

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE VALDOSTA CITY COUNCIL
5:30 P.M., THURSDAY, JULY 25, 2013
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., Deidra White, and James Wright. Councilman Robert Yost was absent. The invocation was given by Mayor John Gayle, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS

SPECIAL PRESENTATION OF THE 2013 SOUTHERN HOSPITALITY WORKCAMP

Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that the Southern Hospitality Workcamp is truly a partnership between various community organizations, key City of Valdosta Departments, and many dedicated individuals. This evening, it is my pleasure to recognize individuals and organizations that are critical to the success of this endeavor. I also want to take the opportunity to recognize our wonderful homeowners for their participation and to present a special video highlighting the 2013 Southern Hospitality Workcamp. As we say each year, and it is true, this year's Workcamp was truly the best ever. Through the Workcamp, a total of 275 homes have been repaired. To date, the City has hosted eight Workcamps that have yielded more than \$1.5 million economic investment in our community through capital improvements to housing stock, the value of volunteer housing, their spending in our community, and the value of their labor. This figure also represents the City, Lowe's Distribution Center, and Group Cares Foundation investment in this effort. We were fortunate to host approximately 212 campers and staff here the week of June 23-29, 2013 and 18 houses were repaired in our community. Even at minimum wage, the campers' labor of love is valued at \$61,480. Impressively enough, these campers pay \$400 each just for the privilege of attending Workcamp in addition to the travel expenses of getting here. This year, we had campers from nine different states, as far away as Texas, Wisconsin, and New York, and this speaks volumes about their commitment. In addition, these campers collected nearly 800 cans of food for our local Second Harvest Food Bank which is another selfless act of kindness they share with our community. Camps such as the one in Valdosta have been taking place all around the country and they are supported by more than 25,000 youth volunteers. Most important to our community is that this effort helps to stop the deterioration of valuable housing stock and places us closer to accomplishing our goal of eliminating all substandard housing by the year 2020. Before moving forward with the presentations, I first want to thank our Mayor and City Council for your support of this effort. Without your vision and guidance, we would not be here to celebrate another successful Workcamp. I also want to thank the Public Works Department, Police Department, and Fire Department for their strong support. It is truly a great team here at the City and this effort is a shining testament to that spirit of cooperation we have among our Departments. The City of Valdosta could not host the Southern Hospitality Workcamp without our incredible co-sponsor and partner, Lowe's Distribution Center. Lowe's RDC has been on board, standing by the City's side in this endeavor since we began the Workcamps in 2005. Lowe's Distribution Center Regional Manager, Chris Lilly has been an avid supporter of the Workcamp for many years as have his predecessors. Needless to say, the City of Valdosta is eternally grateful for Lowe's significant contribution and continued commitment to the Southern Hospitality Workcamp. Lowe's partnership is truly making a significant difference in the lives of our citizens, and we look forward to many more years of this wonderful partnership and to working with you. Many other individuals and organizations provided construction assistance and site coaching for the week of Workcamp, as well as other important support for our campers. These individuals also insured that the campers were safe, stayed well hydrated, and received the assistance they needed to be successful. We are fortunate to have dedicated City staff, Lowe's Distribution Center Staff, Habitat for Humanity Staff, and local General Contractors willing to give of their time and talents in providing expertise to our campers so they could successfully complete their projects. Larry Hanson asked the following individuals to come forward and presented them with a Certificate of Appreciation: (1) Greg Battles, Lowe's Distribution Center, (2) Mike Eddington, Habitat for Humanity, (3) Larry Henderson, Habitat for Humanity, (4) Michael Miller, General Contractor, and (5) Michael Jackson, General Contractor. Larry Hanson also recognized the following individuals for their support of the Group Workcamp: (1) James Dean, City Marshal, (2) Tom Meyer, City Marshal, (3) Stuart Mullis, Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity, (4) Corbin Neeley, Store Manager for Lowe's Retail Store, (4) Larry Smith, Lowe's Retail Store, and (5) Renee Parish, Lowe's Retail

