

**CITY OF VIDOR
VIDOR CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 14, 2025**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Songe Hart
Councilmember Carder
Councilmember McGowan
Councilmember Thompson
Councilmember Barker
Councilmember Bourque
Councilmember Gatlin

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Administrative Personnel: Aleta Cappen, Interim City Manager; Pebbles Eckhoff, Finance Director; Brooke Carroll, HR Director; Chris Leavins, City Attorney; and Rodney Johnson, Interim 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 Regular Meeting of the Vidor City Council began at 7:00 p.m., Misty Songe Hart, 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's Comments

None

B. COUNCIL CONSENT AGENDA

B -1. Approval of Accounts Paid:

Paid Invoices:

General Fund -	\$548,739.73
MCBSF -	\$80.00
Disaster Fund -	\$45,680.00
Juvenile Case Manager Fund -	\$153.00
Proprietary Fund -	\$73,539.55
Grand Total:	\$668,192.98

A motion to **approve Accounts Paid**, was made by Councilmember McGowan, seconded by Councilmember Thompson. The Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed. **The motion carried.**

B -2. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting July 24, 2025, and Special Called Meeting August 5, 2025

Council passed on minutes.

C. COUNCIL REGULAR AGENDA

C -1. Discussion and possible action to approve a Resolution naming Blake Williams, Interim Municipal Court Judge for the Municipal Court

A motion to **approve a Resolution naming Blake Williams, Interim Municipal Court Judge for the Municipal Court**, 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 Conn Park Complex, to place a sign on the fence/gate of the City of Vidor Conn Park Complex.

A motion to **approve Conn Park Complex, to place a sign on the fence/gate of the City of Vidor Conn Park Complex**, was made by Councilmember Carder, seconded by Councilmember Barker. The Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed. **The motion carried.**

C -3. Discussion and possible action to approve a Resolution authorizing Conn Park Complex to park a bus on Northeast corner of the City of Vidor's Conn Park Complex for advertising, including possible approval of a written lease for same.

Chris Leavins, City Attorney, Mayor, I just want to make sure we are all on the same page, because this is use of property and I think probably having a lease is the best thing. It's what we have done in the past and if you meet certain factors, you can possibly abate that rent. I think Aleta had mentioned that there's some stuff that the Conn Park Complex is doing out there for maintenance, electrical stuff like that. So that's kind of a trade then. Hopefully, if the City needs to use something on advertising, they can as well. So ideally what you would have is the lease would set forth so that they can use just that portion and it would non-exclusive. So, it's not excluding the City either from anything and then the parameters, if it were used for something else, the lease would terminate and go back to the City and those kinds of things. Misty Songe Hart, Mayor, yes sir sounds good.

A motion to **approve a Resolution authorizing Conn Park Complex to park a bus on Northeast corner of the City of Vidor's Conn Park Complex for advertising, including approval of a written lease for same**, was made by Councilmember McGowan, seconded by Councilmember Carder. The Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed. **The motion carried.**

C -4. Discussion and possible action to approve Conn Park Complex to place a lock on the current gate for the City of Vidor's Conn Park Complex.

A motion to **approve Conn Park Complex to place a lock on the current gate for the City of Vidor's Conn Park Complex**, was made by Councilmember Carder, seconded by Councilmember Barker. The Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed. **The motion carried.**

C -5. Discussion and possible action authorizing the issuance of Request for Proposals (RFPs) for General Engineering Services

Misty Songe Hart, Mayor, I asked to bring this one forward because after some conversations with Code, we are having some delays in getting things done and that we need to with plats and everything like that. So, I would like to go out for RFP's to re-evaluate and re-look at who we use for our actual general engineering for day-to-day stuff.

