

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE VALDOSTA CITY COUNCIL
5:30 P.M., THURSDAY, MAY 10, 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 Reverend John Manning, St. Mark Baptist Church, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS

PRESENTATION OF THE MAY, 2012 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH AWARD

Police Chief Frank Simons presented the May, 2012 Employee of the Month Award (Scottie Johns, Police Department).

Scottie Johns began his employment with the City of Valdosta Police Department in September 26, 1997 as a Patrol Officer until August 23, 1999. On September 22, 2003, Mr. Johns came back to work for the City of Valdosta in the same Department. On September 13, 2004, he was promoted to a Field Training Officer. In January 9, 2006, he was then transferred to the Bureau of Investigative Services as a Detective which is the position he currently holds. His duties include investigating reported and suspected criminal activity, processing and preserving evidence from crime scenes, determining the chain of events leading to the commission of a crime, and providing support and testimony to assist attorneys in the prosecution of those responsible for committing crimes. On March 4, 2012, Detective Johns was assigned to a rape case involving a 55-year old African-American female. The victim was also addicted to illegal drugs and requested help with her addiction and she had also threatened to harm herself. After initially being denied mental assistance from the hospital, Detective Johns was able to convince the hospital to send the victim to Greenleaf for mental help. The victim was then released from Greenleaf but needed help to get back to Columbus, Georgia to be with her daughter. Because there was no financial assistance available, Detective Johns used his own money to pay for a \$60 bus ticket. A letter of gratitude was sent from the victim to thank Detective Johns for his actions. Detective Johns not only acted as a peacemaker to this victim, but he was also there to give her a second chance in life by helping her to get through a difficult time. Det. Johns is very deserving of this recognition as a City of Valdosta employee; however, more importantly, he is also an outstanding servant to the citizens of Valdosta. For these reasons and many others, the Employee Relations Committee nominated Scottie Johns as Employee of the Month.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION TO KENNY HUGHES, UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

Special Presentation to Kenny Hughes, Utilities Department.

Keith Martin, Plant Superintendent for the Mud Creek Water Pollution Control Plant, stated that Kenny Hughes, Water Plant Operator at the Mud Creek Plant, received the 2012 Top Water Operator of the Year from the Georgia Association of Water Professionals for District 7 for his outstanding and innovative performance in the field of Water Plant Operations. He accepted the award at the District 7 Meeting on May 9, 2012 in Albany, Georgia. Kenny Hughes started work with City of Valdosta as operator trainee in 1988 and worked his way to Class II Water System Operator. He is a very knowledgeable Operator who is responsible for performing checks of the Plant operations and lab analysis and he also makes the necessary changes to keep the Plant operating optimally. He willingly shares information and knowledge with other Operators and Supervisors and he is well-liked among his peers. He is has done an exceptional job and is dedicated to producing the highest quality and safest drinking water for citizens of Valdosta. The City of Valdosta applauds Kenny Hughes for his dedication and professionalism.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the April 19, 2012 Regular Meeting were approved by unanimous consent (7-0) of the Council.

ORDINANCE NO. 2012-10, AN ORDINANCE FOR A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT (CUP) TO ALLOW A MANUFACTURED HOME IN A SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL (R-6) ZONING DISTRICT

Consideration of an Ordinance for a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) to allow a manufactured home in a Single-Family Residential (R-6) Zoning District as requested by Iras Dubard (File No. CU-2012-02). The property is located at 207 Crawford Lane. The Greater Lowndes Planning Commission reviewed this request at their April regular meeting and recommended approval with one condition (7-1 vote).