Store. Larry Hanson stated that each year the campers enjoy spending their Wednesday afternoon off either floating down a lazy river or riding wild roller coasters. We are very thankful for the continued support of Wild Adventures Theme Park as they have donated park passes for all of the campers and staff every year since 2005. This is an incredible donation and for that we are truly thankful. Jennie Boyer, Wild Adventures Director of Operations, was presented with a token of our appreciation for this generous contribution. Larry Hanson stated that the campers are housed and fed at the Valdosta Middle School every year. We are extremely grateful for the Valdosta School Board's partnership in this effort. Vanessa Flucas, Neighborhood Development Manager, and Debra Miller, Neighborhood Development Administrative Secretary, attended the July 22, 2013 Valdosta Board of Education meeting and presented them a token of appreciation on behalf of the City for their dedicated commitment to the Workcamp. Larry Hanson recognized the City's Rehabilitation Construction Coordinator Richard Joyner and thanked him for his incredible efforts all year long to prepare and execute plans for Workcamp. This Workcamp would not serve as the Gold Standard throughout the country for organization and support if it were not for Richard and his hard work and genuine concern for improving Valdosta neighborhoods. Larry Hanson asked all of the homeowners for the 2013 Southern Hospitality Workcamp to stand so that they could be recognized and stated that there were several homeowners who wanted to express what the Workcamp meant to them as homeowners.

Mr. Quincy Roberts, 1211 Melissa Drive, stated that he had been sick and was in the hospital and could not walk for three months. He is just now beginning to walk again within the last month and was wondering how he was going to get his roof repaired and his house painted. Then Richard Joyner showed up and it was very much appreciated. He spoke to Brian and Becky, leaders of the Workcamp group. He met Megan, Molly, Keely, Mike, Clayton, Cody, Aaron, Shane, and Sara. He told them that to keep shining the light that they did at his house throughout the world. It is a God send for them to do things that they did and to give up their time to help him and his wife. Mr. Roberts stated that his mother would tell him that if you stay on the road long enough you never who is there to help you and who you are there to help. He got their addresses in order to keep in touch with them to see how they are doing and whether he could help them. Mr. Roberts stated that he really appreciated the campers coming here and he thanked Richard Joyner for stopping by and checking on them.

Mr. Willie Mack, 805 E. Moore Street, stated that he wanted to give thanks to the Lord for sending Richard Joyner his way. Last year when they did the Workcamp in his area his house had caught on fire so he did not get a chance to have his house worked on. Richard Joyner came back around and told him that they would get his house this year. It is not every day that a person tells you something and stands to their word. When Richard came back around and got the estimates and then had Lowe's bring the material, he thought that this was going to work. The campers were from all over America and they were the most beautiful kids he had ever seen in his life. Before they start work they pray, at lunch time they pray, and when they got ready to leave they prayed. If it had not been for Richard Joyner and all of you he would have never had the repairs made to his house. His house was torn up from the floor up and it was scary. Mr. Mack stated that he now felt that everyone in Valdosta would like to live in his house because of the simple fact that the Workcamp had done a marvelous job.

Ms. Katie Johnson, 414 McDougal Street, thanked God for the Group Workcamp Program because it has meant so much to her in getting her house fixed. She did not know how she was going to get that done and then she got a phone call to go and see Richard Joyner, which she did. She qualified for the Workcamp and everything went very well. She got a chance to bond with the campers and they all enjoyed each another. The campers contact her and check to see how she is doing even though they are gone. Ms. Johnson stated that she wanted to attend the closing ceremony at Valdosta Middle School but she did not like to get out at night so one of the campers told her that they would come and pick her up. They all got along so good and they did a wonderful job repairing her house. Ms. Johnson stated that she was very thankful for the help and it was a blessing to her.

Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that over the years many of the Council members have attended the closing ceremony and this year Councilman Vickers and Councilman Payton were in attendance. This ceremony is a very uplifting experience and takes place as these young people culminate their week of work and spend the last evening with the homeowners. In closing, the Staff would like to present the video for the 2013 Southern Hospitality Workcamp, which was produced by our own Metro Valdosta 17 Intern Andrew Jeschke. Larry Hanson also thanked Media Coordinator Shemeeka Johnson of Metro 17, Amanda Peacock and Ellen Hill of the Valdosta Main Street Department, and Public Information Officer Sementha Mathews for the various roles they played in successfully communicating the Workcamp event with our community.

The minutes of the July 11, 2013 Regular Meeting were approved by unanimous consent (6-0) of the Council.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 2013-7, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF A GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION (FAA) TO PROCEED WITH AIRPORT IMPROVEMENTS

Consideration of a request from the Valdosta-Lowndes County Airport Authority to approve a Resolution authorizing acceptance of a Grant Agreement with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to proceed with designing an airfield electrical vault with back-up generator, a passenger boarding bridge, and airline ramp expansion, and conducting a Pavement Weight Bearing Capacity Study at the Valdosta Regional Airport.

