

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE VALDOSTA CITY COUNCIL
5:30 P.M., THURSDAY, JUNE 22, 2017
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL

OPENING CEREMONIES

Mayor John Gayle called the regular meeting of the Valdosta City Council to order at 5:30 p.m. Council members present were: Joseph “Sonny” Vickers, Tim Carroll, Ben Norton, Alvin Payton, Jr., Sandra Tooley, Robert Yost, and Vivian Miller-Cody. The invocation was given by Pastor Curtis Jenkins, New Life Bible Church, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag led by Boy Scout Troop 454, Trinity Presbyterian Church.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH AWARD

Consideration of the June, 2017 Employee of the Month Award (Lt. Justin Ply, Valdosta Fire Department). This was postponed at the June 8, 2017 Regular Council Meeting until the June 22, 2017 Regular Council Meeting.

Battalion Chief Johnny Henry stated that Justin Ply began his employment with the City of Valdosta Fire Department in November, 1998 and currently holds the position of Lieutenant in the Training Division. Lt. Ply is responsible for ensuring all Fire Department personnel hone the necessary knowledge, skills, and abilities to perform their duties safely, effectively, and efficiently. The Training Division is also responsible for ensuring all employees meet their required ISO training hours. Recently, while attending a promotional assessment in Gainesville, Florida, Lt. Ply was sitting at an intersection when he witnessed a male and female in a heated argument on the side of the roadway. He witnessed the male throwing the female to the ground and pulling his fist back as if to punch her. The man was yelling profanity at her, threatening to kill her, and then struck her in the head. Lt. Ply immediately pulled off the road to stop the man and prevent any further abuse. Lt. Ply told the man not to touch the lady again or he would intervene and then he immediately called 911. The dispatcher advised that there were numerous calls about this incident; however, no one stopped to help until Lt. Ply. The man became very belligerent with the lady and Lt. Ply; however, he never struck the lady again and left the area on a moped. Shortly afterwards, a law enforcement helicopter circled the area until law enforcement personnel arrived on the scene. Lt. Ply stayed by the lady’s side until law enforcement informed him he was clear to leave. Lt. Ply’s daring and possible dangerous intervention prevented any further abuse and possibly saved the lady’s life. For these reasons and many others, the Employee Relations Committee nominated Lt. Justin Ply as Employee of the Month.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the June 8, 2017 Regular Meeting were approved by unanimous consent (7-0) of the Council.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

ORDINANCE NO. 2017-13, ADOPTION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2018 BUDGET (THIRD HEARING)

Public Hearing for the adoption of the Fiscal Year 2018 Budget. (Third Hearing)

Mark Barber, Assistant City Manager, stated that this is the third hearing for the adoption of the City of Valdosta’s Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 Budget. The State does require two public hearings for adoption of the Budget; however, the City of Valdosta holds three Public Hearings just to ensure that everyone has an opportunity to hear about the Budget. The proposed FY 2018 Budget includes total uses of \$97.2 million and total sources of \$97.9 million which give us approximately \$651,000 of excess revenues over expenditures for the entire City. The General Fund includes Public Safety, Engineering Staff, City Marshals, City Council, and Executive Staff. The major funding sources for the General Fund are property and sales taxes. The Special Revenue Fund includes funds that have a special designation and can only be used in a certain method. This includes the Accommodations Tax as well as the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) allocation for the year which is \$1,700 higher than

