

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE VALDOSTA CITY COUNCIL
5:30 P.M., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2008
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL

OPENING CEREMONIES

Mayor John Fretti called the regular meeting of the Valdosta City Council to order at 5:30 p.m. Council members present were: Sonny Vickers, Tim Carroll, Alvin Payton, Jr., Willie Head, Jr., John Eunice, Robert Yost, and James Wright. The invocation was given by Councilman Wright, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the February 7, 2008 Regular Meeting was approved by unanimous consent (7-0) of the Council.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

There were no citizens to be heard.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

ORDINANCE NO. 2008-9, AN ANIMAL CONTROL ORDINANCE

Consideration of an Animal Control Ordinance.

Police Chief Frank Simons stated that he had added a paragraph to the Animal Control Ordinance that addressed exotic and wild animals and how to account for them (Section 11-6011 – Keeping Exotic Animals, Paragraph B). Councilman Head had previously asked about having a registration for those types of animals; however, it was approached from a different angle. Instead of creating a list of exotic animal owners, a requirement on the exotic animal owner was created. If an animal escapes its enclosure and it is not known where that animal is, and it has escaped for a period of longer than 30 minutes, then the exotic animal owner has an obligation to call the Police Department to notify them. This will give the Police Department an opportunity to be proactive in searching for the animal rather than having a list which would not require the Police Department to know that the animal was not accounted for. Councilman Vickers inquired as to how the public would be informed about this new responsibility. Chief Simons stated that the public would be informed in the same manner that they are informed about other ordinances. Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that they would also prepare an article for the *City Beat* newsletter as well as notify the news media and have inserts in the water bills. Councilman Vickers suggested that the pet shops also be notified. Chief Simons stated that he also discussed the enforcement issue of the Ordinance with the Joe Pritchard, County Manager, and which Court citations would be issued in. Mr. Pritchard did not have a problem with having those Officers sworn in at the Municipal Court. He did ask that we send a copy of the Animal Control Ordinance to the County's Animal Control Director once it is finalized to make sure that she has no objections. Chief Simons stated that he also spoke with Cheryl Hatcher and Mechelle Sullivan of the Humane Society and they were concerned about the number of animals that could be maintained in a household. The current Ordinance states that only two animals are allowed per household. Councilman Vickers inquired as to what animals are included in that requirement. Chief Simons stated that this refers to horses, dogs, and cats. Ms. Hatcher and Ms. Sullivan were asking for an exception to be able to house more animals than the Ordinance currently calls for; however, because of the timing of their request there was not enough time to go back and address that issue. This could be addressed at a later time if Council so desires. Larry Hanson stated that this is in the Zoning Ordinance which is not before the Council and the Zoning Ordinance would have to be amended. It was placed in the Animal Control Ordinance as a matter of convenience so citizens would know and not have to cross-reference another Ordinance. Mayor Fretti stated that this came before Council several years ago and a third canine is allowed for sight-impaired assistance and asked about the number of animals they were requesting. Chief

Simons stated that they were not asking for a finite number but for a set of conditions. Councilman Head stated that the paragraph on the registration for exotic animals falls short of what he wanted to see and when you make something voluntary you will end up knowing far less than you would otherwise if it was mandatory.

A **MOTION** by Councilman Eunice, seconded by Councilman Payton, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to enact Ordinance 2008-9, an Animal Control Ordinance, the complete text of which will be found in Ordinance Book XI.

BIDS, CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS, AND EXPENDITURES

Consideration of a request to purchase equipment upgrades for the Police Department Interview Room.

Police Chief Frank Simons stated that the Valdosta Police Department had funding allocated from the Department of Justice Edward Byrne Memorial (JAG) Grant Program in 2006 and in 2007 to upgrade the Police Department Interview Rooms from an analog system which utilizes VHS and video cassette media to a digital system with improved video resolution, acoustics and sound-proofing in the rooms, and improved storage of audio/video retrieved from the new system and classified as evidence. Funding from both grants totaled \$24,500 and local funds of \$6,000 would be added to the grant funds for a total of \$30,500 to purchase all of the equipment for the upgrade. This new equipment would allow the Police Officers to create a record of the interview and store it digitally so that they would be able to review it on their computer for investigative purposes. The software also creates an evidence record of who has accessed the file which is important for an evidence chain of custody record should that become a question in a court case. The Police Department has conducted extensive research to locate an audio/video recording system which includes compatible software and hardware, all of which work together to allow immediate review, access to individual Officers and Detectives, and extensive storage for retrieval of recorded interviews. Microception, Inc. provides a proprietary software package working in conjunction with networking hardware which they have developed and only they offer. They were the only company located during the research process that met all requirements outlined by the Police Department for a state-of-the-art interview room recording system and serves as justification for the sole source request. Out of the total cost of \$30,500, there is approximately \$8,000 that does not come from Microception, Inc. A request for purchases was sent out and three bids were received back. Councilman Payton inquired as to whether this would be an additional \$8,000. Chief Simons stated that the \$8,000 was part of the total cost.

