

**CITY OF VIDOR  
VIDOR CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
APRIL 10, 2025**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Councilmember Lee

**Administrative Personnel:** Pebbles Eckhoff, Finance Director; Rachel Duplechain, City Secretary; Brooke Carroll, Human Resources Director; Chris Leavins, City Attorney; Rodney Johnson, Captain;

**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**

Chris Leavins, City Attorney, gave the Invocation and led the Pledge to the United States Flag and the State of Texas Flag.

**A -3. Proclamation Autism Awareness**

Misty Songe, Mayor, read proclamation for Autism Awareness and Acceptance. Proclamation was presented to Vicki Smith, citizen volunteer. (Brief pause for pictures)

**A -4. Proclamation Fair Housing**

Misty Songe, Mayor, read proclamation for Fair Housing.

**A -5. Citizen Comments**

None

**B. COUNCIL CONSENT AGENDA**

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

<b>General Fund -</b>	<b>\$443,747.83</b>
<b>MCBSF -</b>	<b>\$421.29</b>
<b>CDBG FUND -</b>	<b>\$77,247.47</b>
<b>Hotel Occupancy Fund -</b>	<b>\$3,551.68</b>
<b>Proprietary Fund -</b>	<b>\$431,593.11</b>
<b>Grand Total:</b>	<b>\$956,561.38</b>

**B-2. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting – March 27, 2025**

A motion to **approve the Consent Agenda** was made by Councilmember Thompson, seconded by Councilmember McGowan. 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 a Resolution authorizing and ratifying the use of ARPA funds for the appraisal of 2795 Short St., in the amount of \$600.00 (to be reimbursed under Grant No. 20-066-023-C168).**

Pebbles Eckhoff, Finance Director, Mayor/Council, this was the last house on Short St. that we've recently added to the buy-out list. This was the appraisal amount for the appraisal that we just had done a couple weeks ago. We already paid it to them, but we've been bringing the ARPA ones back to Council for ratification in case the state ever comes back and says they need to have Council approval again, that we already have it. Nicole McGowan, this is to have it demolished. Eckhoff, no this is just for the appraisal, we are just now going to buy it. Chris Leavins, City Attorney, this is just for the appraisal fee. Misty Songe, Mayor, I think this was one of the last holdouts down there on Short St. McGowan, we are buying the house and the land? Eckhoff, yes.

A motion to **approve a Resolution authorizing and ratifying the use of ARPA funds for the appraisal of 2795 Short St., in the amount of \$600.00 (to be reimbursed under Grant No. 20-066-023-C168)**, was made by Councilmember Barker, seconded by Councilmember McGowan. The Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed. **The motion carried.**

**C-2. Consideration and/or possible approval of Residential Homestead Exemptions regarding Property Tax for the Tax Year 2025:**

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

Pebbles Eckhoff, Finance Director, Mayor/Council, this is the same as we did last year and the year before we're recommending to keep it the same, the 20% exemption for Homestead and the \$15,000.00 for your disabled and seniors.

A motion to **approve the Residential Homestead Exemption for 2025 at 20% exemption for Homestead, \$15,000.00 for 65 Years of Age, and \$15,000.00 for Disabled**, was made by Councilmember McGowan, seconded by Councilmember Barker. The Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed. **The motion carried.**

