

**MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE VALDOSTA CITY COUNCIL  
5:30 P.M., THURSDAY, JANUARY 10, 2008  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL**

**OPENING CEREMONIES**

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

**OATHS OF OFFICE**

Oaths of Office to City Council Districts One, Three, Five, At-Large, and Mayor.

The Honorable Superior Court Chief Judge H. Arthur McLane of the Southern Judicial Circuit administered the Oath of Office to Councilman James Wright, District 1, Councilman Joseph Sonny Vickers, District 3, Councilman Timothy H. Carroll, District 5, Councilman John Eunice, At-Large, and John J. Fretti, Mayor. Copies of Oaths of Office are on record in the permanent file of the January 10, 2008 regular meeting of the governing body.

Chief Judge H. Arthur McLane thanked Mayor and Council for the honor to participate in the ceremony and commended the Mayor and Council for their service and commitment.

**ELECTION OF MAYOR PRO TEM**

Mayor Fretti entertained nominations from Council for the office of Mayor Pro Tem. Councilman Eunice placed in consideration the name of Councilman Willie Head, Jr. Councilman Payton seconded the nomination.

There being no other nominations, Councilman Willie Head, Jr. was elected as Mayor Pro Tem by acclamation.

**OATH OF OFFICE FOR MAYOR PRO TEM**

Superior Court Chief Judge H. Arthur McLane administered the Oath of Office for Mayor Pro Tem to Councilman Willie Head, Jr. A copy of the Oath of Office is on record in the permanent file of the January 10, 2008 regular meeting of the governing body.

Councilman Head thanked the Mayor and Council for their vote of confidence in re-electing him to serve as Mayor Pro Tem.

**AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS**

**PRESENTATION OF THE DECEMBER, 2007 AND THE JANUARY, 2008 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH AWARDS**

Mayor Fretti entertained a motion for the December, 2007 and the January, 2008 Employee of the Month Awards.

**A MOTION** by Councilman Vickers, seconded by Councilman Payton, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to approve the December, 2007 and the January, 2008 Employee of the Month Awards.

Mayor Fretti presented the December, 2007 Employee of the Month Award to Larry Ogden, Engineering Department.

Larry Ogden began his employment with the City of Valdosta in November, 1997 as a Sign Maintenance Worker. In June, 2000, he was promoted to the position of Sign Maintenance Supervisor, which is the position he currently holds. Mr. Ogden is responsible for overseeing the manufacture and installation of traffic signs and the application of pavement markings throughout the City which is a critical function to ensure traffic in the City flows in an orderly and safe manner. Through the efforts of Mr. Ogden, much has been accomplished. During the first half of this year, 520 traffic signs were installed, 1,400 existing ones were repaired, and over 44,000 feet of curbing and roadway was marked and painted. He is also in the process of mapping all traffic signs throughout the City for display on the Geographical Information System (GIS). Mr. Ogden has also taken on additional responsibilities since the resignation of the Traffic Manager in July which include meeting with citizens concerning street sign and pavement marking issues, researching and directly procuring the materials used in manufacturing signs, and resolving issues with citizens concerning street lights. During his career with the City, Mr. Ogden has become known as a perfectionist who instills this attribute in those he supervises and inspires others to excel. Aristotle once wrote, "We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit." This is evident in the manner in which Larry Ogden performs his day-to-day duties and in his willingness to assume additional responsibilities with enthusiasm. For these reasons and many others, the Employee Relations Committee nominated Larry Ogden as Employee of the Month.

Mayor Fretti presented the January, 2008 Employee of the Month Award to Brandon Corbitt, Engineering Department.

Brandon Corbitt was employed by the City of Valdosta in September, 1997 as a Groundskeeper. In October, 2006, he was promoted to Street Maintenance Supervisor, which is the position he currently holds. Mr. Corbitt supervises the construction and replacement of failed pavement and sidewalk areas within the City. Prior to his promotion to Supervisor, he held several other positions of increasing responsibility within the Engineering Department in the Traffic Division and as a Heavy Equipment Operator. These skills have made him uniquely suited to his supervisory position in street maintenance where he is making a noticeable contribution to the quality of life for Valdosta's motorists. During the past eight months, 434 potholes were filled, 2,200 linear feet of pavement washouts were repaired, and 47 driveways installed by Mr. Corbitt's crew. This involved the application of 236 tons of asphalt and 200 cubic yards of concrete. Additionally, 297 feet of sidewalks were installed and over 6,500 square feet of base and root repair was completed on existing sidewalks. This work is critical to ensure the safety of motorists and pedestrians throughout the City and was a major factor in the decrease of vehicle damage and personal injury claims in 2007. It was once said that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. The outstanding leadership skills of Brandon Corbitt have made a considerable contribution to the safety of the citizens of Valdosta and his ongoing efforts will ensure this to be the case in the new year and beyond. For these reasons and many others, the Employee Relations Committee nominated Brandon Corbitt as Employee of the Month.