what was anticipated. The Capital Projects Fund includes the SPLOST funding for the year. The Proprietary Fund includes two types of funds which are Enterprise Funds and Internal Service Funds. The Enterprise Funds are funds paid by citizens in the form of a user fee for services such as water and sewer and sanitation. The Internal Service Funds includes the Motor Pool Fund, Group Insurance, Worker's Compensation, and the IT Fund. These are funds that provide a service to the City and without them we would have to go out and find a third party source of providing those services. The final Fund is the Cemetery Trust Fund. The overall budget as compared to last year did increase \$8.1 million. The Operating Budget includes the five major expense categories such as personal service, contractual services, supplies, professional services, and travel and training. This is up \$4.3 million as compared to last year and more than half of that increase is due to the Compensation Study and Survey that was conducted last year. Last year we only implemented nine months of that Survey due to budgetary constraints so this Budget year will be the first time that we have implemented the full 12 months. We are recommending a 1.25% wage increase for our employees which accounts for more than half of that increase. The other \$2.3 million is due to supplies and what we need to operate the City going up. Last year we budgeted \$16.7 million for capital and this year we are budgeting \$36.6 million. Last year and prior years we had larger amounts for the Force Main Project and the Withlacoochee Wastewater Treatment Plant Project. We were coming to the end of those Projects last year. This year we have new capital projects which include the final phase of the Island Annexation utilities extension in the amount of \$13 million. The net increase in capital is \$2.8 million. There was a reduction in debt overall due to the City making the final lease payment for the in-car computers for the Police Department. The biggest expense is Personal Services at 39% and this includes the wages that are paid to the employees and all the benefits associated with those wages. The Other Services are at 28% or \$25.8 million and the biggest charge here is depreciation and other professional services. Contractual Services is at \$11.2 million which represents approximately 12% of the City's Budget and the biggest cost is electricity. We also have contractual labor for right-of-way mowing, stormwater canal cleaning, and our insurance contracts. The Governmental Capital is \$10.9 million and \$9.5 of that is for SPLOST projects. The remainder, \$450,000, is capital that we are going to fund from property taxes such as a new roof for the Police Department and a new pot hole patching machine for Engineering. We have Supplies at \$4.8 million or 5% and the majority of that is for water and sewer supplies. The Debt Service is \$2.2 million or 3% and this number will increase in future years. The Travel and Training is \$650,000 which makes up less than a percent of Budget. The biggest revenue item is user fees for water and sewer and sanitation which is 41% of the Budget. Property taxes come in at \$16.7 million which makes up 18% and includes real and personal motor vehicle taxes. SPLOST comes in at \$9.5 million which represents 10% of our funding. Other taxes come in at 10% which is \$9.4 million such as franchise fees, financial institution tax, and insurance premium tax. The Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) remains what it was last year and we hope that we will get that as well. Contributions are at \$4.5 million or 5% and are contributing capital and not a revenue item. Intergovernmental is at 3% or \$2.6 million which is our local agencies who reimburse us for School Resources Officers, Valdosta Housing Authority, Valdosta Airport Authority, and the HUD funding. For business licenses, we have 2% coming in from business licenses, fines at 1%, and then miscellaneous which would include the sale of parcels of land. In summary, the FY 2018 Budget is balanced and we are presenting a General Fund that does not use the Fund Balance to balance it. There is also \$4.5 million for reduction of the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA) debt that was funded through SPLOST. There is \$5 million for resurfacing, sidewalks, ditch piping, and Parks and Recreation capital needs. There is \$4.4 million for the City's fleet replacement and \$2.6 million of that is for two aerial fire trucks. There is \$21.3 million for continuing improvements to the water and sewer and wastewater facility infrastructure with \$13 million of that for the Annexed Island Project. The employees are our greatest asset and we are proposing a 1.25% wage increase beginning July 1, 2017. The Budget does continue our efforts to remove blight and improve housing in the City. The Budget does not include a property tax increase or an increase in user fees other than the customary 5% increase in the water and sewer rates which has been a practice over a number of years. We do this because we do not want to hit the water and sewer customers with a huge increase every fifth year. It does not include an increase in benefit premiums to our employees and it does not include any type of reduction in the quality of services that the City provides.

Councilman Payton inquired as to whether the Island Annexation Project would be completed in the FY 2018 Budget. Mark Barber stated that the full amount would be in this Budget. Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that he hopes to bring those bids to Council in July.

No one spoke in favor of the request.

No one spoke in opposition to the request.

