

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE VALDOSTA CITY COUNCIL
5:30 P.M., THURSDAY, JUNE 20, 2013
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., Deidra White, and Robert Yost. Councilman James Wright was absent. Mark Barber, Deputy City Manager of Administration, filled in for Larry Hanson, City Manager, who was out of town. The invocation was given by Associate Pastor David Tart of Park Avenue United Methodist Church, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the June 6, 2013 Regular Meeting were approved by unanimous consent (6-0) of the Council.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

AN ORDINANCE TO DEANNEX 36 ACRES LOCATED AT 2990 STALLINGS ROAD DENIED

Consideration of an Ordinance to deannex 36 acres located at 2990 Stallings Road as requested by Scott Houser (File No. VA-2013-05). The property is zoned Single-Family Residential (R-15) in the City and the applicant is requesting Residential-Agricultural (R-A) zoning in the County. The Greater Lowndes Planning Commission reviewed this request at their May Regular Meeting and recommended approval (4-3 vote). The request was tabled for two weeks at the June 6, 2013 Regular Council Meeting.

Mayor Gayle entertained a motion to remove the Agenda Item from the table and bring it back to the floor for discussion.

A MOTION by Councilman Carroll, seconded by Councilman Payton, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to remove the Agenda Item from the table and bring it back to the floor for discussion.

Matt Martin, Planning & Zoning Administrator, stated that Scott Houser is requesting to deannex 36 acres of vacant land located at 2990 Stallings Road. The property is located along the east side of the road, approximately 600 feet south of Mt. Zion Church Road. The property is currently zoned Single-Family Residential (R-15) and the applicant is requesting Residential-Agricultural (R-A) zoning in the County. The applicant is seeking deannexation in order to use the property for agricultural purposes (such as livestock). The property is located within the Suburban Area (SA) Character Area on the Future Development Map of the Comprehensive Plan which supports semi-rural type zoning districts. The property is adjacent to the unincorporated area of Lowndes County. Deannexation of this property would not create any islands of incorporated area; therefore, it is eligible for consideration under State law. This property has also been the subject of some recent violations of land clearing and disturbance of wetlands and these issues are currently being addressed through the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers and the local Land Disturbance Permitting process. The property was part of the Bray land annexation 24 years ago in 1989 (+2,000 acres) which included approximately 125 acres of forested undeveloped land along Stallings Road. At that time, the Bray land properties were master planned for future development, and most of this area along Stallings Road was given R-15 zoning in anticipation of single-family development; however, the property remained undeveloped and unsold for many years. In 2001, the 42-acre portion east of Stallings Road (including the subject property) was sold. In the Fall of 2010, the subject property was subdivided-off and purchased by the applicant. The portion along the west side of Stallings Road remained unsold until the Bray land auction in 2008 when several residential lots were created ranging from 4.5 to 12 acres each. A total of four homes have now been built on these former Bray land properties with several parcels still remaining undeveloped. Deannexation requests are reviewed and processed in a similar manner as annexation, but in reverse. As required by State law, the applicant has already received a Resolution of support from the Lowndes County Commission consenting to the deannexation; however, just like an annexation request, the final decision for deannexation rests

