

**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR MEETING OF THE VALDOSTA CITY COUNCIL**  
**5:30 P.M., THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 2010**  
**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, Deidra White, John Eunice, Robert Yost, and James Wright. The invocation was given by Rev. Willie Beasley, Park Avenue United Methodist Church, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**READING OF ELECTION RESULTS**

Reading of Election Results for the General Municipal Election by the City Manager.

Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that an election was held on November 3, 2009 for the Georgia General Municipal and a Runoff Election was held on December 1, 2009. The following election results have now been certified by the Board of Elections: (1) City Council District 2 - David Demersseman received 24 votes (6.30%), David Lee Dempsey received 31 votes (8.14%), Rodney Flucas received 16 votes (4.20%), Deidra A. White received 179 votes (46.98%), and L. W. Williams received 131 votes (34.38%); (2) City Council District 4 - Alvin Payton, Jr. (Incumbent) - Unopposed; (3) City Council District 6 - John E. Johnson received 261 votes (34.30%), and Robert Yost (Incumbent) received 500 votes (65.70%). Winners of the Municipal Election were (1) City Council District 4 - Alvin Payton, Jr. (Incumbent), and (2) City Council District 6 - Robert Yost (Incumbent). A Runoff Election for District 2 was held and Deidra A. White received 179 votes (57.01%) and L. W. Williams received 135 votes (42.99%). The winner of the Runoff Election for District 2 was Deidra A. White.

Results for the Valdosta City School Board were as follows: (1) At Large - Jeana F. Beeland (Incumbent) received 2,310 votes (74.66%), Thomas W. Smoot received 768 votes (24.82%), Write-in votes 16 (0.52%); (2) Super Ward East - Debra Bell received 417 votes (38.01%), Christopher Brandon received 371 votes (33.82%), Chris Burgman received 303 votes (27.62%), and Write-in votes 6 (0.55%); (3) Super Ward West - Chassitty Loving received 227 votes (11.42%), Kelly Clark Wilson received 1,756 votes (88.33%), Write-in votes 5 (0.25%); (4) District 4 - Micah I. Holliman received 154 votes (40.31%), Dean R. Rexroth received 225 votes (58.90%), Write-in votes 3 (0.79%). Winners of the Valdosta City School Board were as follows: (1) At Large - Jeana F. Beeland (Incumbent), (2) Super Ward West - Kelly Clark Wilson, and (3) District 4, Dean R. Rexroth. A Runoff Election for Super Ward East was held and Debra Bell received 337 votes (53.92%) and Christopher Brandon received 288 votes (46.08%). The winner of the Runoff Election for Super Ward East was Debra Bell.

**OATHS OF OFFICE**

Oaths of Office to City Council Districts Two, Four, and Six.

The Honorable Superior Court Judge Richard M. Cowart of the Southern Judicial Circuit administered the Oath of Office to Councilwoman Deidra White, District 2, Councilman Alvin Payton, Jr., District 4, and Councilman Robert Yost, District 6. Copies of the Oaths of Office are on record in the permanent file of the January 7, 2010 regular meeting of the governing body.

**ELECTION OF MAYOR PRO TEM**

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

The Honorable Superior Court Judge Richard M. Cowart of the Southern Judicial Circuit administered the Oath of Office for Mayor Pro Tem to Councilman John Eunice. A copy of the Oath of Office is on record in the permanent file of the January 7, 2010 regular meeting of the governing body.

Councilman Eunice thanked the Mayor and Council for their vote of trust in electing him to serve as Mayor Pro Tem. Councilman Eunice stated that he looked forward to the challenges in 2010 and to supporting the City of Valdosta and the Mayor and Council in whatever capacity possible.

## **AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS**

### **PRESENTATION OF THE JANUARY, 2010 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH AWARD**

Mayor Fretti entertained a motion for the January, 2010 Employee of the Month Award.

A **MOTION** by Councilman Carroll, seconded by Councilman Payton, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to approve the January, 2010 Employee of the Month Award.

Mayor Fretti presented the January, 2010 Employee of the Month Award to Amy Hall, Finance Department.