A **MOTION** by Councilman Vickers, seconded by Councilman Payton, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to enact Ordinance No. 2017-13, an Ordinance to adopt the Fiscal Year 2018 Budget for the City of Valdosta as presented, the complete text of which will be found in Ordinance Book XIII.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

ORDINANCE NO. 2017-14, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CASH BOND SCHEDULE FOR THE CITY OF VALDOSTA MUNICIPAL COURT

Consideration of an Ordinance to amend the Cash Bond Schedule for the City of Valdosta Municipal Court.

Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that the City of Valdosta Municipal Court has jurisdiction to issue warrants, try cases, and impose sentences in all misdemeanor Traffic, City Ordinance, Environmental, Civil, and Animal Control violations which occur in the City limits of Valdosta. The amounts set for fines are established by the Mayor and Council in accordance with the O.C.G.A. and local Ordinances. Recently, the City of Valdosta conducted a survey of municipalities in the surrounding area and looked at similar sized communities to compare the most common fine amounts. Municipalities that were looked at included Adel, Remerton, Quitman, Lake Park, Dalton, Lowndes County, Warner Robbins, Perry, and Tifton. Only those fines that were below the average surveyed fines were chosen for consideration for an increase. The proposed fines increases are due to the following reasons: (1) Manpower costs for traffic enforcement have increased due to the hours spent investigating accidents, (2) Equipment costs for enforcement have increased along with the need for equipment certifications, (3) Traffic accidents have increased in the City from 2,204 in 2014, 2,570 in 2015, and 2,879 in 2016, (4) and Deterrence. Even after an increase, the Valdosta Municipal Court fines are still below the average fine amounts. Some of the areas that will be increased are DUI (our fine was \$827, mid-point was \$1,158, increase to \$1,000) and Parking Violations (our fine was \$56, mid-point was \$63, increase to \$60). Other areas that will be adjusted include Improper Passing, Tint Violations, Too Fast for Conditions, Failure to Maintain Lane, Defective Equipment, No Insurance, Expired Tag, Following Too Close, Reckless Driving, and Public Intoxication. These fines represent 1% of the City's budget. With the current DUI fine of \$827, the City receives \$376.14 and \$452.86 goes to the State of Georgia even though they have no involvement in making or prosecuting the case. Those fines that are already set with a first, second, and third offense had the same percentage of increase on the second and third violations that were on the initial violation. An Ordinance has been prepared to amend the Cash Bond Schedule used by the Valdosta Municipal Court to increase those fines that were below the average of surveyed fines. Larry Hanson recommended that Council approve the Ordinance to amend the Cash Bond Schedule for the City of Valdosta Municipal Court. Councilman Vickers stated that the Ordinance the City has on overgrown lots is not working in some places and it is the same people who are in violation. The first, second, and third offenses should be counted together and not just each year. Larry Hanson stated that it was discussed at the Mayor and Council Retreat and they have been working on some changes. This will come before Council in July with changes and rather than the clock resetting annually it will reset every 24 months which will accomplish what Councilman Vickers is suggesting.

A **MOTION** was made by Councilman Carroll approve an Ordinance to amend the Cash Bond Schedule for the City of Valdosta Municipal Court. Councilman Norton seconded the motion. Councilman Yost stated that he appreciated the fact that they are going up on fines in certain cases but he did not think they have gone far enough. This is not a revenue-seeking process but it is a change of behavior process and he did not think they were changing behavior. Going mid-way as compared to other cities is not far enough. It is not about bringing in the dollars but changing behavior. Councilman Vickers said it very clearly when he said it was the same people doing the same things over and over and not only on grass but on other things as well. The City Marshals are doing all they can do. We have tied their hands and they cannot do any more. The Charter needs to be changed and the Judge needs to be given leeway. Council needs to do their part and not vote on this tonight. They need to wait until the Grass and Weed Ordinance is changed. We need to look more seriously at this and change more of the fines and put them at the top of what similar cities do or close to it. We are going in the right direction but we are not going far enough. For 16 years he has asked Council to let the Judge fine people and not put a \$1,000 limit on a millionaire. That is a drop in the bucket. He will vote against this tonight but he appreciates what the Staff has done so far but they just need to go further. Councilman Carroll stated that he agreed with Councilman Yost in that there are some fines that need to be raised higher but it is important that they continue to look at it. This is a step in that process and it is important for them to go ahead and take this step because it will send the word that they are

