

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE VALDOSTA CITY COUNCIL
5:30 P.M., THURSDAY, AUGUST 5, 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., John Eunice, Deidra White, and James Wright. Councilman Robert Yost was absent. The invocation was given by Chaplain Stephen Norris, Director of Pastoral Care at South Georgia Medical Center, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Fretti entertained a motion for Awards and Presentations.

A **MOTION** by Councilman Payton, seconded by Councilman Carroll, was unanimously adopted (7-0) for the August Awards and Presentations.

Special Presentation on the 2010 Southern Hospitality Group Workcamp.

Mara Register, Assistant to the City Manager, stated that the Southern Hospitality Group Workcamp comes about because of partnerships within the City and agencies outside of the City and thanked the Mayor and Council for allowing them to work with homeowners in need on an annual basis to help improve their quality of life. There are many City Departments involved with the Group Workcamp and they include Neighborhood Development, Community Development, Police Department, Fire Department, and the Public Works Department. Mara Register recognized Chris Lilly, Regional Distribution Center Manager with Lowe's Regional Distribution Center, Staff from Lowe's Home Improvement Store, and Stuart Mullis, Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity for their involvement.

Alvin Robinson, Workcamp Homeowner, thanked the Mayor and Council for their partnership with the religious and business communities to make the Workcamp possible. The work that they did on his house was very important to him and he thanked them for their efforts. Mr. Robinson stated that restoring him would last much longer than the work they did on his house and he thanked everyone involved for their participation.

Joe Rivers, Sr., Workcamp Homeowner, stated that he wanted to recognize those people who helped other people and the City leaders who are behind everything. This day he was happy because he was selected to be one of the people to have their home upgraded. Mr. Roy Taylor used to always tell him that he was proud of him and that he heard about him in Korea in 1952. Mr. Rivers stated that was over with and now he wanted to start living a good and clean life for young people. He was proud to look at one of the young fellows, Alvin Payton, Jr., who played little league ball in the 1950's. They used to say that he couldn't hit but Babe Ruth couldn't hit and every now and then he struck out so don't you be afraid. Mr. Rivers stated that once there was a father and son and the son wanted to use the father's car. The father told him to pull up his pants and get a haircut and then he could use the car. The son pulled his pants up but would not get a haircut. His father confronted him again and stated that he had made some improvement but he did not make them all. The son told his father that Sampson had long hair, the Prophets had long hair, and Jesus had long hair. The father told his son that was true but they all walked wherever they went. Mr. Rivers stated that he is retired and has arthritis. He did not like to complain because some people are worse off than he is. Mr. Rivers thanked them for choosing him for upgrades to his home. He has lived in the house for 53 years in Lincoln Park which was a new subdivision in the 1950's. He was the eighth person to move on that street in 1957 and it had some defaults when he bought the house. Mr. Rivers knew that but he did not have the money to repair it at that time. Mr. Rivers stated that he loved the children from different parts of the United States because they asked for nothing. Mr. Rivers thanked Mayor and Council and asked that God continue to guide them in the way that they should go and will go.

Mara Register, Assistant to the City Manager, thanked Sementa Mathews, Public Information Officer, for the photographs and Nikki Forman, Media Coordinator, for the videography and production on the 2010 Southern

Hospitality Group Workcamp video. Mayor Fretti thanked Mara Register for her involvement and leadership because this is a wonderful model of a public, private, and faith-based initiative that reaches out and helps people in need and it prevents substandard housing which is something that no community needs to have.

Consideration of the August, 2010 Employee of the Month Award (Richard Joyner, Public Involvement Department).

Mayor Fretti presented the August, 2010 Employee of the Month Award to Richard Joyner, Public Involvement Department.

Richard Joyner began his employment with the City of Valdosta in August, 1997 as a City Marshal. Shortly afterwards, he was promoted to the position of Housing Inspector. In January, 2007 he assumed the position of Rehabilitation Construction Coordinator which is the position he currently holds. In this position, Mr. Joyner assists homeowners with completing structural improvements to their homes. To achieve this, he conducts interviews with property owners and performs inspections to determine the scope of improvements needed. Using this information, he prepares a rehabilitation plan which includes specifications, cost estimates, contracts and timetables for the homeowner. He also works to ensure compliance with all Federal and State standards to include all lead abatement requirements. During his career with the City, Mr. Joyner has held positions in many different areas but one constant has always been his dedication to the Southern Hospitality Group Work Camp. During the 2010 Work Camp which just concluded, 18 homes were repaired with the assistance of volunteers from across the nation. During the past five years, Mr. Joyner has assisted approximately 200 elderly or disabled homeowners with much needed repairs which has improved their standard of living. On the topic of serving others, Mother Teresa once said, "Do not wait for leaders - do it alone, person to person." Mr. Joyner's efforts throughout his career with the City have made a difference in the lives of many, one family at a time, and he is to be commended for his work. For these reasons and many others, the Employee Relations Committee nominated Richard Joyner as Employee of the Month.

Special Presentation for outgoing Councilman John A. Eunice.

Mayor Fretti stated that there are times when we must say farewell and good luck to members of Council who have served honorably for the City of Valdosta. This is unfortunately the fourth Councilman that he has had to say so long and farewell to and Councilman John Eunice had decided to go on to bigger and better things. Mayor Fretti thanked Councilman Eunice, who will be leaving Valdosta to attend law school, for his invaluable service to the City and presented him with a Proclamation, his framed Council picture, and a framed print of City Hall in his honor.

Councilman Eunice thanked Mayor Fretti for the unexpected presentation of the proclamation and the framed picture and print. Councilman Eunice stated that he has enjoyed being on Council and with dedicated City employees, such as Richard Joyner who went above and beyond the call of duty to help out citizens, in the end that is what Council is here for which is to always provide help to people who may not know exactly where to turn. Council is here to lead the City and the invaluable work force at the City. City Manager Larry Hanson always states that we are really nothing more than people at the City and we have a great group of people on Council and Staff. Seeing homeowners, such as the ones who had their houses repaired at the Group Workcamp, makes you well up with pride for our community and the businesses in our community who reach out and want to help. Councilman Eunice stated that it has been an honor to represent the City at Large for almost two terms and thanked members of Council who are not only his co-workers and colleagues but also his friends and always will be. The same goes for the hard working Staff from Department Heads all the way to Patrol Officers, Firemen, Sanitation Workers, and Engineers. Councilman Eunice thanked Shirley Britt, Assistant City Clerk, and Teresa Bolden, City Clerk, for their help during the past seven years. He also thanked each elected official and Councilman Vickers for teaching him the Golden Rule of Council which is learning to count to four to get a majority. Councilman Vickers has been a mentor and Councilman Eunice appreciated the time that he spent with him and teaching him about the way things worked at City Hall. Councilman Eunice stated that he remembered the first day that he met Councilman Yost. He was campaigning for office at Vallotton Park and was still an Umpire working part time at Parks and Recreation. He introduced himself to Robert Yost and asked for his support. Councilman Yost told him

that he was not going to support him and wished him the best of luck. Councilman Eunice stated that he was only 17 years old at the time and you would have thought Councilman Yost could have been a little gentler with his comments. Councilman Eunice stated that one of his favorite quotes was what the former Georgia Governor and Senator Zell Miller used to say and that was, "If you are driving down a road and you see a turtle on a fence post you can rest assure that he did not get there by himself." There is no doubt in Councilman Eunice's mind that he would not be here speaking today if it were not for the support of his friends, family, and colleagues, but above all his family. Councilman Eunice stated that his grandparents, Betty and Wallace Albritton, and his parents, John and Tammy Eunice, were in attendance tonight and thanked them for their support. Councilman Eunice presented his mother and grandmother with lovely floral arrangements and presented his father and grandfather with City of Valdosta commemorative gold coins for the City's 150th birthday. Councilman Eunice thanked everyone for their support and friendship and stated that he would always cherish it as these have truly been some of the greatest years of his life. Councilman Eunice stated that the Mayor had said that Councilman Eunice was going on to do bigger and better things but that is not true because there is no bigger or better thing to do of yourself than to give back the community and serve the citizens.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the July 22, 2010 Regular Meeting were approved by unanimous consent (7-0) of the Council.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Roy Taylor, 2209 Bridlewood Drive, stated that the country of Greece spent more money than they earned for many years and they almost had an anarchy a few months ago because they had forgotten to produce more money than they spent. They spent money they did not have and spent money in anticipation that they would continue to earn money. Then came Spain and they had fiscal problems and it almost brought Europe down. Mr. Taylor stated that he did not want to see America reach that same point. We must realize that if we are going to spend \$10 then we need to make \$10 before we spend it. The Federal government in the United States is going in the hole one trillion dollars and it is predicted that in ten years we will be three trillion dollars in debt. The City of Valdosta is looking at a program that is going to cost us approximately \$427 million in the next 25 years. This \$427 million allocated to government will turn into about \$4 billion within 25 years. Mr. Taylor stated that he represented many taxpayers who would like to ask Council to look at what they are anticipating to do. The County owes approximately \$44 million on the new Judicial building because they anticipated and borrowed money that did not come through on the SPLOST sales tax because it went down as the recession went down. Now they are barely able to meet the payments on it. The City Manager has managed the City's money very handsomely over the years and the City needs to think about why we would go to Tallahassee, Florida to hire an architect on the pre-planning money of \$200,000-\$300,000 and pay one of their architects \$49,000. He was told this afternoon that came through the City Council. There are plenty of local architects that need jobs and money. Mr. Taylor stated that there were 400 people this month that lost their homes at the County Courthouse. We lost 100 homes with an average of four people in each home. We evicted 200 residents out of apartments which means 800 people are out of a place to live before the month is over. Mr. Taylor stated that instead of thinking about spending \$427,000,000 over the next 25 years give him a few million and he would get rid of unemployment in Lowndes County.