**PRESENTATION OF THE MUNICIPAL AUDIT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007**

Presentation of the Municipal Audit for Fiscal Year 2007.

Mayor Fretti stated that Mark Rogers, City Auditor, Henderson & Godbee, P.C., would present the Municipal Audit for Fiscal Year 2007. Mr. Rogers informed the Council that they have completed the audit of financial statements of the City of Valdosta for the year ended June 30, 2007 as contained in the Comprehensive Annual Finance Report (CAFR) and have issued their unqualified auditors' report on those financial statements dated December 5, 2007. The financial statements of the City of Valdosta show a sound financial position for the General Fund and other governmental funds as well as for the Enterprise Funds. Schedules were provided to Council which summarized the results of the City's financial activity during the year ended June 30, 2007. A brief overview of each major area follows: (1) General Fund for the Year Ended June 30, 2007: The General Fund ended with a budgetary income of \$609,811. Revenues received totaled \$26,190,716, and were under budgeted amounts by \$310,186. Expenditures were \$26,814,617 and were under budget by \$803,391 on a budgetary basis. Other financing sources totaled \$1,233,712. The Statistical Tables section of the CAFR prepared by the Finance Department provides information regarding the details of the City's finances for the past ten years. (2) Other Governmental Funds: The Special Revenue Funds had income of \$3,800,849 and expenditures of \$3,487,644. The majority of the activity was in the Recreation and Parks Fund that accounted for \$3,441,489 of the revenue and

\$3,187,289 of the expenditures. The Capital Projects Funds had revenues of \$13,551,128 and expenditures of \$13,767,144. The Sales Tax '97 Fund and Sales Tax 2002 Fund accounted for \$12,378,652 of the revenues and \$12,456,259 of the expenditures for the year. The Airport Development Fund had expenditures of \$1,300,979 for the year. (3) Enterprise Funds - Water/Sewer, Sanitation, and Inspections: The Enterprise Funds total revenues were \$19,916,551 and expenses were \$16,020,858 and operating transfers out were \$1,531,689 and \$3,783,491 in capital contributions resulting in net income of \$6,421,821. The Water/Sewer Revenue Fund's revenues were \$12,671,409 resulting in net income of \$5,641,627 caused mainly by a capital contribution of \$3,757,347 from SPLOST. The Sanitation Fund's revenues were \$4,122,912 resulting in a net income of \$405,628. The Inspections Fund's revenues were \$1,136,232 resulting in a net loss of \$(271,867). The Auditorium Fund ended with a net loss of \$(76,979) on revenues of \$50,520. The Department of Labor (DOL) Fund's net income for the year was \$92,056 and the Motor Fuel Fund was \$7,478. The Zoning Fund had a net loss of \$(67,403). The new Stormwater Fund had a net income of \$690,981 on revenues of \$1,087,770. The Sanitation Fund liabilities include the required accrual of landfill post closure care costs of \$1,126,359. (4) Internal Service Funds: Motor Pool, Group Insurance, and Workers' Compensation - The Internal Service Funds total revenues were \$8,127,045 and expenses were \$9,326,192. The Motor Pool Fund broke even on revenues of \$3,456,062. The Group Insurance Fund had net income of \$25,186 on revenues of \$4,225,785 and the Workers' Compensation Fund's net income of \$44,364 on revenues of \$445,198. (5) Single Audit Consideration - A Single Audit of the City's federal financial assistance was conducted for the year ended June 30, 2007 as required by Federal law and all required reports dated December 5, 2007 were issued. No internal control structure-related matters or non-compliance related matters that are required to be reported under the Single Audit Act were found. Federal awards expenditures totaled \$1,559,202 with \$785,248 from Airport Development Aid. In summary, the City had another good year financially. Mr. Rogers stated that Henderson and Godbee, P.C. appreciated the opportunity to provide auditing services to the City.

