

**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR MEETING OF THE VALDOSTA CITY COUNCIL**  
**5:30 P.M., THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 2013**  
**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, Deidra White, and Robert Yost. Councilman Alvin Payton, Jr. and Councilman James Wright were absent. The invocation was given by Pastor Johnnie Quarterman, Mt. Zion Church of God, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

**AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS**

**PRESENTATION ON THE JAMES H. RAINWATER CONFERENCE CENTER**

Tim Riddle, Executive Director of the James H. Rainwater Conference Center, stated that when he was hired as the Executive Director of the James H. Rainwater Conference Center, he wanted to focus on four main areas as well as consistency and stability. There have been a lot of personnel changes in the past and everything that is being done has been approached as a long term view in order to give employees the idea of stability going forward. You make better business decisions when you are in a stable environment and atmosphere. Consistency is important to their customers and they need the same answer when they ask the same question every year. The four areas of focus were: (1) staffing, (2) marketing, (3) physical plant, and (4) development of policies and procedures. There are currently fourteen full time positions and six of those were vacant when he arrived with two people retiring within a couple of months after his arrival. There are now five Department Heads with three new ones. All the vacancies have now been filled and they can begin working on running the organization in an efficient manner. The second area he has focused on is marketing. The Sales Department had three full time positions and all of them were vacant when he arrived. They now have two strong employees in that area. The Conference Center markets to two distinct audiences which are the leisure traveler and the business customer. They advertise for both of these groups but in very different ways. Selling the Conference Center is very much person-to-person relationship based and that is why you need Sales personnel to meet with the Associations and Meeting Planners throughout the State. Wild Adventures is very important to our community and it is only natural that the Conference Center partners with them wherever they can. The 2013 Georgia Travel Guide is the main travel piece that is handed out at every rest area or Visitor Center and the Conference Center has placed a large ad in it. They have been working hard on developing new materials to put in customers hands during the next fiscal year. With regard to marketing, they were recognized by Convention South, which is a regional publication in all of the southeast States in the U. S., and they were voted the Best Board Room in the South. They received a gold seal which they are allowed to place on all of their marketing materials. Another area they have worked hard on is the physical plant. They have made a host of small improvements as well as upgrading the HVAC and lighting. The Conference Center is now 13 years old and needs some refurbishment in some areas and they have a good plan for that going forward. Their long term plan is very important and over the next five years it has been recommended that the Conference Center should be spending approximately \$1 million for improvements. They are prioritizing the things that need to be done and are working towards their goals. They will also be developing an overall policies and procedures manual. They recently went with a payroll processing firm (ADP) which has a nationwide data base of pre-approved human resource materials. This will help them as they move forward in development of the policies and procedures. Also, as far as the budget goes, he has been working to make improvements in several areas and has actually saved money for the Conference Center. They have identified \$58,000 in either savings or redirected funds where they were being spent in areas not as profitable. The Conference Center has also been forming partnerships with the other Authorities in Valdosta such as the Airport Authority and the Industrial as well as the Main Street Program. Tim Riddle thanked the Mayor and Council for their support. Larry Hanson stated that he was part of the Committee that interviewed the applicants for the Executive Director and ultimately hired Tim Riddle. They asked all of the applicants about their observation of the building during the interviews and while all the other candidates talked about what they could spend, Tim talked about how they could save. He has brought that attitude and perspective and the great experience he had in a much larger community. Larry Hanson stated that at the time of the interview, Tim was a finalist for another job and he was leaving Valdosta to go for another interview in a larger community. He asked Tim not to take that other job until he gave us an opportunity to make an offer to him. Tim is doing a great job and we are very proud and fortunate to have him in our community.

**PRESENTATION OF THE APRIL, 2013 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH AWARD**

Steve Carter, Information Technology Manager, presented the April, 2013 Employee of the Month Award (Calvin Graham, Information Technology Department).

