

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE VALDOSTA CITY COUNCIL
5:30 P.M., THURSDAY, AUGUST 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., Robert Yost and James Wright. Councilman John Eunice arrived at 5:40 p.m. The invocation was given by Councilman Alvin Payton, Jr., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS

Special presentation on the 2008 Southern Hospitality Group Workcamp.

Mayor Fretti stated that he was pleased to present awards for the 2008 Southern Hospitality Group Workcamp which has been a partnership between various community organizations and many dedicated individuals. One week during the summer months, the City of Valdosta has over 400 students from 10 different states and representing 12 different denominations to help with repairs of houses. This program has been so successful that Lowe's is now considering taking this to the national level and would like to use Valdosta as a model to train others to help eliminate substandard housing. Mayor Fretti presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Richard Joyner, Neighborhood Development Department, who is the heart and of soul of the Group Workcamp and recognized the Valdosta Police Department, the Valdosta Fire Department, and the Public Works Department for their outstanding support during the Workcamp. The Police Department provided security for the campers during their stay, the Fire Department conducted smoke detector inspections and fire education for each homeowner, and the Public Works Department ensured that the construction debris was cleared away from each site. Mayor Fretti also recognized City Marshals James Dean, Glenn Chauncey, Rick Folsom, and Diane Lovern for their efforts to ensure that all of the campers at each site remained hydrated.

Mayor Fretti stated that Habitat for Humanity and Lowe's Distribution Center provided construction assistance and site coaching for the Workcamp and presented Certificates of Appreciation to Larry Henderson and Warren Scoby, Habitat for Humanity, and Greg Battles, Lowe's Distribution Center. Lowe's also played a significant role in coordinating all of the materials purchased for the Workcamp and ensuring that the materials were correctly delivered to each site. Mayor Fretti recognized Larry Smith and Chris Carter for their tireless efforts to ensure the materials portion of the Workcamp was handled for each site.

Mayor Fretti presented special awards to the following individuals for their support of the Group Workcamp: (1) Dr. Ronnie Mathis and Rev. Chris Michael of the Valdosta Area Ministerial Alliance (VAMA) for presenting new bibles to each of the homeowners, (2) Helen Baker of Christian Love Ministries, Kenneth Marshall of Southland Church, and Cindy Robinson of Park Avenue United Methodist Church for their participation in the Homeowner's Reception, (3) Sandra Jones of Georgia Power for ensuring the safety of the campers during the week by insulating and protecting the electrical services going into each home, (4) Stuart Mullis, Executive Director for the Valdosta-Lowndes Habitat for Humanity affiliate, for his support, and (5) America's Second Harvest Food Bank of South Georgia for providing water and snacks for the campers during the entire week at no charge to the City.

Mayor Fretti presented the final awards to the following individuals and organizations who played a vital role in hosting the Southern Hospitality Workcamp: (1) Dr. David Cole, Valdosta Middle School Principal, for the continued support in providing a home-away-from-home for the campers at Valdosta Middle School, (2) Jimmy Holmes of Wild Adventures for graciously hosting a half day of fun and relaxation for the campers, and (3) Tony Gariety, Lowe's Distribution Center Manager and official Co-Sponsor, for Lowe's significant contribution and continued commitment to the Southern Hospitality Workcamp.