A **MOTION** by Councilman Payton, seconded by Councilman Eunice, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to accept the Municipal Audit for Fiscal Year 2007 as presented.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mayor Fretti stated that there was one addition to the minutes of the December 3, 2007 Special Called Meeting and that was to append the December 3, 2007 Service Delivery Strategy Arbitration Settlement Agreement so that it would be part of the permanent record. The minutes of the December 3, 2007 Special Called Meeting and December 6, 2007 Regular Meeting of the Valdosta City Council were approved by unanimous consent (7-0) of the Council.

### **CITIZENS TO BE HEARD**

Roy Taylor, 2209 Bridlewood Drive, stated that in the City of Valdosta Code, all contractors are to be treated equally; however, as he drove on North Valdosta Road, there was a contractor building his roads off of North 41 before he has even turned a shovel full of dirt or built any house and there are other contractors who have not done that. Mr. Taylor presented pictures of a contractor just one block from that who has not turned one shovel full of dirt and he was supposed to build his ingress before he started his luxury condominiums. Tildon Smith and David Brown have completed approximately 60 apartments but they have never bothered to complete the road that was in their project. After speaking with two contractors who were treated very differently, they stated that it would be to their benefit of approximately \$1 million dollars; however, all of the other contractors are not treated that way. Mr. Taylor asked that all people doing business in the City of Valdosta be treated equally.

### **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

#### **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE VALDOSTA ZONING ORDINANCE DENIED**

Consideration of an ordinance to rezone 0.32 acres from R-10 (Single-Family Residential) to R-P (Residential-Professional) as requested by Jack Kent (File No. VA-2007-56). The property is located at 1109 West Alden Avenue. The Planning Commission reviewed this request at their November regular meeting and recommended denial (4-3 vote). Mayor/Council postponed the request at the December 6, 2007 regular meeting until the January 10, 2008 regular meeting.

Anne-Marie Wolff, Planning and Zoning Administrator, stated that the applicant is requesting to rezone 0.32 acres from R-10 (Single-Family Residential) to R-P (Residential-Professional). There is a site built house currently located on the property and the applicant would like to establish a professional office. The property is located on the south side of Alden Avenue and is four lots west of the intersection of Alden Avenue and Jerry Jones. The site plan shows proposed parking in the rear of the structure. The property is located in a Neighborhood Activity Center Character Area on the Future Development Map which encourages a mixture of neighborhood serving uses. The surrounding uses are all Single-Family Residential homes and the closest non-residential zoning is approximately four lots to the east at the intersection of Alden Avenue and Jerry Jones. Staff felt that this portion of Alden Avenue, although there are higher traffic counts, is still a well established residential neighborhood and any type of non-residential zoning would border on being spot zoning and be inappropriate with the surrounding residential uses. Staff felt that the applicant's request was premature for the area since there has not been a precedent set for R-P zoning this far west of the intersection and recommended denial. The Planning Commission reviewed this request at their November regular meeting and recommended denial of Residential-Professional (R-P) zoning (4-3 vote).