Jim Galloway, Executive Director of the Valdosta Regional Airport, stated that the Valdosta-Lowndes County Airport Authority desires to proceed with designing an airfield electrical vault with back-up generator, designing a passenger boarding bridge, designing airline ramp expansion, and conducting a Pavement Weight Bearing Capacity Study at the Valdosta Regional Airport. The electrical vault is a stand-alone building that houses all of the transformers that are the power sources for all the runway and taxiway lights. They currently have one that is approximately 40-50 years old. They do not have a backup generator so if the power fails at the present time they would not have any runway or taxiway lights. The second project is to design an expanded airline ramp. The current ramp is fairly adequate for the 50-seat regional jets that are flying in now; however, at some time in the future, they are anticipating an increase in the size of the aircraft and want to be ready for that. The third project is to design a passenger boarding bridge. Most people know it by the brand name of Jetway. Currently, when you fly out of Valdosta, passengers walk across the concrete and go up a small ramp to get on the airplane. They would like to look at designing a passenger boarding bridge for both safety and convenience so that the passengers do not have to go out into the elements or onto the concrete and can board the aircraft directly. The final project deals with the runway. As you may know, the Valdosta Regional Airport has the third longest runway in the State of Georgia which is 8,002; however, because of the way it was constructed they do not know what the actual weight bearing capacity would be. It is currently certified at 98,000 lbs. and the aircraft from the airlines weigh 47,000 lbs. An engineering study is needed in order to calculate the actual weight bearing capacity. These projects are expected to begin in October, 2013 and will run through mid-2014. The plan is to immediately pursue the electrical vault and the backup generator in the next fiscal year, the ramp expansion in the following year, and the passenger boarding bridge the year after that. The Federal Administration Authority (FAA) funds 90%, the State 2.5%, as funds are available, and the remaining 7.5% that is stipulated to come from the City of Valdosta will actually come from the Airport's Passenger Facility Charge Program from which they collect approximately \$12,000 per month. The FAA is preparing a Grant Agreement which is expected to not exceed \$500,000 for these projects. Once received, the Agreement must be executed and returned to the FAA extremely quickly or the funds will be reassigned. A Resolution has been prepared authorizing Mayor John Gayle to accept the Grant Agreement upon receipt in order to expedite processing the documents. Councilman Payton inquired about the funds coming from the 7.5%. Jim Galloway stated that there is a charge of \$4.50 charge on airline tickets when passengers fly out of Valdosta. That charge is then processed through the airline. The airline receives \$.15 for processing and the Valdosta Regional Airport gets \$4.35. The money goes into a very highly regulated account (Passenger Facility Charge Account) which builds over time as these projects go along. Jim Galloway recommended that Council approve the Resolution authorizing acceptance of a Grant Agreement with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to proceed with improvements at the Valdosta Regional Airport.

A MOTION by Councilman Payton, seconded by Councilman Carroll, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to enact Resolution No. 2013-7, a Resolution authorizing acceptance of a Grant Agreement with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to proceed with designing an airfield electrical vault with back-up generator, a passenger boarding bridge, and airline ramp expansion, and conducting a Pavement Weight Bearing Capacity Study at the Valdosta Regional Airport, the complete text of which will be found in Resolution Book V.

RESOLUTION NO. 2013-8, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A CONTRACT BETWEEN THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND THE CITY OF VALDOSTA TO PROCEED WITH AIRPORT IMPROVEMENTS

Consideration of a request from the Valdosta-Lowndes County Airport Authority to approve a Resolution authorizing execution of a contract between the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) and the City of Valdosta to proceed with designing an airfield electrical vault with back-up generator, designing a passenger boarding bridge, designing airline ramp expansion, and conducting a Pavement Weight Bearing Capacity Study at the Valdosta Regional Airport.

Jim Galloway, Executive Director of the Valdosta Regional Airport, stated that the Valdosta-Lowndes County Airport Authority desires to proceed with designing an airfield electrical vault with back-up generator, designing a passenger boarding bridge, designing airline ramp expansion and conducting a pavement weight bearing capacity study at the Valdosta Regional Airport. The Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) is preparing a State contract for their portion of these projects. A Resolution has been prepared authorizing Mayor John Gayle to execute the GDOT contract upon receipt in order to expedite processing the documents. Jim Galloway recommended that Council approve the Resolution authorizing Mayor John Gayle to execute the GDOT contract upon receipt in order to expedite processing the documents.

