

**CITY OF VIDOR
VIDOR CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
MAY 13, 2025**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Songe
Councilmember McGowan
Councilmember Barker
Councilmember Bourque

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Councilmember Lee
Councilmember Thompson
Councilmember Weldon

Administrative Personnel: Rachel Duplechain, City Secretary; 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 Special Called Meeting of the Vidor City Council began at 5:06 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. Citizen Comments

None

B. COUNCIL SPECIAL AGENDA

B -1. Consideration and/or possible approval of an ORDINANCE canvassing the returns and declaring the results of the City election of the City of Vidor, Texas, held on May 3, 2025.

Consideración y/o posible aprobación de una ORDENANZA que escrute los resultados y declare los resultados de las elecciones municipales de la Ciudad de Vidor, Texas, celebradas el 3 de mayo de 2025.

Misty Songe, Mayor, reads:

The resolution is as follows:

There came to be considered the returns of an election held on the 3rd day of May, 2025, for the purpose of electing the Mayor and three (3) Council Members, and it appearing from said returns, duly and legally made, that there were cast at said election 731 valid and legal votes; that each of the candidates in said election received the following votes:

MAYOR

NAME OF CANDIDATE:

TOTAL NUMBER OF VOTES RECEIVED:

Misty Songe Hart	364
Nicole McGowan	225
Ken Luce	72
Shawn Volkmann	19
Trevor Daughtry	23
Ashley Hall	16

FOR COUNCIL MEMBER WARD 1

NAME OF CANDIDATE:

TOTAL NUMBER OF VOTES RECEIVED:

Jerrold C. Nash	288
Kelly Carder	366

FOR COUNCIL MEMBER, WARD 4

NAME OF CANDIDATE:

TOTAL NUMBER OF VOTES RECEIVED:

Jessica Barker	571
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FOR COUNCIL MEMBER, WARD 6

NAME OF CANDIDATE:

TOTAL NUMBER OF VOTES RECEIVED:

Deborah Gatlin	328
Kathryn Weldon	320

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VIDOR:

Section 1. That said election was duly called, that notice of said election was given in accordance with the law, and that said election was held in accordance with the law; **Misty Songe Hart** was duly elected Mayor, and **Kelly Carder, Jessica Barker, and Deborah Gatlin** were duly elected Council Members for the positions referenced above of said City at said election, and said above named parties are hereby declared duly elected to said respective offices, subject to the taking of their oaths and other requirements as provided by the laws of the State of Texas.

A motion to approve **an ORDINANCE canvassing the returns and declaring the results of the City election of the City of Vidor, Texas, held on May 3, 2025**, was made by Councilmember Barker, seconded by Councilmember McGowan. The Council voted three (3) for and none (0) opposed. **The motion carried.**

B -2. Consideration and possible approval of a Resolution authorizing the City to apply for the 2025 SB 224 Catalytic Converter Grant Program, with a 20% match

Rodney Johnson, Captain/Emergency Management, okay, this is a new grant that we're going to try to apply for through the Police Department and through the Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority. The 20% match is going to come from our from what I understand, our seizure fund that we have basically whatever. With Chief, depending on what we have in there, what we can afford to give out of that fund is what we'll apply for, we're going to upgrade our technology.

A motion to approve **a Resolution authorizing the City to apply for the 2025 SB 224 Catalytic Converter Grant Program, with a 20% match**, was made by Councilmember McGowan, seconded by Councilmember Barker. The Council voted three (3) for and none (0) opposed. **The motion carried.**

B -3. Public Hearing – Discussion and presentation of applicants/applications seeking hotel occupancy tax funds for fiscal year 2024-2025 in accordance with Chapter 351 of the Texas Tax Code
(Presentations of the applicant will be limited to one representative per application and limited to three minutes. Questions and/or comments by Council members do not count towards the three-minute time limit.)

