

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE VALDOSTA CITY COUNCIL
5:30 P.M., THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2014
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL

OPENING CEREMONIES

Mayor John Gayle called the regular meeting of the Valdosta City Council to order at 5:30 p.m. Council members present were: Joseph "Sonny" Vickers, Tim Carroll, Ben Norton, Alvin Payton, Jr., Sandra Tooley, Robert Yost, and James Wright. The invocation was given by Pastor Winston Taylor, Grace Fellowship Seventh Day Adventist Church, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS

Consideration of the December, 2014 Employee of the Month Award (Terrial Small, Public Works Department).

Richard Hardy, Public Works Director, stated that Terrial Small began his employment with the City of Valdosta Engineering Department in December, 2007 as a Laborer. In February, 2011, he was transferred to the Public Works Department as a Crewleader which is the position he currently holds. As Crewleader at the Sunset Hill Cemetery, Terrial organizes and supervises the care and maintenance of the cemetery, locates and coordinates the opening and closing of gravesites, and assists the Supervisor in selling cemetery lots. Also, in the absence of the Supervisor, Terrial assumes all responsibilities. Terrial's compassion of the job has undeniably proven to be one of his best assets. Recently, he went the extra mile in consoling a grieving widow that arrived to the cemetery for assistance. After meeting with the citizen, it appeared that she only wanted a gentle ear to listen to her story of grief and Terrial was there to do just that. Each year, the City of Valdosta hosts a holiday luncheon for its many employees. This event is planned and executed by the Employee Relations Committee. Terrial is a vital member of this Committee. His helpful and enthusiastic personality makes the tasks at the luncheon more of a pleasure to complete. Nelson Boswell once said, "Here is a simple but powerful rule - always give people more than what they expect to get." This statement truly identifies the customer service given by Terrial Small. For these reasons and many others, the Employee Relations Committee nominated Terrial Small as Employee of the Month.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the November 20, 2014 Regular Meeting were approved by unanimous consent (7-0) of the Council.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

ORDINANCE NO. 2014-30, AN ORDINANCE FOR A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT TO ALLOW AN EXISTING PERSONAL CARE HOME IN A MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL (R-M) ZONING DISTRICT

Consideration of an Ordinance for a Conditional Use Permit to allow an expansion of an existing Personal Care Home in a Multi-Family Residential (R-M) Zoning District as requested by Normal Life of Georgia, Inc. (File No. CU-2014-11). The property is located at 534 Griffin Avenue. The Greater Lowndes Planning Commission reviewed this request at their November Regular Meeting and recommended approval (6-0 Vote).

Matt Martin, Planning and Zoning Administrator, stated Marietta White, on behalf of Normal Life of Georgia, Inc., is requesting a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) to allow an expansion of an existing Personal Care Home (PCH) in a Multi-Family Residential (R-M) Zoning District. The property consists of 0.43 acres located at 534 Griffin Avenue. This is near the northwest corner of Griffin Avenue and Devine Street. The property currently contains one apartment building consisting of four dwelling units. The applicant currently operates an existing Personal Care Home for three clients, State licensed Community Living Arrangement (CLA), in one of the dwelling units. The applicant is proposing to physically merge this dwelling unit with an adjacent unit in order to create one larger dwelling unit and expand the facility to four clients. The property is located within a

Neighborhood Activity Center (NAC) Character Area on the Future Development Map of the Comprehensive Plan. The applicant has already been operating a small PCH-CLA facility at this location successfully for the past couple years. All of their State-required inspections (posted online) have been positive and Staff found no documented complaints or issues from the surrounding neighborhood which are associated with this facility. The facility already has an active Business License with the City, and because it is very small (three or fewer clients), the facility has not previously required a CUP approval; however, now that the facility is proposed for expansion to four clients, a CUP approval is required. The property is located along the busy Griffin Avenue corridor (arterial road, formerly GA-94) which has a mixture of residential, institutional, and commercial uses. The NAC Character Area calls for such mixture of uses and the existing PCH-CLA facility is a very good fit within the existing land use pattern. The apartment complex itself is only a four-unit building on a fairly isolated site that has plenty of parking and good access. There are no proposed changes to the exterior of the building. The end result will be the PCH-CLA facility in the center, plus one remaining apartment still on each end of the building. Interestingly, the expanded PCH-CLA facility will likely generate less traffic and parking than the second former dwelling unit it would now be replacing. Staff found it consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and the Conditional Use Review Criteria, and recommended approval subject to the following conditions: (1) Conditional Use approval shall be granted for a Personal Care Home with no more than four residents and two staff members. (2) Conditional Use approval shall expire after two years if the expanded Personal Care Home is not licensed and operating by that date. The Planning Commission reviewed this at their November 24, 2014 meeting, found it consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and the Conditional Use Review Criteria, and recommended approval subject to the following conditions (6-0 vote): (1) Conditional Use approval shall be granted for a Personal Care Home with no more than four residents and two staff members. (2) Conditional Use approval shall expire after two years if the expanded Personal Care Home is not licensed and operating by that date.

