

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE VALDOSTA CITY COUNCIL
5:30 P.M., THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2015
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL

OPENING CEREMONIES

Mayor John Gayle called the regular meeting of the Valdosta City Council to order at 5:30 p.m. Council members present were: Joseph "Sonny" Vickers, Tim Carroll, Ben Norton, Sandra Tooley, and James Wright. Councilman Alvin Payton, Jr. arrived late at 5:59 p.m. and Councilman Robert Yost was absent. The invocation was given by Pastor Chris Musgrove, Future Now Ministries, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Mayor John Gayle also recognized members of the Leadership Lowndes Class who were in attendance at the Council Meeting.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH AWARD

Consideration of the October, 2015 Employee of the Month Award (Lt. Justin Ply, Sgt. Caron Wright, and Sgt. Douglas Bennett, Fire Department).

Justin Ply began his employment with the City of Valdosta Fire Department in November, 1998 as a Firefighter and he currently holds the position of Lieutenant. Caron Wright began his employment with the City of Valdosta Fire Department in December, 2005 and currently holds the position of Sergeant. Douglas Bennett began his employment with the City of Valdosta Fire Department in December, 2005 and currently holds the position of Sergeant. In August of this year, while returning to the fire station, Lt. Ply and Sgt. Wright noticed that a window was up on the pump house at Station #1 which was secured earlier that day. Proceeding into the building, they noticed people running and leaving out of the windows. After stopping the vehicle, they began chasing the individuals to the fence between the Station and the pump house. One suspect fell to the ground and the others kept running. Sgt. Bennett and probationary Firefighter Lamar Berrian came outside after hearing the radio traffic to dispatch. Sgt. Bennett and Firefighter Berrian ran towards the other suspects one of which fell to the ground when he saw the Patrol car and the others were captured by the Officers. After investigating the pump house, eight bikes were left which the suspects prepared to steal. The lock on the side door was cut with a set of bold cutters and a back pack full of tools used to remove bike parts was left. With the quick thinking of these employees and great team work with both Departments, the bikes were saved and will be given to underprivileged children in our community. For these reasons and many others, the Employee Relations Committee nominated Lt. Justin Ply, Sgt. Caron Wright, and Sgt. Doug Bennett as Employees of the Month.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the September 24, 2015 Regular Meeting were approved by unanimous consent (5-0) of the Council.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

ORDINANCE NO. 2015-22, AN ORDINANCE FOR A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT FOR AN ACCESSORY DWELLING UNIT IN A SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL (R-15) ZONING DISTRICT

Consideration of an Ordinance to rezone 0.49 acres for a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for an accessory dwelling unit in a Single-Family Residential (R-15) Zoning District as requested by Charles Bennett (File No. CU-2015-03). The property is located at 2891 Green Meadow Drive. The Greater Lowndes Planning Commission reviewed this request at their September regular meeting and recommended approval with four conditions (6-0 Vote).

Matt Martin, Planning & Zoning Administrator, stated that Charles Bennett, on behalf of CTJ Properties LLC, is requesting a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for an Accessory Dwelling Unit in a Single-Family

