

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE VALDOSTA CITY COUNCIL
5:30 P.M., THURSDAY, MAY 8, 2008
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL**

OPENING CEREMONIES

Mayor John J. Fretti called the regular meeting of the Valdosta City Council to order at 5:30 p.m. Council members present were: Sonny Vickers, Tim Carroll, Alvin Payton, Jr., Willie Head, Jr., and Robert Yost. Councilman John Eunice arrived at 5:37 p.m. and Councilman James Wright was absent. The invocation was given by Pastor Richard Hart of Trinity Presbyterian, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS

PRESENTATION OF THE MAY, 2008 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH AWARD

Mayor Fretti entertained a motion for the May, 2008 Employee of the Month Award.

A **MOTION** by Councilman Head, seconded by Councilman Payton, was unanimously adopted (5-0) to approve the May, 2008 Employee of the Month Award.

Mayor Fretti presented the May, 2008 Employee of the Month Award to Matthew Davis and Jeffrey Thibodeau (Fire Department).

Matthew Davis began his employment with the City of Valdosta Fire Department in November, 1997 as a Firefighter and was promoted to the rank of Sergeant in August, 2000 which is the position he currently holds. Jeffrey Thibodeau began his employment with the City of Valdosta Fire Department in September, 2000 and was promoted to the rank of Sergeant in January, 2006 which is the position he currently holds. The duties of a Sergeant in the Valdosta Fire Department include driving the fire truck to a fire scene, ensuring the equipment on board is in proper working order, and acting in a supervisory capacity during the absence of a Lieutenant. Several years ago, Sgt. Davis and Sgt. Thibodeau founded the Valdosta Fire Department Pipe and Drum Corps. Working on their own time, they taught themselves to play the instruments and designed the outfits the members wear. Much research went into the development of the Corps such as having the plaid pattern in the kilts representative of each corps member's family crest. The Pipe and Drum Corps now consist of five members and has become an outstanding representative for the Fire Department. The Corps have played at numerous funerals, weddings, and City functions such as the Annual City Christmas Parade, the National Fallen Firefighter's Memorial, as well as performing for Georgia Governor Sonny Purdue. After their 2007 performance in the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Savannah, the Corps was honored with the Outstanding Performance Award. They continue to be in demand not only in Valdosta but also throughout the State and nation. Sgt. Davis and Sgt. Thibodeau are to be commended for their hard work and dedication. For these reasons and many others, the Employee Relations Committee nominated Matthew Davis and Jeffrey Thibodeau as Employees of the Month.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the April 24, 2008 Regular Meeting of the Valdosta City Council were approved by unanimous consent (6-0) of the Council.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

There were no citizens to be heard.

A REQUEST TO CLOSE THE 1000 BLOCK OF EAST ROGERS STREET

Consideration of a request to close the 1000 block of East Rogers Street.

Von Shipman, City Engineer, stated that he had received a request to close the 1000 block of East Rogers street located between Railroad Avenue and Leon Street from adjoining property owners. The proper notice has been run in the local newspaper as required by City Code and State law as well as being posted on the City’s website. Von Shipman recommended that Council approve the request to close the 1000 block of East Rogers Street. Councilman Vickers inquired as to whether the Church had been contacted about a 12-month probationary period before the road is officially closed to insure the construction begins on the road closure within that time frame. Von Shipman stated that he had contacted the Church and representatives are present tonight to discuss their plans.

Pastor Wade McRae, Greater Union Ministries Cathedral, spoke in favor of the request. Pastor McRae stated that the Church owns all the property from Leon Street to the railroad. They have been working on a \$10 million dollar project which is scheduled to begin as soon as they receive the blueprints. The closing of the road will allow them to have access to that property to help with the project. The Church also owns a daycare center down the street and takes care of 130 children. There is a new crossing arm on the railroad tracks that works occasionally and it promotes a hazard for those trying to cross the railroad tracks with their children. There is also another two acres that is currently owned by the railroad that they would like to acquire. Pastor McRae stated that within the next 12-16 months the entire area will look totally different and the City will be proud of what the Church is doing.

No one spoke in opposition to the request.

A MOTION was made by Councilman Head to approve the request to close the 1000 block of East Rogers Street with the condition that the closure be probationary and once the construction commences then it will become a permanent closure. Councilman Payton seconded the motion. Mayor Fretti inquired as to whether there would be some sort of dirt thrown on the road to make sure that people do not use it or whether it would continue as a road until construction is initiated. Von Shipman stated that it would continue to be open until such time it needs to be closed. The motion was unanimously adopted (6-0).