David Parker, Attorney with Smith, Hannan, and Parker, spoke in favor of the request. Mr. Parker stated that he represented Jack and Wanda Kent on the rezoning request and asked Council to consider the good of the community as a whole. The property is located in a Neighborhood Activity Center Character Area which includes a concentration of activities of such as general retail, service commercial, office professional, higher density housing, and appropriate public and open space uses easily accessible by pedestrians. The Comprehensive Plan encourages Neighborhood Activity Centers to include a mix of retail services and offices to serve the day-to-day needs of neighborhood residents. It also calls for locating higher density housing options adjacent to the Center targeted to a broad range of income levels including multi-family town homes, apartments, and condominiums. Mr. Parker stated that Mr. Kent has been in discussions with the Engineering Department and West Alden Avenue is a corridor road which has a tremendous amount of traffic. With that level of traffic, the highest and best use of that area is to completely transform it into Residential-Professional zoning. Council had previously approved other areas from R-10 to R-P. Robinson Insurance, which is located on the corner of Alden Avenue and Jerry Jones, is zoned R-P, offices that were developed at the intersection of Canterbury Drive and Baytree Road are zoned R-P, and there is a church and daycare facility located at the other end of Alden Avenue. Mr. Parker stated that this Council and those before have already recognized that this is the highest and best use of this area by virtue of agreeing to the other areas being zoned R-P. Many property owners in the area have already recognized that the best use of this property is R-P and have submitted letters to Council in support of the rezoning request. Councilman Vickers inquired as to whether those in favor of the rezoning request live on Alden Avenue or just own the property. Mr. Parker stated that most own properties and do not live in the area. If the property was rezoned to R-P this would open the door for opportunities for those individuals that own some of the houses on West Alden Avenue to have a larger buyer pool which would bring more money. Mr. Parker stated that several houses located on the south side of Alden Avenue are rental properties and may deteriorate faster due to occupants not caring about maintaining the property. The overall appearance of those residences across the street on the north side would be better and improvements made to the other houses would be better if they were zoned R-P. Mr. Parker asked Council's consideration in approving the request. Councilman Yost inquired as to what type of business the property owners plan to place there if it is rezoned. Mr. Parker stated that Mr. Kent has indicated that they would like to have an accounting office or insurance office but that is not definite at this point. Councilman Yost stated that Mr. Parker has indicated that properties located on the south side of Alden Avenue are mostly rental and the owners of the rental property do not keep them up very well and inquired as to whether the owner of this particular property is one that is not kept up very well. Councilman Yost also inquired as to what could be done about those owners not keeping the property maintained. Mr. Parker stated that he had shown photographs to Council of residences up and down Alden Avenue in order to present a fair representation of houses along that corridor. Rental properties in general are not maintained by the tenants very well. The applicant has maintained his property and his site plan has been approved with a circular driveway and parking in the rear of the building which would make it safer. Councilman Yost inquired as to whether a place of business located there would draw more traffic and people and cause more of a hazard. Mr. Parker stated that as a professional office there would be clients and customers but there would not be a large of people coming in and out at any one point in time. The parking set up with this particular property would have no more cars coming in and out of there than a typical family with children.

Jack Kent, 3833 Cherry Creek Road, spoke in favor of the request. Mr. Kent stated that he and his wife purchased the property with the expectation of turning it into an office and he would not ask Council to do anything that he did not think was not for the betterment of this community. This area is not good rental property and the residents in the area have stated that it is almost impossible to get in and out of their driveways onto Alden Avenue unless you turn around. All of the traffic turns onto Alden Avenue in order to avoid Baytree Road going toward the mall. Mr. Kent stated that he has spoken with Von Shipman of the Engineering Department and the Zoning Office and has done everything that they asked him to do and more. Mr. Kent stated that he has never and would never ask Council to do anything that he did not think was for the betterment of Valdosta and asked Council's consideration in approving the request.

No one spoke in opposition to the request.

**A MOTION** was made by Councilman Yost to deny the request to rezone 0.32 acres from R-10 (Single-Family Residential) to R-P (Residential-Professional) as requested by Jack Kent. Councilman Eunice seconded the motion. Councilman Yost commended Mr. Kent for what he wanted to do but stated that he could not allow someone to build or move a business into a neighborhood. The neighborhoods are what make Valdosta thrive and grow. That is where people go to be with their children and Alden Avenue is no exception. Mr. Kent has requested approval to place a business in the middle of a block that does not have a business in it and the day that is allowed to happen is the day that the house next door and the one across the street will be turned into a business. In certain areas that is a good thing, but this area is still a neighborhood. The traffic on Alden Avenue makes it difficult to get into and out of driveways, but that is growth and will be dealt with. There are businesses on each end of Alden Avenue and they have tried to stop the businesses from consuming the neighborhood where they all live. There are businesses on Baytree Road that have bled into Canterbury Drive and Councilman Yost tried to stop those but Council saw fit to not do that. Now they are trying to destroy an entire area which is a neighborhood to 20 or 30 families who live on Alden Avenue. Councilman Yost stated that one day it may be a street with businesses, but currently there is so much traffic that they need to prevent more things going on that are not residential uses. Councilman Yost asked Council's consideration in denying the request. The motion was unanimously adopted (7-0).

