

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE VALDOSTA CITY COUNCIL
5:30 P.M., THURSDAY, MAY 24, 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, and James Wright. Councilwoman Deidra White was absent. The invocation was given by Rev. Chris Michaels, First Christian Church, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS

SPECIAL PRESENTATION OF THE 2012 VALDOSTA PRESERVATION AWARDS

Special Presentation of the 2012 Valdosta Preservation Awards.

Emily Foster, Historic Preservation Planner, and Dr. Harry Hamm, Chairman of the Valdosta Historic Preservation Commission, stated that as part of Valdosta's observance of National Historic Preservation Month the Historic Preservation Commission initiated an annual award program in 2009 to recognize property owners who go above and beyond the regulations set forth by the City in protecting and preserving buildings within the Valdosta Historic District. Nominations are solicited from the community at the beginning of each year and from these nominations, organizations and individuals demonstrating excellence in the rehabilitation or stewardship of a historic building, excellence in the design of compatible new construction, or lifetime achievement in historic preservation are chosen to receive a Valdosta Preservation Award. The winners are presented with an official award certificate and a Preservation Awards Banner, which can be displayed proudly on the winners' historic buildings. These awards provide positive reinforcement of the Historic District Design Review process, promote goodwill within our community, and acknowledge the hard work and dedication of our citizens in the preservation and restoration of our historic buildings. The 2012 Valdosta Preservation Award Recipients are as follows: (1) Outstanding Achievement in Rehabilitation (recognizes exemplary accomplishments in historic building rehabilitation or restoration and awards in this category are given for complex or large-scale projects). Built in 1896, the Monroe-Sutton-Haller House was designed by architect Stephen Fulghum for Dr. W. F. Monroe and his family. An excellent example of the Victorian Queen Anne architectural style, the two-story house features a wraparound porch, towers, and a variety of decorative siding, stained glass, and spindlework. The Monroe family lived in the house at 303 Wells Street for 24 years. Following the death of Dr. Monroe, the house passed through several owners hands. The house was converted into apartments in the mid-twentieth century and its condition began to decline. It was abandoned and left vacant in 1972, but in 1979 the Sutton family purchased and restored the house. After the Suttons left the house in the early 2000s, the house again sat vacant and suffered from a general lack of maintenance. Tom and Dixie Haller purchased the house in 2009 and immediately began its rehabilitation. The couple removed bats and pigeons from the attic, replicated 32 wooden decorative brackets and 84 railing spindles for the front porch, replaced 5 missing transoms, restored the second floor semi-circular porch balcony, uncovered original marble house markers, and restored many of the intricate interior features of the home. The Haller's also painted the house in a Victorian color scheme that highlights the impressive high-style design of this house. Tom and Dixie Haller are commended for the historic rehabilitation of the Monroe-Sutton-Haller House, and are presented with a 2012 Outstanding Achievement Award. (2) Outstanding Achievement in Rehabilitation (recognizes exemplary accomplishments in historic building rehabilitation or restoration and awards in this category are given for complex or large-scale projects). The Smith Drug & Seed Company Building was built circa 1890 during a building boom in Valdosta brought on by the lucrative Sea Island Cotton trade. This two-story masonry commercial building features elements of the Victorian Commercial architectural style. Over its history, a saloon, the Smith Drug & Seed Company, Friedlander's Department Store, South Georgia Pawnbrokers pawn shop, as well as several professional offices occupied this building. Vacant for over a decade, Clinton Beeland purchased the building in 2011, and immediately undertook a thorough interior and exterior rehabilitation of this historic building. The historically-sensitive rehabilitation work included the restoration of original tin ceiling tiles on the first floor, the re-plastering of walls throughout the building, refinishing the original pine floors on the second floor, and the rebuilding of the southeast corner brick wall that had structural deficiencies due to a roof leak. The storefront was restored to a similar layout as the original. All original doors, windows, and