Marietta White, Executive Director of Normal Life of Georgia, spoke in favor of the request. Ms. White stated that their operation has been in existence for 25 years and they would never have more than four persons in the home. They also follow all of the Federal and State laws. Ms. White asked Council's consideration in approving the request.

No one spoke in opposition to the request.

A MOTION was made by Councilman Vickers to approve the request as presented by Staff for a Conditional Use Permit to allow an expansion of an existing Personal Care Home in a Multi-Family Residential (R-M) Zoning District as requested by Normal Life of Georgia, Inc. with the following conditions: (1) Conditional Use approval shall be granted for a Personal Care Home with no more than four residents and two staff members. (2) Conditional Use approval shall expire after two years if the expanded Personal Care Home is not licensed and operating by that date. Councilman Wright seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously adopted (7-0) to enact Ordinance No. 2014-30, the complete text of which will be found in Ordinance Book XIII.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

ORDINANCE NO. 2014-31, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 90 – TAXATION, ARTICLE II – OCCUPATIONAL TAX, SECTION 90-50 – WHEN TAX DUE AND PAYABLE; EFFECT OF TRANSACTING BUSINESS WHEN DELINQUENT, OF THE CITY OF VALDOSTA'S MUNICIPAL CODE

Consideration of an Ordinance to amend Chapter 90 - Taxation, Article II - Occupational Tax, Section 90-50 - When Tax Due and Payable; Effect of Transacting Business When Delinquent, of the City of Valdosta's Municipal Code.

Mark Barber, Deputy City Manager of Administration, stated that currently the Code Section, Chapter 90 - Taxation, Article II - Occupational Tax, Section 90-50 - When Tax Due and Payable; Effect of Transacting Business When Tax Delinquent, reads that if an organization's business occupation license is not paid by April 1, the business will be subject to penalties and interest. The April 1 delinquent date was appropriate when the business occupation renewals were not billed until February of the year after the December expiration; however, over the last few years the City's Business License Division has billed renewals in mid to late November so the

April 1 delinquent date is excessive. In this regard, the delinquent date that has been utilized during this time is February 1. This billing procedure is much more logical given the fact that the occupation license expires December 31. Moreover, following this billing method accommodates the customer with 60 plus days to renew their license. Staff therefore recommends that the Ordinance be amended to reflect a February 1st delinquent date in order to correspond with actual practice. Mark Barber recommended that Council approve the Ordinance to amend Chapter 90 – Taxation.

A MOTION by Councilman Carroll, seconded by Councilwoman Tooley, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to enact Ordinance No. 2014-31, an Ordinance to amend Chapter 90 - Taxation, Article II - Occupational Tax, Section 90-50 - When Tax Due and Payable; Effect of Transacting Business When Delinquent, of the City of Valdosta's Municipal Code, the complete text of which will be found in Ordinance Book XIII.

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE TAXI CAB ORDINANCE POSTPONED

Consideration of an Ordinance to amend the Taxi Cab Ordinance.

Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that the current City Ordinance regulating taxi cabs provides for fees to be charged to passengers based on dividing the City into zones or a “Zone Fee Schedule.” The City has been contacted by some of the current licensed taxi cab companies and they have requested that the Ordinance be amended and the fee system changed from the “zone-to-zone calculation” to a fee system based on the use of a “time/distance meter” referred to as a “taximeter.” Based on a request by some of the current licensed taxi cab companies to amend the Ordinance and require the use of a taximeter to calculate fees charged to passengers/customers of the taxi cab companies, research was conducted by the Police Department pertaining to the request. The Police Department reviewed Taxi Cab Ordinances from other cities and found two similar sized cities that mandate the use of taximeters to accurately charge fees to passengers/customers. A meeting was held by the Police Department and all of the taxi cab companies to discuss their request and a possible amendment to the current Taxi Cab Ordinance. During the meeting, it was revealed that four of the five current taxi cab companies are already using taximeters because the current Ordinance is difficult for both the cab companies and passengers to accurately track fees. It was a consensus by all companies to move to a fee schedule calculated by a taximeter device. Based on the review of other Taxi Cab Ordinances from other cities and the meeting with all taxi cab companies, the Police Department recommended amending the current Ordinance by removing the “Zone Fee Schedule” and adding the requirement of the use of a taximeter for charging passengers/customers fees. The new Ordinance recommendations also include an annual calibration requirement for each taximeter, the posting of a fee schedule to all passengers/customers, a minimum wait time fee, a one-time pick up fee of \$5.00, a maximum fee to be charged per mile, a fuel surcharge when gasoline cost exceed \$3.50, and the updating of the overall Ordinance based on current City and taxi cab practices. Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that some of the Council members had questions about this Ordinance and several taxi cab companies have called today expressing concerns. Chief Childress is in Chicago at a meeting and there is nothing pressing or urgent regarding this amendment to the Ordinance. Larry Hanson recommended that Council postpone this request until the second Council Meeting in January, 2015 so that Police Chief Childress can meet with the taxi cab companies in order to reach an agreement.

A MOTION was made by Councilman Payton to postpone this request. Councilman Wright seconded the motion. Councilman Carroll inquired as to how long the request would be postponed. Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that it could be postponed to the second Council Meeting in January, 2015 which would give them more time to have a meeting without the pressure of the holidays. Councilman Payton and Councilman Wright were in agreement. The motion was approved (6-0-1) with Councilwoman Tooley abstaining from the vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-23, A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REGARDING THE SABAL TRAIL PROJECT

Consideration of a Resolution in support of the Lowndes County Board of Commissioners regarding the Sabal Trail Project.

Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that the City has always looked at itself as a community and regional organization. The Sabal Trail pipeline is an issue that has been of great interest and concern to many citizens in our community. The City has drafted a Resolution to support the position of Lowndes County in opposing the Sabal Trail pipeline due to concerns and issues that have been expressed. It also adds one concern that is unique to the City and that is the City's concern about the construction of the pipeline and the affect it would have on the Floridan aquifer which is the primary source of drinking water for Valdosta and Lowndes County as well as all of South Georgia. Larry Hanson recommended that Council adopt the Resolution which supports the Lowndes County Board of Commissioners and their position.

A MOTION was made by Councilman Carroll to approve a Resolution in support of the Lowndes County Board of Commissioners regarding the Sabal Trail Project and to file it with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). The motion was seconded by Councilman Norton. The motion was adopted (6-0-1) with Councilman Yost abstaining to enact Resolution No. 2014-23, the complete text of which will be found in Resolution Book V.

BIDS, CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS, AND EXPENDITURES

Consideration of bids for resurfacing City Streets using SPLOST funds and Georgia Department of Transportation Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant Program (LMIG) funds.

Emily Davenport, Assistant Director of Engineering, stated that the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) utilizes a Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant (LMIG) Program which allocates transportation funding from the State based on a formula that includes population and street mileage (paved or unpaved). Many communities use these funds to resurface streets. The City has received a formula based LMIG grant in the amount of \$439,566.16. The City submitted a list of streets for resurfacing to GDOT for their review. Thirteen streets were selected from the list for this year's LMIG program based on funding availability and conditions of the roads. Jerry Jones/Eager Road was removed from this list and a change order was awarded at the last Council Meeting in the amount of \$240,665.43. The City was required to spend \$571,436 in order to receive the full \$439,566.16 in LMIG funding. The Eager Road bid and this bid, along with the striping, will allow the City to receive the full LMIG funding. Bids were received and opened publicly on December 5, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. The low bid was submitted by The Scruggs Company in the amount of \$341,704.29. The Engineering estimate was \$447,540.50. Striping by Peek Pavement Marking is not included with this bid and will be an additional estimated charge. Emily Davenport recommended that Council approve the low bid submitted by The Scruggs Company in the amount of \$341,704.29 plus a 10% contingency to handle any unforeseen circumstances.

