

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE VALDOSTA CITY COUNCIL
5:30 P.M., THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 2009
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: Tim Carroll, Alvin Payton, Willie Head, Jr., and Robert Yost. Councilmen Sonny Vickers, John Eunice, and James Wright arrived late. The invocation was given by Rev. George Bennett, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS

PRESENTATION OF THE JANUARY, 2009 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH AWARD

Mayor Fretti entertained a motion for the January, 2009 Employee of the Month Award.

A **MOTION** by Councilman Carroll, seconded by Councilman Payton, was unanimously adopted (4-0) to approve the January, 2009 Employee of the Month Award and presentation of the Heart Walk Certificates.

Mayor Fretti presented the January, 2009 Employee of the Month Award to Stacey Griffin, Public Works Department.

Stacey Griffin began his employment with the City of Valdosta in January, 2007 as a Crewleader in the Arborist Division which is the position he currently holds. Mr. Griffin supervises a crew in the care and maintenance of trees of all sizes and variety belonging to the City. This work consists of pruning, removal of hazardous trees, and work performed to ensure the health, vitality, and structural integrity of trees. It is potentially dangerous work involving the use of ropes, harnesses, and the frequent use of a bucket truck around power lines, homes, and roadways. As a Crewleader, Mr. Griffin must constantly monitor all work being done to ensure the safety of employees and prevent accidents and property damages. Recently, Mr. Griffin volunteered to perform the duties of another position in addition to his own when the City's Landscape Inspector took maternity leave. Using his education in environmental horticulture and experience working with contractors, Mr. Griffin was instrumental in overseeing several large projects to completion including North Oak Square, Martin's Bakery, and the expansion at South Georgia Medical Center. His assistance with the plan review, site inspections, and knowledge of the City's landscape ordinances ensured the work on these projects was completed according to standards and was not delayed. Mr. Griffin's efforts are an outstanding example of how departments and people can work together to accomplish goals for the good of the City and the public. Mr. Griffin is to be commended for stepping up to the plate and volunteering for these additional duties and for his outstanding work during this period. For these reasons and many others, the City of Valdosta recognized Stacey Griffin as Employee of the Month.

PRESENTATION OF THE 2008 HEART WALK CERTIFICATES

Presentation of the 2008 Heart Walk Certificates.

Mayor Fretti stated that the City of Valdosta recently participated in the 2008 Heart Walk and raised a total of \$2,159.11. Mayor Fretti presented Certificates to the following top three fund raising Departments: Third Place – Human Resources/Public Involvement Departments (\$331.00), Second Place – Utilities Department (\$641.11), and First Place – Customer Service (\$807.78). The City of Valdosta was also recognized as a "Fit Friendly Company" during the Heart Walk and is the only city in Georgia to receive this designation. For this recognition, companies are asked to go through an application process in which they must prove that they are taking the necessary steps to improve the health and wellness of their employees.

PRESENTATION OF THE MUNICIPAL AUDIT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008

Presentation of the Municipal Audit for Fiscal Year 2008. Mayor/Council postponed the presentation at the December 11, 2008 regular meeting until the January 8, 2009 regular meeting.