with the Valdosta City Council and the decision is purely discretionary. Deannexation requests are very rare, and the last such request was an approval in 1998 (five acres along Lloyd Jackson Rd). Many of the same factors and rationale considered for an annexation are also considered for a deannexation. In this case, these reduce down to two main areas: (1) annexation benefits, and (2) land use. Regarding the annexation benefits, this property was voluntarily annexed 24 years ago by a previous owner in anticipation of it being developed residentially and receiving City services. This area is not yet served by the City's water and sewer system, but it is part of the City's designated service area for these services (as reflected in the Comprehensive Plan and an interlocal agreement with the County); however, depending on area growth rates, it will likely be several more years before water and sewer is extended to this area. The property is not part of the City's sanitation service area for garbage pickup. The property does, however, benefit from the City's fire and police protection, including the City's Class 2 ISO fire rating which results in a substantial savings on fire insurance premiums. When a City considers the annexation of property, it is not automatically approved. A determination is made by the City as to the positive benefits of the annexation. This not only includes the expansion of the tax base and service area, but also the geographic benefit of expanding the City in a logical manner. The approval of one annexation can have a major benefit of causing other areas to be contiguous and eligible for their own annexation in the future. Likewise, a deannexation proposal must be carefully evaluated for potential negative impacts on a City in terms of tax base, reduced service area, and the loss of potentially making other properties eligible for future annexation. In terms of positive/negative impacts to this property owner, the applicant purchased this property two and a half years ago, long after its annexation, with plain knowledge of its location in the City limits. Regarding the land use, this property was zoned R-15 upon its annexation in accordance with an overall master plan for the Bray land property. It has remained zoned this way ever since. Most of the surrounding and nearby unincorporated properties have also been rezoned to single-family residential categories such as R-21 and R-1. The development trends in the area have been almost exclusively residential including multi-lot subdivisions (immediately to the east) and individual site-built homes on large lots (across the street to the west). Only a portion of the area immediately north of the property has the same R-A zoning that the applicant is requesting in the County. Even here, the land use pattern is still mostly residential and agricultural uses are relatively passive. Agricultural zoning classifications allow uses that are not entirely compatible with single-family residential particularly the City's R-15 zoning. Staff is particularly concerned that too much agricultural use might adversely affect the future residential development of surrounding properties. Given the land use and rezoning trends of this area, agricultural zoning is no longer appropriate along this portion of Stallings Road. The applicant is proposing both residential and agricultural usage of the property, which is understandable given its large size and the prior rural history of the area. The applicant wants the ability to raise food (crops and livestock) for his family, which may include some relatively large greenhouses or other accessory buildings that might not be acceptable in R-15 zoning. Like most urban cities, Valdosta's land use regulations do not allow commercial-scale farming operations except for the growing of crops on vacant land in industrial areas. Commercial greenhouses and plant nurseries are allowed in E-R, M-1, and some commercial zones. In Residential zoning, the growing of gardens and the reasonable keeping of a few animals (including pets) are allowed as long as these are for "home use" and are not an agricultural business operation. There are supplementary requirements regarding locations of animal pens; however, the keeping of pig pens is expressly prohibited throughout the City. Most of the applicant's proposed uses for the property can be currently accommodated in the City so long as it does not evolve into a commercial agricultural/farming/livestock kind of operation. Variances could be sought for increased size of accessory buildings such as a private greenhouse or barn. If necessary, even a portion of the property could be rezoned to E-R to accommodate a little more flexibility for usage of the property; however, the proposed keeping of multiple livestock (cows and pigs) would still be an issue. Staff has discussed all of these alternatives with the applicant, but deannexation is still being requested. It is Staff's opinion that although there may be some understanding and sympathy for the applicant's desire to have even a limited range of agricultural usage of this property, it is clear that deannexation is not adequately justified. This is a developing residential area that needs to be protected from adverse effects of broad agricultural use. Furthermore, the applicant acquired this vacant property relatively recently with knowledge of its location in the City Limits and its residential zoning. Any proposed change of use here after-the-fact is a self-imposed situation for the applicant and it does not justify deannexation. Staff found the request inconsistent with the Comprehensive Plan and recommended denial. The Planning Commission reviewed this at their May 28, 2013 meeting, found it consistent with the Comprehensive Plan, and recommended approval (4-3 vote). Councilwoman White inquired as to whether the Lowndes County Board of Commissioners approved this deannexation request. Matt Martin stated that the Lowndes County Board