Calvin Graham began his employment with the City of Valdosta Information Technology Department in October, 2011 as a Network Technician which is the position he currently holds. As the Network Technician, Calvin identifies, troubleshoots, and resolves problems encountered by City of Valdosta users of various servers, desktop systems, network Internet, and other computer technology. He is responsible for troubleshooting and solving local-area network problems and providing technical support to end-users regarding computer hardware and software. Calvin is a team player and is willing go the extra mile to accomplish his assigned duties in a professional and timely manner. Several months ago while working at the Mathis Auditorium, a woman and her husband walked into an office that Calvin was in and asked if the building was the hospital. The lady was pregnant, in labor, hemorrhaging, and did not speak English. Time was of the utmost urgency to get the couple to the emergency room. Most would have simply pointed the couple in the right direction; however, Calvin realized the critical nature of her situation and instantly sprang into action. After notifying the City employee that he would return shortly, Calvin helped the couple into their car, drove them to the emergency room, helped the lady out of the car, and explained to the hospital staff what was occurring. This and other instances make Calvin an excellent choice for Employee of the Month as well as an awesome representative of the City of Valdosta. For these reasons and many others, the Employee Relations Committee nominated Calvin Graham as Employee of the Month.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the March 21, 2013 Regular Meeting were approved by unanimous consent (5-0) of the Council.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2013-3, AN ORDINANCE FOR A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT FOR A PROPOSED EXPANSION TO AN EXISTING CHURCH-RELATED FACILITY IN A SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL (R-10) ZONING DISTRICT**

Consideration of an Ordinance for a Conditional Use Permit for a proposed expansion to an existing church-related facility in a Single-Family Residential (R-10) zoning district as requested by the Valdosta State University Wesley Foundation (File No. CU-2013-01). The property is located at 1601 North Patterson Street. The Greater Lowndes Planning Commission reviewed this request at their March Regular Meeting and recommended approval with three conditions (7-0 vote).

Matt Martin, Planning and Zoning Administrator, stated that the Wesley Foundation at Valdosta State University (VSU) is requesting a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for a proposed expansion to an existing church-related facility in a Single-Family Residential (R-10) zoning district. The property consists of .55 acres located at 1601 North Patterson Street which is at the northeast corner of East College and North Patterson Streets. The property contains an existing building (Wesley Foundation) consisting of a small worship space with some offices and a couple upstairs student bedrooms. The applicant is proposing to renovate the existing building and construct a new building in the rear yard area consisting of 12 student bedrooms along with a new gathering/social space. The applicant is also concurrently seeking some setback Variances for the new building, which will be heard by the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBOA) on April 2<sup>nd</sup> (File No. APP-2013-02). It should also be noted that the applicant has a formal agreement with the VSU facility to the north to share their 36-space parking lot after hours. The applicant also has an informal agreement to share parking with Christ Episcopal Church across the street to the south. The property is located within an Institutional Activity Center (IAC) Character Area on the Future Development Map of the Comprehensive Plan and is also located within the local Historic District. The applicant received Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) approval for the new proposed building on March 5<sup>th</sup>. The VSU Wesley Foundation has existed on this property for many years, utilizing the historic brick building facing North Patterson Street and a rear yard small parking lot. The proposal is to simply expand the facility with a new building to house up to 12 college students who are part of the college ministry. The redeveloped site will include a

replacement similar-sized (and better designed) parking lot in the center of the property between the two buildings. This parking lot will be generally for the purpose of serving the facility staff, as well the ministry students who live there. For student “gathering/worship” events, the facility will primarily utilize the shared parking to the north. This portion of North Patterson Street is dominated by the VSU campus and other institutional uses, all within a historic setting. The proposal is for a logical expansion of the existing use in a manner that is consistent with the surrounding development pattern (institutional/residential setting) and it generally maximizes the usability of this site. The proposed building and site layout have been deemed compatible with the historic surroundings and the design has already been approved by the HPC. Staff found the request consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and the Conditional Use Review Criteria, and recommended approval subject to the following conditions: (1) Approval shall be granted for a church-related facility of two buildings consisting of worship space, fellowship/meeting space, administration, and accessory residential space for up to 12 college students. The site layout shall remain consistent with submitted site plan and subject to any Variances approved by the ZBOA. (2) A shared parking agreement shall be maintained with an adjacent property, such as the VSU Alumni House to the north or Christ Episcopal Church to the south, for the use of at least 20 off-site parking spaces. (3) Conditional Use approval for the new building shall expire after five years from the date of approval if no building permit for the development is requested by that time. The Planning Commission reviewed this at their March 25, 2013 meeting, found it consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and the Conditional Use Review Criteria, and recommended approval subject to the following conditions (7-0 vote): (1) Approval shall be granted for a church-related facility of two buildings consisting of worship space, fellowship/meeting space, administration, and accessory residential space for up to 12 college students. The site layout shall remain consistent with the submitted site plan and subject to any Variances approved by the ZBOA. (2) A shared parking agreement shall be maintained with an adjacent property, such as the VSU Alumni House to the north or Christ Episcopal Church to the south, for the use of at least 20 off-site parking spaces. (3) Conditional Use approval for the new building shall expire after five years from the date of approval if no building permit for the development is requested by that time.

