

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE VALDOSTA CITY COUNCIL
5:30 P.M., THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 2016
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL

OPENING CEREMONIES

Mayor John Gayle called the regular meeting of the Valdosta City Council to order at 5:30 p.m. Council members present were: Joseph "Sonny" Vickers, Tim Carroll, Ben Norton, Alvin Payton, Jr., Sandra Tooley, Robert Yost, and Vivian Miller-Cody. The invocation was given by Pastor Chuck Owens, First Baptist Church, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

READING OF THE ELECTION RESULTS

Reading of 2015 Municipal Election, Special Election, and the Run-off Election Results.

Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that results of the 2015 General Municipal Election and Special Election held on November 3, 2015 have been certified by the Board of Elections. The results for the Valdosta City Council are as follows: (1) Valdosta Mayor - John Gayle (Incumbent) received 2,828 votes (52.38%), J. D. Rice received 2,414 (44.71%), Brooks D. Bivins received 155 (2.87%), and Write-in votes received 2 (0.04%). (2) Valdosta City Council At Large District - Ben H. Norton (Incumbent) received 2,843 (56.07%), Ronnie Pierce received 1,098 (21.66%), Gregory Williams, Jr. received 446 (8.80%), Linda Jurczak received 378 (7.46%), Jim Parker received 274 (5.40%), and Write-in votes received 31 (0.61%). (3) Valdosta City Council District 1 - James Wright (Incumbent) received 226 (25.39%), Vivian Miller-Cody received 417 (46.85%), Wade S. McCrae received 247 (27.75%), and Write-in votes received 0. (4) Valdosta City Council District 3 - Joseph "Sonny" Vickers received 337 (61.16%), Marion Ricco Ramsey received 213 (38.66%), and Write-in votes received 1 (0.18%). (5) Valdosta City Council District 5 - Tim Carroll (Incumbent) received 1,431 (85.84%), Dallas Bennett received 234 (14.04%), and Write-in votes received 2 (0.12%).

The results for the Valdosta City School Board are as follows: (1) Valdosta School Board At Large - Stacy Bush received 3,131 votes (61.82%), Edward Mack received 1,925 votes (38.01%), and Write-ins received 9 votes (0.18%). (2) Valdosta School Board District 6 (Special Election) - Tad Moseley received 686 votes (79.58%), R. D. Martin received 173 votes (20.07%), and Write-ins received 3 votes (0.35%). (4) Valdosta School Board District 7 - Debra Bell (Incumbent) received 1,880 votes (99.26%), and Write-ins received 14 votes (0.74%). (5) Valdosta School Board District 8 - Kelly C. Wilson (Incumbent) received 2,719 votes (99.34%), and Write-ins received 18 votes (0.66%).

Results of the General Municipal Run-off Election held on December 1, 2015 have been certified by the Board of Elections. The results are as follows: (1) Valdosta City Council District 1 - Vivian Miller-Cody received 295 votes (80.60%) and Wade S. McCrae received 71 votes (19.40%).

A MOTION by Councilman Vickers, seconded by Councilman Payton, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to approve the reading of the results of the 2015 Municipal Election, Special Election, and the Run-off Election.

OATHS OF OFFICE FOR THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL DISTRICTS 1, 3, 5, AND AT LARGE

Oaths of Office for the Mayor and Council Districts 1, 3, 5, and At Large.

The Honorable James G. Tunison, Jr. of the Southern Judicial Circuit administered the Oath of Office for Mayor John Gayle, Councilwoman Vivian Miller-Cody (District 1), Councilman Joseph Sonny Vickers (District 3), Councilman Tim Carroll (District 5), and Councilman Ben Norton (At Large). Copies of the Oaths of Office are on record in the permanent file of the January 7, 2016 regular meeting of the governing body.

ELECTION OF THE MAYOR PRO TEM AND OATH OF OFFICE

Mayor Gayle entertained nominations from Council for the office of Mayor Pro Tem. Councilman Vickers placed in consideration the name of Councilman Alvin Payton, Jr. There being no other nominations, Mayor Gayle closed nominations. Councilman Payton was elected as Mayor Pro Tem by acclamation.

The Honorable Superior Court Judge James G. Tunison, Jr. of the Southern Judicial Circuit administered the Oath of Office for Mayor Pro Tem to Councilman Payton. A copy of the Oath of Office is on record in the permanent file of the January 7, 2016 regular meeting of the governing body.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS**EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH AWARD**

Consideration of the January, 2016 Employee of the Month Award (Lt. Carolyn McMillan and Firefighter Christopher Scott, Fire Department).