### C -3. Discussion and possible action regarding City Pool, including Opening Day and Dollar Days for 2025

Brooke Carroll, HR Director, Mayor/Council, we're very excited for another wonderful summer at the pool. Our opening day will be on Saturday, May 24, 2025, and we will have Dollar Days for opening weekend. We will have the same lifeguards as in 2024, except for two, but we've already had many applications that Krista Powell, our manager, has received. So, we look forward to another great time all summer. The fees will remain the same as last year, \$2.00 for Residents and \$4.00 for Non-Residents, we will be offering the individual season pass again this year for \$150.00, but we're excited to add a family season pass for four people for \$300.00 this year, everything will remain the same for our military, with their military ID will come in for free. Senior citizens will swim for free on Thursdays and we'll have the water aerobics on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm for \$3.00. And then another addition we are adding for this year is for the scuba instructors is an annual fee at \$350.00 due to them charging per session, we approximate that they charge about \$60.00 per person and that will just be for the yearly fee just for the maintenance of the pool, the chemicals, and everything. Everything will remain the same for the private parties at night for the cost and the times. Our closing day will be on Sunday, August 31, 2025, but starting August 4, 2025, we will only be open on the weekends. Nicole McGowan, Council Member, how many people bought that season last year? Carroll, I don't believe we had any buy last year, so that's why we wanted to add the family pass. McGowan, I think it's too expensive. Jessica Barker, Council Member, How many dollar days will we be having in addition to the opening day? Carroll, so we wanted to start with the opening weekend just to see how profitable it was and then probably consider again for the July 4th weekend is what we did last year, and we saw a lot of success with that and then potentially open up to any other weekends that we see fit to do so. McGowan, Y'all we need to we need to think about decreasing that season pass thing at \$150.00, nobody's, that's outrageous. Mikayla Borque, Council Member, It would be \$198.00, I mean that would be they're going every day at \$2.00 a day. McGowan, Can we decrease it to \$100.00? Barker, I agree. Kathryn Weldon, Council Member, yeah, I agree. McGowan, I mean the whole thing is to make it feasible for parents to be able to bring their kids. \$150.00, it's just people can't afford to go to the public pool. Bourque, yeah, I agree. Kathryn Weldon, Council Member, yeah, I agree. Misty Songe, Mayor, well, and it's only a little over two months that it's even fully open, so. Weldon, you're going to have competition this year with Smith Lake too, so you might want to think about that. It's better to make some money, then no money. McGowan, yeah, I just want to decrease it. Songe, I think a \$100.00 is fair. McGowan, can we decrease it? Chris Leavins, City Attorney, I think that what I'd probably do is let this come back on the next agenda we have until May before it opens anyway. Just because the agenda item wasn't really worded properly to address that. But if that's something you want, then I think you can give direction to city staff to come with it next time. Weldon, yeah, we need to. Michael Thompson, Council Member, since we are going to look at decreasing that one then we need to look at decreasing the family one as well, right? Leavins, correct. McGowan so let's can we table it and come back to it or whatever we need to do. Leavins, you don't have to table it, we can bring it back with a new agenda item next time. McGowan, okay. Songe, okay. Songe, what's the thought on the family one, but that's up to four people. McGowan, so what is it right now, three something? Songe, \$300.00, so \$75.00 a person. So, I mean technically I think that one's a little more in line than the individual is. Thompson, I mean even if we took it down to \$250.00, I still think that would be reasonable. Pebbles Eckhoff, Finance Director, this was a recommendation by the manager pool person, Krista, she's been our manager for several years. And this was what she had been seeing that people were asking for and so she brought it to Brooke this year and said, hey, why don't we do a family pass. People were saying that they would pay around this. Songe, yeah, I mean if it's four people and that's \$75.00 per person that's less than an individual season pass. I do think the individual pass is kinda high though. McGowan, did anybody do a family season pass last year? Eckhoff, we didn't have them last year. Carroll, this year will be the first year. Songe, so bring it back with individual passes at \$100.00 and family passes, staying at \$300.00 for up to four people. McGowan, I think \$300.00 is expensive ya'll. Songe, I mean it's \$75.00 a person. So, I mean it just really depends I guess but they can do just the \$2.00 a day as well.

Bourque, can we discuss it next time? McGowan, yes. Leavins, yeah, we can bring it back as an agenda item so they can have more discussion on that. I mean, it is about the city pool now, but at least for that specific to make action on that. McGowan, I just know people can't afford that, people can't afford \$300.0. Songe, no but they can do the \$2.00 a day option instead. McGowan, and the whole thing is if they could afford \$300.00, they could have their own pool at home. They wouldn't have to pay anything. So, I want it to be feasible. Songe, it more than that at home, you can ask Jessica. Barker, it costs way more than that. McGowan, still the point is they're not rich enough to have a pool or to pay \$300.00 most of them. They just want to go to the pool to take their kid to go swimming, their hot. Barker, could we maybe look at like age brackets? McGowan, yeah that's a good idea. Songe, I like that idea too. McGowan, yeah, that's fairer. I mean, cause teenage kids are going, that's one thing. But if it's small kids, it's hard to pay that much to take them, you're a single mom and to take three small kids to the pool and that be feasible. Leavins, if you don't know one thing you could do is just ask for you know Brooke to work with the Pool Manager. Songe, yeah, let's do that, but let's look at age brackets like, Jessica said I think that's a great idea. Carroll, yes, I can get in contact with Krista, and we can discuss that before the next meeting. McGowan, thank you. Songe, thank you. Barker, thank you. Weldon, thank you.