Mara Register, Assistant to the City Manager, acknowledged all of the homeowners in attendance and thanked the Mayor, City Council, and the City Manager for their continued support of this wonderful effort to eliminate substandard housing in our community. Ms. Register asked homeowners Ms. Mary Berrien and Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Scurry to share their thoughts about the Group Workcamp. Ms. Berrien stated that she enjoyed having the young people at her home and having it repaired. Mr. and Mrs. Scurry stated that they were blessed to have their house repaired since they did not have the money to do it themselves and they thanked the City of Valdosta and all of the workers and young people for a great job.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Ruth Chastain, 806 Lamar Street, stated that her residence is located near the S. L. Mason Elementary School and she was concerned about the bus route on Lamar Street and Monroe Street. The bus drivers are not using the route they are supposed to take. They are also disregarding the street signs on Monroe Street, ignoring the left turn sign coming out of the school, the no right turn on Lamar Street, and they are disregarding a Stop sign for buses leaving the school. There have been two patrolmen directing traffic but more are needed. Ms. Chastain stated that she would like a speed limit sign placed on Lamar Street, a school zone sign on Lamar Street and Monroe Street, and possibly a speed break because she was concerned about the safety of the children in this community.

Annette Brown, 625 Monroe Street, stated that she had a petition from the residents in that area about the bus route. Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that the City would investigate their concerns and take the necessary action and encouraged Ms. Brown to present the petition to the Valdosta City School Board and Dr. Bill Cason, Superintendent of Valdosta City Schools. The bus drivers are not employed by the City of Valdosta but the Valdosta City School System would want to know what is taking place and they would address the issue. The City will address the sign issue, consider some type of speed control device at the Stop sign, and have an Officer pay particular attention in that area to help discourage and prevent that behavior.

Mary Moye, 620 Monroe Street, stated that she has a list of the buses that travel down Monroe Street and she has called the Superintendent of the Valdosta City School as well as Diane Ferrell, Transportation Director for Valdosta City Schools. Ms. Ferrell advised Ms. Moye that she would address the situation with the bus drivers but several bus drivers indicated to Ms. Moye that no one has spoken to them about traveling down Monroe Street. Councilman Vickers noted that he previously met with Von Shipman, City Engineer, and the Valdosta City School System and the agreement that was reached was that no buses would travel down Monroe Street.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

REQUEST TO APPROVE THE TRANSPORTATION MASTER PLAN FOR THE CITY OF VALDOSTA

Consideration of a request to approve the Transportation Master Plan for the City of Valdosta.

John Funny, Grice & Associates, 1349 West Peachtree Street, Atlanta, stated that he has developed the City of Valdosta's Transportation Master Plan in accordance with all Federal rules and regulations to ensure that the City is in compliance. Mr. Funny presented a policy blueprint to guide the City's transportation investment strategies through 2030. This Transportation Master Plan articulates a long-term, multi-modal vision for the City of Valdosta's future transportation system in which travelers can conveniently access a variety of modes to complete trips that meet their individual business needs. The Plan includes strategies for managing and operating the City's multi-modal transportation network encompassing highway, rail, transit, bike, and pedestrian infrastructures and was developed with partnership and support of transportation agencies and stakeholders throughout the City. Input was received at nine public hearings, one six-hour workshop, and one six-hour office visitation well as during an extensive 75-day public comment period held during the months of June and July. Each comment received was

considered and incorporated as appropriate to the intent of the Plan. The Plan is centered on the customer's expectation of the City's transportation system and these expectations are summarized in five distinct but interrelated themes: (1) capacity and network connection, (2) operations and safety, (3) bike and pedestrians, (4) system preservation, and (5) transit. The Plan is organized around these five themes. The priority results and performance in each of these areas will be measured in order to effectively manage the performance of the City's transportation system. The Plan recognizes that investment prioritization must be focused on the City's most critical multi-modal transportation corridors and recommend a multi-modal prioritization process. Additionally, the Plan promotes a collaborative approach to transportation planning and investment decision making among the many public and private owners and operators of the City's diverse transportation network. The Plan establishes a visionary framework for the City's transportation needs well into the future. It goes beyond the seams of the City limits to address transportation needs as the City and the County continues to experience economic development and positive growth. This visionary Plan allows the City to initiate conversation with neighboring planning partners in support of the goals and objectives of how this area grows and how it handles the traffic associated with growth. Doing nothing is not an option as the City looks to support growth and economic development to sustain its fiscal responsibilities. Many cities across the United States have literally strangled themselves by not accommodating growth with a transportation plan. Mr. Funny commended the Mayor and City Council for taking a bold stance in developing a Transportation Plan that creates a vision for the City of Valdosta's future transportation system. Transportation is paramount to the quality of life and economic well being for the City of Valdosta as it supports the surrounding areas. The Transportation Master Plan focuses on the ability of the City of Valdosta's transportation system to safely and effectively meet the current and future mobility needs of residents, visitors, and businesses. Mr. Funny presented the Mayor and Council with a copy of the Transportation Master Plan and a Map Book that lists each project associated with the recommendation as well as a project list that prioritizes each project.