A REQUEST TO CHANGE THE NAME OF AZALEA EAST PARKWAY TO STEEDA WAY

Consideration of a request to change the name of Azalea East Parkway to Steeda Way.

Von Shipman, City Engineer, stated that the Valdosta/Lowndes Industrial Authority has requested that Azalea East Parkway be renamed Steeda Way. The only other property owner fronting the street is Leticia Corporation who is in support of this effort. An E-mail from Vicki Hughes, Valdosta-Lowndes County Industrial Authority, and Mara Leticia Saad, Leticia Corporation, serves as the petition document. City Code requires this matter to be advertised in the local newspaper within 10 days of the date the matter goes before the City Council. If the name change is approved, it will not go into effect for 90 days in order to allow the property owners time to change their stationary and postal service to make the necessary corrections. A public hearing is required. Von Shipman recommended that Council approve the request to change the name of Azalea East Parkway to Steeda Way.

No one spoke in favor of the request.

No one spoke in opposition to the request.

A MOTION by Councilman Eunice, seconded by Councilman Carroll, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to change the name of Azalea East Parkway to Steeda Way.

Consideration of an ordinance to rezone .13 acres from Multi-Family Residential (R-6) to Neighborhood-Commercial (C-N) as requested by Ronnie Grant (File No. VA-2008-17). The property is located at 608 South Fry Street. The Planning Commission reviewed this at their April regular meeting and recommended tabling the request for one month to allow the applicant to gather support letters from the neighborhood (7-1 vote).

Anne-Marie Wolff, Planning and Zoning Administrator, stated that the applicant is requesting to rezone .13 acres from Multi-Family Residential (R-6) to Neighborhood Commercial (C-N) for a food service stand. The property is currently vacant, and the general character of the area is a mixture of well-established Single-Family and Multi-Family Residential uses. The property is located in an Established Residential Character Area. The Mildred Hunter Center, which is located across the street, provides a large civic use and further north is a Neighborhood Activity Center Character Area which connects to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Corridor. There are several commercial uses to the north of the property. The applicant would like to place a portable food service stand on the property which would be made permanent. There would also be a shed for food storage and rest room facilities. Staff reviewed the request as a general food service establishment. There are no other commercial zonings or uses within the immediate area; however, there is commercial zoning approximately 475 feet north of the property. Given that South Fry Street is a minor arterial, it is feasible that commercial uses will eventually develop; however, no policy for non-residential development has been set at this time. Additionally, the area is depicted in an Established Residential character area on the Future Development Map. Staff found the request inconsistent with the surrounding development and the Comprehensive Plan and recommended denial. The Planning Commission reviewed this request at their April 28, 2008 regular meeting and recommended tabling the request for one month to allow the applicant to gather support letters from the neighborhood (7-1 vote). Staff still recommends denial and the Public Hearing is one form of opportunity for citizens to voice comments. Certified letters were also mailed to the adjacent property owners as well as posted on the property with a public notification sign and advertised in the newspaper. Councilman Payton inquired as to whether any comments had been received in favor or against the request. Anne-Marie Wolff stated that she had not received any comments; however, she did speak with the applicant and he does have some letters in favor of the request.

Ronnie Grant, 702 South Fry Street, spoke in favor of the request. Mr. Grant stated that he lives in and was raised in the community. He met with the Planning Commission and was told that he needed to get some letters of support from the neighbors and the Director of the Mildred Hunter Center. He has since received over 150 signatures and the people in the community desire a food service business in the area. The children at the Mildred Hunter Center would like to have a place where they can eat after their activities and the elder citizens are excited about the food service business. The stand is 21 feet long and 10 feet wide and it would not generate any traffic problems. There would be an entrance to the property on Way Street and there would be a parking area. The stand would also be connected to City water. The stand would make the community look better because the area has been neglected. Mr. Grant asked Council to consider the desires of the people in the community. Councilman Vickers inquired as to whether the sewer would be connected to the City. Mr. Grant stated that it would be connected to the City water and sewer. Larry Hanson inquired as to whether Mr. Grant had visited with the Health Department about the food service. Mr. Grant stated that he had met with the Health Department. Councilman Head stated that a few years ago they approved a manufactured home for placement on the property which was abandoned. Mr. Grant stated that when they built the Center there he did not think it was a good idea to have a home directly in front of the Center and could better serve the community by putting a food stand there. Councilman Head noted that there were a couple of parking spaces noted on the site plan and inquired as to whether there would be any drive-up traffic. Mr. Grant stated that the City requires two parking spaces and there would be more parking located in the back area. He did anticipate more traffic but not enough that would be a danger to the community. This would be a walk-up business only and there would be no place for citizens to sit inside and eat. Councilman Carroll inquired as to whether the stand had wheels and would be set up on blocks. Mr. Grant stated that was correct and that they would have blocks surrounding it to anchor it down. Councilman Carroll asked whether a mobile structure such as this would clear permitting. Mike Martin, Director of Community Development, stated that there is a stand located at Home Depot which is required to move every 30 days because it is a temporary set up. If Mr. Grant is going to have a permanent stand then it will have to be a DCA approved unit and the food will be carry out only. If he is planning to have tables for people to eat at the location then he would be required to have restrooms. Councilman Eunice inquired as to whether the food stand would have to be moved every 30 days. Mike Martin stated that if it is set up on a permanent basis then it would be fine and if not, then it