A MOTION by Councilman Carroll, seconded by Councilman Payton, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to approve the low bid submitted by The Scruggs Company in the amount of \$341,704.29 plus a 10% contingency to handle any unforeseen circumstances for resurfacing City Streets using SPLOST funds and Georgia Department of Transportation Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant Program (LMIG) funds.

Consideration of bids for paving for Annexed Island 51 (Dogwood Circle).

Emily Davenport, Assistant Director of Engineering, stated that the City Ordinance for annexation and subsequent Court documents state that the City will install and pay for water and sewer mains to serve all of the residential property in annexed islands, and pave dirt roads within the annexed islands with asphalt or concrete. Currently, a Project is in progress for the installation of water and sewer services to this area. That Project and the work proposed herein are a part of the effort to comply with the Ordinance to serve citizens living in the formerly unincorporated islands now within the City Limits. The City Engineering Department initiated a two-phase Project to construct water and sewer lines and pave the Dogwood Circle area. During the first phase of the work and prior to paving the roads, water and sewer lines are being installed for future connection to those systems once they are extended to this area. In addition, stormwater ditch grading and piping is being installed. This phase will be paid with local SPLOST VII funds. The work herein is the second phase of the Project. This work will pave the Dogwood Circle area streets. The work consists of the installation of structural base stones and a surface course of

asphalt concrete. Bids were received and opened publicly on December 4, 2014. Three contractors submitted bids on the work. The lowest responsive bidder was H&H Paving in the amount of \$261,450. The SPLOST VII resurfacing account will be used to pay the amount over the GDOT commitment level. Emily Davenport recommended that Council approve the low bid submitted by H&H Paving in the amount of \$261,450 plus a 10% contingency to handle any unforeseen circumstances.

A **MOTION** was made by Councilman Payton to approve the low bid submitted by H&H Paving in the amount of \$261,450.00 plus a 10% contingency to handle any unforeseen circumstances for paving for Annexed Island 51 (Dogwood Circle). Councilman Wright seconded the motion. Councilman Carroll stated that this is a Valdosta Small Emerging Business (VSEB) company and he was glad to see that they were the low bid. The motion was unanimously adopted (7-0).

Consideration of bids for North Oak Street Extension Ditch Piping Project.

Emily Davenport, Assistant Director of Engineering, stated that the existing road stormwater ditch on the east side of North Oak Extension between (near Wendy's and Big Lots) is very deep, narrow, and experiences high velocity flows and erosion following large rain events. In addition, there is insufficient shoulder width and recovery area for vehicles that may have to leave the road at this location which presents a safety concern given the deep, open ditch. The Engineering Department contracted Bill Kent, P.E., Innovate Engineering Solutions, last year to develop an engineering design to adequately convey stormwater, address the erosion issue, and to enclose the ditch at this location. The Engineer's construction estimate was \$164,559. On December 4, 2014, bids were received and opened publicly. Two bids were received. The lowest responsive bidder was Radney Plumbing in the amount of \$290,044.75. With the bids being significantly higher than what was originally estimated and knowing that the Georgia Department of Transportation is in the process of preparing a design for this area, Emily Davenport recommended that Council reject the bids.

A **MOTION** by Councilman Payton, seconded by Councilman Norton, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to reject the bids for the North Oak Street Extension Ditch Piping Project.

Consideration of bids for a Supplement Environmental Project (SEP) to assist the City in addressing collection system issues.

Henry Hicks, Utilities Director, stated that after conclusion of negotiations with Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) during the summer of 2013, the City of Valdosta received the agreed upon Consent Order No. EPD-WQ-5478 on December 9, 2013 from the EPD. This Consent Order was a result of negotiations between the City and the EPD. In addition to the seven action items identified in this Order, Condition No. 1 of the Order required the City to include an EPD-approved Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) at a minimum cost of \$200,000. The SEP was to be performed in lieu of a monetary fine. Over the past year, the City has worked with the EPD to identify a Project acceptable to both parties. The EPD ultimately approved the proposed SEP on November 4, 2014. The approved SEP consists of the following: (1) Updating the existing Sewer GEMS Hydraulic Model of the Withlacoochee sewershed, (2) Developing the base case and the hydraulic model for use as a predictive tool to identify potential sewer overflow locations base on the existing model data, and (3) Identifying potential I&I locations based on modeling and prioritizing (cost benefit analysis) I&I elimination through system rehabilitation. The Utilities Department had previously requested three proposals for a similar but generic SEP scope of work from CDM Smith, Constantine Engineering, and Parsons. Upon receipt of the approved SEP from the EPD, this scope was forwarded to these firms for their review and all were given one last opportunity to adjust their scope and pricing accordingly. At that time, all of the firms were informed that selection would not be based on price alone, but also on the completeness of their proposals to meet the required scope outlined by the EPD. Revised proposals were received by each of these firms prior to November 7, 2014 and reviewed by the Utilities Department Staff. After thorough review of each proposal by Staff, a recommendation was made that the Parsons proposal was the most detailed in depth, thoroughness, and completeness and it best met the intent and all the requirements of the approved SEP. The Parsons proposal contained the following: (1) Parsons identified areas of field work to be done, while the others included less field work. The field work will be important to the Engineering firm's understanding of our system which will give us better results in the final model. Task 1.1.5 calls for disaggregating the system to increase resolution, which will be very helpful in troubleshooting flow issues.

