

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE VALDOSTA CITY COUNCIL
5:30 P.M., THURSDAY, JUNE 23, 2016
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. Mark Barber, Assistant City Manager, and Tim Tanner, Attorney with Coleman Talley, LLP, filled in for Larry Hanson, City Manager, and George Talley, City Attorney, respectively, who were absent. The invocation was given by Pastor Martin Collins, Southland Baptist Church, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the June 9, 2016 Regular Meeting were approved by unanimous consent (7-0) of the Council.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

ORDINANCE NO. 2016-14, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CITY OF VALDOSTA'S LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS (LDR)

Consideration of an Ordinance to amend the City of Valdosta's Land Development Regulations (LDR) as it pertains to Chapter 106 - Definitions, Chapter 210 - Overlay Districts, and Chapter 230 - Sign Regulations (File No. VA-2016-09). The Greater Lowndes Planning Commission reviewed this request at their May Regular Meeting and recommended approval (5-1 vote). This request was tabled at the June 9, 2016 Regular Council Meeting until the June 23, 2016 Regular Council Meeting.

Matt Martin, Planning & Zoning Administrator, stated that this request was tabled for two weeks at the June 9, 2016 Regular Council Meeting to allow the Sign Regulations Committee to reconvene and meet with citizens on the proposed changes to the LDR. The Sign Regulations Committee Meeting was held on June 20, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. and there were 24 people in attendance. There was a lot of discussion and, as a result, the Sign Regulations Committee has amended their recommendation for the proposed amendments. The Valdosta-Lowndes County Chamber of Commerce SORT Committee presented the following recommendations to the Sign Regulations Committee: (1) Add the flexibility of including a designated area on the exterior wall of a building that can be used as a changeable copy area to be included in the overall fixed wall sign allotments. It would be permitted as a permanent wall sign with the size to be determined as a proportion of the wall size. (2) Reconsider the one-month-of-the-quarter restriction on temporary signs (maybe two-months-of-the-quarter). (3) Create an allowance for a free-standing changeable message sign if it is attached to a permanent approved structure. These recommendations were discussed and taken into consideration during the Committee deliberations immediately following the Sign Regulations Committee Meeting. All members of the Sign Regulations Committee were in agreement and supportive of these proposed changes, as revised, which resulted from these additional discussions and public input. The changes to the proposed amendments are summarized as follows: (1) Banner display period increased from 30 to 45 consecutive days per calendar quarter. (2) Maximum size for a banner is increased from either 30 or 48 square feet (depending on zoning district), to 100 square feet for all districts; however, banners are still subject to the same proportional scale limitation of 1 square foot per 3 linear feet of façade width. With this change that sets the same maximum size of banners in all districts to 100 square feet, sub-paragraphs (b) and (c) have now been combined together and the text has been eliminated which referred to individual Zoning Districts. This also means that existing institutional uses (such as a church) in a Single-Family Zoning District will now be eligible for a banner on their wall in the same manner as a business. (3) Amend the provisions for special decorative banners (like the ones that are on the street poles in Downtown with special mounting brackets). The maximum vertical dimension will be increased from 4' to 5'. (4) For real estate signage (exempt from permitting), the language has been clarified to include a temporary banner (or either a small regular wall sign or small freestanding sign) as a possible choice for the exempted real estate sign. (5) For the banner definition, this has been amended to state that those which are securely framed/mounted and affixed to a building like a typical wall sign

shall be considered the same as a wall sign. None of the other proposed amendments are affected by these changes, and the recommendation from Staff remains the same as presented earlier. The effective date of these proposed changes would be July 1, 2016.

Councilman Vickers inquired as to whether they would be using three months or four months for quarters. Matt Martin stated that they would be using a three-month period. Councilman Vickers inquired as to what feedback he has received from the business community on the changes. Matt Martin stated that there has been a mixture of feedback.