A **MOTION** by Councilman Payton, seconded by Councilman Carroll, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to approve the purchase equipment upgrades from Microception, Inc. in the amount of \$30,500 for the Police Department Interview Room.

Consideration of a proposal for repair of a sewer outfall and collection system and authorization for the City Manager/Staff to negotiate a contract with Metcalf and Eddy, Inc.

Leon Weeks, Utilities Director, stated that the City of Valdosta Utility Department selected two engineering firms, Camp Dresser and McKee, Inc. (CDM) and Metcalf and Eddy, Inc. for the purpose of planning, designing, and constructing wastewater related projects required for the City's growth as outlined by the 1999 Master Plan. The City of Valdosta Utility Department applied for a GEFA loan on November 22, 2006 for the purpose of funding some of the projects that were outlined in the Master Plan and received and executed loan agreements in the amount of \$24,097,000 on December 5, 2007. The City has continued to work with the engineering firms to obtain wasteload allocations for the two sewer basins and to complete planning and environmental requirements so that we can proceed with design and needed construction improvements. A segment of the collection system that collects wastewater from commercial properties located east of Norman Drive and south of Baytree Road, and which serves the Mall area and property west of St. Augustine, connects to an 18-inch sewer outfall along Sugar Creek and is in need of rehabilitation or replacement. This segment of collection system is constructed of steel pipe and runs aerially on concrete support structure over the creek floodplain. Both the support columns and the sewer line show sign of deterioration. Metcalf and Eddy, Inc., the consultant selected for the Withlacoochee Sewer Basin, has provided the City with a proposal that includes evaluation of the system to recommend a final alignment for the sewer line, preliminary design, field survey, geotechnical investigation should it become necessary, evaluation of existing concrete support structure, project management, project meeting,

detailed design, design drawings, and contract and technical specifications at a cost not to exceed \$78,086. The following three options are available to the City: (1) Rehabilitate or replace the existing trunk line under current routing and tie into the 18" outfall line at the existing location; however, depending on extent of settlement, this route may require geotechnical investigation. (2) Install a new trunk line that runs north along the creek, crosses Baytree Road, and runs northeast to tie into the 18-inch line north of Baytree Road, and (3) Allow the existing system to remain in operation. Metcalf and Eddy, Inc./AECOM has proposed to perform the required services to perform the needed evaluations and provide the required plans, contract documents, and specifications. Leon Weeks stated that Option (1) would be the least costly of the three options; however, the consultant will be evaluating all of the options.

A MOTION by Councilman Carroll, seconded by Councilman Vickers, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to follow the recommendation of Staff and approve Option (1) to rehabilitate or replace the existing trunk line under current routing and tie into the 18" outfall line at the existing location, which may require geotechnical investigation depending on extent of settlement along this route, and authorize the City Manager/Staff to negotiate a contract with Metcalf and Eddy, Inc.

Consideration of a proposal for repair of the sewage lift station at the Withlacoochee Wastewater Treatment Plant and authorization for the City Manager/Staff to negotiate a contract with Metcalf and Eddy, Inc.

Leon Weeks, Utilities Director, stated that the City of Valdosta selected Camp Dresser and McKee, Inc. (CDM) and Metcalf and Eddy, Inc. for the purpose of planning, designing, and constructing wastewater related projects required by the City's growth as outlined by the 1999 Master Plan. The Water and Sewer Department treats its wastewater through two wastewater treatment plants. The wastewater generated in the Knights Creek Drainage Basin on the east side of Forrest Street and the Mud Creek Drainage Basin located south of Savannah Avenue is treated at the Mud Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant. The wastewater generated in the Withlacoochee River Basin, which is north of Savannah Avenue and west of Forrest Street, is treated at the Withlacoochee Wastewater Treatment Plant. The plants were constructed in 1979 and were upgraded in 1986. The Water and Sewer Master Plan recommends renovation and/or expansion of both plants and the City has obtained wasteload allocations for the discharge of additional treated water from both facilities. CDM is actively working on planning documents for expansion of the Mud Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant as well as for short-term improvements of equipment. Although environmental reviews are being prepared at this time, the technical process plans for renovation of the Withlacoochee Plant have not been started yet. The design flow of the Withlacoochee Plant is 8 MGD and the system has had to treat up to 15 MGD during wet seasons. This high flow rate has left the plant without any standby equipment and now much of the equipment has deteriorated beyond its useful life. The failure of this equipment hampers the Withlacoochee Plant from being able to do its job and the replacement of all of the equipment is beyond the capability of the Plant Staff. A proposal was submitted from Metcalf and Eddy, Inc. for design and replacement of the equipment. Leon Weeks recommended that Council approve the request to negotiate a contract with Metcalf and Eddy, Inc. at a cost not to exceed \$137,008.