Matt Martin, Planning and Zoning Administrator, stated that Iras Dubard is requesting a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for a manufactured home in a Single-Family Residential (R-6) Zoning District. The property consists of approximately 0.39 acres and is located at 207 Crawford Lane. The property, which is on the south side of the road approximately 290 feet east of South Patterson Street, is currently vacant. The applicant is proposing to place a doublewide manufactured home (Class A) on the property. The property is located within an Established Residential (ER) Character Area on the Future Development Map of the Comprehensive Plan. Crawford Lane is a narrow street (20' right-of-way) that serves a relatively isolated residential neighborhood. The neighborhood is entirely zoned Single-Family Residential (R-6) and it abuts commercial zoning to the west. The existing development pattern of the neighborhood is mixed and it consists of some older, smaller site-built homes, a few manufactured homes, and several vacant lots. Although the property has an unusual configuration, it is one of the larger parcels in the neighborhood and it backs up to the rear of some commercial properties facing South Patterson Street. New manufactured homes which are placed on their own parcels of land (i.e., not in a mobile home park) are required to be Class A manufactured housing which means they must be doublewide homes attached to a permanent foundation and must comply with certain standards including pitched roofs, smoke detectors, perimeter skirting, and roof overhangs. The applicant is proposing a Class A manufactured home that measures approximately 1,565 square feet (58 x 27). The applicant will have to comply with all required standards for the placement of the manufactured home. In this particular case, the housing pattern of the neighborhood is already somewhat mixed with both site-built and manufactured housing. The applicant's proposed home is larger than most dwellings in this neighborhood, but it easily fits on the subject property and it is deemed compatible with the surrounding development pattern. Staff found the request consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and the Conditional Use Review Criteria, and recommended approval subject to the following condition: (1) Approval shall be granted for a doublewide manufactured home in R-6 zoning, and the home shall be placed on the property in accordance with City requirements in effect at the time of permitting. Conditional Use approval shall expire after five years from the date of approval if no building permit for the manufactured home is requested by that time. The Planning Commission reviewed this at their April 30, 2012 Meeting, found it consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and the Conditional Use Review Criteria, and recommended approval subject to the following condition (7-1 vote): (1) Approval shall be granted for a doublewide manufactured home in R-6 zoning, and the home shall be placed on the property in accordance with City requirements in effect at the time of permitting. Conditional Use approval shall expire after five years from the date of approval if no building permit for the manufactured home is requested by that time.

Iras Dubard, 207 Crawford Lane, spoke in favor of the request. Mr. Dubard stated that this would improve the property and the community and asked Council's consideration in approving the request.

No one spoke in opposition to the request.

A MOTION was made by Councilwoman White to approve an Ordinance for a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) to allow a manufactured home in a Single-Family Residential (R-6) Zoning District as requested by Iras Dubard. Councilman Vickers seconded the motion. The motion was adopted (6-1) to enact Ordinance No. 2012-10 with Councilman Yost voting in opposition, the complete text of which will be found in Ordinance Book XII.

ORDINANCE NO. 2012-11, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS

Consideration of an Ordinance to rezone 4.33 acres from Wholesale Light Industrial (M-1) to Community-Commercial (C-C) as requested by Jimmy Cone (File No. VA-2012-06). The property is located at 1800 Cypress Street. The Greater Lowndes Planning Commission reviewed this request at the April regular meeting and recommended approval (8-0 vote).

Matt Martin, Planning and Zoning Administrator, stated that Jimmy Cone is requesting to rezone 4.33 acres from Wholesale Light Industrial (M-1) to Community-Commercial (C-C). The property is located at 1800 Cypress Street which is along the north side of the road between Herbert Street and Windsor Street. The property, which is currently vacant and uncleared, is being proposed as a new church facility for the Restoration Fellowship Church. The existing M-1 zoning does not allow churches so the applicant is seeking the down-zoning to allow this new development. The property is located within an Industrial Activity Center Character Area on the Future Development Map of the Comprehensive Plan which allows the possibility of C-C zoning. The entire tract of land consists of 9.89 acres which is all zoned M-1. The applicant is proposing to rezone only the southern 4.33 acres for Church use and leave the northern 5.56 acres as M-1 to be eventually subdivided and sold to one of the neighboring industrial uses. A portion of the property was formerly included in the FEMA floodplain but it received LOMA approval from FEMA in 2006 which removed it from the official designation. Aerial imagery for the property suggests the possibility of wetlands; however, Staff was told that a preliminary site visit by a soil scientist has indicated that jurisdictional wetlands are not present on the property. The applicant is proposing a completely new development for the site and will need to meet all required development standards and regulations. The existing land use pattern in this area (the Cypress Street and East Hill Avenue corridor) is dominated by industrial development; however, immediately south of the property is a significant pocket of residential development (approximately 80 homes) surrounded by much more intensive uses. The zoning pattern of the surrounding area is mostly M-1; however, there is commercial zoning along East Hill Avenue and residential zoning along many of the interior cross-streets. Churches are not allowed in M-1 zoning, but they are a permitted use in either C-H or C-C. Each of these would constitute a down-zoning, and either of them would seem logical. Staff has recommended the applicant seek the less-intensive C-C zoning due to the fact there is the existing Single-Family Residential (R-6 zoning) neighborhood across the street and C-H zoning is really intended to be located along arterial roadways which Cypress Street is not. In some respects, the proposed C-C zoning would help serve as a transition between the Single-Family neighborhood and the industrial development pattern along Cypress Street. 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 April 30, 2012 Meeting, found it consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and the Standards for the Exercise of Zoning Power (SFEZP), and recommended approval (8-0 vote).