Mayor Fretti stated that there were two topics that he would like to address and the City Manager would address the Request for Proposal process. Mayor Fretti has been involved in the transportation process for approximately one year and almost \$200,000 million of that involves improvements to the interchanges. Exit 2 will cost almost \$80 million to improve it and this is the State saying what needs to be allocated to this part of the State. There is another \$100 million that is a wish list for a truck by-pass that would connect the western side of the community to the eastern side so they can go all the way around our community. What we have now is not good enough because we have over 2,000 trucks coming through downtown Valdosta every day so we have to plan a truck transportation corridor around our community like every City along U. S. Highway 84. This would be State tax money allocated to the City of Valdosta. Mayor Fretti invited Mr. Taylor to meet with him so that he could show him what amount was local, State, and Federal funds.

Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that the City goes through a formal process on all Consultant selection and in this case the City advertised for Transportation Consultants. There were no local firms that submitted a proposal for that. Interviews were held and The LPA Group from Tallahassee, Florida was selected. They have since purchased and opened a new business employing 12 people in Downtown Valdosta. The City uses a qualification based selection process that uses qualifications as well as price to ensure that we do what is in the best interest of the taxpayer. In this case the firm that was hired is now a local firm.

Roger Budd, III, 5 Cherokee Circle, stated that he wanted to follow up on what Mr. Taylor had to say. He is a real estate broker in Valdosta as is his mother and father. Mr. Budd and his father are general contractors also and they employ approximately 40 people in Valdosta. They rent out real estate to businesses and residential customers and have approximately 200 pieces of real estate and 1,000 customers who employ a number of people. Putting businesses into business in the City of Valdosta is what he does for a living. Some of the policies that the City of Valdosta government has currently enacted are anti-business. One of these is the Gateway Beautification Project. This is a total waste of money and we have already spent \$200,000 for some out of town person from Florida to come here and draw a picture of some trees we want to plant. Now we want to spend \$200 million planting the trees. On his property in the Gateway Beautification area, he does not even want the trees for free. They block the view of the buildings that he has to pay a tremendous amount of property tax on. The only way he can afford to pay the property tax is if they rent out these buildings to people who can pay their rent so they can afford to pay the high property taxes. Planting trees on the right-of-way blocks the views of businesses and makes it harder for them to rent and harder for people to find them to shop there. While the City of Valdosta wants to go around planting trees the State of Georgia is going around all over the right-of-ways and digging up trees. The other issue is Land Development Regulations. The City got the Land Development Regulations by bringing in some person from out of town and paying them hundreds of thousands of dollars to replace Zoning Ordinances that had nothing or very little wrong with them. The new system is anti-business in so many ways we do not even know the exact number yet because no one has read it. One example that Mr. Budd has come across in the past few months that he has been dealing with in the LDR is the \$600 cost for a Conditional Use Permit and the two month wait time to get a Used Car Dealership opened on Ashley Street. Motorcycle Dealerships are also denied on Ashley Street unless you get a Conditional Use Permit. You cannot even store your merchandise outside in your own parking lot on Ashley Street without a Conditional Use Permit. There is an Agenda Item tonight for a Conditional Use Permit that cost \$1,000 to put a drive-thru on a Taco Bell. There is also an anti-business Sign Ordinance and he is getting certified letters from people saying they want to remove signs all over the City of Valdosta. They want to do away with portable signs even though they are approved in the same Land Development Regulations that we are talking about. Free standing signs are expensive and small business owners are trying to start a business on a shoe string budget. They can afford a portable sign but not a \$7,000 new sign construction to go along with their new business. Additionally, Mr. Budd stated that he heard that you have to get a permit to put up real estate signs. This is absurd. They are trying to rent out vacant real estate in the City of Valdosta and they do not need to be coming to local government and beg for a permit to try to rent out a real estate. In conclusion, Mr. Budd stated that what the City needs and what the United States in general needs is less government. Less government employees, less red tape for business, and lower taxes to attract business to the City of Valdosta instead of running people off to surrounding communities that are competing for business. We need jobs to stay within the City of Valdosta and not flee the oppression and burdensome anti-business environment that has been created.

Mayor Fretti stated that when people come here and talk in superlatives and platitudes he just lets them go because they are talking about things they heard sitting around with a couple of guys and never verified anything. Mr. Budd stated that the City is going to spend \$200 million on planting trees and that is the most ridiculous thing Mayor Fretti has ever heard. No one has said that the City is going to spend \$200 million on planting trees and Mr. Budd should not be saying that because it is not true. Two months ago Mayor Fretti and Mr. Budd spoke right here because Mr. Budd does not call the Mayor or come to his office. Mayor Fretti told Mr. Budd that they are relaxing the Overlay Districts on Ashley Street and Mr. Budd told Mayor Fretti that he thought Ashley Street needed to be improved. All of us can come together in the next 20 years and make Ashley Street something we would be proud of but it takes everyone together to take some of the curb cuts out, plant trees closer to the street, not park cars right next to the curb, to make more sidewalks, and to plant some street trees and good shrubbery. We have to move forward and someone has to start this because in 20 years we are either going to look back and say we wished Council would have started beautifying Ashley Street 20 years ago or we might say that we are glad they did because it looks better. The same is with the gateways because you have one time to make a first impression.

Those are the gateways into the City and that is how you impress people and they say this is a nice looking City. That is not \$200 million but rather some planning that we are going to chop up into small affordable pieces and start to make it more accessible and aesthetically appealing. Mayor Fretti asked that Mr. Budd give him a call before he comes to a Council meeting and he would debunk some of the myths that someone has fed him because much of what Mr. Budd said is not true.

Rachael Bradley, Executive Director of Southside Recreation Center, 604 South Oak Street, thanked the Mayor and Council on behalf of the Board of Directors and all of the children they serve for their support. During these economic times, the support could have gone to a lot of other places and they are fortunate to have leaders who understand the importance of investing in the youth. Ms. Bradley stated that she hoped their program would continue to merit their support.

Nolan Cox, 1009 Cherry Creek Drive, stated that he was against the Gateway Project and the issue is not whether it is \$200 million or \$10,000 for shrubs but it is a major financial commitment in a time when if tax revenues are down like business revenues and he would question making the decision. In the presentations there seems to be a motivation to get this money from the State or Federal governments. Mr. Cox stated that he pays State, Federal, and City taxes so when you say that we are getting free money it is not because it is his money. He can spend it better than you can and challenged the Mayor and Council to tell him that they could spend his money better than he could. That tax money is entrusted to government. His father told him when he was very young that there was no such thing as a free lunch. He explained to one of his granddaughters the other day that if the cheese is free it is a trap. The grant money that the City is being offered is a trap to engage a lot of spending and planning that he has to pay for. His children and grandchildren are going to have to pay for it. Mr. Cox stated that the National debt is a problem and those decisions were made just like this decision. It looks like the thing to do because we can get this free money. Grant writing has become an occupation in the last 20 years. There is so much money floating around and we all know it is debt. The money you are getting is owed to someone so it is immoral to borrow money to spend for any reason when you know it is borrowed money. Mr. Cox stated that he was impressed with the rebuilding and aid that the homeowners were given through the Southern Hospitality Group Workcamp. A little bit of money goes a long way when the people that are giving it are out there working and watching what is going on. When you put it in the government coffers it is spent recklessly. Mr. Cox asked Council to postpone the Gateway Project indefinitely because the gateway they are heading down is a slippery slope of obligations that are going to have to be met. He was very discouraged when Mayor Fretti told him they could not back out of the Five Points deal because the City Council had already voted on it. Mr. Cox stated that his point was that he is in business and has had to back out of deals and there is a reverse on spending. The taxpayers will help you find it.