Amy Hall began her employment with the City of Valdosta in July, 1997 as an Accountant which is the position she currently holds. In her position, Mrs. Hall has the primary duty of maintaining the General Fund as well as several other smaller funds. In addition to these duties, she also reconciles miscellaneous billing and processes encumbrances. This work is very detail orientated and deadline driven to ensure the City's finances are kept up-to-date and its' obligations are met. During the past few months, the City has been going through a data conversion as part of its plan to implement the New World System software. This is a very tedious process as all the information from City departments must be entered into the new system and tested before the actual software comes online. In addition to her daily duties, Mrs. Hall spent countless hours assisting the New World representatives, our Financial Services Manager, Chuck Dinkins, and our Information Technology Manager, Steven Carter with the set up of the new software. This required setting up accounts, reviewing historical data, and the testing of work flow to be certain the new system modulars were functional and performing as required. She also worked closely with employees from other departments to answer any questions and to make sure they felt comfortable using the new system. Although Amy is a salaried employee and does not receive overtime pay, she did not let this stop her from putting in additional time including weekends to make sure the software transition went smoothly. Frank Lloyd Wright once stated, "I know the price of success - dedication, hard-work, and an unremitting devotion to the things you want to see happen." This was certainly the case with the effort and attention Mrs. Hall gave to ensure the success of the software project which will benefit all departments in the City, and she is to be commended for her efforts. For these reasons and many others, the Employee Relations Committee nominated Amy Hall as Employee of the Month.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the December 10, 2009 Regular Meeting of the Valdosta City Council were approved by unanimous consent (7-0) of the Council.

## **CITIZENS TO BE HEARD**

Joanne Griner, 427 Georgetown Circle, stated that she is a member of the Valdosta Sesquicentennial Planning Committee and the Chairperson for the upcoming Downtown Dosta Fest which will kick off an exciting year of activities celebrating the 150<sup>th</sup> birthday of the City of Valdosta. Dosta Fest will be held on Friday, January 15, 2010 from 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. in Downtown Valdosta. Mayor and Council is invited to the opening ceremony beginning at 6:00 p.m. on the County Courthouse steps followed by an enchanting night that takes citizens back in time to the 1860's with street performers and other live entertainment. There will be a historical re-enactment, a Doc Holliday look-alike contest, horse and carriage rides, and a kid's zone. Ms. Griner thanked the

Mayor and Council for their support of this event and other activities which will take place throughout 2010. At the end of the year they want to look back in hopes that they have educated the community about the history, celebrated the present success, and look forward to a bright future filled with public service and community growth. Ms. Griner thanked the Mayor and Council for their example of good leadership and faithful public servant-hood. Mayor Fretti thanked Ms. Griner for her leadership and the entire Committee for their efforts in planning for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the City of Valdosta.

George Boston Rhynes, 5004 Oak Drive, stated that history tells us that whites were the first recipients of affirmative action in set aside jobs. Even in Valdosta whites used funds from such programs to take care of their families, increase their financial base, use public restrooms, eat in public restaurants, and assemble in groups of more than five while skin color made blacks unqualified. For centuries blacks have been denied certain jobs and contract opportunities in many municipalities across the nation. Following the recent Work Session, Hunter Harper, Coordinator for the Small Emerging Business Program, gave an outstanding presentation on the Program which is designed to help correct the wrongs of the past and create a more fair and just system for the citizens in Valdosta; however, once again the citizens were left deaf, dumb, and blind as to what took place at this public meeting. This has become a routine in Valdosta in that much of the things that take place at public meetings are left unpublished to the citizens. Mr. Rhynes stated that after he and Brother John Robinson met with Larry Hanson, City Manager, there was hope. Mr. Hanson discussed what the City was doing to help people who have been in jail and provide them with jobs in order to help make them productive members of our society. There is a lot of information that the City is doing that the general public does not know about. Mr. Hanson has been invited to speak on WJEM radio station which will be a plus. There is a cloud over this City along the racial divide that no one wants to talk about but Mr. Rhynes does not mind talking about it. Mr. Rhynes stated that if truth does not come forth then there will never be freedom nor will they understand each other. Mr. Rhynes thanked the City Manager for the information he provided and thanked the citizens for placing a female on the Council.