taking this seriously. By approving this tonight it will give them a great foundation to take the next step in the near future. Councilman Payton inquired about the Grass and Weed Ordinance Committee. Mayor Gayle stated that he appointed a Committee which consisted of Councilwoman Tooley, Councilman Norton, and Councilwoman Miller-Cody who came back with some recommendations on policies. The motion to enact Ordinance No. 2017-14 was adopted (6-1) with Councilman Yost voting in opposition, the complete text of which will be found in Ordinance Book XIII.

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-6, A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR A CONTRACT WITH THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR MAINTENANCE OF STATE HIGHWAY ROUTES WITHIN THE CITY OF VALDOSTA

Consideration of a Resolution of Support for a Contract with the Georgia Department of Transportation for Maintenance of State Highway Routes within the City of Valdosta.

Pat Collins, City Engineer, stated that the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) contracts for the maintenance of State routes within the jurisdiction of local municipalities. This Agenda Item seeks City Council authorization to enter into a Contract for Maintenance of Highways and requests that the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized and directed to execute the Contract for and on behalf of the City Council of the City of Valdosta. The amount paid to the City of Valdosta is \$3,500 per mile per year. This program has been in place since 1974. GDOT is paying the City for minor maintenance that is required by Georgia law O.C.G.A. 32-2-2 (a) (2010). Under the Contract, the City will perform minor maintenance (including pavement patching, mowing and cleaning of right-of-way, shoulder maintenance, ditch cleaning, re-seeding and sodding, snow and ice removal, guardrail maintenance, emergency response, and pertinent maintenance for proper and safe operation) and GDOT will perform major maintenance (including highway signs, center and edge line striping, resurfacing, provide guardrail material, etc.). There are 26.58 miles of highway to maintain per the Contract and the total annual amount paid to the City will be \$93,030. This Contract was last brought before Council on December 13, 2012 and is automatically renewed every twelve (12) months to the year 2055; however, the reason this Contract is before City Council for approval again is because the obligation to maintain the Interstate Highway, along with the associated Exhibits to the Contract outlining maintenance and mowing procedures at the Interstate interchanges within the City limits has been removed. It is also noteworthy to point out that the annual mileage and compensation to the City remains unchanged even with the Interstate maintenance and mowing requirements removed. A Resolution for support of the Contract with GDOT has been prepared for Council's approval. Pat Collins recommended that Council approve the Resolution of support for a Contract with the Georgia Department of Transportation for Maintenance of State Highway Routes within the City of Valdosta. Councilman Vickers inquired as to whether this covers more than just mowing. Pat Collins stated that it covers mowing, litter, guardrail repair, pavement patching, cleaning of the right-of-way, shoulder maintenance, ditch cleaning, re-seeding, sodding, snow and ice removal. GDOT will provide the major things such as major resurfacing, rebuilding of roads, and building new structures. Councilwoman Tooley inquired as to whether GDOT makes the decision to repair certain areas. Pat Collins stated that GDOT makes the major repairs and the City makes routine maintenance. Larry Hanson stated that this is grass maintenance and not road maintenance. GDOT recently had two contracts that were awarded for us to raise and lower manholes and they do not consult with the City about what roads they are going to resurface or improve. Councilman Payton inquired as to whether the amount of \$93,030 paid to the City was negotiable. Larry Hanson stated that it was not negotiable. Pat Collins stated that in 2012 this was a major issue because it only partially covers the cost. This is a requirement so you can either take the money and still have the requirements or do it for free. Larry Hanson stated that it was imbedded in State law. Local governments are required to maintain State routes inside cities and you are paid all across the State the same fee and if you choose not to accept it then you still have to maintain the State routes.