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE VALDOSTA ZONING ORDINANCE POSTPONED**

Consideration of an ordinance to amend the Planned Residential Development (PRD) site plan to remove the condition of no access onto Country Club Road as requested by Tildon Smith for Country Club Villas (File No. VA-2007-53). The property is located at 3531 Country Club Villa. The Planning Commission reviewed this request at their November regular meeting and recommended denial (5-2 vote). Mayor/Council postponed the request at the December 6, 2007 regular meeting until the January 10, 2008 regular meeting.

Councilman Vickers asked for a point of order and stated that he thought there was a request to table this rezoning request. Mayor Fretti stated that there was a request from the neighborhood and several neighbors to postpone the request and Council could hear the presentation from Staff or Council could make a motion at any time. Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that Anne-Marie Wolff, Planning and Zoning Administrator, had planned to briefly state the issue and not make a full presentation.

Anne-Marie Wolff, Planning and Zoning Administrator, stated that the applicant is requesting to amend the PRD site plan for approximately 7.3 acres to remove the condition of no access onto Country Club Road. This is The Gardens development that fronts Country Club Road, and there has been a written request for postponement so that the various parties that live in and around the area can meet to discuss a compromise. Councilman Head inquired as to whether there were any plans for the parties to get together because he was concerned about Council granting the extension and then the parties not meeting. Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that there are four groups involved and he has spoken with all of them today. They have all indicated a willingness to meet and reach a solution. Councilman Vickers stated that if Council chooses to postpone the request they could place a condition stating that a decision would be made at the first Council meeting in February. Councilman Yost stated that this request has already been postponed once and it is time for these individuals, whether they can agree or not, to get together and try to work this out. Larry Hanson stated that the developer requested a postponement in December and in this case the developer did not request it but was willing to agree to it.

Mayor Fretti entertained a motion for postponement.

A **MOTION** by Councilman Carroll, seconded by Councilman Vickers, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to postpone the request to amend the Planned Residential Development (PRD) site plan to remove the condition of no access onto Country Club Road as requested by Tildon Smith for Country Club Villas until the first Council meeting in February and at such time Council would entertain no more postponements and a decision would be made.

## **ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

### **RESOLUTION NO. 2008-1, A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE A DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT REVOLVING LOAN FUND (DDRLF) FOR 117-119 NORTH PATTERSON STREET**

Consideration of a request to approve a resolution for Downtown Development Revolving Loan Fund (DDRLF) for 117-119 North Patterson Street (ClientTell, Inc.). Mayor and Council postponed the request at the November 19, 2007 regular meeting until the December 6, 2007 regular meeting.

Jan Harris, Main Street Director, stated that the purpose of the DDRLF is to assist cities and counties in implementing quality downtown development projects. The Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) administers the fund and makes loans to eligible applicants. Applicants may, with DCA approval, loan DDRLF funds to Downtown Development Authorities, which in turn may loan the funds to for-profit developers. Eligible uses include the rehabilitation of private facilities and new construction. The maximum proposed DDRLF loan amount is \$250,000 at an interest rate of 3%; however, due to the City of Valdosta and the City of Remerton being recognized as Signature Communities as of this month, one of the benefits is that the interest rate is lowered to 2.5%. This DDRLF program requires eligible applicants to approve a resolution in support of proposed projects. This particular project involves the rehabilitation of the existing structure at 117-119 North Patterson Street which is approximately 125 years old and 7,200 square feet. The initial project is to purchase the property and renovate the upstairs portion for the corporate headquarters of ClientTell, Inc., which is owned by Chris Williams and Pat Sullivan. The second story renovation would include the restoration of floors and ceilings which have severe water and termite damage, new interior walls, bathroom facilities, a conference room, a computer room, and office space for up to 20 employees. The first story is not slated for renovation and is currently occupied as a wellness center for Christ the King Episcopal Church who will remain there temporarily; however, the ultimate goal for the first floor is for a restaurant or a pub. The investment into the second story renovation is approximately \$225,000 for a total project cost of \$425,000. The amount of the DDRLF is \$170,000.

A **MOTION** by Councilman Eunice, seconded by Councilman Vickers, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to enact Resolution No. 2008-1, a Resolution for Downtown Development Revolving Loan Fund (DDRLF) for 117-119 North Patterson Street (ClientTell, Inc.), the complete text of which will be found in Resolution Book IV.