Mayor Fretti stated that Mark Rogers, CPA with Henderson & Godbee, LLP, would present the Municipal Audit for Fiscal Year 2008. Mark Rogers informed the Council that they have completed the audit of financial statements of the City of Valdosta for the year ended June 30, 2008 as contained in the Comprehensive Annual Finance Report (CAFR) and have issued their unqualified auditors' report on those financial statements dated December 9, 2008. 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, 2008. A brief overview of each major area follows: (1) General Fund for the Year Ended June 30, 2008: The General Fund ended with a budgetary income of \$38,617. Revenues received totaled \$27,507,844, and were under budgeted amounts by \$400,000. Expenditures were \$29,279,682 and were under budget by \$344,728 on a budgetary basis. Other financing sources totaled \$1,810,455. 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 \$5,851,086 and expenditures of \$5,055,644. The majority of the activity was in the Recreation and Parks Fund that accounted for \$3,486,205 of the revenue and \$3,253,372 of the expenditures. The HUD fund accounted for \$1,218,271 of the revenue and \$771,247 of the expenditures. The new Accommodations Tax Fund accounted for \$823,531 of the revenue and \$817,253 of the expenditures. The Capital Projects Funds had revenues of \$11,990,265 and expenditures of \$6,731,565. The Sales Tax '97 Fund, Sales Tax 2002 Fund, and the new Sales Tax 2007 Fund accounted for \$11,368,559 of the revenues and \$6,588,009 of the expenditures for the year. (3) Enterprise Funds - Water/Sewer, Sanitation, and Inspections: The Enterprise Funds total revenues were \$19,851,945 and expenses were \$17,315,433 and operating transfers out were \$1,528,045 resulting in net income of \$1,340,753. The Water/Sewer Revenue Fund's revenues were \$12,430,660 resulting in net income of \$1,350,832. The Sanitation Fund's revenues were \$4,289,770 resulting in a net income of \$196,687. The Inspections Fund's revenues were \$993,325 resulting in a net loss of (\$459,800). The Stormwater Fund had a net income of \$321,007 on revenues of \$1,122,115. The Sanitation Fund liabilities include the required accrual of landfill post closure care costs of \$1,111,972. (4) Internal Service Funds: Motor Pool, Group Insurance, and Workers' Compensation - The Internal Service Funds total revenues were \$9,104,974 and expenses were \$10,636,625. The Motor Pool Fund lost (\$762,097) on revenues of \$3,937,491. The Group Insurance Fund lost (\$683,085) on revenues of \$4,667,256 and the Workers' Compensation Fund had a net income of \$58,564 on revenues of \$500,227. (5) Single Audit Consideration - A Single Audit of the City's federal financial assistance was conducted for the year ended June 30, 2008 as required by Federal law and all required reports dated December 9, 2008 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 \$2,241,271 with \$1,397,600 from the Department of Housing and Urban Development. In summary, the City had another good year financially. Mr. Rogers stated that Henderson and Godbee, LLP appreciated the opportunity to provide auditing services to the City.

Councilman Payton inquired about the total net income (loss) in the Enterprise Fund comparing 2007 to 2008 which was a difference of approximately \$5 million. Mark Rogers stated that the majority of that was capital contributions in the prior year and when SPLOST transfers capital into that fund it is considered revenue for that fund. Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that the \$19 million water treatment plant expansion in the prior year was a major project and a substantial part of it would have been in that previous fiscal year. This past fiscal year the City did not have a project of that magnitude in the Water/Sewer Fund.

Councilman Yost inquired about the new Accommodations Tax. Larry Hanson stated that collection for the Accommodations Tax was for six months since the tax became effective January 1, 2008 and the audit year ended June 30, 2008. Councilman Yost inquired about \$38,617 that was left over in the General Fund at the end of the budget year. Larry Hanson stated that was income over expenses and it becomes part of the Fund balance. These funds are undesignated and available for any purpose. Councilman Yost inquired about the Total Fund balance and what was in reserve. Larry Hanson stated that the majority of that Fund is set aside for rollback. As the General Fund grows the value of a day is more each year and it becomes more and more difficult to build the Fund Balance. For example, if the General Fund was \$23 million and it goes up to \$27 million then the number of days has been reduced automatically even though no money has been spent. The current Fund Balance is approximately \$2 million and 35 working days.

Mayor Fretti thanked Mark Rogers for his assistance with the audit and asked that he comment on the controls that are in place. Mark Rogers stated that the auditors conducted an in-depth review of the controls that are in place to ensure there is a proper segregation of duties. Councilman Head inquired as to whether the Finance Department Staff was aware that the auditors were looking at the internal controls. Mark Rogers stated that the Staff was aware and they did most of the documentation of the system. The auditors then tested the procedures and did a walk-through of the transactions to test the system.