Parsons proposal would look at the current model for errors and also give us the updated information we are looking for. (2) Identified two other areas that stood out. Task 1.4 - Understanding Surroundings and Task 2.2 - Bottleneck and defect Identification. With Task 1.4, Parsons incorporated land use classifications, population levels, elevation, aerial photography, and complaint locations. With Task 2.2, they go into detail on bottlenecks and defects. Given our system's share of bottlenecks, that stood out. Both of these tasks identify significant factors that were not clearly identified in the other two proposals. (3) Parsons also identified the need to run the model based on the new master pump stations. Task 1.1.2 added the two new master lift stations to the modeling to reflect post construction flows and impacts on the model to further predict and identify problem areas following completion of this Project. This task was not included in the other proposals. The Parsons proposal cost was a lump sum bid of \$200,000. The two other proposals were not as specific as to what the final deliverables would be. While their preliminary costs were lower, the additional work proposed by each firm to reach the minimum \$200,000 expenditure was open ended and would most likely require an expanded scope and costs most likely exceeding the minimum expenditure required. Henry Hicks recommended that Council award the SEP contract to Parsons in the amount not to exceed \$200,000.

A **MOTION** by Councilman Carroll, seconded by Councilman Wright, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to award the contract to Parsons in the amount not to exceed \$200,000 for the Supplement Environmental Project (SEP) to assist the City in addressing collection system issues.

BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AUTHORITIES, AND ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Consideration of an appointment to the Valdosta Housing Authority.

Mayor John Gayle stated that the Valdosta Housing Authority has a member, Thompson Kurrie, Jr., whose term will expire on December 31, 2014. Mr. Kurrie has expressed an interest in serving again and he was the only applicant applying for this position. This appointment was previously advertised according to the Boards, Commissions, Authorities, and Advisory Committees Policy that was adopted by Mayor and Council. Mayor Gayle reappointed Thompson Kurrie, Jr. to the Valdosta Housing Authority to serve a term of five years.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Larry Hanson, City Manager, thanked the citizens and visitors who attended the Christmas tree lighting ceremony at City Hall on December 5, 2014 and for attending all of the festivities during the weekend to celebrate the holiday season. Also, the City Department Heads and Mayor and Council members participated in ringing the bell for the Salvation Army on December 5th which was very much appreciated.

The City received an award from the Technology Association of Georgia and was named the Smart Energy Municipality of the Year in the State of Georgia. The two finalists, the City of Valdosta and the Georgia Correctional Department, made presentations and we were selected as the winner. This is great recognition for our City and the many things that are taking place as it relates to the smart use of energy and technology.

The next Georgia Municipal Association's Georgia Cities magazine will feature our Valdosta Police Department and their use of body cameras. We have been doing this for a number of years and rolled them out City-wide for the entire Patrol Division several months ago. We now have a policy that is being used as a national model by the Commission on Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA).

At the last Council Meeting, a representative from the U. S. Postal Service made a presentation regarding the possibility of moving the Downtown Post Office. There are not looking to close it but are looking at relocating the retail portion. The City received an electronic copy of a letter on December 8, 2014 from the U. S. Post Office which stated they have made a decision to relocate the retail portion of the Post Office following their review and assessment. They will now go through a site selection process and any citizen, elected official, or any person of interest can file an appeal to that decision by January 6, 2015. They will be notifying the media and will go through a process following the appeal time and start looking at sites hopefully in the Downtown area. Mayor Gayle stated that if anyone would like to file an appeal the information will be located on the City's website.