Steve Johnson, 3557 Mt. Zion Church Road, stated that he was an Outreach Coordinator for the C.H.A.N.C.E. Program, and noted that there are approximately 347 inmates in the Lowndes County jail that are under the age of 25. One of those young men, who is only 20 years old and has no G.E.D. or job skills, was bonded out yesterday. Mr. Johnson stated that he and Jimmy Boyd were heading up the C.H.A.N.C.E. Program which helps inmates when they are released from jail learn how to shake a man's hand on a job interview, look a man in the eye, complete a resume, dress appropriately for an interview, and learn life skills. The C.H.A.N.C.E. Program gives inmates a second chance at being productive citizens in society. Mr. Johnson stated that he used to be the guy that was locked up and he had a criminal record. Resumes and applications were turned down because of what he had done in 1983 which is still on his record today. A lot of these young men do not have the drive that he has and the C.H.A.N.C.E. Program teaches them about entrepreneurship and how to write a business plan. Mr. Johnson stated that approximately 45 days ago 10 people were shot and we need to become proactive. We need to offer them a chance and not condemn them after the fact. Approximately 360 out of the 700 inmates now in the Lowndes County jail are in there for probation violation. Probation is not getting their money, parole is not getting their money, and it is costing the City more money to house them. Mr. Johnson stated that the C.H.A.N.C.E. Program will be presented tonight at 7:00 p.m. at 1619 North Lee Street and invited the Mayor and Council to attend.

John Robinson, 3227 San Juline Circle, Lake Park, stated that he had previously addressed Council about the Small Emerging Business Program and the disparity study. When he came here the City and County was run by the good old boys and it was an all white power structure. Mr. Robinson had previously informed the Mayor and Council that he had attorneys and he represented the concerned citizens of economic and urban development and the Black Business Association. He has met with Hunter Harper, Coordinator of the Valdosta Small Emerging Business Program, and he heard the Mayor discuss how unique this new Program is. If we give it an opportunity to see that it works then he will not have to take any legal steps; however, there is balance and they must have leverage. Mr. Robinson met with the City Manager, Larry Hanson, and stated that he would take him at his word. They agreed to work together and have something in the Valdosta Daily Times. It will take a requirement from everyone to turn this thing around. As far as the small emerging businesses, there has been no fairness in it because of the way the system is designed to weed out businesses based on portfolios. During the meeting with the City Manager, they discussed the line of social divide and history and how they got here. They also discussed the good

old boys, the system, and what it is going to take to get there. It will take participation from the businesses to come here and get on the agenda. People need to be educated about the facts. Mr. Robinson stated that he would trust the City Manager because trust is opportunity and that is what he is working toward. It is not who we claim to be but who we prove ourselves to be over a given period of time. They are going to try and get all the small businesses on the agenda and they are going to work hard to bring people together to make this work. Mr. Robinson commended the Mayor and the City Manager for bringing this program to our community.

Mike Kenneman, 612 East Coleman Drive, Hahira, stated that he was the local Sales Representative for Tractor and Equipment Company which is the distributor for the Vactor sewer cleaner trucks that Council will be voting on a purchase tonight. The Tractor and Equipment Company has nine locations in Georgia and the closest is in Albany. Mr. Kenneman stated that he had four reasons why he was asking for Council's vote. The City currently does not have a Vactor and when he learned that the City would be purchasing one he scheduled a demonstration. The machine performed flawlessly and the operators liked it. The machine is serviced out of Albany and he has a technician that lives in Tift County so we would be getting local service. Statewide, his product has 65% market share and is the preferred product. Atlanta alone has 20 machines all in Vactors and the City of Waycross and Fort Valley each has a Vactor. Mr. Kenneman stated that he wanted to address the fact that his company did not meet the specs. The specs are written in such a proprietary fashion that no one other than Vac-Con could bid. It is no different than Council asking for a white car and all you could provide was a black car. Both of them can take you where you want to go and get you back home but it is a spec he could not meet. The same holds true for his machine. It will do the job but just in a different way and without the need of an auxiliary engine which calculates to efficiency and dollars. Finally, they were the low bid and in these tough economic times a \$12,000 savings is very significant and Council could find a better way to spend \$12,000. Councilman Fretti stated that Mr. Kenneman seemed to be a nice person and he had previously spoken to almost every member of Council regarding the purchase. The City of Valdosta does a lot of purchasing and if he allows every vendor to appear before Council under Citizens to be Heard to give their sales pitch we would be here all night. The City reserves purchasing to the professionals and Mr. Kenneman may not have understood that when they spoke. Mayor Fretti stated that he would not allow another vendor to speak under Citizens to be Heard if they do not have something to say about the community and this is their last source of relief. Mayor Fretti stated that they have spoken to the City's professionals and Council will do what they think is best with the information they have at the time.