A MOTION by Councilman Norton, seconded by Councilman Carroll, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to enact Resolution No. 2017-6, a Resolution of support for a Contract with the Georgia Department of Transportation for Maintenance of State Highway Routes within the City of Valdosta, the complete text of which will be found in Resolution Book V.

Mayor Gayle stated that if there was no objection from Council, Agenda Items 6(a) through 6(f) would be considered under a Consent Agenda. There were no objections from Council.

Greg Brown, Purchasing Agent, stated that all of the items up for bid were approved by Council in the current year budget and asked Council's consideration in following the recommendation of the Purchasing Agent if all of the following bids were accepted at one time: (1) Item 6(a) Consideration of bids for 95 gallon roll out trash containers for the Public Works Department (Bid No. 29-16-17) – the low bid was submitted by IPL in the amount of \$44.40 per cart, (2) Item 6(b) Consideration of bids for plumbing services for the City of Valdosta (Bid No. 30-16-17) - the bid submitted by Roto Rooter in the amount of \$45 for regular labor, \$85 for skilled labor, and a 10% mark up, (3) Item 6(c) Consideration of bids for electrical services for the City of Valdosta (Bid No. 31-16-17) - the bid submitted by Cowart Electric in the amount of \$35.95 for the helper rate and \$38.75 for the electrician rate, (4) Item 6(d) Consideration of bids for HVAC services for the City of Valdosta (Bid No. 32-16-17) - the bid submitted by Waller Heating & Air in the amount of \$45 for the regular rate, \$60 for the overtime rate, and a 30% mark up, (5) Item 6(e) Consideration of bids for ready mix concrete for the City of Valdosta (Bid No. 33-16-17) - the bid submitted by Reames Concrete in the amount of \$120 per yard for Class A and \$114 per yard for Class B, (6) Item 6(f) Consideration of bids for retread tires for the City of Valdosta (Bid No. 34-16-17) - the low bid submitted by Southeastern Tires in the amount of \$22,756.20. Councilman Vickers inquired as to the average cost of one of these tires. Greg Brown stated that the tires for the smaller trucks are \$125 each and \$325 for some of the larger trucks. These are retread tires but you cannot put retread tires on the front axles. The City spends approximately \$40,000 per year for the rear tires on the larger trucks. Mayor Gayle inquired about the amount of \$22,756.20. Greg Brown stated that this is an estimated annual usage from past numbers based on historical use. Councilman Carroll inquired as to why we only had one bid on the HVAC. Greg Brown stated that he sent this out to 12 people. They make their money on the residential side putting in units. We have used other people in the past and this particular time they did not bid on this. Larry Hanson stated that the last time this was sent out for bid out we had a new company that was the low bidder. We gave them the job and they were unable to perform. Greg Brown stated that we gave them every opportunity and they lasted approximately ten months. Larry Hanson stated that government bidding is very competitive in some areas and there is not a lot of profit margin for them so many chose not to bid because they can make more money doing work elsewhere. Councilman Carroll stated that this one seems to have the largest price increase from last year. Greg Brown stated that two years ago there was some competition and they had to adjust pricing.

A MOTION by Councilman Payton, seconded by Councilman Carroll, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to follow the recommendation of the Purchasing Agent and approve the bids under a Consent Agenda for Agenda Items 6(a) through 6(f).

LOCAL FUNDING AND REQUESTS

Consideration of a request for the abandonment of an easement located at 1121 South Patterson Street.

