

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE VALDOSTA CITY COUNCIL
5:30 P.M., THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2011
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL**

OPENING CEREMONIES

Mayor Pro Tem Alvin Payton, Jr. called the regular meeting of the Valdosta City Council to order at 5:30 p.m. Council members present were: Sonny Vickers, Tim Carroll, Ben Norton, Deidra White, Robert Yost and James Wright. City Attorney George Talley was absent and Tim Tanner, Attorney with Coleman-Talley, LLP, filled in for the City Attorney. The invocation was given by Councilman James Wright, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS

PRESENTATION OF THE SEPTEMBER, 2011 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH AWARD

Mayor Pro Tem Payton and Police Chief Frank Simons presented the September, 2011 Employee of the Month Award (Jo Ann Rofulowitz, Police Department).

Jo Ann Rofulowitz began her employment with the City of Valdosta Police Department in July, 1992 as a Patrol Officer. In November, 2002, she achieved the rank of Lieutenant which is the position she currently holds. Lieutenant Rofulowitz is assigned to the Training Division where she is responsible for coordinating the training of all Police Department personnel. This is a very detail-oriented assignment requiring the preparation of lesson plans, design of training programs, researching of grant funding, and the record keeping associated with these programs. She also coordinates firearms and physical agility testing and training. In addition to her regular duties, Lt. Rofulowitz also coordinates the Department's honor guard which attends the funerals of Department personnel who have passed away. Because the Department does not have a full-time honor guard, plans and details for each funeral have to be organized quickly and coordinated with the deceased's family. On June 12, and then again on June 13 of this year, two retired members of the Police Department passed away. Having to organize and attend two funerals in two days was extraordinary given the detail and planning required. As always, Lt. Rofulowitz provided an outstanding and memorable service for both Officers. It has been said that the capacity to care is the thing which gives life its deepest significance. The compassion and professionalism shown by Lt. Rofulowitz in conducting these services are both a tribute to the Officer and a source of pride to the family. For these reasons and many others, the Employee Relations Committee nominated Jo Ann Rofulowitz as Employee of the Month.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the August 25, 2011 Regular Meeting were approved by unanimous consent (6-0) of the Council.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

ORDINANCE NO. 2011-30, AN ORDINANCE FOR A PLANNED DEVELOPMENT APPROVAL ON COMMUNITY-COMMERCIAL (C-C) AND SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL (R-10) ZONING

Consideration of an Ordinance to have a Planned Development Approval on Community-Commercial (C-C) and Single-Family Residential (R-10) Zoning to allow a mixed residential development as requested by Justin Nijem (File No. VA-2011-17). The property consists of 0.94 acres and is located at 810 Baytree Road and 1013 Cherokee Street. The Planning Commission reviewed this request at their August regular meeting and recommended approval with 12 conditions (10-0 vote).

Matt Martin, Planning and Zoning Administrator, stated that Justin Nijem is requesting a Planned Development Approval for a mixed-residential development on two adjoining lots with dual zoning classifications. The property consists of 0.94 acres and is located at 810 Baytree Road (zoned C-C) and 1013 Cherokee Street (zoned R-10). The applicant is proposing a complex with a total of 12, two-bedroom dwelling units divided among three buildings. The southern building located near Baytree Road will be two-story and contain six apartments.

