, was made by Councilmember McGowan, seconded by Councilmember Thompson. The Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed. **The motion carried.**

C -6. Consideration and possible action on acceptance and approval of the 2024 Current Tax Roll as submitted by Octavia Guzman, Tax Assessor Collector

Rachel Duplechain, City Secretary, Mayor, Council, this is just the current tax roll that we do the certification on every single year. I do have the entire tax roll that I emailed to all of you today. I did not print it as it is over 1,000 pages.

Mayor Reads: Octavia Guzman, Tax Assessor Collector of Orange County, Texas, do solemnly swear that the tax roll from which this information is derived contains a correct in full list of the real and personal property, subject to taxation, and that said property has been assessed for taxes for the year, 2024, at its true and full market value, or if has not market value, then at its real value as said list and values were certified and submitted to me by Scott Overton, chief appraiser of Orange County Appraisal District; to wit: \$3,485,575.98.

A motion to approve **of acceptance and approval of the 2024 Current Tax Roll as submitted by Octavia Guzman, Tax Assessor Collector**, was made by Councilmember McGowan, seconded by Councilmember Barker. The Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed. **The motion carried.**

C -7. Consideration and possible approval of the certification of the 2024 delinquent tax roll for the City of Vidor as certified and submitted by Octavia Guzman, Tax Assessor Collector

Mayor Reads, I, Octavia Guzman, Tax Assessor Collector for the City of Vidor, Orange County, Texas, do solemnly swear that I have made or caused to be made delinquent inquiry to ascertain that all delinquent taxes due to the City of Vidor on October 14, 2024, in the amount of, \$815,345.90, are hereby certified and the tax records are incorporated herein reference the same as if fully copied and set forth in lengths.

A motion to approve of the certification of the 2024 delinquent tax roll for the City of Vidor as certified and submitted by Octavia Guzman, Tax Assessor Collector, was made by Councilmember McGowan, seconded by Councilmember Thompson. The Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried.

C -8. Discussion and possible action regarding approval of an Ordinance of the City of Vidor, Texas amending Chapter 6, Article I, Section 6.5. Animal Service Fees, Permit Fees, related to fees charged by Animal Control (Second Reading)

A motion to approve of an Ordinance of the City of Vidor, Texas amending Chapter 6, Article I, Section 6.5. Animal Service Fees, Permit Fees, related to fees charged by Animal Control (Second Reading), was made by Councilmember McGowan, seconded by Councilmember Barker. The Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried.

C -9. Discussion and possible action to approve an Ordinance of the City of Vidor establishing an exemption from ad valorem (property) taxes for a Qualified Childcare Facility pursuant to Texas Tax Code §11.36 (Second Reading)

A motion to approve of an Ordinance of the City of Vidor establishing an exemption from ad valorem (property) taxes for a Qualified Childcare Facility pursuant to Texas Tax Code §11.36 (Second Reading), was made by Councilmember McGowan, seconded by Councilmember Thompson. The Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried.

C -10. Discussion and possible action to approve a Resolution authorizing the City of Vidor to participate in the Kroger Opioid Settlement

A motion to approve a Resolution authorizing the City of Vidor to participate in the Kroger Opioid Settlement), was made by Councilmember McGowan, seconded by Councilmember Thompson. The Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried.

C -11. Consideration and possible action to approve a Resolution authorizing temporary additional compensation of \$250.00 per month for Janice Johnson, acting as interim Municipal Court Head Clerk

A motion to approve an authorizing temporary additional compensation of \$250.00 per month for Janice Johnson, acting as interim Municipal Court Head Clerk, was made by Councilmember McGowan, seconded by Councilmember Barker. The Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried.

C -12. Consideration and possible action to approve a Resolution authorizing the City of Vidor to use ARPA funds for the new Trane condenser unit at City Hall in the amount of \$29,988.75

A motion to approve a **Resolution authorizing the City of Vidor to use ARPA funds for the new Trane condenser unit at City Hall in the amount of \$29,988.75**, was made by Councilmember McGowan, seconded by Councilmember Thompson. The Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed. **The motion carried.**

C -13. Consideration and possible action to approve the temporary closure of the reception area and access windows for the City of Vidor Municipal Court on Fridays until further notice

A motion to approve **the temporary closure of the reception area and access windows for the City of Vidor Municipal Court on Fridays until further notice**, was made by Councilmember McGowan, seconded by Councilmember Barker. The Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed. **The motion carried.**

C -14. Consideration and possible action to approve a Resolution authorizing the City of Vidor to execute a yearly subscription with Civicplus, LLC, for codification purposes

Misty Songe, Mayor, Rachel you want to explain this one? Rachel Duplechain, City Secretary, yes, Mayor, Council, so Civicplus has never raised our rates, and we have been with them since 2000. Now unfortunately they are going to have to with the cost of everything and having to raise their prices all across the board. Currently, we paying per page for codification and print and there will be a 30% increase to that. If we do a yearly subscription, we can lock that price in for the next five (5) years. Jessica Barker, Councilmember, but it's saying on December 1st of each year, we will get a 3% price increase. Duplechain, yes, the 3% is what we have locked in for five (5) years versus the 10% or doing it individually which is the 30% increase.

A motion to approve a **Resolution authorizing the City of Vidor to execute a yearly subscription with Civicplus, LLC, for codification purposes**, was made by Councilmember McGowan, seconded by Councilmember Thompson. The Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed. **The motion carried.**

C -15. Consideration of Adjournment

A motion for **Consideration of Adjournment**, was made by Councilmember Barker, seconded by Councilmember McGowan. The Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed. **The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 7:15pm.**

These minutes were approved on January 9, 2025.

ATTEST:



Rachel Duplechain, City Secretary



Misty Songe, Mayor