Carolyn McMillan began her employment with the City of Valdosta Fire Department in June, 2005 as a Firefighter and presently holds the position of Lieutenant. Lt. McMillan is responsible for managing the daily operations at the company level which includes overseeing up to three employees, monitoring tasks during emergency incidents, and upholding the Fire Department's mission, vision, and core values. Christopher Scott began his employment with the City of Valdosta Fire Department in November, 2009 as a Firefighter which is the position he currently holds. Firefighter Scott is responsible for responding to emergency incidents and providing fire, rescue, medical, hazmat, and special rescue services to the citizens and community. In an effort to better serve the community, the Valdosta Fire Department partnered with Wiregrass Technical College to start training their employees at the Emergency Medical Technician level. In addition to the classroom lectures, each student participates in ride-along clinical with South Georgia Medical Center (SGMC) Emergency Medical Services (EMS). During a recent training class, the Fire Department was notified by the Training Captain at SGMC EMS that Lt. McMillan and Firefighter Scott were involved in a call that resulted in a life being saved. The SGMC EMS commended Lt. McMillan and Firefighter Scott for jumping in feet first as students and letting their skills and knowledge assist EMS in making a difference in a person's life. Edward F. Croker once said, "When a man becomes a Fireman, his greatest act of bravery has been accomplished. What he does after that is all in the line of work." For these reasons and many others, the Employee Relations Committee nominated Lieutenant Carolyn McMillan and Firefighter Chris Scott as Employees of the Month.

PRESENTATION OF THE MUNICIPAL AUDIT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

Presentation of the Municipal Audit for Fiscal Year 2015.

Chuck Dinkins, Finance Director, stated that the purpose of an annual audit is to review the financial statements, footnotes, and supplementary information to ensure compliance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) and to provide an opinion on the financial statements. The audit of the City of Valdosta's Fiscal Year 2015 CAFR was conducted by the firm of Henderson & Godbee, a local full service accounting firm with significant experience in governmental auditing. The audit team leaders were Mark Rogers, Engagement Partner, and Scott Simpson, Engagement Manager.

Mark Rogers, Engagement Partner, stated that they have completed the audit of financial statements for the City of Valdosta for the year ending June 30, 2015 and have issued an unqualified auditors' report on those financial statements dated December 31, 2015. The financial statements of the City of Valdosta show a sound financial position for the City. The General Fund ended with a budgetary income of \$668,466. Revenues received totaled \$32,208,197 and were over budgeted amounts by \$227,053. Expenditures were \$31,012,726 and were under budget by \$972,695 on a budgetary basis. Net transfers out were \$527,005 and were over budget by \$610,511. The Special Revenue Funds had revenues of \$3,674,230 and expenditures of \$2,906,142. The majority of the activity was in Accommodations Tax Fund which accounted for \$2,725,208 of the revenue and \$2,038,754 of the expenditures. The HUD Fund accounted for \$790,670 of the revenue and \$608,795 of the expenditures. The Capital Projects Funds had revenues of \$13,664,757 and expenditures of \$19,691,821. The Sales Tax 2007 Fund and the Sales Tax 2013 Fund accounted for \$12,584,447 of the revenues and \$18,613,469 of the expenditures for the year. The Airport Improvements Fund had revenues of \$1,080,310 and expenditures of \$1,045,235. The Enterprise Funds total revenues were \$25,055,276, expenses were \$22,176,714, capital contribution of \$15,223,047 and operating transfers out of \$2,432,363 resulting in net income of \$14,560,876. The Water/Sewer Reserve Fund revenues were \$17,153,046 resulting in net income of \$14,651,751. The Sanitation Fund revenues were \$4,762,126 resulting in a net (loss) of \$(311,202). The Inspections Fund revenues were \$920,440 resulting in a net (loss) of

\$(34,003). The Stormwater Fund had net income of \$42,021 on revenues of \$1,286,864. The Internal Service Funds total revenues were \$11,018,277, expenses were \$14,189,597, and transfers were \$3,242,381. The Motor Pool Fund broke even on revenues of \$3,711,426, the Group Insurance Fund broke even on revenues of \$5,346,083, the IT Service Fund broke even on revenues of \$1,337,253, and the Workers' Compensation Fund had net income of \$120,672 on revenues of \$623,515. During the year, the Water/Sewer Fund continued its water and sewer upgrades by adding over \$44,550,789 in construction in process with \$15,223,047 coming from SPLOST and \$25,800,952 coming from GEFA loans. The City implemented GASB 68 Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions which resulted in a prior period adjustment on the government-wide statements of \$38,163,915. They also found no internal control structure related matters or non-compliance related matters that are required to be reported under the Single Audit Act. Federal awards expenditures totaled \$25,087,831 with \$23,054,077 from the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency through the Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority (GEFA). In summary, the City had a good year financially.

