

**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR MEETING OF THE VALDOSTA CITY COUNCIL**  
**5:30 P.M., THURSDAY, APRIL 19, 2007**  
**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: Willie Head, Jr., Sonny Vickers, David Sumner, John Eunice, Robert Yost, and James Wright. Councilman Alvin Payton, Jr. was absent. The invocation was given by Councilman James Wright followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

**AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS**

**PRESENTATION OF THE APRIL EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH**

Mayor Fretti presented the April Employee of the Month Award to Diane Lovern, Community Development.

**A MOTION** by Councilman Vickers, seconded by Councilman Eunice, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to approve the April, 2007 Employee of the Month Award.

Diane Lovern was employed by the City of Valdosta on January 9, 2006 as a City Marshal in the Community Development Department which is the position she currently holds. As a City Marshal, Diane investigates alleged violations of City Codes and Ordinances, issues citations when appropriate, and educates citizens on Code compliance issues. Recently, the City of Valdosta created a dedicated Zoning Department which involved starting the Department from scratch including advertising and hiring employees for the various positions needed. After the Zoning Administrator was hired, Diane took on the additional responsibilities of assisting in establishment of the Department and acting as the Zoning Enforcement Officer until this position could be filled. This was especially helpful since she had prior experience in Zoning enforcement prior to her employment with the City. For several months, Diane performed her regular duties as well as those duties needed by the Zoning Department ensuring a smooth transition for the citizens of Valdosta. She is currently involved in helping to train the newly hired Enforcement Officer and continues to be a valuable resource for the Zoning Department as it becomes established. Diane's dedication, willingness to take on additional responsibilities, and cheerful attitude has played a critical role in the success of the newly created Zoning Department. For these reasons and many others, the Employee Relations Committee nominated Diane Lovern as Employee of the Month.

**PRESENTATION OF A PROCLAMATION FOR THE GEORGIA MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION'S GEORGIA CITIES WEEK**

Presentation of a proclamation for the Georgia Municipal Association's Georgia Cities Week.

Mayor Fretti stated that Georgia Cities Week will be held April 22-28, 2007 and is sponsored by the Georgia Municipal Association to highlight cities and their departments. Mayor Fretti presented a proclamation in honor of Georgia Cities Week.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION FOR THE WINNERS OF THE GEORGIA MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION'S "IF I WERE MAYOR" ESSAY CONTEST**

Special Presentation for the winners of the Georgia Municipal Association's "If I Were Mayor" Essay Contest.

Mayor Fretti stated that the Georgia Municipal Association sponsors the "If I Were Mayor" Essay Contest which is open to all 6<sup>th</sup> grade students throughout the State. The students must be in good standing with their

schools in order to enter, and over 3,700 students in all Georgia counties that participated this year with 43 from Valdosta and Lowndes County. The Essay Contest allows students to express their thoughts on what it would be like to be the Mayor and to share some of their ideas as to what they might do in that role. The contest heightens students' awareness on the role that Mayors play in city government and the possibility of serving in that role one day themselves. Mayor Fretti stated that there were no Statewide winners from our area this year but we are proud of all of the winners and the students who took time to complete this assignment. Mayor Fretti presented Certificates of Achievement and coupons from Fox's Pizza to the following winners: Third Place - Joshua Duball, Lowndes Middle School; Second Place - Mietisha Thomas, Lowndes Middle School; and First Place - Athena Kiene, Open Bible Christian School.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the April 5, 2007 Regular Meeting of the Valdosta City Council were approved by unanimous consent (6-0) of the Council.

**CITIZENS TO BE HEARD**

There were no citizens to be heard.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

Consideration of a request to close a right-of-way on Ponderosa Drive. Mayor/Council postponed the request for 90 days at the October 19, 2006 Regular City Council Meeting.

Von Shipman, City Engineer, stated that on October 19, 2006 a Public Hearing was held to obtain comments regarding the petition to close a section of unopened right-of-way. After hearing comments, Council voted to postpone the request to close the right-of-way for 90 days in order to provide Woodlawn Forrest Church of Christ time to prepare a master plan of development. The master plan was needed to show whether or not the existing right-of-way could be used to provide connection to Ponderosa Drive. The Engineering Department contacted Woodlawn Forrest Church of Christ by phone on numerous occasions starting in February, 2007. An E-mail was sent to Rev. Leroy Butler on March 2, 2007 asking for a response on the master plan issue. The two property owners fronting Ponderosa adjacent to the right-of-way in question had inquired about the timeline for bringing this matter back before Council and they were told that the request would be on the City Council Agenda for April 19, 2007. A final E-mail and certified letter was sent to Woodlawn Forrest Church of Christ on April 10, 2007 indicating that the request would go before the City Council on April 19, 2007 and no response has been received to date. A petition has been submitted from citizens in the neighborhood in support of closing this section of this street. If Council chooses to close the street, one-half of the right-of-way would become the property of the two adjoining property owners. Von Shipman recommended that Council approve the request to close a right-of-way on Ponderosa Drive.