Residential (R-15) Zoning District. The property consists of 0.49 acres located at 2891 Green Meadow Drive, which is along the south side of the road approximately 150 feet east of Charles Way Circle. The property is currently developed as a Single-Family residence and the applicant is proposing to complete his already-started interior remodeling work that will result in the creation of a separate dwelling unit within the existing building. The property is located within an Established Residential (ER) Character Area on the Future Development Map of the Comprehensive Plan, and is also within the City's Residential Parking Overlay District. In January, 2015, the applicant obtained a building permit for a front porch "addition" (11' x 34' attached carport - 374 square feet) with listed value of construction of \$10,000. In late June and early July of 2015, City Staff was contacted by various neighbors inquiring as to the permitting scope of the now-completed front porch addition, as well as other alleged construction activities on site. City Staff investigated and found the front porch "addition" was actually constructed a lot larger (30' x 34' - 1,020 square feet). Additionally, a circular concrete driveway and sidewalks had been added without approval from the City Engineering Department. City inspectors also found a significant amount of interior remodeling being done (all without any permits) and with an estimated value of about \$100,000. A "Stop Work Order" was issued on July 14, 2015 and the applicant was compelled to submit a complete site plan and interior architectural drawings showing all the remodeling changes and new construction, as well as a certification from a licensed architect or engineer that the completed work indeed meets all applicable code requirements. In mid-August, a site plan was submitted as well as a full set of architectural drawings showing construction details, along with a licensed architect's certification and more than 100 photos of the remodeling work. All of this was reviewed by appropriate City Staff and received approval from the City's Building Official for permitting purposes. The Engineering Department had issues relating to the driveway and sidewalk work in the right-of-way but that has now been resolved. Building permits were issued to the applicant on August 21st to complete the remodeling work (including electrical, plumbing, mechanical, etc.), pending applicable final inspections and the outcome of any required public hearings. During the review, Staff determined that an "accessory dwelling unit" was being created as a result of the interior remodeling, and this would require approval of a Conditional Use Permit (CUP). The applicant submitted a Variance request for encroachment of the front porch/portico into the front yard setback area. This Variance request was denied by the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBOA) on September 1st (File No. APP-2015-04) and the applicant is in the process of modifying this structure to comply with setback requirements. Accessory dwelling units are defined in the City's Land Development Regulations (LDR) as "a secondary dwelling established in conjunction with, and clearly subordinate to, a primary dwelling unit on the same lot, whether a part of the same structure as the primary dwelling unit or in a detached structure." In the past, these have sometimes been referred to as a "garage apartment" or a "mother-in-law suite." These are differentiated from a simple building addition in that they have the ability to function as their own complete dwelling unit, by virtue of having a full kitchen, bathroom, sleeping/living area, and their own door to the outside. These units are allowed in each of the City's Single-Family Residential Zoning Districts with CUP approval, and they must follow certain supplemental standards. The main purpose of these standards is to maintain the "Single-Family" character of the property and to prevent a backdoor method of creating a "duplex" in disguise, or dual rental units, where such are not allowed. In this case, the proposed secondary dwelling unit is within the same structure as the primary dwelling and it complies with all of the LDR supplemental standards for such dwellings. The building's renovations have resulted in the conversion of a two-car garage and adjacent storage rooms into indoor heated space. The total heated floor area of the building is now 4,240 square feet of which 3,061 is the primary dwelling and 1,179 is the accessory dwelling. The primary dwelling will be owner-occupied and consist of three bedrooms (the same as before). The secondary dwelling unit will consist of one bedroom with its own large kitchen, laundry room, living space, and separate door to the outside. The two units will have an interior connecting doorway but they will each have the ability to completely function as their own dwelling unit. In terms of appearance, the secondary dwelling unit will not be readily apparent from the outside. With adherence to all applicable standards for Accessory Dwelling Units, and the right conditions of approval to ensure the continuing Single-Family character of the property, the proposed use should be deemed compatible and consistent with the surrounding neighborhood and the CUP review criteria. Staff found the request consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and the Conditional Use Review Criteria, and recommended approval subject to the following conditions: (1) Conditional Use approval shall be granted for an attached (internal) Accessory Dwelling Unit not to exceed one bedroom and as depicted on the submitted floor plan. The dwelling unit shall maintain compliance with all applicable current code requirements for such dwelling units. (2) The exterior side entry door for the Accessory Dwelling Unit shall remain a single door, and any porch covering feature over the entryway shall not exceed 6' x 6' in area. (3) The applicant shall obtain proper City approvals and comply with all Engineering Departmental requirements for the recent driveway and sidewalk improvements. (4) Conditional Use approval shall expire after two years if the dwelling unit is not completed and occupied by that date. The Planning Commission reviewed this at their September 28, 2015 meeting, found it

consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and the Conditional Use Review Criteria, and recommended approval with the same conditions as recommended by Staff (6-0 vote).

Rob Plumb, 1007 North Patterson Street, Attorney for the applicant, spoke in favor of the request. Mr. Plumb stated that the applicant has renovated the house to add a kitchen and a bedroom. The driveway and sidewalk has been approved and accepted by the City Engineer. This meets the qualifications as an accessory dwelling unit and there has never been any intention for any use other than Single-Family. There were some misperceptions about the intended use and the applicant is fine with the conditions. Mr. Bennett will be occupying the house. There have always been three doors to the house and there is a door at the end of the house that goes into the accessory unit. The two garage doors are closed off and the exterior door has always been there and is the access to the house from the driveway.

No one spoke in opposition to the request.

A MOTION by Councilman Carroll, seconded by Councilman Norton, was unanimously adopted (5-0) to enact Ordinance No. 2015-22, an Ordinance to rezone 0.49 acres for a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for an accessory dwelling unit in a Single-Family Residential (R-15) Zoning District as requested by Charles Bennett with conditions (1), (2), and (4), the complete text of which will be found in Ordinance Book XIII.