Jimmy Cone, 1806 Plum Street, Remerton, spoke in favor of the request. Mr. Cone stated that he represented the owners of the property and asked Council's consideration in approving the request.

No one spoke in opposition to the request.

A MOTION by Councilman Wright, seconded by Councilman Norton, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to enact Ordinance No. 2012-11, an Ordinance to rezone 4.33 acres from Wholesale Light Industrial (M-1) to Community-Commercial (C-C) as requested by Jimmy Cone, the complete text of which will be found in Ordinance Book XII.

ORDINANCE NO. 2012-12, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS

Consideration of an Ordinance to rezone 0.19 acres from Highway-Commercial (C-H) to Single-Family Residential (R-6) as requested by Fannie O'Neal (File No. VA-2012-07). The property is located at 106 Mills Lane. The Greater Lowndes Planning Commission reviewed this request at their April regular meeting and recommended approval (8-0 vote).

Matt Martin, Planning and Zoning Administrator, stated that Fannie O'Neal is requesting to rezone 0.19 acres from Highway-Commercial (C-H) to Single-Family Residential (R-6). The property is located at 106 Mills Lane which is along the west side of the road approximately 100 feet north of West Hill Avenue. The property is currently vacant and the applicant is proposing to place a doublewide manufactured home (Class A) on the property which requires a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) in R-6 zoning. The CUP request (File No. CU-2012-03) is being reviewed concurrently with this request. The property is located within a Community Activity Center (CAC) Character Area on the Future Development Map of the Comprehensive Plan which allows the possibility of R-6 zoning. The property formerly contained a residential use which was destroyed by fire several years ago, and the

rezoning is necessary in order to re-establish this residential use. The entire tract of land consists of 0.23 acres and it is currently split-zoned both C-H and R-6. The applicant is simply wanting to rezone the C-H portion (0.19 acres) so that all of the property is zoned R-6 and can once again be used for residential purposes. The entire West Hill Avenue corridor is zoned C-H with neighborhood areas to the north being mostly zoned R-6. The existing land use pattern in this area is dominated by existing commercial development along West Hill Avenue; however, the pattern along Mills Lane and the other side streets is dominated by residential usage. C-H zoning along this side of West Hill Avenue was originally assigned arbitrarily several decades ago to a parallel pattern that follows West Hill Avenue to a depth of approximately 150 feet. Over the years, several adjustments to this pattern (rezonings) have been performed to align the commercial zoning boundary with established property lines; however, that has never been done for this property nor some of the surrounding properties which still have split zoning. Although the property is still mostly zoned C-H, it is relatively small and only has access to Mills Lane which is not intended to serve commercial traffic. Therefore, as a stand-alone parcel, commercial zoning is no longer practical nor appropriate for this property. 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 April 30, 2012 Meeting, found it consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and the Standards for the Exercise of Zoning Power (SFEZP), and recommended approval (8-0 vote).

Fannie O'Neal, 1711 Dedo Street, spoke in favor of the request. Ms. O'Neal asked Council's consideration in approving the request to rezone the property.

No one spoke in opposition to the request.

A **MOTION** by Councilman Vickers, seconded by Councilwoman White, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to enact Ordinance No. 2012-12, an Ordinance to rezone 0.19 acres from Highway-Commercial (C-H) to Single-Family Residential (R-6) as requested by Fannie O'Neal, the complete text of which will be found in Ordinance Book XII.

ORDINANCE NO. 2012-13, AN ORDINANCE FOR A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT (CUP) TO ALLOW A MANUFACTURED HOME IN A SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL (R-6) ZONING DISTRICT

Consideration of an Ordinance for a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for a manufactured home in Single-Family Residential (R-6) Zoning District as requested by Fannie O'Neal (File No. CU-2012-03). The property is located at 106 Mills Lane. The Greater Lowndes Planning Commission reviewed this request at their April regular meeting and recommended approval with one condition (8-0 vote).