A motion to **approve the issuance of Request for Proposals (RFPs) for General Engineering**, was made by Councilmember Carder, seconded by Councilmember Thompson. The Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed. **The motion carried.**

C -6. Discussion and possible action to approve a Resolution authorizing execution of the Contract for Emergency and Non-Emergency Ambulance Services with Acadian Ambulance Service of Texas, LLC

Chris Leavins, City Attorney, so this was the Acadian Ambulance contract that proposed a two (2) year term and a one (1) year term and there were a couple other changes that we discussed. The three issues that we had agreed to resolve those. One thing that was the way that increases on certain rates and increased the old contract had to come to Council. So other cities requested that they could do their own approvals instead of coming back to Council every time. We provided for that just so that there can be a checks and balances on the rates and they agreed to use that language and go back to that. And then there was a section that talked about the labor shortages, and we had them clarify. But I think for Council what we just need is a direction on whether or not you wanted a one year or two-year contract.

A motion to **approve a Resolution authorizing execution of a one (1) year Contract for Emergency and Non-Emergency Ambulance Services with Acadian Ambulance Service of Texas, LLC, pending Legal Review**, was made by Councilmember Barker, seconded by Councilmember Carder. The Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed. **The motion carried.**

C -7. Discussion and possible action to approve a reduction in building and permit fees for Vidor Independent School District projects

Aleta Cappen, Interim City Manager, so the School District asked us if we could reduce the building and permit fees. I did some research and, in the past, and even on other projects by Orange County by the Ballpark Complex, we did not charge any building fees or plan review fees. And we also researched some other cities on how they handled it. Most of the cities did it at a reduced charge. Bridge City does not charge any, and in the past, we have not charged the School District for either building permit or plan review fees. The only problem I see not charging anything is that we still have to pay someone to go out and do plan reviews within that they have to do slab inspections, frame in inspections, electrical, plumbing, HVAC, and all those inspections, and those inspections cost the city. So, my suggestion, and it is just a suggestion, is that so if you look at your example in your book the School District paid a total of \$65,055 for the building and plan review fees. So, I would suggest that we charge the plan review fee only and that allows us to be able to pay for all those inspections. They would still have to draw their permits for them, but they don't have to pay each time they come in and that will take care of the expense that it would be to the city, and I would suggest that we do that on future projects as well. Misty Songe Hart, Mayor, well I think that's fair.

A motion to **approve a reduction in building and permit fees for Vidor Independent School District projects and going forward they pay the plan review fee only**, was made by Councilmember Barker, seconded by Councilmember Thompson. The Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed and one (1) abstain - Gatlin. **The motion carried.**

C -8. Discussion and possible action to approve a refund for certain building and permit fees paid by the Vidor Independent School District for current project(s)

Aleta Cappen, Interim City Manager, so the fee amount that would be refunded is \$43,782.00, which in turn allows their contractor to do a little bit more for them. Kelly Carder, Councilmember, we can't just do it moving forward. Cappen, they just paid this in July, it's not because they paid it several months ago. Hart, I mean Council can but. Carder, oh okay.

A motion to **approve a refund for \$43,782.00, on certain building and permit fees paid by the Vidor Independent School District for current project(s)**, was made by Councilmember Barker, seconded by Councilmember McGowan. The Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed and one (1) abstain - Gatlin. **The motion carried.**

C -9. Discussion and possible action appointing two (2) or more members to the Conn Park Committee