of Commissioners approved the Resolution of support which states that if the City deannexes the property that they are willing to take it back into unincorporated Lowndes County. If the deannexation is approved, the applicant has to go back to the Lowndes County Commissioners for a rezoning. Councilwoman White inquired as to what the current County zoning classification was for that area. Matt Martin stated that the current map shows that it is zoned R-15 in the City of Valdosta and nothing for the County so they would have to amend their map. The applicant had previously indicated that he would request Rural Agricultural (R-A) zoning if the deannexation was approved by the City. Councilman Payton inquired as to whether any additional information had been brought forward since the request was tabled two weeks ago. Matt Martin stated that the request itself has not changed. He met with the applicant last Thursday to discuss development possibilities if the property was to stay in the City and what could or could not be done with the property as it is currently zoned. The applicant would like to build a house on the property and live there with his family so the primary use would be residential. He is also contemplating some agricultural-related uses in terms of accessory buildings and animals which is one of his reasons for requesting deannexation. Councilman Vickers inquired as to whether the applicant could do most of that now on the side piece of property. Matt Martin stated that Residential is allowed in R-15 zoning and he could have some accessory buildings. The applicant is contemplating some larger buildings than what R-15 would allow; however, the variance process is available to him. The R-15 zoning is Single-Family zoning and other subdivisions in the City such as Wood Valley have the same zoning, but most of those areas do not have 36 acre size lots. As far as animals, the City does not get into the regulation of individual species but you can have household animals. Our view is that as long as it is for family use there is a lot of gray area and flexibility; however, when you get into livestock or a commercial agricultural operation then that is no longer suitable for residential zoning.

Scott Houser, 4 Sawgrass Circle, spoke in favor of the request. Mr. Houser stated that there has been a lot of misunderstanding about the property and what he wanted to utilize it for. People have stated that he was going to put up a fruit stand or an apartment complex. Mr. Houser stated that he built a large house in town and everyone was in his business. He bought this property thinking that he could put a house in the middle of the property and hide because he did not want everyone knowing his business. The entire front half of the property is basically useless because he has a large utility right-of-way and another right-of-way that cuts through the property. He could possibly squeeze a single family house there but everything else is in the back. He did know that the property was in the City when he signed the contract, but he was assured by the Real Estate Agent that he could speak to Council and work out some plans if he wanted to do some different things with the land. He has since found out that there are certain things that you can and cannot do within the City Limits. The problem that he has is that the majority of the land in the back is wetlands so he can only do certain things to that property. He can have cattle or pigs and they could roam free in the wetlands area; however, he currently does not have any plans for that. He loves to build cars and work in woodshops and wants to raise his children to do the same thing so he had planned to build some big shops. Those shops would be in the back area of the property where you cannot see anything. As far as the livestock issue, they can roam in the wetlands as long as he fences it in and there are setbacks. He would not have 50 heads of cattle or hogs. If you take a look at the land it is a peninsular in the City Limits. There is farmland to the south and horse farms to the north. There is a small community to the east of it but if you look at that community there are only two lots that actually touch his property. The rest is all wetlands and he cannot put anything there even if he wanted to. Mr. Houser stated that everyone has been asking why he wants to leave the City. He loves the City of Valdosta and he is not trying to make anyone mad. He wants to be able to utilize his land for his family and for the things that he can use it for. The question is not why he wants to leave the City but rather why the City wants to keep him if he can only do certain things to the property. He does not have garbage collection, water, sewer, or things that he already has in the City with his house and all his rental property. That becomes an issue to him when he is developing this property. Even if a trunk line was to be placed down that road, he is so far off the front of the property that he could not feasibly attach to it because it goes down a hill and then back up. He would have to have a pumping station on there to run the sewer lines and he could possibly run water but the line would need to be approximately 900 feet.

Kevin Epps, 2987 Stallings Road, spoke in favor of the request. Mr. Epps stated that he is directly across the street from Mr. Houser's property. When he purchased his property, it was annexed into the City in 2007 and 2008. He was aware that the City was going to provide services out there; however, as far as he can see no services have been provided. It has cost him \$10,000 to put in a pump, well, and septic tank. On the other side of the road

you are going to have the same issue and set a precedence there with five other properties. He has gone back and forth with the City and the County for three years about cleaning out a ditch and still has not gotten it cleaned out. He made a point after this request got tabled two weeks ago to go back to the City and ask if they could clean out the ditch. He spoke to a very nice gentleman who said they could clean it out. Two weeks have gone by and he has seen no markings on the ditch. He is getting no service out there. If there is a plan in place he would like to see when they are going to get services out there. Mr. Epps stated that is why he agrees with the deannexation of the property. They do want services out there and fire protection is a big concern. He would love to have a fire hydrant out there. He is in the insurance business and there is a letter that they can get for this strip that would give them the protection Class 2 that they want. Councilman Vickers stated that even if they grant the request the County is not going to put water and sewer out there. Mr. Epps stated that was right; however, he would like to have the services provided by the City because when the land was auctioned the auctioneers promised that the City would be putting services out there. Mr. Epps inquired as to when they would get fire hydrants in that area. Mayor Gayle stated that we could not tell him that right now.

