

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE VALDOSTA CITY COUNCIL
5:30 P.M., THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2014
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, Alvin Payton, Jr., Sandra Tooley, Robert Yost, and James Wright. The invocation was given by Reverend David Tart, Associate Pastor of Park Avenue United Methodist Church, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS

Consideration of the November, 2014 Employee of the Month Award (Sergeant Charles Jones and Sergeant Timothy Stubbs, Fire Department).

Charles Jones began his employment with the City of Valdosta Fire Department in June, 2005 as a Firefighter and is currently a Sergeant. Timothy Stubbs began his employment with the City of Valdosta Fire Department in December, 2005 as a Firefighter and is currently a Sergeant. Sergeants Jones and Stubbs are responsible for maintaining and safely operating the fire truck in addition to standing in as a Company Officer in the absence of their supervisor. The Training Division recently saw a need for a training prop that would allow the Department to sponsor a Firefighter II class which is a stepping stone for the Department. After hearing of this need, Sgt. Jones used his personal vehicle to deliver donated propane tanks to build a flammable liquids prop and a pressurized container prop. After receiving the tanks, a concrete slab was needed for the tanks to sit on. Sgt. Jones made arrangements for a concrete company to pour a slab at the training center, acquired large light poles, and located another company to supply the rocks to complete the area. Sgt. Jones went above and beyond the call of duty to help with this project. Once the training prop was complete, the pressurized container would not stay lit during training burns. With his excellent knowledge of mechanical design and welding, Sgt. Stubbs quickly put his skills to work devising a solution for the Training Division. He worked at home and provided all the materials needed to create a newly designed burner for the pressurized container prop that could not be extinguished. Volunteering his personal time, Sgt. Stubbs made arrangements to affix the new burner and worked until the prop was successfully used. The American Propane Contractors company has since contacted Sgt. Stubbs and is interested in using his design for future pressurized cylinder props they may build. The total cost of the project was \$2,500. Without the help of Sgt. Jones and Sgt. Stubbs, the price would have been much higher. For these reasons and many others, the Employee Relations Committee nominated Sergeant Charles Jones and Sergeant Timothy Stubbs as Employees of the Month.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the October 23, 2014 Regular Meeting were approved by unanimous consent (7-0) of the Council.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

ORDINANCE NO. 2014-25, AN ORDINANCE FOR A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT TO ALLOW AN EXPANSION OF AN EXISTING CHURCH IN A SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL (R-6) ZONING DISTRICT

Consideration of an Ordinance for a Conditional Use Permit to allow an expansion of an existing church in a Single-Family Residential (R-6) Zoning District as requested by Macedonia First Baptist Church (File No. CU-2014-09). The property is located at 715 J. L. Lomax Drive. The Greater Lowndes Planning Commission reviewed this request at their October Regular Meeting and recommended approval with two conditions (6-0 vote).

Matt Martin, Planning and Zoning Administrator, stated that Macedonia First Baptist Church is requesting a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) to allow for an expansion of an existing church in a Single-Family Residential (R-6) Zoning District. The property consists of 1.44 acres and is located at 715 J. L. Lomax Drive which is along the

south side of the street about 300 feet east of the intersection with West Street. The applicant is proposing to add a 24' x 70' (1,680 square feet) pre-manufactured modular classroom building to the rear yard area of the property. Because the church is an existing non-conforming use in R-6 Zoning, having never before received either a CUP or Special Exception, this proposed building is now triggering the need for CUP approval. The property is located within an Established Residential (ER) Character Area on the Future Development Map of the Comprehensive Plan. The property is also located within the City's local Historic District. On August 4, 2014, the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) reviewed and approved the proposed structure subject to the following two conditions: (1) The modular building shall be placed behind the church and screened through the use of an opaque fence and/or dense landscaping as indicated on the submitted site plan. (2) The building shall be removed and/or replaced within 14 years by a structure that meets HPC guidelines (File No. HPC-2014-47). The church recently received this modular building as a gift from the Valdosta Board of Education where it was previously used as a temporary classroom. The church desires to use this building for expansion of its youth ministry until such time as sufficient funds can be raised to construct a more permanent facility. The building has concrete (masonite) siding and will be underpinned with blocks. It will be placed at least 30' from the rear property line and will be screened from view by an 8' privacy fence and evergreen (Leyland cypress) shrubs. This church has a very long history and it has been an integral and important part of the surrounding neighborhood since its beginning. The church was first established in 1865 which pre-dates the City's zoning regulations by about 100 years. The existing Sanctuary was constructed in 1913. The church has been fully compatible with the surrounding land use pattern for many decades and this relationship should continue. Under the requirements of the Land Development Regulations (LDR), the proposed temporary building itself does not trigger the need for any additional parking and it does not trigger any of the City's stormwater or landscaping requirements; however, additional expansions of the facility in the future may trigger some of these requirements. Despite the fact that the church has existed for many years without paved parking, the site has been well-maintained and no significant negative impacts have been noted thus far. Because the property is very historic, and because the approved building is only a temporary structure, permanent site improvements (such as paved parking or other buildings) should be very carefully planned-out first in conjunction with HPC review and approval. 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 the existing church building and the proposed temporary classroom building as approved and conditioned by the HPC. (2) The church property shall remain unpaved until such time as future permanent buildings and future permanent site improvements can be properly master planned and approved by HPC. Any future permanent buildings that cumulatively exceed 1,000 square feet shall trigger full review of a submitted site plan with the parking material and design approved by the City Engineer. The Planning Commission reviewed this at their October 27, 2014 meeting, found it consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and the Conditional Use Review Criteria, and recommended approval subject to the following conditions (6-0 vote): (1) Conditional Use approval shall be granted for the existing church building and the proposed temporary classroom building as approved and conditioned by the HPC. (2) The church property may remain unpaved until such time as future permanent buildings or future permanent site improvements can be properly master planned and approved by HPC. Any future permanent buildings that cumulatively exceed 1,000 square feet shall trigger full review of a submitted site plan with the parking material and design approved by the City Engineer.