A MOTION by Councilman Vickers, seconded by Councilman Norton, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to approve the Municipal Audit for Fiscal Year 2015 for the City of Valdosta.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the December 10, 2015 Regular Meeting were approved by unanimous consent (7-0) of the Council.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

AN ORDINANCE FOR A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT (CUP) FOR A CHURCH ACCESSORY USE IN THE FORM OF A FOOD BANK MINISTRY IN A SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL (R-10) ZONING DISTRICT WITHDRAWN

Consideration of an Ordinance for a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for a church accessory use in the form of a "food bank ministry" in a Single-Family Residential (R-10) Zoning District as requested by Azalea City Church of God (File No. CU-2015-07). The property is located at 1503 and 1505 River Street. The Greater Lowndes Planning Commission reviewed this request at their November Regular Meeting and recommended approval (8-0 Vote). The request was tabled for one month at the December 10, 2015 Regular Council Meeting until the January 7, 2016 Regular Council Meeting.

Mayor Gayle stated that this request has been withdrawn by the applicant.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-1, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF AN APPLICATION WITH THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY (DHS) TO PURCHASE EIGHT THERMAL IMAGING CAMERAS 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 eight Thermal Imaging Cameras for the Fire Department.

Fire Chief Freddie Broome stated that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Grants Program is responsible for the implementation and administration of the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program. The primary goal of the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) is to meet the firefighting and emergency response needs of fire departments and non-affiliated emergency medical service organizations. Since 2001, AFG has helped firefighters and other first responders to obtain critically needed equipment, protective gear, emergency vehicles, training, and other resources needed to protect the public and emergency personnel from fire and life safety hazards. The Valdosta Fire Department currently uses Thermal Imaging Cameras to search buildings with limited visibility for citizens, lost firefighters, and hidden fires. In addition, Thermal Imaging Cameras are used to aid the Police Department when searching wooded areas for lost or missing citizens. The current Thermal Imaging Cameras that the Valdosta Fire Department uses are over ten years

old and are no longer reliable. They often have to order new battery packs for the Cameras and they do not stay operational very long. It is not uncommon to be on an incident without a Camera that is operating properly. The condition of our current Cameras makes them no longer an essential resource but an unreliable hazard. The City will be responsible for providing a 10% match or \$8,800 if successful in receiving the \$88,000 in Grant Funds. A Resolution has been prepared authorizing the filing of the Grant Application with the U. S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to purchase Thermal Imaging Cameras. Chief Broome recommended that Council approve the Resolution.

A MOTION by Councilman Norton, seconded by Councilman Carroll, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to enact Resolution No. 2016-1, a Resolution authorizing the filing of an Application with the U. S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to purchase eight Thermal Imaging Cameras for the Fire Department, the complete text of which will be found in Resolution Book V.

BIDS, CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS, AND EXPENDITURES

Consideration of a request to approve an Agreement with the Exchange Club for placement of benches in the City. This request was tabled at the December 10, 2015 Regular Council Meeting for 30 days until the January 7, 2016 Regular Council Meeting.

