

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE VALDOSTA CITY COUNCIL
5:30 P.M., THURSDAY, APRIL 19, 2012
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., Robert Yost, Deidra White, and James Wright. The invocation was given by Chaplain Brian Sayre, South Georgia Medical Center, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS

PRESENTATION OF THE MARCH, 2012 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH AWARD

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

Mayor Gayle stated that cities across our state will celebrate Georgia Cities Week April 22-28, 2012 with activities that highlight the programs and services that enhance the quality of life for our citizens. In Valdosta, several activities have been planned for citizens to participate in such as the Great American Clean Up, Customer Service Day, the Employee Blood Drive, a community Art Project, Job Shadow Day for Valdosta High School students, as well as a few others. One of the most popular activities during Georgia Cities Week is the "If I Were Mayor" 6th grade essay contest. This contest challenges sixth-grade students in our community to use their grade-level writing skills and civic knowledge to express in 350 words or less what they would do if they had the top elected position in the City. Over the years, the City has received some incredible and thought-provoking work from our local students and this year's winners are no exception. The winners this year are as follows: (1) 3rd Place Winner - Terrica Denson, Valdosta Early College Academy, (2) 2nd Place Winner - Maggie Davis, Valdosta Middle School, and (3) 1st Place Winner - Nia Cosby, St. John Catholic School. The Georgia Municipal Association received 6,205 essays Statewide and 883 of those were from Congressional District 11, the District that includes Valdosta. Though Valdosta did not produce a statewide winner this year, the three local winners were among the top and were praised for their exceptional efforts. All of these students are to be commended. They are wonderful representatives of our City and we are very proud of each of them.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the April 5, 2012 Regular Meeting were approved by unanimous consent (7-0) of the Council.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 2012-4, A RESOLUTION FOR LOW INCOME HOUSING TAX CREDIT FOR REHABILITATION OF THE ASHLEY HOUSE

Consideration of a Resolution for Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LICTC) for rehabilitation of the Ashley House.

Mara Register, Assistant to the City Manager, stated that the City of Valdosta requires Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) developers to follow a specific process in order to seek a Resolution of Support for their proposed project. The applicant, Integrity Development Partners, LLC (IDP), has followed this policy in regards to the rehabilitation of the Ashley House, which is a 61-unit senior housing apartment building located at 109 East Hill Avenue in Valdosta. Ashley House Apartments, LP and IDP are planning on purchasing the apartments and rehabilitating the entire complex to provide an improved affordable housing complex that will provide affordable housing to the residents of the City of Valdosta and Lowndes County. The Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) has established certain regulations through the State of Georgia's 2012 Qualified

Allocation Plan whereby low-income housing tax credits applications must be competitive and formally endorsed by the governing authority of the pertinent municipality or county. IDP will submit an application to DCA for low-income housing tax credits to acquire and rehabilitate the Ashley House. The City of Valdosta endorses the aforementioned application by IDP and Ashley House Apartments, LP. They have completed the steps necessary for the Resolution to be placed on the Mayor and City Council Agenda for consideration. Mara Register recommended that Council approve the Resolution of Support and letter for Low Income Housing Tax Credit for rehabilitation of the Ashley House. Councilman Wright inquired as to whether the residents would be relocated during the rehabilitation process. Mara Register stated that they will do the rehabilitation floor by floor and where they have vacancies they will move the residents into those units; however, because of the involvement of the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, they will have to work through the relocation requirement for off-site relocation if that comes up but they want to keep that to a minimum. Councilman Carroll inquired as to whether the bulk of the renovations would be interior. Mara Register stated that was correct.

A MOTION by Councilwoman White, seconded by Councilman Wright, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to enact Resolution No. 2012-4, a Resolution for Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LICTC) for rehabilitation of the Ashley House, the complete text of which will be found in Resolution Book V.

RESOLUTION NO. 2012-5, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF AN APPLICATION WITH THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE BUREAU TO FUND IMPROVEMENTS FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT CAPABILITIES

Consideration of a Resolution authorizing the filing of an application with the U. S. Department of Justice Bureau to fund improvements for law enforcement capabilities for the Valdosta Police Department and the Lowndes County Sheriff's Office.