Councilman Yost inquired as to why sidewalks would not be placed all the way down from Alden Avenue to Baytree Road and whether an item on the list which has been designated as long-term or mid-term could be changed to short-term. Mayor Fretti stated that Council could suggest changes to the priority list but Council could also make changes at their discretion. There should also be periodic updates since this is a 30-year plan. Mr. Funny stated that this is a living document and should be updated periodically and the document can be used to assist the City in creating an annual work program. The projects have been identified and the prioritization can be shifted based upon when the Plan is updated or revisited. Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that each year during the budget hearings the capital projects are presented for that year and for a five-year period. Council will have an opportunity to have input on every project and adjust those accordingly based upon needs. Mr. Funny commended the citizens of Valdosta for their participation in the survey which was used to help formulate what the constituents were thinking as it relates to the Plan. Generally there is a 5-8% return of the surveys and in the City of Valdosta, approximately 30% of the surveys that were sent out were returned. As a part of the survey, a question was asked as to what the citizens consider to be a priority and this information was used by the consultant to help formulate the prioritization of the projects as well as input from the public meetings. Councilman Payton inquired as to whether there would be additional opportunities to add projects to the Plan because the Eastwind Sidewalk Project from Forrest Street to Tyndall Drive was not on the list. Mr. Funny stated that they would address that project. Councilman Head stated that Council would be voting on the Plan in concept with the idea that some of the projects may or may not take place. Mr. Funny stated that the purpose of the Transportation Master Plan was to set the framework and concept of things that the City should be progressively doing over the next 30 years. Each project in the Plan would need to go through a full engineering process which brings in environmental studies, public involvement, and underground surface studies. For example, if a recommended project goes through an environmental study and it is determined that there is an endangered species that resides in that area then that could kill the project. Councilman Head stated that there was considerable discussion and concern about the round-about at Five Points and there was a business owner who was concerned that customers would not be able to get to his business with the depicted round-about. Mr. Funny stated that they looked at the best practices of several different cities as to how to handle five or six roadway segments that converge into one point. The round-about has best been utilized to help mitigate the safety concerns as well as the operational concerns. The round-about that was conceptually drawn for the Five Points area was simply to give citizens an idea of what it could look like. When that project gets to the engineering phase, it will deal specifically with the business owners as well as the citizens to better facilitate the design of the round-about. Mr. Funny stated that they were recommending several redevelopment plans and the Five Point area was recommended as one of those plans. This will give the business