A MOTION by Councilman Payton, seconded by Councilman Carroll, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to enact Resolution No. 2013-8, a Resolution authorizing execution of a contract between the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) and the City of Valdosta to proceed with designing an airfield electrical vault with back-up generator, designing a passenger boarding bridge, designing airline ramp expansion, and conducting a Pavement Weight Bearing Capacity Study at the Valdosta Regional Airport, the complete text of which will be found in Resolution Book V.

BIDS, CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS, AND EXPENDITURES

Consideration of a request to amend the Project Development Agreement between the City of Valdosta, Veolia ES Evergreen Landfill, Inc. (n/d/b as Advanced Disposal Services Evergreen Landfill, Inc.), and Deep South Regional Municipal Solid Waste Management Authority.

George Talley, City Attorney, stated that on February 10, 2010, Council approved a Letter of Understanding (LOU) between City of Valdosta, Veolia ES Evergreen Landfill, Inc. (n/d/b as Advanced Disposal Services Evergreen Landfill, Inc.), and Deep South Regional Municipal Solid Waste Management Authority regarding the reconfiguration/expansion of the Veolia Evergreen Landfill and the proposed inclusion of the City's Wetherington Land Landfill site. Council also approved an Easement Agreement which was deeded to Veolia following completion of several requirements, including the relocation of the current footprint of the new Evergreen Landfill, and adding capacity that will serve the members of the Deep South Authority, including Valdosta and Lowndes County, for approximately 50 years of disposal. On November 10, 2010, Council approved a Project Development Agreement (PDA) between the City of Valdosta, Veolia ES Evergreen Landfill, Inc. (n/d/b as Advanced Disposal Services Evergreen Landfill, Inc.), and Deep South Regional Municipal Solid Waste Management Authority. The PDA made the terms of the LOU binding on the parties for purposes of this Project and specifically for inclusion in the Project of the closed City Landfill and the property containing it. Pursuant to the PDA, the City Landfill property was conveyed to the Deep South Authority, then leased back from the Authority to the City, and that same property was optioned for sale and transfer by the Deep South Authority to Veolia ES Evergreen Landfill, Inc. subject to receipt of the final permits for the larger Evergreen Landfill reconfiguration. It has recently been brought to the City's attention that 17.4 acres in the description of the City Landfill property was inadvertently omitted in the description of the City Landfill property in the PDA and related documents. The City will need to deed the 17.4 acre parcel to the Authority so a Warranty Deed has also been prepared. This amendment to the PDA will be in the name of Advanced Disposal Services Evergreen Landfill, Inc., along with the City of Valdosta and Deep South Authority. George Talley recommended that Council approve the amended the Project Development Agreement and Warranty Deed.

A **MOTION** by Councilman Carroll, seconded by Councilman Norton, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to approve the amended Project Development Agreement between the City of Valdosta, Veolia ES Evergreen Landfill, Inc. (n/d/b as Advanced Disposal Services Evergreen Landfill, Inc.), and Deep South Regional Municipal Solid Waste Management Authority and the Warranty Deed.

Consideration of a request to amend a Lease Agreement between the City of Valdosta and the Deep South Regional Municipal Solid Waste Management Authority for the City Landfill property.

George Talley, City Attorney, stated that pursuant to the PDA, the City Landfill property was conveyed to the Deep South Authority, then leased back from the Authority to the City, and that same property was optioned for sale and transfer by the Deep South Authority to Veolia ES Evergreen Landfill, Inc. subject to receipt of the final permits for the larger Evergreen Landfill reconfiguration. It was recently discovered that 17.4 acres in the description of the City Landfill property was inadvertently omitted in the Product Development Agreement (PDA) and related documents which includes the Lease Agreement. The Lease Agreement will need to be amended to include the 17.4 acres. George Talley recommended that Council approve the amendment to the Lease Agreement.

A **MOTION** by Councilman Carroll, seconded by Councilman Vickers, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to amend a Lease Agreement between the City of Valdosta and the Deep South Regional Municipal Solid Waste Management Authority for the City Landfill property.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that a Press Release was sent out earlier this week regarding the City and the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers signing a contract for the Flood Management Study. The City is pleased that the Army Corps of Engineers has moved so quickly. On June 25, 2013, the City hosted a meeting in Valdosta between the Georgia Silver Jackets and others from Moultrie, Sylvester, Tifton, Valdosta, Lowndes County, and Turner County who recognize this regional watershed flooding issue. On July 15, 2013, the Army Corps of Engineers signed the contract for a \$150,000 study and the City is paying 50% of that. On July 17, 2013, they had a group of people here in Valdosta touring the areas of the City that have experienced these flood events.