Pat Collins, City Engineer, stated that the Exchange Club has been installing benches at various places in the City for the past 67 years. On June 20, 2013, Council voted unanimously to adopt the current Exchange Club Bench Agreement for two years (which included an automatic renewal term that commenced on June 20, 2013 with termination on June 20, 2015). On November 20, 2015, the Engineering Department received an updated bench inventory from the Exchange Club. The list identified the existing locations of 59 benches within the City right-of-way (subject to the agreement), five (5) benches on private property, and six (6) benches in the County jurisdiction. All of the locations submitted were accurately listed and all of the 59 benches have been verified by the Engineering Staff as to their exact location within the City right-of-way. On December 10, 2015, the new Agreement for renewal came before the City Council for approval. A candid discussion ensued and several points were brought up which were targeted at the Bench Program itself and not directed to the many good merits of the Exchange Club or charities. Ultimately, a motion was made to table making a final decision for 30 days to allow Staff ample time to research the facts related to the discussion and to provide each City Council member additional time to carefully consider the facts and muster their thoughts before a final vote. Under the current Land Development Regulations (LDR), signs are prohibited on street furniture and all signs, except where specifically otherwise authorized, are to be located on or over private property outside the right-of-way. This Agreement, if authorized, does conflict with Section 230-7 and Section 230-9 of the LDR as follows: (1) LDR Chapter 230, Sign Regulations, Section 230-7, Prohibited Signs - The following signs and devices are found to be unlawful and are prohibited within the city limits: (L) Signs located on waste containers, or other forms of street furniture. (2) Section 230-9, Sign Standards, (A) Location in General - (1) All signs shall be located only on or over private property and outside any street or railroad right-of-way, except where specifically otherwise authorized by this Chapter 230. Pat Collins stated that at the Work Session on Tuesday, Council had inquired as to when the Ordinance was adopted. The Ordinance was adopted on September 19, 1992 and stated that it was not allowed on street furniture and where it could be located. Over the years we have received calls from business owners and citizens to remove and relocate benches for various reasons including crowding or obstruction on the right-of-way, sidewalks or cross walks, blocking sight distances at intersections or driveways, loitering, and safety or aesthetic reasons; however, in all cases the Exchange Club has been very responsive and that have come out and corrected the situation. The Administration is recommending that Council approve a one-year contract with a one-year renewal option both with a 90-day cancellation provision with no penalty with the understanding that at the end of this next two-year period the program will cease.

Councilman Vickers inquired as to how many times they have extended the contract since 1992. Mayor Gayle asked for a point of clarification first. At the last Council Meeting they tabled a motion that was made by Councilman Carroll and that motion read as follows: "To deny the request and grant the Exchange Club a two-year extension on the contract to give them plenty of time to find other revenue sources to fund their charitable projects and that this request include a paragraph that is added to the contract stating that the parties acknowledge and agree that the program will end on the termination date of this contract and the benches will be removed by the Exchange Club." That motion was seconded by Councilman Yost. Mayor Gayle stated that he would need a motion first to bring that motion from the table.

Mayor Gayle entertained a motion to remove the motion from the table.

A **MOTION** by Councilman Carroll, seconded by Councilman Vickers, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to remove the motion from the table and bring it back on the floor. Mayor Gayle stated that the motion is now open for discussion. Councilman Carroll stated that he wanted to make an amendment to the original motion. The amendment will reflect the current Administrative recommendation before Council which is to approve a one-year contract with a one-year renewal option both with a 90-day cancellation provision with no penalty with the understanding that the Program will cease at the end of two years. Mayor Gayle asked Councilman Yost if he would accept the amendment to the motion. Councilman Yost was in agreement. Councilman Vickers stated that we are operating under an agreement that was made in 1992 but we have extended the contract approximately seven times. They have been operating here and doing some fine work supporting the Boys and Girls Club, the Red Cross, and other charitable organizations since 1992. Council approved those contracts all seven times and we have had this rodeo dance before. They are making a big issue out of it but Council has been doing this since 1992 and extending the contract. Councilman Vickers stated that he does not support the new proposal because they have been around here and doing great work all these years. Councilman Carroll has given this a lot of thought and usually they are on the same page, but this time they are not on the same page.

Councilman Vickers called the question. Mayor Gayle asked that all those in favor of calling the question to raise their right hand. The calling of the question was adopted (6-1) with Councilman Yost voting in opposition.

Mayor Gayle asked that all those in favor of the Amendment to the motion raise their right hand. The motion to adopt the Amendment to the motion passed 4-3 with Councilman Vickers, Councilwoman Tooley, and Councilwoman Miller-Cody voting in opposition.

Mayor Gayle stated that the amended motion satisfies everything and they did not need to vote on anything else. Councilman Payton stated that was not his understanding and he thought that they voted on the Amendment to the motion made by Councilman Carroll and he thought they should also have to vote on the original motion.

Councilman Yost stated that as a point of order, if they don't have to vote on the motion then why are they voting on the motion. Mayor Gayle stated that now they are voting on the original motion as amended. Mayor Gayle asked all those in favor of the original motion as amended to raise their right hand. The motion was denied 3-4 with Councilman Payton, Councilman Vickers, Councilwoman Tooley, and Councilwoman Miller-Cody voting in opposition.