hardware were repaired, refinished, and reused. Mr. Beeland adapted this historic building for the corporate headquarters of CJB Industries which is located on the second floor. The building's ground floor has been left open to serve as special events space, complete with a catering kitchen. This building's rehabilitation has qualified for Historic Preservation tax incentives through both the Georgia Historic Preservation Division and the National Park Service. Clinton Beeland of CJB Industries, Inc. is commended for the historic rehabilitation of the Smith Drug & Seed Company/Friedlander's Building and is presented with a 2012 Outstanding Achievement Award. (3) Stewardship Award (recognizes the long term care, maintenance, and overall preservation of a historic building). The Valdosta Heritage Foundation was formed in 1980 for the purpose of protecting and promoting Valdosta's architectural heritage. This organization is responsible for many important preservation milestones in our community including the listing of six historic districts and several landmarks to the National Register of Historic Places, conducting a County-wide historic resources survey, and educating the public about Valdosta's historic resources through tours and newsletters. In 2000, the Wisenbaker-Wells-Roberts House was donated to the Foundation. As Valdosta's oldest house, it is both an architectural treasure and a community landmark with ties to prominent architect Stephen Fulghum, two Valdosta Mayors, and the Lowndes County pioneer who gave up a portion of his land for the founding of the City. The Foundation raised funds and worked tirelessly to restore this house for over a decade. In 2011, the house was nearly destroyed by fire; however, the Foundation remained committed to the preservation of this important local landmark and is currently rebuilding it. The Valdosta Heritage Foundation is commended for their dedication to the preservation of the Wisenbaker-Wells-Roberts House and is hereby presented with the 2012 Stewardship Award.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the May 10, 2012 Regular Meeting were approved by unanimous consent (6-0) of the Council.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 2012-8, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF AN APPLICATION WITH THE OFFICE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT/FEDERAL AIR MARSHALS SECURITY SERVICES & ASSESSMENTS DIVISION/LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICE REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM TO APPLY FOR GRANT FUNDS

Consideration of a Resolution authorizing the filing of an Application with the Office of Law Enforcement/Federal Air Marshals Security Services & Assessments Division/Law Enforcement Officer (LEO) Reimbursement Program to apply for grant funds for Officers at the Valdosta Regional Airport.

Police Chief Frank Simons stated that the City of Valdosta is nearing the completion of a five-year grant program from TSA that provided for salary reimbursement for Officers at the Valdosta Regional Airport. This grant will end September 30, 2012. A new solicitation has been released that allows Part 139 Airport Certificate holders to apply for funding due to costs incurred from post-September 11th security mandates. The Valdosta Regional Airport is a Part 139 Airport Certificate holder. Currently, the Valdosta Police Department provides for Officers at the Valdosta Regional Airport for approximately 17 hours a day. The Valdosta Regional Airport has seen an increase in enplanements/deplanements over the past several years. This new solicitation will be for one year's worth of salary and fringe benefits for three Officers at the Airport, which will be approximately \$163,729. We are also including a request an additional two years of funding at that same level. The funding level is solely at the discretion of the Agency. Chief Simons recommended that Council approve the Resolution authorizing the filing of an Application with the Office of Law Enforcement/Federal Air Marshals Security Services & Assessments Division/Law Enforcement Officer (LEO) Reimbursement Program to apply for grant funds for Officers at the Valdosta Regional Airport.

A MOTION was made by Councilman Carroll to approve the Resolution to apply for funding and authorize the submission of the grant application to the Office of Law Enforcement/Federal Air Marshals Security Services & Assessments Division/Law Enforcement Officer (LEO) Reimbursement Program for Officers at the Valdosta Regional Airport. Councilman Payton seconded the motion. Councilman Vickers inquired as to whether the FAA collects any fees from tickets to help pay for security. Chief Simons stated that the FAA did not collect

any fees for security. The motion was unanimously adopted (6-0) to enact Resolution No. 2012-8, the complete text of which will be found in Resolution Book V.

RESOLUTION NO. 2012-9, A RESOLUTION TO MODIFY THE GEORGIA ENVIRONMENTAL FINANCE AUTHORITY (GEFA) LOAN AGREEMENT FOR ADDITIONAL UTILITIES PROJECTS

Consideration of a Resolution to modify the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA) Loan Agreement for additional utilities projects.