A MOTION by Councilman Head, seconded by Councilman Payton, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to accept the Municipal Audit for Fiscal Year 2008 as presented.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the December 11, 2008 Regular Meeting of the Valdosta City Council were approved by unanimous consent (7-0) of the Council.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

There were no citizens to be heard.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

ORDINANCE NO. 2009-1, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 95-25, DEMOLITION OF UNFIT DWELLINGS, BUILDINGS, OR STRUCTURES UNFIT FOR HUMAN HABITATION OR COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL, OR BUSINESS USES

Consideration of an Ordinance amending Ordinance 95-25, Demolition of Unfit Dwellings, Buildings, or Structures Unfit for Human Habitation or Commercial, Industrial, or Business Uses.

Mara Register, Assistant to the City Manager, stated that the City Attorney and Staff have been working with the Tax Commissioner's Office to establish a more effective system for collection of liens placed on properties in which the City has executed an abatement order issued by the Municipal Court. These efforts have led to increased collections of these liens by the Tax Commissioner's Office and identified the need to update the City's Ordinance to allow for these liens to be classified the same as an ad valorem tax lien. The changes are as follows: (1) The City's demolition liens will be registered with the Clerk of Court's Office and on the State site that lists liens and will carry the same weight as a tax lien. The amendments to this Ordinance track those specific changes allowed by the change in State law. Therefore, any title search now conducted for the purpose of a tax sale or any other type of sale will recognize the City's demolition lien with the same standing as a tax lien and will be due upon sale or transfer of the subject property. (2) The Ordinance also codifies the requirement that if the cost of repairs, alterations, or improvements exceed one-half the value of the subject dwelling, building, or structure when repaired then it is defined as dilapidated and the abatement order should be for demolition. (3) The Ordinance gives a maximum 270-day requirement at the time that the Court Order is issued and whatever abatement is ordered by the Municipal Court Judge must be carried out within 270 days of the Order of the Court whether it is demolition or repair. Mara Register asked Council's consideration in approving the request.

A MOTION by Councilman Carroll, seconded by Councilman Vickers, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to enact Ordinance No. 2009-1, an Ordinance amending Ordinance 95-25, Demolition of Unfit Dwellings, Buildings, or Structures Unfit for Human Habitation or Commercial, Industrial, or Business Uses, the complete text of which will be found in Ordinance Book XI.

BIDS, CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS, AND EXPENDITURES

Consideration of a Fire Protection Agreement for Martin's Famous Pastries, Inc. Mayor/Council postponed the request at the December 11, 2008 regular meeting until the January 8, 2009 regular meeting.

Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that the City now has a three-party Agreement which is the original Agreement but the County has been taken out as a party and one clause has been added to recognize that there is a separate Agreement with Lowndes County. The two-party Agreement between the City and the County is now acceptable with the change that was made. Martin's Famous Pastries' Attorney has reviewed the Agreement and is anxious to get it executed and in place so that the City can now provide this service.

A MOTION by Councilman Payton, seconded by Councilman Carroll, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to approve both the two-party Agreement between the City of Valdosta and Lowndes County and the three-party Agreement between the City of Valdosta, the Industrial Authority, and Martin's Famous Pastries, Inc. for fire protection.

Consideration of bids for agenda software.

Steven Carter, IT Manager, stated one of the goals set during the 2008 Mayor/Council Retreat was to purchase necessary software and technology to implement paperless meetings. The agenda software will drastically reduce the City's cost of \$4,500 per year in paper and \$1,500 per year for toner and maintenance of the copier to produce Council packets. This cost does not include any of the man hours used and if that was calculated using 25 hours per week at \$12 per hour to produce the Council packets, the City would save approximately \$13,000 in man hours just for the City Clerk. This estimate does not consider the time of the Assistant City Clerk, a part-time person, or the City Marshals. If these costs were added together, it would be more than the cost of the first year of this product which is \$18,400 for setup and training. In subsequent years, it will be \$9,000 so the City will make approximately \$10,000 per year on this product. Steven Carter recommended that Council approve the bid of IQM2 in the amount of \$18,400 for the first year and \$9,000 for subsequent years.

A MOTION by Councilman Eunice, seconded by Councilman Head, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to approve the request for agenda software and accept the bid submitted by IQM2 in the amount of \$18,400 for the first year and \$9,000 for subsequent years.

Consideration of bids for water improvements at River Street and St. Augustine Road.