George Boston Rhynes, 5004 Oak Drive, thanked Mara Register and the Group Workcamp participants for reaching out to others in the community and for their accomplishments. Mr. Rhynes also read a rant in the newspaper this morning and he believes in truth and justice and the citizens of Valdosta and Lowndes County need to be dealt with honesty. In 2004 there was an 1860 Charter on the wall at City Hall that referred to blacks in the same paragraph as hogs, dogs, cats, and other animals that stray in the City. That has now been removed and that was done because someone cared and they were thinking outside of the box of incarceration and indoctrination. For decades there has been a problem in this community where the citizens do not know what is going on at public meetings. There is information at these meetings that the public knows nothing about and it seems like there may be an asserted effort to keep the citizens deaf, dumb, and blind and unable to make intelligent decisions based on fact. In 2005, Mr. Rhynes did an assessment of Valdosta and all the things that were left out that the citizens know absolutely nothing about. This can be found on the Internet under Assessments of Valdosta. Then Willie James Williams died in September, 1998 and 2,500 people marched because they were concerned about someone outside of themselves. The conditions in the jail are inhumane, deny a citizen's constitutional rights, and there are alleged abuses. There have been approximately 30 deaths in the jail. There was a white woman from Ray City who called Mr. Rhynes four weeks ago about her daughter who was arrested and taken to the Lowndes County jail. She was in there almost three weeks and her mother and brother did not even know she was in there. Her mother asked Mr. Rhynes if he would go with her to South Georgia Medical Center because all of her daughter's teeth were knocked out and there were gauges on her legs. She had been in ICU for at least three days and the mother and brother were never called. There are serious problems in our community and we can sit back and act as if it is not happening but he cares. In June he received a call from a retired Senior Master Sergeant in Fort Worth, Texas who was suffering

from Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome. He had seen what Mr. Rhynes had put on the Internet about the Lowndes County jail and he thanked him. Since 1970 this man has been suffering because his roommate had died while in custody in the local jail. His roommate had committed suicide with his own belt. This man could not have killed himself with his own belt because they took it from him. Mr. Rhynes stated that the late Al Parsons, with the Lake Park Post, gave him a book three days before he died that contained a lot of information about what is going on in our community. Mr. Parsons told Mr. Rhynes that he was giving him the book because everybody cannot go to sleep and forget our neighbors and he trusted him with the information. Mr. Rhynes stated that he was determined that Valdosta will not be the laughing stock of this nation because we are leading the State in jail deaths. It is not just a black and white thing because there are white people calling him also about the jail but no one seems to care. Mr. Rhynes stated that he cares. He has written to the Sheriff's Department and requested through Open Records a list of all the people who have died in the jail since 1994 to July, 2010. He was informed by the Sheriff's Attorney that the Sheriff is exempt from the Open Records Act but as a courtesy he would send Mr. Rhynes a list of the inmates who had died. The list included 17 people but Mr. Rhynes' list already had 30 so that is not the rest of the story. It still seems like there is an asserted effort to keep citizens in this community deaf, dumb, and blind so we will not know what is going on. When we do not know what is going on there is trouble in the house.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

ORDINANCE NO. 2010-25, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE VALDOSTA LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS ORDINANCE

Consideration of an Ordinance to rezone 2.11 acres from Single-Family Residential (R-15) to Office-Professional (O-P) for a proposed Office Park as requested by John Bennett (File No. VA-2010-11). The property is located at 2502 North Oak Street. The Planning Commission reviewed this request at their July Regular Meeting and recommended approval (5-2 vote).

Matt Martin, Interim Planning and Zoning Administrator, stated that John Bennett is requesting to rezone 2.11 acres from Single-Family Residential (R-15) to Office-Professional (O-P) for a proposed Office Park. The property is located at 2502 North Oak Street which is along the west side of the road and northwest of the Victory Drive intersection. This parcel is directly north of the existing medical complex which is located at the northwest corner of Gornto Road and North Oak Street. The property is developed with an existing residential structure which received a Special Exception in 2002 to accommodate a home business. The parcel currently contains some accessory structures and as part of the proposed development, the primary structure will stay but the accessory buildings will be removed. The property is located within a Neighborhood Activity Center Character Area on the Future Development Map of the Comprehensive Plan and is also within the Residential Parking Overlay District. Several parcels located to the south of this property have been rezoned from Residential to Office-Professional. Two of those parcels in the southwest corner of North Oak Street and Gornto Road were rezoned earlier this year. Three parcels are already developed with medical offices and their related parking and another remaining parcel contains a medical office that is under construction. While single-family residences exist to the west and north of this parcel and across the street, this portion of North Oak Street north of Gornto Road is actively transitioning from residential to office-type uses. The applicant's prepared site plan is commendable in that it makes a strong effort to maintain a fairly residential appearance of the development as seen from North Oak Street and is less intensive than some of the existing nearby office development; however, this is a conceptual site plan. The applicant does not have specific tenants in mind and plans to develop a condominium style where they would sell or lease the building pads for the buildings. The owner would maintain control and ownership of the common areas and there would be architectural standards in place to govern the appearance of the buildings. Staff found the request consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and the Standards for the Exercise of Zoning Power (SFEZP) and recommended approval. The Planning Commission reviewed this at their July 26, 2010 meeting, found it consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and the SFEZP, and recommended approval (5-2 vote) with the following conditions: (1) All buildings limited to a maximum height of one story and 3,500 square feet each, (2) Landscaped buffers along the northern and western boundaries shall include a 6 foot brick wall, (3) Hours of operation shall be limited to a maximum period within 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., (4) The stormwater detention pond shall be fenced for safety purposes, and (5) Site lighting shall be directed away from surrounding residential properties.

Councilman Vickers inquired as to how many of those regulations fall under the existing Land Development Regulations (LDR). Matt Martin stated that conditions (4) and (5) are already requirements. The remaining conditions are not covered specifically in the LDR but the Planning Commission felt that these might be necessary to prevent office buildings on the property from becoming too large. Councilman Carroll inquired about the Neighborhood Activity Center and where this fits in the Future Development Plan. Matt Martin stated that Future Development Map is the successor to the Future Land Use Map and is broader land use categories than what the zoning dictates but it is the land use policy guide. The Neighborhood Activity Center is a combination of zonings between residential, office, and possible light commercial rezonings. Councilman Carroll stated that the current Future Development Map was adopted in 2006 and it does not reflect a decision earlier this year on the southern corner of Oak Street and Gornto Road where that property was rezoned for Office-Professional. Councilman Carroll inquired as to whether we will continue to see a trend in that area that is being encouraged for Neighborhood Activity Center type growth. Matt Martin stated that would be a decision made by Council as an amendment to the Map. There are no current proposals yet but they are approaching the next amendment cycle for the Comprehensive Plan and the Map. Councilman Eunice inquired as to whether the applicant was agreeable with the conditions on the property. Matt Martin stated that the applicant is in attendance at the Council meeting and he would discuss his concerns about the language of some of the conditions.

John Bennett, 2502 North Oak Street, spoke in favor of the request. Mr. Bennett stated that his law office has been there for the past 10 years and he has lived there for 20 years. He wanted to develop the property around his house in the same architectural theme to try to attract financial advisors, stock brokers, and anyone who needed an office pad. He met with Engineering and Planning to discuss a plan that would work and they asked him to set aside ten more feet on Oak Street in the event that it would be widened in the future. When he looked at his back door neighbor and the existing trees, he extended the back setback to 30 feet. The Ordinance calls for an opaque fence and does not mention a brick fence. Mr. Bennett stated that this seemed like a plain vanilla rezoning to him and it had gone through the City with a recommendation of no conditions. At the Work Session there were a lot of questions about what the Planning Commission meant and what they were concerned about. There was a plea from Mayor Fretti about improving the zoning and intrusion into residential areas and then Pope Langdale, who is Mr. Bennett's neighbor, spoke. Then Jennifer Powell, who is a long standing protector of neighborhoods, made a motion with all these conditions on it. There was no discussion and it passed 5-2. Mr. Bennett stated that he did not know what they had in mind when they did this. He is asking for a rezoning to O-P and he is will to follow all the specifications within the O-P zoning. He is not asking for any variances on setbacks, height, or anything. Mr. Bennett stated that he wanted to discuss the conditions. The first condition was that all buildings would be limited to a maximum height of one story and he did not really see people wanting more than one story. When he looked at Dr. Futch's new office with two stories and the dormers and gable on the end it looks good and fits in the neighborhood. If he had a potential buyer who wanted to do something like that then he would not want to deny him having two stories. The second condition dealt with landscape buffers along the northern and western boundaries to include a 6 foot brick fence. Mr. Bennett's estimates on a brick fence are from \$135 to \$165/foot to construct a brick fence. It would be 600 feet of fence with a cost of \$60,000-\$90,000. The Ordinance calls for an opaque fence. Mr. Bennett was not sure what they had in mind on the north side because there is a lot that is zoned R-15 and has been vacant for years. It is owned by Tom Young's widow and she is asking \$400,000 for the lot which will most likely never be residential. The third condition is for the hours of operation from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.; however, there are many nights when Mr. Bennett works until 9:00 p.m. even though he does not have clients. The fourth condition for the stormwater detention pond to be fenced for safety purposes is included in the Ordinance. If there is less than a 4 to 1 slope then you have to fence it but Mr. Bennett would not know the exact dimensions of the detention pond until the Engineers design it. The fifth condition regarding the lighting is required by the Ordinance and he had no objection to directing the lighting down and away from the neighbors. Mr. Bennett stated that his current building is 2,500 square feet and if someone wanted a pad for a 4,000 square foot building then he did not see that the 3,500 square foot condition makes a lot of sense. Mr. Bennett asked Council's consideration in following the City's recommendation that it be rezoned O-P without conditions.