Glenn Gregory, 3226 Stallings Road, spoke in favor of the request. Mr. Gregory stated that he was born and raised in Valdosta and has lived there for 30 years. He has an architectural practice at 1807 North Patterson Street. Mr. Gregory stated that he represented a rural neighborhood and they are the kind of people who fish, hunt, have livestock, and discharge firearms on a frequent basis. The property should not have been annexed 24 years ago. Just because someone asked for something does not mean that you have to give it to them. In the spirit of the Georgia law and based on his research with a local Attorney, it clearly states in O.G.C.A. Chapter 36 that municipalities have to be prepared with the ability to provide services if it annexed territory into the City Limits. It has been 24 years and all the services have not been provided, specifically water and sewer. These laws protect the citizens from over reaching government. In his opinion, if the City keeps the property it will be in violation of State law having not provided water and sewer as described. Mr. Gregory asked Council's consideration in approving the deannexation request. If more requests show up then comply with the State law or deannex the property. A deannexed property can always be reannexed. In ten years when the growth gets out there you can reannex the property. There is nothing wrong with Mr. Houser changing his mind after he bought the property. Both the Planning Commission and the Lowndes County Board of Commissioners have reviewed and recommended approval of this deannexation. If this does set a precedence, then you are on a high road and not on a defensive road as you prepare for growth and annex property as you prepare for it. Councilman Yost inquired as to whether Mr. Gregory spoke against the annexation 24 years ago when it was annexed into the City. Mr. Gregory stated that he did speak against it because it is a swamp and to take it into the City and then expect to run water and sewer when there was no development out there was ridiculous. It has been 24 years without any water and sewer so why hold this property.

No one spoke in opposition to the request.

George Talley, City Attorney, stated that the Georgia law states where you annex with 100% permission of the property owner you do not have to provide services at that time. If you annex as we did with the unincorporated islands using the 60% method, then you have to provide a plan as to how you are going to provide services.

A MOTION was made by Councilman Payton to deny the request to deannex 36 acres located at 2990 Stallings Road as requested by Scott Houser due to the inconsistency with the Comprehensive Plan. Councilman Vickers seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously adopted (6-0).

ORDINANCE NO. 2013-12, AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT THE FY2014 BUDGET

Public Hearing for Adoption of the FY 2014 Budget. (Third Hearing)

Mark Barber, Deputy City Manager of Administration, stated that in accordance with Georgia Code 36-81-3, each local government shall adopt and operate under an annual balanced budget for the General Fund, each Special Revenue Fund, and each Debt Service Fund in use by the City of Valdosta. The annual balanced budget shall be adopted by Ordinance or Resolution. A Budget Ordinance is balanced when the sum of estimated revenues

and appropriated fund balances are equal to appropriations. Nothing contained in the above mentioned Code precludes a local government from adopting a budget for any funds used by the local government other than those specified above. These funds include Enterprise Funds, Internal Service Funds, and Fiduciary funds. The Fiscal Year 2014 proposed City of Valdosta budget has been reviewed and discussed at previous meetings, and two public hearings have been conducted to afford citizens the opportunity to make comments on funding levels. The proposed Fiscal Year 2014 budget does include a utility rate increase based upon the water rate analysis and sufficiency study adopted by Mayor and Council last year, as well as a \$1.00 per month increase in Sanitation charges. The General Fund budget is presented and balanced with no millage rate increase. The proposed budget maintains all employee benefits at the same rate, including a 3% salary increase for those employees' passing a five year milestone of service with the City, a 2.5% cost of living adjustment beginning January 1, 2014, increased utilization of the Care Here Medical Clinic, and a longevity award based on years employed at the City which are distributed in November, with no increase to employee contributions. The consolidated proposed budget decreased approximately \$8.9 million when compared to last fiscal year. The decrease is attributed to less funding in SPLOST VI projects as this source of funding ends December 31, 2013. The majority of the decrease is capital and not operational funding. Mark Barber recommended that Council approve the Ordinance to adopt the City of Valdosta's proposed Fiscal Year 2014 budget.