James L. Council, Jr., Attorney, spoke in favor of this request. Mr. Council stated that he represented the applicant and was a member of Macedonia First Baptist Church. There was a large apartment complex to the left of the property when you are facing Macedonia First Baptist Church which had been there for years. The church purchased the apartment complex and tore it down. The property to the west was gifted to the church and now they would like to do some things with the classrooms. They met with the Historic Preservation Commission and came to an agreement. Mr. Council asked Council's consideration in approving the request to place the classroom structure at the rear of the church. Councilman Carroll stated that the church has been in that location longer than anything around it. Mr. Council stated that the church has been there for 150 years as of February, 2015.

Reverend Willie Harris, Pastor of First Macedonia Baptist Church, stated they are a progressive church and because they are in an environment that is not conducive at this time, it is their obligation to be the catalyst to show some improvement. They can sometimes be in a rut until people lose all faith and hope as far as progress is concerned; however, if they are to be the catalyst then they need this opportunity to show the community that they are moving forward. They want to provide a suitable situation where they can hopefully make a joint venture with Valdosta State University to help with tutoring deprived students. They have come a long way in four years since

he has been the Pastor and they are hoping and praying that Council will approve their request. Councilman Vickers stated that he remembered the eyesore that was around the church and he worked with the church and the City back in the day to get it cleaned up. He commended the church on what they have done in that community. They also have a lot on the corner of Third Avenue and J. L. Lomax Drive which they have used for parks and recreational use for years.

No one spoke in opposition to the request.

A MOTION by Councilman Vickers, seconded by Councilman Norton, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to enact Ordinance No. 2014-25, an Ordinance for a Conditional Use Permit to allow an expansion of an existing church in a Single-Family Residential (R-6) Zoning District as requested by Macedonia First Baptist Church, the complete text of which will be found in Ordinance Book XIII.

ORDINANCE NO. 2014-26, AN ORDINANCE FOR A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT FOR A PROPOSED FINANCIAL INSTITUTION BROKERAGE OFFICE IN A RESIDENTIAL-PROFESSIONAL (R-P) ZONING DISTRICT

Consideration of an Ordinance for a Conditional Use Permit for a proposed Financial Institution Brokerage Office in Residential-Professional (R-P) Zoning District as requested by Stacy Bush (File No. CU-2014-10). The property is located at 2918 North Oak Street. The Greater Lowndes Planning Commission reviewed this request at their October Regular Meeting and recommended approval (6-0 vote).

Matt Martin, Planning and Zoning Administrator, stated that Stacy Bush is requesting a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for a proposed Financial Institution Brokerage Office (4,300 square feet) in a Residential Professional (R-P) Zoning District. The property is currently a vacant lot consisting of approximately 0.43 acres located at 2918 North Oak Street. This is along the west side of the street, about 375 feet south of Smithbriar Drive. The property is located within a Community Activity Center (CAC) Character Area on the Future Development Map of the Comprehensive Plan. The Land Development Regulations (LDR) divides all financial institutions and related offices into two major groupings. Banks and credit unions are in the higher intensity group and these are not permitted in the R-P Zoning District. The lower group is much broader and includes everything from credit bureaus and consumer lending offices, to brokerage offices, financial advisors, and other related offices. This lower group is allowed in R-P Zoning but with a CUP approval. Both of these group categories are a permitted use in O-P zoning. The proposed office is relatively smaller and less intensive than many of the other uses in this category. The property is part of a line of parcels along the west side of North Oak Street which were all formerly single-family residences. Almost all of the properties are now zoned R-P and many of the former homes have either been converted or the site re-developed as professional offices. Across the street to the east, the existing pattern is a little more intensive with all of the properties being zoned C-C and the uses consisting of mostly banks and larger office complexes. It is Staff's belief that with the existing nature and development trends along this segment of North Oak Street, and the fact that the street is a Minor Arterial roadway, O-P zoning would be deemed appropriate for this entire row of properties. The applicant's proposed use is fairly similar to a regular professional office, and it should therefore be deemed appropriate on this property as well, just the same as if it were already zoned O-P. It should be noted that the applicant's proposed conceptual site plan is very tightly designed and generally represents the maximum amount that this site can hold. With a few minor modifications to the layout, the proposed use can easily comply with all the requirements of R-P Zoning and no special conditions of approval are necessary. Staff found the request consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and the Conditional Use Review Criteria, and recommended approval. The Planning Commission reviewed this at their October 27, 2014 Regular Meeting, found it consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and the Conditional Use Review Criteria, and recommended approval (6-0 vote).