Pope Langdale, 400 Mack Drive, spoke in opposition to the request. Mr. Langdale stated that he was not anti-development but is pro-development. He represents a lot of people that come before Council asking for their property to be rezoned. He is not one of those people who says that he does not want something rezoned because it is next to his property but he was here because the applicant would not agree to build what he said he was going to build on his site plan. Fundamentally that is wrong because when Council is asked to vote on a rezoning and they

are given a conceptual site plan that says this is what the applicant is going to do and the applicant will not honor that then what is Council voting on. Once a new zoning classification is given, which is O-P in this case, then they do not have to build what they said they are going to build. They can go and do whatever they want to do under that particular zoning classification and that is allowed under Georgia Law. Mr. Langdale stated that what concerns him the most is what has happened since the Planning Commission meeting. Mr. Langdale's father represented Valdosta Family Medicine when they wanted to rezone their office complex that now borders Mr. Bennett's property to the south and his property to the south. Mr. Bennett was one of the most vocal opponents to that rezoning; however, his father's firm will go and sit down with every neighbor and show them the plans of exactly what is being proposed and ask if there is any opposition. If there is opposition they ask what they can do make it satisfactory. Mr. Bennett had some very stringent conditions as did Mr. Tom Young. In order to support the rezoning, Mr. Tom Young and Mr. Bennett had to come to a particular agreement as to what they demanded to happen with their neighbor's property. Mr. Langdale stated that he verified this when he purchased this lot. He knew that Mr. Bennett had the property adjacent to him on the east that bordered Oak Street. He did not doubt that one day he may want to do something different than reside there or have his law office there. One of the commitments that Mr. Bennett made when he came to this agreement with Mr. Tom Young was that if he ever came before Council and asked for his property to be rezoned he would at a minimum continue the brick fence which is 6 feet tall. Mr. Bennett required this of his neighbor when they went to rezone the property immediately to the south and asked that there be a 20 foot buffer that had to be irrigated and landscaped. He also asked that all existing trees to the extent possible would remain undisturbed in the buffer and then to eliminate vistas from the neighboring properties to the subject property, additional trees would be planted in the buffer as shown in a preliminary site plan and as recommended by the City Arborist. Then a masonry privacy wall was to be constructed at Valdosta Family Medicine's expense on or along the north property line of this property. When it became Mr. John Bennett's property they had to do a stucco finish along the north side that actually matched his house. Mr. Langdale stated that he was not asking for that. Mr. Tom Young wanted a brick fence that would border their property made of the same brick as the Young's house which is where Mr. Langdale now lives. The privacy fence was to be six to eight feet in height as it runs through John Bennett's property depending on John's preference. He also put a restriction on their future expansion and said that building could not exceed two stories in height. The existing trees were to be protected and he even made them agree as to where their entrance would be to come into and out of the medical facility because he did not want an entrance to close to the entrance at his house. Mr. Langdale stated that when he first looked at purchasing this house he called Mr. Bennett and asked him about the agreement because by this time Mr. Young had Alzheimer's Disease. Mr. Bennett stated that he would agree to do the brick fence and he has agreed to do that all the way up until today. Mr. Langdale stated that he had a conversation with Mr. Bennett today and told him that he had heard rumors that now he did not want to do the fence and Mr. Bennett stated that he would not honor the agreement if Mr. Langdale contested the rezoning in any way. Mr. Langdale told Mr. Bennett that he was not contesting the rezoning but wanted him to do what he was representing to Council and stand behind the site plan and make it site specific. That is what the doctors did and Council was able to have an understanding of what was going there and where it would be located. There were nine conditions on the zoning in 1999. Mr. Langdale stated that if Mr. Bennett was going to build what he has said he was going to build then he had no objection; however, you cannot tell much from a conceptual site plan. Mr. Bennett's lot is elevated above Mr. Langdale's lot and there would be a major drainage problem but for the fact that the City Engineer has recommended a detention pond. The only conditions that Mr. Langdale has asked for is to limit the building size to one story, build it like Mr. Bennett had said he was going to build it, and do the fence like he had said and continue the brick fence just like it is there. The Planning Commission had said that Mr. Langdale wanted to run the fence along the northern boundary which is near the vacant lot owned by Ms. Young but that was not what he said. In all honesty, Mr. Bennett had never represented that he would run the fence there and Mr. Langdale stated that he was fine with that. The only thing he wanted was a fence between his property and Mr. Bennett's property and adequate buffering with some fast growing trees recommended by the City Arborist that would grow high enough to block whatever he builds from his house. The Planning Commission recommended fencing the detention pond and that was not a big deal to Mr. Langdale. The hours of operation should not be a condition because in all fairness if Mr. Bennett was going to market this to CPA's and lawyers then many of them work late. Mr. Langdale stated that coming up with a conceptual plan that no one is going to honor is wrong. There is not a single elevation of a single building on the site plan and he has not even committed to putting them where he has said he was going to put them. Mr. Langdale stated that if Council approves the rezoning that it be done with the conditions recommended by the Planning Commission with the exception of the hours of operation, fencing the detention pond, and fencing the north side of Mr. Bennett's property with a brick fence. The

regulations may require an opaque fence or buffering and Mr. Langdale stated that he was fine with either. That is a vacant lot and he leases it from Ms. Young. Mayor Fretti inquired as to where the 3,500 square foot for each building came from. Mr. Langdale stated that he was not certain where it came from but it is a reasonable restriction and he would not have a problem if it was 4,000 square feet. The height restriction is more of a concern to him because of the hill than one building being 4,500 and another one being less square footage. Councilman Wright inquired as to how long the section of fence would be for the western boundary. Matt Martin stated that it would be 352 feet.

Electa Ricket, 1217 Hickory Drive, spoke in opposition to the request. Ms. Ricket stated that she was against not only Mr. Bennett's rezoning but things similar that are happening in Valdosta. She was very upset about the rezoning that happened on the southwest corner of Oak Street and Gornto Road. The City has plans to funnel traffic from Bemiss Road down Woodrow Wilson Drive and cut through to Gornto Road. The City also voted several years ago to widen Eager Road and Jerry Jones around to Gornto Road so she is not certain how many broad highways there will be from Bemiss Road to the Mall area. The only protected neighborhood in Valdosta is Brookwood North which has some historic protection. Ms. Ricket stated that she spoke against the original rezoning of the parcel where Valdosta Family Medicine is located and now they have put a huge parking lot and another two story building. It appears the neighborhoods on the west side of Patterson Street are constantly being spot zoned. Most of the time decisions are made at the Work Sessions and if she speaks for or against it the decision has already been made and she is not allowed to speak at the Work Session. That discourages some people from participating in these discussions. It worries her that the City is more worried about getting people to the Mall and putting businesses on Oak Street. Ms. Ricket would like to see the neighborhoods preserved and predicts that in another 20-25 years Valdosta will cease to exist because the neighborhoods will be gone. It bothers her that there is so much intrusion into the neighborhoods around the hospital area and so much spot zoning resists. Ms. Ricket stated that if this request was approved she would like to see that Mr. Bennett is held to the restrictions set up by the Planning Commission.

Leigh Touchton, 610 Mack Drive, spoke in opposition to the request. Ms. Touchton stated that she was against the rezoning completely and did not even want the rezoning to go through. Her concern is what happened to the house on the southwest corner of Gornto Road and Oak Street. She was told something that did not come to pass. She was told that they were going to put in an office that resembled the office on the other side which has a lot of trees and greenery. This place is a two-story medical complex and they are building a second building. They clear cut the lot and only kept three trees. Valdosta has one of the best tree canopies and that is what makes our City so beautiful. Ms. Touchton applauded the Gateway Project because planting trees is the best thing that anyone in our country could do right now. Ms. Touchton stated that she was concerned about the encroachment on Oak Street and the trees. Valdosta should preserve the trees and there should not be any more rezoning on Oak Street. There are Long Leaf Pines in this area that are over 200 years old. Council should start taking some proactive decisions to protect the City's tree canopy. She is also concerned about the runoff going into the creek and flooding issues. Ms. Touchton stated that there may be other homeowners on Gornto Road coming before Council asking for a rezoning because now they have seen that the gate is open. If the development starts on Gornto Road she may be behind something that could be a commercial business that operates 24 hours a day 7 days a week. This is one of the oldest established neighborhoods in Valdosta and it is family-oriented. If the development starts up Gornto Road you will see encroachment on both sides in areas that should be preserved. Ms. Touchton stated that she is against the rezoning for environmental reasons and based on what she was told would happen with the development on the southwest corner of Oak Street and Gornto Road which did not happen. If this request is approved by Council all of the conditions should be included with an additional condition that the trees on that lot would be saved.

Evelyn Langdale, 400 Mack Drive, spoke in opposition to the request. Ms. Langdale stated that she and her husband, Pope Langdale, bought the property behind Mr. Bennett's property three years ago. She knew that Mr. Bennett's property would possibly be rezoned at some point and developed and she respects what he is trying to do. Mr. Bennett sent them a site plan the day of the Planning Meeting and that was the first time they had seen it. He had expressed to Pope Langdale when they purchased the property that he would honor the brick wall and she assumed that the brick wall would include some of the tall fir trees because it creates a wonderful buffer for them. All of her children play in the back yard and that is important to her. Ms. Langdale stated that she called Mr. Bennett the day of the Planning Meeting and she asked him about the retention pond, the height of the building, and

the brick wall. Mr. Bennett told her how he fought the development next door and he was disappointed in what happened. He also stated that he would honor the brick wall. Ms. Langdale stated that if this is rezoned O-P and he is not held to any specifications then what will keep another multi-story brick building from coming up in their back yard.

Mayor Fretti stated that he has rarely seen many Council members make up their mind at a Work Session. They get a lot of technical information and he has seen them shaking their heads one way or the other but tonight demonstrates how beneficial the public hearing process is and how Council tries to stay completely open until the final presentation of the public hearing process to hear from both sides.