C. J. Harp, Methodist Pastor under appointment to the Wesley Foundation at Valdosta State University, spoke in favor of the request. Mr. Harp thanked the Mayor and Council for their service and stated that he would be glad to answer any questions.

No one spoke in opposition to the request.

A **MOTION** was made by Councilwoman White to enact Ordinance No. 2013-3, an Ordinance for a Conditional Use Permit for a proposed expansion to an existing church-related facility in a Single-Family Residential (R-10) zoning district as requested by the Valdosta State University Wesley Foundation. Councilman Yost seconded the motion. Councilman Carroll inquired as to whether the motion included the conditions. Councilwoman White stated that it included the conditions as presented. The motion was unanimously adopted (5-0), the complete text of which will be found in Ordinance Book XII.

## **ORDINANCE NO. 2013-4, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS**

Consideration of an Ordinance to rezone 3.94 acres from Community-Commercial (C-C) to Downtown-Commercial (C-D) as requested by First Baptist Church (File No. VA-2013-02). The property is located at 200 and 201 West Central Avenue. The Greater Lowndes Planning Commission reviewed this request at their March Regular Meeting and recommended approval (7-0 vote).

Matt Martin, Planning and Zoning Administrator, stated that First Baptist Church is requesting to rezone a series of recently combined parcels totaling 3.94 acres from Community-Commercial (C-C) to Downtown-Commercial (C-D). The properties are located at 200 and 201 West Central Avenue. This is along both sides of West Central Avenue, encompassing the entire block frontage between North Toombs Street and North Oak Street. The property contains an existing church with related accessory buildings. The applicant is proposing to redevelop and expand some of the church facilities in the coming years. The applicant is seeking the C-D zoning in order to develop the property in a consistent manner with the rest of central Downtown area. The property is located within a Downtown Activity Center (DAC) Character Area on the Future Development Map of the Comprehensive Plan which allows the possibility of C-D zoning and also located within the local Historic District. The applicant will be

seeking approval from the Historic Planning Commission (HPC) for their future development plans. Downtown-Commercial (C-D) zoning is only allowed for properties within the Central Valdosta Development Authority (CVDA) area, as it was originally created in 1974. With the combining of the various church parcels into full-size blocks that face the CVDA boundary along North Toombs Street, these properties are now considered part of the CVDA and are therefore eligible for C-D zoning. A conceptual master plan of these properties shows their layout in greater detail. There are plans to construct a new Fellowship Hall and Youth Activities Building on the northern block. On the southern block, the current plan is to raze most of the non-historic buildings that were affiliated with the former car dealership and then redevelop the property into a large parking lot with landscaping. There is a long-term plan to eventually construct another new building on this block, but that is likely many years away. All of the applicant's plans are still "conceptual" in nature. As the plans become more developed and they are ready for actual plan review, they will also be required to go through HPC for approval. First Baptist Church has long been a prominent feature in the western part of Downtown Valdosta and it has always been considered part of the Downtown environment. The proposed rezoning to C-D is consistent with both the Comprehensive Plan and the surrounding development pattern, and is very logical for approval. Staff found the request consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and the Standards for the Exercise of Zoning Power (SFEZP), and recommended approval. The Planning Commission reviewed this at their March 25, 2013 meeting, found it consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and the Standards for the Exercise of Zoning Power (SFEZP), and recommended approval (7-0 vote).

Glenn Gregory, Architect and member of First Baptist Church, spoke in favor of the request. Mr. Gregory stated that they were subject to a lot of setbacks because they were not zoned Downtown-Commercial. Being eligible for the Downtown-Commercial zoning would eliminate some of the restrictions on the setbacks because they need to utilize every inch of the property. Councilman Vickers inquired as to whether they were going to have any additions to the existing building. Mr. Gregory stated that they were not planning to add on to the main Sanctuary. They are planning to do some renovations on the inside of the building in the future. Councilwoman White inquired as to when they anticipate completion of the project. Mr. Gregory stated that the first phase includes an upgrade of the parking lot where Smith Motors used to be and some of the buildings will be torn down and some retained. He anticipated the completion by the fall of 2013. Mr. Gregory asked Council's consideration in approving the request.