A **MOTION** was made by Councilman Vickers to extend the contract for two years with the Exchange Club and grandfather them in because they have been around so long and before the Ordinance was signed with a condition that each party can cancel with a 90-day notice. Councilman Payton seconded the motion. Mayor Gayle inquired as to what Councilman Vickers meant about grandfathering them in. Councilman Vickers stated that he was trying to bring them in legally. Councilman Yost stated that they are never going to be legal because they are illegal now and they will be illegal tomorrow but they are non-conforming. Councilman Vickers stated that if Councilman Yost had a point he was open to it. Councilman Yost stated that they will never be legal because they go against the Ordinances but as they have done with things in the past they could be brought in as grandfathered in meaning that they are still illegal but they are non-conforming. If you vote tonight on the motion about grandfathering them in then they cannot bring it up again in the future no matter how many times they vote to renew the lease. Councilman Vickers stated that he grandfathered them in to make them legal but he was not an attorney. Mayor Gayle asked Teresa Bolden, City Clerk, to restate the motion. Teresa Bolden, City Clerk, stated that the motion made by Councilman Vickers was to extend the contract for two years and grandfather them in with the condition that each party could cancel with a 90-day notice. George Talley, City Attorney, stated that they have a play on words. They have been non-conforming since 1992 but they were here long before 1992 so now they have extended what they have by grandfathering them in for a period of two years and then in two years Council will have to make a decision as to whether they will have another contract with them. Councilman Vickers stated that it would come back just like they have been doing and that is every two years. Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that he did not think that grandfathering them in was necessary. If they just made a motion to approve a two-year contract with a 90-day cancellation clause for either party it accomplishes the same thing. You could only grandfather in by Ordinance or by rescinding the existing Sign Ordinance. Mayor Gayle asked Councilman Vickers if he accepted that. Councilman Vickers stated that if Council Payton was in agreement he would accept

the change. Councilman Payton was in agreement. The motion was adopted (4-3) to approve a two-year contract with the Exchange Club with a 90-day cancellation clause for either party with Councilman Carroll, Councilman Norton, and Councilman Yost voting in opposition.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that today is Law Enforcement Appreciation Day and they had a ceremony at the Valdosta Police Department where the Mayor presented a Proclamation to the Police Department and the men and women who serve every day. Mayor Gayle also thanked them for their service to our community. We have a great Police Department and every day should be Law Enforcement Appreciation Day.

The Bird Supper will be held on February 24, 2016 in Atlanta at The Depot. Tickets have now gone on sale for this event.

There will be many events over the next several weeks as part of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Observance for 2016. The Founders Banquet will be held on January 9, 2016 at the James H. Rainwater Conference Center and Council is encouraged to attend.

We have several vacancies on the Boards, Commissions, and Authorities and the deadline to apply is February 3, 2016.

We will be unveiling the City's new website in February and it will be shared with the Mayor and Council at the first Work Session in February. One new feature that the website will have is "Valdosta Click and Fix." It will allow citizens to remotely on their cell phone take a picture of something such as a pot hole or a street light out and send it to us via Email. We will be able to view all the requests that we receive and citizens will be able to track the status of a response to their request.

There will be a Press Conference on January 20, 2016 at 11:00 a.m. where ISO will be making a presentation to the City. Council is encouraged to attend.

Larry Hanson congratulated the Mayor and Council members who were sworn in tonight and welcomed new Council member, Vivian Miller-Cody. There will be a reception for the Mayor and Council in the City Hall Annex Building immediately following the Council Meeting and citizens are invited to attend.

Also, we are advertising for the City Government 101 class which will begin in April. This is a six-week class where 30 citizens can apply. They will go through a very comprehensive program with presentations by the Mayor, City Manager, Council members, and all of the City Departments. This is an incredible outreach educational tool to educate our citizens about what the City does. We also have a Citizens Police Academy and a Citizens Fire Academy. Citizens are encouraged to sign up.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Payton asked for a moment of personal privilege to thank the Council and Mayor Gayle for electing him as the Mayor Pro Tem for another term. He humbly accepts the responsibility and hope to do a job worthy of the title. Mayor Gayle stated that Mayor Pro Tem Payton has always been there when he called on him and he appreciated it very much.

Councilwoman Tooley stated that they were glad to see everyone in the Council Chambers and asked them to continue to come to the Council Meetings. They are now a part of history and this is the first time that they have had two African-American females on the Council at the same time.

Councilwoman Vivian Miller-Cody asked for all the citizens who live in District 1 and supported her during her recent election and her family members to please stand because they did this together and this is their day.