The center building will also be two-story and contain a mix of two townhouses and two apartments. The northern building will be a one-story duplex. The project will be developed as one parcel of land but with the possibility of condominium ownership for the townhouse and duplex units. The proposed building and parking areas will be arranged along a 16' wide one-way drive that enters from Baytree Road and exits onto Cherokee Street. The applicant is proposing to utilize underground stormwater detention for the site. The property is located within both a Neighborhood Activity Center and Transitional Neighborhood Character Area on the Future Development Map of the Comprehensive Plan, and it is located within the Baytree-University Corridor Overlay District. Planned Development Approvals are reviewed and considered in much the same way as a Conditional Use. There is no zoning change to the property and the applicant would be free at any time to develop the property in accordance with the underlying zoning district and Overlay regulations up until development has commenced in accordance with the approved Planned Development. The property is located in a transitional area along Baytree Road that already has a mixture of commercial and residential uses. The proposal is for an "infill" type of development that blends the commercial zoning of the front of the property with the single-family zoning of the rear portion. From a conventional development standpoint, the property came close to qualifying for a simple change to R-M zoning with a standard apartment complex of 17-18 units, but was just .06 acres short of the necessary one acre. Instead, the applicant is proposing a smaller complex with a total of 12 total units and with the more intensive portion of the development being in the commercial zoning area along Baytree Road and the less intensive portion being along Cherokee Street. In effect, the end result is much like a down-zoning of the C-C area, and an up-zoning of the R-10 area to achieve a median result of multi-family type development throughout. There is already more intensive commercial development to the south along Baytree Road, and a mixture of both single-family and multi-family on properties to the north along Cherokee Street. With a good master plan and the right conditions of approval, the proposed development fits in very appropriately with this surrounding land use pattern. Staff found the request consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and the Planned Development Review Criteria and recommended approval subject to the following conditions: (1) Approval for a mixture of residential uses only in accordance with the submitted approved master plan that shall consist of multi-family, duplex residential, and single-family attached (townhouses). Individual dwelling units may be sold as their own independent (condominium) parcel provided that a Property Owners Association is created to maintain any common areas. (2) Overall development shall not exceed 12 dwelling units, no dwelling unit may exceed 2 bedrooms, and there shall be no more than 28 total parking spaces. (3) Both parcels shall be combined together into one tract of land. (4) The development shall be accessed by a one-way entrance drive from Baytree Road and a one-way exit onto Cherokee Street, with appropriate one-way and do-not-enter signage being provided as approved by the City Engineer. (5) Both sides of the existing northern parcel shall include a 6' solid fence or wall. Both sides of the existing southern parcel shall include a minimum 4' decorative fence or wall as indicated on the master plan. (6) All existing vegetation shall be preserved and maintained along both sides of the existing northern parcel. All existing mature trees, as indicated on the master plan, shall be preserved. (7) Frontage along Baytree Road shall consist of minimum 10' wide landscaped street yard (trees & shrubs) between the existing sidewalk and the proposed decorative wall. The proposed two-story building shall be setback a minimum of 20' from the front property line. The proposed masonry wall shall be between the height of 4' and 6'. (8) Minimum side yard setbacks shall be at least 10' for all buildings. (9) The proposed duplex shall be no more than one-story, and no other building may exceed two-story. (10) Other than incidental signs or one temporary banner, signage for the development shall consist on one freestanding sign along Baytree Road not to exceed 50 square feet in area and a maximum height of 12 feet. No signage shall be allowed along Cherokee Street. (11) The development shall adhere to all other applicable regulations of the Baytree-University Corridor Overlay District (LDR Section 210-4), applicable supplemental regulations for Multi-family Dwellings (LDR Section 218-13(V)), and applicable landscaping requirements (LDR Chapter 328) at the time of permitting. (12) Development shall commence within two years and be completed within three years (as an expiration date) from the date of Planned Development Approval. The Planning Commission reviewed this at their August 29, 2011 meeting, found it consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and the Planned Development Review Criteria, and recommended approval subject to the 12 conditions noted above (10-0 vote). Councilman Yost inquired as to the number of people the apartments can house. Matt Martin stated that the apartments by conditions will be limited to two-bedroom units only and there are 28 parking spaces that are being proposed which will be their limitation. Councilman Yost inquired about the townhouses. Matt Martin stated that all of the dwelling units cannot exceed two bedrooms including the duplex. They will enter on Baytree Road and exist off of Cherokee Street due to a topography issue coming off of Baytree Road. Councilman Yost inquired as to whether these will all be rental units. Matt Martin stated that they are planned to be rental type units mixed into housing types.

Jimmy Cone, 1806 Plum Street, spoke in favor of the request. Mr. Cone stated that he is the architect for the project and would be glad to answer any additional questions.