Matt Martin, Planning and Zoning Administrator, stated that Fannie O'Neal is requesting a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for a manufactured home in a Single-Family Residential (R-6) Zoning District. The property consists of approximately 0.23 acres located at 106 Mills Lane which is along the west side of the road approximately 100 feet north of West Hill Avenue. The property is currently vacant and the applicant is proposing to place a doublewide manufactured home (Class A) on the property. The property is currently split-zoned between C-H and R-6. The applicant is also requesting a rezoning of the C-H portion to R-6 and this request (File No. VA-2012-07) is being reviewed concurrently. The property is located within a Community Activity Center (CAC) Character Area on the Future Development Map of the Comprehensive Plan. The property formerly contained a manufactured home which was destroyed by fire several years ago and because the property has been vacant for more than six months, there is no longer any grandfathering status for the home. The applicant is seeking approval to re-establish this residential use of the property. The existing land use pattern in this area is dominated by the commercial development along West Hill Avenue; however, the pattern along Mills Lane and the other side streets is dominated by residential usage in addition to one or more small churches. Housing types in the Mills Lane area are now mostly manufactured homes. The applicant is simply proposing to re-establish a manufactured home on this property, and this is very compatible with the land use pattern of the area. New manufactured homes which are placed on their own parcels of land (i.e., not in a mobile home park) are required to be Class A manufactured housing which means they must be doublewide homes attached to a permanent foundation, and they must comply with certain standards including pitched roofs, smoke detectors, perimeter skirting, and roof overhangs. The applicant is proposing a Class A manufactured home that measures approximately 1,680 square feet (60 x 28). The applicant will have to comply with all required standards for the placement of the manufactured home. Staff found the request consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and the Conditional Use Review Criteria, and recommended

approval subject to the following condition: (1) Approval shall be granted for a doublewide manufactured home in R-6 zoning, and the home shall be placed on the property in accordance with City requirements in effect at the time of permitting. Conditional Use approval shall expire after five years from the date of approval if no building permit for the manufactured home is requested by that time. The Planning Commission reviewed this at their April 30, 2012 Meeting, found it consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and the Conditional Use Review Criteria, and recommended approval subject to the following condition (8-0 vote): (1) Approval shall be granted for a doublewide manufactured home in R-6 zoning, and the home shall be placed on the property in accordance with City requirements in effect at the time of permitting. Conditional Use approval shall expire after five years from the date of approval if no building permit for the manufactured home is requested by that time.

Fannie O'Neal, 1711 Dedo Street, spoke in favor of the request. Ms. O'Neal asked Council's consideration in approving the request for a Conditional Use Permit to place a doublewide manufactured home on the property.

No one spoke in opposition to the request.

A **MOTION** was made by Councilman Vickers to approve a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for a manufactured home in Single-Family Residential (R-6) Zoning District as requested by Fannie O'Neal. Councilwoman White seconded the motion. The motion to enact Ordinance No. 2012-13 was adopted (6-1) with Councilman Yost voting in opposition, the complete text of which will be found in Ordinance Book XII.

LOCAL FUNDING AND REQUESTS

Consideration of bids for repairs and upgrades to the Goodyear Pump Station near the Water Treatment Plant.

Henry Hicks, Utilities Director, stated that the Goodyear Pump Station predominantly serves the Water Treatment Plant as well as a small commercial and residential area in the Guest Road service area. The discharges to this Pump Station from the Water Treatment Plant include some domestic sewage but mostly a high concentrate of sulfide bacteria (in the form of hydrogen sulfide), hypochlorite (liquid chlorine), and caustic and sulfuric acid used to clean the sulfide stripping tanks at the Plant. This combination is highly corrosive to metals and other structures in the Pump Station. The Utilities Department recently had to replace both pumps and their associated piping due to severe corrosion on both pumps and the pipes attached to them which ultimately led to a sewer spill. The new pumps and piping were coated inside and out with a corrosion resistant material to promote longer life and reliability. The Pump Station wet well remains to be lined as well as the corroded valve assembly and piping in the vault associated with this Station in order to extend the life and ensure reliability of those structures. The wet well will be coated with the same materials that are used in the City's Manhole Rehabilitation Program. In addition, the control panel and electronics all require replacement to meet current standards and specification including Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA). The Utilities Department requested bids from local contractors who had experience in this type of work. The new force main portion of the scope was removed due to long lead time needed to obtain a permit from the Georgia Department of Transportation for Perimeter Road just east of Bemiss Road. Bids were received from Radney Plumbing and Standard Contractors with the low bid submitted by Radney Plumbing in the amount of \$103,955. Henry Hicks recommended that Council approve the low bid submitted by Radney Plumbing in the amount of \$103,955 for repairs and upgrades to the Goodyear Pump Station near the Water Treatment Plant.