No one spoke in favor of the request.

No one spoke in opposition to the request.

A **MOTION** was made by Councilman Vickers to approve an Ordinance to adopt the FY 2014 budget. Councilman Payton seconded the motion. The motion was adopted (5-1) with Councilman Yost voting in opposition to enact Ordinance No. 2013-12, the complete text of which will be found in Ordinance Book XII.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 2013-6, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF AN APPLICATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE TO FUND IMPROVEMENTS FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT CAPABILITIES

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

Police Chief Brian Childress stated that the City has received funding under the Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program in 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, and 2012. Since a disparate situation exists between the City of Valdosta and Lowndes County, the grants were joint projects where both law enforcement agencies teamed together to request Federal grant funds to improve law enforcement services in the City of Valdosta/Lowndes County area. In 2005 and 2006, the funding was awarded as a lump sum amount which the City and County agreed to split to help fund each entities' grant program purposes that fell into one of six areas: (1) law enforcement programs, (2) prosecution and court programs, (3) prevention and education programs, (4) corrections and community corrections programs, (5) drug treatment and enforcement programs, and (6) planning, evaluation, and technology improvement programs. In 2007 and 2009, the City and the County were each awarded allocations for use in one of seven program purpose areas with crime victim and witness programs (other than compensation) being added to the program purpose areas. The funding in 2008 was so low that the County did not request any of the funding allocation. The 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, and 2011 grants are complete. The County has completed their portion of the 2012 award and the City is preparing the closeout package this month. For the 2013 grant program, a lump sum was again awarded and an odd amount was allocated to the joint jurisdictions. A split was proposed as follows: \$11,401 for the City of Valdosta and \$11,400 for Lowndes County. Since a disparate situation exists with Lowndes County, an agreement must be reached on the allocation of funding between entities. Both the City and the County will use their funding for one of the seven program purpose areas. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will be executed with the County stating that they agree to the division of the allocations this year. The City will file the grant application for the entire amount of \$22,801 and act as the fiscal agent for the funding. No match is required for the grant. Chief Childress recommended that Council approve the Resolution.

A **MOTION** by Councilman Carroll, seconded by Councilman Vickers, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to enact Resolution No. 2013-6, a Resolution authorizing the filing of an Application with the Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance to fund improvements for law enforcement capabilities of the Valdosta Police Department and the Lowndes County Sheriff's Office, the complete text of which will be found in Resolution Book V.

BIDS, CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS, AND EXPENDITURES

Mayor Gayle asked Council to consider Agenda Items 5(a) through 5(j) under a Consent Agenda unless there was opposition and Council wanted to review any of those bids separately. Councilman Payton stated that he had two items for consideration separately. The first item was for the printer cartridges and the second item was the electrical services. Councilman Yost inquired as to whether Councilman Payton wanted to pull those items out of the Consent Agenda or whether he just had questions. Councilman Payton stated that he had questions on both of those. Greg Brown, Purchasing Agent, stated that he could go through each Item in order and then Councilman Payton could ask questions. Mayor Gayle stated that they would like to hear each Item separately and then if they wanted to pull those two out and vote on them separately they would do that.