Councilman Carroll stated that as a long time student of the Planning Commission and a long time member of the Georgia Planning Association, this rezoning request and the discussion surrounding it is a text book case of the impact that zoning decisions have long term. The decision on this property being zoned O-P was made in a 1987 and further in 1999. In 1987, the northwest corner of Oak Street and Gornto Road was rezoned from R-15 to O-P. At the time this was considered spot zoning. In 1999 the abutting property to the north of this came before Council for the same rezoning request of R-15 to O-P. Once again, though the request did not meet the goals and policies of the Comprehensive Plan or the Future Development Map, Council made a decision to grant the request. We are now being asked today for the same zoning that was granted to those property owners; therefore, O-P is not an unreasonable request because the decision was made many years. As a result of those decisions and the update of the Future Development Map and the Comprehensive Plan in recent years, this area is now reflected as a Neighborhood Activity Center. The O-P zoning is encouraged in a Neighborhood Activity Center and we cannot deny that O-P zoning is reasonable and meets the goals and policies of the Comprehensive Plan and the Future Development Map. If we were to go back and use the conditions applied to the 1999 case, many of them are no longer germane because they are covered by permitting; however, two conditions in particular that have really stuck out after hearing this case are the brick separating the western property line between Mr. Langdale's and Mr. Bennett's property and the size and height of the building. Since the regulations take care of the trees so much so that what is to the south of Mr. Bennett's property would absolutely not be allowed with the current LDR.

A MOTION was made by Councilman Carroll to approve the request to rezone 2.11 acres from Single-Family Residential (R-15) to Office-Professional (O-P) as it does meet the goals and policies of the Comprehensive Plan and the Future Development Map, and in honor of an agreement between the two abutting property owners, that a masonry fence and not a brick fence run along the western border. In regards to the size and the height of the building there would be no restrictions on size since the lot and parking will dictate that but that the building height should be no greater than one and a half stories. For clarification for Staff of the one and a half stories, the half story would be available for office storage. They would also utilize window dormers as part of the architecture. Councilman Vickers seconded the motion. Mayor Fretti inquired as to whether Councilman Carroll wanted to add a height to the fence condition. Councilman Carroll stated that the height should be comparable to the one that exists on the southern border. Councilman Yost stated that for someone to think that Council has already made up their minds on every subject or request that is brought before them is incorrect. He wants to protect his District and is not against business; however, there is an appropriate place for businesses to go and in the middle and on the edge of neighborhoods is not appropriate. Several months ago Council approved the development of the southwest corner of Oak Street and Gornto Road and that set the precedent for the future growth southward on Oak Street. Now the southern part of Oak Street can be developed all the way to Valdosta State University. He does not agree with any of it because all of it was a neighborhood and there should have been no business growth in neighborhoods. Councilman Yost stated that coming to the Council meeting tonight he thought he would vote for this with some of the conditions. He remembered Mr. Bennett coming before Council and he felt very badly that the Council decided to let things go the way they did. That is why Council approved the rezoning of Mr. Bennett's house; however, there has to be a time to stop this and we say we are not going to continue to destroy neighborhoods. Councilman Yost stated that he could not vote for this rezoning and asked Council to place some of the conditions on it if it does get approved. He also requested that the Planning Commission not place conditions on any piece of property that is already included in the Ordinance. It is unnecessary and they are discussing something that they should not even be discussing. Larry Hanson, City Manager, asked for clarification on the height of the half story. Matt Martin stated that the half story could be the attic story and the space be used for storage only and instead of a flat wall with windows it could be part of the roof and could have dormers or just be the roof. George Talley, City Attorney, stated that there needs to be some height requirement on it. Matt Martin

stated that there should be a maximum height for the building. Larry Hanson inquired as to what a half story would be in height. Councilman Carroll stated that he could have any builder in town build a story and a half house and it would be based on the structure itself. A classic home style in south Georgia is a story and a half home in which the second floor is built within the roof structure and they use dormers. Mayor Fretti stated that it needs to be defined as a single story with a storage area not to exceed a certain height. Matt Martin suggested that an overall height limit would be the easiest. Councilwoman White inquired about the masonry wall. Councilman Carroll stated that a masonry wall is a cinder block wall and has an exterior finish. George Talley stated that there needs to be a height restriction because the roofs are getting steeper and steeper. Councilman Carroll inquired about the height of the structure that Dr. Futch built. Matt Martin stated that he was not certain but typically two story dwellings or a one story dwelling with a tall roof is 20 feet. Larry Hanson stated that multi-story buildings have a standard of ten feet between floors.

Councilman Carroll stated that he would like to amend the motion to the definition of the size requirement and to allow a 20 foot height with no restrictions on that level. Councilman Vickers seconded the amended motion but had some questions about the clarity and when they look at it they are not making up something. Councilman Carroll stated that according to the documents that were approved for the 1999 rezoning it stated that the future building expansion maximum was 25,000 square feet and not to exceed two stories high. He does have some difficulty in placing greater restrictions on Mr. Bennett's case then were not placed on the 1999 so he was trying to find a compromise and that was the intention of the height requirement. Councilwoman White stated that the Ben Futch case was a site specific plan and Council knew exactly what they were voting on with regard to size requirement and spacing. Councilman Yost stated Council was trying to create something that they had no business creating at this time and Planning Staff should do their job and come before Council with what a half story is. Councilman Eunice stated that he agreed with Councilman Yost and Councilwoman White. If he had been on Council in 1999 he would not have supported two stories to go on that site. The most that he could support on the proposed site would be a small second floor for storage only. He is fine with the wall being six to eight feet tall as was signed in the document in 1999 but he would like to have restrictions on the second floor in order to support this request. Councilman Carroll stated that since height has become an issue in the amended motion, he referred Council to another past zoning decision that was called Twenty-Three-Twenty which was an 11 story building looking down into a neighborhood in which the Mayor lived in at one time and very easily could look into Mr. Langdale's home and everyone else who got up and spoke tonight including his own.

Mayor Fretti called for the vote to approve O-P zoning with a building height not to exceed 20 feet with a masonry wall to replace the brick fence wall on the western border with no restrictions on the half story for storage. Councilman Carroll stated that he would put back in the amended motion that the half story be for storage only. Councilman Vickers was in agreement. The amended motion to enact Ordinance No. 2010-25 was adopted (4-3) with Councilman Yost, Councilwoman White, and Councilman Payton voting in opposition, the complete text of which will be found in Ordinance Book XII.

ORDINANCE NO. 2010-26, AN ORDINANCE FOR A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT TO ALLOW A RESTAURANT WITH A DRIVE-THRU WINDOW

Consideration of an Ordinance for a Conditional Use Permit to allow a restaurant with a drive-thru window as requested by Gary Minchew (File No. CU-2010-09). The property is located at 3022 North Ashley Street. The Planning Commission reviewed this request at their July Regular Meeting and recommended approval (7-0 vote).

Matt Martin, Interim Planning and Zoning Administrator, stated that Gary Minchew is requesting a Conditional Use Permit to allow a restaurant with a drive-thru window in the Urban Commercial Corridor Overlay District. The property consists of 0.90 acres and is located four parcels south of Five Points, between Ashley and Patterson Streets. The property currently contains a vacant restaurant and existing parking. The existing structure will be removed to accommodate a proposed Taco Bell restaurant. The property is located within a Community Activity Center Character Area on the Future Development Map of the Comprehensive Plan and is zoned Highway-Commercial (C-H). The Conditional Use Permit request is running concurrently with a Variance request for front yard setbacks (as required by the UCC Overlay District) and for the number and dimensions of stacking spaces for the drive-thru (as required by Section 218-13 of the LDR). The Zoning Board of Appeals reviewed the request on August 3, 2010 and recommended approval. Since a new building is proposed, a full plan review is required and

the site will need to comply with the LDR standards (Overlay requirements, setbacks, landscaping, etc.) or receive variances prior to being approved. The surrounding area currently contains a mixture of uses - retail, fast food restaurants, and office space. The proposed Taco Bell and its drive-thru is similar in nature to some of the adjacent developments. It is consistent with the intended development pattern of the Community Activity Center Character Area, and is compatible with the existing pattern of this portion of the Urban Commercial Overlay District. Staff found the request consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and the Conditional Use Review Criteria, and recommended approval to the City Council. The Planning Commission reviewed this at their July 26, 2010 meeting, found it consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and the Conditional Use Review Criteria, and recommended approval (7-0 vote). Mayor Fretti inquired as to why a drive-thru is allowed in the Overlay District except by Special Exception. Matt Martin stated that in this particular Overlay District that is correct which is why they have the Conditional Use process in Urban Commercial; however, Staff and the Planning Commission are looking at this. Councilwoman White inquired about the cost of the Conditional Use Permit. Matt Martin stated that the CUP is \$500 which is the cost for the City to advertise. The City makes no money and in many cases loses money. Councilman Vickers stated that he thought they should let the applicant know that is what the cost of the CUP is going for

Gary Minchew, 9008 Moss Way, spoke in favor of the request. Mr. Minchew stated that there were demolishing the most architecturally challenging building in Valdosta and they are ready to proceed.

No one spoke in opposition to the request.