Allan Dear, Bud McKey Circle, stated that he is the current Chairman of the Chamber's SORT Committee and spoke in favor of the request. The SORT Committee has had a lot of input into this and they feel that the amendments as presented are within the parameters of both the City and the business community. The SORT Committee was formed in 2010 and they have been involved in issues such as the Moody Activity Zone, crepe myrtles, and many others. Businesses in Valdosta have to conform and do things under regulations but at the same time they want to keep the City attractive. The SORT Committee is pro-business but they also realize that there is a compromise needed. Mr. Dear thanked the Council and Staff who have worked with the SORT Committee over the past six years. All the things that they have done have been economically good for the City of Valdosta and Lowndes County.

Roger Budd, III, 11 Tremblewood Trail, spoke in opposition to the request. Mr. Budd stated that these issues were addressed in 2010 and several changes were made. The changes made the LDR easier to do business and now the City is rolling those back and making it more difficult to have signs and banners in the City of Valdosta. This seems like an anti-business move. Increasing the difficulty of opening a business in Valdosta is counter-productive and he suggested that they not go in that direction. This is not a good time economically to be making these types of changes. He does not know of anyone in the business community who is in favor of these changes. From a small business prospective, having portable signs is a cheap and effective way to convey the message. We do not need to be getting involved in high taxes and over regulation. We need to consider cutting the government and not creating problems where none currently exist which is what is being done here. There was a similar situation with crepe myrtles earlier this year that was addressed. This was government bureaucrats running amuck in the City of Valdosta. Mr. Budd stated that he attended the meeting on June 30th and there was a lot of negativity from the business community at the Meeting. There were 20-30 people in attendance and they talked for 90 minutes but nothing was concluded. People love portable signs and banners because they are cheap and effective. They want visibility from Ashley Street and other streets in the community. Councilman Vickers inquired as to whether Mr. Budd thought 45 days out of a quarter was sufficient. Mr. Budd stated that it was just another level of government regulations and inquired as to whether we were regulating the 45 days now. Businesses are still going along with what they are doing now since 2010 and inquired as to where the push was coming from to do this. They could be pushing in the wrong direction and they should stop and consider going with the status quo.

Kent Buescher, 5 Ramblewood Circle, stated that he was not totally in opposition to the request. He met with the Sign Regulations Committee and brought forth some longer time frames to leave a temporary banner up. He feels like this needs to be revisited. Also, they need to look at the ability to locate a banner on a temporary structure (such as Park Avenue United Methodist Church placing a banner periodically to promote special services and events). They would not be able to do that under the new regulations. There needs to be some flexibility. We want to beautify the City but he wondered if we were trying to do the wrong thing. When you put restrictions on businesses then maybe the effect is worse than what you want to do. It could force more businesses out of business. He would hate to see more closures. Also, the other issue that he is concerned about is placement of a banner on a permanent fence. It is not unsightly in most cases and it would provide businesses that sit far back from the road a chance to advertise. He would also like to see changes to the pole banners like the ones used Downtown. They have been increased to 2' x 5' but it is below the standard sizes that he sees most businesses putting up in a parking lot where they have multiple light poles. They have a lot of customers that use these pole banners and the ones they recommend have a spring-loaded permanent fixture that is attached to a pole. The advantage of the spring is that it allows the wind to bleed off and you do not have a safety hazard. These are only available in a 30" width. For safety purposes, the 2' x 4' or the 2' x 5' should be changed to 30" x 5'. Mr. Buescher thanked Mayor Gayle for appointing a Committee and allowing public input.

Councilman Yost inquired as to whether Matt Martin, Planning & Zoning Administrator, could address the fence banners and banners used by churches so they could have some clarification on those.

Matt Martin, Planning & Zoning Administrator, stated that free standing banners have never been allowed. If they are framed and resemble a free standing sign then they are permitted like a free standing sign. If they are framed and put on the wall of a building then they are treated as a wall sign. Since 2010, banners were allowed on a permanent fence and that was the one banner per business. Not every business is fortunate enough to have a fence near the road. Councilman Vickers inquired as to whether Park Avenue United Methodist Church would be able to use signs to advertise their events two or three times a year under the new Ordinance. Matt Martin stated that they are not allowed to do that under the current Ordinance in that manner. They would have to utilize their existing sign. One of the things recommended in the changes is to allow these banners in Residential Zoning for institutional use such as a church. Previously, they could not have a banner on the building at all. Councilman Vickers stated that Park Avenue United Methodist Church has the banner sitting out on the lawn for a couple of weeks. Matt Martin stated that part of it is the fact that they are zoned Residential. Kent Buescher inquired as to whether they could not have a free standing banner. Matt Martin stated that if they framed the banner and it resembled a free standing sign then it would be subject to the rules of a free standing sign. Councilman Carroll inquired about the pole banners and whether the only spring-loaded ones were only available in a minimum of 30". Kent Buescher stated that those banners only come in one size which is 30".