**C -4. Discussion and possible action to extend CD with DuGood Federal Credit Union or withdraw and place with another financial institution, (CD matured)**

Pebbles Eckhoff, Finance Director, Mayor/Council, we've had our CD, it's actually, it's called CUSO, but DuGood facilitates it with CUSO, and it stands for this big, long name and to be honest with you, I don't remember. But we went out for our rates again and they are still the better rate. So, I just recommend that we stay with our current CD holder.

A motion to **approve to extend CD with DuGood Federal Credit Union**, was made by Councilmember McGowan, seconded by Councilmember Thompson. The Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed. **The motion carried.**

**C -5. Consideration and possible action to approve a Resolution appointing one (1) member to the City of Vidor Planning and Zoning Commission (each member shall be a resident of the City of Vidor, shall serve without compensation, and shall hold no other position in the City government), to fill the unexpired term of Gary Herrera.**

Misty Songe, Mayor, and we do have an application which is the same one we talked to last time, Robin. Jessica Barker, Council Member, how long is left on the term? Chris Leavins, City Attorney, I believe it's May of 2026. Barker she here tonight? Songe, she talked to us last time, oh wait you weren't here. Robin, Ms. Jessica wasn't here last time. Barker, sorry. Robin Aldana, applicant, I am Robin Aldana of 175 E. Elizabeth street. I co-own a small business with my husband, Eldon, the new soft serve location, hopefully opening in the next two weeks, once we hear back from Health Department. I had applied for the Planning no the Zoning Board of Adjustments and Mr. Herrera also applied for that one, and then I was if I wanted to take this one. After the meeting I talked with Mr. Spencer and Mr. Herrera about it, and I still interested in applying to the position that is currently open. Songe, you said software serve that you all are opening. Aldana, soft serve. Songe, soft serve in the gas station? Aldana, no. Songe, where at? Aldana, it's off of Elizabeth St. McGowan, where Border Town Tacos used to be at. Aldana, where Border Town Tacos used to be at, we are there right now. We actually just closed on the property last Friday and we have bacon wrapped hotdogs, soft serve ice cream, nachos, that's our starting. Barker, congratulations. McGowan, that's exciting. Barker, how long have you lived in Vidor? Aldana, this summer, made two years. Barker, perfect. What made you want to apply for this position? Songe, Wendy. Aldana, well Wendy. Barker, that was very honest. Aldana, I homeschool my daughters and I am in part of her homeschool group and she told me about the first position and brought that to my attention that there was an opening, and we talked about the mayor. Barker, Do you have any issues? Anything prohibiting you from attending the meetings or anything like that?

Aldana, no I might bring my daughters, but they are decently behaved for five- and seven-year-olds. Songe, or leave them with Wendy. McGowan, Wendy always takes kids. Barker, yes. Aldana, yeah. Songe and that's why she drives a van. Barker, those are all the questions that I had, thank you. Aldana, thank you.

A motion to **approve a Resolution appointing Robin Aldana to the City of Vidor Planning and Zoning Commission (each member shall be a resident of the City of Vidor, shall serve without compensation, and shall hold no other position in the City government), to fill the unexpired term of Gary Herrera,** was made by Councilmember McGowan, seconded by Councilmember Thompson. The Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed. **The motion carried.**

**C -6. Consideration and possible actin to approve an Ordinance of the City of Vidor, Texas amending the Code of Ordinances by amending Chapter 70 – Traffic and Vehicles, to create Article VIII – Operation of Motor Vehicles, regarding operation of motor vehicles in the City; providing for a repeal of conflicting ordinances; providing for severability; providing for penalties; and providing for publication and an effective date**

Rodney Johnson, Captain, Mayor/Council, these Ordinances are just going to be mirroring what the state already has provided on the state books. There were Ordinances in place and so we are updating mirroring what the State law already says. Chris Leavins, City Attorney, some of our Ordinances didn't include traffic offenses on City streets and things that are not on Highway 12 or I-10 so some of these are mirroring the State laws, but it's actually City Ordinances of the same thing. If you do choose to pass it tonight it will have to come because you do not have a full Council, and these do have penalty provisions for traffic violations, and it will have to come back one more time.