A MOTION by Councilman Eunice, seconded by Councilwoman White, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to enact Ordinance No. 2010-26, an Ordinance for a Conditional Use Permit to allow a restaurant with a drive-thru window as requested by Gary Minchew, the complete text of which will be found in Ordinance Book XII.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION FOR THE CITY OF VALDOSTA TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SCRIPT SAVE PROGRAM WITHDRAWN

Consideration of a Resolution for the City of Valdosta to participate in the Script Save Program. This request was postponed at the June 10, 2010 Regular Council Meeting for 60 days to allow an opportunity to conduct additional research. The City Manager has recommended that this request be withdrawn.

Charlie Felts, Human Resources Director, stated that since 1994, the Script Save Program has been providing discounts on prescription drugs to card holders through sponsoring agencies. Savings average over 28% with some as high as 50%. Program is available to citizens who have no insurance for prescription drugs or non benefit eligible employees. The City of Valdosta would sponsor the program and anyone participating would enroll on-line. There is no cost to the City for sponsoring the program. The City Manager and Human Resources Director met with several local pharmacists recently to discuss this and similar programs as well as explore other opportunities to assist employees of the City. Both the City and the pharmacists were pleased with the possibilities and the meeting and hope to develop something to offer to City employees as well as an advocacy for the uninsured in the City. Charlie Felts recommended that Council approve the withdrawal of this request and continue working with the independent pharmacists to develop this program.

A MOTION by Councilman Carroll, seconded by Councilwoman White, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to withdraw the request to participate in the Script Save Program.

RESOLUTION NO. 2010-13, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF AN APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDS WITH THE GEORGIA CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL TO FUND FORENSIC IMPROVEMENTS IN THE VALDOSTA REGIONAL CRIME LAB

Consideration of a Resolution authorizing the filing of an application for grant funds with the Georgia Criminal Justice Coordinating Council to fund forensic improvements in the Valdosta Regional Crime Lab.

Police Chief Frank Simons stated that the Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grant Program has \$200,000 in funding available to improve forensic services in Georgia. Funding is available to meet at least one of the following purpose areas: (1) to carry out all or a substantial part of a program intended to improve the quality and timeliness of forensic science or medical examiner services, (2) to eliminate a backlog in the analysis of forensic science evidence, including firearms examination, latent prints, toxicology, controlled substances, forensic pathology, questioned documents, and trace evidence, and (3) to train, assist, and employ forensic laboratory personnel, as needed, to eliminate such a backlog. Chief Simons recommended that Council approve a Resolution authorizing the filing of an application for grant funds with the Georgia Criminal Justice Coordinating Council to fund forensic improvements in the Valdosta Regional Crime Lab.

A MOTION by Councilman Payton, seconded by Councilman Yost, was adopted (6-0) to enact Resolution No. 2010-13, a Resolution authorizing the filing of an application for grant funds with the Georgia Criminal Justice Coordinating Council to fund forensic improvements in the Valdosta Regional Crime Lab, the complete text of which will be found in Resolution Book V. Councilman Carroll was absent for the vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 2010-14, A RESOLUTION TO AMEND RESOLUTION NO. 2009-5 ESTABLISHING THE VALDOSTA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Consideration of a Resolution to amend Resolution No. 2009-5 establishing the Valdosta Economic Development Commission.

George Talley, City Attorney, stated that the purpose of this Resolution was to establish the Valdosta Economic Development Commission in order to implement the Urban Redevelopment Law in accordance with State law. The Resolution outlines the powers, functions, and duties of the Economic Development Commission in furtherance of the City's efforts to provide redevelopment opportunities in the Urban Redevelopment Area. This Resolution amends Resolution No. 2009-5, which was adopted on April 9, 2009 because at the time there were not certain as to whether Mayor and Council would be serving as the body to be the Urban Redevelopment Agency. The powers listed at the end of the Resolution are the powers that this Agency does not have and only you acting as Mayor and Council have those particular powers. George Talley recommended that Council approve the Resolution to amend Resolution No. 2009-5 which established the Valdosta Economic Development Commission.

A MOTION by Councilman Eunice, seconded by Councilman Payton, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to enact Resolution No. 2010-14, a Resolution to amend Resolution No. 2009-5 establishing the Valdosta Economic Development Commission, the complete text of which will be found in Resolution Book V.

BIDS, CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS, AND EXPENDITURES

Consideration of a request to approve a Memorandum of Understanding with the Georgia Department of Community Affairs for the Main Street Program.

Mara Register, Assistant to the City Manager, stated that the City of Valdosta has been a participant in the Main Street Program since 1984 and has been a nationally certified Main Street Program for the past 13 years. The program must annually document compliance with the mandatory Minimum Standards as set forth by the National Main Street Center and the Georgia Main Street Program. The proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) sets forth all of the requirements for the City of Valdosta to remain in good standing as a Main Street Program in Georgia. The City continues to meet all of these requirements including the Minimum Annual Program Standards that are outlined in Addendum A and additional criteria found in Addendum B in the attachment to the agenda item. The MOU also recognizes and addresses the use of the NMSC's Main Street trademark as outlined in Addendum C in the attachment to the agenda item. Mara Register recommended that Council approve the Memorandum of Understanding with the Georgia Department of Community Affairs for the Main Street Program.

A MOTION by Councilman Yost, seconded by Councilwoman White, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to approve a Memorandum of Understanding with the Georgia Department of Community Affairs for the Main Street Program.

Consideration of a request to approve the Urban Redevelopment Agency Policies and Procedures.

Ruby Riesinger, Economic Development Coordinator, stated that the City of Valdosta Urban Redevelopment Plan was adopted April 9, 2009 in order to provide for the promotion and establishment of new and expanding business entities, commerce, industry, trade, employment opportunities, and business ventures, as well as residential and neighborhood business activities in designated areas within the City. Adoption of an Urban Redevelopment Plan under O.C.G.A. 36-61-18 requires the establishment of an Urban Redevelopment Agency to administer eligible activities associated with the Urban Redevelopment Plan. The Mayor and City Council shall serve as the Urban Redevelopment Agency for the City of Valdosta. The Policies and Procedures provide specific guidance and structure for the Mayor and City Council to act as the Urban Redevelopment Agency for the City of Valdosta. These Policies and Procedures set forth the steps for review and consideration of applications for incentives provided through the City's Enterprise and Opportunity Zones, as well as the powers, membership and related terms of office, attendance, meetings, officers and the duties of the officers of the Urban Redevelopment Agency. Ruby Riesinger recommended that Council approve the Urban Redevelopment Agency Policies and Procedures. Mayor Fretti stated that there were a few minor changes in the Policies and Procedures and Section V regarding attendance was omitted.

A MOTION by Councilman Carroll, seconded by Councilman Vickers, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to approve the Urban Redevelopment Agency Policies and Procedures.

ORDINANCE NO. 2010-27, AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH THE 2010 TAX MILLAGE RATE

Consideration of a request to establish the 2010 Tax Millage Rate.

Mark Barber, Deputy City Manager of Administration, stated that the Five Year History of Tax Levy was published in the Valdosta Daily Times on July 15, 2010, notifying the community of the proposed tax millage to be set by the City of Valdosta at 4.112 mills. The purpose of this ad is to inform property owners of the growth in the ad valorem tax digest and the level of taxes collected in the last five years. There was negative reassessment growth on the tax digest this year so we could have raised the millage rate slightly to 4.124 mills but given the unstable economic times we did not want to do that. All governmental units and school districts are required by State law to publish growth rates in the tax digest and changes in tax rates. The Ordinance includes the adoption of the millage rate for the Valdosta Board of Education which they adopted a 16.98 millage rate for this year. The Board of Education established this millage at the July 26, 2010 meeting. The 2010 Net Tax digest decreased by \$4,942,641 or .35 percent compared to the 2009 digest. Applying the proposed millage rate to the current digest will generate approximately \$5,847,308 in revenue, which represents a \$20,324 decrease from the prior year. Additionally, adopting the proposed millage rate will create a \$132,891 shortfall when compared to fiscal year 2011 projections. The majority of the decrease is attributed to a decline in motor vehicle values with a 9.96 percent decrease, real and personal property represented a 5.178 percent decrease. Also included in the Ordinance is 10 mills assessed on downtown property owners. Two years ago downtown property owners paid 15 mills to the Central Valdosta Development Authority (CVDA) in addition to the taxes paid to the City of Valdosta. This rate included 10 mills dedicated to the repayment of debt incurred for the streetscape project. Under the terms of the bond, a dedicated millage sufficient to service the debt must be levied. Over the past few years, the reassessment of downtown properties has created a significant additional tax burden on these property owners. In an effort to maintain a business friendly downtown environment and offer relief of the additional tax liability, the City of Valdosta suggested two options to downtown property owners. The downtown property owners voted to reduce the CID millage to 5 mills and the CVDA Board has requested that the City set the millage accordingly. Under this scenario, the bond debt will be extinguished in the year 2012 as opposed to 2020. Early retirement is possible due to the increase in revenue due to growth in the downtown area. Mark Barber recommended that Council approve the Ordinance to establish the 2010 Tax Millage Rate.

A MOTION by Councilman Eunice, seconded by Councilman Payton, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to enact Ordinance No. 2010-27, an Ordinance to establish the 2010 Tax Millage Rate, the complete text of which will be found in Ordinance Book XII.

Consideration of a request for speed humps on Kirkwood Circle.