A MOTION was made by Councilman Head to follow the recommendation of Staff and approve the request to negotiate a contract with Metcalf and Eddy, Inc. for design and repair of the sewage lift station at the Withlacoochee Wastewater Treatment Plant at a cost not to exceed \$137,008. Councilman Wright seconded the motion. Councilman Vickers inquired as to where the office of Metcalf and Eddy, Inc. was located. Leon Weeks stated that they are a large firm with offices located throughout the United States and he was working with the office located in Norcross. Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that approximately one year ago they went through a consultant selection process and two firms were identified that met the criteria. This was brought before Council and they approved CDM and Metcalf and Eddy, Inc. for the City to choose from for these projects. Metcalf and Eddy, Inc. is being utilized to do the Withlacoochee side of the system and CDM to do the Mud Creek system. Councilman Head inquired as to whether there were any local firms that bid on these projects. Larry Hanson stated that there were more than just these two firms who bid on the projects; however, these two firms were determined to be the most qualified. Councilman Head stated that some of the local business owners had asked about the City's procurement process and he inquired as to whether local firms had the capability to handle these projects. Leon Weeks stated that in this case the local firms chose to partner with the two selected engineering firms. At the present time, CDM is working with a local surveyor, Dean Devane of Alan Nobles Firm, on the Mud Creek project and Lovell Engineering and ASA Engineering will be working with CDM. Larry Hanson stated that the local firms

will partner with out-of-town firms because there are several pieces of the project that they can handle. Also, using local firms will help lower their price for the project because it saves them from having to bring in firms from another town to perform certain portions of the work. Councilman Payton inquired as to whether the larger firms are encouraged to utilize local firms when available. Leon Weeks stated that they do encourage them to do so. The motion was unanimously adopted (7-0).

LOCAL FUNDING AND REQUESTS

Consideration of a request to provide sewer service on St. Augustine Road and Duke's Bay West.

Leon Weeks, Utilities Director, stated that during the early development of Valdosta, an area on the west side of the railroad on the western tributary of Dukes Bay did not get sanitary sewers installed and the land south of West Savannah Avenue along both sides of St. Augustine Road was left undeveloped or with septic tanks. This area remained outside of the incorporated limits of the City until recently when 139 acres, known as Westside Business Park, and 10 acres, known as Apex Development, was annexed. The owners, Larry Dean of Westside Business Park, and S.C. Barker of Apex, have both requested water and sewer service. A portion of Westside Business Park and other land near Lloyd Jackson Road and Old Clyatteville Road can be provided gravity flow sewer by a connection to the Azalea West Industrial Park; however, more than 400 acres along both sides of Dukes Bay including vacant land, homes along St. Augustine Road and Jones Road, and an existing industrial area on West Savannah Avenue near Boone's Dairy Road can only be served by a lift station somewhere along the creek with outfalls running to the various areas. The Sewer Department and the property owners have done preliminary engineering to determine the location and depth of the required lift station and outfalls to serve the area. They have already made water connections for their property and installed sewer outfalls to a point that it can be used to serve their development. They have also agreed to pay their share of the cost of a lift station and the additional sewer outfalls. Mr. Barker has also deeded a lot at the intersection of Dukes Bay Canal and St. Augustine Road for the purpose of allowing the City to build a lift station with the property value to be applied as a portion of his share of the cost. Leon Weeks recommended that Council approve the request to proceed with what has been negotiated and come back with the bids and cost recovery system to help the City pay for the lift station when it is built.

A MOTION by Councilman Eunice, seconded by Councilman Yost, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to approve the request to provide sewer service on St. Augustine Road and Duke's Bay West.

Consideration of a request to provide sewer service on Norman Drive near Lowe's.