Jean Arambula, 110 West Force Street, spoke in opposition to the request. Ms. Arambula stated that the recent overbuilding of apartment complexes in Valdosta is affecting real estate rentals and property values. When she first moved into her home on Force Street, which is three blocks south of the main campus of Valdosta State University, the houses in the neighborhood were filled with students and professionals associated with the University. Today, there are many vacant, abandoned, and uncared for structures. While Ms. Arambula does not have rental property herself, she recognizes the predicament that many of her neighbors are placed in with trying to maintain an empty structure and ensuring the security of the building but with no income to do so. This is a direct result of the expansion of multi-family housing in the vicinity of the University and a rubber stamp mentality of the Planning Commission and Council. The second issue is the problem with parking and traffic. There are now over 13,000 students at the University and nearly as many cars. Since the City and County have not taken any steps to address public transportation and the University bus system is limited to the enrolled students who live off campus, students are driving to class. The lack of parking in designated lots on campus makes it impossible for students to find a place to park so they continue to park in the yards of friends who live near the campus. The City has passed Ordinances but these are not enforced. Parking in front yards is not only an eyesore but it does irreparable damage to the landscaping. The University has built a field house and playing fields on Mary Street which has resulted in the construction of another apartment building on Mary Street. There are no sidewalks on the street and student athletes and others are walking in traffic. This is especially true of the poorly designed intersection of Oak Street and Mary Street. A serious pedestrian/vehicle accident is inevitable and Ms. Arambula urged the City to take immediate steps to address this potentially deadly hazard. The overbuilding of apartments is having unacceptable effects on existing neighborhoods adjacent to the University southward to the Downtown area. There seems to be a lack of disregard for her neighborhood with this headlong rush to build, build, build. The abandoned structures and growing blight in the area puts the University in a bad light and will ultimately have a negative effect on enrollment if it is not addressed immediately. The property and owners are not unique and it is not her intent to single them out as the reason for these problems; however, it is time to make her concerns public and to alert the community to the potential irreparable damage to the City if this trend continues.

A MOTION was made by Councilman Yost to approve the request for a Planned Development Approval on Community-Commercial (C-C) and Single-Family Residential (R-10) Zoning. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vickers. Councilman Yost stated that there were some things on which he agreed with the constituent. Mary Street is becoming very active with the University soccer and field houses and the City needs to look at that since the traffic is getting heavy in that area. He has pleaded with Council on numerous occasions to get more sidewalks and bicycle lanes in that area. They are also working hard to keep cars out of the front yards of homes and he hoped the City is enforcing the Ordinance. Councilman Yost stated that he needs more developments like this in his District in order to put college students in an environment that is not in the neighborhoods where there are 15 people living in a house for 3 people. Councilwoman White stated that Force Street is in her District and she would be glad to meet with Ms. Arambula in order to address her concerns. The motion was unanimously adopted (6-0) to enact Ordinance No. 2011-30, an Ordinance, the complete text of which will be found in Ordinance Book XII.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 2011-15, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF AN APPLICATION WITH THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY’S U. S. FIRE ADMINISTRATION TO FUND EXPANSION OF THE FIRE OPERATIONS AND FIREFIGHTER SAFETY PROGRAM

Consideration of a Resolution authorizing the filing of an application with the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s U.S. Fire Administration to fund expansion of the Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety Program.

Fire Chief J. D. Rice stated that the City of Valdosta has received funding under 2003, 2004, and 2006 Assistance to Firefighters Grant cycles. The 2003 and 2004 funding provided for exercise equipment to assist firefighters with a wellness and fitness program which has enhanced their fitness and health levels and improved

their physical endurance in responding to fire incidents. The 2006 funding allowed the City to purchase 40 Integrated Personal Alert Safety System (PASS) device upgrades for self-contained breathing apparatus, 2 rapid intervention team (RIT) bags, and computers, printers, and supporting software to comply with the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS). The City is requesting 2011 grant funds in the Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety Program category for the purchase of three vehicle exhaust extraction systems at three of our fire stations (Stations 2, 5, and 6). The City is requesting up to \$69,243 and the required 20% match is \$13,848.60. Chief Rice recommended that Council approve the Resolution authorizing the filing of an application with the Federal Emergency Management Agency's U.S. Fire Administration to fund expansion of the Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety Program.

A MOTION by Councilman Vickers, seconded by Councilman Carroll, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to enact Resolution No. 2011-15, a Resolution authorizing the filing of an application with the Federal Emergency Management Agency's U.S. Fire Administration to fund expansion of the Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety Program, the complete text of which will be found in Resolution Book V.

LOCAL FUNDING AND REQUESTS

Consideration of a request to approve streets for resurfacing under the 2012 Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant (LMIG) Program.