Von Shipman, City Engineer, stated that Kim Jones lives on Kirkwood Circle which runs between Houston and Meade off Northside Drive. For several years she has been concerned about speeding motorists. The problem appears to be created by others who are cutting through this neighborhood to travel between Northside Drive and Tyndall Drive. In April the latest traffic speed/count indicated the 85th percentile speed was 10 mph over the posted speed limit. This is one requirement of the Speed Bump Policy established by the City Council in the early 1990s. Over the last two months Ms. Jones secured signatures from just over 70% of the property owners or residents on this street. Having satisfied that requirement of the process means the matter must go before the City Council for approval. The City sent notices to all property owners informing them of the fact that speed humps are being considered. No one contacted the Engineering Department to voice opposition. Von Shipman recommended that Council approve the request for speed humps on Kirkwood Circle.

A MOTION by Councilman Payton, seconded by Councilman Wright, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to approve the request for speed humps on Kirkwood Circle.

Consideration of a request to approve the Gateway Concept as recommended by The LPA Group.

Von Shipman, City Engineer, stated that in the early 2000's the concept of improving major entrance ways into the City was evaluated. A Consultant was hired to conduct a preliminary study which recommended numerous locations and options. During the Transportation Master Plan process in 2007, the topic was again discussed in detail. The final version of the Master Plan included Gateway improvements on Madison Highway from the Airport to Patterson Street and West Hill Avenue (US 84/SR 38) from I-75 to Downtown. In 2009, the Mayor/Council listed as one of their goals the need to move forward with the two Gateway projects by hiring a Consultant to prepare a detailed study that included input from the community and property owners along both corridors coupled with input from major stakeholders. The Valdosta-Lowndes Chamber of Commerce also initiated a Committee chaired by Marshall Conner to investigate the creation of Gateway improvements throughout Lowndes County including all municipalities. The City hired The LPA Group to coordinate the planning effort which included several public workshops and meetings to generate input and to develop a common theme that could be used on future projects throughout the City. The proposed concepts are designed to improve the appearance of the corridor while helping to ensure smooth flow of traffic and access to adjoining properties. This will translate into the creation of new development and redevelopment opportunities. Property owners on the corridors have expressed concern about access restrictions that could negatively impact their investments. The Mayor/Council will be asked to endorse the general concepts while providing direction on which aspects of the Gateway projects will move toward the development of construction plans. Input from the adjoining property owners will occur during the development of construction plans to make sure access issues are properly negotiated. Funding for improvements could come from various sources including existing SPLOST VI revenues or future SPLOST revenues. The Georgia Department of Transportation (DOT) will be a major partner on the West Hill Avenue project since it is a US/State route. Grant opportunities may be available on both projects along with participation from interested community partners. Von Shipman recommended that Council approve the Gateway Concept as recommended by The LPA Group. Larry Hanson asked for an update on the Chamber's Gateway Committee.

Alison Stokes, Valdosta-Lowndes County Chamber of Commerce, stated that Gateway Committee will be sending the information to the Chamber Board of Directors for discussion at their August 19, 2010 meeting for action to be taken.

Councilman Carroll stated that the Chamber has organized a Committee to be involved in this process and in light of the fact that we do not have an official Chamber Board endorsed recommendation we should allow them the opportunity to present their opinion and recommendation to the Mayor and Council.

A MOTION was made by Councilman Carroll to postpone the request to approve the Gateway Concept as recommended by The LPA Group until the first Council meeting in September. Councilman Eunice seconded the motion. Councilman Yost stated that he was not certain as to why they were postponing the request and this should have taken place before it was placed on the Agenda. There is a misconception about what the City is doing

because they are not spending any money to approve the concept. Council has been asked to approve a concept for the future and he will not spend any money if the City does not have it. The City does not have large amounts of money to do what they need to do properly with the gateways but Council would only be voting to accept concepts that they asked the Consultant to do which was one of the Mayor and Council goals. People are getting this confused with the Transportation Plan. Mayor Fretti stated that citizens are confusing this with the Comprehensive 2035 Transportation Master Plan which includes the entire County and all State routes. No local firms submitted a bid or had the qualifications to support submitting a bid. Councilman Yost stated that once they have funding available they could approve parts of the concept. Councilman Vickers stated that they need to approve the concept so that it can be submitted to the Georgia Department of Transportation for the City to be placed on a list. Von Shipman stated that the DOT would be presented with a general plan and they would provide their comments to us. Council would then decide on what section or location would be done first. They would then hire a firm to prepare detailed plans that are surveyed and submitted to the DOT for their review. Councilman Vickers inquired as to whether the Chamber or any other organization could submit comments even if this was approved tonight. Von Shipman stated that the Chamber Committee is working to develop common themes and if the City develops a common theme then it is getting the planning process completed because everyone has had a chance to voice their opinion. Larry Hanson stated that the Chamber's Gateway Committee was created to look at the interchanges at the Interstate and not thoroughfares and now they are working together with the City because there was some overlap. Councilman Yost stated that the Chamber has already brought forward their recommendations into the plan with the interchanges. Councilman Carroll stated that it was not official. Von Shipman stated that there were committee members at most if not all of the public meetings that were held with the Consultant and those common themes were discussed with everyone one on that Committee and those comments were incorporated into what has been presented. Councilman Yost stated that once Council approves the concept part of this it can go to Federal and State for funding. Von Shipman stated that detailed plans can be engineered and put out for bid once the funding source is identified. There would be an open house at the beginning of the design to discuss issues on the ground after surveys are completed. The whole goal of this is to enhance the gateways and encourage people to invest in vacant property or reinvest on redeveloped property so that the corridors will thrive and become something that everyone is proud of. Councilman Payton inquired as to Council is required to wait until the Committee has made a report to the Chamber Board. Larry Hanson stated that Council is not required to wait because the Chamber created their own Committee for Exit beautification and asked the City, County, Southern Georgia Regional Commission, and many other entities. The City had their own goal for gateways and thoroughfares so there was overlap so in the spirit of cooperation they are working together. Councilman Eunice asked for a point of order. Councilman Eunice inquired as to whether he could offer a substitute motion to approve the request. George Talley, City Attorney, stated there was a motion currently on the floor but if the person who made the motion agrees to it. Mayor Fretti stated that the substitute motion would replace the motion and almost reverses it and if it passes then the motion they are currently discussing will never come to a vote. Councilman Carroll stated that they did ask for the Chamber to participate and his request is out of respect for their input. Councilman Wright stated that he can understand and support the idea of keeping money locally but he was concerned about people saying not to plan and not to spend money for how the City will look in the future. Councilman Wright inquired as to what they would do if they did not have these plans for growth and development in the City. This is only a conception and not a plan and it can be tweaked. Councilman Vickers inquired what would happen if this motion did not pass. Mayor Fretti stated that they would have to entertain another motion. The motion adopted (4-3) with Councilman Vickers, Councilman Yost, and Councilman Payton voting in opposition.

Consideration of a request to approve the Georgia Department of Transportation Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant (LMIG) Program street resurfacing list.

Von Shipman, City Engineer, stated that The Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) previously used the popular Local Assistance Road Program (LARP) and city/county contracts process to help local governments with some of their transportation projects. They have now moved to the Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant (LMIG) Program which allocates transportation funding from the State based on a formula that includes population and street mileage (paved or unpaved). Valdosta is to receive approximately \$220,000.00 this fiscal year. In the past, GDOT would review and prioritize resurfacing projects. That is no longer the case with the LMIG program. Local governments must prioritize the project list. Most communities will use the funds to resurface streets. Attached is a list of 30 streets that are in need of resurfacing. Every attempt was made to provide a list that represents the entire community. A map showing the location of the streets along with previous streets

resurfaced over the last 12 years will be provided at the Council Work Session. The rough estimate of the cost to resurface the streets is \$500,000. The SPLOST 6 resurfacing account will be used to pay the amount over the GDOT commitment level. The City will put this out to bid this fall. Von Shipman recommended that Council approve the Georgia Department of Transportation Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant (LMIG) Program street resurfacing list.

A MOTION by Councilman Payton, seconded by Councilman Vickers, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to approve the Georgia Department of Transportation Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant (LMIG) Program street resurfacing list.

ORDINANCE NO. 2010-28, AN ORDINANCE FOR A NEW PERMIT FEE SCHEDULE FOR THE CITY OF VALDOSTA

Consideration of a request to approve a new Permit Fee Schedule for the City of Valdosta.

Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that the current fee schedule was adopted from the 1994 edition of the Southern Building Code. Permit fees have always been adopted from the suggested schedule of the Building Code. This Code is revised and updated every three years with Code updates and changes including the Fee Schedule; however, the City of Valdosta's fees have not been adjusted since 1996 except for a brief time during which we actually reduced our fees by 20% across the board for all construction permits. The permit fee schedule is broken down in increments and is calculated by charging X amount of dollars of permit cost per (X) 1,000 dollars of construction cost. Our current fee schedule stops the construction cost amount at \$500,000 and charges \$2.00 per thousand for any additional cost of construction. During a recent development in which the job cost was in excess of \$200,000,000, using the current fee structure the permit fee would have been in excess of \$400,000. Realizing that our current fee structure would not be reasonable or realistic when this amount of construction costs were involved, we have made adjustments and additions to the structure in order to include large developments with high construction costs and have adjusted the increments to a reasonable and realistic amount. Larry Hanson recommended that Council approve the Ordinance for a new Permit Fee Schedule for the City of Valdosta.