Leon Weeks, Utilities Director, stated that prior to the development of the Valdosta Mall, the Lowe's Store and the old Wal-Mart Store along Norman Drive and St. Augustine Road, several lots had been developed as single-family residential lots using wells and septic tanks. Seven lots plus an additional 4.5-acre tract with homes and a pond owned by Howard Spells had remained in place surrounded by development of almost every other property in the area. The cost of construction of the sanitary sewer to serve the adjacent mini-storage facilities and the Lowndes Co. High School Sports Complex had made the property unfavorable for commercial development. The County Board of Education and the City Water and Sewer Department worked together approximately three years ago to run a sanitary sewer to the Martin Stadium entrance on Norman. The residential lots were annexed into the City with the other unincorporated islands. The seven lots are all being developed at this time, and the Board of Education used two lots for a new Lowndes County High School entrance. Plans have been submitted for Ferron's Retail Plaza with five retail spaces on the first lot south of Lowe's. The next three lots are proposed as the site for a bank and ten retail spaces. The lot south of the school entrance is the site of a proposed Verizon Wireless Store. Mr. Richard Hill of Richard Hill Architects is representing the northern four lots, and Mr. Craig Baucom of Parkes Development Group, LLC, is representing the Verizon Wireless Store. They have requested that the City have a sewer main designed and constructed to provide sewer service to the new development and agreed to have the City assess the users of the sewer an amount sufficient to pay the estimated cost of construction. The City Engineer's Office has completed the final draft of the construction drawings and an estimate of construction has been prepared. Leon Weeks recommended that Council approve the request to provide sewer service and will come back before Council with the bids and the actual cost recovery based on those bids.

A **MOTION** by Councilman Carroll, seconded by Councilman Vickers, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to follow the recommendation of Staff and approve the request to provide sewer service on Norman Drive near Lowe's.

Consideration of a request to select a consultant for the Valdosta Small Emerging Business Program.

Mara Register, Assistant to the City Manager, stated that in November, 2007, a Request for Proposal for the Valdosta Small Emerging Business Program was sent out. There was a pre-proposal meeting with four firms in attendance. The proposal deadline was December 18, 2007 and two proposals were submitted. A Committee consisting of Councilman Willie Head, Jr., Larry Hanson, City Manager, Ivy Johnson, Chief of the City of Jacksonville's Business Opportunity/Contract Compliance Office, and Mara Register interviewed the two consultants. The Committee unanimously recommended CC Heyward & Associates. Mr. Connell Heyward is the principal of the firm and his team is made up of Charles Minor, Patricia Wallace, and Chris Canady. Their proposal has five specific task sections that relate back to the Request for Proposal and the total cost for the project is \$191,000. Mara Register asked Council's consideration in approving CC Heyward & Associates as the consultant for the Valdosta Small Emerging Business Program. Larry Hanson stated that the process for selecting a consultant begins with an interview process to determine the most qualified the firm. Once that determination is made, the envelope containing their cost estimate is opened. CC Heyward & Associates was selected as the most qualified but their cost was a little more than what was anticipated so they have been negotiating with the firm to get the cost in a range that was more reasonable and consistent with what Jacksonville and other communities had paid. They were able to reduce the cost \$38,000 from the original estimate but some of the work will be done locally by a Staff member. If an agreement had not been reached then they would go to the Number 2 consultant and repeat the process again. Mayor Fretti inquired as to whether this consultant would be an out source to help us develop the Valdosta Small Emerging Business Program and then put Staff into place or would they be our Staff. Larry Hanson stated that once the program is developed and implemented it will require at least one Staff person and from there it will be based on the success of the program. When the firm begins their work in April, there will be a new budget and a position placed in there which would come to Council for approval. The new position would be advertised in July and a new person hired to come on board in August. The new Valdosta Small Emerging Business Program Director would work hand-in-hand with the consultant while they are developing the program so that they are familiar with the project. The Staff person will have to do leg work on every project that the City bids, whether it is construction or otherwise. The Staff person will identify vendors, educate, train, and help with bonding in order to build capacity and involve small businesses in the program. Mayor Fretti inquired as to whom the new Staff person would report to. Larry Hanson stated that there will be discussions between the Finance Department and the Engineering Department and they may merge this position and all of the procurement into one area. Mara Register stated that this is a ten-month contract and they are confident that the work can be completed within that timeframe. Councilman Vickers suggested that they look at what other communities are doing with this department. Larry Hanson stated that they have already met with officials from Jacksonville and Savannah and they will also look at other communities, but most communities have a consolidated Procurement Office.