Councilman Payton apologized for missing the City Council Work Session on December 9, 2014. He had attended an EAGLE Reception for Wiregrass Technical College on that date; however, Councilman Payton wanted to let Council members know that the Work Sessions are very important.

Councilman Carroll stated that he also rang the bell for the Salvation Army recently and Henry Hicks, Utilities Director, and Pat Collins, City Engineer, deserve the "True Spirit of Christmas Award" for their Christmas outfits as Santa and an Elf.

Councilman Vickers inquired as to whether the Post Office will be relocating the boxes and the counter sales. Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that was correct. Councilman Vickers also reminded the Council about the Amvets Christmas Give-Away for the community on December 20, 2014. This is truly a sight to see and he encouraged everyone to attend.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Dr. Michael Noll, representative of Wiregrass Activists for Clean Energy, 2305 Glynnedale Drive, stated that he was very proud to be a citizen of a community with very a special Police Department and he considers Police Chief Brian Childress to be his friend. He is also proud to be a member of a city that has received a Smart Energy Municipality Award which tells a good story about where we are headed and what we are doing as a community. Dr. Noll stated that he supported and applauded the Mayor and Council for their decision to pass a Resolution of support for the Lowndes County Board of Commissioners in opposing the Sabal Trail pipeline. It is very much appreciated.

John Robinson, 2227 San Juline Circle, Lake Park, stated that he heard something tonight that was very intriguing to him about the VSEB Program. To hear that one of the VSEB members was awarded a project made him feel good. Mr. Robinson thanked the Mayor and Council for working with them because the contractors are very qualified and skilled and they are putting together a lot of effort to make something happen. We have an oppressed community and sometimes it takes this type of action to bring things about.

John Quarterman, President of WWALS Watershed Coalition, stated that they are working to conserve the watersheds of the Withlacoochee, Willacoochee, Alapaha, and Little River systems. The Floridan aquifer is the source of all our drinking water, irrigation water, and water for industries. Mr. Quarterman thanked the Mayor and Council for the clause in the Resolution regarding the Floridan aquifer and for the green award that the City just received. Mr. Quarterman also thanked all of the groups and individuals from Alabama to South Florida from Athens to Eufaula who have helped pass the Colquitt and Brooks County Resolutions for a five foot top cover on the pipeline and as well as all of the groups and individuals who have helped pass the Hamilton County, Florida Resolution to move the pipeline off the Withlacoochee River. Sabal Trail moved it. Mr. Quarterman also thanked all of the groups and individuals who helped pass the Dougherty County/Albany, Terrell County, and Lowndes County Resolutions against the pipeline. Tonight, the Valdosta City Council joins all of them in defending us against the invader from somewhere else. Other cities and counties are watching what you do. For example, on Tuesday, a local Thomas County citizen got himself on the Agenda for the Thomas County Commission Meeting and alerted them about this pipeline. He pointed out to them that there is an alternate route that goes through Thomasville and if Sabal Trail listens to the Lowndes County Commission and Valdosta City Council like they listened to the Hamilton County Commission, the only other proposed route in Georgia goes through Thomas County/Thomasville. The Thomas County Clerk requested a copy of the Lowndes County and Valdosta Resolutions so they can study them. Mr. Quarterman thanked Council for their help in stopping this invader and hoped that they agree with the sentiment – not in this City, not in this County, not in this State.

Tom Hochschild, current Chairman of the Lowndes County Democratic Party, stated that on March 1, 2014, the Lowndes County Democratic Committee voted to oppose the Sabal Trail pipeline. Mr. Hochschild thanked the Mayor and Council for passing this Resolution and thanked Dr. Michael Noll and John Quarterman for their outstanding leadership in raising awareness regarding harmful fracking techniques, property right issues, and dangers associated with the 36 inch pipeline proposed by Sabal Trail. Dr. Noll and John Quarterman have also done an outstanding job in educating local citizens about the possibility of renewable energy.

Mayor Gayle entertained a motion for adjournment.

A **MOTION** by Councilman Vickers, seconded by Councilman Carroll, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to adjourn the December 11, 2014 Meeting of the Valdosta City Council at 6:08 p.m. to meet again in Regular Session on Thursday, January 8, 2015.

City Clerk, City of Valdosta

Mayor, City of Valdosta