Pat Collins, City Engineer, stated that the previous Georgia Department of Transportation (DOT) Local Assistance Road Program (LARP) has been replaced with the Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant Program (LMIG). Local governments are allocated an amount of money from the DOT to use toward transportation related projects. Most local governments will use the funds to resurface streets. There is a list of 33 streets the Engineering Department and City Council members are recommending for resurfacing under the LMIG Program. The streets are broken down into Council Districts. The DOT will grade the recommended streets and will determine the paving priority of each. Allocation of the grant will be determined after the DOT rates the City's list, and not all of the streets will be chosen for DOT resurfacing. The City can and may choose streets to resurface from those not chosen by the DOT. Engineering will bid the work out in the fall of 2012. The DOT will pay up to the allotted amount based upon the formula which is based on population and street miles (dirt or paved). Population is weighted 33.3% while street mileage is weighted 66.7%. The additional cost is to be paid for using SPLOST resurfacing funds. Pat Collins recommended that Council approve the list of streets for resurfacing under the 2012 Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant (LMIG) Program.

A MOTION by Councilman Carroll, seconded by Councilman Norton, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to approve streets for resurfacing under the 2012 Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant (LMIG) Program.

BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AUTHORITIES, AND ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Consideration of appointments to the Valdosta Tree Commission. This was postponed for 30 days by Mayor and Council at the August 11, 2011 for re-advertisement.

Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that the Valdosta Tree Commission has three members, Brenda Thrasher, Jane McLane, and Patsy Giles whose terms will expire on September 6, 2011. These appointments were postponed for 30 days by the Mayor and Council at the August 11, 2011 City Council Meeting due to the lack of response. These appointments were re-advertised according to the Boards, Commissions, Authorities, and Advisory Committees Policy that was adopted by Mayor and Council. Listed below are the applicants in no order of preference: (1) David L. Dempsey - Maintenance Director, Heritage Healthcare @ Holly Hill, (2) Patsy T. Giles - Design Consultant & Tour Event Planner, James H. Rainwater Conference Center, (3) Brenda Thrasher - Retired Teacher, (4) M. Deonna Wagoner - Artist (Tree Commission is her second choice).

Mayor Pro Tem Payton asked for nominations for Position No. 1. Councilman Carroll placed in consideration the name of Brenda Thrasher. There being no other nominations, Mayor Pro Tem Payton closed nominations. Brenda Thrasher was re-appointed by acclamation to serve a term of four years on Valdosta Tree Commission.

Mayor Pro Tem Payton asked for nominations for Position No. 2. Councilman Carroll placed in consideration the name of Patsy Giles. There being no other nominations, Mayor Pro Tem Payton closed nominations. Patsy Giles was re-appointed by acclamation to serve a term of four years on Valdosta Tree Commission.

Mayor Pro Tem Payton asked for nominations for Position No. 3. Councilman Carroll placed in consideration the name of David Dempsey. There being no other nominations, Mayor Pro Tem Payton closed nominations. David Dempsey was appointed by acclamation to serve a term of four years on Valdosta Tree Commission.

Consideration of an appointment to the Keep Lowndes-Valdosta Beautiful Board.

Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that the Keep Lowndes-Valdosta Beautiful (KLVB) Board had a member, Jeffrey Smith, who recently passed away. Mr. Smith had been re-appointed to serve on the KLVB Board by the Mayor and Council in May, 2011 and his term expiration was June 30, 2014. In order to fill this vacancy, this appointment was advertised according to the Boards, Commissions, Authorities, and Advisory Committees Policy that was adopted by Mayor and Council. Listed below are the applicants for your consideration in no order of preference: (1) JaTaryia Thomas - Executive Director, C.A.\$H. Prosperity Campaign, (2) M. Deonna Wagoner - Artist (KLVB is Ms. Wagoner's first choice), and (3) Adrienne Wilkerson - Marketing Director, Moody AFB.

Mayor Pro Tem Payton asked for nominations. Councilman Wright placed in consideration the name of JaTaryia Thomas. There being no other nominations, Mayor Pro Tem Payton closed nominations. JaTaryia Thomas was appointed by acclamation to serve a term of three years on Keep Lowndes-Valdosta Beautiful Board.

ELECTION AND OATH OF OFFICE

Mayor Pro Tem Payton asked for a nomination from Council to fill the unexpired term of former Mayor John J. Fretti.

Councilwoman White asked to read the following statement: "Always take all the time to reflect that circumstances permit but when the time for action has come, stop thinking" – Andrew Jackson.