Police Chief Frank Simons stated that the City has received funding under the Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program in 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, and 2011. Since a disparate situation exists between the City of Valdosta and Lowndes County, the grants were joint projects where both law enforcement agencies teamed together to request Federal grant funds to improve law enforcement services in the City of Valdosta/Lowndes County area. In 2005 and 2006, the funding was awarded as a lump sum amount which the City and County agreed to split to help fund each entities' grant program purposes that fell into one of six areas: (1) law enforcement programs, (2) prosecution and court programs, (3) prevention and education programs, (4) corrections and community corrections programs, (5) drug treatment and enforcement programs, and (6) planning, evaluation, and technology improvement programs. In 2007 and 2009, the City and the County were each awarded allocations for use in one of seven program purpose areas with crime victim and witness programs (other than compensation) being added to the program purpose areas. The funding in 2008 was so low that the County did not request any of the funding allocation. The 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008 grants are complete. The County has completed their portion of the 2009 award and the City is preparing the closeout package this month. The County has completed their portions of the 2010 and 2011 awards and the City is nearing completion of their program for these years. For the 2012 grant program, a lump sum was again awarded and an odd amount was allocated to the joint jurisdictions. A split was proposed as follows: \$11,534 for the City of Valdosta and \$11,533 for Lowndes County. Since a disparate situation exists with Lowndes County, an agreement must be reached on the allocation of funding between entities. Both the City and the County will use their funding for one of the seven program purpose areas and the City intends to use the funds to upgrade technology issues within the Police Department. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will be executed with the County stating that they agree to the division of the allocations this year. The City will file the grant application for the entire amount of \$23,067 and act as the fiscal agent for the funding. No match is required for the grant. Chief Simons recommended that Council approve the Resolution authorizing the filing of an application with the U. S. Department of Justice Bureau to fund improvements for law enforcement capabilities for the Valdosta Police Department and the Lowndes County Sheriff's Office. Councilman Payton stated that the suggested amount would be split in half but on another document in the Council packet it appears that one institution will get approximately \$2,000 more. Chief Simons stated that the division is based on the cost of Justice Administration and who bears that cost. The City usually gets a larger share because we have the largest concentration of population and a larger number of events that occur in the City and those are the reasons why the City will receive a little more.

A **MOTION** by Councilman Payton, seconded by Councilman Carroll, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to enact Resolution No. 2012-5, a Resolution authorizing the filing of an application with the U. S. Department of Justice Bureau to fund improvements for law enforcement capabilities for the Valdosta Police Department and the Lowndes County Sheriff's Office, the complete text of which will be found in Resolution Book V.

RESOLUTION NO. 2012-6, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF AN APPLICATION WITH THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT TO FUND A PROGRAM TO ASSIST WITH THE ASSESSMENT AND PLANNING FOR HOUSING NEEDS IN NEIGHBORHOODS WITHIN THE DESIGNATED REVITALIZATION AREA

Consideration of a Resolution authorizing the filing of an application with the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to fund a Program to assist with the assessment and planning for housing needs in neighborhoods within the Designated Revitalization Area (DRA) of the City of Valdosta.