Misty Songe, Mayor, we will open the public meeting at 5:10pm, Nick. Nick Lagusis, Nick Lagusis, 425 W. Park St. Vidor Tx. So, this is the same thing y'all voted on last week, that was denied. They'll bring it back up. I believe the Bass Tournament started in 2013, no one can deny it's a great thing. They're asking \$10,000.00 of Vidor's money. Pretty big chunk, especially when y'all turn down stuff for the kids, because of the date on the paperwork and when it was supposed to be awarded. It turned in late. Songe, that's actually brought back on this Agenda as well. Lagusis, but my question is. There's other programs that the City has that you got to turn in paperwork for by a certain date or you don't get qualified for. Are y'all going to go back to all those programs? Songe, we're going to correct the guidelines in this particular program because the way our guidelines work, there is no way to ask for the funds without the event being committed to and Bass Masters does not commit in advance, so they do not know what years they're actually going to have it. But we did, as Miss McGowan had asked, it needed to be fair if we brought this back on there. So, I had reached out FFA, gave them the opportunity to turn in an application, gave them another application and they have declined to do so, and they said they would just wait till their events come up in August. And I told them we would make sure to remind them of the dates of the deadline and everything. So, this doesn't happen again. Lagusis, with the Bass Masters, this is the 12th year in a row, and they always make their. Songe, no sir it's not every year, they don't have Bass Masters every year. Lagusis, ok. Songe, some years it's like every other and they do some type of fishing tournament. I'm on the Orange County Hot Tax Committee, so they always ask for money there, but they don't know if they're having the Bass Masters. It's money, tentative, that if we have it, we're going to need this money kind of thing. So, it is backwards from what we normally do. Lagusis, okay but to find out how many people stay here and buy here that go to that and it's very easy. So, I would have thought that paperwork would have been submitted last time from previous years. Songe, I believe that's. Lagusis, how much money do people spend here that are going to the tournament there? Jessica Barker, Councilmember, it's to my knowledge that those hotels are completely maxed out whenever that event goes on. Of what they gave us in their guidelines, it states that the estimated amount of hotel rooms that are occupied is 509 rooms on an average, and that taken from the last three (3) years. That's a lot of hotel rooms. Lagusis, but how many are in Vidor? Barker, and I know that they cannot do that just in Orange. So, it's going to extend out to the county. I've also talked to other people who have looked at those hotel rooms that we have here and if I'm not mistaken. Songe, it's 80ish rooms, as Sean said from Holiday Inn. Barker, that's quite a bit. Lagusis, okay and I get that, but I still think that if ya'll are willing to for this for this ya'll need to go back to other programs. That deadline happened, you know first of the year or six (6) months earlier that ya'll won't look at until the following year. Barker, she did go back to the FFA. Lagusis, no I'm talking about other programs that City of Vidor has that people have to turn into. McGowan, he's just talking about in general missing a deadline. All we can do is go forward and try to correct. Songe, yes, we will adjust from here. Anything else from the public, okay. We will close the public meeting at 5:14pm.

B -4. Consideration and possible action to approve a request from Vidor ISD FFA, for hotel occupancy tax funds for fiscal year 2024-2025, to include releasing the funds to the applicant if approved.

Misty Songe, Mayor, we will pass on this one because they did decline to go ahead and apply at this time and said they will wait until August.

B -5. Consideration and possible action to approve a request from Greater Orange Area Chamber of Commerce for hotel occupancy tax funds for fiscal year 2024-2025, to include releasing the funds to the applicant if approved for the 2025 Bass Masters Tournament to be held on May 15-18, 2025.