could move every 30 days. Councilman Vickers inquired about the parking lot and landscaping requirements. Anne-Marie Wolff stated that the City Engineer has had discussions to approve an unpaved parking area and it is based on his discretion. The applicant will need to have handicap spaces according to Building Inspections and the Zoning Ordinance requires a minimum of five parking spaces for food service or a restaurant. The applicant would be required to meet the regulations for landscaping. Mr. Grant met with all the Department representatives at the First Step Meeting and he is aware of all the requirements. Mayor Fretti stated that Mr. Grant could have his food stand on a temporary basis to see if the lot will produce like he anticipates and inquired as to whether Mr. Grant would consider the food stand on a trial basis. Mr. Grant stated that he has tried this on a temporary basis and it went very well. Councilman Carroll inquired as to whether Mr. Grant's mobile stand meets DCA standards. Mr. Grant stated that he believed it did meet the standards. Councilman Head inquired about lighting for the area. Mr. Grant stated that he was going to get Georgia Power to hook up a light pole in the back and there is also a lot of lighting from the Mildred Hunter Center.

No one spoke in opposition to the request.

A MOTION by Councilman Head, seconded by Councilman Vickers, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to follow the recommendation of Staff and deny the request to rezone .13 acres from Multi-Family Residential (R-6) to Neighborhood-Commercial (C-N) as requested by Ronnie Grant.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE VALDOSTA ZONING ORDINANCE WITHDRAWN

Consideration of an ordinance to annex and rezone 1.0 acre from Single-Family Residential (R-1) County to Single-Family Residential (R-15) City as requested by Shawn Moore (File No. VA-2008-18). The property is located on the south side of Knights Academy Road across from Branch Point Subdivision. The Planning Commission reviewed this at the April regular meeting, found the request consistent with the Comprehensive Plan, and recommended approval with the option of the applicant requesting to table the request at the May 8, 2008 City Council meeting if he is not prepared by then (8-0 vote).

Mayor Fretti stated that the applicant has withdrawn the request.

ORDINANCE NO. 2008-19, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE VALDOSTA ZONING ORDINANCE

Consideration of an ordinance to rezone .36 acres from Single-Family Residential (R-10) to Multi-Family Residential (R-6) and for a Special Exception to establish a manufactured home as requested by Raymond Davis (File No. VA-2008-19). The property is located at 308 Seymour Street. The Planning Commission reviewed this at the April regular meeting, found the request consistent with the Comprehensive Plan, and recommended approval (8-0 vote).

Anne-Marie Wolff, Planning and Zoning Administrator, stated that the applicant is requesting to rezone .36 acres from Single-Family Residential (R-10) to Multi-Family Residential (R-6) and a Special Exception to establish a Manufactured Home. The property currently contains a single-wide mobile home which will be removed. The general character of the area is residential with a mixture of site built and manufactured/mobile homes. There are a few scattered higher intensity commercial uses. The area was one of the unincorporated islands and is an older residential community starting to see encroachment from the surrounding non-residential uses. The applicant would like to establish a double-wide manufactured home on the property. The property is approximately 79 feet wide so the home should be able to be placed width ways. The applicant is aware of the other manufactured home provisions. The applicant met with the Neighborhood Development Division and it was decided that it was more feasible for him to use the manufactured home that he already owned and relocate it to the lot. While the property is depicted in a Community Activity Center on the Future Development Map, it will be several years before that plan is realized. Placement of a manufactured home is appropriate in this area given the surrounding residential development and the lack of residential use permanence for future development. Staff found the request consistent with the surrounding development and the Comprehensive Plan and recommended approval. The Planning Commission reviewed this request at their April 28, 2008 regular meeting, found the request consistent with the Comprehensive Plan, and recommended approval (8-0 vote).

