

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE VALDOSTA CITY COUNCIL
5:30 P.M., THURSDAY, JANUARY 5, 2012
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL

OPENING CEREMONIES

Mayor Joseph "Sonny" Vickers called the regular meeting of the Valdosta City Council to order at 5:30 p.m. Council members present were: Hoke Hampton, Tim Carroll, Alvin Payton, Jr., Ben Norton, Deidra White, Robert Yost, and James Wright. The invocation was given by Associate Pastor Mac Weaver, First Baptist Church, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the December 8, 2011 Regular Meeting were approved by unanimous consent (7-0) of the Council.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Larry Hanson, City Manager, thanked the City employees who worked during the Christmas and New Year's holidays. We often take for granted the time we get to spend with our families and it is good to remember the Policemen, Firemen, the Water Plant Operators, the Wastewater Plant Operators, and the Sanitation workers who are working on those days to keep our City safe, protected, and operating efficiently.

Larry Hanson thanked Councilman Hoke Hampton for serving on the City Council on an interim basis. He has always admired Councilman Hampton's enthusiasm and positive outlook on every situation that he encounters. He has provided a real service to District 3 and it has been a pleasure to work with him again.

Larry Hanson stated that he has worked with Mayor Vickers for many, many years and he has a great deal of respect and admiration for him. When the City of Valdosta needed him the most he rose to the occasion and provided the wisdom, patience, guidance, and leadership that was needed. Mayor Vickers had reservations about serving but he now knows that this Council and the Staff had absolute trust and confidence in him to perform the duties of Mayor. Mayor Vickers has earned that trust and respect and in doing so he has broken barriers. His work will inspire others, young and old, to dream and achieve and to know that all things are possible. Councilman Vickers is the ultimate team player, a wise and sage Councilman, a Statesman, and a real credit to this City and all Valdostans. Larry Hanson personally thanked Mayor Vickers for the privilege of working for him and with him over all these years.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Hampton thanked Mayor Vickers for having trust in him and asking him to serve on the Council these past four months. Councilman Hampton stated that it has been a pleasure working with the Mayor and the other Council members. He was reluctant to accept the position as a Council member and needed some time to think about it. Mayor Vickers had told him that he did not have much time to think about it because he needed to know something by the next day. Councilman Hampton told him that he would have to talk to his wife which he did. His wife then spoke with their two sons and the three of them decided that Councilman Hampton should serve. His oldest son told him that he was "the man." Councilman Hampton stated that he was not quite sure what that meant but he came back and it has been wonderful working with Mayor Vickers and the other Council members. Councilman Hampton stated that Mayor Elect Gayle should have no problem leading the City of Valdosta in the right direction with the kind of leadership that he is going to have working with him and he thanked all of the City employees and Staff for their support during his tenure.

Mayor Vickers stated that in 1984 he went to visit Hoke Hampton and asked him to run for City Council but he was on the fence. He also went to Leroy Butler since he could not get Councilman Hampton to commit. Mayor Vickers then went to Ruth Council's house and complained about how he could not get either one of them to commit. Ms. Council listened to him complain for several weeks and then she told him not to come back to her house complaining about something they would not do that he would not do. Ms. Council and several others then

pushed Mayor Vickers to run for the City Council. Mayor Vickers stated that he has known Hoke Hampton for as long as he can remember and they went out to eat one time quite a while ago. Hoke Hampton had told him that they would go Dutch treat. They had lunch and when it was time to pay Mayor Vickers did not have enough money because he thought Hoke Hampton was going to pay. Hoke Hampton looked at him and said that he had told him they were going Dutch treat. Mayor Vickers told Hoke that he thought he was the Dutch and that he was going to treat. Hoke Hampton taught him what Dutch treat meant and he has never forgotten that.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Vickers made several special presentations and thanked everyone for their encouragement and support. Mayor Vickers stated that we have the best City Council anywhere around and he has heard nothing but good things. He would not have been able to accomplish all of the things that he has done without their support and presented each Council member with a picture of the City Council as a token of his appreciation. Mayor Vickers stated that there would also be a reception after the Council meeting and everyone was invited to attend.

Special Recognition of Councilman Hoke Hampton, District 3.

Mayor Vickers thanked Councilman Hampton on behalf of Mayor and Council and the City Manager for his service to the City and District 3 and presented Councilman Hampton with a framed picture.

Special Recognition of Mayor Joseph “Sonny” Vickers.

Mayor Pro Tem Alvin Payton, Jr. stated that on behalf of the City Council and the more than 600 City employees he was delighted to present to Mayor Vickers with a framed collage of photographs from his reign as the municipal leader of the City of Valdosta. Council could not have selected a better person, a better Statesperson, or a better leader.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Mayor Vickers suspended the Citizens to be Heard portion of the City Council meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Vickers adjourned the January 5, 2012 meeting of the Valdosta City Council at 5:40 p.m. to meet again in regular session at 5:45 p.m. on Thursday, January 5, 2012.

City Clerk, City of Valdosta

Mayor, City of Valdosta