Misty Songe Hart, Mayor, somebody else take this one because at this point, I don't think we need 5 people until we get the basic rules, but. Kelly Carder, Councilmember, I don't either. Deborah Gatlin, Councilmember, but my thing is you just have what, three (3) people setting the rules. Nicole McGowan, Councilmember, yeah just three (3). Hart, and we, but we agreed to make it three (3) in the beginning, so we have no rules set yet. But I mean that Council votes, but I think it needs to wait so we can get some basic rules in effect before adding additional people in because right now. We're just doing. Jessica Barker, Councilmember, plus they must take time out of their time. Aleta Cappen, Interim City Manager, and they're not setting the rules, they're bringing the rules to you to either accept or deny. Hart, it's yeah, it's just an advisory. Barker, I mean it's super basic stuff, but I mean, if it's absolutely necessary, if somebody who's like we absolutely have to have five (5), it's not a big deal. I just didn't want to waste anybody's time. So, I mean, I make a motion to add two (2) more people to it. That's not a problem. I just want to be respectful of everybody else's time. I mean right now. McGowan, the way I see it is if people want to volunteer to help. If people want to volunteer to be on a committee, why would I tell them, no they can't? Barker, It's not. We're not saying no, they can't. I think we're just being respectful of someone's time asking them to stop what they're doing to come up here and have meetings and do things like that whenever I mean literally, there's not a lot that can be done. McGowan, let me just ask this, Wendy, do you still want to be on the committee? Wendy Glenn, I can be sure, yeah. McGowan, if there's people that want to be on the committee then they should be able to. Hart, so do we stop at five (5) or do we keep going? I mean, so that's almost an invalid argument because there's ten (10) people we can't do ten (10) people, but we just need to get something going. Barker, I don't think it's really about that, and I think we all. McGowan, know that I know, but as of right now, I know that this started out as a Gary wanted to do this and I don't, Gary is asking for more. Gatlin, and he is not here today because he tested positive for COVID. McGowan, so for the person that wanted to doing this. Hart, Jessica said it was fine. Barker, I said it was fine.

A motion to **approve appointing two (2) or more members to the Conn Park Committee** was made by Councilmember Barker, seconded by Councilmember Bourque. The Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed. **The motion carried.**

Chris Leavins, City Attorney, after motion, Mayor/Council, this is one of those Committees that was established by a Resolution and in the Resolution, it actually says three (3) so this will have to come back as approval of a Resolution. Hart, okay.

C -10. Presentation and possible approval of AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING CITY REPRESENTATIVES TO EXECUTE A COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF VIDOR, TEXAS WITH THE VIDOR POLICE ASSOCIATION AND ACCEPTING THE TERMS THEREOF (The term of this CBA is October 1, 2025 – September 30, 2026.)

Misty Songe Hart, Mayor, now Chris this is a three-year CBA. So, should the date be 28? Aleta Cappen, Interim City Manager, yes. Hart, okay. Chris Leavins, City Attorney, it expires this year on September 30th. So, it would be October 1st through September 30, 2028. Hart okay I just wanted to make sure. Leavins, if you want, we can go through the changes. Jessica Barker, Councilmember, please. Cappen, okay so first revision was for wages for 4% the first year, then 3% the second year and 3% the year after that, plus a 10% certificate pay increase for each year for their license and other certificates they have for field training officer and bilingual and canine, I believe. Barker, what does that mean? Cappen, they have certificate pay, there are four or five, Rodney that you have basic, intermediate, advanced, master, and peace officer license plus a bachelor's degree, and they each get a different pay scale for that certificate and then the same thing for if they're an FTO or Bilingual officer that has to use those skills. So those are those certificates, and they'll increase by 10% each year and I think. And it does give them a reward for getting that education and paying for it. Barker, okay. Cappen, so longevity pay it was 25 years was the cap. We've removed that cap that way there will be no limit on the number of years you can work for the city and get your longevity pay. Hart, they wanted the sick leave bonus of the \$500.00, the other employees get if they don't use it. We agreed to \$100.00 bonus for them instead of the \$500.00. Cappen, right, and that's calendar year to calendar year. So, then the next thing was the limit number of the number of comp hours that they get, and we raised that to 180 hours. And then on call time for the detectives, it basically stayed the same, which is 4 hours of comp and four hours taking off early and we just made it arrange it where that they can do it more than it'll be either a Monday or a Friday to go with their weekend that they're on call. And that's it. Hart, and then they can cash out their hours. But if they're going to cash it out for leisure and it's not medical, home emergency, car emergency, they have to let Finance know by July 1st. So that money can be budgeted in because they can do up to 720 hours. So, they agreed. So, if it's emergency, they can do it. But if it's just because they want a nice vacation or a motorcycle or something, they let us know in advance. That way we do have it in that full budget. But that was it. Everybody agreed. So, I think Pebbles on really doing a good job holding on some of the things that would help us know and stay on track on budget.