J. D. Rice, 501 Knob Hill Drive, congratulated all of the candidates who won the election and commended Council for the action that they took tonight in regards to the Exchange Club benches. They have done a stellar job throughout the years in our City and the programs that they have supported. They have been a great supporter of the Firefighter of the Year Award. The problem is not the Exchange Club or the benches but it is the Land Development Regulations. Mr. Rice asked Council to instruct Staff to go back and find a way to use a common sense approach where they can have some flexibility in the Ordinance. Removing the benches would have sent the wrong message to the citizens of Valdosta as we move forward to a public transportation system. Mayor Gayle stated that he appointed a Committee on Tuesday at the Work Session to review the Sign Ordinance.

Electa Rickett, 1217 Hickory Drive, stated that the Exchange Club benches serve a great public service to citizens. She grew up in a City three or four times the size of Valdosta and they had benches like this. These apparently have been in the City since 1948 and suddenly we cannot abide them anymore. If it is about signs, then there is a sign on the corner of Baytree Road and Alden Avenue that says "Yeti" and is so bright. When she drives down Baytree Road at night the sign is so bright that it blinds her and it is not very safe. The little signs that are on the back of those benches are not obtrusive and she has never had a problem seeing because of one of those benches. Her husband owns property Downtown and he has never complained about them. He thinks that some Downtown owners complain because homeless people sleep on them; however, they do not have to have a bench to sleep Downtown. There used to be a man who lived two blocks south of the Police Department at the corner of Magnolia Street and Toombs Street. He lived on the ground for at least a year and he did not need a bench. The Exchange Club is not promoting homeless people to sleep on the benches. We should keep the benches because they are a great source of revenue for our charities and when we get the public transportation system it will be a place for people to sit down and wait for the bus. If we are worried about enforcing Ordinances, we need to enforce the Ordinance about where you cannot park more than three cars on your front lawn. We should enforce all of the Ordinances or enforce none. They have to call the Police Department regularly to complain about six cars parked on the lawn and then they give them your name and they come and knock your mailbox off the post.

Sydney Blanton, District Vice President of the Exchange Club, 151 Blanton Drive, stated that he is the bench Project Chairman. Mr. Blanton thanked the Council for what they did tonight on behalf of the youth of the City of Valdosta and Lowndes County. They contributed approximately \$17,000 this year to the youth through The Haven, the Children's Advocacy Center., the American Red Cross, Camp Relisto, and several others. They do a Police Officer and Firefighter Appreciation luncheon each year. He has enjoyed working with Pat Collins, City Engineer, and he has tried to answer any issues they have with the Exchange Club benches. He did move two benches on the corner of Patterson Street and Woodrow Wilson Drive. He also moved one for Langdale Ford when they wanted to put the new car lot on the corner of Valley Street and Oak Street. If anyone has a complaint about the benches he will be glad to work with them. When he is out riding around he pays particular attention to the condition of the benches. The benches have been in operation since 1948 and the Exchange Club is celebrating their 70th Anniversary this year. In 2017, the Georgia Exchange Club will be coming to Valdosta for their District Convention. They have booked 75 rooms at the Hampton Inn and they anticipate 150-200 people. They have a National Convention each year and Valdosta could be in the running. Mr. Blanton thanked the Council for their consideration in approving the Exchange Club Bench Agreement.

J. D. Martin, Citizens Against Violence, stated that they have formed a partnership with the Chief of Police and he extended an invitation to the Mayor and Council to attend an event on January 11, 2016 at the Parks and Recreation Authority office located at 1901 North Forrest Street from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Mr. Martin thanked Council for their support.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Gayle entertained a motion to adjourn the regular Council meeting and enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing real estate.

A MOTION by Councilman Vickers, seconded by Councilman Norton, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to adjourn the January 7, 2016 meeting of the Valdosta City Council at 6:59 p.m. and enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing real estate.

Mayor Gayle reconvened the regular City Council meeting at 7:30 p.m. and stated that there was discussion of real estate in the Executive Session and no action would need to be taken.

Mayor Gayle entertained a motion for adjournment.

A **MOTION** by Councilman Vickers, seconded by Councilman Carroll, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to adjourn the January 7, 2016 Meeting of the Valdosta City Council at 7:30 p.m. to meet again in Regular Session on Thursday, January 21, 2016.

City Clerk, City of Valdosta

Mayor, City of Valdosta