Von Shipman, City Engineer, stated that the City asked the Georgia Department of Transportation in 2001 to improve the St. Augustine Road and River Street intersection due to traffic safety and the anticipation of additional traffic growth on the west side of Valdosta. The project was approved in 2005 and is now under construction. Water mains will need to be constructed to support the project and to serve the former islands that the City annexed in 2006. Bids were received on January 6, 2009 with the low bid submitted by Radney Plumbing, Inc. in the amount of \$191,893. Approximately 50% of the project cost will be borne by the Utilities Department and 50% borne by the SPLOST paving account. Von Shipman recommended that Council approve the low bid submitted by Radney Plumbing, Inc. in the amount of \$191,893 plus a 10% contingency to handle any unforeseen circumstances.

A MOTION by Councilman Head, seconded by Councilman Carroll, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to approve the low bid submitted by Radney Plumbing, Inc. in the amount of \$191,893 plus a 10% contingency to handle any unforeseen circumstances for water improvements at River Street and St. Augustine Road.

Consideration of bids for a swimming pool addition to the Senior Citizen Facility.

Von Shipman, City Engineer, stated that \$500,000 of SPLOST VI revenue was allocated toward the construction of a swimming pool addition at the Valdosta/Lowndes County Senior Citizen Facility on Park Avenue. Richard Hill and Associates prepared the plans and bids were received on December 9, 2008. The low base bid was submitted by S.C. Barker Construction in the amount of \$452,000. Von Shipman recommended that Council approve the low base bid submitted by S.C. Barker Construction with \$1,200 for alternate #1 (HVAC), soils removal of \$20.50/cubic yard (should the material not be required to be disposed of in the landfill), and \$35.00 per cubic yard for select fill material. Geotechnical exploration and testing will be handled by the City under a separate contract.

A **MOTION** was made by Councilman Yost to approve the low base bid submitted by S.C. Barker Construction in the amount of \$452,000 with \$1,200 for alternate #1 (HVAC), soils removal of \$20.50/cubic yard (should the material not be required to be disposed of in the landfill), and \$35.00 per cubic yard for select fill material plus a 10% contingency for a swimming pool addition to the Senior Citizen Facility. Councilman Eunice seconded the motion. Councilman Head stated that the Agenda Item states this is for a swimming pool addition but it is not an addition to an existing pool. George Talley, City Attorney, stated that this is for an addition to the facility. The motion was unanimously adopted (7-0).

Consideration of bids for improvements at North Valdosta Road and Country Club Road.

Von Shipman, City Engineer, stated that Council previously approved the concept in spring, 2008 to temporarily eliminate the inbound traffic on North Valdosta Road from turning left at Country Club Road by the Links Apartment Complex due to safety concerns. The Georgia Department of Transportation (DOT) supported the request and the City implemented the change during the summer with the understanding that permanent improvements would be forthcoming. The change improved traffic safety by reducing the risk of future accidents as traffic counts continue to grow on North Valdosta Road. A by-product of the change was the elimination of cut-through traffic on Country Club Road in the eastbound direction. Counts decreased in that direction approximately 45%. Adjustments to the signals on North Valdosta Road were made to handle the increase in traffic caused by the change. There was an ongoing debate as to whether a left turn drop lane is needed at the location of the next median cut on North Valdosta Road for those who want to make a U-turn to reach Country Club Road. The City elected to bid the work with an alternative to construct the left turn drop lane. The low base bid was submitted by Southland Contractors in the amount of \$56,636.65 and \$32,794.26 to construct the alternate left turn drop lane. The DOT has indicated that a left drop turn lane would not be necessary; however, they do anticipate that it would be necessary in a few years. Von Shipman recommended that Council approve the low base bid submitted by Southland Contractors in the amount of \$56,636.65 and \$32,794.26 to construct the alternate left turn drop lane at the next median opening plus a 10% contingency.

A **MOTION** by Councilman Carroll, seconded by Councilman Payton, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to approve the low base bid submitted by Southland Contractors in the amount of \$56,636.65 and \$32,794.26 to construct the alternate left turn drop lane plus a 10% contingency.