A **MOTION** by Councilman Yost, seconded by Councilman Norton, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to approve the low bid submitted by Radney Plumbing in the amount of \$103,955 for repairs and upgrades to the Goodyear Pump Station near the Water Treatment Plant.

Consideration of a request to approve Contract Amendments for two test wells at the Water Treatment Plant and for redevelopment of Well #2.

Henry Hicks, Utilities Director, stated that over the past several years, the well field serving the Water Treatment Plant has been impacted by water quality issues regarding the intrusion of surface water into some of the wells. As a result, two wells were abandoned and taken out-of-service. In addition, the Georgia Environmental

Protection Division (EPD) required that Wells #4, #6, and #7 be redeveloped to address the surface water intrusion concerns in those wells. Well #4 was successfully redeveloped and Well #6 recently received approval to be put back into service from EPD after redevelopment. The redevelopment of Well #7 is currently underway. In future years, all remaining wells will be redeveloped as a preventive measure due to the extensive level of corrosion on existing well pipes detected in abandoned wells and in Wells #4 and #6. Due to the abandonment of the two wells and loss of production capacity associated with them, additional wells are needed to meet water demands, especially in summer months and for short term future growth. In addition, Well #2 encountered mechanical failures related to age and needs to be redeveloped immediately following completion of Well #7 which is expected to be completed in late May or early June of this year. Current well field capacity is meeting water demands; however, all wells must be placed into service during the summer months to meet peak demands. Following consultations with CDM Smith Staff on possible locations for additional wells, two locations were identified. One is in the existing well field and the other is on property adjacent to the Treatment Plant. The proposed amendment to CDM Smith's well redevelopment contract would allow a phased approach to develop two new wells. The test well phase would determine if water quality and quantity at the proposed locations is sufficient to allow full development. If so, then the test wells would be converted to production wells. The second phase would be to design, construct, and connect these wells to the Water Treatment Plant well supply system for full treatment and distribution to our customers. The engineering and drilling oversight cost for Phase 1 is \$151,025.00 and if water quality and quantity are acceptable the engineering cost for Phase 2 is \$339,341 at a combined total cost of \$490,366.00. The construction cost of Phase 1 is \$498,590. Construction cost for Phase 2 will be bid separately at a later date if the test wells are acceptable. The engineering and drilling oversight cost to redevelop Well #2 is \$103,140 and the construction cost to redevelop Well #2 is \$241,996.00 for a total of \$345,136. Funding for this Project is through GEFA and SPLOST. Henry Hicks recommended that Council approve Contract Amendment No. 2 for CDM Smith in the amount of \$593,506 and Amendment No. 1 to Rowe Drilling Company in the amount of \$740,586. Councilman Carroll inquired as to whether there would need to be a contingency on this. Henry Hicks stated that there would not be a contingency on this because Rowe Drilling Company was holding their pricing on the current well development. The price for the two test wells is the normal price and they should not have any problems. The only issue would be if there are problems at the well site then they may have to move to another site and then that would come back before Council.

A MOTION by Councilman Carroll, seconded by Councilman Norton, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to approve Contract Amendment No. 2 for CDM Smith in the amount of \$593,506 for two test wells at the Water Treatment Plant and Amendment No. 1 to Rowe Drilling Company in the amount of \$740,586 for well redevelopment.

Consideration of a request to approve emergency sewer repairs on Blanchard Street.

Henry Hicks, Utilities Director, stated that over the past three years the Utilities Department has seen an increase in sanitary sewer system failures leading to major and minor sewer spills, especially those associated with manholes and sewer lines. Many of these failures have taken place in the Mud Creek Treatment Plant's sewer collection system including manholes at the facility itself. Of these failures, the majority has been in a portion of the system receiving sewage from industrial facilities and has been attributed to excessive corrosion as a result of industrial discharges from these facilities. The Mud Creek facility handles about one third of sewer flow from the City and most of the City's industrial base. On March 8, 2012, a major sewer spill was discovered on the South Blanchard Street 21-inch sewer trunk line near the Union Tank Car facility. Due to the depth and size of the sewer lines involved as well as equipment needed to excavate and make repairs, Radney Plumbing was contacted to undertake emergency repairs. Once the sewer line was exposed, the pipe connection to the manhole was found to be seriously deteriorated where the top of the 21-inch pipe was gone. This allowed dirt to fill in the collapsed line causing the blockage and spill. Once the blockage was removed, the ongoing sewer spill stopped. The initial plan for repairs was to replace approximately 151 feet on the corroded 21-inch trunk line and at least one manhole. In order to make the repairs, a bypass pumping system would be needed so work could proceed. Once bypass pumps and associated lines were in place and the replacement pipe was delivered, work began but could not continue due to high ground water levels and the depth of the sewer line which was approximately 20 feet underground. This in turn dictated the need for well-pointing equipment to be placed into service to de-water the excavation and replace the pipe. When the pipe was replaced and the planned connection to the second manhole was attempted, it was discovered that both the manhole and the pipe on the other side of it were severely corroded and would need