Henry Hicks, Utilities Director, stated that this is the original 2006 GEFA Loan which has been modified to add additional projects to the revised scope. Funds remain available in this loan and GEFA has allowed the City to add projects with the condition that all remaining funds be used by December, 2013. The original loan consisted of annexed islands, a new 30-inch water transmission main, and the new Savannah Avenue/Fry Street elevated storage tank. Due to costs for these projects coming in under estimated budget projections, not all funds allocated for this loan have been spent. GEFA is willing to extend the period of the loan to allow more projects to be incorporated into the loan; however, all new projects must be completed by December, 2013. To expend the remaining funds, the Utilities Department proposed adding additional islands, remediation of wells in the well field, and new production wells to the scope. GEFA has agreed and now requires modification to the promissory note, legal opinion of borrowers counsel, and a new City Council Resolution agreeing to the modifications in the loan. Henry Hicks recommended that Council approve the Resolution to modify the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA) Loan Agreement for additional utilities projects. Councilman Wright inquired as to where the remediation of the wells and new production wells would be done. Henry Hicks stated that this would be for the redevelopment of Wells 2, 6, and 7 and the two production wells.

A MOTION by Councilman Payton, seconded by Councilman Norton, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to enact Resolution No. 2012-9, a Resolution to modify the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA) Loan Agreement for additional utilities projects, the complete text of which will be found in Resolution Book V.

BIDS, CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS, AND EXPENDITURES

Consideration of bids for rear wheel drive pursuit vehicles for the Police Department (Bid No. 9-11-12).

Greg Brown, Purchasing Agent, stated that the Police Department is in need of nine pursuit vehicles to replace older units currently in the fleet due to rising mileage and maintenance cost. These vehicles are Council approved budget items for the current fiscal year. Sealed bids were received on May 8, 2012 with the low bid submitted by Cass Burch Chrysler in the amount of \$213,993. Several other vendors did not respond to the bid. Greg Brown recommended that Council approve the low bid submitted by Cass Burch Chrysler in the amount of \$213,993 and allow the Police Department to proceed with the purchase.

A MOTION by Councilman Norton, seconded by Councilman Vickers, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to approve the low bid submitted by Cass Burch Chrysler in the amount of \$213,993 and allow the Police Department to proceed with the purchase of nine rear wheel drive pursuit vehicles.

Consideration of bids for one, mid-size sports utility vehicle (SUV) for the Police Department (Bid No. 10-11-12).

Greg Brown, Purchasing Agent, stated that the Police Department is in need of one, mid-size SUV for the Detective Division. This vehicle is a Council approved budget item for this fiscal year. Sealed bids were received on May 8, 2012 with the low bid submitted by Langdale Ford in the amount of \$23,989. Greg Brown recommended that Council approve the low bid submitted by Langdale Ford in the amount of \$23,989 and allow the Police Department to proceed with the purchase.

A MOTION by Councilman Payton, seconded by Councilman Norton, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to approve the low bid submitted by Langdale Ford in the amount of \$23,989 and allow the Police Department to proceed with the purchase of one, mid-size sports utility vehicle (SUV).

Consideration of a request to approve an Agreement to contract services for locating underground utilities.