owners and residents of that area an opportunity to meet with the land use planners, urban designers, and transportation designers to determine what they want to see in that area and how the transportation system fits into that area as it redevelops. Councilman Head inquired as to what was meant by short-term, mid-term, and long-term. Mr. Funny stated that short-term would be one to six years, mid-term projects would be seven to thirteen years, and the long-term projects would be fifteen years and above. Councilman Wright stated that he was glad to hear that the Transportation Master Plan was a living document and he was also concerned about the priority of sidewalks. They learn new information on a daily basis and the Plan may need to be amended accordingly. Councilman Yost inquired as to whether there was a document that breaks down the projects according to length and budget. Larry Hanson stated that in 1997 the City of Valdosta adopted a Storm Drainage Master Plan which contained approximately 65 projects. Over the last 11 years, the City has been working on that plan and one of the top 10 projects was to place a retention pond in McKey Park. This project was brought before Council and a number of people spoke against the project at the public hearing so it was decided not to move the project forward. The Water and Sewer Master Plan was adopted in 1999 and it is often impossible to predict the growth and pace of growth in certain areas. The City is doing projects now and will also be doing a project for the Bray property area because it was not contemplated in 1999 that there would be a change in land use. The Transportation Master Plan is a blueprint and is subject to revision based on real life changes. Councilman Yost stated that some of the short-term projects will be able to be completed in this year's budget because some of them are sidewalks and there is sidewalk money appropriated; however, some of the major items for the mid and long-term plans would have to be in a future SPLOST. Larry Hanson stated that some of the mid and long-range projects are expected to be Federally-funded and as a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), the City would be entitled to a certain amount of Federal funds. The City will be using both SPLOST and other funds. Councilman Yost inquired as to whether Council should prioritize some of the State and Federally-funded projects at the next Mayor/Council Retreat. Larry Hanson stated that the first step would be to incorporate the projects into the MPO in order to get it Federally-funded and to have Council approve this concept for the projects. The Governor of Georgia has recently announced that there will be a series of transportation hearings for the State to develop a plan similar to what Valdosta is doing and Valdosta has been selected as one of the eight communities to hold a State-wide meeting because they see us as being progressive in how we are dealing with transportation issues. Councilman Head inquired as to a list of some of the suggested funding sources. Mr. Funny stated that they would provide Council with a list to ensure that the City has the correct grant application information for a particular project. Mr. Funny thanked the Mayor and Council for selecting Grice & Associates for utilization of their services in this process and commended the City of Valdosta for taking a bold stance in developing a Transportation Master Plan.

Mayor Fretti asked for public comments on the Transportation Master Plan.

Ansley Wood, Waffle House, Inc., 5986 Financial Drive, Norcross, Georgia, stated that she was concerned about the round-about at the Five Points area because it would have an effect on their business. When a median is installed, they anticipate a drop in sales of approximately 20% or more and this round-about would be worse than a median. Ms. Wood stated that Waffle House wants to work with the community but asked that other alternatives be considered because this is their highest sales volume restaurant in the area. Even if additional access points were put in it may still cause confusion to those people who are not local. Mayor Fretti stated that the Transportation Master Plan does not limit the City from utilizing new ideas in the future. Ms. Wood stated that Waffle House was not made aware of this by the City of Valdosta and they were not notified of any of the public hearings. Mayor Fretti stated that this is a comprehensive plan that affects almost every commercial, retail, industrial, and residential development and while it was advertised there was no way that the City could contact every single registered owner of property; however, as some of the projects get closer to the areas then property owners would be notified.

Mark Wilson, Langdale Industries, P. O. Box 1088, stated that he was the Governmental Affairs Chairman for the Valdosta-Lowndes County Chamber of Commerce and was speaking on their behalf. The Chamber of Commerce formed a committee that worked with Von Shipman, City Engineer, and John Funny, Grice & Associates, in order to understand the Transportation Master Plan. After studying the Plan, they crafted some language to look at the main concerns of business community. The committee sent the language to the Chamber of Commerce members in the form of a survey and approximately 11% of the membership responded. With this feedback, the following four items were identified as issues of greatest concern in order of priority: (1) construction of a southern bypass which would bypass truck traffic from the downtown area and create several

improvements with regard to railroad issues and an overpass that would connect at the Interstate as well as provide an opportunity to redevelop the City's south side, (2) improve the public transportation system through the implementation of a bus and transit system, (3) aesthetics of the Plan would provide gateways to the community to promote a clean, beautiful, and appealing look to the entrances of the City, and (4) bicycle and pedestrian paths would provide a safe and inviting way for young professionals, senior citizens, and families to exercise and move throughout the City. Mr. Wilson commended the City for the process which allowed for input from citizens and encouraged future collaboration for all the parties to work together.