Bill Kent, Innovate Engineering, spoke in favor of this request. Mr. Kent stated that he represents the applicant and is the Civil Engineer for the project. They have submitted the plans and are working with City Staff on the permitting and development regulations.

No one spoke in opposition to the request.

A **MOTION** by Councilman Carroll, seconded by Councilman Payton, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to enact Ordinance No. 2014-26, an Ordinance for a Conditional Use Permit for a proposed Financial Institution Brokerage Office in Residential-Professional (R-P) Zoning District as requested by Stacy Bush, the complete text of which will be found in Ordinance Book XIII.

ORDINANCE NO. 2014-27, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS

Consideration of an Ordinance to rezone 0.51 acres from Single-Family Residential (R-10) to Multi-Family Residential (R-M) as requested by Justin and Joe Nijem (File No. VA-2014-10). The property is located at 810 Baytree Road. The Greater Lowndes Planning Commission reviewed this request at their October Regular Meeting and recommended approval (6-0 vote).

Matt Martin, Planning and Zoning Administrator, stated that Justin and Joe Nijem are requesting to rezone 0.51 acres from Single-Family Residential (R-10) to Multi-Family Residential (R-M) to allow for development of an apartment complex. The property is located at 1013 Cherokee Street which is along the south side of the street between Miramar Street and Jerry Jones Drive. The applicant also owns the adjacent parcel to the south (810 Baytree Road) which is zoned Community-Commercial (C-C). The applicant is proposing to develop both properties together as one complex consisting of 17 dwelling units (2-bedrooms each, and in 2-story buildings) with underground storm detention. The property is located within a Transitional Neighborhood (TN) Character Area on the Future Development Map of the Comprehensive Plan. In 2011, the applicants received Planned Development approval for this property (and the parcel to the south - 0.94 acres total) to consist of a mixed-type residential complex (multi-family, townhouses, duplex) with a maximum of 12 dwelling units and numerous conditions of approval (File No. VA-2011-17). This Planned Development approval expired on September 8, 2013 and the applicants are now proposing to develop this property through conventional zoning means. The property is located in a transitional area along the Baytree Road corridor that has a mixture of commercial, office, and residential uses. The applicant's property to the south (zoned C-C) already allows multi-family development as a permitted use, and this is very compatible with the other properties in this area that front Baytree Road; however, the subject property faces Cherokee Street instead. Although there is existing R-M zoning along a portion of the property's eastern border, this portion of Cherokee Street is still dominated by single-family residential uses and R-10 zoning. The proposed R-M zoning is eligible within the TN character area, but this may be considered contrary to the goals and policies of the Comprehensive Plan relating to appropriate infill development. There are several items of concern with the applicant's proposed site plan that would need to be satisfactorily resolved as part of the permitting process. Unless variances are granted by the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBOA), Staff believes the end result will be a few less bedrooms/dwelling units or perhaps some taller buildings in order to get all the necessary site components to fit on the property. The applicant's Planned Development approval from 2011 satisfactorily resolved many of these concerns; however, it reflected less overall density and was a well-conceived plan that shifted the higher density portion of the development toward Baytree Road. It also mandated a one-story side-facing duplex along Cherokee Street which mimicked the dominant single-family appearance of the neighborhood. It is unfortunate the Planned Development approval has expired but rather than re-submit a new site plan proposal under similar terms and conditions, the applicants have elected to request conventional rezoning to allow all multi-family development. Given the narrow configuration of this property, and the very dense-appearing manner that seems necessary to get such conventional development to fit on this property and requiring access onto Cherokee Street, the proposed rezoning seems inappropriate. Staff found inconsistent with the Comprehensive Plan and the Standards for the Exercise of Zoning Power (SFEZP) and recommended denial. The Planning Commission reviewed this at their October 27, 2014 meeting, found it consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and the Standards for the Exercise of Zoning Power (SFEZP), and recommended approval (6-0 vote).