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

Consideration of bids for a sewer truck body for the Water and Sewer Department (Bid No. 18-09-10).

Greg Brown, Purchasing Agent, stated that the Water and Sewer Department needs to replace an existing sewer truck. The cab and chassis was approved at a previous Council meeting and this bid is for the body of the unit that will be mounted on the cab and will be used to clean storm drains and sewer lines. Funds are budgeted for this purchase. Sealed bids were received on December 1, 2009 with the low bid meeting specifications submitted by Adams Equipment in the amount of \$210,769. Greg Brown recommended that Council approve the low bid meeting specifications submitted by Adams Equipment in the amount of \$210,769 and allow the Water and Sewer Department to proceed with the purchase. Councilman Payton inquired as to what part of the specifications was not met by the Tractor and Equipment Company. Greg Brown stated that one of the specs that the Tractor and Equipment Company could not meet was an auxiliary engine.

**A MOTION** by Councilman Eunice, seconded by Councilman Yost, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to follow the recommendation of the Purchasing Agent and approve the low bid meeting specifications submitted by Adams Equipment in the amount of \$210,769 and allow the Water and Sewer Department to proceed with the purchase of a sewer truck body.

Consideration of bids to replace the City of Valdosta's current telephone system with VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol) [RFP #16-09-10]

Greg Brown, Purchasing Agent, stated that the current telephone system is approximately 15-20 years old and is out dated. The maintenance charges on the current system are astronomical and the parts for the system are very hard to find. A committee consisting of Councilman Alvin Payton, Jr., Mark Barber, Deputy City Manager of Administration, and Steven Carter, Information Technology Manager, evaluated the proposals and their recommendation was to award the contract to ADCAP in the amount of \$277,171.34. Funds for this purchase will come from SPLOST VI. Mayor Fretti asked Greg Brown to discuss the maintenance costs on the system. Greg Brown stated that the City is currently spending \$85,000 per year on maintenance as well as \$144,000 with Bell South. The new system will feature a new voice mail system, handsets, and installation and training costs. Within two years the City will have saved enough money on maintenance costs to pay for the new telephone system.

**A MOTION** by Councilman Payton, seconded by Councilman Carroll, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to follow the recommendation of the Purchasing Agent and approve the bid submitted by ADCAP in the amount of \$277,171.34 to replace the City of Valdosta's current telephone system with VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol).

Consideration of an Agreement for the purchase of 22.15 acres of the Five Points LLC Property.

Mayor Fretti stated that Councilman Carroll would be abstaining from the discussion and vote on this Agenda Item. Councilman Carroll left the Council Chambers at 6:34 p.m.

