

**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR MEETING OF THE VALDOSTA CITY COUNCIL**  
**5:30 P.M., THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 2014**  
**COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL**

**OPENING CEREMONIES**

Mayor Pro Tem Alvin Payton, Jr. 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 Robert Yost. Mayor John Gayle and Councilman James Wright were absent. The invocation was given by Pastor Johnny Quarterman, North Valdosta Church of God, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Mayor Pro Tem Alvin Payton, Jr. stated that he wanted to take a point of personal privilege to recognize the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Chapter 1000. Mayor John Gayle presented a Proclamation to the Chapter earlier today which proclaimed Valdosta as a Purple Heart City. Mayor Pro Tem Payton thanked them for their efforts in helping to recognize those Veterans in Georgia who have been honored as a Purple Heart recipient for their courage, bravery, and the many sacrifices they have made for our country. Adjutant Warren Scoby of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Chapter 1000, made a special presentation to the Mayor and Council. Mr. Scoby stated that special recognition was bestowed with pride to the City of Valdosta and the Mayor and Council for their dedication and support in honoring American service men and women and for becoming Georgia's 10<sup>th</sup> Purple Heart City today.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the March 6, 2014 Regular Meeting were approved by unanimous consent (5-0) of the Council.

**ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2014-4, A RESOLUTION TO AND CONTRACT TO ADD SECTIONS OF CLAY ROAD AND EAST SAVANNAH AVENUE TO THE STATE HIGHWAY SYSTEM AND TO DESIGNATE THEM AS STATE ROUTE 1270 DURING THE CONSTRUCTION AND REALIGNMENT OF CLAY ROAD WITH HOLLYWOOD STREET**

Consideration of a Resolution and Contract to add sections of Clay Road and East Savannah Avenue to the State Highway System and to designate them as State Route 1270 during the construction and realignment of Clay Road with Hollywood Street.

Pat Collins, City Engineer, stated that the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) is designing a realignment of Clay Road with Hollywood Street which will include a signalized intersection on East Hill Avenue. During construction it will be necessary to both control and re-route traffic on City-owned and maintained roadway portions as part of the maintenance of traffic plan. The purchase of all required additional right-of-way for the Clay Road/Hollywood Street/East Hill Avenue realignment is currently scheduled to be completed by July, 2014. The construction bid date is scheduled for September, 2015. The Resolution and Contract are standard and necessary in advance of construction. The Resolution adds the two roadway segments to the State Highway System and declares that both the GDOT and the City of Valdosta agree that it will be advantageous to all parties as well as to the traveling public that the City accommodate utilities and fully maintain State Route 1270 while construction is on-going. The Contract authorizes the GDOT necessary control and holds harmless GDOT for the City's failure to perform maintenance assumed under the Contract. The two roadway segments identified as State Route 1270 will be taken off the State Highway System when the project improvements are complete. The Engineering Department is recommending that the City Council authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the Resolution and Contract on behalf of the City of Valdosta. Councilman Vickers inquired as to who would be responsible for the right-of-way. Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that the Georgia Department of Transportation would be responsible because this is a safety project due to a death that occurred at that intersection five years ago. While the State route will be temporarily closed, the GDOT will have to re-designate some local streets as a temporary State route so that people will know to follow the State route.

A **MOTION** by Councilman Carroll, seconded by Councilman Vickers, was unanimously adopted (5-0) to approve a contract with the Georgia Department of Transportation and to enact Resolution No. 2014-4, a Resolution to add sections of Clay Road and East Savannah Avenue to the State Highway System and to designate them as State Route 1270 during the construction and realignment of Clay Road with Hollywood Street, the complete text of which will be found in Resolution Book V.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2014-5, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF AN APPLICATION WITH THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY (DHS) TO PURCHASE A DRIVING SIMULATOR AND SOFTWARE FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Consideration of a Resolution authorizing the filing of an Application with the U. S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to purchase a Driving Simulator and Software for the Fire Department.