Misty Songe, Mayor, a motion by Councilmember Barker. MiKayla Bourque, Councilmember, how do we explain to the citizens of Vidor, because I've had people come up to me, that we denied the FFA and the Booster Club a day. Songe interjects, the FFA and the Booster Club are. Bourque, can I finish, please? Songe, oh I'm sorry. Bourque, that they were not allowed to put in the application the day after and yeah, you go to them now. But I mean, it's the school year is over. So, I just don't understand how we explain to the citizens of Vidor that we turned down students in our own City like, hey, it's \$10,000.00 like \$10,000.00 for everybody. I understand that I have no problem with Bass Masters, I go to it a lot. But I just don't understand how we as a Council can explain it to our community. To me, it's not fair to all concerned and. Songe, so they were given the opportunity this time and here's where we're going to look and I'm going to ask Council to look at there's a problem in our because it doesn't allow. They can't come ask for money for Bass Masters that they don't know if they're going to have it or not. So, a couple of the people have talked, and I've talked to kind of how the county does it because I'm on that committee of we need to make a little bit of adjustments in our Ordinance or for the HOT Tax after this to be able to not allocate money to an event that's not going to happen until they can apply. So, we need to make some adjustments because things have changed in the way a lot of it happens. But I did give the FFA the opportunity, I explained to them why I was giving the opportunity, wanted them to know that we were trying to be fair, which is what Nicole had mentioned, and they appreciated it. But they said that they would go ahead and pass this time. And they will apply the next time. And I told them I would personally make sure to remind them in advance of the date to make sure everything was turned in. We can't fix it this time, but we can make adjustments to fix it for the future. Bourque, so what about the Boosters Club? Songe, Booster Club, it's the same thing. The FFA and the Booster it's the FFA's Booster Club that applies for the money, but it's for the FFA. McGowan, so it was only one thing. Songe, yes, it's only one. So that's why there is only one there because it's actually their Booster Club that asked for the money. Barker, so our verbiage basically doesn't have like a fits all. Bourque, but still for this time. McGowan, in order for them to get it the Bass Masters, our guidelines you have to pick a certain date. They don't have a date, they don't know if they're going to get it. So, we have to open that up in the future to where they can apply, and we can hold it in case they are able to get it. But we do not have that in place. Songe, Right now, some of the things we have thrown around is only holding X amount of dollars and if they do it multiple years in a row then they can't apply. There's some things we have to change because of those type of things that it doesn't allow for, and Bass Masters is a big one because they don't get it every year, they may get it every other year, sometimes it skips two (2), but they don't know. Back in August, if they're going to get it so like they asked for \$100,000 from the Orange County Committee one day and I threw a fit because they didn't know they were going to get Bass Masters and they had it the year before. So, we decreased it, so we do need to make some adjustments. But I did give them the opportunity, I was honest with them and let them know, and after this we shouldn't run into this situation. But I said I would personally make sure the FFA was reminded of the dates and everything like that because I know, they stay super busy. Barker, I think we should get with the ISD and make sure that they put that out to the entities within the ISD so that they can give them a heads up prior to because they're just as busy as anybody else and may forget. But I think that if there's a situation just like there is for the Bass Masters for one of the ISD programs, we have to take that into consideration in the long run. Songe, yes, I agree that 's a great idea. I do have a motion on the table by Councilmember Barker. McGowan, second. Chris Leavins, Attorney, Mayor just to make sure, I don't know if the motion included the amount to be awarded just be sure. Barker, oh \$10,000.00. Songe, okay.

A motion to approve a request from Greater Orange Area Chamber of Commerce for Hotel Occupancy Tax funds for fiscal year 2024-2025, to include releasing the funds in the amount of \$10,000.00 to the applicant for the 2025 Bass Masters Tournament to be held on May 15-18, 2025, was made by Councilmember Barker, seconded by Councilmember McGowan. The Council voted two (2) for and one (1) opposed. The motion carried.

B -6. Consideration of Adjournment

A motion for **Consideration of Adjournment**, was made by Councilmember Barker and seconded by Councilmember McGowan. The Council voted unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 5:18pm.

These minutes were approved on May 20, 2025.



ATTEST:


Misty Songe, Mayor


Rachel Duplechain, City Secretary