Councilwoman White stated that we as a Council find ourselves at the moment to take action regarding who will fill the position of interim Mayor for the City of Valdosta. It is a decision that each Council member has given serious consideration. This Council is thankful to all the very capable and qualified candidates who have either volunteered to serve in this capacity as well as those who answered yes when asked to consider serving if called upon. Identifying both a capable and willing volunteer has not been an issue and again, they are thankful to everyone who is willing to serve. This Council has worked together to address issues that affect all of their constituents City-wide, and they continued attending to their portion of the business of the City and have done so under unique and difficult circumstances. While they do not agree on every issue or method, this Council has forged an ability to identify common ground for the common good, and most importantly, an ability to continue to work together when things do not always go their way. This Council is most appreciative to the administration of the City, the employees whom every day carry out the business of the City and who have shouldered the greatest burden during this transition time yet continue to show up every day and give it their all. They say thank you to each of you. Council does not take lightly the task of naming to a position that which is normally left in the capable hands of the majority of the citizenry; however, they are here to make that decision. Prevalent thought of what this Council deems to be priority is that the appointment of an interim Mayor be a person whom all of Council can support, be a person who has no purpose other than to fill the position to the best of their ability during their limited appointment, be a person who understands the requirements as well as the limitations of the interim position, and finally, the appointment of interim Mayor be a person who will hold this position with care giving a much needed moment and pause to reflect, breathe, and re-group until the system picks back up with the election of a new Mayor chosen by the voters of the City. As an integral member who has served us all with the wisdom that is uniquely his own and respected by his fellow Council, has experienced first-hand the events that brought us here today, and has an understanding of where we are and where we need to be during this transition period, it is my honor to nominate

senior Council member, Joseph “Sonny” Vickers, as interim Mayor for the City of Valdosta. The motion was seconded by Councilman Carroll. Mayor Pro Tem Payton asked for any other nominations. There being no other nominations, Mayor Pro Tem Payton called for the vote. The motion was unanimously adopted 5-0-1 to appoint Joseph “Sonny” Vickers as interim Mayor with Councilman Vickers abstaining.

AMENDMENT TO THE AGENDA

Mayor Pro Tem Payton entertained a motion to suspend the Policies, Procedures, and Guidelines, for the purpose of amending the Agenda to add the following: Consideration of a request to accept the resignation of Council Joseph “Sonny” Vickers as District 3 Council member.

A MOTION by Councilman Norton, seconded by Councilman Carroll, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to suspend the rules of the meeting and amend the Agenda to consider the resignation of Councilman Sonny Vickers.

Mayor Pro Tem Payton stated that he would read into record the resignation letter of Councilman Vickers, District 3. “Dear Mayor Pro Tem Payton and City Council Members, It is with great humility that I hereby tender my resignation as the City Council Member for District 3 for the City of Valdosta. The only purpose of this resignation is to fulfill the request of my fellow Council Members to fill the remaining term for the Mayor of the City of Valdosta which was left vacant due to the recent resignation by John J. Fretti. The term will expire as of December 31, 2011. I then look forward to returning as the elected City Council Representative for District 3 for which I am the only candidate that qualified for the seat during the recent qualification period. I am very honored and humbled by this opportunity and the privilege to serve as Mayor for this interim period. I want to express my sincere appreciation to all of you for the trust you have placed in me to fulfill these responsibilities. I do not undertake these responsibilities lightly and I ask for your guidance, prayers, and support over the next four months. This City Council has worked together very well and we will need to stay together more than ever during this time of transition in our City. I look forward to continuing my representation of District 3 upon my commencement of my new term on January 1, 2012.”

A MOTION by Councilman Wright, seconded by Councilman Carroll, was unanimously adopted (5-0-1) to accept the resignation of Councilman Sonny Vickers with Councilman Vickers abstaining.

ELECTION AND OATH OF OFFICE

The Honorable Judge Richard M. Cowart, Superior Court of the Southern Judicial Circuit presided over the swearing in ceremony for the new Mayor of the City of Valdosta, Joseph “Sonny” Vickers.

AMENDMENT TO THE AGENDA

Mayor Vickers entertained a motion to suspend the Policies, Procedures, and Guidelines, for the purpose of amending the Agenda to add the following: Consideration of a request to fill the vacancy for City Council District 3.

A MOTION by Councilman Carroll, seconded by Councilman Norton, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to suspend the rules of the meeting and amend the Agenda to consider a request to fill the vacancy for City Council District 3.

Mayor Vickers asked for nominations to fill the seat for City Council District 3.

A MOTION was made by Councilman Carroll to place into consideration the name of Hoke Hampton to fill the seat for City Council District 3. Councilman Norton seconded the motion. There being no other nominations, Mayor Vickers closed nominations and called for the vote. The motion was unanimously adopted (6-0).