Consideration of bids for paving Stewart Street.

Von Shipman, City Engineer, stated that Stewart Street is a dirt street that extends to Saunders Park. There are several businesses that have access to this street and during the planning of the Saunders Park improvements, the concept called for a rear access to connect to Stewart Street. Plans were prepared and bids were received on December 30, 2008 with the low bid submitted by The Scruggs Company in the amount of \$60,097.50. The adjoining property owners have been contacted and are aware of the plans to pave this street. Von Shipman recommended that Council approve the low bid submitted by The Scruggs Company in the amount of \$60,097.50 plus a 10% contingency to handle any unforeseen circumstances.

A **MOTION** was made by Councilman Vickers to approve the low bid submitted by The Scruggs Company in the amount of \$60,097.50 for paving Stewart Street. Councilman Head seconded the motion. Councilman Carroll inquired as to whether Council would like to include a 10% contingency to handle any unforeseen circumstances. Councilman Vickers and Council Head were in agreement to include a 10% contingency. The motion was unanimously adopted (7-0).

LOCAL FUNDING AND REQUESTS

Consideration of a request to replace the main circuit breaker at the Mud Creek Water Pollution Control Plant.

Henry Hicks, Director of Utilities, stated that the Mud Creek Water Pollution Control Plant was originally constructed in 1970s and the majority of major equipment used at this facility was installed during that time with the exception of new disk filters which were installed in 2007. One of the two original main breakers and its

associated relay failed approximately two months ago leaving only the remaining breaker system to meet all the electrical needs of this facility until the facility is expanded and this equipment is replaced. This type of breaker is no longer manufactured and GE Energy had to conduct an extensive cross country search over the last two months to find a suitable replacement breaker and associated relay. The only viable replacement unit and relay will cost \$33,900 to purchase and install. Funds are available in the budget for equipment replacement. Once the expansion is completed at the Mud Creek Plant, CDM will work on finding a buyer for the equipment. Henry Hicks recommended that Council approve the request to replace the main circuit breaker at the Mud Creek Water Pollution Control Plant.

A MOTION by Councilman Eunice, seconded by Councilman Carroll, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to follow the recommendation of the Director of Utilities and approve the purchase of a main circuit breaker in the amount of \$33,900 from GE Energy for the Mud Creek Water Pollution Control Plant.

Consideration of a request to approve sponsorship of a table at the Valdosta-Lowndes County Chamber of Commerce's 97th Annual Dinner.

Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that the Valdosta-Lowndes County Chamber of Commerce will hold its 97th Annual Dinner on January 27, 2009 at the James H. Rainwater Conference Center. Corporate tables of 10 are \$350 and individual tickets are \$40. Larry Hanson recommended that Council approve the request to sponsor a table at the Valdosta-Lowndes County Chamber of Commerce's 97th Annual Dinner.

A MOTION by Councilman Vickers, seconded by Councilman Eunice, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to sponsor a table in the amount of \$350 for the Valdosta-Lowndes County Chamber of Commerce's 97th Annual Dinner.

Consideration of a request to approve sponsorship of a table at the 2nd Annual Law Enforcement Appreciation (L.E.A.D.) Dinner.

Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that the Rotary Club of Valdosta will hold its 2nd Annual Law Enforcement Appreciation Dinner on February 19, 2009 at the James H. Rainwater Conference Center. Corporate tables of 10 are \$1,000 and individual tickets are \$100. Larry Hanson recommended that Council approve the request to sponsor a table at the 2nd Annual Law Enforcement Appreciation Dinner.

A MOTION by Councilman Eunice, seconded by Councilman Head, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to sponsor a table in the amount of \$1,000 for the 2nd Annual Law Enforcement Appreciation Dinner.

Consideration of a request to initiate a Text Amendment to Section 242-4 of the Land Development regulations and add a provision that allows the Planning and Zoning Administrator to initiate future amendments; however, final approval of such amendments will remain with Mayor and Council.