Greg Brown stated that all of the items up for bid were approved by Council in the current year budget and asked Council's consideration in following the recommendation of the Purchasing Agent if all of the following bids were accepted at one time: (1) Item 5(a) - Consideration of bids for office supplies and printer cartridges for the City of Valdosta (Bid No. 9-12-13) – the low bid was submitted by Lee Office Equipment in the amount of \$14,715.27 for office supplies, \$22,717.25 for HP cartridges, and \$10,748.51 for remanufactured cartridges. Greg Brown recommended that Council approve the contract for one year with an option to renew. Councilman Payton inquired as to whether the remanufactured cartridges were for the HP cartridges. Greg Brown stated that they do it both ways. Some of the printers cannot use remanufactured cartridges so we have to order the ones that are not remanufactured. Some of those cartridges are \$250-\$300 so lock down the prices on the expensive ones or the high use ones. We do, however, buy more remanufactured ones than the HP cartridges. (2) Item 5(b) - Consideration of bids for oils and lubricants for the City of Valdosta (Bid No. 10-12-13) – the low bid submitted by Langdale Fuel was a 10% mark up on bulk oil and 10% mark up on the package goods. (3) Item 5(c) - Consideration of bids for filters for the City of Valdosta (Bid No. 11-12-13) – the low bid submitted by NAPA was 59.25% off of jobber price, (4) Item 5(d) Consideration of bids for the electrical services contract for the City of Valdosta (Bid No. 12-12-13) – the low bid was submitted by Copeland Electric in the amount of \$46 per hour for an electrician and \$32 per hour for the electrician helper. Councilman Payton inquired about the increase from \$30 per hour last year to \$46 per hour this year. Greg Brown stated that Cowart Electric has had the contract for a long time and several electrical companies had indicated that they did not know how Cowart Electric could provide services at such a low cost. We do not question the companies as to how they could offer their services at such a low cost because we receive the benefit. Cowart Electric had to increase their price and they just went up a little too much. (5) Item 5(e) - Consideration of bids for air conditioning and heating services for the City of Valdosta (Bid No. 13-12-13) - the low bid was submitted by Waller Heating & Air in the amount of \$40 per hour, (6) Item 5(f) - Consideration of bids for gasoline and diesel fuel for the City of Valdosta (Bid No. 14-12-13) – the low bid submitted by Petroleum Traders was \$.0494 for the freight rate and profit margin for a gallon of gas and diesel fuel combined, (7) Item 5(g) - Consideration of bids for janitorial supplies for the City of Valdosta (Bid No. 15-12-13) – the low bid was submitted by Catko in the amount of \$ \$20,067.59, (8) Item 5(h) - Consideration of bids for ready mix concrete for the City of Valdosta (Bid No. 16-12-13) – the low bid was submitted by Reames in the amount of \$98 for Class A and \$92 for Class B, (9) Item 5(i) – Consideration of bids for retread tires for the City of Valdosta (Bid No. 17-12-13) – the low bid was submitted by Hill Tire in the amount of \$11,535.20, (10) Item 5(j) – Consideration of plumbing services for the City of Valdosta (Bid No. 19-12-13) – the low bid was submitted by Roto Rooter in the amount of \$65 per hour.

A **MOTION** by Councilman Carroll, seconded by Councilman Vickers, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to follow the recommendation of the Purchasing Agent and approve the bids under a Consent Agenda for Agenda Items 5(a) through 5(j).

Consideration of an Agreement with the Exchange Club for placement of benches in the City of Valdosta.

Pat Collins, City Engineer, stated that the Exchange Club has been installing benches at various places in the City for the past 65 years. The revenue received for the advertisements placed on these benches has benefited many community improvement projects throughout the City. The current Agreement states that the number shall not exceed 60 benches on the City right-of-way. On June 23, 2011, Council voted unanimously to adopt the current Bench Agreement for two years (which included an automatic renewal term that commenced on July 11, 2011 with termination on July 11, 2013). The Exchange Club previously agreed to these conditions. There are currently 59 benches within the City on the City's right-of-way. Pat Collins recommended that Council approve the Agreement with the Exchange Club for placement of benches in the City of Valdosta.

A MOTION by Councilman Carroll, seconded by Councilman Payton, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to approve the Agreement with the Exchange Club for placement of benches in the City of Valdosta.