Charles Foster, 2312 Toombs Street, stated that he has property that would be affected by the Transportation Master Plan. Mr. Foster had previously asked Mr. Funny about the project for extending Woodrow Wilson Drive to Gornto Road and whether a street that currently exists between Oak Street and Toombs Street could be used instead of taking part of his property which is in the existing Plan. He was told that they would look into it. Mr. Foster inquired as to what he needed to do and whether he should wait until the bulldozers come in. Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that would be addressed during the engineering phase. Once an engineering firm is hired, they will design the project and take into account the route and whether it could be adjusted. They would also consider stormwater issues, right-of-ways, and property acquisitions all of which will play a part in the final determination. Mr. Foster would also be contacted and would have several opportunities for input. Mr. Foster inquired as to the timeframe for the project. Mayor Fretti stated that the project was on the short-term list and it will be up to Council to push the project forward or not. Larry Hanson stated that currently the City does not own enough property to build that project even though some property has been acquired.

Stephen Manning, 1610 Boone Drive, stated that there was some confusion for the residents of the Sustella extension area. Mr. Manning inquired as to whether the Sustella extension, which was supposed to go over Baytree Road to Pinetree, Buford, Azalea, Boone, and then out to Georgia Avenue and Oak Street, has been dropped. Larry Hanson stated that this particular project is not listed in the current Transportation Master Plan.

Councilman Carroll stated that he had attended many of the public forums and various meetings and after hearing a lot of comments and concerns and it is important to recognize the transparency through which this Plan has been developed. Councilman Carroll commended Mr. John Funny, Grice & Associates, City Staff, City Manager, Mayor and Council, and numerous citizens and stakeholders in the community who have actively participated in the development of the first ever Transportation Master Plan. In some cases, there were some items that were completely removed, some have changed, and several more will need very close scrutiny as the Plan is implemented. A great many will require the input, cooperation, and support of Lowndes County, the Georgia Department of Transportation, and the Federal government. Components of plans that look 20 and 30 years out can be difficult to grasp. The strokes are broad and sometimes impossible to consider. Virtually everyone will agree that our City has transportation issues that have developed over the past 30 years. Now new and innovative concepts are required to address these issues. This Transportation Master Plan offers both simple solutions and innovative concepts; however, to address all the concerns, we need to make it clear to our citizens, our future elected officials, staff, and consultants that this document serves as a guide and, as mentioned many times tonight, a living document, and as such, will require the City to take an inclusive and thorough review of various components of stated projects prior to construction or implementation. Councilman Carroll also noted that the Transportation Master Plan should be reviewed for periodic updates by this body in order to keep it current.

A MOTION was made by Councilman Carroll to adopt the Transportation Master Plan for the City of Valdosta with the rationale and stated conditions as noted above. The motion was seconded by Councilman Yost. Councilman Yost stated that he felt Council could pass the Plan tonight, but if Council as a body does not act on this in the very near future then it has not done anyone any good. The challenge will be for the Manager and Staff to come up with a plan as soon as possible to go through and start prioritizing the projects or to set up another time to review the projects in the near future instead of waiting until February or March. Some of the short-term projects may need to be moved up because of issues brought up in each Councilman's district and what the constituents want. It is very important that once the Plan has been passed that Staff develops a plan as soon as possible for Council to start acting on some of these items to make this a working Plan. Councilman Head commended Councilman Yost for his comments and noted that since the City has gone through this exercise the eyes of the public are on Council to see how and when they will act. Councilman Vickers commended Mr. Funny, the City

Manager, and Staff on the job they have done on the Transportation Master Plan but noted that he previously had some reservations about the short-term; however, he would go along with Councilman Carroll's motion and asked that Council come up with a politically acceptable short-term list of projects. Councilman Vickers stated that he was originally going to suggest that this be postponed until the first meeting in September but based on what other Council members have said he would support the adoption of the living document and then make adjustments to it as necessary. Larry Hanson stated that he would work with Council to balance the needs of the various Districts and would bring a plan to Council which demonstrates that the City is going to be prepared to accelerate these projects. Councilman Vickers called the question. Mayor Fretti stated that he would like for Council to consider a mid-term mini retreat in Valdosta to discuss transportation projects. The motion was unanimously adopted (7-0).