George Talley, City Attorney, stated that as of approximately 5:15 p.m. today, he spent most of the afternoon with Mayor Fretti, Larry Hanson, City Manager, and Mara Register, Assistant to the City Manager, negotiating with the Setzer family's attorney. We now have a contract to purchase a 22.15 acre tract at Five Points for \$5,620,000 with a \$20,000 binder. The closing date will be no later than 120 days from the date of the Agreement which will probably be the first of next week. Phase I and Phase II Environmental Site Assessments and Studies will be completed no more than 110 days after the Agreement. All property taxes and rent under the current lease arrangement will be pro-rated as of the time of closing. During the first 90 days, the City will enter into a declaration of easements and a joint use agreement with the parties concerning access. Both the City and Five Points LLC agree that the property will remain relatively level so there will be no disparity between the two tracts that are left. Five Points LLC will the right to participate with the City in a joint paving project for their property at the time of construction and paving. If the City begins construction and paves a lot then Five Points LLC will be allowed to go in at the same price and pay their pro-rata part to pave their portion. Each party will maintain all facilities and improvements in their own name, and Five Points LLC may pave some grass areas adjacent to the existing strip center. The City will demolish the building that housed the old J. C. Penney's store and some other stores. Both parties have reached an agreement in principal and this will be beneficial for the City and Five Points LLC. Councilman Vickers inquired as to whether Pirate's Bluff would be included in the acquisition. Larry Hanson stated that the property owned by Five Points LLC begins at Pirate's Bluff and runs through Moe's and the linear strip. The Wendy's property is stand alone property. Councilman Yost inquired as to what was meant by the last point which noted that the City agrees to assist Five Points LLC within reason in the future with plans to redevelop the 7.39 acre tract for uses complimentary to the City's plans for a performance venue, such as a hotel, dining facilities, and restaurants to include appropriate licenses to serve alcohol. Larry Hanson stated that the LRS Company asked for this point to be included in the Agreement. As the City has stated in the past, we believe that this project will lead to a lot of private redevelopment in the area and this statement supports that. The owners have asked that the City would agree to assist within reason in the future with plans to redevelop the 7.39 acre tract for uses complimentary to the City's plans for a performance venue such as a hotel, dining facility, or restaurant to include appropriate licenses to serve alcohol. They are now reconsidering redeveloping their property such as a hotel and upscale restaurant and they want the City to agree to work with them when they go through that process. The City will also be entering into a joint use agreement with Five Points LLC where they will be agreeing to share parking with one another. George Talley, City Attorney, stated that any redevelopment that they do will be subject to the Land Development Regulations. Councilwoman White inquired as to what the purpose was for including this. Larry Hanson stated that if they have a three or four story hotel it could be that the remaining parking they have would not be adequate and that is why we have already agreed to work with them on a joint parking arrangement. We would have the right to use their parking during events and vice versa. They wanted to make sure that the City would not be opposed to those types of uses of that property. Councilwoman White inquired as to whether this would be a new precedent set. Larry Hanson stated that this

would not be a new precedent. The only thing we are aware of that we could assist them with that we could not do for anyone else is that all of the public parking is for the benefit of the public. It would be difficult for the City to deny anyone use of a public parking lot. Mayor Fretti stated that adding this statement is a type of goodwill gesture and they were afraid they might be blocked out of something because the City's use might be prohibitive to what they might want to do in the future. Councilman Yost inquired as to whether the items that they wanted the City to agree to that we would not put on the property would fit with the current zoning. Larry Hanson stated that they would not and the City asked that Five Points LLC also agree to those same conditions and they did.

**A MOTION** was made by Councilman Yost to approve the Agreement for the purchase of 22.15 acres of the Five Points LLC Property. Councilman Eunice seconded the motion. Councilwoman White stated that she was not a part bringing this deal together and since the City was able to pull it off without going through condemnation then she would be voting in favor of the request; however, she is looking forward to the discussion of what might be placed on the property. The motion was unanimously adopted (6-0) with Councilman Carroll abstaining from the vote.

Consideration of a Proposal to conduct an Environmental Study of a 22.15 acre portion of Five Points LLC property.

Mayor Fretti stated that Councilman Carroll would be abstaining from the discussion and vote on this Agenda Item as well.

Mara Register, Assistant to the City Manager, stated that the proposal from TTL, Inc. is to conduct all of the necessary environmental testing on the 22.15 acre tract located in mid-town Valdosta. Their fee schedule is \$27,774.79 and based on the Agreement reached today, TTL, Inc. will complete that work within 110 days. TTL, Inc. will conduct Phase I and II environmental tests as well as lead, asbestos, soil, and groundwater testing. There are Brownfield Assessment funds that will be utilized to fund the studies that are necessary as part of the due diligence for closing on this property. Mara Register asked Council's consideration in approving the Proposal from TTL, Inc.