David Waller, Chairman of the First Baptist Church Property Committee, spoke in favor of the request. Mr. Waller stated that he has been a member of First Baptist Church for 55 years and he has been the Property Chairman since 1984. He would never do anything to hurt Downtown Valdosta. He loves Downtown and they are trying to make it better and to preserve the Church so that it exists 100 years from now. Mr. Waller stated that they will have a much better parking lot and the City is welcome to use it during the week. Mr. Waller asked Council's consideration in approving the request.

No one spoke in opposition to the request.

**A MOTION** by Councilwoman White, seconded by Councilman Carroll, was unanimously adopted (5-0) to enact Ordinance No. 2013-4, an Ordinance to rezone 3.94 acres from Community-Commercial (C-C) to Downtown-Commercial (C-D) as requested by First Baptist Church, the complete text of which will be found in Ordinance Book XII.

## **ORDINANCE NO. 2013-5, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS**

Consideration of an Ordinance for Text Amendments to Chapter 106 - Definitions and Chapter 218 - Use Regulations in the Land Development Regulations (LDR) as requested by the City of Valdosta (File No. VA-2013-03). The Greater Lowndes Planning Commission reviewed this request at their March Regular Meeting and recommended approval (7-0 vote).

Matt Martin, Planning and Zoning Administrator, stated that the City of Valdosta is requesting to amend Chapter 106 - Definitions and Chapter 218 - Use Regulations of the City's Land Development Regulations (LDR). The main purpose of the Text Amendments is to either add or modify a few items in the Use Table, as well as some

of the related definitions. The Amendments are shown in the same underline/strikeout format that has been used in the past. These Amendments are relatively minor in scope, but they are very important in terms of adding clarity as to how they distinguish between certain kinds of uses. There are modifications to some of the definitions pertaining to boarding houses and personal care homes and they are adding a few new items to the Use Table. There will also be some additional zoning districts opened up for some other uses. Staff found the request consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and recommended approval. The Planning Commission reviewed this at their March 25, 2013 meeting, found it consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and recommended approval (7-0 vote).

No one spoke in favor of the request.

No one spoke in opposition to the request.

**A MOTION** by Councilman Carroll, seconded by Councilman Vickers, was unanimously adopted (5-0) to enact Ordinance No. 2013-5, an Ordinance for Text Amendments to Chapter 106 - Definitions and Chapter 218 - Use Regulations in the Land Development Regulations (LDR) as requested by the City of Valdosta, the complete text of which will be found in Ordinance Book XII.

**ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2013-2, A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE URBAN REDEVELOPMENT PLAN AND URBAN REDEVELOPMENT AREA BOUNDARY**

Consideration of a Resolution to amend the Urban Redevelopment Plan and Urban Redevelopment Area Boundary.

Mara Register, Assistant to the City Manager, stated that at the Mayor and City Council Retreat in February, 2008, the creation of an Urban Redevelopment Plan was established as a goal for the City. Subsequently, an Urban Redevelopment Plan was drafted and adopted by the Mayor and City Council in March, 2009. This Plan enables the City to utilize economic development tools such as Enterprise Zones and Opportunity Zones. These areas were not left out when the first four Opportunity Zones were created, but these are areas that the Industrial Authority wanted them to look at in order to provide additional incentive opportunities with the \$3,500 per job five-year tax credit. A Resolution is needed to amend the Urban Redevelopment Plan and expand the southern boundaries of the Urban Redevelopment Area in order to extend Enterprise Zone and Opportunity Zone incentives to those areas. All requirements of the Urban Redevelopment Law (O.C.G.A. 36-61) have been met in formulating this amendment. Planning and Zoning Staff has worked collectively with other City Departments to ensure relevant data was collected to justify this amendment according to Georgia Department of Community Affairs standards. Due to this Urban Redevelopment Plan amendment, existing City of Valdosta Enterprise Zones will need to be amended as well. Ordinances for the amendment to the Enterprise Zones will occur under a separate Agenda Item. Mara Register recommended that Council approve the Resolution to amend the Urban Redevelopment Plan and Urban Redevelopment Area Boundary.