Mayor Fretti excused Councilman Head, Councilman Payton, and Councilman Eunice at 6:58 p.m. to attend a previously scheduled event.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-12, A RESOLUTION FOR THE STATE HIGHWAY ROUTE 133 WIDENING PROJECT

Consideration of a Resolution for the State Highway Route 133 Widening Project.

Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated the Georgia Department of Transportation held a meeting on July 30, 2008 in Moultrie regarding the State Highway Route 133 Widening Project from Albany to Moultrie. During this meeting, a resolution in support of the four lane project was handed out and all of the listed governments have been asked to approve the language prior to a public meeting being held on August 27, 2008.

A MOTION by Councilman Vickers, seconded by Councilman Carroll, was unanimously adopted (4-0) to enact Resolution No. 2008-12, a Resolution for the State Highway Route 133 Widening Project, the complete text of which will be found in Resolution Book IV.

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-13, A RESOLUTION FOR THE VALDOSTA BOARD OF EDUCATION ISSUANCE OF BONDS

Consideration of a Resolution for the Valdosta Board of Education issuance of bonds.

Gary Moser, Attorney for the Valdosta City School Board, stated that during the last SPLOST election, the City of Valdosta offered the citizens an opportunity to vote on a 1% sales and use tax for educational purposes for a period of time not to exceed five years and the issuance of general obligation bonds by the Valdosta School System in the amount of \$26,000,000. The Valdosta School System issued \$15,000,000 in general obligation bonds in March, 2007 and they have now determined that it is in their best interest to issue an additional \$10,000,000 in general obligation bonds. George Talley, City Attorney, stated that the City must adopt the resolution because the City is the taxing entity for the Valdosta School Board.

A MOTION by Councilman Carroll, seconded by Councilman Vickers, was unanimously adopted (4-0) to enact Resolution No. 2008-13, a Resolution for the Valdosta Board of Education issuance of bonds, the complete text of which will be found in Resolution Book IV.

BIDS, CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS, AND EXPENDITURES

Mayor Fretti asked Council to consider Agenda Items 7(a) through 7(e) under a Consent Agenda. Greg Brown, Purchasing Agent, informed Council 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 7(a) - Consideration of bids for ready mix concrete for various City Departments (Bid No. 02-08-09) – the low bid was submitted by Reames Concrete for Class A in the

amount of \$97.75 cubic yard and Class B in the amount of \$89.75 cubic yard, (2) Item 7(b) – Consideration of bids for mobile data terminals for the Police Department (Bid No. 05-08-09) – the sole source bid was submitted by Motorola in the amount of \$51,004.40, (3) Item 7(c) – Consideration of bids for a front end loader truck for the Public Works Department (Bid No. 06-08-09) – the low bid meeting specifications was submitted by Consolidated Disposal in the amount of \$197,336, (4) Item 7(d) – Consideration of bids for two K-9 Police dogs and training for the Police Department (Bid No. 14-08-09) – the sole source bid was submitted by Kassenburgh Canine Training Center in the amount of \$21,500, (5) Item 7(e) – Consideration of bids for a sewer/drainage camera system for the Engineering Department (Bid No. 15-08-09) – the sole source bid was submitted from Insight Vision in the amount of \$27,420.

A MOTION by Councilman Vickers, seconded by Councilman Carroll, was unanimously adopted (4-0) to approve the bids recommended by the Purchasing Agent under a Consent Agenda for Agenda Items 7(a) through 7(e).