**A MOTION** by Councilman Payton, seconded by Councilman Eunice, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to approve the Proposal to conduct an Environmental Study of a 22.15 acre portion of Five Points LLC property. Councilman Carroll abstained from the vote.

Councilman Carroll returned to the Council Chambers at 6:47 p.m.

Consideration of a request to approve a Change Order for the McKey Park Tennis Project.

Von Shipman, City Engineer, stated that the Change Order is to build a 44' x 30' structural steel pavilion at the McKey Park Tennis complex. It will have a concrete floor and no furniture was included in the bid; however, the City Engineer is working with the contractor to get that donated. Cauthan Construction Company submitted a bid in the amount of \$78,921 and according to the Architect, this is a good price for the proposed facility. Von Shipman recommended that Council approve the Change Order for the McKey Park Tennis Project.

**A MOTION** by Councilman Payton, seconded by Councilman Carroll, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to approve the Change Order for the McKey Park Tennis Project.

Consideration of a request to approve a contract with the Georgia Department of Transportation for a bridge replacement on CS 1191/Tucker Road at Dukes Bay Canal.

Von Shipman, City Engineer, stated that the Georgia Department of Transportation (DOT) was asked by the City in 2001 to program the replacement of the Tucker Road Bridge using Federal and State transportation funds after the bridge developed significant structural problems. The City hired a contractor to make temporary repairs to meet minimum load limits. The DOT is proposing to replace the bridge with a reinforced concrete box culvert in 2011 at a cost of approximately \$750,000. The City is required to obtain the required right-of-way using

Federal guidelines and will hire a consultant to acquire the right-of-way. Von Shipman recommended that Council approve the contract with the DOT.

**A MOTION** by Councilman Vickers, seconded by Councilman Payton, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to approve a contract with the Georgia Department of Transportation for a bridge replacement on CS 1191/Tucker Road at Dukes Bay Canal and enact Resolution No. 2010-1, the complete text of which will be found in Resolution Book IV.

Consideration of a request to approve a contract with the LPA Group for Design Services on transportation projects.

Von Shipman, City Engineer, stated that the LPA Group was hired several months ago to fast-track transportation improvement projects per the list approved by the City Council as recommended by the City Engineer in February, 2009. Their first task was to prepare project estimates of the 43 projects located on City controlled streets. This required both field and office tasks. The City Engineer then requested detail engineering costs for the following projects: (1) Bemiss Road at Connell Road intersection improvement including signal, (2) Bemiss Road at Pineview Drive intersection improvement including signal, (3) Pineview Drive at Melrose Drive roundabout, (4) Gordon Street improvements from Hendry Drive to Lankford Drive/Melody Lane, (5) Woodrow Wilson Extension from Patterson Street to Oak Street/Gornto Road intersection. The total engineering design fee negotiated was \$213,100 which represents 8.21% of the total cost of construction (\$2,595,255). The prices listed are not to be exceeded and the LPA Group will bill actual hours worked on the projects. The next group of projects which the LPA Group will provide engineering services will include sidewalk and ditch piping projects. They will consider using local engineers to help deliver projects on the timeline demanded by the City. The City Engineering Department is also working on the following projects: (1) River Street sidewalk from Hightower Street to Blich Street, (2) Gordon Street at Lamar Street turn lane, (3) North Oak Street Extension southbound turn lane extension at Perimeter Road, and (4) Lamar from Gordon to Mary Street sidewalk. Von Shipman recommended that Council approve the contract with the LPA Group for design services on transportation projects. Councilman Eunice inquired as to whether the projects would be completed in the order listed above. Von Shipman stated that was the priority of the projects that he had suggested; however, the list could be modified if Council so desires. Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that all of these projects were on a timeline to be designed by the end of summer. Von Shipman stated that the 43 projects will be ready for construction by the end of the year if the funding is available. Councilman Wright inquired as to how the projects are prioritized. Von Shipman stated that the Master Transportation Plan was completed several years ago and he was asked in February, 2009 to identify all of those projects and infuse the bicycle, sidewalk, and ditch piping projects as well as several smaller projects. He was asked to look at those projects and provide a more detailed estimation of their cost and rank those in the order that he felt would be best for the community. Due to the amount of funding available, a line had to be drawn and only a certain number of projects in each of the categories were included on the list. In February, 2009, there was discussion about the widening project of Forrest Street from Hill Avenue to Park Avenue and that was moved above the line and the Northside Drive Extension Project from Jaycee Shack Road to J. L. Newbern Middle School was moved below the line. Larry Hanson stated that Council had approved the list and there were some projects that were shifted and this is the menu of projects. There are more projects than there are funds and that is why Council helped to prioritize the projects. Councilman Yost inquired as to whether Council would be voting to approve these projects because what they are doing tonight is giving the authority to move ahead on these projects. Larry Hanson stated that if the City pays for project design then it will be brought to Council for approval. The SPLOST money comes in one month at a time one year at a time so we have to budget projects on a year-by-year basis. Councilman Carroll inquired as to whether these projects were part of the Master Transportation Plan. Larry Hanson stated that all of these were in the Master Transportation Plan and some were the highest rated projects. Even though the Master Transportation Plan was adopted by the Council these projects will be brought back before Council for approval.