**A MOTION** by Councilman Yost, seconded by Councilman Norton, was unanimously adopted (5-0) to enact Resolution No. 2013-2, a Resolution to amend the Urban Redevelopment Plan and Urban Redevelopment Area Boundary, the complete text of which will be found in Resolution Book V.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2013-6, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE NEIGHBORHOOD REDEVELOPMENT AREA ENTERPRISE ZONE ORDINANCE**

Consideration of an Ordinance to amend the Neighborhood Redevelopment Area Enterprise Zone Ordinance.

Mara Register, Assistant to the City Manager, stated that as part of the amendment to expand the existing Urban Redevelopment Plan and Urban Redevelopment Area Boundary, it is necessary to also amend the current geographical areas of the Neighborhood Redevelopment Area Enterprise Zone in order to provide economic development incentives in the expanded areas. This area suffers from Pervasive Poverty (according to the U. S.

Census Data), General Distress, Underdevelopment, Unemployment, and General Blight. Comprehensive windshield surveys were completed over the past month to verify the existence of these conditions. Designation of this Zone will allow the City to offer a series of incentives to qualifying businesses locating within the Zone. Incentives will be offered on a case-by-case basis and are authorized through the Enterprise Zone Employment Act. Adoption of the amendment to the Ordinance will also make this area eligible for Opportunity Zone designation, which provides job tax credits to new or expanding businesses in this area. Mara Register recommended that Council approve the Ordinance to amend the Neighborhood Redevelopment Area Enterprise Zone Ordinance.

**A MOTION** by Councilman Carroll, seconded by Councilman Yost, was unanimously adopted (5-0) to enact Ordinance No. 2013-6, an Ordinance to amend the Neighborhood Redevelopment Area Enterprise Zone Ordinance, the complete text of which will be found in Ordinance Book XII.

### **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that there will be a Press Release coming out tomorrow notifying citizens that the City of Valdosta's Water Treatment Plant on Guest Road has been named the Water Plant of the Year by the Georgia Association of Water Professionals for Plants over 10 million gallons a day capacity. The Plant scored above 90 in all of its evaluations such as operations, chemical processes, and documentation. They will be accepting that award at a State-wide Program of Water Officials next Tuesday.

The Finance Department is also the recipient of a recent award. Not only has the Department won the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting for 26 consecutive years, it has also won the Distinguished Budget Award for 16 consecutive years. They will be receiving that Award from the Government Finance Officers Association and that is the most prestigious accounting group nationwide for public entities.

Henry Hicks, Utilities Director, will be making a presentation at the April 25, 2013 City Council Meeting to update Mayor and Council on some of the important projects that we have going on in the City.

Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that they hosted a meeting of several entities to help begin the process of addressing the regional stormwater issue that creates flooding in our City and our area when we have major rain events. It was a very productive first meeting and we had the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers present, the Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA), the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, the U. S. Geological Survey, and other agencies that are important in solving this issue. They were all very willing to help be a part of this process which will take some time to do the necessary planning. There was a sense of cooperation in beginning immediately to share information that could help us plan and prepare better. Many people do not realize that we are not the only community being affected. Communities above us and below us are being affected as well and this is not only a regional issue in Georgia but in Florida as well. They also had representatives at the meeting from the offices of Congressman Scott, Congressman Kingston, Congressman Bishop, Senator Isakson, and Senator Chambliss.

Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that the Mayor and Council will need to have an Executive Session for the purpose of discussing real estate, litigation, and personnel following conclusion of the Regular Council Meeting.

### **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Councilman Vickers inquired as to whether one of those agencies at the meeting today would take the lead. Larry Hanson stated that the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers is going to take the lead and they have given us the names of two Colonels that we are to write a letter to in order to officially ask them to take the lead. Also, the U. S. Geological Survey is a very important entity and they have agreed to take a leadership role. They are scheduling a meeting in Valdosta within the next several weeks to bring in the National Weather Service and some others to address weather prediction because the National Weather Service in Tallahassee is using information that is dated and not as helpful as it could be. They will also be discussing a mapping process called LIDAR (Laser Imaging Detection and Ranging), which is aerial mapping, and coordination of stream gauges which are monitored so that they can anticipate, predict, and notify communities downstream of these major rain events.