Consideration of bids for the Wood Valley Community Center improvements.

Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that improvements need to be made to the Wood Valley Community Center located on Gornto Road in order to meet the needs of the community. The total budget for this project is \$258,000. The improvements include demolition of the front porch, construction of a new drop off area, demolition of the parking lot and construction of a new parking lot with walkways, landscaping, a new walking track, renovations to the interior which include eliminating one bathroom and the old baptistry and adding a janitor closet, lighting, new doors, and flooring. There is approximately \$70,000 remaining in the project budget which will be used to add a picnic pavilion and will be done outside of this contract. Bids were received on August 12, 2008 with the low bid submitted by Eric Connell Construction in the amount of \$189,650. Larry Hanson recommended that Council approve the low bid submitted by Eric Connell Construction in the amount of \$189,650 plus a 10% contingency. Councilman Yost inquired about funds for the playground. Eric Hahn, Interim Parks and Recreation Director, stated that the difference would be made up with general park improvements.

A MOTION was made by Councilman Yost to approve the low bid submitted by Eric Connell Construction in the amount of \$189,650 plus a 10% contingency for improvements to the Wood Valley Community Center. Councilman Vickers seconded the motion. Councilman Carroll commended Councilman Yost and Council in recognizing a sensitive timing issue need and addressing it quickly as well as getting the necessary funding set up to complete the project. Councilman Carroll stated that he was very supportive of the project and noted that District 5 is also in need of public recreation and he would like to see the same spirit of support and cooperation for a facility in that District. The motion was unanimously adopted (4-0).

LOCAL FUNDING AND REQUESTS

Consideration of a request to approve the 2009 Local Road Assistance Program (LARP) list.

Von Shipman, City Engineer, stated that the Georgia Department of Transportation (DOT) helps all local governments resurface streets each year. The amount of resurfacing is based on population, the number of miles of paved streets in each local government, and the total allocation of funds to the Local Road Assistance Program (LARP). Candidates are evaluated by DOT personnel. Last year a list of 41 streets was submitted for consideration and the following streets were selected: (1) Bay Meadow Drive from Park Avenue to Moore Street, (2) Baytree Drive from Baytree Road to McArthur Drive, (3) Bethune Street from Continental Drive to Clay Road, (4) Jackson Street from Patterson Street to Toombs Street, (5) Mary Street from Ashley Street to Patterson Street, (6) McRee Drive from Gordon Place to Alden Avenue, (7) Orlando Drive from Habersham Road to Randolph Street, and (8) Pershing Place off Quincy Circle. There are now 32 remaining streets that were submitted last year but not selected since Moss Way Trail was taken up by Council business at the last meeting on a reconstruction project. Von Shipman recommended that the streets not selected this year be resubmitted. A determination will be made in February, 2009 and the balance of streets not selected will be candidates for resurfacing under the SPLOST program. If the cost of asphalt has stabilized by late winter or early spring then the City should have sufficient SPLOST resurfacing funds available to put out a resurfacing contract.

A **MOTION** by Councilman Yost, seconded by Councilman Carroll, was unanimously adopted (4-0) to approve the 2009 Local Road Assistance Program (LARP) list.

Consideration of a request to reimburse the Valdosta Housing Authority for Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT).

Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that the Housing Authority has requested that the City reimburse the PILOT funds which are used to pay the City in lieu of paying property taxes. The City has asked the Housing Authority to consider making that request for a specific designated purpose to allow Council to see how they intend to use the funds. This would also be reviewed on an annual basis. The Valdosta Board of Education which collects the majority of the tax has already agreed to return their proceeds which is approximately \$38,000. This would allow the City to return approximately \$11,000 and the Housing Authority would use the funds to provide after school programs and other services in the two community centers in the Hudson Docket and the Ora Lee West Housing Projects. Larry Hanson recommended that Council approve the request for this specific purpose only and for this year only and to re-evaluate it in the future.