A **MOTION** by Councilman Head, seconded by Councilman Payton, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to follow the recommendation of the Assistant to the City Manager and approve CC Heyward & Associates as the consultant for the Valdosta Small Emerging Business Program.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

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

Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that the term for Rob Evans on the Valdosta-Lowndes County Conference Center & Tourism Authority expired on December 31, 2007. The Valdosta-Lowndes County Conference Center & Tourism Authority submitted the following names for consideration: (1) Rob Evans, Architect with IPG Architects, (2) James Bridges, Retired President of Valdosta Technical College, and (3) Robert Jenkins, Retired from the Valdosta Country Club. The Valdosta-Lowndes County Conference Center & Tourism Authority has recommended that Rob Evans be reappointed and Mr. Evans has indicated that he would serve again if reappointed. Larry Hanson stated that the Conference Center is going through a period of renovations and

looking at future expansion plans and it has been extremely valuable having someone with his professional expertise on the Authority. Larry Hanson also noted that he had just learned that the Authority had not been able to formally contact Robert Jenkins about submitting his name for consideration. He had previously submitted an application in 2006 for consideration but he has not been confirmed for the current appointment. Councilman Head inquired as to whether James Bridges had been notified. Larry Hanson stated that he had been notified about the appointment. Councilman Head stated that the letter he received indicated that Rob Evans had resigned and if that was the case then obviously he was not as critical to the Authority as indicated. Councilman Head inquired about the process for turning in applications. Larry Hanson stated that we do take and accept the applications and the City Clerk notifies the Boards and Authorities when they have appointments coming up. It is up to the Board, Commission, or Authority to submit the names. We will share the information with them that we have but we do not control or have influence over the three names that are submitted to the City. Councilman Head inquired as to whether we turn in the applications to the Board when they come in. Teresa Bolden, City Clerk, stated that the applications are usually first turned in to the Board, Commission, or Authority and then they are submitted to her. Councilman Head stated that he thought the applications come to the City first since this is our application. Teresa Bolden stated that at times the applications are turned in to the Board, Commission, or Authority and then other times the applications are turned in to her. Larry Hanson stated that Rob Evans did not actually resign and his term ended on December 31, 2007 and at the time he was considering not asking to be reappointed; however, he has continued to serve while they go through this process. He had considered not serving again but then he decided that he would serve again if reappointed. Councilman Head stated that he was under the impression that the City received all the applications and he could understand someone turning in the application to the other entity; however, it seems like either one or both would end up not having the application. If it is a City appointment then we need to have the applications. Councilman Head stated that he was in support of someone else and intended to nominate Robert Jenkins. Councilman Vickers stated that this may need to be postponed until it could be confirmed that Robert Jenkins was interested in serving. Larry Hanson stated that most of the By-Laws state that the member whose term has expired will continue to serve until their replacement is appointed. There will also be some significant changes in the appointment process presented at the Mayor and Council Retreat. Councilman Carroll stated that he serves on the Valdosta-Lowndes County Conference Center & Tourism Authority and has only attended one meeting but at that meeting there was discussion about Rob Evans. There were also some presentations made about the major projects coming up at the Conference Center and that was in part one of the reasons why Rob Evans was asked to serve another term because of his expertise. Councilman Vickers stated that Council could nominate someone other than what is submitted with the Hospital Authority being an exception. Years ago, Council complained about the same names coming from the Board, Commission, or Authority each time so it was decided that Council could bring a name from the floor. At that time, there were no applications to be completed. Councilman Head inquired as to whether there were any other applicants who would be interested in serving on the Conference Center Tourism and Authority that they did not know about because when Council receives the three names, they do not know if there are others who are interested in serving and they would have to ask Staff. Councilman Head stated that he would be in favor of tabling this request since Mr. Jenkins had not been contacted.

A MOTION was made by Councilman Vickers to postpone the appointment to the Valdosta-Lowndes County Conference Center & Tourism Authority until the March 6, 2008 Council meeting. Councilman Head seconded the motion. Councilman Yost stated that he did not agree with postponing the request but he did not think that two weeks would hurt in this instance; however, he was not sure why the Valdosta-Lowndes County Conference Center & Tourism Authority sent this if they had not contacted Robert Jenkins. Larry Hanson stated that they had previously contacted him in 2006 and they intended to follow up after they submitted this. Councilman Yost stated that they should not submit anything to Council if they are not sure that an individual is willing to serve. Mayor Fretti stated that it is the charge of the Board or Authority to submit three names and they have the discretion of calling out five names to three and submitting to Council. They also have the discretion of carrying over someone from two months prior who was on the list and they should contact them currently when they do that. Of this list, Rob Evans currently serves on two Authorities and Robert Jenkins serves on four Authorities, and James Bridges serves on no Authorities. The motion failed 3-4 with Councilman Eunice, Councilman Carroll, Councilman Yost, and Councilman Payton voting in opposition.