Mayor Gayle stated that they also invited Governor Nathan Deal to participate in the meeting but he was unable to attend so they have scheduled a May 6<sup>th</sup> meeting in Atlanta.

Councilman Yost thanked the Mayor and City Manager for arranging the meeting today because it was very productive. It is also always good to hear that we have Departments in the City winning awards, especially when the local newspaper seems to think that the City only does bad things. He is appreciative of all the work that these Departments and others do.

Councilman Carroll stated that there were approximately 40 different hats in the room at the meeting today and he was also glad to see representatives from both the City of Tifton and Tift County present. Also, Councilman Yost made some good points at the meeting about the frustrations that they sometimes feel when dealing with flooding issues.

### **CITIZENS TO BE HEARD**

George Boston Rhynes, 5004 Oak Drive, stated that he knew that he could not call the Mayor and Council by name and that they could not respond to him in terms of his questions due to laws or Ordinances on the books; however, he wanted to ask Council a few questions. The first question is, "Why and what is the value of Citizens to be Heard at the end of the Agenda?" Tonight when the meeting started, there were 60 people in the Council Chambers, at 5:55 p.m. there were 44 people, and at 6:14 p.m. there were 34 people. Mr. Rhynes stated that he was 100% sure that sooner or later the Citizens to be Heard would not be at the end of the Agenda or at least where Council members can respond to the people that voted them into office. The next questions are, "Why is it that the Lowndes Co. Jail is leading the State of Georgia in jail deaths? Why is it that parents in Valdosta could not view the body of their son to identify him to make sure that their son had died in the Lowndes Co. School gymnasium? Why is it that this governmental body can only be on conservative radio stations when everyone in the City needs that same outstanding information that he has heard before and after these meetings? Why are City employees coming and asking the question as to why they are being given part-time work and therefore they do not get any medical benefits? Why is it that the open door policy or the complaints of City employees not working for people who are employed by the City? Why is it that these people feel stressed out because they cannot get anyone to address the issues they are having with a person in a supervisory or management position? Why is it that we continue to ask about the Federal dollars coming in and how they are being spent and dispersed? How could it be that a citizen highly respected in the community such as President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Floyd Rose, and the former President of the NAACP, Leigh Touchton, can stand and question the employment of blacks or the lack thereof? Is there any way possible that we can get another news media in this City by using whatever means we have so that they can disseminate and disperse the news so everyone will know what is going on in the community?"

Gilford Avery, 207 ½ East Mary Street, stated that he has been having some problems in his neighborhood. Approximately three and a half years ago a man by the name of Wes Williams purchased the house in front of his and as a house warming gesture he bought him a bottle of wine and offered to help him move in. Mr. Williams decided he was going to rent the house and several white couples inquired about renting the property but Mr. Williams would not rent to them. Mr. Williams later told Mr. Avery that he was going to turn it into a black fraternity. They had a few people over and Mr. Avery asked them to keep the music down. They said they would but ever since that time it has just been lip service. The music has gotten louder and the crowds have gotten bigger. There are mobs of 800-1,000 people walking in the street and blocking it. The Police have been called and nothing has ever been done and they have never received a citation. They are literally driving him crazy and keeping him awake night after night and day after day. They have these loud sub-woofers that you can hear for blocks. Mr. Avery stated that the last few days have been quiet and it has been miraculous. Mr. Avery asked Council's consideration in helping him with this situation. Councilwoman White inquired as to what the address was of this house. Mr. Avery stated that it was located at 207 East Mary.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Gayle entertained a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss real estate, litigation, and personnel.

A **MOTION** by Councilman Carroll, seconded by Councilman Vickers, was unanimously adopted (5-0) to adjourn the April 11, 2013 Regular Meeting of the Valdosta City Council at 6:32 p.m. and enter into Executive Session to discuss real estate, litigation, and personnel.

Mayor Gayle reconvened the April 11, 2013 Regular Meeting of the Valdosta City Council at 7:01 p.m. and stated that no action was taken.

Mayor Gayle entertained a motion for adjournment.

A **MOTION** by Councilman Carroll, seconded by Councilman Vickers, was unanimously adopted (5-0) to adjourn the April 11, 2013 Meeting of the Valdosta City Council at 7:01 p.m. to meet again in Regular Session on Thursday, April 25, 2013.

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City Clerk, City of Valdosta

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Mayor, City of Valdosta