Battalion Chief Frank McMillan stated that the U. S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Grants Program Directorate is responsible for the implementation and administration of the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program. The purpose of the AFG is to enhance the safety of the public and firefighters with respect to fire and fire-related hazards. The City of Valdosta's Fire Department is in need of a driving simulator to help meet the training requirements for the Firefighters. The City is seeking funding through the U. S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Grants Program Directorate to purchase a driving simulator and software which will improve the Valdosta Fire Department's training of firefighters. The driving simulator contains a cab with an Officer's seat that replicates the driving compartment of a fire truck with a tilt steering wheel, foot pedals, transmission selector, siren and lights controls, and simulated mirror images. The simulator includes three flat screen displays for forward views and three flat screen displays for side views giving a continuous 240-degree field of view. A sound system generates vehicle motor sounds and provides a radio intercom system to support dispatcher/radio communications and for training a student driver through interaction with the instructor. An instructor's console is included to control the operation of the simulators. A three-day instruction, a one-year preventative maintenance, and a one-year warranty are also included. The amount of the Grant Funds is \$138,000 with a 5% match (\$6,900) from the City. A Resolution is needed authorizing the Mayor to execute an application to apply for Grant funding. Councilman Vickers inquired as to where the simulator would be housed. Battalion Chief McMillan stated that it would be housed at the Valdosta Regional Training Center on Blanchard Street. It can also be used as a mobile simulator. Mayor Pro Tem Payton inquired as to whether Valdosta would be training other drivers in this area. Battalion Chief McMillan stated that since they are a Regional Training Center it would be open to Lowndes County and those communities within a 100 mile radius. Battalion Chief McMillan recommended that Council approve the Resolution authorizing the filing of an Application with the U. S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to purchase a Driving Simulator and Software for the Fire Department.

A **MOTION** by Councilman Norton, seconded by Councilman Carroll, was unanimously adopted (5-0) to enact Resolution No. 2014-5, a Resolution authorizing the filing of an Application with the U. S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to purchase a Driving Simulator and Software for the Fire Department, the complete text of which will be found in Resolution Book V.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2014-6, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF AN APPLICATION WITH THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY (DHS) TO PURCHASE A LIVE FIRE EXTINGUISHER TRAINING SYSTEM FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Consideration of a Resolution authorizing the filing of an Application with the U. S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to purchase a Live Fire Extinguisher Training System for the Fire Department.

Battalion Chief Frank McMillan stated that the City of Valdosta's Fire Department is in need of a Live Fire Extinguisher Training System to assist with educating citizens and business owners on how to operate a fire extinguisher. Most citizens, children, and business owners do not know or understand the theory behind fire extinguishers. They do not know the different fire class systems or that there is a certain type of extinguisher for every fire type. They cannot comprehend by reading a fire extinguisher label the actual capacity of the canister and what affect that capacity will have depending on the fuel load. The Valdosta Fire Department provides a Fire

Extinguisher Class for many businesses in the City. These businesses are required by insurance agencies to give classes to employees by a certified Fire Instructor. These classes are free of charge and it becomes very expensive using the Fire Department's current system which is a propane pan and real Dry Powder and CO2 extinguishers. One of the Fire Department's clients is the local hospital. Each employee must attend the two hour class, and there are nearly 2000 employees. To complete this goal yearly, the Valdosta Fire Department offers four to five classes a day for a full week which gives each person the opportunity to learn the PASS method of extinguishing fires and to use each type of extinguisher to put out the fire in the propane pan. The City is seeking funding through the U. S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Grants Program to purchase a Live Fire Extinguisher Training System to assist the Valdosta Fire Department in training citizens and business owners. The amount of the Grant Funds is \$5,500 with a 5% match (\$275) from the City. A Resolution is needed authorizing the Mayor to execute an application to apply for Grant funding. Battalion Chief McMillan recommended that Council approve the Resolution authorizing the filing of an Application with the U. S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to purchase a Live Fire Extinguisher Training System for the Fire Department.

A **MOTION** by Councilman Carroll, seconded by Councilman Norton, was unanimously adopted (5-0) to enact Resolution No. 2014-6, a Resolution authorizing the filing of an Application with the U. S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to purchase a Live Fire Extinguisher Training System for the Fire Department, the complete text of which will be found in Resolution Book V.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2014-7, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF AN APPLICATION WITH THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY (DHS) TO PURCHASE A FIRE SAFETY HOUSE FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Consideration of a Resolution authorizing the filing of an Application with the U. S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to purchase a Fire Safety House for the Fire Department.

Battalion Chief Frank McMillan stated the City of Valdosta's Fire Department is in need of a new mobile Fire Safety House to help educate citizens about fire safety. The City is seeking funding through the U. S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Grants Program to purchase a new mobile Fire Safety House. The current mobile Fire Safety House was purchased in 1996 and has been instrumental in educating men, women, and children about fire safety. The Fire Safety House has been used in surrounding area schools and at social events as requested by various organizations. It has become very costly to repair and maintain the 18-year old mobile Fire Safety House. The amount of the Grant Funds is \$55,000 with a 5% match (\$2,750) from the City. A Resolution is needed authorizing the Mayor to execute an application to apply for Grant funding. Battalion Chief McMillan recommended that Council approve the Resolution authorizing the filing of an Application with the U. S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to purchase a Fire Safety House for the Fire Department. Councilman Vickers inquired as to where the Fire Safety House was located. Battalion Chief McMillan stated that the Fire Safety House is mobile and they take it anywhere within a 100 mile radius.

