

**CITY OF VIDOR
VIDOR CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
AUGUST 15, 2019**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Kimberly Stiebig
Councilmember Angela Jordan
Councilmember Keith Buesing
Councilmember Jane Hill

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Councilmember Bob Turner
Councilmember Misty Songe
Councilmember Gary Herrera

Administrative Personnel: Mike Kunst, City Manager; Chris Leavins, City Attorney; Vicki Watson, City Secretary; Cheryl Ray, Supervisor of Finance & Accounting; and Rod Carroll, 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 Special Called Meeting of the Vidor City Council began at 7:01 p.m., Mayor Stiebig presiding.

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

Mike Kunst, City Manager, 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 REGULAR AGENDA

B -1. Report on Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) fund grants from 2018-2019

Mike Kunst, City Manager, stated all of the applicants that received funds last year have submitted their follow-up reports, and he did not have any concerns.

B -2. Public Hearing – Discussion and presentation of applicants/applications seeking hotel occupancy tax funds for fiscal year 2019-2020 in accordance with Chapter 351 of the Texas Tax Code

Mayor Stiebig opened the **Public Hearing – Discussion and presentation of applicants/applications seeking hotel occupancy tax funds for fiscal year 2019-2020 in accordance with Chapter 351 of the Texas Tax Code** at 7:02 p.m. Ms. Stiebig explained a representative for each application will be allowed a total of three (3) minutes to make their presentation.

- a) **Vidor Rotary Club (\$2,750)** – Sally Andrews stated the requested funds are for the Cajun Music Night event which Vidor Rotary Club hosts in order to provide scholarships to students graduating from Vidor High School and heading on to institutions of higher learning. Ms. Andrews explained this year they are looking to add a scholarship for a student from the AIMS Center. Ms. Andrews stated if there is an odd amount left over, it will go to the green bus, Read & Feed Program, which takes books and food to indigent children and youth.
- b) **Eastgate Church Bible Quiz Program (\$4,000)** – Doak Burke, Bible Quiz Coordinator, explained there were 150-200 kids and parents who stayed one night last year for the junior tournament and 250-300 who stayed

two nights for the senior tournament. Mr. Burke stated kids come from all over the state to compete and this year they are hoping to host both the junior and senior state tournaments which will each be two-night stays.