The 5th Annual People's Choice Photo Awards Contest was recently held and the interest has really grown. Lt. Carolyn McMillan of the Valdosta Fire Department won first place in the Heart of the City category and also won honorable mention in another category. Also noteworthy is that Mayor Pro Tem Alvin Payton, Jr. submitted a photo in the contest this year.

The Federal Home Loan Bank Grant Program is going well and to date we have 57 applications which are being processed. Some of the applications have already been forwarded and Richard Joyner and Staff are now out doing assessments of those homes to make sure that everything is in order and that they qualify. The City will continue to push this Program, and applications will be received through August 15, 2013.

This week Amanda Peacock, Main Street Manager, hosted a Regional Meeting of the Georgia Main Street Managers Association. Billy Peppers, who is the Georgia Department of Community Affairs Downtown Development Director, attended the Meeting as well as several Board Members of the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. Mr. Peppers said that the Valdosta Main Street Program is a shining example for other communities.

There are several appointments available on the Boards, Commissions, Authorities, and Advisory Committees and the deadline to apply is July 31, 2013. There is one slot on the Keep Lowndes-Valdosta Beautiful Board, one on the Public Art Advisory Committee that must be a Board Member of the Lowndes-Valdosta Arts Commission (LVAC), and one on the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that he and Mayor Gayle had an opportunity to be at Moody Air Force Base last week for the arrival of the first HC130J aircraft which will replace some of the 50-year old aircraft that have been serving in that capacity. This is an important part of the Moody Air Force Base and the U. S. Air Force rescue mission and they were pleased to be in attendance with former Senator Sam Nunn and others to celebrate that occasion.

Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that he and Mayor Gayle are serving on a Committee with Moody Air Force Base and other community representatives on an initiative called P4. There are 15 military installations selected to participate in this Public Private Public Partnership. It is for the military to look for opportunities to work with other governments and look at ways we can share resources and work together to support one another. They hope to have some information to share with Council members in the near future.

Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that we do not often see SPLOST in the context of solving crimes but a recent a murder in our City was solved in a couple of days due to the personnel and technology at the Crime Lab. Without the willingness of Council's support to invest in the Crime Lab, this murder would not have been resolved so quickly and perhaps not at all. The Crime Lab personnel were able to take ballistics from bullet shells and casings that were found at the scene, as well as the bullet from the body itself, and use ballistics technology to get an absolute match and have a second person in the Crime Lab validate that opinion. The Police were then able to get a warrant very quickly and capture the suspect before he disappeared. The Crime Lab was a SPLOST project and this shows how important it is, as well as the traffic camera initiative. It was Council’s willingness several years ago to broaden the policy for our cameras to be used not just for traffic but also in the event of serious crimes. We were able to use the cameras to identify the vehicle and see it as it entered I-75. Those are two examples showing not only how SPLOST benefits the community and the quality of life, but also how it helps to solve crimes.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Vickers commended the Police Department and the Crime Lab for their efforts in solving crimes. Councilman Vickers stated that State Representative Dexter Sharper was one of the first Council members to bring up the Crime Lab and he was very proud of the work being done there. Councilman Vickers also stated that he was at the landfill recently and was concerned about how quickly it is filling up because it is supposed to last for 50 years. Larry Hanson stated that there are three landfills out there which include the old closed City landfill, the large mound which is the second landfill that they are in the process of closing, and then the third landfill which is just opening. The way a landfill is constructed today is to build it and line it one cell at a time. There are 300 acres worth of future cells out there and part of the benefit from the action that was taken tonight is giving our old landfill so that trash can be exhumed and put into one of those cells. By the time that landfill is full, we will probably no longer be burying garbage. There is already emphasis on recycling and reuse and taking things out of the waste stream. You will also see more initiatives in turning trash into energy that can be either sold or utilized to power facilities.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

There were no citizens to be heard.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Gayle entertained a motion for adjournment.

A **MOTION** by Councilman Vickers, seconded by Councilman Carroll, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to adjourn the July 25, 2013 Meeting of the Valdosta City Council at 6:20 p.m. to meet again in Regular Session on Thursday, August 8, 2013.

City Clerk, City of Valdosta

Mayor, City of Valdosta