A **MOTION** by Councilman Yost, seconded by Councilman Norton, was unanimously adopted (5-0) to enact Resolution No. 2014-7, a Resolution authorizing the filing of an Application with the U. S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to purchase a Fire Safety House for the Fire Department, the complete text of which will be found in Resolution Book V.

**BIDS, CONTRACTS, AGEEMENTS, AND EXPENDITURES**

Councilman Carroll inquired as to whether Agenda Items 4(a) through 4(c) could be considered under a Consent Agenda since all of the bids were for the Valdosta Police Department. Mayor Pro Tem Payton asked the Council if there was any objection to Councilman Carroll's request. There were no objections from Council.

Greg Brown stated that all of the items up for bid were approved by Council in the current year budget and asked Council's consideration in following the recommendation of the Purchasing Agent if all of the following bids were accepted at one time: (1) Item 4(a) - Consideration of bids to purchase ten rear wheel drive pursuit vehicles for the Police Department (Bid No. 9-13-14) - the low bid was submitted by Cass Burch in the amount of \$22,897

per vehicle for a total of \$228,970, (2) Item 4(b) Consideration of bids for one mid-size Sports Utility Vehicle (SUV) for the Police Department (Bid No. 11-13-14) – the low bid was submitted by Cass Burch in the amount of \$28,977, and (3) Item 4(c) Consideration of bids for four rear wheel drive pursuit vehicles for the Administration at the Police Department (Bid No. 12-13-14) – the low bid was submitted by Cass Burch in the amount of \$22,197 for each vehicle for a total of \$88,788. Greg Brown recommended that Council approve the low bids submitted by Cass Burch and allow the Police Department to proceed with the purchases.

A **MOTION** by Councilman Carroll, seconded by Councilman Vickers, was unanimously adopted (5-0) to follow the recommendation of the Purchasing Agent and approve the low bids under a Consent Agenda for Agenda Items 4(a) through 4(c).

### **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

Mark Barber, Deputy City Manager of Administration, stated that he would like to recognize the new Fire Chief, Freddie Broome. Fire Chief Broome began his new position with the City on March 10, 2014 and he has been doing a great job.

There are also several events coming up. The deadline for the City Government 101 Class is March 21, 2014 and there are three slots still open. The Electronics Recycling Event will be held on April 12, 2014 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Mathis Auditorium. Citizens are encouraged to bring their old electronic equipment to the Recycling Event for disposal. Also, the Public Works Recycling Program has been nominated for the Chamber's Members Choice Awards which will be held on April 3, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. at the James H. Rainwater Conference Center. Citizens and Staff are encouraged to vote for the Public Works Recycling Staff.

Mark Barber, Deputy City Manager of Administration, stated that the CALEA Public Hearing for the Valdosta Police Department will be held on March 31, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room at the City Hall Annex Building. The Police Department is working toward a CALEA Gold Standard this year. CALEA will be reviewing all aspects of our Police Department from policies, procedures, management practices, daily operations, and support services. Citizens are encouraged to attend this event and show their support of our Police Department.

Mark Barber, Deputy City Manager of Administration, stated that he, Police Chief Brian Childress, and City Manager Larry Hanson participated in the Georgia Municipal Association's Newly Elected Officials Training which was held March 14-15, 2014 in Tifton. They sat on a panel and taught classes and this speaks well for the City of Valdosta.

### **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Councilman Vickers stated that he would like for Council to restore the out of town mileage for the Mayor. They changed it because of past abuse but he would like for Council to reconsider it because we have a good Mayor who is doing a fine job.

Councilman Carroll stated that many have often wondered what former Senior Enlisted Advisors and Command Chiefs do in Valdosta and he was proud to say that we have one who retired here and has served well. Councilman Carroll recognized Frank Moorman who was in the audience tonight.

Councilman Norton stated that the Azalea Festival was outstanding this year and it was very well attended. Councilman Norton thanked everyone who worked hard to make it a success.

Councilwoman Tooley stated that she was glad to see the citizens visiting the Council Meetings and she encouraged them to continue to attend and to bring their ideas.

### **CITIZENS TO BE HEARD**

There were no citizens to be heard.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Pro Tem Payton entertained a motion for adjournment.

A **MOTION** by Councilman Vickers, seconded by Councilman Carroll, was unanimously adopted (5-0) to adjourn the March 20, 2014 Meeting of the Valdosta City Council at 6:00 p.m. to meet again in Regular Session on Thursday, April 10, 2014.

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City Clerk, City of Valdosta

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Mayor, City of Valdosta