Mayor Fretti asked for nominations. Councilman Yost placed in consideration the name of Rob Evans. There being no other nominations, Rob Evans was appointed by acclamation to serve on the Valdosta-Lowndes County Conference Center & Tourism Authority for a term of three years.

Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that the City has closed on the Abundant Life Church of God property and is now the owner. They have submitted plans to build a new church and will occupy the building for another year but the City will have some use of the gymnasium during this time.

The Bird Supper will be held on February 27, 2008 at The Depot in Atlanta. Also, the Law Enforcement Appreciation Dinner will be held on February 29, 2008 at the James H. Rainwater Conference Center and tickets will be delivered to Mayor and Council next week.

The Georgia Department of Transportation has notified the City of the new Local Assistance Resurfacing Program (LARP) list which is usually shared by the Department of Transportation Commissioner at the Bird Supper. The streets to be resurfaced are as follows: Baymeadow from Park Avenue to East Moore, Baytree Drive from McArthur to Baytree Road, Bethune Street from Clay to Continental, Jackson Street from Toombs to Patterson Street, Mary Street from Ashley Street to Patterson Street, McRee-Alden from Gordon Place to Gordon Avenue, Orlando from Habersham to Randolph, and Pershing Place off of Quincy Circle. These streets were selected by the Department of Transportation based on their own criteria.

The traffic crash statistics for 2007 are in and traffic accidents in the City of Valdosta fell by 170 accidents which is an 8.1% decrease. In 1996, there were 2,503 traffic accidents and we are now down to 1,939 which is attributed to the work of all the employees in the Engineering and Police Departments, the citizens for voting for SPLOST and allowing us to make needed improvements, and to the Mayor and Council for their support. Several years ago, there were major changes made at North Valdosta Road and Country Club Drive which had been the number one highest traffic accident intersection in the City; however, from 2006 to 2007, traffic accidents decreased from 52 to 23 which is a substantial reduction. We can all be proud when traffic is growing substantially and traffic accidents are going down.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Fretti stated that the Mayor and Council Retreat will begin at 12:00 p.m. tomorrow at St. Simons Island with a lunch and the meeting to follow at 1:00 p.m.

Councilman Payton inquired as to whether they would be meeting with the Department of Transportation while at the Bird Supper in Atlanta. Larry Hanson stated that they would be meeting with the Department of Transportation but had been advised that the new Commissioner would not be meeting with all of the local delegations each year. The Commissioner will be meeting with a limited number of people from Valdosta and Lowndes County next Wednesday at 3:00 p.m. and she has also asked that the number of projects be limited. Mayor Fretti stated that the new Commissioner was very impressed with the Traffic Management Center and with Von Shipman, City Engineer.

Councilman Vickers stated that he would like to address some of the blocked roads and businesses near the railroad tracks. Von Shipman, City Engineer, stated that he has put in a work order for some "Do Not Block Intersection" signs and those will be in place by the end of the week.

Councilman Carroll stated that he had asked that his tickets for the Law Enforcement Appreciation Dinner be given to Chief Simons and his Staff to support their fellow Officers.

Councilman Vickers inquired about the resolution for the creation of the Parks and Recreation Authority. Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that Council had previously approved the resolution as part of the Parks and Recreation agreement on creating an Authority but it will need to be signed by Council members and submitted with the Legislation to the General Assembly. The Legislation is currently being drafted and a copy will be provided to Senator Tim Golden and Representative Jay Shaw tomorrow. George Talley, City Attorney, stated that they will be running the required advertisement in the newspaper on Saturday, February 23, 2008. Councilman Payton inquired about the size of the Authority. Larry Hanson stated that it would be a seven-member Authority as noted in the original agreement dated December 3, 2007 with the seventh member alternating back and forth.

Mayor Fretti entertained a motion for adjournment.

A **MOTION** by Councilman Eunice, seconded by Councilman Yost, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to adjourn the February 21, 2008 meeting of the Valdosta City Council at 6:43 p.m. to meet again in regular session on Thursday, March 6, 2008.

City Clerk, City of Valdosta

Mayor, City of Valdosta