Bill Nijem, Attorney, 1007 North Patterson Street, spoke in favor of the request. Mr. Nijem stated that he represented the applicants and since the Planned Development was approved and expired, the City Ordinance has changed C-C Zoning to allow for multi-family. They did not have to have a Planned Development because of that. The back portion of the property is zoned R-10 and it does have to be rezoned to R-M which is what they are requesting. The front portion of the property is zoned C-C for multi-family. Mr. Nijem stated that this is a narrow lot and there will be some engineering and permitting hurdles for the applicants; however, this is a zoning decision. The conceptual site plan will have to change some to comply with engineering and permitting. This is a transitional

neighborhood and there is multi-family directly adjacent to the east and northeast of the property. The majority of the houses are rental but there are still some homeowners on Cherokee Street. The Comprehensive Plan shows this as a Transitional Neighborhood Character area and it does allow for R-M Zoning. Mr. Nijem stated that the applicants are ready to proceed with the project and he asked Council's consideration in approving the request.

No one spoke in opposition to the request.

A MOTION by Councilman Yost, seconded by Councilman Norton, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to enact Ordinance No. 2014-27, an Ordinance to rezone 0.51 acres from Single-Family Residential (R-10) to Multi-Family Residential (R-M) as requested by Justin and Joe Nijem, the complete text of which will be found in Ordinance Book XIII.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

ORDINANCE NO. 2014-28, AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT A NEW CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE CITY OF VALDOSTA

Consideration of an Ordinance to adopt a new Code of Ordinances for the City of Valdosta. (Second Reading)

Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that this is the Second Reading to adopt a new Code of Ordinances for the City of Valdosta. Materials used in the preparation of the Code were the 1976 Code and Ordinances subsequently adopted by the Mayor and Council. Adoption of a new Code of Ordinance for the City of Valdosta was a FY2015 goal of the Mayor and Council. By State law, adoption of a new Code or Ordinances requires this to be heard at two consecutive Council Meetings as well as advertisement in the local newspaper. The new Code was published under the direct supervision of Ron McLaughlin, Code Attorney of the Municipal Code Corporation, and John Welch, Editor of the Municipal Code Corporation. The chapters of the new Code are arranged in alphabetical order and the various sections within each Chapter have been catchlined to facilitate usage. Notes which tie related sections together and refer to relevant State law have been included. A table listing the State law citations and setting forth their location within the Code is included in the back of the Code Book. Larry Hanson, City Manager, recommended that Council approve the request to adopt a new Code of Ordinances for the City of Valdosta.

A MOTION by Councilman Vickers, seconded by Councilman Carroll, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to enact Ordinance No. 2014-28, an Ordinance to adopt a new Code of Ordinances for the City of Valdosta, the complete text of which will be found in Ordinance Book XIII.

ORDINANCE NO. 2014-29, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ALCOHOL ORDINANCE

Consideration of an Ordinance to amend the Alcohol Ordinance.

Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that several months ago the Mayor and Council approved an Ordinance to amend the Noise Ordinance. Several concerns were expressed in the discussion of the Noise Ordinance about the Alcohol Ordinance and alcohol establishments in the Downtown area. One of the concerns was that Downtown buildings have zero lot lines and there is limited parking and the City should make efforts to keep the Downtown environment more about restaurants that serve alcohol rather than bars and entertainment establishments that serve food. Since this could not be addressed in the Noise Ordinance, it prompted the City Staff to take a look at the Alcohol Ordinance for Downtown. The current Alcohol Ordinance requires food service as a condition of having a pouring license; however, there are no mandatory percentages of food, only a requirement to have a certain number of seats, to have a menu, and to serve food. With the Downtown area being so compact and the number of people now living in Downtown, it is important to balance all the interests to ensure the long term growth and prosperity of Downtown. By implementing a required percentage of food service, which is already required for a Sunday alcohol license, it is believed that we will help ensure a more compatible environment for those living, working, and patronizing Downtown to co-exist. This requirement would be for Downtown area (CD Zoning) only and would ensure that Downtown will have restaurants that serve alcohol and will improve the ability of the City to enforce food service requirements and balance the residential and business components of our Downtown. This has been

reviewed by the Central Valdosta Development Authority (CVDA), City Attorney, Police Chief, and City Planning Staff and all are in agreement to amend the Ordinance. The City has also been sharing this information with existing and prospective alcohol license holders. The effective date of the Ordinance would be January 1, 2015 for renewals and effective upon approval for new establishments. Larry Hanson, City Manager, recommended that Council approve the Ordinance to amend the Alcohol Ordinance. Councilwoman Tooley inquired as to whether anyone opposed the amendment to the Alcohol Ordinance. Larry Hanson stated that no one has voiced opposition to him.