### **RESOLUTION FOR PROPOSED LEGISLATION TO BE SUMITTED TO THE GEORGIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO CREATE THE VALDOSTA-LOWNDES COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION AUTHORITY POSTPONED**

Consideration of a resolution for proposed legislation to be submitted to the Georgia General Assembly to create the Valdosta-Lowndes County Parks and Recreation Authority.

Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that he was recommending that Council postpone the request due to some minor changes that were still being made to the document up until Tuesday afternoon at 4:00 p.m. Since Council had just received the 27-page document they would need time to review it. Also, the County has passed the makeup of the Authority, which seems to be the only area of potential disagreement. Instead of passing a dueling resolution, it would be in the City's best interest to resolve the matter. The Legislative delegation has assured us that we would have the month of January which would be more than ample time to take action at the next Council meeting and send it to the delegation for presenting to the Legislature. Larry Hanson asked Council's consideration in postponing the request.

A **MOTION** was made by Councilman Vickers to postpone the request to approve a resolution for proposed legislation to be submitted to the Georgia General Assembly for creation of the Valdosta-Lowndes County Parks and Recreation Authority until the January 24, 2008 Council meeting. Councilman Eunice seconded the motion. Councilman Head inquired as to who came up with the idea for a nine-member board. Larry Hanson stated that they had an agreement for a seven-member board and some of the smaller cities expressed concern and they are trying to address the legitimate issue of the smaller cities. The motion was unanimously adopted (7-0).

### **BIDS, CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS, AND EXPENDITURES**

Mayor Fretti asked Council to consider Agenda Items 8(a) through 8(d) 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 8(a) - Consideration of bids for a dump truck for the Water/Sewer Department (Bid No. 26-07-08) – the low bid was submitted by Beck Motor Company in the amount of \$77,972, (2) Item 8(b) – Consideration of bids for a brush chipper for the Water/Sewer Department (Bid No. 28-07-08) – the bid meeting specifications was submitted by Mason Tractor in the amount of \$29,203, (3) Item 8(c) – Consideration of bids for a tractor for the Water/Sewer Department (Bid No. 27-07-08) – the low bid was submitted by Boston Tractor in the amount of \$20,705, (4) Item 8(d) – Consideration of bids for chemicals for the Water Treatment Plant (Bid No. 21-07-08) – the low bids for each product were submitted as follows: Caustic Soda – low bid submitted by Key Chemical in the amount of \$1.648/gallon, Sulfuric Acid – low bid was submitted by Colonial Chemical in the amount of \$1.09/gallon, Oxygen – low bid was submitted by Praxair in the amount of \$.5650/100 cubic feet, Chlorine 150# - low bid was submitted by Jones Chemical in the amount of \$64.00/cylinder, Chlorine 2000# - low bid was submitted by Allied Universal in the amount of \$478.60/cylinder, Sulfur Dioxide – low bid was submitted by Allied Universal in the amount of \$61.40/cylinder, Bulk Crude Salt – low bid was submitted by Morton in the amount of \$96.19/ton, and Hydrofluosilic – low bid was submitted by Brentag in the amount of \$3.38/gallon.

A **MOTION** by Councilman Head, seconded by Councilman Eunice, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to approve the low bids recommended by the Purchasing Agent under a Consent Agenda for Agenda Items 8(a) through 8(d).

Consideration of a request to approve a Memorandum of Understanding and Agreement with the Georgia Department of Community Affairs for the Signature Community Program.