A MOTION by Councilman Eunice, seconded by Councilman Wright, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to enact Ordinance No. 2010-28, an Ordinance for a new Permit Fee Schedule for the City of Valdosta, the complete text of which will be found in Ordinance Book XII.

BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AUTHORITIES, AND ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Consideration of appointments to the Valdosta Tree Commission.

Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that The Valdosta Tree Commission has the following members, Mr. Kevin Conrad and Ms. Artie Marshall, whose terms will expire on September 6, 2010. Both Mr. Conrad and Ms. Marshall have expressed interest in serving again if reappointed. These appointments were advertised according to the Boards, Commissions, Authorities, and Advisory Committees Policy that was adopted by Mayor and Council. The applicants for Council's consideration in no order of preference are as follows: (1) Kevin Conrad, Sr. Vice President of Business Development/Marketing (Commercial Banking Company), (2) John Lee Ingram, Supervisor (Denzer Tree Surgeons), (3) Addie N. Jones, Childcare Teacher (Childcare Network), (4) Artie M. Marshall, Retired, and (5) Ronald Moore, General Manager (Red Roof Inn) - Third Choice.

Mayor Fretti asked for nominations for Position No. 1. Councilman Carroll placed in consideration the name of Kevin Conrad. There being no other nominations, Mayor Fretti closed nominations. Kevin Conrad was re-appointed by acclamation to serve a term of four years on the Valdosta Tree Commission. Mayor Fretti asked for nominations for Position No. 2. Councilman Payton placed in consideration the name of Artie Marshall. There being no other nominations, Mayor Fretti closed nominations. Artie Marshall was re-appointed by acclamation to serve a term of four years on the Valdosta Tree Commission.

Consideration of an appointment to the Zoning Board of Adjustments and Appeals.

Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that The Valdosta-Lowndes County Zoning Board of Adjustments and Appeals has the following member, Scott Orenstein, whose term will expire on October 11, 2010. Mr. Orenstein has expressed an interest in serving again if reappointed. This appointment was advertised according to the Boards, Commissions, Authorities, and Advisory Committees Policy that was adopted by Mayor and Council. The applicants for Council's consideration in no order of preference are as follows: (1) Clay Browning, Real Estate Broker (Ron Borders Commercial Real Estate Advisors), (2) Dr. Mark Eanes, Physician/Ophthalmologist (Southern Eye Center, P.C.), (3) Cassandra D. Jordan, College Instructor (Georgia Military College), (4) Ronald Moore, General Manager (Red Roof Inn) - First Choice, and (5) Scott Orenstein, General Contractor (Pinnacle Prime Contractors).

Mayor Fretti asked for nominations. Councilman Eunice placed in consideration the name of Scott Orenstein. There being no other nominations, Mayor Fretti closed nominations. Scott Orenstein was re-appointed by acclamation to serve a term of three years on the Zoning Board of Adjustments and Appeals.

Consideration of an appointment to the Public Art Advisory Committee (Community At Large).

Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that The Public Art Advisory Committee consists of nine positions with five of those positions recommended by the Lowndes-Valdosta Arts Commission and four positions from the Community at Large. The terms began June 1, 2010 and are staggered as follows: one (1) professional artist who is a member of the Lowndes-Valdosta Art Commission, one (1) Board member of Lowndes-Valdosta Art Commission and one (1) member from the community at large for a term of three (3) years; one (1) professional artist who is a member of the Lowndes-Valdosta Art Commission, one (1) member of the Board of Lowndes-Valdosta Art Commission and one (1) member from the community at large for a term of two (2) years; one (1) member at large from the Lowndes-Valdosta Art Commission for a term of one (1) year; two (2) members from the community of the City of Valdosta for a term of one (1) year. Thereafter members will be appointed to three (3) year terms. Ex-Officio members shall include a representative of the following departments to be determined by the City Manager and the Department Head; Finance, Planning and Zoning, and Public Works. Ex-Officio members shall also include the City Manager and the Mayor or the Mayor's representative as appointed by the Mayor. On May 6, 2010, Council made eight appointments to this Committee. The remaining appointment was for a member from the Community at Large and is a one-year appointment. This appointment was advertised according to the Boards, Commissions, Authorities, and Advisory Committees Policy that was adopted by Mayor and Council. The applicants for Council's consideration in no order of preference are as follows: (1) Angela Crance, Education Leadership at Wiregrass Georgia Technical College, and (2) Ronald Moore, General Manager of the Red Roof Inn (Second Choice).

Mayor Fretti asked for nominations. Mayor Fretti placed in consideration the name of Angela Crance. There being no other nominations, Mayor Fretti closed nominations. Angela Crance was appointed by acclamation to serve a one year term on the Public Art Advisory Committee (Community At Large).

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that Downtown Master Plan Meetings will be held on August 10, 2010 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the City Hall Annex and August 17, 2010 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at St. Paul A.M.E. Church. Mayor and Council is invited to attend.

There will be a Meeting Protocol Training held on August 12, 2010 in Council Chambers. Susan Moore, Legal Counsel with the Georgia Municipal Association, will conduct the training.

Larry Hanson, City Manager stated that there was a very nice Retirement Ceremony held today for Von Shipman, City Engineer, and thanked him for his 13 years of dedicated service to the City of Valdosta. Von has been a Municipal Engineer for 29 years which is one of the most demanding and unappreciated positions in local government. It is difficult to make a decision to please everyone when you are dealing with traffic and complex

issues. Von's legacy to the City of Valdosta will be his focus on safety. We are having fewer accidents now than when he arrived and it is amazing that traffic has almost doubled but accidents are down. That is because of Von's commitment to traffic safety and improvements. He has been a very dedicated and loyal public servant and is entering a new phase of his life. Von is going back to Valdosta State University to get his Doctorate Degree in Public Administration we applaud him for that. Von is one of the finest MPA students to ever come through Valdosta State University and that is why he was quickly accepted into the program. We appreciate everything that Von has done for the City and we will miss him.

Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that in 2004 when Valdosta was designated as a Metropolitan area one of the benefits to the City and County is that we would receive dedicated funding for transportation and we were required to create a Metropolitan Planning Organization which is a regional entity. This was to make us eligible for Federal funding and was mandatory that we develop a plan in order to receive Federal and State funds. The majority of the funds that are being discussed are from the Federal Gas Tax. When we go to the pay we pay eleven cents for Gas Tax which goes to the Federal government and is then allocated back to States and then to local governments. If we have no plan then we are not eligible. The Gas Tax can only be used for Transportation Projects. The Plan includes all improvements in the City and the County so there is a Metropolitan Planning Area Plan. It also includes all of the future Interstate work and not approving this Plan means foregoing millions of dollars in Federal money that we would no longer be eligible for. Some of the projects include necessary improvements to Exits 2, 11, 16, 18, 22, and 29. It also includes projects such as the Forrest Street widening, a proposed truck route, the widening of Jerry Jones, and many others. Georgia is also a donor State and for each dollar that we send to Washington in Federal gas taxes we get approximately \$.91 back because there are States with sparse populations that could not generate enough tax if it were truly dollar for dollar. The question is how the Federal government will allocate transportation dollars each year and not whether they will be because they are required to by Federal law. The City's and County's contribution is based on a SPLOST contribution which again is based on our historic contribution. For example, the City currently has \$20 million for transportation over six years and this plan contemplates that the City and County would make a contribution as we are now for the life to 2035. This would be approximately \$20 million every six years in local funding that is from a dedicated penny that can only be used for capital projects and of which 60% is generated by people who do not live here. This Plan is required to be reviewed every five years and adjustments can be made.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Yost stated that he was not against the Chamber having a voice but he would prefer that items not be placed on the Council Agenda if they are not ready. Also, Councilman Yost asked for Von Shipman, City Engineer, to ride with him through his District so they can make a list for the new City Engineer. Councilman Yost stated that he may have voted for Councilman Eunice in the last election but thank goodness there is not another one. Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that he was not aware that an endorsement from the Chamber Board of Directors was expected or they certainly would have done that before it was placed on the Agenda.

Councilman Carroll stated that it has been a pleasure to serve with Councilman Eunice.

Councilman Payton stated that he was not able to make Von Shipman's Retirement Ceremony but thanked Von for his time in teaching him about engineering as it relates to the City and he considered Von as a friend.

Councilman Vickers stated that he would like information about Court fees and how those fees are distributed to different entities.

Councilman Wright stated that he was not able to make Von Shipman's Retirement Ceremony either but appreciated everything that Von has done to assist him. Councilman Wright wished good luck to Councilman Eunice in his future endeavors.

Councilman Eunice stated that it has been a pleasure and privilege to serve with each member of Council as well as members of previous Councils and Staff. Councilman Eunice thanked them for everything that they do day in and day out to make the City of Valdosta and our community a better place to live.

Mayor Fretti entertained a motion for adjournment.

A **MOTION** by Councilman Vickers, seconded by Councilman Payton, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to adjourn the August 5, 2010 meeting of the Valdosta City Council at 8:52 p.m. to meet again in regular session on Thursday, August 19, 2010.

City Clerk, City of Valdosta

Mayor, City of Valdosta