A MOTION by Councilman Carroll, seconded by Councilman Payton, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to enact Ordinance No. 2014-29, an Ordinance to amend the Alcohol Ordinance, the complete text of which will be found in Ordinance Book XIII.

BIDS, CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS, AND EXPENDITURES

Consideration of bids to remove the elevated water tank located on Briggs Street.

Henry Hicks, Utilities Director, stated that the Briggs Street elevated tank is a 500,000 gallon elevated water tank located on a 0.41 acre tract of land at the corner of South Briggs Street and West Savannah Avenue. Constructed in the 1950s, the tank was taken out of service in 2013 following the completion of the new 2 million gallon elevated storage tank on Savannah and Frye Street. Due to the addition of the elevated tank on Savannah and Frye Street, the aging Briggs Street tank is no longer needed. Keeping this elevated water storage tank in place would require costly routine cleaning, maintenance, repairs, and painting. The project to demolish and remove the tank was advertised for bid. Four companies capable of performing this type of demolition submitted proposals on September 30, 2014. The lowest responsive bidder was Iseler Demolition, Inc. at a base bid of \$63,400. Potential bidders were also asked to recommend cost saving ideas and include them as deducts with an alternate bid. Iseler Demolition, Inc. submitted deducts totaling \$35,000 for an alternate bid in the amount of \$28,400. The \$63,400 base bid includes the following: (1) Demolition and removal of the elevated storage tank, (2) Demolition and removal of the tank foundation and concrete pad up to the footings, and (3) Removal of all 12-inch and 16-inch piping, valves, and appurtenances located on the parcel inside the existing fence line. The \$28,400 alternate bid includes the demolition and removal of the elevated storage tank only and the foundation, concrete pad, piping, valves, and appurtenances would remain in place. Henry Hicks recommended that Council approve the low bid submitted by Iseler Demolition, Inc. in the amount of \$63,400 to remove the elevated water tank located on Briggs Street plus a 10% contingency.

A MOTION by Councilman Payton, seconded by Councilman Norton, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to approve the low bid submitted by Iseler Demolition, Inc. in the amount of \$63,400 plus a 10% contingency to remove the elevated water tank located on Briggs Street.

Consideration of a request to approve an Information Technology (IT) vendor for the City of Valdosta.

Mark Barber, Deputy City Manager of Administration, stated that earlier this year the City's Information Technology Technician accepted another job that was a great career advancement for him. The vacant position was advertised accordingly and seven responses were received. The qualifications and work background were reviewed by the City's Information Technology Manager and none of them were deemed to be qualified to meet the needs of the City. Plans were made to re-advertise the position in hopes of attracting a more qualified pool of candidates; however, before the ad went out, the City's Information Technology Manager resigned, giving a two-week notice on September 5, 2014. Given the situation of not having a Technology Staff afforded the City an opportunity to explore all avenues of providing technology services to City officials and employees with the end result benefiting citizens. Discussion ensued about moving the City's data environment to a hosted hybrid "cloud" and outsourcing the IT function. City Staff was aware of other municipalities our size moving in this direction and they wanted to ensure that we were offering technology services to our employees in the most efficient and effective manner as well as to provide them with state of the art equipment. Also, the majority of the City's hardware (servers and networking equipment) is fast approaching an end of life status. Based upon the fact that we are without an IT Staff and our equipment will soon need to be replaced, an RFQ was distributed on September 25, 2014 seeking qualified firms that would continue the hosted environment that our IT Staff had begun as well as manage the overall