Consideration of a request to approve a Contract Amendment for additional repairs at the Withlacoochee Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Henry Hicks, Utilities Director, stated that the Withlacoochee Wastewater Treatment Plant has continued to be significantly impacted by flooding as well as surface and ground water inflow and/or infiltration into its sewer collection system as well as the 54-inch gravity main feeding the influent pump station at this facility. This Plant serves approximately 70% of the City and during significant rain events, cannot effectively pump and treat the combined sewer and storm water flows. This causes violations of the Plant's Operating Permit and sewer surcharges within low lying areas of the Plant's service area. On August 9, 2012, the City Council authorized the contract services to Parsons in the amount of \$1,381,448 for 100% design of a new Force Main, Pump Station, Headworks, and EQ Basin Project to eliminate major contributors of I&I to and flooding of the old influent pump station. The City had previously completed 30% design contract with Parsons and has committed to Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) to complete this work. During the 60% design review, Staff identified some additional opportunities to eliminate problematic severely deteriorated sewer aerial lines and replace a smaller lift station serving the Valdosta State Prison (Highway 94 Lift Station). Staff requested that Parsons develop a scope with associated costs to add this design work to the original 100% design work for the new Withlacoochee Force Main, Pump Station, Headworks, and EQ Basin Project. Parsons submitted a cost breakdown to eliminate three aerial crossings (one at Home Depot, one at Gordon Street, and one at Rouse Road) as well as replace the Highway 94 Lift Station. The cost for this additional design work is \$98,618 and will be incorporated into the proposed Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority (GEFA) Loan for the Force Main Project under engineering funds. Henry Hicks recommended that Council approve Amendment No. 2 to the existing Parsons Contract in the amount of \$98,618 for additional repairs at the Withlacoochee Wastewater Treatment Plant.

A MOTION by Councilman Payton, seconded by Councilman Yost, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to approve Amendment No. 2 to the existing Parsons Contract in the amount of \$98,618 for additional repairs at the Withlacoochee Wastewater Treatment Plant.

LOCAL FUNDING AND REQUESTS

Consideration of a request to approve high service pump repairs at the City of Valdosta's Water Treatment Plant.

Henry Hicks, Utilities Director, stated that the original high service pumps at the Water Treatment Plant are approximately 20 years old. As a result, Maintenance Staff has noted ongoing operational problems in at least three of these pumps. There are six high service pumps at the Water Treatment Plant and they are used to maintain adequate water pressure throughout the water distribution system as well as maintain water levels in all of the elevated water storage tanks. The Utilities Department budgeted to pull, inspect, and repair as necessary the three oldest pumps (#1, #2 and #4) starting in 2012 at an estimated cost of \$50,000 each. This work was advertised and bids were received in 2011 with Rowe Well Drilling being selected as the low bidder. Due to the urgency of repairs, the #4 high service pump was pulled first, inspected, and motor repaired for slightly less than the \$50,000

estimate; however, once the second pump (#2) was pulled and inspected, the repair costs came in above the estimate at \$59,409. It was brought before Council at that time as a separate Agenda Item due to the repair costs exceeding the original budget projection. The last pump under this contract (high service pump #1) was pulled and inspected at the end of April, 2013 and the repair costs for this pump has also exceeded the original \$50,000 estimate for repairs. Typically, two to three high service pumps are in service on any given day and up to four during high demand periods. This allows for redundancy in order for corrective or preventive maintenance service or repairs to be undertaken on pumps as needed without impacting daily operations of the Treatment Plant and water distribution system. Due to age, wear, and internal corrosion, the older pumps were beginning to show signs of potential failure. To ensure that reliable operations are maintained at all times, the Utilities Department sought bids for repairs and then budgeted for the repair of the first three high service pumps in 2011. The Utilities Department will again advertise for repair bids and budget accordingly on the remaining high service pumps next year. Once this is completed, each pump will then be inspected at least every ten years or sooner and necessary maintenance actions undertaken to ensure long term reliability of these pumps. Henry Hicks recommended that Council approve the request to authorize repairs by Rowe Well Drilling on the #2 high service pump in the amount of \$62,500. Councilman Vickers inquired as to where the funds would come from for the repairs. Henry Hicks stated that they would come from the capital plan and user fees. Councilman Payton inquired about the initial amount for pump repairs. Henry Hicks stated that the original estimated amount was \$150,000 for repairs to three pumps. The first pump came in at \$48,000, the second one came in at \$52,000, and this one came in at \$62,500.

A MOTION by Councilman Yost, seconded by Councilman Norton, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to approve the request to authorize repairs on the #2 high service pump at the City of Valdosta's Water Treatment Plant by Rowe Well Drilling in the amount of \$62,500.

Consideration of a request to approve the Valdosta Fire Department's 1987 Ford C-8000 pumper fire truck as surplus property.