Mara Register, Assistant to the City Manager, stated that this is a relatively new funding opportunity which is in its second year. Funding would come through the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Congress reserves the right to make decisions on the funding for this program on a yearly basis. This is a planning grant for up to \$300,000 which can lead to the award of an implementation grant for up to \$5,000,000 upon successful completion of the planning grant. The City is seeking funding to address neighborhood housing issues within the Designated Revitalization Area (DRA). One of the areas discussed is Hudson Docket and the area around Hudson Docket. We are looking at what the school system is doing in that area and at a transformation plan for those neighborhoods identified in the planning grant. Mara Register stated that Staff is requesting approval of the Resolution to apply for the grant. There is a 5% in-kind or cash match and we are proposing to do it through in-kind with Staff time that would be put into it if the grant is awarded. Councilman Vickers inquired as to whether the entire \$300,000 would be used for planning. Mara Register stated that the entire \$300,000 would be used for planning because it can be rather large when looking at a mixed use and mixed income development. A great example of this is in Savannah. It is a large undertaking because you are not only looking at housing but at other community partners and issues affecting the neighborhood. This is why we would like to apply for the maximum amount. Councilman Carroll inquired as to whether this would help us address some of the impediments that came up in the Analysis of Impediments. Mara Register stated that to apply for this was actually a recommended activity out of the Analysis of Impediments because of the opportunity to look at a comprehensive basis at that neighborhood to see about what activities can lead to transformation. Councilman Carroll inquired as to whether the Analysis of Impediments that Council approved at the last Council Meeting would help in applying for this. Mara Register stated that it would be good support for this. Councilman Payton stated that he had visited San Antonio, Texas during the National League of Cities Conference and he saw mixed housing. Councilman Payton inquired as to whether this would deal primarily with homes under the Housing Authority. Mara Register stated that will be one segment that is looked at as well as all of the area in the adjacent neighborhood and what is happening with the School System and their plans. Councilman Payton stated that the mixed use that he saw was single dwelling homes that were located in neighborhoods that were not considered run-down neighborhoods and inquired as to what kind of flexibility we would have to extend beyond the area around the Housing Authority projects. Mara Register stated that in their research they found that HUD is very specific about separate neighborhoods having separate applications. Our Professional Consultant with the Analysis of Impediments felt that this was the primary neighborhood where we should start. Even though this is just the second year of funding, if we are successful with this implementation it could lead to future rounds of looking at other neighborhoods. The Consultant had discussed possibly two neighborhoods but HUD was very clear in their guidance back to us that separate neighborhoods have to have separate applications. We felt that by submitting two different applications we would dilute our chances and we should focus on one priority. Councilman Payton stated that with a new school being considered for that area it may enhance that area. Councilman Wright asked Mara Register to elaborate about a mixed use community. Mara Register stated that mixed use looks at community facilities or commercial facilities that might be on the frontage. It also looks at multi-family, market rental units as well as subsidized units, single-family structures, and it allows you the flexibility to look at all of that within one transformational plan. The wonderful thing about this program is that it does not tunnel vision about what you should have but lets the community come together to look at what is best for that transformation plan and mixing those uses. Councilman Wright stated that it is really not just building a community but putting amenities into the community that it needs. Mara Register stated that was correct. A community garden is another component of the

one that is in Savannah. There was also another large project that was done in Macon in conjunction with Mercer University. This was a mixed use of single-family and multi-family, commercial around it, and looking at recreation and community needs as well as opportunities. Councilman Vickers inquired as to the boundary of Hudson Docket. Mara Register stated that was one of the things that we would get some guidance on from HUD as to how far out we could go geographically. We will go as far as they let us go and it could very well go further south and take in the Southeast Elementary campus. This is a brand new program in its second year and things are still changing in how HUD looks at it as well. Councilman Vickers stated that he would like to have that information. Councilwoman White stated that her opinion on mixed use development is that it is a modern day version of old-timey villages that we used to have. They were designed to meet the needs of all the people in the community and not just one way of living like there may have been way back when. This is a significant and worthwhile project.

A MOTION by Councilman Payton, seconded by Councilman Wright, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to enact Resolution No. 2012-6, a Resolution authorizing the filing of an application with the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to apply for funding for the Choice Neighborhood Grant Program to assist with the assessment and planning for housing needs in neighborhoods within the Designated Revitalization Area (DRA) of the City of Valdosta, the complete text of which will be found in Resolution Book V.

RESOLUTION NO. 2012-7, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF AN APPLICATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY'S FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY TO FUND THE PURCHASE OF FIRE AND ARSON INVESTIGATION EQUIPMENT AND FIRE EDUCATION MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT

Consideration of a Resolution authorizing the filing of an application with the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency to fund the purchase of fire and arson investigation equipment and fire education materials and equipment.