James Micklon, 1210 Ponderosa Drive, spoke in favor of the request. Mr. Micklon stated that he distributed the petition and received no negative responses to closing the right-of-way on Ponderosa Drive. Mr. Micklon stated that through Council's efforts, speeding and crime has been lessened in their neighborhood and they do not need another increase in traffic on Ponderosa Drive.

Earnest Bennix, 1214 Ponderosa Drive, spoke in favor of the request. Mr. Bennix stated that there was a petition containing 28 names of residents who did not want a new street put into Ponderosa Drive. It would be expensive for the City to put the street in when the majority of the people do not want or need a street. The money could be used to put a playground in for the children instead of a street that is not needed. Mr. Bennix stated that he was a World War II Veteran and asked Council's consideration in approving the request to close the right-of-way.

Ursula Johannesen, 1213 Ponderosa Drive, spoke in favor of the request. Ms. Johannesen stated that a street at that location would be terrible. They have had a lot of problems on Ponderosa Drive but it has gotten much better due to the efforts of Councilman Wright. If a street was placed there it would be going backwards. Ms. Johannesen stated that they were too old to move and could not afford to move and asked Council's consideration in approving the request to close the right-of-way.

No one spoke in opposition to the request.

Councilman Wright stated that the residents were very concerned about a road being placed in that neighborhood. The request was postponed for 90 days to allow input and none was received. Councilman Wright stated that he felt it would be in the best interest of the community to not allow a road to be placed in that area.

A **MOTION** by Councilman Wright, seconded by Councilman Vickers, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to follow the recommendation of the City Engineer and approve the request to close a right-of-way on Ponderosa Drive

**ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2007-13, AN ORDINANCE FOR SEWER OUTFALL COST RECOVERY FEES FOR ST. AUGUSTINE ROAD AND APPROVAL OF THE CONTRACT**

Consideration of an ordinance for sewer outfall cost recovery fees for St. Augustine Road and approval of the contract.

Leon Weeks, Utilities Director, stated that the City has received requests to provide sewer for the following properties along St. Augustine Road: (1) The south corner of Rouse Road, (2) The north corner of Lankford Drive, and (3) The north corner of Dale Drive. The commercial properties were parcels in islands that were annexed into the City in August, 2006 and being commercial, the annexation ordinance required that the commercial properties pay for the cost of required water and sewer extensions even though the ordinance provided for the City to construct water and sewer mains to serve existing residential homes. The Municipal Utilities Ordinance provides for adoption of cost recovery fees to be assessed to future users of water or sewer mains to serve new areas for collection of the construction costs at the time of connection. The lot at Lankford Drive is presently developed as a Flash Foods Store with an automatic car wash that uses an average of 2,700 gallons of water per day that needs to be discharged to the sanitary sewer. The property at Rouse Road is being developed with a number of small shops with one larger space with plumbing that could support a restaurant. The owner of the property at Dale Drive has stated a desire to do similar development. Water use experience for this type of development is normally about 700 gallons per acre compared with one single-family home whose use might be 350 gallons per home. A restaurant as proposed might use 1,600 gallons per day. The total expected use of the new sewer was calculated using these factors and found to be 9,760 gallons per day which includes the existing homes that the City has agreed to provide with water and sewer mains. It is expected that some of the residential property may be rezoned and developed as commercial. A fee of \$7.50 per gallon would provide a return of \$73,200 if none of the other property was redeveloped and more if other new development occurred. The City Engineer designed the required sewer extension to serve the requests, and the low bid for the construction was submitted by Radney Plumbing, Inc. in the amount of \$81,335. The bid does meet the specifications and the City Engineer has recommended that the bid be awarded to Radney Plumbing, Inc. with a 10% contingency. Leon Weeks recommended that Council adopt the Ordinance and award the contract to Radney Plumbing, Inc. in the amount of \$81,335 plus a 10% contingency.