technology function for the City. The last day to receive qualifications was October 21, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. and five responses were received. A Committee comprised of Larry Hanson, City Manager, Councilman Ben Norton, Richard Hardy, Public Works Director, Chuck Dinkins, Financial Services Manager, and Mark Barber, Deputy City Manager of Administration, reviewed each RFQ and then assigned a grade to each respondent based on the following attributes: (1) technical expertise/qualification as provided in the RFQ (35 points), (2) shall demonstrate the firm's service approach and methodology as provided for in the RFQ (15 points), (3) key personnel that will include project staffing with experience (25 points), and (4) current satisfaction of clients and end users (25 points). Once the grades were accumulated from each Committee member, the firm VC3 was ranked in first place. VC3's response included a virtual advantage package which is attractive because it will allow the City to make the most of current technology today as well as continuing the virtual process that was in place from the City's previous Technology Staff. Additionally, the hosted desktop solution will allow City Staff to access business applications and E-mail securely over an appropriate Internet connection from almost any device. In the hosted environment, City Staff will be equipped with an end device (monitor, keyboard, mouse) that will be furnished and maintained by VC3, and will be replaced by VC3 when necessary. Service is based on a per desktop/month based fee, which will make it easy for the City to scale up or down as requirements change. In the VC3 virtual office advantage environment, they will provide the servers, the end device, and they will maintain the City's environment 7 days a week, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. This is also attractive because the employee's desktop environment will be accessible over an appropriate Internet connection from almost any device, anytime, and anywhere. The City's virtual data is backed up and secured in multiple locations (currently they have three data centers with a fourth scheduled to be utilized in the near future), built in disaster recovery features, minimal upfront hardware and software investment, and high caliber IT infrastructure without the capital expense. There will also be no servers or PC's to depreciate and replace when configured in the VC3 proposal. The RFQ stated that the City prefers that an Engineer be housed on City premises for daily issues which VC3 has agreed to do. The VC3 proposal also includes a certified Chief Information Officer who will assist with security, retention, and disaster recovery policies. VC3 submitted a price of \$37,998.16 per month which equates to \$455,977.92 annually. It is expected during the first six months of migration that cost savings will be found and the monthly fee will be adjusted accordingly. For example, one area in regard to the City's E-mail exchange has already been identified as perhaps reducing the monthly bill approximately \$800. During discussion of pricing with VC3 and City Staff, VC3 offered a \$1,000 per month discount during the six-month migration period. The monthly fee includes the services and equipment mentioned earlier and will substantially reduce the City's current technology budget. The City anticipates an improved service with new equipment for all users, avoidance of major capital costs and additional personnel costs, and an overall cost savings. Mark Barber, Deputy City Manager of Administration, stated that because of the above listed attributes and the fact that VC3 has been in business since 1994 and currently serves over 150 local municipalities in Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, and Alabama, it was the recommendation of the selection Committee that VC3 be awarded a contract for the provision of Information Technology services.

A MOTION by Councilman Carroll, seconded by Councilman Payton, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to approve VC3 as the Information Technology (IT) vendor for the City of Valdosta.

Consideration of a request to approve the final invoice for emergency water and sewer repairs on West Hill Avenue.

Henry Hicks, Utilities Director, stated that on February 21, 2014, sewer crews investigating a report of sewer problems in the Summerlin Street area discovered that a sewer 18-inch sewer main had collapsed in the field behind the White Bros. Auto Parts building. Due to the depths of this main (over 27 feet), the Department was not capable to do repairs and a local underground contractor, Radney Plumbing, was contacted to undertake this work. As a result of an ongoing sewer spill and the need for emergency repairs, the normal bidding process for this type of work was not viable. During this time a second manhole began surcharging at the corner of Myddleton and Hawkins as well as sewer surcharging on the edge of a field (Georgia Power) adjacent to those manholes. These repairs were included in the work for the contractor and would follow the re-routing of the failed 18-inch sewer main around White Bros. Auto parts. Bypass pumping was moved to begin repairs in Myddleton and Hawkins Street area while easements and property were acquired to repair another collapsed sewer main under West Hill Avenue. Following repairs to the sewer mains in the Myddleton and Hawkins Street area, Council authorized the acquisition of property needed to complete a jack and bore under West Hill Avenue. Upon acquisition of that property and receipt of Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) construction permit, Radney Plumbing

completed a 220 linear foot jack and bore under West Hill Avenue and extended over 300 linear feet of new 18-inch sewer main connecting to the Summerlin and Myddleton portions of this emergency repair project. This left one remaining portion of work to complete and finalize these repairs. This last portion of work required directional drilling under an existing gas main in West Hill Avenue in order to tie two existing 8-inch sewer mains to a new manhole previously installed in prior work. Henry Hicks recommended that Council approve the final invoice submitted by Radney Plumbing in the amount of \$348,089.07 for emergency repairs.

A MOTION by Councilman Payton, seconded by Councilman Wright, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to approve the final invoice submitted by Radney Plumbing in the amount of \$348,089.07 for emergency repairs on West Hill Avenue.

BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AUTHORITIES, AND ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Consideration of appointments to the Central Valdosta Development Authority/ Downtown Development Authority.

Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that the Central Valdosta Development Authority/Downtown Development Authority has three members, Dr. Amanda Brown, Kiera Moritz, and Howard Dasher, III, whose terms will expire on December 31, 2014. Ms. Moritz and Mr. Dasher have both expressed an interest in being reappointed and Dr. Brown has not expressed an interest in being reappointed. These appointments were advertised according to the Boards, Commissions, Authorities, and Advisory Committees Policy that was adopted by Mayor and Council. The applicants are as follows: (1) Angela Crance - Wiregrass Technical College and Owner of Art & Soul, (2) Howard Dasher, III - Attorney, David M. Wolfson, P.C., (3) Michael C. Lee - Accountant, Lee & Associates Accountants, and (4) Kiera Moritz - Owner of Steel Magnolias Restaurant.