Fire Chief J. D. Rice stated that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Grants Program Directorate is responsible for the implementation and administration of the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program. The purpose of the AFG is to enhance the safety of the public and firefighters with respect to fire and fire-related hazards. The Grants Programs Directorate administers the Fire Prevention and Safety (FP&S) grants as part of the AFG Program. FP&S offers grants to support activities in two categories: (1) activities designed to reach high-risk target groups and mitigate incidences of death and injuries caused by fire and fire-related hazards ("Fire Prevention and Safety Activity"), and (2) research and development activities aimed at improving firefighter safety ("Firefighter Safety Research and Development Activity"). Projects eligible for funding include public education campaigns, arson prevention, prevention-related training, fire prevention activities, and risk assessments. The City is seeking funding under the 2011 Fire Prevention & Safety (FP&S) grant to purchase fire and arson investigation equipment and educational materials that will improve the Valdosta Fire Department's ability to address issues related to fire prevention and arson. Funding will also be used to increase the public's understanding through educational campaigns. This grant required a 20% match and the Fire Department has already raised over 80% of the match from private donations. They would like to purchase a 3D scanner which would allow them to go to a fire scene and determine where the fire started, where it spread, and if an accelerant was used. The second item they would like to obtain is a fire safety bounce house. They have a fire safety trailer that was purchased years ago but in educating children they need to stay modern. The bounce house costs approximately \$25,000 and they feel it will benefit the children by educating them about fire safety and education. Chief Rice recommended that Council approve the Resolution authorizing the filing of an application with the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency to fund the purchase of fire and arson investigation equipment and fire education materials and equipment.

A MOTION by Councilman Carroll, seconded by Councilman Vickers, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to enact Resolution No. 2012-7, a Resolution authorizing the filing of an application with the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency to fund the purchase of fire and arson investigation equipment and fire education materials and equipment, the complete text of which will be found in Resolution Book V.

Consideration of bids for a tire truck for the Public Works Department (Bid No. 7-11-12).

Greg Brown, Purchasing Agent, stated that the Equipment and Vehicle Maintenance Division of the Public Works Department needs to replace an existing tire truck. The current truck is 11 years old and needs so much repair that the cost of repairs would far exceed the value of the truck. This truck is in the Council-approved budget for the current fiscal year. Sealed bids were received on April 3, 2012 with the low bid submitted by Wade Ford in the amount of \$50,490. Greg Brown recommended that Council approve the low bid of Wade Ford in the amount of \$50,490 and allow the Public Works Department to proceed with the purchase. Councilman Vickers inquired as to where Wade Ford was located. Greg Brown stated that they are located in Smyrna, Georgia, and we have purchased several trucks from them in the past. Councilman Payton stated that there was a difference of \$186 between Langdale Ford and Wade Ford and \$145 difference between Wade and Langdale Ford. Councilwoman White stated that she would feel better about going with our local vendor for \$186 but she is not the buyer. Greg Brown stated that we do not have anything in our policy that addresses that. Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that the Purchasing Policy requires us to buy from the lowest responsible bidder. Councilman Wright stated that was good for competitive bidding in the long run. Councilman Vickers stated that if our local vendor is within \$200 of a bid we should promote jobs here; however, he understood the Policy and the reason. Larry Hanson stated that this is a conversation that they can have at a later date. Greg Brown stated that there is probably no profit built into those prices. The local vendors will get to provide the service on the vehicle though. Councilman Payton stated that if we just put it out for bid in Valdosta and Lowndes County that might create some challenges that we do not want to face.

A MOTION by Councilman Wright, seconded by Councilman Payton, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to approve the low bid submitted by Wade Ford in the amount of \$50,490 and allow the Public Works Department to proceed with the purchase of a tire truck.

Consideration of bids for a ScanStation C10 Laser Scanner System for the Police Department (Bid No. 11-11-12).

Greg Brown, Purchasing Agent, stated that the Police Department needs to purchase a three dimensional laser scanner system. This system provides detailed documentation of crime scenes to support investigations, assist in meeting accreditation requirements and for court reliability purposes. The majority of these crime scenes have a nexus to dangerous drugs and illicit drug activity. This purchase will be funded through the federal grant secured with the assistance of Congressman Jack Kingston. Due to the highly specialized nature of this system and the necessity of the system to have 100% acceptance in courts of law, a sole source purchase approval was granted through the Grant Administrator. The City of Valdosta qualifies for GSA pricing which has been offered by Leica Geosystems. The cost for the Scanner has increased \$147 since the quote was received in February so the new price is \$179,989.40. Greg Brown recommended that Council approve the sole source purchase of the laser scanning system from Leica Geosystems in the amount of \$179,989.40 and allow the Police Department to proceed with the purchase. Councilman Yost inquired as to whether this was the same type of scanner that Chief Rice was asking for to detect arson or accelerants. Greg Brown stated that he did not think the systems were compatible. Councilman Yost inquired as to whether we would provide a match out of the Fire Department's budget. Larry Hanson stated that we do match if we are aware of a grant but the Fire Department also does fundraising to participate in the purchase of projects. Councilman Yost stated that he would like to get a report back as to whether the Fire Department gets the grant or not in case we need to find funding for the equipment.