A motion to approve an Ordinance authorizing City Representatives to execute a Collective Bargaining Agreement on behalf of The City of Vidor, Texas with the Vidor Police Association and accepting the terms thereof (the term of this CBA is October 1, 2025 – September 30, 2028.), was made by Councilmember Gatlin, seconded by Councilmember McGowan. The Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried.

C -11. Discussion and possible action to approve a Resolution authorizing the hiring of a temporary Accounts Payable Clerk, while employee is on medical leave

Pebbles Eckhoff, Finance Director, Mayor and Council, our Accounts Payable Clerk Jessica, she's had a medical emergency, and we assume she's going to be out for quite a bit. Could be 6-8 months. So, in that time, we actually have a young lady that has come to us through the Workforce. She used to be a Loan Officer at the bank. She's actually well-educated and she's been doing a good job. She's been helping Jessica, so she's already familiar with that office. So, I'm just asking that if she could do some part-time work in Jessica's absence. So that one I don't have to take myself and cut the checks every week and then Jessica doesn't have to come back to a big pile of filing, and I just think it would be a better benefit to the city too. Misty Songe Hart, Mayor, the employee is going to be returning and it's 20 hours a week, so it still does save us a lot of money, but it keeps us from getting too far behind.

A motion to **approve a Resolution authorizing the hiring of a temporary Accounts Payable Clerk, while employee is on medical leave**, was made by Councilmember Barker, seconded by Councilmember Thompson. The Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed. **The motion carried.**

C -12. Presentation and discussion of amended and updated draft (3rd draft) of the budget for the 2025-2026 FY

Pebbles Eckhoff, Finance Director, Mayor, Council, so on this one, we were just going to touch on a few things. Since you're having your workshop tomorrow. So, the budget's going to change again. I did this budget, you had set your tax rate, your highest tax rate at .64000. So, I went ahead and included what that would look like if we actually adopted that. And then it's just got the up to date as to what we have spent. And just to talk about the medical, so the medical is now going to be an increase of \$13.50 per employee. It's a \$57,000 difference from last year and that original budgeted number of 30% now that we're going down it equivalents to like 5.4% is what it comes out to. So, it saved, and it was able to put back in the budget \$247,000. Jessica Barker, Councilmember, nice job. MiKayla Bourque, Councilmember, that's great. Eckhoff, And then I went back and forth with workmen's comp. I mean, I'm sorry with TML about the workmen's comp, we haven't really had an astronomical amount of workmen's comp claims. And I got them to agree to no percent increase on all our workmen's comp across the board to offset those other expenses that we were high in and the liabilities. So, it's actually going to make it yes, a little bit cheaper. It's \$1,012.67, lower than last year. Barker, good job Pebbles. Nicole McGowan, Councilmember, nice. Eckhoff, and those are about the only major changes. Everything else is just going to wait till the budget workshop tomorrow. Kelly Carder, Councilmember, thank you Pebbles. Barker, thank you.

C -13. Discussion and possible action to approve an Ordinance amending Ordinance No. 1226, re-establishing and decreasing the speed zones on FM 105 from the intersection of Old Highway 90 South to the South city limits of the City; providing for a repealing clause; providing for a severability clause; providing for a waiver of second reading; providing for an effective date. (2nd Reading)

A motion to **approve an Ordinance amending Ordinance No. 1226, re-establishing and decreasing the speed zones on FM 105 from the intersection of Old Highway 90 South to the South city limits of the City; providing for a repealing clause; providing for a severability clause; providing for a waiver of second reading; providing for an effective date**, was made by Councilmember Barker, seconded by Councilmember McGowan. The Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed. **The motion carried.**

C -14. Consideration of Adjournment

A motion for **Consideration of Adjournment** was made by Councilmember Thompson, seconded by Councilmember Carder. The Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed. **The motion carried.** The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

These minutes were approved on September 11, 2025.



ATTEST: _____

Misty Songe Hart, Mayor

Rachel Duplechain, City Secretary