A **MOTION** by Councilman Head, seconded by Councilman Vickers, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to approve the recommendation of the Utilities Director to adopt Ordinance No. 2007-13, an ordinance for sewer outfall cost recovery fees for St. Augustine Road, the complete text of which will be found in Ordinance Book XI, and award the contract to Radney Plumbing, Inc. in the amount of \$81,335 plus a 10% contingency.

**BID, CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS, AND EXPENDITURES**

Consideration of a request to approve bids for the Fourth of July Fireworks Display sponsored by the City of Valdosta and Lowndes County (Bid No. 36-06-07).

Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that the City of Valdosta in conjunction with Lowndes County sponsors a Fourth of July Fireworks Display for all residents of Valdosta, Lowndes County, and surrounding areas. Funds are budgeted each year for this event. Bids were submitted and a single response was received on April 10, 2007 from Pyrotecnico in the amount of \$15,000 which was the same amount as last year. This company has

performed this service for the past six years and has done an acceptable job. Larry Hanson recommended that Council approve the proposal from Pyrotecnico in the amount of \$15,000 and allow the Department to proceed with the fireworks display.

**A MOTION** by Councilman Sumner, seconded by Councilman Wright, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to approve the bid submitted by Pyrotecnico in the amount of \$15,000 for the Fourth of July Fireworks Display sponsored by the City of Valdosta and Lowndes County.

Consideration of bids for a truck with dump body for the Public Works Department (Bid No. 35-06-07).

Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that the Public Works Department is in need of a new truck to help perform their duties. This truck will replace an older model that needs to be taken out of service and is a Council-approved budget item for this fiscal year. Sealed bids were received on April 10, 2007 with the low bid submitted by Beck Motors in the amount of \$53,248. Larry Hanson recommended that Council approve the bid of Beck Motors in the amount of \$53,248 and allow the Public Works Department to proceed with the purchase.

**A MOTION** by Councilman Sumner, seconded by Councilman Wright, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to approve the low bid submitted by Beck Motors in the amount of \$53,248 and allow the Public Works Department to proceed with the purchase.

Consideration of bids for paving the Municipal Court Parking Lot.

Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that the bids for the Municipal Court Parking Lot were scheduled to be opened on April 17, 2007 but there was a last minute concern by the contractors and they were not comfortable with bidding on the project until an issue was resolved regarding some asbestos in one of the buildings that needed to be removed. The opening of the bids was postponed until April 23, 2007. Mayor Fretti entertained a motion to postpone the request until the next Council meeting.

**A MOTION** by Councilman Head, seconded by Councilman Vickers, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to postpone the request for bids for paving the Municipal Court Parking Lot until the May 10, 2007 regular City Council Meeting.

Consideration of a request to approve a lease agreement with Southland Contractors for a cell phone tower.

Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that several months ago he was contacted by Southland Contractors and they were looking for a cell phone tower site in the area of Valdosta State University. There is a high demand for use in that area and other cell towers in that vicinity are at peak usage. Several companies have expressed interest in locating antennas on a strategically placed tower and the parameters indicated that the precise location would be in the area of Sunset Cemetery. Larry Hanson stated that he met the Southland Contractors at Sunset Cemetery and identified a site in the Sustella Avenue corner portion by Valdosta State University parking lot. Sunset Cemetery is getting closer to being out of space but it will be utilized for many years. The City does have an obligation to maintain the Cemetery and the public will want it maintained to acceptable standards going forward; however, since there will no longer be lots for sale, the City will lose that revenue source to maintain the Cemetery. This request has presented a unique opportunity to take a small portion of property near the existing maintenance building and have a lease with Southland Contractors to provide a service to the community. As a result, the City would receive compensation in the amount of \$1,200 per month plus \$300 for each antenna that would locate on the tower. This would generate approximately \$25,000 in revenue for the City and has a CPI clause built in so that it would increase annually by 3%. The agreement will be for five years with five, five-year renewal options. Over a 30-year period, this could potentially generate approximately \$900,000 in revenue. Larry Hanson recommended that Council approve the lease agreement with Southland Contractors for a cell phone tower and designate that money for the Cemetery Trust Fund which would be used to maintain the Cemetery once all lots are sold and the ability to generate revenue is gone. There are also two options for the design of the cell phone tower. One option would be a flagpole design and the other would be a pine tree design. Either of these towers would be approximately 150 feet. George Talley, City Attorney, has prepared an agreement which designates a 60' x 40' area for the tower and the necessary control box. There is an option to terminate and Southland has agreed to