replacement as well. As a result, approximately 600 feet of 21-inch sewer line had to be replaced along with two manholes at a cost of \$233,145. Henry Hicks recommended that Council authorize payment to Radney Plumbing in the amount of \$ 233,145 for completion of the emergency sewer repairs on Blanchard Street.

A MOTION by Councilman Norton, seconded by Councilman Wright, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to approve payment to Radney Plumbing in the amount of \$ 233,145 for completion of emergency sewer repairs on Blanchard Street.

BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AUTHORITIES, AND ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Consideration of an appointment to the Keep Lowndes-Valdosta Beautiful Board.

Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that the Keep Lowndes-Valdosta Beautiful Board has a member, Mike Paine, whose term will expire on June 30, 2012. Mr. Paine has not expressed an interest in being reappointed. This appointment was advertised according to the Boards, Commissions, Authorities, and Advisory Committees Policy that was adopted by Mayor and Council. The only applicant applying for this position was Adrienne Wilkerson, Marketing Director at Moody Air Force Base.

Mayor Gayle entertained a motion to appoint Adrienne Wilkerson to the Keep Lowndes-Valdosta Beautiful Board.

A MOTION by Councilman Carroll, seconded by Councilman Vickers, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to appoint Adrienne Wilkerson to the Keep Lowndes-Valdosta Beautiful Board for a term of three years.

Consideration of an appointment to the Metropolitan Planning Organization Citizen's Advisory Committee.

Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that the Metropolitan Planning Organization Citizen's Advisory Committee has a member, Brian Geary, who resigned on March 7, 2012 due to business commitments. This Committee does not have terms and members serve at will. This appointment was advertised according to the Boards, Commissions, Authorities, and Advisory Committees Policy that was adopted by Mayor and Council. The only applicant applying for this position was Dr. Richard T. Saeger, Retired Professor of Political Science at Valdosta State University.

A MOTION by Councilman Vickers, seconded by Councilman Carroll, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to appoint Dr. Richard T. Saeger, Retired Professor of Political Science at Valdosta State University, to the Metropolitan Planning Organization Citizen's Advisory Committee to serve at will.

Consideration of appointments to the Public Art Advisory Committee.

Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that the Public Art Advisory Committee has three members, Al Turner (LVAC Board Member), Jim Ingram (LVAC Professional Artist), and Carla Penny (Community At Large) whose terms will expire on June 1, 2012. Mr. Turner and Ms. Penny have both expressed an interest in serving again and Mr. Ingram does not wish to be reappointed. These terms will now be three-year terms. These appointments were advertised according to the Boards, Commissions, Authorities, and Advisory Committees Policy that was adopted by Mayor and Council. The applicants for Council's consideration in no order of preference are as follows: Position #1(LVAC Professional Artist) - Mitchell (Bruce) Smith, Architect with IPG, Incorporated; Position #2 – (LVAC Board Member) - William Al Turner, Jr., Attorney; and Position #3 (Community At Large) - Carla Penny, Owner of Classic Art & Frame Co., and Helen Roseberry, currently unemployed and former Radiology Technologist (Second Choice).

A MOTION by Councilman Carroll, seconded by Councilman Vickers, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to appoint the following applicants to the Public Art Advisory Committee for a term of three years: Position #1 (LVAC Professional Artist) - Mitchell (Bruce) Smith, Architect with IPG, Incorporated; Position #2 (LVAC Board Member) - William Al Turner, Jr., Attorney; and Position #3 (Community At Large) - Carla Penny, Owner of Classic Art & Frame Co.

Consideration of an appointment to the Valdosta Housing Authority.

Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that the Valdosta Housing Authority has a Resident Member, DeShonda Jenkins, who was appointed by former Mayor Joseph "Sonny" Vickers to fill the unexpired term of Mr. James Franklin who passed away unexpectedly in 2011. The term will expire on July 1, 2012. Ms. Jenkins has expressed an interest in serving again. This appointment was advertised according to the Boards, Commissions, Authorities, and Advisory Committees Policy that was adopted by Mayor and Council. The only applicant applying for this position was Ms. Jenkins and Mayor John Gayle will make this appointment.