ORDINANCE NO. 2015-23, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS

Consideration of an Ordinance to rezone 1.49 acres from Conditional Community-Commercial C-C(c) to Community-Commercial (C-C) without conditions as requested by Jon Nijem (File No. VA-2015-12). The property is located at 607 Baytree Road. The Greater Lowndes Planning Commission reviewed this request at their September regular meeting and recommended approval (6-0 Vote).

Matt Martin, Planning & Zoning Administrator, stated that Jon Nijem, on behalf of JEM Station Investments LLC, is requesting to rezone 1.49 acres from Conditional Community-Commercial [C-C(c)] to Community-Commercial (C-C) without conditions. The property is located at 607 Baytree Road which is at the southeast corner of Baytree Road and Baytree Drive. The property is currently developed as a multi-tenant commercial center (13,200 square feet). The applicant is proposing to remove the current zoning conditions of approval that prohibit parking between the building and Baytree Road in order to add a parking lot in the front yard of the property. The property is located within a Neighborhood Activity Center (NAC) Character Area on the Future Development Map of the Comprehensive Plan which allows the possibility of C-C zoning when the property is located on a Collector or Arterial roadway. The property is also located within the "University Zone" of the Baytree-University Corridor Overlay District. The property was rezoned to C-C(c) in May, 2005 (File No. VA-2005-27) for the purpose of developing a commercial center which was later constructed in 2007. There were three conditions of approval for the rezoning which made it "site specific" in nature. Two of the conditions granted deviations from the Development Code at that time (relating to minimum front yard building setback and minimum number of parking spaces). The third condition mandated the general layout of the 2005 site plan which depicted the proposed building (18,000 square feet) closer to the front property line than otherwise allowed, and also no parking between the building and Baytree Road. The discussion at the time included concerns about the development appearing too intensive for this particular portion of Baytree Road with a large parking lot in the front yard and the development being less pedestrian-friendly. In 2007, the site was developed in general compliance with the approved layout; however, the building was reduced in size (to 13,200 square feet) and set back a few feet farther from Baytree Road than originally allowed (45' instead of 36'). In 2009, the City's new Land Development Regulations (LDR) took effect, including the Baytree-University Corridor Overlay District which encompasses this portion of Baytree Road. The development pattern of the area has also changed since 2007, with the onset of the adjacent apartment complex and more professional offices along the north side of the street. Today, many of the development concerns raised in 2005 are taken care of with the current development regulations and there is really no justification of keeping these conditions of zoning approval on this property. The existing building and proposed site plan comply with the Overlay District and other LDR requirements without the need for approved deviations or variances. This includes the front yard setback distance and the number of parking spaces (the existing building requires a minimum of 60, and there are currently 70 on site); however, the precise location of the new driveway onto Baytree Road may need to be shifted slightly due to existing drainage and utility features. The

only other zoning issue is the prohibition of parking between the building and the street. With the existing building being set back 45', there is only room for a single row of angled parking with about a dozen spaces. This is fewer parking than the front parking lots of the existing professional office building to the west, the two Temple Israel parcels to the east, and much less than the 35 spaces originally proposed in 2005; therefore, this prohibition is no longer needed as well and the property should be given "regular" C-C zoning. Staff found the request consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and the Standards for the Exercise of Zoning Power (SFEZP) and recommended approval. The Planning Commission reviewed this at their September 28, 2015 meeting, found it consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and the Standards for the Exercise of Zoning Power (SFEZP), and recommended approval (6-0 vote).

Jon Nijem, P. O. Box 3396, Valdosta, spoke in favor of the request. Mr. Nijem stated that he was working with Lovell Engineering to ensure that everything is correct with the City and asked Council's consideration in approving the request.

No one spoke in opposition to the request.

A MOTION by Councilman Carroll, seconded by Councilman Vickers, was unanimously adopted (5-0) to enact Ordinance No. 2015-23, an Ordinance to rezone 1.49 acres from Conditional Community-Commercial C-C(c) to Community-Commercial (C-C) without conditions as requested by Jon Nijem, the complete text of which will be found in Ordinance Book XIII.

ORDINANCE NO. 2015-24, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS

Consideration of an Ordinance to rezone 2.51 acres from Single-Family (R-10) and (R-6) to Highway-Commercial (C-H) as requested by James Thomas (File No. VA-2015-13). The properties are located on both sides of Seymour Street, between Myrtle Avenue and Maxine Avenue. The Greater Lowndes Planning Commission reviewed this request at their September regular meeting and recommended approval (6-0 Vote).

