

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE VALDOSTA CITY COUNCIL
5:30 P.M., THURSDAY, JUNE 24, 2010
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL

OPENING CEREMONIES

Mayor John 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., Deidra White, Robert Yost, and James Wright. Councilman John Eunice arrived at 5:34 p.m. The invocation was given by Councilman Alvin Payton, Jr., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the June 10, 2010 Regular Meeting were approved by unanimous consent (7-0) of the Council.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Natasha Gibson stated that she had been before the Mayor and Council several months ago trying to get approval for a daycare. Ms. Gibson thanked the Mayor, Council members, and Roy Taylor for helping her to get the daycare up and running.

Roy Taylor, 2209 Bridlewood Drive, stated that he has helped Ms. Gibson because she is a great teacher and mentor. Mr. Taylor thanked the Mayor and Council and the City Staff for their support. Von Shipman, City Engineer, and Commander Brian Childress of the Police Department, went above and beyond the call of duty and were instrumental in assisting Ms. Gibson in getting the daycare opened. Mr. Taylor presented Von Shipman and Commander Brian Childress with a token of appreciation for a job well done.

BIDS, CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS, AND EXPENDITURES

Consideration of bids for Body Coolers for the new Crime Lab (Bid No. 36-09-10).

Greg Brown, Purchasing Agent, stated that Grant funding of \$40,000 has been allocated to purchase two, two-person human Body Coolers. These Body Coolers will be installed in the newly renovated Crime Lab and will temporarily hold bodies until they can be sent to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI) Crime Lab. Bids were opened on June 8, 2010 after advertising was in the newspaper and posting the bid on the City's website. The only vendor that responded was Mopec, Inc. and they submitted a bid in the amount of \$36,594 for the two Body Coolers. Two other vendors chose not to respond. The bid price was several thousand dollars less than previous quotes received. Greg Brown recommended that Council approve the bid submitted by Mopec, Inc. in the amount of \$36,594 and allow the Police Department to proceed with the request.

A MOTION by Councilman Payton, seconded by Councilman Carroll, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to approve the bid submitted by Mopec, Inc. in the amount of \$36,594 and allow the Police Department to proceed with the purchase of two, two-person Body Coolers for the new Crime Lab.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL TRAVEL POLICY

Consideration of an Ordinance to amend the Mayor and Council Travel Policy.

Mayor Fretti stated that this Ordinance will amend the Mayor and Council Travel Policy so that members of Council who have announced their intention not to seek re-election, did not qualify for the regular or special election, have resigned from elected office, or who have been defeated in a recent municipal election and are

...serving out the remainder of their term shall not be authorized to travel to the pre-authorized meetings or any other meeting unless they are on the Board of Directors of the conference or association, a policy chairperson, or a voting committee member where their absence will prevent a quorum from being reached. Additional training will not qualify as a reasonable travel expense for the benefit of the City. This Ordinance will not affect any members currently on Council and will not go into effect until July 1, 2010 if approved. It should have no effect until November/December, 2011 and only if there are any Council members that choose not to run for re-election or have been defeated. Councilman Payton stated that the wording refers only to Council and inquired as to whether it should reflect the Mayor and Council. Mayor Fretti stated that it does and he did not normally attend the National League of Cities. Councilman Payton inquired as to whether the Mayor attended the Georgia Municipal Association's Annual Conference and the Mayor/Council Washington, D. C. trip. Mayor Fretti stated that was correct but those trips are not usually in November or December. Councilman Payton stated that the Ordinance did not reflect travel in November or December. Mayor Fretti stated that the wording states "the intention not to seek re-election or did not qualify for regular or special election." Mayor Fretti stated that he was in agreement to change the Ordinance to reflect the Mayor and Council and not just Council. Councilman Carroll stated, for clarification purposes, that if he decided to run one more term and then stated that he would not run again after that term, the Ordinance would not go into effect until he fails to qualify for his next re-election. Mayor Fretti stated there are not many trips between September and November because the Mayor and Council Washington, D.C. trip is in the spring, the Georgia Municipal Association's Annual Conference is in June, and the other Georgia Municipal Association's Conference is in January so it would only affect the National of League of Cities trip in that scenario.

A MOTION was made by Councilman Carroll to approve the Ordinance amending the Mayor and Council Travel Policy with the addition of the wording to include the Mayor and Council and clarification on when it really goes into effect with that being the failure to qualify prior to that person's next election. Councilman Vickers seconded the motion. The motion failed (1-6) with Councilman Vickers, Councilman Payton, Councilman Eunice, Councilwoman White, Councilman Yost, and Councilman Wright voting in opposition.