Raymond Davis, 1503 Myrtle Avenue, spoke in favor of the request. Mr. Davis stated that the single-wide manufactured home has been on the property for approximately 35 years and they would like to place a new double-wide manufactured home on the site to improve the area.

No one spoke in opposition to the request.

A **MOTION** was made by Councilman Vickers to approve the request to rezone .36 acres from Single-Family Residential (R-10) to Multi-Family Residential (R-6) and for a Special Exception to establish a manufactured home as requested by Raymond Davis. Councilman Eunice seconded the motion. The motion was adopted (5-1) with Councilman Yost voting in opposition to enact Ordinance No. 2008-19, the complete text of which will be found in Ordinance Book XI.

ORDINANCE NO. 2008-20, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE VALDOSTA ZONING ORDINANCE

Consideration of an ordinance to rezone 1.07 acres from Manufacturing (M-1) and Multi-Family Residential (R-6) to Community-Commercial (C-C) as requested by James D. Cone (File No. VA-2008-20). The property is located at the corner of Leon Street and Rogers Street. The Planning Commission reviewed this request at the April regular meeting, found the request consistent with the Comprehensive Plan, and recommended approval (8-0 vote).

Anne-Marie Wolff, Planning and Zoning Administrator, stated that the applicant is requesting to rezone 1.07 acres from Light Manufacturing (M-1) and Multi-Family Residential (R-6) to Community-Commercial (C-C). This request is related to the closure of Rogers Street. The applicant is proposing to combine several lots for the construction of a daycare to be operated by the New Greater Union Church. The general character of the area is a mixture of residential, industrial/manufacturing, and church-related uses with several undeveloped lots still remaining. The property is located in an Industrial Area Character Area. This area should be reviewed for changes to the Character Area depictions during the next update of the Future Development Map. The site plan depicts the combination of six lots and the proposed daycare with a circular drive on three of the combined lots. No parking is shown on the plan. According to the applicant, the daycare would utilize the existing paved parking serving the Church sanctuary. While the property is located in an Industrial Activity Center Character Area, the Church has a well-established presence. Approval of the daycare center should not have a negative impact on the surrounding properties. The Church should be well aware of the impacts the existing industrial uses may have on the daycare. Staff found the request consistent with the surrounding development and the Comprehensive Plan and recommended approval. The Planning Commission reviewed this request at their April 28, 2008 regular meeting, found the request consistent with the Comprehensive Plan, and recommended approval (8-0 vote).

No one spoke in favor of the request.

No one spoke in opposition to the request.

A **MOTION** by Councilman Eunice, seconded by Councilman Carroll, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to enact Ordinance No. 2008-20, to rezone 1.07 acres from Manufacturing (M-1) and Multi-Family Residential (R-6) to Community-Commercial (C-C) as requested by James D. Cone, the complete text of which will be found in Ordinance Book XI.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CITY'S RETIREMENT AND BENEFITS PROGRAM (FIRST READING)

Consideration of an amendment to the City's retirement and benefits program. (First Reading)

Mayor Fretti stated that this was the first reading for an amendment to the City of Valdosta's Retirement and Benefits Program and no vote would be taken. The proposed changes are as follows: (1)

Return of contributions for employees in the retirement program, (2) Prior service credit, and (3) Eligibility for Elected Officials in the retirement and insurance programs of the City. These changes will require an amendment to the retirement program, adoption of an ordinance, and an amendment to the Mayor and Council policies and procedures. This amendment will be voted on by Council at the May 22, 2008.

BIDS, CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS, AND EXPENDITURES

Consideration of a request to purchase hardware for the New World System ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning) software package.