Henry Hicks, Utilities Director, stated that the location of underground water, sewer, and stormwater utilities has been performed entirely by the Utilities Department since the formation of the Department. Since that time, additional regulations through the State Agencies and the Public Service Commission require annual fees for locating ticket distribution through a central reporting service as well as authorizing these agencies to fine any local utility or contractor for not performing locates in an accurate or timely manner. In addition, the cost of equipment upgrades, software, wages, and benefits have placed an increased financial burden on the utility. Currently, this responsibility is provided by the Utilities Department for all water, sewer, and stormwater system locates. In early 2012, the Utilities Department began looking into contracting out underground utility location services, similar to what gas, electric, telephone, cable, and other companies already do to determine if savings could be realized. Several companies providing these services were contacted and asked to submit a cost for those services to the City of Valdosta Utilities Department. One Vision Utility Services, LLC was the low bidder at \$85,000 per Fiscal year. The current annual base cost for the Utilities Department to provide this service is \$80,514. The base cost does not include employee benefits (conservatively estimated at \$17,372.00), overtime associated with emergency after hours, holiday or weekend locates (\$1,000 year-to-date), or the potential liability costs associated with property damages and/or fines from \$10,000 to \$100,000 per incident for missed or inaccurate locates. Staff and vehicles used to perform this duty at the present time would be shifted to fill vacant service worker positions within the Department. A third of the contract cost could also be shared through funding from Engineering's Stormwater Division thereby reducing costs to the Utilities Department. Based on the actual costs and conservative estimates, contracting of these services would allow for an annual savings of approximately \$13,866 to be realized by the Utilities Department without any contribution from Engineering's Stormwater Division. With a one-third cost contribution from the Stormwater Division for locates of their system, the Utilities Department would realize a minimum annual savings of over \$42,000 by contracting these services. Henry Hicks recommended that Council approve contracting the services with One Vision Utility Services LLC in the amount of \$85,000 for one fiscal year (July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013) with an option for up to two, one-year renewals. Councilman Wright inquired as to what the employees who are shifted would be doing. Henry Hicks stated that they would be doing repairs on water mains, sewer mains, water meter installations, pipe installations, and small construction projects. This would be good training for them to have if the contract does not work out and they are placed back in locate positions. Councilman Norton inquired as to whether this includes holidays. Henry Hicks stated that it is for 365 days a year. This is something that the City required because a lot of the overtime comes from emergency locates. This is the same company that is currently doing locates in the City for gas, electric, telephone, and cable.

A MOTION by Councilman Carroll, seconded by Councilman Norton, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to approve the contract services with One Vision Utility Services, LLC in the amount of \$85,000 for one fiscal year (July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013) with an option for up to two, one-year renewals.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that we are now ready to schedule the Budget Hearing and the dates that are being considered are June 13th and June 14th. Councilman Vickers stated that he would prefer to have the Budget Hearing on June 13th. Larry Hanson stated that would be his preference also in case additional time was needed to finish up on June 14th.

Larry Hanson, City Manager, congratulated the Valdosta State University Women's Softball Team for winning a National Championship and bringing another title to TitleTown. This is a great honor for our community to have another national championship team.

Larry Hanson, City Manager, asked Henry Hicks, Utilities Director, to give an update on the Fry Street Elevated Storage Tank Project. Henry Hicks stated that this project is moving along very well and the contractor is currently pouring concrete forms around the base of the structure. They are trying to get three levels of those forms poured each week. The existing water tank on Fry Street is 150,000 gallons and the new water tank will be 2,000,000 gallons.

The Fire Department will be selling Boston Butts with proceeds going to Georgia Firefighters Burn Foundation and tomorrow is the last day to purchase a ticket. The tickets are \$25 each and the Boston Butts can be picked up at the Fire Department.

The City of Valdosta will also be participating in the Lowndes County Emergency Management Agency's Hurricane Outlook exercise on June 5th from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

There were no Council comments.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

There were no citizens to be heard.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Gayle entertained a motion to adjourn the Council meeting and enter into an Executive Session for the purpose of discussing real estate.

A MOTION by Councilman Vickers, seconded by Councilman Carroll, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to adjourn the May 24, 2012 meeting of the Valdosta City Council at 6:00 p.m. and enter into Executive Session.

Mayor Gayle reconvened the regular City Council meeting at 6:37 p.m. and stated that there was discussion of real estate in the Executive Session and no action was taken.

Mayor Gayle entertained a motion for adjournment.

A MOTION by Councilman Vickers, seconded by Councilman Carroll, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to adjourn the May 24, 2012 meeting of the Valdosta City Council at 6:37 p.m. to meet again in regular session on Thursday, June 7, 2012.

City Clerk, City of Valdosta

Mayor, City of Valdosta