The Honorable Judge Richard M. Cowart, Superior Court of the Southern Judicial Circuit presided over the swearing in ceremony for the new City Councilman for District 3, Hoke Hampton.

CITY MANAGER’S REPORT

Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that the City received permission from the Environmental Protection Division to move forward on the Brown’s Canal Project.

There will be a 9-11 Remembrance Ceremony on Sunday, September 11, 2011 at 8:30 a.m. on the Courthouse Square. Sementha Mathews, Public Information Officer, has worked very hard with Paige Dukes, Lowndes County Public Information Officer, on this joint venture between the City, County, and Moody Air Force Base.

The Five Points and Municipal Auditorium Steering Committee is continuing to do their work and the Request for Qualifications Committee which met yesterday and narrowed the firms from 13 to 5. They will be interviewing those firms at the end of this month and Council will vote to award a contract to the selected firm at the first Council Meeting in October so that they can begin the design and master planning of that site.

Larry Hanson invited everyone to attend a reception for the new Mayor and City Councilman for District 3 in the City Hall Annex Building’s Multi-Purpose following the conclusion of the Council Meeting. Larry Hanson congratulated Mayor Vickers on his appointment and stated that even though he is not an elected official he has served longer with him than anyone on the Council. They have always had a great relationship and not only has Mayor Vickers been an outstanding elected official, but he has also been a friend, mentor, and boss over the years.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Payton stated that he looked forward to working with Mayor Vickers and it has truly been an honor to serve with him these past six years. Also, Councilman Payton encouraged Council and the audience to participate in the Five Points and Municipal Auditorium survey that is on-line.

Councilman Carroll stated that he wanted to memorialize the fact that someone other than him has now used the longest running rationale for a motion. He also wanted to welcome the new Mayor and the new City Council Representative for in District 3.

Councilman Hampton stated that he wanted to thank every one of you for recommending him to serve as a Council member one more time. He also wanted to thank all of the citizens in the audience for their support.

Councilman Yost welcomed the new Mayor and Councilman Hampton. A lot of thought and effort went into making this a seamless transition for all the citizens and he congratulated Staff who worked hard behind the scenes to make this happen.

Councilman Wright congratulated Mayor Vickers and stated that he has learned a lot from his wisdom and experience. This has been one of the best ways to move our City forward in a positive manner.

Councilwoman White thanked Mayor Pro Tem Payton for stepping up and guiding this ship through some troubling times and for all that he has done for the Council.

Councilman Norton congratulated the new Mayor and Councilman in District 3 and stated that he looked forward to serving with them during the next four months. Councilman Norton stated that there is one more Farm Day at the Lowndes County Courthouse square and encouraged Mayor and Council to attend. He thanked Mara Register, Assistant to the City Manager, and Staff for all of their hard work in making this a success. This was a great way for the local and regional farmers to share their wares and products with Valdosta.

Mayor Vickers stated that he appreciated the confidence that they have placed in him and it is an honor to serve as the new Mayor. He will be calling on each Council member to help him through this during the next four

months. He also appreciated the citizens who have supported him during the past 40-45 years in his community activities. This is a humble honor to serve as Mayor of the City of Valdosta.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Ruth Kimble Council, a former member of the Valdosta City Council, stated that she wanted to express her appreciation to Mayor Pro Tem Alvin Payton, Jr. for a job well done and thanked Councilman Hampton for accepting this responsibility. Ms. Council also thanked the other members of Council for what they have done. They have helped Mayor Vickers to make history in Valdosta and for the black community and they were very proud.

Roy Taylor, 2209 Bridlewood Drive, thanked Ms. Council for her years as a City Council person and stated that she was widely respected in the community. She made him proud to be a part of Valdosta. Mr. Taylor also thanked Council for their efforts in amending the Travel Policy.

George Boston Rhynes, 5004 Oak Drive, stated that he was honored to be at this historic event and he thanked Council for doing the right thing. Mr. Rhynes thanked Council for their support of the new Mayor.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Vickers entertained a motion for adjournment.

A MOTION by Councilman Payton, seconded by Councilman Carroll, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to adjourn the September 8, 2011 meeting of the Valdosta City Council at 6:45 p.m. to meet again in regular session on Thursday, September 22, 2011.

City Clerk, City of Valdosta

Mayor, City of Valdosta