Steve Carter, Information Technology Manager, stated that the City Council recently approved the purchase of a new ERP system from New World Systems. This is the necessary hardware/software to accommodate that package. A quote was submitted by Dell Computers was in the amount of \$81,199.62. A contingency of \$7,000 is also requested for equipment, software, service, and incidentals that may require a resource or asset not identified in the formal quote. This purchase is the initial investment required to start the migration from our current system to the New World Systems ERP solution. The Hardware includes several servers to house the New World Systems software, the operating system software, the SQL Server software, an Uninterruptable Power Source (UPS), and a rack system to house the individual hardware pieces. This purchase is paramount to the development of the entire project which has its official kickoff on May 13, 2008. Delay in purchasing this equipment will have a negative impact on the progress of this project. Steve Carter recommended that Council approve the quote submitted by Dell Computers in the amount of \$81,199.62 plus a \$7,000 contingency for equipment, software, service, and incidentals that may require a resource or asset not identified in the formal quote. Councilman Yost inquired as to the total amount that would be spent on this project. Steve Carter stated that the conversion is already included in the request that Council previously approved which was \$754,000. There will be approximately \$100,000 in costs to support that software so the total amount to complete the project will be approximately \$850,000. Larry Hanson stated that this amount was in the approved budget. Councilman Head inquired as to whether training was included. Steve Carter stated that training was included in what has already been approved.

A MOTION by Councilman Eunice, seconded by Councilman Vickers, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to approve the request to purchase hardware for the New World System ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning) software package from Dell Computers in the amount of \$81,199.62 plus a \$7,000 contingency for equipment, software, service, and incidentals that may require a resource or asset not identified in the formal quote.

Consideration of a request to approve bids for reconstruction of Huntley Drive in Highlands Subdivision.

Von Shipman, City Engineer, stated that the three phases of the Highlands Subdivision were completed on March 1, 2004, September 15, 2005, and August 31, 2007. There was a total of 305 lots with the only point of ingress and egress being Huntley Drive. Due to the presence of an isolated spring head in the roadway that was not evident during the initial phase of construction, a 1000 square yard section of this road has suffered structural damage to the point that it must be replaced. Bids were received on April 15, 2008 with the low bid submitted by Rountree Construction in the amount of \$33,460. The City Engineering estimate was \$38,885. The work consists of installing a 10 inch crushed granite base with 1.5 inches of asphalt surfacing. A sub-drain will be installed to intercept the groundwater. Von Shipman recommended that Council approve the low bid submitted by Rountree Construction in the amount of \$33,460 plus a 10% contingency to handle any unforeseen circumstances.

A MOTION by Councilman Payton, seconded by Councilman Carroll, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to approve the low bid submitted by Rountree Construction in the amount of \$33,460 plus a 10% contingency to handle any unforeseen circumstances for reconstruction of Huntley Drive in Highlands Subdivision.

Consideration of a request to approve bids for Phase 2 of the Norman Drive sewer extension project.

Von Shipman, City Engineer, stated that the Leon Weeks brought this matter before the City Council prior to his departure. The City ran a sanitary sewer main on the west side of Norman Drive to the Valhalla Drive

entrance of Lowndes High two years ago. It was designed to be extended in the future to serve the remaining properties on the west side of Norman Drive to the Lowe's driveway. The Utility Department was contacted by several developers who needed sanitary sewer service for the projects they were working on. Two developments are currently under construction. The cost of the project is to be borne by the City with the property owners paying their share of the cost under a cost recovery fee ordinance to be approved in the near future. The City Engineering Department surveyed and designed the extension. Bids were received on April 24, 2008 with the low bid submitted by Standard Contractors in the amount of \$95,359. The City Engineering estimate was \$99,500. Von Shipman recommended that Council approve the low bid submitted by Standard Contractors in the amount of \$95,359 plus a 10% contingency to handle any unforeseen circumstances that may arise. A cost recovery fee ordinance will be brought be Council for approval in the future so that the cost of this extension plus any easement costs will be borne by the property owners as they develop the property. Councilman Vickers inquired as to whether this would need to be part of the motion. Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that it would not need to be part of the motion because of the way the cost recovery fee works. The project must first be designed and bid because it is based on the specific price and then the cost recovery fee ordinance will take the lump sum and divide it up either on a per acre basis per lot. There will then be an assessment for each one that ties on. Von Shipman stated that the price will change each year based on inflation. Mayor Fretti stated that Council may want to note the future cost recovery in the motion.

A MOTION by Councilman Eunice, seconded by Councilman Carroll, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to approve the low bid submitted by Standard Contractors in the amount of \$95,359 plus a 10% contingency to handle any unforeseen circumstances that may arise for the Phase 2 of the Norman Drive sewer extension project with the condition that a cost recovery ordinance is considered in the near future.

Consideration of a request to approve a contract modification for the Municipal Court Parking Lot Project.