A motion to **approve an Ordinance of the City of Vidor, Texas amending the Code of Ordinances by amending Chapter 70 – Traffic and Vehicles, to create Article VIII – Operation of Motor Vehicles, regarding operation of motor vehicles in the City; providing for a repeal of conflicting ordinances; providing for severability; providing for penalties; and providing for publication and an effective date,** was made by Councilmember McGowan, seconded by Councilmember Barker. The Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed. **The motion carried.**

**C -7. Discussion and possible action to approve a Resolution authorizing and establishing the City of Vidor Conn Park Advisory Committee, to consist of three (3) members, to be overseen by the City of Vidor City Manager**

Pebbles Eckhoff, Finance Director, Mayor/Council, we're asking for a Conn Park Advisory Committee as we're getting things done at the park. We want to make sure when it's ready that we can have the public use it, so we just want to form a committee of three people made up of 1 current Council Member and two citizens and then Miss Cappen will act like an informal liaison to help try to find any grants and things of that nature. Basically, what this committee will do is they'll just discuss the community use of the park, any deposits that we may want to take for people to hold events and rentals out there, explore ideas and how to make the park more successful for our community, things of that nature. The community will meet the committee, excuse me will meet and discuss their goals and what they want to do, and then they'll get with our City Manager and then after he approves it, they'll come before Council and get y'all to pass it. Chris Leavins, City Attorney, just like some of the committees in the past that didn't have any regulatory authority or really any of kind of authority outside of what you all approve, so it's just to be able to consider things and bring them to ya'll. Misty Songe, Mayor, so would there be any conflict with Gary being on this committee, with him being on Zoning? Nicole McGowan, Council Member, resigned from it, didn't he? Gary Herrera, Zoning Board of Adjustments Board Member, the Charter is only for Zoning and Planning, that's the only two it's just like if any of you were on any other committee outside of Council, because it's just an advisory committee. Songe, that's okay I just wanted to make sure. Chris Leavins, City Attorney, yeah typically yeah,

it's not a rule making type of authority and it will just have to come back to ya'll I hadn't looked that up, but it's just an advisory committee. Nicole McGowan, I don't think we are assigning a person to that are we? We're just doing the Committee. Songe, okay, that was just the one question, I didn't think it was a conflict but just wanted to make sure. Eckhoff, Finance Director, we hadn't selected any members yet, that is something that would have to come back to you guys to do. But we just laid it out and we thought it would be best if one Council Member was on and then two citizens. Songe, yep.

A motion to **approve a Resolution authorizing and establishing the City of Vidor Conn Park Advisory Committee, to consist of three (3) members, to be overseen by the City of Vidor City Manager**, was made by Councilmember McGowan, seconded by Councilmember Barker. The Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed. **The motion carried**

#### **C -8. Discussion and report regarding three (3) month update of Next Level Prime**

Brooke Carroll, HR Director, Mayor/Council, we've seen a lot of great things coming from Next Level Prime membership. I've heard great things from our employees for themselves, for their spouses and their children. So out of our 250 members, which includes the employees, their spouses, and their dependents, we have 60 that have utilized this benefit, which brings our utilization to 28% and then our Net Promoter score is 100. When I spoke with our account manager right of Next Level, she said that she typically sees about 70 for most of the members that they have. So, she was very excited about that number, and then you can kind of see on there just our engagement between the different ages and genders and then what everyone is going for. So, majority of it was for urgent care needs, which was great just with having their longer hours of 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM Monday, really Sunday through Saturday. And so that has been very beneficial for our employees. If they have something that's minor, they can just go after work and not have to use sick time anytime off anything like that. And then you can kind of see the differences for each month between January, February and March of just who has been. And then the distinct patients are repeat customers for them are repeat clients for them and so they have been going multiple times between the employees and then their dependents. And then we've seen the most people going to Beaumont. But then if you want you can opt for the virtual visit and then the Nederland location. So that's been very beneficial having those three options for us. And then they've also had the referrals that you can see on the next page for endocrinology and then you are able to see how they're utilizing the mobile app to make their appointments. So overall, it's been a big benefit for everybody. It's very easy for the employees to utilize for themselves or their dependents to make appointments. And I've only heard great things and as for our account manager, she's very responsive. And so, it's just been a great experience. Overall.

#### **C -13. Consideration of Adjournment**

A motion for **Consideration of Adjournment** was made by Councilmember McGowan, seconded by Councilmember Thompson. The Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed. **The motion carried.** The meeting adjourned at 7:22 pm.

*These minutes were approved on April 24, 2025.*



ATTEST:

*Rachel Duplechain*

Rachel Duplechain, City Secretary

*Misty Songe*

Misty Songe, Mayor