Matt Martin, Planning & Zoning Administrator, stated that James Thomas, on behalf of GCV Properties LLC, is requesting to rezone two tracts of land totaling 2.51 acres from Single-Family Residential (R-10) and (R-6) to Highway-Commercial (C-H). The property is located on both sides of Seymour Street, between Myrtle Avenue and Maxine Avenue. The properties are currently vacant and the applicant is proposing to redevelop these as automotive repair facilities. The property is located within a Community Activity Center (CAC) Character Area on the Future Development Map of the Comprehensive Plan which allows the possibility of C-H Zoning. The existing R-10 Zoning is considered "non-compliant" with the CAC Character Area (not dense/intensive enough). The property was part of unincorporated island #78 which was annexed by the City in 2006. The properties were all zoned R-10 in the County, and given R-10 Zoning in the City upon annexation. In May, 2008, one of the parcels (308 Seymour Street) was rezoned by City Council to R-6 and also given Special Exception approval for the placement of a mobile home. All of the property formerly contained either site-built or manufactured homes (many of which had fallen into dilapidation and disrepair). Over the past one to two years, the applicant has been incrementally acquiring these properties and they have now all been cleared. Many years ago, while still in the County, this area was once a self-contained, semi-rural neighborhood on unpaved narrow streets; however, the land use pattern has since changed to where many of the residential properties are now vacant and the new development trend is for non-residential (automotive-related) uses. Some of the properties along the south side of Maxine Avenue were even rezoned and redeveloped for commercial use 20+ years ago. In terms of future land use planning for this area as stipulated by the Comprehensive Plan, the CAC Character Area does not support continuance of the R-10 zoning because it is not dense/intensive enough for the area's adopted Development Strategy. Either a much higher-density Residential Zoning (such as R-M) or some form of Office/Commercial Zoning would be considered more appropriate. Given the abundance of C-H Zoning in the area, and the recent development trends of automotive-related uses nearby, C-H Zoning should be considered as the most logical. Even though C-H is not normally considered appropriate for local streets, the existing uses on Maxine Avenue and the proposed uses for the property are directly related to the C-H pattern along North St. Augustine Road, and in this case should be considered one and the same. Staff found the request consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and the Standards for the Exercise of Zoning Power (SFEZP) and recommended approval. The Planning Commission

reviewed this at their September 28, 2015 meeting, found it consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and the Standards for the Exercise of Zoning Power (SFEZP), and recommended approval (6-0 vote).

Raymond Thomas, Thomas Collision Center, 1505 Maxine Avenue, spoke in favor of the request. Mr. Thomas stated that he was representing the applicant who is his brother and was out of town. They would like to expand the business and would like to put in a clean work environment and restore classic cars. There will also be some assembly work as well as car storage. They also have an agreement to purchase the property behind Thomas Collision Center on St. Augustine Road. Mr. Thomas asked Council's consideration in approving the request.

No one spoke in opposition to the request.

A MOTION by Councilman Vickers, seconded by Councilman Norton, was unanimously adopted (5-0) to enact Ordinance No. 2015-24, an Ordinance to rezone 2.51 acres from Single-Family (R-10) and (R-6) to Highway-Commercial (C-H) as requested by James Thomas, the complete text of which will be found in Ordinance Book XIII.

ORDINANCE NO. 2015-25, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT MAP OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN BY CHANGING THE CHARACTER AREA DESIGNATION OF 10.10 ACRES FROM TRANSITIONAL NEIGHBORHOOD (TN) TO COMMUNITY ACTIVITY CENTER (CAC)

Consideration of an Ordinance to amend the Future Development Map of the Comprehensive Plan by changing the Character Area designation of 10.10 acres from Transitional Neighborhood (TN) to Community Activity Center (CAC) as requested by Richard Bonner (File No. VA-2015-14). The properties are located along both sides of Hickory Road and Harmon Drive to the north of North St. Augustine Road. The Greater Lowndes Planning Commission reviewed this request at their September regular meeting and recommended approval (6-0 Vote).