A **MOTION** by Councilman Carroll, seconded by Councilman Vickers, was unanimously adopted (4-0) to follow the recommendation of the City Manager and approve the request to reimburse the Valdosta Housing Authority for Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT).

Consideration of a request to transfer surplus vehicles to the District Attorney's Office.

Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that over the last several years the State has continued to cut funds for many State agencies including the District Attorney's Office. The Valdosta Police Department works in close collaboration with the District Attorney's Office and due to the City's vehicle replacement program we have been able to roll out some vehicles that are in much better condition than what the District Attorney's Office Investigators have to drive. Larry Hanson recommended that Council approve the request to transfer two surplus vehicles to the District Attorney's office for \$1.00 each to be used by their Investigators.

A **MOTION** by Councilman Wright, seconded by Councilman Carroll, was unanimously adopted (4-0) to approve the request to transfer two surplus vehicles to the District Attorney's Office for \$1.00 each to be used by their Investigators.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that measures have been implemented this year to reduce the City's fuel consumption in City vehicles and the employees have done a tremendous job. From May, 2007 to May 2008, consumption was reduced by 2,098 gallons, 2,444 gallons from June, 2007 to June, 2008, and 3,104 gallons from July, 2007 to July, 2008. Over the three month period that this has been introduced, the City has reduced fuel consumption by \$7,646.

The Governor's Office has announced a series of transportation meetings around the State and Valdosta has been selected along with Macon, Savannah, Dalton, Atlanta, Columbus, and Augusta. The DOT Commissioner, Gena Abraham, and the GRETA Executive Director, Dick Anderson, and their Staff will be hosting these meetings around the State.

Larry Hanson stated that the most recent storm update indicates that Valdosta will be getting some fairly heavy rain beginning around 2:00 a.m. tomorrow and it will be at its heaviest between mid morning and the afternoon. Valdosta could receive approximately six to eight inches of rain and if the storm moves slightly to the north the rain amount could increase to eight to ten inches. There is not much wind associated with the storm but there could be some flash flooding. At this time there has been no reason to call the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and we will continue to receive updates on the storm.

Mayor Fretti stated that he distributed an article to Council regarding the Cobb County Board of Commissioners and a Federal Judge who refused to place an injunction on their meetings because the ACLU wanted them to stop having an invocation. The ACLU is now appealing that decision.

Mayor Fretti asked that John Whitehead, Deputy City Manager of Operations, keep track of the landfill tonnage since the County has been struggling with this issue. Some citizens of Valdosta and smaller cities have been disallowed to take their trash to the County collection sites and the City's landfill tonnage maybe going up because of this. The County is still in a discovery period on this and they have not made any decisions. Mayor Fretti stated that he has been told that some residents will be cleaning out their garage which they normally take to the collection site; however, if they are not allowed to use the site then they will find a commercial dumpster or some other place to dump it and the City will have to pay for it one way or the other. Larry Hanson stated that he would have John Whitehead monitor the situation because he has also been told by individuals who live in the County and in other cities that because of the lack of a program in the County they are bringing their garbage to work and disposing of it in dumpsters in the City which means the City will bear the cost of disposal at the landfill.

Councilman Vickers stated that he has received a lot of complaints from City residents about the County's disposal sites and he has heard that the County's tonnage has dropped significantly. The City needs to stay on top of this issue. Larry Hanson stated that the end result will not only be an increase in the City's cost but it will also increase litter and illegal dumping in the City which we do not want that to happen.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Fretti entertained a motion for adjournment.

A **MOTION** by Councilman Vickers, seconded by Councilman Carroll, was unanimously adopted (4-0) to adjourn the August 21, 2008 meeting of the Valdosta City Council at 7:24 p.m. to meet again in regular session on Thursday, September 11, 2008.

City Clerk, City of Valdosta

Mayor, City of Valdosta