make a payment in lieu of taxes and would add that to the monthly lease payment. Southland Contractors would indemnify the City, provide the necessary insurance, and provide the City with the option of having an antenna on the tower. Larry Hanson stated that he recently found out that City Hall will need to have a new roof and the architect has suggested that the antenna be removed so this could be attractive to the City to place the antenna on the cell phone tower. The antenna serves Meter Reading, Engineering, and Parks and Recreation and placing it on the cell phone tower will allow the City the opportunity not to have to go out and find another location for the City's own tower and antenna. This could also be a good example for the community going forward to look at alternative designs that are not unsightly for the community. Larry Hanson stated that the only concern that has been expressed about the flagpole is that it would be in the area of Valdosta State University and they have astronomy programs so the flag would have to be taken down daily because the lighting from the flag would need to be from the bottom which could cause some complaints. Both of the designs are very attractive and the company is willing to do either one. Larry Hanson stated that if this works then he may want to recommend that Council consider changing the cell phone ordinance and require these towers to be the only ones used in the City. Mayor Fretti inquired as to whether the tree tower had any maintenance requirements and if there would be any discoloration due to the sun.

James McNichol, Southland Contractors, stated that the tower designs are made of materials that are ultraviolet light friendly and the limbs are fiberglass coated PVC which looks very realistic and will withstand elements in the environment for approximately 30 years. Mayor Fretti inquired as to what would happen if something fell off the tree design tower. Mr. McNichol stated that they would be responsible for making any repairs to the tower. Larry Hanson stated that their access would be limited to that area of the Cemetery and unless there was an emergency, they will only routinely visit the site with a laptop computer to verify that the instruments are working. Mayor Fretti inquired as to the number of possible carriers that could locate on the tower. Mr. McNichol stated that they have designed the tower for five but four would be the most and that would be dependent on the industry. There are currently six carriers that operate in this area and one is already located at Valdosta State University. Councilman Eunice inquired as to how the lease amount was derived. Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that it was derived through negotiations and he tried to verify that it was a fair price.

**A MOTION** by Councilman Vickers, seconded by Councilman Yost, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to approve a lease agreement with Southland Contractors for a tree design cell phone tower.

## **LOCAL FUNDING AND REQUESTS**

Consideration of a request to appeal the denial of an application by the Historic Preservation Commission for an asphalt driveway at 1610 Williams Street.

Emily Foster, Historic Preservation Planner, 5148 Northwind Boulevard, stated that Mr. Ed Hanahan's case was presented to the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) for the first time in November, 2006. His request for an asphalt driveway was denied because of the nature of the material. Ms. Foster stated that the length of time to set an appeal expired so he came back before the HPC on April 2, 2007. Again, the HPC denied his request for paving the driveway with asphalt. Mayor Fretti inquired as to whether the HPC allowed applicants to appear before them again with the same request. Ms. Foster stated that there was nothing in the ordinance that would preclude it. The HPC denied the request because of their precedence in previously denying the asphalt material. The Design Guidelines do not state that asphalt is excluded; however, the HPC does have a history of denying the material. Councilman Yost inquired as to whether the HPC would allow asphalt if the Design Guidelines were changed. Ms. Foster stated that this would be something the HPC would consider. Councilman Yost inquired as to how the Design Guidelines could be changed so that Council and the HPC would not be put in a situation of denying something they have no problem with but it is denied because of the way the regulation is interpreted. Ms. Foster stated that there is nothing in the Design Guidelines that state you cannot have asphalt but it is recommended that another material be used such as cement or gravel. Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that Council had previously approved asphalt driveways on Williams Street, Alden Avenue, Park Avenue, and River Street. Councilman Vickers stated that there are asphalt driveways all over the Historic District. Councilman Sumner stated that the HPC Board did not abuse its discretion in reaching the decision; however, the HPC Board does need to change the Design Guidelines and Council has made it clear that they do not have a problem with asphalt driveways. Ms. Foster stated that there are many things in Design Guidelines that the HPC Board would like to change.

Councilman Wright inquired as to the type of material that was currently in the driveway. Ms. Foster stated that there is cement and dirt. Larry Hanson stated that at the next Council meeting a contract with Jordan, Jones, & Goulding (JJ&G) will be brought before Council for JJ&G to review all of the City's Codes and Development Standards including the HPC Ordinance. The HPC Staff and Board will be asked for their input to identify problem areas and things that need to be improved or enhanced. The final document will be brought before Council for adoption.