Mayor Gayle stated that he would re-appoint DeShonda Jenkins as the Resident Appointment to the Valdosta Housing Authority for a one year term.

Consideration of an appointment to the Valdosta Tree Commission.

Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that the Valdosta Tree Commission has a member, David Dempsey, who resigned on February 26, 2012 due to personal reasons. The term for this appointment will expire on September 6, 2015 and it was advertised according to the Boards, Commissions, Authorities, and Advisory Committees Policy that was adopted by Mayor and Council. The only applicant applying for this position was Terrie May, a Horticulture Student at Wiregrass Technical College.

A MOTION by Councilman Vickers, seconded by Councilman Norton, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to appoint Terrie May, a Horticulture Student at Wiregrass Technical College, to fill the unexpired term of David Dempsey on the Valdosta Tree Commission.

Consideration of an appointment to the Valdosta-Lowndes County Parks and Recreation Authority.

Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that the Valdosta-Lowndes County Parks and Recreation Authority has a member, Charles White, who was appointed to fill the unexpired term of Councilman Robert Yost who resigned. The term for this appointment will expire on June 30, 2012 and Mr. White has expressed interest in serving again. This appointment was advertised according to the Boards, Commissions, Authorities, and Advisory Committees Policy that was adopted by Mayor and Council. The applicants applying for this position are as follows in no order of preference: (1) Sarah N. Denton - Community and Parent Relations Specialist for Brooks County Schools, (2) Helen Roseberry - Unemployed, Former Radiology Technologist (First Choice), and (3) Charles White - Senior Sports and Program Manager for Special Olympics Georgia.

Councilman Yost placed in consideration the name of Charles White. There being no other nominations, Mayor Gayle closed nominations and entertained a motion.

A MOTION by Councilman Yost, seconded by Councilman Payton, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to re-appoint Charles White to serve on the Valdosta-Lowndes County Parks and Recreation Authority for a term of three years.

Consideration of an appointment to the Valdosta-Lowndes County Construction Board of Adjustments & Appeals.

Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that the Valdosta-Lowndes County Construction Board of Adjustments & Appeals has a member, Ronald Cowart, whose term will expire on June 30, 2012. Mr. Cowart has expressed an interest in serving again. This appointment was advertised according to the Boards, Commissions, Authorities, and Advisory Committees Policy that was adopted by Mayor and Council. The only applicant applying for this position was Ronald Cowart, President/Owner, Cowart Electric & Industrial Construction, Inc.

A MOTION by Councilman Carroll, seconded by Councilman Payton, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to re-appoint Ronald Cowart, President/Owner, Cowart Electric & Industrial Construction, Inc., to the Valdosta-Lowndes County Construction Board of Adjustments & Appeals for a term of three years.

Consideration of an appointment to the Valdosta-Lowndes County Zoning Board of Adjustments & Appeals.

Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that the Valdosta-Lowndes Zoning Board of Adjustments & Appeals has a member, Laverne Lewis Gaskins, whose term expired on May 8, 2012. Ms. Gaskins has expressed an interest in serving again. This appointment was advertised according to the Boards, Commissions, Authorities, and Advisory Committees Policy that was adopted by Mayor and Council. The only applicant applying for this position was Laverne Lewis Gaskins, an Attorney at Valdosta State University.

A MOTION by Councilman Norton, seconded by Councilman Carroll, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to re-appoint Laverne Lewis Gaskins, an Attorney at Valdosta State University, to the Valdosta-Lowndes Co. Zoning Board of Adjustments & Appeals for a term of three years.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that the Brown Bag Concerts, which have been taking place all week at the old Lowndes County Courthouse from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., have been well attended. The final concert will be held tomorrow.

The last City Government 101 Class concluded on Monday night, May 7, 2012 with the graduation ceremony following. The evaluations prepared by the participants were very good and they had really high marks for the program.

The Fire Department participates annually in the Give Burns to the Boot Drive which takes place May 10-12, 2012 at Wal-Mart on Norman Drive, Harvey's on Bemiss Road, and Winn Dixie on Madison Highway. There are over 100 Fire Departments in Georgia participating in this event and the money raised goes to the Georgia Firefighters Burn Association.

Fire Chief J. D. Rice was recognized recently with a certificate from the National Fire Prevention Association for his 35 years of membership. He was hired by the City of Valdosta in 1982 and has been the Fire Chief since 1995. We are appreciative of his recognition on the National level.