Fire Chief J. D. Rice stated that the City of Valdosta Fire Department has a 1987 Ford C-8000 Class pumper fire truck that they would like to declare as surplus property. This truck has over 64,000 miles and no longer complies with the requirements of National Fire Protection Association (N.F.P.A.) as it relates to a paid full time Fire Department. The City of Valdosta purchased this vehicle in 1987 as part of its firefighting fleet. This vehicle is more than 26 years old and for the past 15 years the Fire Department has been using it as a reserve status truck. As required by ISO, the Fire Department has to maintain this unit in a state of readiness and repairs, and compliance issues have made this unit more feasible for use to a Volunteer Fire Department. The City of Remerton has expressed interest in purchasing this vehicle as a reserve firefighting unit for their Department. Chief Rice recommended that Council approve the request to declare the unit as surplus property and sell to the City of Remerton for \$10.

A MOTION by Councilwoman White, seconded by Councilman Payton, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to approve the request to declare the Valdosta Fire Department's 1987 Ford C-8000 pumper fire truck as surplus property and sell to the City of Remerton for \$10.

Consideration of a request to approve the Valdosta Fire Department's 1978 C-800 Pirsch fire truck as surplus property.

Fire Chief J. D. Rice stated that The City of Valdosta Fire Department has a 1978 C-800 Pirsch fire truck that they would like to declare as surplus property. This truck has over 84,000 miles and no longer complies with the requirements of National Fire Protection Association (N.F.P.A.) as it relates to a paid full time Fire Department. The City of Valdosta purchased this vehicle in 1978 as part of its firefighting fleet. This vehicle is 35 years old and as required by ISO, the Fire Department has to maintain this unit in a state of readiness; however, the parts to maintain this fire truck are becoming obsolete and rare to find. The Fire Department would like to have this fire truck declared as surplus property and placed on the GovDeals website for sale. Chief Rice recommended that Council approve the request to declare this unit as surplus property and place on GovDeals website for sale. Councilwoman White inquired as to whether any private citizen could purchase the fire truck. Chief Rice stated that they could. Councilman Carroll stated that these two fire trucks were recently replaced with new ones that

have ISO ratings to provide more than adequate fire protection services even to those areas on the outskirts of the City Limits where we do not have water lines running with fire hydrants. Chief Rice stated that when ISO came to Valdosta in 2011, they looked at every piece of property in Valdosta proper and even the areas where there was little or no water. In those areas, the Fire Department had to prove to them by conducting field tests that they could deliver 250 gallons of water per minute for two hours uninterrupted in order for the entire City to maintain the Class 2 ISO rating. If they had failed any part of that test then the City would have received a split rating. The City would have gotten a Class 2 and the other areas would have gotten a different rating.

A MOTION by Councilman Yost, seconded by Councilwoman White, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to approve the request to declare the Valdosta Fire Department's 1978 C-800 Pirsch fire truck as surplus property and place on the GovDeals website for sale.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mark Barber, Deputy City Manager of Administration, stated that the Southern Hospitality Group Workcamp starts on Sunday, June 23rd and we are excited to have these young people in our community to work on home repairs.

Also, Amy Hall, Budget Manager, and Carolyn Sampson-Burgess, Budget Analyst, did a tremendous job on the budget this year and they worked really hard on the information that was provided to the Mayor and Council.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Vickers inquired about the bicycle racks in the Downtown area. Councilwoman White stated that if she was in charge they would already have bicycle racks but it was given to a Department that ran into some issues so it has not been revisited.

Councilman Yost thanked the Finance Department for the great job they did on the budget.

Mayor Gayle stated that he would not be able to attend the Southern Hospitality Group Workcamp this year and encouraged Council to visit some of the homes and the closing ceremony which will be held on June 28, 2013. Councilman Norton stated that last year they had a tour of the homes during the week and inquired as to whether they would have one this year. Mayor Gayle stated that Sementha Mathews, Public Information Officer, would provide Council with information on the tour.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

There were no citizens to be heard.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Gayle entertained a motion for adjournment.

A MOTION by Councilman Carroll, seconded by Councilman Norton, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to adjourn the June 20, 2013 Meeting of the Valdosta City Council at 6:44 p.m. to meet again in Regular Session on Thursday, July 11, 2013.

City Clerk, City of Valdosta

Mayor, City of Valdosta