Pat Collins, City Engineer, stated that the City was recently contacted by a local engineering firm who was working on further development of property located at 1121 South Patterson Street (L & M Hydraulics). They inquired about the possibility of abandoning the portion of an easement that currently lies underneath an existing building. The easement was originally conveyed to the City by a plat of the Carroll, Carroll, and McMullen Subdivision in September, 1999 for the purpose of installing a sewer main to serve private development in the area. The development plans apparently changed at some point and a building was constructed over the southern-most portion of the easement. The proposed sewer main was constructed along a different route through an additional easement that was granted to the City at a later date. The portion of the easement requested to be abandoned is not and has never been used by the City or any other local utility company. Pat Collins recommended that Council approve the request for abandonment of the easement.

A MOTION by Councilman Norton, seconded by Councilman Carroll, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to approve the request for the abandonment of an easement located at 1121 South Patterson Street.

Reverend W. F. Wade stated that he was concerned about burial space at Sunset Hill Cemetery. They have just about run out of space and he wanted to see if the City could appoint a Committee to study whether they need a second Sunset Hill Cemetery. Mayor Gayle stated that they are out of space and there are no more lots to sell. Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that there is approximately 20 years' worth of lots that are owned for people to be buried on so we will be in the cemetery business forever. Reverend Wade inquired as to whether the City could purchase some additional land or if someone could donate some land for another cemetery. Mayor Gayle stated that he would take that into consideration.

Princess Lee, 2317 Sterling Place, stated that the streets in the area of Pineview Drive and Leone Drive need a lot of repair. There are large potholes in the road and she has damaged two of her cars. When it rains very hard and at night you cannot see the potholes. The streets need to be resurfaced and that particular stretch has not been repaired in over 20 years. Ms. Lee inquired as to when the street would be repaired. Mayor Gayle stated that they would get back to her on when the street would be repaired. Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that the City Engineer, Pat Collins, has an inventory of all the streets in the City and the condition of each one and he will send out a street crew to evaluate it.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that this Saturday is the last day for Farm Days until September and citizens are encouraged to attend from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

The Budget was unanimously adopted tonight and it is through the guidance of the Mayor and Council at the Retreat and at the lengthy Budget hearings that they were able to accomplish this. They discussed everything in great detail and Council asked good questions.

The Citizens Police Academy had 22 citizens who graduated on Thursday, June 15, 2017 and they had a great experience.

The Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) Annual Convention will be held June 23-27, 2017 in Savannah and they will be offering lots of training classes. The City of Valdosta will also be winning an award at the GMA Convention for participation in the Great Promise Partnership Program. At the luncheon on Monday the City of Valdosta will be recognized and we will be called to the stage to accept an award. They are using the City of Valdosta as an example to all cities in the State.

The Southern Hospitality Group Work Camp will be held next week and there will be 136 young people repairing 12 homes in our City. A tour of the homes has been scheduled for Thursday, June 27, 2017 at 9:30 a.m. This is always an enjoyable event to see the young people working and some of their accomplishments.

The Valdosta Fire Department is now a registered Agency with the Center for Public Safety Excellence and they will now have three years to begin and complete the accreditation process. The Fire Department will now have a lot of heavy lifting to do and the goal is to have both of our public safety agencies with international accreditation.

The Parks and Recreation Authority is planning the biggest fireworks show ever for the 4th of July around the Mall area at 9:15 p.m. The best viewing area is between Exits 16 and 18 and citizens are encouraged to attend.

The Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA) video will be completed within the next several weeks and they will be showing it at an upcoming Water Convention in the State.

In September, 2017, Moody Air Force Base will be celebrating its 70th birthday and Sementha Mathews, Public Information Officer, will be working with them on a celebration to show our community support for them.

The Public Art Advisory Committee would like to place a piece of heart art on the corner of Lee Street and Central Avenue for one year. There will be no expense to the City and we have made sure there are no utilities underneath that. It will be a nice addition and will not affect the placement of the Christmas Tree.