Matt Martin, Planning & Zoning Administrator, stated that Richard Bonner, on behalf of several property owners, is requesting to amend the Future Development Map of the Comprehensive Plan by changing the Character Area designation of eight parcels totaling 10.10 acres of land from Transitional Neighborhood (TN) to Community Activity Center (CAC). The properties are located along both sides of Hickory Road and Harmon Drive to the north of North St. Augustine Road. The properties are currently zoned R-10 and the applicant is seeking to make these eligible for either C-C or C-H zoning. The properties are part of a residential neighborhood that was one of the unincorporated islands (#70) that were annexed by the City in 2006. These properties had R-10 Zoning in the County and were given R-10 Zoning in the City upon annexation. In the years leading up to its annexation, this area was once dominated by "owner occupied" Single-Family housing and it was considered a very stable neighborhood; however, this characteristic has since changed to one that is now dominated by rental houses and a large apartment complex in the rear area along Harmon Drive. While the neighborhood was still in the County, even some non-residential uses crept in through special approvals in R-10 zoning and there was even a failed neighborhood buyout attempt for a proposed shopping center. In the Comprehensive Plan, the TN Character Area is designed to either stop the transitioning effect that is already happening to a neighborhood, or otherwise expedite its transition to something non-residential. In this case, the once stable neighborhood and solid Single-Family land use pattern of several years ago, is no longer present. A systematic transitioning to a non, Single-Family development pattern would seem logical for this area. The TN Character Area already allows for higher density residential zoning such as R-M, as well as R-P, O-P, and even C-N zoning. The possibility of these Zoning categories seems appropriate for the rear portions of the neighborhood area; however, given the existing land use pattern along North St. Augustine Road and the Valdosta Mall area to the west and shopping center to the south, the possibility of more intensive commercial development in the front portions closest to North St. Augustine Road seems appropriate. In terms of overall Character Area patterns on the Future Development Map, the areas to the west and south are designated the very intensive "Regional Activity Center (RAC)." Having the next-lower-intensity CAC Character Area border the RAC, would generally seem appropriate. Staff would also like to consider the possibility of changing the rest of this neighborhood's Character Area designation with the new Comprehensive Plan update (and a new Future Development Map) next year. In the meantime, changing the designation for these parcels closest to North St. Augustine Road seems appropriate. Staff found the request consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and the map amendment review criteria, and recommended approval. The

Planning Commission reviewed this at their September 28, 2015 meeting, found it consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and the map amendment review criteria, and recommended approval (6-0 vote).

No one spoke in favor of the request.

No one spoke in opposition to the request.

A MOTION by Councilman Norton, seconded by Councilman Carroll, was unanimously adopted (5-0) to enact Ordinance No. 2015-25, an Ordinance to amend the Future Development Map of the Comprehensive Plan by changing the Character Area designation of 10.10 acres from Transitional Neighborhood (TN) to Community Activity Center (CAC) as requested by Richard Bonner, the complete text of which will be found in Ordinance Book XIII.

BIDS, CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS, AND EXPENDITURES

Consideration of bids for using Cured-In Place-Pipe (CIPP) lining for sewer repairs.

Henry Hicks, Utilities Director, stated that the sanitary sewer system has a history of stormwater inflow and infiltration (I&I) issues. In order to evaluate the sanitary sewer system, identify sources of I&I, and schedule repairs, the Utilities Department contracted with Constantine Engineering for smoke testing of the entire system. They are currently in year three of the four-year testing program. During smoke testing in areas of Azalea Drive, Beauford Place, Bellmeade Drive, and Garland Place, several locations were identified where smoke was emitting from the sewer system indicating potential pipe failure. Following the smoke test results, crews performed Closed Circuit Television Camera (CCTV) inspection of the sewer lines in these areas. These inspections indicated that there were numerous fractured lines throughout each of these collection systems. Due to the location of the sewer lines, potential repair or rehabilitation methods were very limited. As a result, Staff had only two viable alternatives to solve the recurrent problems. The first was to excavate the areas of the sewer lines at all locations to access the broken sewer pipe and then make necessary repairs. Because of numerous residences, related traffic flow as well as costs related to excavation and repair to roads, sidewalks, driveways, and stormwater systems, this was not considered the best option. The least intrusive and most feasible alternative was to utilize Cured-In-Place-Pipe (CIPP) lining technology to rehabilitate the failed sewer pipe. The project to line a combined total of 3,830 linear feet of 8-inch sewer pipe, which includes reinstating an estimated 65 service laterals, was advertised for bid. Four companies capable of performing this type of sewer line rehabilitation submitted proposals on September 3, 2015. The lowest responsive bidder was Southeast Pipe Survey, Inc. in the amount of \$127,868. Bidders were also asked to submit an alternate bid that included additional CIPP lining of 21 service laterals along West Alley in the Downtown area; however, upon reviewing the alternate bids, it was determined by Staff that the cost to include this work is well beyond the budgetary limits of this project. Henry Hicks recommended that Council approve the low bid submitted by Southeast Pipe Survey, Inc. in the amount of \$127,868 plus a 10% contingency to handle any unforeseen circumstances. Councilman Wright inquired as to whether Southeast Pipe Survey was a local contractor. Henry Hicks stated that they were not a local contractor. This is a very specialized process and even when we had local contractors do this type of work they will sub it out to one of the other companies.