A MOTION by Councilman Norton, seconded by Councilman Carroll, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to approve the sole source purchase of the laser scanning system from Leica Geosystems in the amount of \$179,989.40 and allow the Police Department to proceed with the purchase.

Consideration of bids for a leaf machine dump truck for the Public Works Department (Bid No. 8-11-12).

Greg Brown, Purchasing Agent, stated that the Public Works Department is in need of a new leaf machine dump truck. The new truck will replace a 25-year old truck that is worn out. Parts are very hard to find due to the age of this truck so it is very challenging to keep it on the road. This is current fiscal year Council-approved budget item. Sealed bids were received on April 3, 2012 and the low bid was submitted by Wade Ford in the amount of

\$64,965. Greg Brown recommended that Council approve the low bid submitted by Wade Ford in the amount of \$64,965 and allow the Public Works Department to proceed with the purchase of a leaf machine dump truck.

A MOTION by Councilman Yost, seconded by Councilman Wright, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to approve the low bid submitted by Wade Ford in the amount of \$64,965 and allow the Public Works Department to proceed with the purchase of a leaf machine dump truck.

LOCAL FUNDING AND REQUESTS

Consideration of a request to sale remnant Parcel A for the Woodrow Wilson Extension Project.

Pat Collins, City Engineer, stated that the Woodrow Wilson Extension Project involves the construction of a new three lane section of roadway from North Patterson Street to North Oak Street at its intersection with Gornto Road. The bulk of the right-of-way for the Project has been derived from parcels purchased by the City in their entirety. This has resulted in the creation of remnant parcels leftover from the parent parcels. The Project will impact the property located in the southwest quadrant of the proposed intersection and will require the additional acquisition of a small amount of right-of-way and temporary construction and driveway easements. As a result of construction, the existing business located on the property will lose four (4) parking spaces which will severely impact the business as parking is already limited. The remnant parcel adjacent to the property mentioned, consisting of 2,057 square feet or 0.047 acres of land, does not meet minimum size requirements for a legal parcel. It is useful only as an assemblage to the adjacent property. This remnant parcel can serve as suitable site to construct four (4) new parking spaces to compensate. The property owner has agreed to sell to the City the necessary right-of-way and temporary easements and driveway easements provided that he can purchase the remnant parcel from the City. Pat Collins recommended that Council declare Parcel A as undevelopable and authorize the City to proceed with preparing the necessary legal documents for the sale of the Parcel to the adjacent property owner in accordance with State law. Larry Hanson stated that the sale price will be based on a per square basis based on the purchase price.

A MOTION by Councilman Carroll, seconded by Councilman Payton, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to approve the sale of remnant Parcel A for the Woodrow Wilson Extension Project.

Consideration of a request to sale remnant Parcel B for the Woodrow Wilson Extension Project.

Pat Collins, City Engineer, stated that the request to sale remnant Parcel B for the Woodrow Wilson Extension Project has been withdrawn.

Consideration of a request to sale remnant Parcel C for the Woodrow Wilson Extension Project.

Pat Collins, City Engineer, stated that the Woodrow Wilson Extension project involves the construction of a new three lane section of roadway from North Patterson Street to North Oak Street at its intersection with Gornto Road. The bulk of the right-of-way for the Project has been derived from parcels purchased by the City in their entirety. This has resulted in the creation of remnant parcels leftover from the parent parcels. The Project will impact the property located in the northwest quadrant of the proposed intersection with North Patterson Street and will require the acquisition of driveway easements. The remnant parcel adjacent to the property mentioned, consisting of 18,898 square feet or 0.434 acres of land, meets minimum size requirements for a legal parcel; however, because of its irregular shape and configuration it is unsuitable for development. The parcel is useful only as an assemblage to the adjacent property. The adjacent property owner has indicated a desire to purchase this remnant parcel. The property owner has agreed to convey to the City the necessary driveway easements provided that he can purchase this remnant parcel from the City. Pat Collins recommended that Council declare Parcel C as undevelopable and authorize the City to proceed with preparing the necessary legal documents for the sale of the Parcel to the adjacent property owner in accordance with State law.