The first Council Meeting in July is scheduled for July 6, 2017 which means the Work Session would fall on the 4th of July Holiday. The two choices we have would be to cancel the Work Session and or schedule the Work Session at 4:00 p.m. on the day of the Council Meeting. Councilman Payton stated that he would prefer to have it on the day as the Council Meeting. Councilwoman Tooley inquired as to whether there was a requirement to have a Work Session. Larry Hanson stated that there was no requirement to have a Work Session and it is mainly for Council's convenience and preparation for the Council Meeting. Councilman Payton inquired as to whether they could wait to see how many Agenda Items there would be before they make a decision. Larry Hanson stated that they could wait until next week to see what would be on the Agenda.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Vickers stated that when citizens speak under Citizens to Be Heard and make a request he would like for the Mayor and City Manager to let Council know what decisions are made. Mayor Gayle stated that was a good suggestion and he would take it into consideration.

Councilman Carroll thanked Mark Barber, Assistant City Manager, the Budget Staff, and Larry Hanson, City Manager, for their work on the Budget. The process this year was one of best and easiest to understand. The summary presentation was easy for anyone to look at and understand the numbers and how they work. They did a great job.

Councilman Yost stated that he wanted to echo the same sentiments as Councilman Carroll on the Budget. In his 16 years on the Council, this Budget was the best one to look at and it was easy to understand. The Staff is to be commended on a great job. Councilman Yost also stated that he assumed everyone on the Council had read the memo from the Hospital Authority and he wanted to review a couple of things because he was not sure the public hears everything or sees what we see. He wanted to go over a few things about the Hospital Authority and the firing of the CEO Ray Snead. Ray Snead was fired and he will be paid for three years at \$650,000 per year which is over \$2 million plus \$2,000 per month for a car allowance. The City Manager who manages the entire City does not make over \$200,000 and he does not have a car allowance of \$2,000 per month. He cannot fathom that. Councilman Yost stated that he makes a decent salary with a non-profit organization and it would take him over twenty years to make that and he would be dead. This gentleman got fired and is making over \$2 million on his way at the door. This is the same man who thought the citizens of the City of Valdosta should help financially support the hospital through our tax dollars. He was thinking about that sweet compensation package. Compensation is paid to some who are fired from their jobs but not all of them and certainly not at \$650,000 per year. When it is time to reappoint the City of Valdosta's representatives on the Hospital Authority, we need to make sure they are all reappointed. They make such great decisions that there is no one else who can do a better job. Some examples of how good they have been includes the purchase of Smith-Northview Hospital without a vote by the entire Hospital Authority and what a waste of money, the hiring of a CEO that they then had to fire and are paying him for three years, and their Attorney who camped out at the hospital and they had to make him take his tent and go home. The Attorney was fired too and he wondered how much his compensation package because as an Attorney he knows how to negotiate those things. They have also run the Emergency Room into the ground. They have run off doctors, nurses, and regular employees, some who worked for the hospital for 25 to 30 years. They have intimidated employees and treated them like dirt. Councilman Yost inquired as to how the Hospital Foundation could justify the need to ask donors for millions of dollars to help support the hospital when the Hospital Authority continues to waste the money on huge compensation packages and bad business decisions. This is who we appoint and continue to reappoint. He is not sure how it can get any better than these guys. He would like to see what the new CEO and Attorney is being compensated on a monthly basis. He thinks the Hospital Authority should release that information immediately. He inquired as to how many years the next CEO and Attorney, who will eventually be fired, are going to be paid down the road. How many millions are they going to pay these guys when they are fired? The Hospital Authority appointees have made very bad decisions on our behalf and they should all be fired; however, no one can hold them accountable so they cannot be fired. They should just resign and enjoy their compensation packages. He does not get it but maybe someone can tell him how you can spend \$650,000 and not earn it, get paid \$2,000 a month for travel and you are not traveling on behalf of the Hospital Authority, and also have paid health insurance.

Mayor Gayle entertained a motion for adjournment.

A **MOTION** by Councilman Carroll, seconded by Councilman Norton, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to adjourn the June 22, 2017 Meeting of the Valdosta City Council at 6:38 p.m. to meet again in Regular Session on Thursday, July 6, 2017.

City Clerk, City of Valdosta

Mayor, City of Valdosta