Anne-Marie Wolff, Planning and Zoning Administrator, stated that Section 242-4 of the recently adopted Land Development Regulations (LDR) addresses amendments to the Zoning Map, Comprehensive Plan, and Title 2 - Land Use and Zoning. This Section does not currently permit Staff to initiate such amendments and instead requires that such amendments be initiated by property owners, the Greater Lowndes Planning Commission, or a majority vote of the City Council. This initiation must occur prior to the amendment going to the Greater Lowndes Planning Commission and City Council for adoption. In order to streamline the review and approval of these amendments, Staff recommended adding the provision that amendments may be initiated by the Planning and Zoning Administrator as well as the other entities currently listed. Final approval would still occur by the Council; however, it would allow the review and approval process to occur in a shorter time frame. Anne-Marie Wolff recommended that Council approve the initiation of a Text Amendment adding the provision that the Planning and Zoning Administrator may also initiate amendments in addition to the other entities listed.

A MOTION by Councilman Carroll, seconded by Councilman Eunice, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to approve the request to initiate a Text Amendment to Section 242-4 of the Land Development regulations and add a

provision that allows the Planning and Zoning Administrator to initiate future amendments; however, final approval of such amendments will remain with Mayor and Council.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony on January 15, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. at the City Hall Annex building to announce the change of Channel 96 to Channel 17. Also, the Bird Supper will be held on February 11, 2009 at 5:30 p.m. at The Depot in Atlanta.

A Public Transit Steering Committee Meeting with Grice and Associates was held on January 7, 2009 to plan for the public transportation system and the Steering Committee met today. There will be more public meetings and we need to look at creative ways to get the word out in order to have better public citizen participation.

Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that there was an unfortunate car accident at City Hall this morning. A woman traveling south on Lee Street had a seizure or some type of medical situation occur and ran into the granite base of the City Hall steps. The woman was injured in the accident and Mr. Hanson asked that Mayor and Council keep her in their thoughts and prayers.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Head stated that there was a large open area on the east side of the Lee Street holding pond. Von Shipman, City Engineer, stated that the area would be filled in.

Councilman Vickers inquired about the time frame for the project on Troup Street. Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that there would be a special Work Session with Mayor and Council next month and John Funny, Grice and Associates, will assist with coordination of the meeting. The purpose of the meeting will be to prioritize the short term projects that Mayor and Council would like to focus on first with SPLOST funds. Councilman Vickers inquired about the date for the Mayor/Council Retreat. Larry Hanson stated that the Retreat will be held February 27 through March 1 in St. Simons.

Councilman Head asked the City Manager to send an update on the Martin Luther King, Jr. Corridor Project. Larry Hanson stated that he would send an update to the Mayor and Council.

Councilman Yost thanked the City Manager and Staff for their work on the budget. They have done a good job in managing funds and spending money wisely. Councilman Yost stated that he would like to stay in downtown Atlanta for the Bird Supper this year instead of near the Airport. Larry Hanson stated that last year there was a major event in Atlanta at the time of the Bird Supper and all of the rooms in downtown Atlanta were taken; however, this year a block of rooms in the downtown area has already been reserved.

Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that each month the Departments get monthly reports so that they can monitor their progress. If they are into 33% of the budget year then each particular account should be at 33% or have some reason why they are not. Any time they get close, they are advised by the Finance Department and must make a budget transfer from another account to offset that. This constant monthly process ensures that at the end of the budget year there is no bad news and this is a tribute to the Finance and Budget Departments. Councilman Head stated that compared to many other communities, it is good to know that the City of Valdosta is surviving and is in good shape. Mayor Fretti stated that 44 states in the U. S. are currently working at a deficit and over a dozen cities have filed for bankruptcy as well.

Councilman Payton thanked the City Manager for the update on the Mayor/Council goals.

Councilman Vickers stated that there is an event tonight honoring former Valdosta City School Superintendent Sam Allen.

Mayor Fretti entertained a motion for adjournment.

A **MOTION** by Councilman Payton, seconded by Councilman Head was unanimously adopted (6-0) to adjourn the January 8, 2009 meeting of the Valdosta City Council at 6:38 p.m. to meet again in regular session on Thursday, January 22, 2009.

City Clerk, City of Valdosta

Mayor, City of Valdosta