**A MOTION** was made by Councilman Carroll to approve a contract with the LPA Group for Design Services on transportation projects. Councilman Payton seconded the motion. The motion was adopted (6-1) with Councilman Wright voting in opposition.

Consideration of a request for \$7,500 from the Mayor/Council Contingency Fund for the Community Task Force on Violence.

Mara Register, Assistant to the City Manager, stated that the Community Task Force on Violence has had intensive training of the during the past two days with Gordon Manor, Facilitator with the University of Georgia's Carl Vinson Institute of Government. The Task Force is looking forward to beginning the work after the recommendations are made. Mara Register recommended that Council approve the request for \$7,500 for costs associated with the Community Task Force on Violence. Councilman Carroll stated that there will be a Community Task Force on Violence Forum on February 2, 2010 at 5:30 p.m. at the James H. Rainwater Conference Center.

**A MOTION** by Councilman Carroll, seconded by Councilman Vickers, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to approve the request for \$7,500 from the Mayor/Council Contingency Fund for the Community Task Force on Violence.

Consideration of a request to approve sponsorship of a table at the Valdosta-Lowndes County Chamber of Commerce's 98th Annual Dinner.

Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that the Valdosta-Lowndes County Chamber of Commerce will hold its 98th Annual Dinner on January 26, 2010 at the James H. Rainwater Conference Center. Corporate tables of 10 are \$350. Larry Hanson recommended that Council approve the request to sponsor a table at the Valdosta-Lowndes County Chamber of Commerce's 98th Annual Dinner.

**A MOTION** by Councilman Carroll, seconded by Councilman Payton, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to sponsor a table in the amount of \$350 for the Valdosta-Lowndes County Chamber of Commerce's 98th Annual Dinner.

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that the Martin Luther King, Jr. Founders Banquet is Saturday, January 9, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. at the James H. Rainwater Conference Center. The MLK Park Dedication ceremony is scheduled for Saturday, January 16, 2010 at 2:00 p.m.

The Georgia Department of Transportation (DOT) will hold a public meeting regarding the West Hill overpass on January 28, 2010 at the Lowndes County Board of Commissioners meeting room on Savannah Avenue. They now have a full design of the project and following public comments there will be right-of-way acquisitions with construction to begin within a year. The DOT will also hold a public meeting regarding the Hollywood/Clay Road/U.S. 84 intersection re-alignment improvement project on January 12, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. at the DOT office in Tifton.

Other important events coming up for Mayor and Council are the Bird Supper which will be held on February 3, 2010 in Atlanta and the Georgia Municipal Association Mayor's Day which will be held on January 22-25, 2010 in Atlanta.

Larry Hanson stated that there were two water main breaks today due to the unusually cold weather we have been experiencing recently.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

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**ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Fretti entertained a motion for adjournment.

**A MOTION** by Councilwoman White, seconded by Councilman Eunice was unanimously adopted (7-0) to adjourn the January 7, 2010 meeting of the Valdosta City Council at 7:08 p.m. to meet again in regular session on Thursday, January 21, 2010.

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City Clerk, City of Valdosta

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Mayor, City of Valdosta