The Valdosta Main Street Program received reaccreditation by the National Main Street Program. There are ten criteria that have to be met, achieved, and exceeded in order to be accredited and this is something to be very proud of. Amanda Peacock, Main Street Director, and her Staff have done a great job.

The LMIG Resurfacing Program has been completed and all of the streets have been restriped. There has been a lot of positive feedback and comments from citizens about the quality of the work.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Payton stated that he attended the Airport Authority Meeting on May 9, 2012 and they have submitted the final payment request for Phase 1 of the Airfield Drainage Project in the amount of \$173,000. They are also moving forward very well with the other construction.

Councilman Yost thanked Mayor Gayle and the City Manager for their efforts on the LOST negotiations. The City is headed in the right direction even though others may be headed in the opposite direction.

Councilman Carroll stated that the Mayor and the City Manager have done a superb job in representing not only the citizens of the City of Valdosta but also the five cities in the County in the LOST negotiations.

Councilwoman White stated that General Mark Welsh has been reassigned as the Chief of Staff for the United States Air Force. The good news is that he was a former Commander of the 347th Operations Group at Moody Air Force Base from June, 1995 to April, 1997.

Councilman Norton thanked Amanda Peacock, Main Street Director, and Ellen Hill, Main Street Program Coordinator, for their hard work on the Farm Days Program. It was incredible to see the number of citizens and the vendors who participated in the event. Also, the City Government 101 Class was very educational and it was a great opportunity for the citizens to ask questions and learn about the operations of the City.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Roy Taylor, 2209 Bridlewood Drive, stated that he wanted to discuss a special tax called T-SPLOST. He voted for many of the Council members, talked to them, and donated money to their campaigns and they were against T-SPLOST. The State Chamber of Commerce in Atlanta has raised \$8 million and they have hired professional people to try to educate you and change your mind about it. There is no man in Georgia who is more educated than he is about T-SPLOST. There is no worse tax to put on his sister who cannot work and will have to pay an average of 33% more taxes on the 3% sales tax of Georgia on groceries. This is a very unfair tax. We are going to have to pay \$500 more to buy a car and pay tax on everything we buy when we could have increased the sales tax on gasoline. Mr. Taylor stated that Nolen Cox started studying this tax two years ago and they finally passed it so citizens could vote on it because the Republican Representatives did not want to vote in a special tax. Approximately 65-70% of them had promised not to vote for a tax increase and they thought we were idiots enough to come in and vote for one on ourselves. Mr. Taylor stated that he was not an idiot and he studies what he votes for. He voted for a tax 34 years ago to lower the property taxes on his home which were \$1,295 per year. The next year the taxes went down to \$990 but today they are \$5,500. It is obvious the politicians do not know how to handle our money. You cannot tax us into creating more jobs. Mr. Taylor stated that the Mayor and Council owe their allegiance to Valdosta citizens because they are the ones that pay your salaries and voted you into office. Think about that when you change your mind about promises you have already made to continue the fight against an unfavorable tax. Mr. Taylor stated that he has five employees in a small business and he cannot sell a hot dog for \$2.00 and go up on the tax by two cents. He will have to eat the two cents and eventually if he eats enough of the tax he will have to lay off one of his employees. This tax is going to hurt the small businessman more than any other tax that ever hit Georgia. Mr. Taylor stated that he could not believe that anyone in Georgia who has been educated about this tax is stupid enough to vote for it. The people who are on welfare and food stamps are going to pay for this and everything we buy. If we had needed more money we could have easily raised it on gasoline. Florida gets seven cents per gallon more than we do and we are only number eight in the nation in having the best highways, roads, and facilities. If we raise \$100 million in this County the Georgia Department of Transportation can take that \$100 million that has already been allocated to us from the Federal and State governments and move it to somewhere else at their discretion and we cannot stop it. That is worse than stupidity for us to vote for that because they have not done too good with what we have already given them. Mayor Gayle stated that he was not going to engage Mr. Taylor in debate tonight and would be glad to discuss T-SPLOST at a later time; however, he did not appreciate being called stupid because he has also studied this and he knows what he is doing. The rest of the Council has not taken a stand and he is the only one who has taken a stand.

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 May 10, 2012 meeting of the Valdosta City Council at 6:17 p.m. to meet again in regular session on Thursday, May 24, 2012.

City Clerk, City of Valdosta

Mayor, City of Valdosta