A MOTION by Councilman Carroll, seconded by Councilman Payton, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to approve the low bid submitted by Southeast Pipe Survey, Inc. in the amount of \$127,868 plus a 10% contingency to handle any unforeseen circumstances for using Cured-In Place-Pipe (CIPP) lining for sewer repairs.

Consideration of bids for resurfacing Laurel Avenue at Sunset Hill Cemetery.

Pat Collins, City Engineer, stated that Laurel Avenue is the main thoroughfare that traverses Sunset Hill Cemetery. The road is a private road providing access to the maintenance and business office building and multiple side streets leading to the cemetery's many burial plots and mausoleums. It is used by funeral traffic, visitors, and Maintenance Staff alike. Over time, both the concrete base and asphalt road has experienced substantial cracking. Given the road location, nature of the repair work, and limited use of the road, the Project is ineligible for inclusion in the City's annual LMIG resurfacing contract. Consequently, the City identified and added this Project as a separate Resurfacing Project scheduled for the current fiscal year. The base bid scope of work includes the installation of a pavement reinforcing fabric laid over the existing pavement and placement of an 18 foot wide by

1½ inch thick asphalt surface-course over the fabric below. The fabric layer is engineered to reduce reflective cracking (or control the movement of the existing cracking vertically) up to the newly applied asphalt surface-course. The length of the base bid project is 1,835 linear feet and begins just east of Cypress Street (within the cemetery) and extends west to the cemetery's limit near Sustella Avenue. On September 29, 2015, two bids were received and opened. The original Engineering estimate was \$44,230.00. The low bid was submitted by Southland Contractors in the amount of \$48,510. As part of the original base bid, a bid alternate, Alternate "A" was also solicited and priced for resurfacing an additional looped roadway segment which leads to a section known as the, "Hebrew Section." The length of Alternate "A" is 848.6 feet. The Alternate "A" low bid price received was \$22,008. Pat Collins recommended that Council approve the low bid submitted by Southland Contractors in the amount of \$48,510 plus a 10% contingency to handle any unforeseen circumstances. Councilman Wright stated that the City does a lot of resurfacing and inquired as to whether Southland Contractors has ever done this type of work before. Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that it has been a number of years since they have done this type of work. Councilman Wright stated we often use the same contractors over and over. Pat Collins stated that Southland Contractors did the work on property located around the Olive Garden. Larry Hanson stated that they also did some private work for Drury Inn and they have not competed for municipal work in recent of years.

A MOTION was made by Councilman Vickers to follow the recommendation of Staff to approve the low bid submitted by Southland Contractors in the amount of \$48,510 plus a 10% contingency to handle any unforeseen circumstances for resurfacing Laurel Avenue at Sunset Hill Cemetery. Councilman Norton seconded the motion. Councilwoman Tooley stated that she had no problem with the City repairing the concrete in that area, but inquired as to whether this was previously placed on a different list and then moved. Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that we would have liked to use LMIG funds for this because LMIG is 70% State and 30% local; however, since Sunset Cemetery has a gate, it is considered a private street even though technically it is a public street. That makes it ineligible for LMIG funds. The only choice the City had was to use SPLOST funds to pay for it. In the budget that was adopted by the Mayor and Council, this was an approved Project using SPLOST funds. Councilwoman Tooley stated she understood that the City had lost some of the SPLOST funding this year and that we would not be getting the full amount. Larry Hanson stated that was correct and the projected SPLOST funds will be approximately \$12 million less than what was previously anticipated. Rather than getting \$80 million in SPLOST funds we will receive only \$68 million; however, this was one of the Projects that was included in the \$68 million. Councilwoman Tooley inquired as to why we were contracting it out and whether some of our employees could do the work at a lesser price. Larry Hanson stated that the City does not build roads and does not have the equipment. This is a difficult Project because it is a concrete base with asphalt overlay which is very unusual. The City does not have the expertise to do this type of work. The motion was unanimously adopted (6-0).

BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AUTHORITIES, AND ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Consideration of an appointment to the Valdosta-Lowndes County Parks and Recreation Authority.

Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that the Valdosta-Lowndes County Parks and Recreation Authority has a member, Charles White, who resigned due to personal reasons. Mr. White's term will expire on June 30, 2018. This appointment was advertised according to the Boards, Commissions, Authorities, and Advisory Committees Policy that was adopted by the Mayor and Council. There was only one applicant, Mr. Bubba Highsmith, Agent with State Farm Insurance, who submitted an Application for consideration of an appointment to the Valdosta-Lowndes County Parks and Recreation Authority.

A MOTION by Councilman Norton, seconded by Councilman Carroll, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to approve the appointment of Bubba Highsmith to the Valdosta-Lowndes County Parks and Recreation Authority to fill the unexpired term of Charles White.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that this is Fire Prevention Week and there are a lot of activities going on. The National Theme this year is "Hear the Beep Where You Sleep." They are also having puppet shows at the Mall on October 8-9, 2015 and October 15-16, 2015. The Fire Department recently participated with Habitat for Humanity in a Freedom Build and installed a residential fire sprinkler system. The Fire Department has also

participated again with the Early Breast Cancer Detection Campaign and they are lighting up all of the Fire Stations with pink lights as well as selling pink T-shirts to raise money for this worthy cause.

This was Georgia Pre-K Week and Mayor John Gayle and Representative Dexter Sharper read books this week at two of the Elementary Schools in the City. This was well received and it is an important program which focuses on the education of our young people.

There are still a number of opportunities to serve on Boards, Commissions, and Authorities. We had to advertise the Parks and Recreation Authority appointment separately due to their enabling Legislation which states that when there is a vacancy it has to be filled within two months. There are nine positions left to fill on other Boards, Commissions, and Authorities and the deadline to apply is October 28, 2015. Appointments will be made at the first Council Meeting in November.

The Neighborhood Development Division will hold a City-wide Bulk Trash Amnesty Day on October 24th from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the following locations: (1) the open lot at Gainer Street and Sumerlin Street, (2) Scott Park, (3) City Hall Annex Building parking lot, and (4) the Parks and Recreation Authority located at 1901 North Forrest Street. Citizens can dispose of large items at no cost to them. This is done as part of the CDBG Program that was adopted several months ago.

This year the Crime Lab received an international accreditation which was the first local Crime Lab out of nine in the State of Georgia. Police Chief Brian Childress is working to get the Crime Lab employees trained on blood alcohol testing which will be used on DUI cases and drug possession. We had to wait until we had the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors (ASCLD) accreditation first and now when this is on-line, our Crime Lab will be accredited in five areas (drug chemistry, fire arms and tool marks, latent prints, crime scene, and toxicology). Out of the nine Crime Labs in Georgia there is only one that is certified in all five of those areas and that is the GBI Main Crime Lab in Decatur. No other Crime Lab, State or Federal, is certified in more than two or three of these areas. This is very prestigious for our Crime Lab.

Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that he was at a Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) Board Meeting today in Macon and GMA stated that they would be introducing to the State a model Body Camera Program that is replicated after the one that the City of Valdosta has in place. They will have a policy on video storage and this will also be modeled after the City of Valdosta. There were also three cities who mentioned that they had done research and were implementing a Speed Hump Program using the City of Valdosta's model. Warner Robbins is modeling their Arborist Program after ours. Also, Emily Davenport, Assistant City Engineer, spoke recently at the National Public Works Conference which was attended by thousands of people from all over the country. Our Stormwater Program was presented as one of two model Programs and was written up recently in the Chicago Tribune as a model Stormwater Program. This speaks well of the people and programs that we have and how they are recognized by others.

Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that there has also been some renewed interest in economic development in our City which is very positive. We are having more Zoning cases which are typically related to development so that is very encouraging. We had a large manufacturer visit us this week and we are one of the finalists. We have another major supply company who is looking at us along with several other national retailers who are interested in our community.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Wright stated that he had reviewed the CDBG Policy and while the average repair that they did was \$75,000, the qualification for it to trigger a Section 3 was \$200,000. His concern is that a lot of the smaller contractors that we are trying to help, especially with the Valdosta Small Emerging Business (VSEB) Program, may not be able to get a bond for \$200,000 but they could get something around \$50,000 or \$75,000. This would open up a lot of opportunities to create jobs for the smaller contractors in the City. Councilman Wright asked if the City Manager could look into that. Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that the contractors have to be certified by HUD and a lot of times the contractors are reluctant to become certified by HUD or other State and Federal Agencies because there is a lot more paperwork and requirements. He will find out if this is a HUD requirement or

if it is something that we have local control over. Councilman Wright stated that from personal experience and dealing with other small contractors, a lot of the reasons they do not have those requirements is because they have to do 10 or 12 hours of work and then go home and do the paperwork. Somewhere it falls beside the wayside; however, if given an opportunity to make the money, they would be able to hire people to come up to those standards. We can create more opportunities where the contractors can come up if given the opportunity.

Councilman Payton inquired about the status of the transition to the LED lights. Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that they are progressing and are on track to be finished by December 31, 2015. They will be replacing over 3,500 street lights and they are over 50% complete.

Councilman Norton stated that he attended a Pink Party for Breast Cancer Awareness at the Pearlman Cancer Center recently and presented a proclamation on behalf of Mayor Gayle and the City Council. There were a number of women who mentioned the pink lights at the Fire Departments and they were very appreciative of their support. Councilman Norton thanked Chief Broome and members of the Fire Department for their efforts.

Councilwoman Tooley stated that she has received a lot of positive comments on the new LED street lights. Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that Georgia Power has done a great job with the installation of the lights. They have had only one or two concerns about the brightness of the lights and were able to reduce the wattage.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Roy Taylor, 2209 Bridlewood Drive, stated that approximately two years he donated \$9,000 of his own money and worked hard to get SPLOST passed because the City was being sued and the plumbing needed fixing. Now the City is not being sued and is doing a good job. He built home in Valdosta 40 years ago after having a dream. When he built his house the streets were well paved and it was a wonderful place to live; however, those streets finally needed repaving. When the City came out to replace and repair some sewer lines in the road, the homeowners put up with one of the City's contractors for six months. He did not know how the City found this contractor but it was the worst job he has ever seen. He saw some of the work that was done by Tommy Radney on North Oak Street where the he went into a neighborhood and did the paving and sidewalks and the home values probably went up in value \$15,000 to \$20,000. When James Warren Contractors came to his neighborhood to do the sewer work, they ended up having to redo it a second time. When he got into the paving portion, he had to go to Douglas to find someone who did not know how to pave to start off with. That is the worst job of paving. Right after they finished, a City truck came along and turned around and plowed up the pavement. Pat Collins, City Engineer, has worked with the Contractor to get him to do his job. The Contractor tore up the shrubbery with heavy equipment, he put in a sidewalk where the water goes and had to do that twice because it was holding water all the time and would not drain. Mr. Taylor stated that he has never seen anything like this. He was raised on a farm where they had to do it right or you did not have anything to eat at the end of the year. He does not know how the Contractor was raised but he would hate to have him come into his neighborhood again and do another paving job. Mr. Taylor stated that he hoped that when the City awards future contracts that they will look at what the Contractor has done in the past and who he is going to hire for subcontractors. Even the Contractor's own plumbers did not know what they were doing. Mr. Taylor stated that he is proud of his neighborhood and his home and asked Council's consideration in looking at future Contractors.

Joseph Williams, 210 West Street, Lake Park, stated that he has previously been before Council to request a monument to be erected for Molly Huckaby who was one of the first people in America to die in the war on terrorism when the Embassy in Africa was bombed. A national hero deserves to be recognized. Mr. Williams also wanted to invite the Council to attend an event this Saturday at the Lowndes County Courthouse regarding the 200,000 Muslims who are being brought into our country. We cannot afford it and we do not need the additional threat that it will cost our country in the future. This event will be a statement to the U. S. Congress saying that we do not want the refugee Muslims to come into our country. He went to Afghanistan and fought for his nation. He did not go to Afghanistan for Congress and the President to bring our enemies to our nation. In the history of the world, have you ever heard of a nation inviting their enemies to their home? It is insanity and he is not going to take it. Congress needs to listen and not allow the Muslims in our country. Mr. Williams invited Council to attend the event.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Gayle entertained a motion for adjournment.

A **MOTION** by Councilman Vickers, seconded by Councilman Carroll, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to adjourn the October 8, 2015 Meeting of the Valdosta City Council at 6:30 p.m. to meet again in Regular Session on Thursday, October 22, 2015.

City Clerk, City of Valdosta

Mayor, City of Valdosta