Ed Hanahan, 1610 Williams Street, stated that he addressed the HPC on April 2, 2007 and was told that it was not within their auspices to approve asphalt. Mr. Hanahan stated that he did not want to contradict their decision. There was a recommendation from the HPC that he could appeal their decision before Council and possibly be granted permission for an asphalt driveway. Mr. Hanahan stated that historically asphalt became a common use in the 1870's and in the decades of the 1920's, 1930's, and 1940's, it was used for 80% of the paving of new roads. Mr. Hanahan stated Brannyn Allen, Senior Planner at the South Georgia Regional Development Center, supported his application for paving with asphalt as well as the residents of his neighborhood.

A **MOTION** by Councilman Head, seconded by Councilman Vickers, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to grant the applicant's request to install an asphalt driveway at 1610 Williams Street.

Consideration of a request to apply for grant funds from the U. S. Department of Justice Bulletproof Vest Partnership Program.

Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that the Bulletproof Vest Partnership is designed to provide critical resources to State and local law enforcement. The City has received funding from this program over the past six years to help purchase vests for the Police Department. This program has allowed the City to receive partial reimbursements for eligible vest purchases. Funding amounts are determined by the Department of Justice in order to meet increasing demands and to allow as many jurisdictions the opportunity to participate in the program. The Department of Justice has determined that the City's regular fund application maximum is \$9,271.50 for 2007. This is a reimbursement grant and the City will be eligible for a maximum reimbursement of \$4,635.75. Funds can be used only for vests purchased on or after April 1, 2007. The application must be submitted online by April 30, 2007. Larry Hanson recommended that Council approve the request to apply for grant funds from the U. S. Department of Justice Bulletproof Vest Partnership Program.

A **MOTION** by Councilman Eunice, seconded by Councilman Vickers, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to approve the request to apply for grant funds from the U. S. Department of Justice Bulletproof Vest Partnership Program.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2007-9, A RESOLUTION TO APPLY FOR GRANT FUNDS FROM THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY'S U. S. FIRE ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT PROGRAM FOR THE PURCHASE OF A PUMPER TRUCK**

Consideration of a request to apply for grant funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency's U. S. Fire Administration Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program for the purchase of a pumper truck.

Capt. Kirk Johnson, Valdosta Fire Department, stated that they currently have an outdated 1970 apparatus and at times are unable to purchase parts for the truck. Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that this project was brought before Council at the Mayor/Council Retreat and is one of the City's SPLOST projects. Applying for grant funds would reduce the obligation to fully fund the request and SPLOST funds would be used to match the amount of \$35,000. Larry Hanson recommended that Council approve the request to apply for grant funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency's U. S. Fire Administration Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program for the purchase of a pumper truck and provide a match of \$35,000.

A **MOTION** by Councilman Yost, seconded by Councilman Wright, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to approve the request and enact Resolution No. 2007-9, a resolution to apply for grant funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency's U. S. Fire Administration Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program for the purchase of a pumper truck, the complete text of which will be found in Resolution Book IV.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2007-10, A RESOLUTION TO APPLY FOR GRANT FUNDS FROM THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY'S U. S. FIRE ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT PROGRAM FOR THE PURCHASE OF FIREFIGHTER EQUIPMENT**

Consideration of a request to apply for grant funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency's U.S. Fire Administration Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program for the purchase of firefighter equipment.

Capt. Kirk Johnson, Valdosta Fire Department, stated that the Fire Department currently needs to replace approximately 50 self-contained breathing apparatus equipment and bunker gear. Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that this equipment is very important and this will provide us with an opportunity to take advantage of a \$550,000 Federal grant with a \$55,000 grant match. These items must be purchased each year and it will reduce the City's local obligation.

**A MOTION** by Councilman Summer, seconded by Councilman Vickers, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to approve the request and enact Resolution No. 2007-10, a resolution to apply for grant funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency's U. S. Fire Administration Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program for the purchase of firefighter equipment, the complete text of which will be found in Resolution Book IV.

Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that Waycross is experiencing a tragic wildfire and personnel from Valdosta's Fire Department have been assisting the firefighting crews all week. The Waycross/Ware County area has already lost over 25,000 acres to the wildfire and there are 80 agencies with over 300 firefighters working to contain the blaze. Larry Hanson asked Battallion Chief Wisenbaker to share some comments about the fire and how the Valdosta firefighters are assisting with the wildfire. Chief Wisenbaker stated that there are four firefighters in Waycross at this time and they were in an area where several houses were being protected. Surrounding them was a huge wall of fire and a C-130 aircraft and helicopters were dumping water on the fire. There has been a problem with radios matching up because of the 800 mghz versus vhf. Larry Hanson stated that as of today the fire is only 25% contained so we will continue to provide support as long as possible in hopes that we would have that same kind of response if our community was ever in that same type of emergency situation. Mayor Fretti asked Chief Wisenbaker to thank the firefighters for their efforts.