A MOTION by Councilman Carroll, seconded by Councilman Payton, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to approve sale remnant Parcel C for the Woodrow Wilson Extension Project.

Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that the Great American Cleanup will be held on Saturday, April 21, 2012 from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and they are looking for volunteers. They will meet at Serenity Church located at 1619 North Lee Street. The neighborhood that will be cleaned up will be bordered by East Park Avenue, North Lee Street, Vallotton Drive, Woodlawn Drive, and North Forrest Street.

The City of Valdosta's Farmers Market will kick off on Saturday, April 21, 2012 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Courthouse and then every other Saturday through October.

There are a lot of activities planned for Georgia Cities Week which is April 22-28, 2012 and citizens will be able to see the things that their local government is doing.

Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that he and Mayor Gayle had an opportunity to speak to the Leadership Lowndes group this morning in the Council Chambers.

The Electronic Recycling Event totals are in and this program has been very well received by the community. There were 30,717 pounds or 15.36 tons of electronic materials were delivered to Mathis Auditorium. This included 153 computer monitors, 110 PCs, and 32 televisions. There were 48 volunteers who participated in the event.

The City of Valdosta hosted the Historic Preservation Commission State Conference several weeks ago and Emily Foster and Staff helped to make it a successful event. Some of the comments from those attending the event were that it was outstanding, well organized, an excellent venue, a good atmosphere, friendly and hospitable people, the courses, tours and reception were excellent, and they enjoyed meeting business owners and Staff. There are a lot of positive things going on in our community.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Carroll stated that he would like to have a copy of the speeches of the three winners of the "If I Were Mayor" Essay Contest.

Councilman Yost stated that in light of what happened at the Lowndes County jail this week with the inmate who committed suicide he wanted to be assured that whenever a citizen of the City of Valdosta is taken there that every precaution is taken to protect them while they are there and any medical problems that they might have. It sounds like that is what happened according to the article in the newspaper; however, he hoped that Staff would be involved with some of the discussions as far as how they handle procedures for inmates whether they are from Lowndes County or the surrounding area. He would like for our citizens to be protected once they are in the hands of the County and he would like for Staff to have some input in the solution to the situation.

Councilman Payton encouraged Council members to participate in the "Magic Downtown" tomorrow beginning at 6:00 p.m.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

George Boston Rhynes, 5004 Oak Drive, stated that he wanted to commend Councilman Yost who felt it was necessary to talk about the safety of the inmates in the Lowndes County jail. He wished he had read in the Valdosta Daily Times what he has in his archival record which is the number of people who have committed suicide in that jail. He would like to give it to the Valdosta Daily Times in hopes that they will publish it. There may be a deeper problem than we have ever taken a look into. Mr. Rhynes stated that he does believe that the citizens have a responsibility because the people who go to the County jail are citizens of the City of Valdosta. When we care about humanity we show forth God's grace to all our fellow human beings.

John Robinson, 3227 San Juline Circle, Lake Park, Georgia, thanked Councilman Carroll for bringing up the issue pertaining to the Analysis of Impediments. This is very serious business that came out of the Analysis of Impediments and it is something we do not need to take for granted. We all understand that complaints have been filed and more may be filed as well. This addresses some of the issues that we do face and we need to face it head

on. We have to deal with it directly. This has been overlooked and some people do not understand what the Analysis of Impediments means so if we can make it plainly understood then we can get a good grasp of what is really meant and what is involved in it.

John Nathan stated that he moved to Valdosta a few months ago from Macon and he wanted to make a statement about the process for controlling mosquitoes. He is working on a petition to stop the spraying of toxins to control the mosquitoes and to find other non-invasive ways to control them. Councilman Vickers inquired as to whether he had any suggestions that the City could use in place of spraying. Mr. Nathan stated that he has heard that citizens have suggested using some of the City and County workers to get rid of the standing water and clear the drains.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Gayle entertained a motion for adjournment.

A **MOTION** by Councilman Vickers, seconded by Councilman Carroll, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to adjourn the April 19, 2012 meeting of the Valdosta City Council at 6:40 p.m. to meet again in regular session on Thursday, May 10, 2012.

City Clerk, City of Valdosta

Mayor, City of Valdosta