- c) **District 8 Checkers Association (\$7,500)** – Amy Franks explained this year they hosted the District 8 National Tournament in May and a world champion came and competed with people from all over the country. Ms. Franks stated with the help of these funds, they also sponsored a youth and children's championship. Ms. Franks stated they used 10 hotel rooms plus the banquet room. Ms. Franks advised they are bidding to host the national tournament, the largest in the country, and if they get it, there will be 50-75 contestants coming to Vidor.
- d) **Vidor Future Farmers of America Booster Club (\$10,000)** – Keith Wallace spoke on behalf of the Vidor Future Farmers of America Booster Club's livestock show. Mr. Wallace explained these events have been successful in the past and they hope to make it bigger and better this year. Mr. Wallace stated there were 6 paid rooms for the big show and 5 or 6 for the other that they can account for. Mr. Wallace stated the hotel offered discounts for those here for the event.
- e) **Texas Maze of Terror (\$10,000)** – Ettie Thompson, Texas Maze of Terror, explained they have been doing this for 9 years. Ms. Thompson stated they spend \$8,000-\$9,000 on advertising, and some people say they stay in our hotels. Ms. Thompson stated they want to use the funds for advertising, props, and equipment.
- f) **Young Audiences of Southeast Texas (\$10,000)** – Stacie Jeannise, Executive Director of Young Audiences, explained Young Audiences brings programs into Vidor schools. Ms. Jeannise stated all of the artists are put up in Vidor hotels and the numbers vary between 80-100 per night. Ms. Jeannise explained she can guarantee where the artists stay because she makes the reservations.
- g) **Q'ing for a Cause (\$10,000)** – Derek Veazey explained this is the third annual cookoff (*Big Buc BBQ Bash*) and is growing quickly. Mr. Veazey stated this year they are officially a state championship cookoff and are expecting 50 teams from all over Texas and Louisiana. Mr. Veazey explained they have outgrown their space and have rented the Oaks Event Center next door to the football fields, so they can accommodate the teams and judges. Mr. Veazey stated next year's beneficiary is the Fishers of Men's Backpack Program and explained they also offer about \$500 in scholarships to help pay registration fees for kids who need it to be able to play youth football.
- h) **Music by the Stars (\$10,000)** – Donna Little, Bow Tie Events, explained Vidor is rich in musical heritage and they try to showcase our local talent as well as bring in national artists like Mark Chestnut, Tracy Byrd, and Dean Dillon. Ms. Little stated Neil McCoy is coming this year and explained the artists are put up in Vidor hotels. Ms. Little stated there were fans last year from as far away as Mississippi and Florida.
- i) **Vidor Chamber of Commerce (\$10,000)** – Kari Milligan, Vidor Chamber of Commerce, requested \$10,000 to fund the Classic Christmas Cruise and thanked Council for their support the last 19 years. Ms. Milligan explained they expect about 6,000 people to attend this year and are looking to increase community participation. Ms. Milligan stated they are trying to bring back the Christmas tree lighting this year and discussed advertising plans and ways to put heads in beds.
- j) **Texas Star Music Festival (\$10,000)** – John Nickum, Vidor Chamber of Commerce, along with Donna Little, explained the Texas Star Music Festival will be a two-day event this year honoring songwriters and the Walk of Fame. Ms. Little stated they are looking at John Connally as the headliner. Mr. Nickum stated they are trying to bring positive attention to Vidor and trying to obtain a "Texas Music Friendly" status.

Mayor Stiebig closed the **Public Hearing – Discussion and presentation of applicants/applications seeking hotel occupancy tax funds for fiscal year 2019-2020 in accordance with Chapter 351 of the Texas Tax Code** at 7:26 p.m.

B -3. Consideration and discussion regarding applications submitted to City for hotel occupancy tax funds for the fiscal year 2019-2020

Mike Kunst, City Manager, referred to the agenda and advised Council that each of these will have to be awarded individually. Mr. Kunst apologized to Ms. Andrus, Texas Star Music Festival, and explained she did submit her application before the deadline, and it was his fault that it did not make it on the agenda. Mr. Kunst stated if Council would like to award her any funds, it will have to be put on the agenda for August 22, 2019. Mr. Kunst explained the total amount requested was a little over \$84,000, and the amount we have available for distributions is a little over \$95,000.

Councilmembers Hill and Buesing expressed concerns with giving money to a for-profit business. Discussion ensued. Chris Leavins, City Attorney, explained there is not a specific prohibition on whether an individual or entity is for- or not-for-profit, but they have to follow specific guidelines: 1) Does it put heads in beds or promote tourism or the hotel industry and 2) does it fit within one of the nine specific categories? Discussion ensued.

Mr. Kunst stated in the last few years, we have set a specific timeframe for the funds to be awarded, usually mid-October, so that they do not all come up on October 1st asking for their check. Mayor Stiebig stated she did not see any that fell within the early part of October that we would have to be concerned about. Cheryl Ray, Supervisor of Finance & Accounting, asked applicants who receive an award to email either the City Manager or her about a month before the event to request funds.

B -4. Consideration and possible action of a request from Vidor Rotary Club for hotel occupancy tax funds for fiscal year 2019-2020, to include a schedule for releasing the funds to the applicant if approved

A motion was made by Councilmember Jordan, seconded by Councilmember Hill, **to award the Vidor Rotary Club's Cajun Music Night \$2,750 in hotel occupancy tax funds and require they give a month's notice before collecting a check.** The Council voted three (3) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried.