Von Shipman, City Engineer, stated that on May 10, 2007 the City Council approved a contract in the amount of \$252,032.71 plus contingency to construct the first phase of the Municipal Court parking lot. On January 24, 2008 the City Council approved the plan to expand the parking lot in the amount of \$80,121.30 plus contingency. The total amount available for this project was \$332,154.01. During construction, 2,300 cubic yards of bituminous material had to be removed and replaced with select fill at a cost of just over \$35,000. The material was located primarily in the old railroad right-of-way that was transferred to the City when the CSX Transportation track was relocated under the Beck Overpass. The material had to be disposed of at the landfill. This was the primary reason the final cost of the project exceeded the approved funding amount by \$30,088.14. Von Shipman recommended that Council approve the Change Order in the amount of \$30,088.14. Councilman Vickers inquired as to what was meant by bituminous material. Von Shipman stated that the material contained petroleum by-products that were used for various purposes. Councilman Carroll noted that this was not what came out of the dog house box that was on the itemized list. Von Shipman stated that a dog house box is an inlet that sits over an existing line that water needs to be dropped into and to insure that the line is kept active a dog house is built over it.

A MOTION by Councilman Carroll, seconded by Councilman Payton, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to approve the Change Order in the amount of \$30,088.14 for the Municipal Court Parking Lot Project.

Larry Hanson asked Von Shipman to introduce his new Engineering Staff. Von Shipman introduced Jim Martinez who is the new Engineering Project Manager. Jim brings with him a great deal of experience from the metro area. Jim Martinez stated that he is from Atlanta and graduated from Georgia Tech with a degree in Civil Environmental Engineering. He has spent six years in the private sector designing dams, laying out subdivisions and wastewater treatment plants and then went to the public sector where he served as a City Engineer for a smaller municipality. Larry Hanson stated that his primary job responsibility will be to accelerate project management and we are excited to have Jim on Staff. Mayor Fretti welcomed Mr. Martinez to the City of Valdosta.

Consideration of a Lease Agreement with the Central Avenue Church of Christ for parking.

Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that the City and Central Avenue Church of Christ have been in negotiations for some time to discuss long-term arrangements for parking. It is extremely important to the City that

we have a formal agreement in place so that our customers will always be sure of having safe and accessible parking near our primary facilities. For many years the City has had an arrangement with the Church on the paved parking lot directly across from City Hall and since the Annex Building was built, the City has had an informal relationship with the Church on the 2.37 acres beginning at the corner of Smithland and Lee Street. However, at this time, with major construction taking place adjacent to our building and with very little parking being provided with it, there may be a problem down the road. Larry Hanson recommended that the City enter into a formal Lease Agreement with the Church to insure that our customers will have parking. This Lease will allow the City the use of over 2 acres of property at a price of \$625 per month for 12 months. The City will also have a right of first refusal to match any other offer and will continue discussions with the Church as to long-term agreements. Larry Hanson stated that there was one minor change to the Lease Agreement and that was to lower the consequential damages in comprehensive public and general liability insurance section of the Lease Agreement from \$5 million to \$2 million which is more in line with what the City would normally have.

A MOTION by Councilman Vickers, seconded by Councilman Head, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to approve the Lease Agreement with the Central Avenue Church of Christ for parking.

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-9, A RESOLUTION TO PRE-APPROVE AND ACCEPT A CONTRACT WITH THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR TAXIWAY A REHABILITATION, GROOVING OF RUNWAY 35, AND OTHER ASSOCIATED WORK

Consideration of a request from the Valdosta-Lowndes County Airport Authority to pre-approve and accept a contract with the Georgia Department of Transportation for Taxiway A rehabilitation, grooving of Runway 35, and associated work and authorize the Mayor to execute the contract.

Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that the City has administered all the grants for the Airport Authority for many years. The design work has been completed for this project and this grant is for the Federal Aviation Association (FAA) participation in the rehabilitation of Taxiway A, grooving of Runway 35, and associated work. Larry Hanson recommended that Council approve the request to pre-approve and accept the contract with Georgia Department of Transportation and authorize the Mayor to execute the necessary documents.

A MOTION by Councilman Payton, seconded by Councilman Carroll, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to enact Resolution No. 2008-9 authorizing pre-approval and acceptance of a contract with the Georgia Department of Transportation for Taxiway A rehabilitation, grooving of Runway 35, and associated work and authorizing the Mayor to execute the contract, the complete text of which will be found in Resolution Book IV.