Anne-Marie Wolff, Planning and Zoning Administrator, stated that the City of Valdosta was one of five communities selected for the two-year Signature Community Program throughout the State. A joint application was submitted with the City of Remerton and through participation in this program, both Cities will receive technical and financial assistance from the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) to complete the following initiatives: (1) Brownfield and Greyfield Inventory, Assessment, and Redevelopment, (2) Withlacoochee Greenway Master Plan Development and Implementation, and (3) Bicycle and Pedestrian Facility Planning and Development. Following approval of the documents by the City of Valdosta and the City of Remerton, there will be a signing ceremony with the Commissioner of DCA and the Mayors of Valdosta and Remerton. There will also be an Implementation Committee to address these initiatives. Benefits for participating in this program include: Statewide recognition, assistance in identifying other financial resources for implementing the identified initiatives, access to Georgia Department of Transportation matching funds for the Local Assistance Road Program (if available), access to reduced rate Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority (GEFA) and Downtown Development Revolving Loan Funds, preference in the allocation of development funding for new homeless facilities, and down-payment assistance funds for homeownership for local government employees. Anne-Marie Wolff asked Council's consideration in approving a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) as well as the Agreement for Granting State Funds. Councilman Eunice inquired as to whether Remerton had approved the Memorandum of Understanding and the Agreement. Anne-Marie Wolff stated that she had not confirmed the approval with Remerton's City Manager but it should have been on their January 3, 2008 Council Agenda. Mayor Fretti inquired as to whether this would prohibit the City of Valdosta's downtown area if Remerton had not approved the documents. Anne-Marie Wolff stated that she spoke with the State and both Valdosta and Remerton are available for all benefits of the program effective January 1, 2008.

A **MOTION** by Councilman Eunice, seconded by Councilman Wright, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to approve the Memorandum of Understanding and Agreement with the Georgia Department of Community Affairs for the Signature Community Program.

**BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

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

Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that former Councilman David Sumner had served on the Valdosta-Lowndes County Conference & Tourism Authority in a position that was dedicated for a City Council member. A new Council member will need to be appointed to fill the remainder of his term which expires December 31, 2008.

Councilman Vickers placed in consideration the name of Councilman Tim Carroll. There being no other nominations, Councilman Carroll was appointed by acclamation to fill the unexpired term of former Councilman David Sumner on the Valdosta-Lowndes County Conference Center & Tourism Authority.

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that the Mayor and several Council members had a very productive meeting with the Legislative delegation on January 7, 2008.

The Mayor/Council Retreat will be held February 22-24, 2008 at St. Simons Island and Council will need to complete the Retreat items as soon as possible.

The City of Jacksonville, Florida, made a presentation at the Work Session on their Small Business Development Program. Council members will need to be appointed tonight to serve on two Consultant Selection Committees. The first Committee will be for software procurement. Those currently serving on that Committee are Mark Barber, Steve Carter, Larry Hanson, and the Technology Consultant. The second appointment will be for the selection of the Consultant to complete our Small and Emerging Business Development Program. Councilman Eunice stated that he would like to serve on the Software Procurement Committee. Councilman Head stated that he would like to serve on the Small and Emerging Business Development Committee. Councilman Payton noted that he was also interested in that Committee and would serve as an alternate.

Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that the City of Valdosta will officially unveil the new website tomorrow morning and asked Steve Carter, Information Technology Manager, to review some of the new features. Steve Carter stated that this project began approximately one year ago and thanked the Web Site Committee members, Anne-Marie Wolff, Berna Edmondson, Cindy Randall, Elaine Sempert, Emily Davenport, Gwen Ready, Kelley Thomas, Nina McMillan, Sementa Mathews, Tonja Shackelford, and Ursula Antley, for their participation. One of the newest features of the web site is that there will now be a Content Management System which will allow a designated person in each Department to update information and make changes for their particular area. There will also be a new Bill Pay Area on the web site and the City is currently working with Bank of America on making enhancements to this feature. Steve Carter asked for Council's feedback on the new web site. Mayor Fretti thanked Steve Carter and the Web Site Committee for their efforts in completing this project.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Councilman Carroll stated that he was not yet on the City's E-mail system and asked that any correspondence be sent to his personal E-mail address.

Councilman Yost stated that he had been having problems with his E-mail and could not access it at certain times. Steve Carter stated that if any of the Council members have problems with their E-mail to contact him as soon as possible.



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

**A MOTION** by Councilman Carroll, seconded by Councilman Vickers, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to adjourn the January 10, 2008 meeting of the Valdosta City Council at 7:26 p.m. and enter into Executive Session.

Mayor Fretti reconvened the regular City Council meeting at 7:55 p.m. and stated that there was discussion of real estate only in the Executive Session and no vote was taken.

Mayor Fretti entertained a motion for adjournment.

**A MOTION** by Councilman Vickers, seconded by Councilman Eunice, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to adjourn the January 10, 2008 meeting of the Valdosta City Council at 7:55 p.m. to meet again in regular session on Thursday, January 24, 2008.

---

City Clerk, City of Valdosta

---

Mayor, City of Valdosta