Mayor Gayle asked for nominations for Position #1. Councilman Carroll placed in consideration the name of Howard Dasher, III. There being no other nominations, Mayor Gayle closed nominations. Mayor Gayle entertained a motion to appoint Howard Dasher. The motion was unanimous (7-0) to reappoint Howard Dasher, III to serve a term of two years on the Central Valdosta Development Authority/Downtown Development Authority.

Mayor Gayle asked for nominations for Position #2. Councilman Payton placed in consideration the name of Kiera Moritz. There being no other nominations, Mayor Gayle closed nominations. Mayor Gayle entertained a motion to appoint Kiera Moritz. The motion was unanimous (7-0) to reappoint Kiera Moritz to serve a term of two years on the Central Valdosta Development Authority/Downtown Development Authority.

Mayor Gayle asked for nominations for Position #3. Councilman Carroll placed in consideration the name of Angela Crance. There being no other nominations, Mayor Gayle closed nominations. Mayor Gayle entertained a motion to appoint Angela Crance. The motion was unanimous (7-0) to appoint Angela Crance to serve a term of two years on the Central Valdosta Development Authority/Downtown Development Authority.

Consideration of an appointment to the Keep Lowndes-Valdosta Beautiful Board.

Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that the Keep Lowndes-Valdosta Beautiful Board has a member, Junior Jackson, who resigned on September 15, 2015 due to personal reasons and whose term will expire on June 30, 2015. This appointment was advertised according to the Boards, Commissions, Authorities, and Advisory Committees Policy that was adopted by Mayor and Council. The applicants are as follows: (1) Kimberly Hobbs - Grant Writer/Administrator, Southern Georgia Regional Commission, and (2) John D. Dean - Attorney, Hall Booth Smith, P.C. (second choice).

Mayor Gayle asked for nominations. Councilman Payton placed in consideration the name of John D. Dean. There being no other nominations, Mayor Gayle closed nominations. Mayor Gayle entertained a motion to appoint John D. Dean. The motion was unanimous (7-0) to appoint John D. Dean to serve a term of three years on the Keep Lowndes-Valdosta Beautiful Board.

Consideration of appointments to the Valdosta-Lowndes County Conference Center & Tourism Authority.

Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that the Valdosta-Lowndes County Conference Center & Tourism Authority has two members, Emily Browning (City At Large) and Councilman Tim Carroll (City Council Appointment), whose terms will expire on December 31, 2014. Ms. Browning and Councilman Carroll have both expressed an interest in being reappointed. These appointments were advertised according to the Boards, Commissions, Authorities, and Advisory Committees Policy that was adopted by Mayor and Council. The applicants are as follows: Position #1 (City At Large) - (1) Emily Browning - CPA, Fowler, Holley, Rambo & Stalvey, P.C., and (2) John D. Dean - Attorney, Hall Booth Smith, P.C. (first choice); Position #2 (City Council Appointment) - (1) Tim Carroll - City Councilman.

Mayor Gayle asked for nominations for Position #1 – City At Large. Councilman Carroll placed in consideration the name of Emily Browning. There being no other nominations, Mayor Gayle closed nominations. Mayor Gayle entertained a motion to appoint Emily Browning. The motion was unanimous (7-0) to appoint Emily Browning to serve a term of three years on the Valdosta-Lowndes County Conference Center & Tourism Authority.

Mayor Gayle asked for nominations for Position #2 – City Council Appointment. Councilwoman Tooley placed in consideration the name of Councilman Tim Carroll. There being no other nominations, Mayor Gayle closed nominations. Mayor Gayle entertained a motion to appoint Councilman Tim Carroll. The motion was approved (6-0-1) to appoint Councilman Tim Carroll to serve a term of three years on the Valdosta-Lowndes County Conference Center & Tourism Authority. Councilman Carroll abstained from the vote.

Consideration of an appointment to the Valdosta-Lowndes County Construction Board of Adjustments & Appeals.

Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that the Valdosta-Lowndes County Construction Board of Adjustments & Appeals has a member, Steve Quinn, whose term expired on June 30, 2014. This appointment was advertised according to the Boards, Commissions, Authorities, and Advisory Committees Policy that was adopted by Mayor and Council. The only applicant applying for this position was Erik M. Cox, Salesman with Southern Builders Supply Company.

Mayor Gayle asked for nominations. Councilman Carroll placed in consideration the name of Erik Cox. There being no other nominations, Mayor Gayle closed nominations. Mayor Gayle entertained a motion to appoint Erik Cox. The motion was unanimous (7-0) to appoint Erik Cox to serve a term of three years on the Valdosta-Lowndes County Construction Board of Adjustments & Appeals.

Consideration of an appointment to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that the Zoning Board of Appeals has a member, Scott Orenstein, who resigned due to his appointment to the Lowndes County Board of Commissioners and whose term will expire on October 11, 2016. This appointment was advertised according to the Boards, Commissions, Authorities, and Advisory Committees Policy that was adopted by Mayor and Council. The applicants are as follows: (1) Thompson B. Gooding - Real Estate Developer, Dewar Properties/TISHCO Companies, and (2) Satrina Plyler - Owner/Broker, EXIT Realty In Touch.