B -5. Consideration and possible action of a request from Eastgate Church Bible Quiz Program for hotel occupancy tax funds for fiscal year 2019-2020, to include a schedule for releasing the funds to the applicant if approved

A motion was made by Councilmember Hill, seconded by Councilmember Jordan, **to award Eastgate's Bible Quiz Program \$4,000 in hotel occupancy tax funds.** The Council voted three (3) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried.

B -6. Consideration and possible action of a request from District 8 Checkers Association for hotel occupancy tax funds for fiscal year 2019-2020, to include a schedule for releasing the funds to the applicant if approved

A motion was made by Councilmember Jordan, seconded by Councilmember Hill, **to award the "checker man" (District 8 Checkers Association) \$7,500 in hotel occupancy tax funds.** The Council voted three (3) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried.

B -7. Consideration and possible action of a request from Vidor Future Farmers of America Booster Club for hotel occupancy tax funds for fiscal year 2019-2020, to include a schedule for releasing the funds to the applicant if approved

A motion was made by Councilmember Jordan, seconded by Councilmember Buesing, **to award Vidor Future Farmers of America Booster Club \$10,000 in hotel occupancy tax funds for their livestock show.** The Council voted three (3) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried.

B -8. Consideration and possible action of a request from Texas Maze of Terror for hotel occupancy tax funds for fiscal year 2019-2020, to include a schedule for releasing the funds to the applicant if approved

Councilmember Hill made a motion to deny the request for \$10,000 or any money. When questioned by Council if a motion was needed, Chris Leavins, City Attorney, stated Ms. Hill can withdraw the motion as it will fail with no action. Ms. Hill withdrew her motion.

Councilmember Jordan made a motion to grant **Texas Maze of Terror \$2,500 in hotel occupancy tax funds**. Councilmember Buesing seconded the motion. ROLL CALL VOTE: Councilmember Jordan, aye; Councilmember Hill, nay; and Councilmember Buesing, aye. The Council voted two (2) for and one (1) opposed. The motion carried.

B -9. Consideration and possible action of request from Young Audiences of Southeast Texas for hotel occupancy tax funds for fiscal year 2019-2020, to include a schedule for releasing the funds to the applicant if approved

A motion was made by Councilmember Hill, seconded by Councilmember Jordan, to grant **Young Audiences of Southeast Texas \$10,000 in hotel occupancy tax funds**. The Council voted three (3) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried.

B-10. Consideration and possible action of a request from Q'ing for a Cause for hotel occupancy tax funds, for fiscal year 2019-2020 to include a schedule for releasing the funds to the applicant if approved

A motion was made by Councilmember Jordan, seconded by Councilmember Buesing, to grant **Q'ing for a Cause \$10,000 in hotel occupancy tax funds for the Big Buc BBQ Bash**. The Council voted three (3) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried.

B-11. Consideration and possible action of a request from Music by the Stars for hotel occupancy tax funds for fiscal year 2019-2020, to include a schedule for releasing the funds to the applicant if approved

A motion was made by Councilmember Buesing, seconded by Councilmember Jordan, to grant **Music by the Stars \$10,000 in hotel occupancy tax funds**. The Council voted three (3) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried.


B-12. Consideration and possible action of a request from Vidor Chamber of Commerce for hotel occupancy tax funds for fiscal year 2019-2020, to include a schedule for releasing the funds to the applicant if approved

A motion was made by Councilmember Jordan, seconded by Councilmember Hill, to grant **Vidor Chamber of Commerce \$10,000 in hotel occupancy tax funds for the Christmas Cruise event**. The Council voted three (3) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried.

B-13. Consideration of Adjournment

A motion was made by Councilmember Jordan, seconded by Councilmember Buesing, for **Consideration of Adjournment**. The Council voted three (3) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried, and the Special Called Meeting of the Vidor City Council adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

These minutes approved August 22, 2019.


Kimberly Stiebig
Mayor, City of Vidor

ATTEST:


Vicki Watson, City Secretary