Consideration of a request for a variance to the Municipal Utility Ordinance to allow service outside the City. Mayor/Council postponed the request at the April 5, 2007 Regular City Council Meeting.

Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that for many months the Industrial Authority has been actively recruiting a new industry to the community and has done an outstanding job. The company has indicated that they would like to have some City of Valdosta services in order to make a decision to locate in this community. The contract states that the City has agreed to serve the company since they are outside the City. The company will agree to annex as soon as they can legally do so and the City will make them aware of when they become contiguous to the City and eligible for annexation. The company has agreed to pay for fire protection from the City and will be on the City's water and sewer system. One of the reasons they selected Valdosta is because of the quality of the City's water as well the City's ability to take any discharge without requiring pretreatment. Mayor Fretti stated that a variance for pre-treatment for this project has already been addressed. Councilman Yost stated that this is a great project for the community and thanked everyone involved; however, what is bothersome is the fact that the company wants to be in the City but cannot because the County has decided they will not allow them to be annexed into the City. The County will also be receiving tax dollars and the City will not. Councilman Head inquired about documentation indicating that the company would annex at the first opportunity. Larry Hanson stated that the City Attorney would draft an agreement/requirement to annex as soon as they could legally do so.

**A MOTION** by Councilman Vickers, seconded by Councilman Sumner, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to approve a variance to the Municipal Utility Ordinance to allow service outside the City.

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that as a part of Georgia Cities Week, the Great American Cleanup will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 28, 2007 with the staging area at the Senior Citizens

Center. The area to be worked will be from Bemiss Road to Pineview Drive to Park Avenue. There will also be a Job Shadow Day on Wednesday, April 25<sup>th</sup> where a group of students from J. L. Newbern Middle School will be matched with a Department Head and learn about City government. The students will then make a presentation on what they have learned at a luncheon at 11:30 a.m. in the Annex Building's Multi-Purpose Room. On Thursday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, the Employee Appreciation Luncheon will be held at Mathis Auditorium, and on Friday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, a reception will be held at the James H. Rainwater Conference Center from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. to honor all of the appointees to the Boards, Authorities, and Commissions of the City and County. Also, the John W. Saunders Park dedication ceremony will be held on Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. in conjunction with another event that will be taking place.

Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that the Environmental Protection Division has declared the entire State of Georgia under a Level II drought and there are mandatory water use restrictions in place effective immediately. Odd number addresses may water on Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday from 12:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. only and even and un-numbered addresses may water on Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday from 12:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. only. This also allows each local community to place other severe restrictions if they so desire.

Larry Hanson, City Manager, asked Council's consideration in amending the agenda to support the 100 Black Men of Valdosta Annual Black Tie Dinner to be held on April 23, 2007 at Valdosta Middle School. Mayor Fretti entertained a motion to amend the agenda to vote for sponsorship of the 100 Black Men Dinner.

**A MOTION** by Councilman Vickers, seconded by Councilman Wright, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to amend the agenda to vote for sponsorship of the 100 Black Men Annual Black Tie Dinner.

Mayor Fretti inquired as to the cost for Council members to attend the 100 Black Men Dinner. Councilman Vickers stated that it was \$50 per ticket or \$750 for a table. Councilman Head stated that Council purchased a table at the event last year. Mayor Fretti entertained a motion to purchase a table for the 100 Black Men Dinner.

**A MOTION** by Councilman Sumner, seconded by Councilman Vickers, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to purchase a table in the amount of \$750 for the 100 Black Men of Valdosta Annual Black Tie Dinner.

## COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Head stated that the Quality of Life Association will hold its second youth entrepreneurship training program on Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. The program will run for 10 weeks and will be for youth ages 10-14.

Mayor Fretti stated that Council has been provided with a SPLOST update as well as the requested evaluation forms.

## ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Fretti entertained a motion for adjournment.

**A MOTION** by Councilman Vickers, seconded by Councilman Eunice was unanimously adopted (7-0) to adjourn the April 19, 2007 meeting of the Valdosta City Council at 6:49 p.m. to meet again in regular session on Thursday, May 10, 2007.

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City Clerk, City of Valdosta

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Mayor, City of Valdosta