Mayor Gayle asked for nominations. Councilman Yost placed in consideration the name of Thompson Gooding. Councilman Carroll placed in consideration the name of Satrina Plyler. There being no other nominations, Mayor Gayle closed nominations. Mayor Gayle asked for those in favor of Thompson Gooding. Thompson Gooding received two votes. Mayor Gayle asked for those in favor of Satrina Plyler. Satrina Plyler received five votes. Satrina Plyler was appointed to serve a term of three years on the Valdosta-Lowndes County Zoning Board of Appeals.

Larry Hanson, City Manager, thanked the Mayor and Council for attending the Great Promise Partnership several weeks ago. Mike Beatty, head of the Great Promise Partnership, was in Valdosta to kick off the event. There was a great turnout and a lot of enthusiasm for the program. Mr. Beatty was very pleased with the support he received from the community. The City is committed to this and will be hiring some of the young students. The goal is to hire between 100-200 young people.

During the First Friday event tomorrow, there will be a dedication of the mural located in Bennie's alley at the Ashley Street end. The dedication ceremony for the "River of Life in the Azalea City" mural will begin at 5:30 p.m. and it is very impressive. This was paid for by grant funds as well as funds from the Public Art Advisory Committee.

The City's Electronic Recycling Event will be held on Saturday, November 15, 2014 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Mathis Auditorium. This is a very popular program and it has had a tremendous impact in keeping electronics out of the landfill.

The Citizens Fire Academy was very successful in its first year. There was a lot of positive feedback. The Citizens Police Academy is also going well. With these two programs and the City Government 101 Program it shows that we reach out to our citizens and give them opportunities to learn and participate in their local government.

There will be a neighborhood meeting on the South Troup Street Project on November 11, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. at the Mildred Hunter Center. Bill Kent, Innovate Engineering, has been working on a preliminary design and it will be shared with those residents who will be affected by the Project. This is the first step to take it to the citizens and get feedback. This will also be discussed at the Mayor/Council Retreat in January, 2015.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Vickers commended Council and Staff on how they conducted the City's business tonight and it shows that the Work Sessions really do help.

Councilman Wright inquired as to the due date for Council Retreat items. Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that the due date is November 21, 2014.

Councilman Yost thanked the Staff for their participation in selecting the new IT vendor. He is excited about the progress that the City is making in this area and it is a good step in the right direction.

Councilwoman Tooley thanked Staff for their assistance in setting up the Troup Street Project meeting. Councilwoman Tooley also stated that there will be three Council members absent from the November 20th Council Meeting and she was hoping that the Council Agenda would be light. Mayor Gayle stated that they would look to see if there is anything that needs to be worked on and then determine if the Council Meeting needs to be cancelled or not.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Dr. Michael Noll, 2305 Glynnedale Drive, stated that he represented Wiregrass Activists for Clean Energy and wanted to distribute some documents to the Mayor and Council on the Sabal Trail pipeline. There are a lot of things in motion on the proposed pipeline. Citizens are very concerned about this pipeline and where they are proposing to run it. The Floridan Aquifer is very important and there is an active Karst topography which some of the pipeline goes directly through that territory. Dr. Noll stated that he would like Council's help with their fight to stop the pipeline. They are dealing with issues of property rights and safety. There has been a small gas pipeline accident in Berrien County which will be in the newspaper tomorrow and this indicates how fragile gas pipelines are as well as how close to the surface they are located. Fortunately this pipeline did not ignite or explode. This was a pipeline of approximately 9-10 inches which is fairly close to the Sabal Trail pipeline. Dr. Noll asked for Council's consideration in passing a Resolution of support for the citizens who are in Lowndes County and the City who are concerned about the property rights and safety issues. Regarding the Karst topography issue, last year he

spoke against a project north of Valdosta in an area where there are sink holes. Due to his concerns, this housing development was reduced in size in order to stay away from the areas of Karst topography. The Sabal Trail goes right through the property of Larry Rodgers. He has been on the property and the pipeline would go through an area where there is active Karst topography. Building a pipeline in this area will not only pose a safety risk for the people in the neighborhood but also a risk to the Floridan Aquifer in terms of potential pollution. This should be carefully considered and opposed in the form of a Resolution.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Gayle entertained a motion for adjournment.

A MOTION by Councilman Vickers, seconded by Councilman Payton, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to adjourn the November 6, 2014 Meeting of the Valdosta City Council at 6:21p.m. to meet again in Regular Session on Thursday, November 20, 2014.

City Clerk, City of Valdosta

Mayor, City of Valdosta