Consideration of a request to approve a Supplemental Agreement to the Service Delivery Strategy Agreement.

Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that Council adopted the Service Delivery Strategy Agreement in the Special Called Meeting on May 6, 2008 but there were three issues that needed to be addressed and clarified. George Talley, City Attorney, has worked with the County Attorney and a Supplemental Agreement has been added to the Service Delivery Strategy Agreement that covers the following three conditions: (1) Lowndes County sanitation, (2) Lowndes County road system, and (3) Valdosta water transmission line. A revised map has been provided which indicates where the transmission line will run in order to give the City a second major transmission line. George Talley, City Attorney, stated that the County met this morning in a Special Called Meeting and they have approved and signed the Supplemental Agreement. Councilman Yost asked if this Supplemental Agreement has everything in it that is needed and inquired as to whether this would go before the other Cities for approval. George Talley stated that this is an agreement between the City and the County. Larry Hanson stated that because we were on a timeline with the arbitrators and it would have necessitated that the other governments would have to call special meetings the timelines would not have been met. Therefore, it was best to have a separate Supplemental Agreement between Valdosta and Lowndes County which will become a part of the Service Delivery Strategy Agreement.

A MOTION by Councilman Yost, seconded by Councilman Payton, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to approve a Supplemental Agreement to the Service Delivery Strategy Agreement.

Consideration of a request to apply for grant funds for the Safety Traffic Enforcement Network (TEN) program from the Governor's Office of Highway Safety.

Capt. Bernard Robinson, Police Department, stated that the Governor's Office of Highway Safety has a funding initiative to help improve the safety of Georgia roads by reducing crashes, injuries, and fatalities. Under the 2009 program cycle, there is a Traffic Enforcement Network application that is available to each of the 16 approved units within the State of Georgia. The City is requesting funding from the Governor's Office of Highway Safety (GOHS) in the amount of \$15,000 to continue these efforts. Funds from this grant would be divided equally between the traffic network and the Valdosta Police Department and \$7,500 of the total funding will be used for equipment purchases/incentive items per GOHS requirements for law enforcement agencies participating in the traffic network. The Valdosta Police Department will use \$7,500 to purchase equipment for traffic enforcement/education. There is no required match for the program. Capt. Robinson recommended that Council approve the request to apply for grant funds for the Safety Traffic Enforcement Network (TEN) program from the Governor's Office of Highway Safety.

A MOTION by Councilman Payton, seconded by Councilman Head, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to approve the request to apply for grant funds for the Safety Traffic Enforcement Network (TEN) program from the Governor's Office of Highway Safety.

Consideration of a request for contingency funds in the amount of \$300 for Councilman Willie Head to travel as a Guardian with Honor Flight III.

Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that Council had originally approved this request in a previous fiscal year and felt that it should be re-approved in the current fiscal year.

A MOTION by Councilman Vickers, seconded by Councilman Eunice, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to approve the request for contingency funds in the amount of \$300 for Councilman Willie Head to travel as a Guardian with Honor Flight III.

BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND AUTHORITIES

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

Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated the Parks & Recreation Authority has now been officially created and the County has made their appointments to the Authority. Council members were asked to submit names and a total of ten nominees were eligible for the appointments. The proposed names are as follows: (1) Four-Year Term - Robert Jefferson (Chief, Program Development & Community Planner at Moody Air Force Base), Bruce Edwards (Director of Development with the Boys and Girls Club), Wayne Veal (Salesman with Ashley's Digital Business Solution), and David Troy (Retired Principal and Part-time Counselor with LODAC), (2) Three-Year Term - Dave Christian (Retired Director of Personnel and Assistant City Manager with the City of Valdosta), Johnny Ball (Assistant Administrator with South Georgia Medical Center), and Dr. Willie Houseal (Retired Educator); and (3) Two-Year Term - Jenne Brandon (School Nurse with W. G. Nunn Elementary School), Justin Martin (Financial Services Planner with Capstone Financial Partners), and Richard Steltenpohl (Salesman with Sysco Food Services). Larry Hanson recommended the following nominees for appointment: (1) Four-Year Term - Robert Jefferson, (2) Three-Year Term - Dave Christian, and (3) Two-Year Term - Jenne Brandon.

Mayor Fretti asked for nominations. Councilman Eunice asked that the following names be placed in consideration as recommended by Larry Hanson, City Manager: Position #1 – Robert Jefferson, Position #2 – Dave Christian, and Position #3 – Jenne Brandon. There being no other nominations, Robert Jefferson, Dave Christian, and Jenne Brandon were appointed by acclamation to serve on the Valdosta-Lowndes Parks & Recreation Authority for terms as stated above.

Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that the Police Department goes through a re-accreditation process every three years and the review last week went extremely well. The assessors' comments were very positive and they intend to recommend re-accreditation at their meeting this summer.

An electronic recycling event will be held on Saturday, May 10, 2008 at the Wal-Mart Super Center Parking lot from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

The Fire Department will be participating in the "Give Burns the Boot" program which will be held today through Saturday. They will also be selling tickets for Boston butts for \$25 to help raise funds for this program.

Also, Brian McDougal, City Manager of Remerton, has contacted Larry Hanson regarding the possibility of engaging in conversation about purchasing water from the City of Valdosta. The City of Remerton does have some water quality issues and will be completing a study. The City of Remerton is currently purchasing sewer services from us and this would be an extension of the service we are already providing. Mayor Fretti stated that even if the best water we have is delivered in a poor fashion because their pipes are bad then an assessment of the system should be made because we do not want to be blamed for water that has picked up contaminants along the way. If it is capital intense, then maybe the City of Valdosta should purchase their water system and then we could provide rehabilitation of the system. Larry Hanson stated that ASA Engineering is the engineer of record for Remerton and they subcontracted out to Camp Dresser and McKee, Inc. to examine the system and make recommendations. There are two issues with one being water quality and the other being taste and color. The City of Valdosta would want to review the report and gain a better understanding of their system before any decisions are made.

Larry Hanson, City Manager, state that at the Mayor/Council Retreat, Council had requested that an assessment of the Municipal Court be conducted and that is now in place. The Georgia Association of State Courts will be sending a representative the third week of this month to conduct an assessment and recommendations will be provided prior to the adoption of the budget.

Larry Hanson, City Manager, thanked Mayor Fretti for his efforts in meeting with key Senate and House representative recently in Atlanta and building relationships to make sure that they are aware of the City's needs.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Head inquired as to whether the City was still planning to create a promotional video for Valdosta. Larry Hanson stated that we had a partnership and then later a group that worked with Northstar who had come up with some of the slogans and marketing brochures; however, there has not been a video done. Mayor Fretti stated that we do have videos on-line which could be used. Councilman Head stated that he met last week with C.C. Heyward & Associates who is the consultant selected to work on the Valdosta Emerging Business Program and there was discussion about hiring a new person to work with the consultants. Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that this was not an approved position and was not in the budget so when the new budget is adopted this position will be funded beginning July 1, 2008.

Councilman Yost inquired as to when the Parks and Recreation Authority will have their first meeting and whether there will be preliminary meetings prior to July 1, 2008. The Authority should also look at being an active participant in GRPA and NRPA and work with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources on greenspace. Larry Hanson stated that the Authority cannot legally meet until July 1, 2008 and now that appointments have been made he will contact the County Manager and schedule a meeting within the next two weeks. There will be presentations by Eric Hahn and his Staff and a review the Master Plan with the Authority members. There is a lot of orientation work to accomplish and the Authority will definitely be a part of the GRPA and NRPA and establish relationships with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. Councilman Yost stated that he would like to see the City host a social gathering to introduce the Parks and Recreation employees to the Authority members.

Mayor Fretti recognized Councilman John "Key Lime" Eunice for Council comments. Councilman Eunice inquired as to whether a date had been set for budget hearings. Larry Hanson stated that a date for the hearings has not been set.

Larry Hanson stated that the Valdosta City School Board will be meeting on Monday night and will be contacting us with several dates for a joint meeting.

Councilman Head stated that he has received a petition for a remote car track and it states the following: "We the community and parents support the remote car club at Mildred Hunter Center and request that a remote control track be placed at Scott Park for their use."

Councilman Payton thanked Larry Hanson, City Manager, and John Whitehead, Deputy City Manager of Operations, for addressing a citizen's concern on Fallingleaf Lane regarding a meter in the driveway which may have been causing some cracking problems. John Whitehead found that the meter was not causing the damage to the driveway but had the meter moved.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Fretti entertained a motion for adjournment.

A MOTION by Councilman Payton, seconded by Councilman Eunice, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to adjourn the May 8, 2008 meeting of the Valdosta City Council at 7:00 p.m. to meet again in regular session on Thursday, May 22, 2008.

City Clerk, City of Valdosta

Mayor, City of Valdosta