RESOLUTION NO. 2010-11, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF AN APPLICATION WITH THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TO FUND THE PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT FOR THE VALDOSTA-LOWNDES COUNTY JOINT CRIME LAB

Consideration of a Resolution authorizing the filing of an application with the U. S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance, to fund the purchase of equipment for the Valdosta-Lowndes County Joint Crime Lab.

Commander Brian Childress stated that this is a grant with the U. S. Department of Justice in the amount of \$500,000 to fund the purchase of equipment for the Valdosta-Lowndes Joint Crime Lab. The City requested and received an earmark in the amount of \$500,000 for equipment to be used in the new Crime Lab through the assistance of Congressman Jack Kingston. They listed in the initial application a match of \$30,765.75 which actually came from another grant which was approved. All of the equipment will be utilized by technicians at the new Crime Lab to process evidence or respond to crime scenes. Commander Childress recommended that Council approve the Resolution to apply for grant funds in the amount of \$500,000 and authorize the Mayor to sign the documents.

A MOTION by Councilman Yost, seconded by Councilman Wright, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to enact Resolution No. 2010-11, a Resolution authorizing the filing of an application with the U. S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance and authorize the Mayor to sign documents to fund the purchase of equipment for the Valdosta-Lowndes County Joint Crime Lab, the complete text of which will be found in Resolution Book V.

LOCAL FUNDING AND REQUESTS

Consideration of a request for speed humps to be placed on Beck Street.

Von Shipman, City Engineer, stated that the residents and property owners on Beck Street, which connects St. Augustine Road and River Street, have experienced high speed cut-through traffic from years prior to being annexed into the City in 2006. The City has received a petition from 73% of the property owners who want speed humps. The speed study indicates the 85th percentile speed is 10 miles per hour over the posted speed limit. The speeding is more prevalent on the weekend and speed humps are warranted per the adopted traffic calming policy. The cost for two speed humps on this street will be approximately \$1,000. Von Shipman recommended that Council approve the request for two speed humps to be placed on Beck Street. Mayor Fretti inquired as to whether the residents of that area would pay the cost if they wanted to remove the speed humps and what the process would be to remove them. Von Shipman stated that the City of Valdosta would receive the money from the residents prior to removal of the speed humps.

A MOTION by Councilman Vickers, seconded by Councilman Carroll, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to approve the request for speed humps to be placed on Beck Street.

CITY MANAGER’S REPORT

Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that the Georgia Department of Transportation notified the City Engineer that there will be some additional streets on the Local Road Assistance Program (LARP) resurfacing program for summer/fall. The following streets have been selected: Blanton Drive from Simpson Lane to Sustella Avenue, James P. Rogers Circle off of James P. Rogers Drive, Mary Street from Patterson Street to Oak Street, Thomwall Street from Park Lane to the end, and Winding Way from Lake Drive to Winding Circle. This work will be done in September and will be paid for 100% by the Georgia Department of Transportation.

Due to the construction at the Parks and Recreation Authority’s facility on Forrest Street, the voting precinct at that facility will be moved to Mathis Auditorium for the primary election. There will be a special section in Mathis Auditorium set up just for those voters of that precinct so there will not be any confusion. The work will be concluded this summer well in advance of the fall elections.

Sgt. Marcus J. Haynes of the Valdosta Fire Department has been selected as the Georgia Firefighter of the Year and he will be honored in Augusta, Georgia by his peers. One of several reasons he was selected was his part in water tower rescue in Homerville.

Also, Valdosta and Lowndes County has received designation as a Certified Work Ready Community and there will be a celebration of this milestone on June 30, 2010 at 4:00 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room at the City Hall Annex.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Yost stated that the work at Freedom Park has been completed and the work at the McKey Tennis Center has been delayed; however, they hope to have it be completed August 1, 2010. Also, there is a construction delay at the Forrest Street recreational facility due to material not staying on the walls in the gym so they are having to look at different alternatives.

Mayor Fretti inquired as to whether the Parks and Recreation Authority will have to get a Tax Anticipatory Note annually in order to run ahead of their collections. Councilman Yost stated that he had not seen a financial report because it is not given to the general members and only given to the Finance Committee but thought it was approved. Larry Hanson stated that this should be an annual event for them much like it is for most school systems because 80-90% of their budget is from ad valorem taxes which are not paid until October/November so they would not get their tax proceeds until November.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Fretti entertained a motion for adjournment.

A **MOTION** by Councilman Carroll, seconded by Councilman Vickers, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to adjourn the June 24, 2010 meeting of the Valdosta City Council at 6:00 p.m. to meet again in regular session on Thursday, July 8, 2010.

City Clerk, City of Valdosta

Mayor, City of Valdosta