Dan Davis, 1001 Cherry Creek Drive, stated that he was very much opposed to the suggested changes on the Sign Ordinance. This will be the death of a lot of small businesses in Valdosta. It is anti-business and especially anti-small business. Small businesses rely on signs and banners and this is directly geared to put them out of business. If the City keeps doing stuff like this the only thing that will be left in Valdosta will be Wal-Mart and McDonald's. The small businesses are struggling. They are the ones that the Community Partners in Education ask for support. Every week someone comes to his business for a donation and they never turn down anyone. He has been in business for 41 years and this is getting ridiculous. It is getting so difficult for them to do business in Valdosta. Ace Hardware, which is located near his business, has 11 banners attached to different fences and the City is not going to tell Mr. Miller that he is running a bad business or trashing his business. Mr. Davis asked for Council's consideration in revisiting the proposed changes.

Roy Taylor, 2209 Bridlewood Drive, stated that he wanted Council members to listen to their heart. They are citizens of this community and they are asking for the right to run a business and create jobs. The man who created Home Depot gave a speech not long ago and said with the hindrance from the Federal, State, and local government that you would never be able to create another Home Depot. Mr. Taylor stated that Kent Buescher has created an empire in Valdosta and he has created more jobs for this community. He is asking you to do things not to hurt him but to make things better. There are a lot of young people out there looking for jobs. Mr. Taylor stated that we do not need more regulations but we need more jobs.

Councilman Yost stated that he wanted to thank members of the Sign Regulations Committee for serving on this Committee. This is a thankless job in dealing with this particular Ordinance. There were a lot of people who made their views very clear during the Sign Regulations Committee Meeting on Monday. It is their job to listen to those views and then do what they feel is best. He also thanked everyone who came forward at the Meeting, the Chamber, and Mr. Buescher for specific ideas of what they could change in order to make the Ordinance better. They discussed all the ideas that were presented and as a Committee they feel that they did compromise and change several of the items. They did their due diligence in looking at all the information presented. He also thanked Staff for working with them and educating them on the entire process. There are a lot of little details involved in this Ordinance. This is a living document and that does not mean that it cannot be changed at the next Council Meeting; however, today they are going to make a decision on what they feel is best right now. Just because they change something tonight does not mean it is written in stone. It can be changed in the future and that is their job to review things when brought to their attention.

A MOTION was made by Councilman Yost to adopt the revised changes as presented by Staff. Councilman Carroll seconded the motion. Councilman Carroll stated that in some of the conversations it never came up about the issue of size limitations for the spring-loaded pole banners that was brought forth by Mr. Buescher. There have not been a lot of requests for this type of sign but he wanted to amend the motion to raise it

from 24" to 30" so they can allow a safer sign to be put up on poles. Councilman Yost stated that if Staff was in agreement then he was fine with that. His preference would be to vote on what was presented because they looked at it and he has had time to present that to the Committee. Councilman Carroll stated that he understood. Councilman Yost stated that his preference would be not to add anything or change his motion; however, if Staff can live with 30" then he is fine with that since they are the professionals in the field and make a lot of decisions when looking at this. Matt Martin, Planning & Zoning Administrator, stated that Staff has no issue with increasing the width to 30". They have not had many requests for this yet so the first few will be a trial run. Part of the review process will be evaluated by Staff and one of the concerns he could think of would be that not all poles are built the same. Staff will have input into that process but they could try 30" wide to see how that works. If it proves to be a problem then they could revisit it. Councilman Carroll stated that one reason why they haven't been used is that they are small and at a certain distance they are totally ineffective. With the slight increase in size and length it may open a door. There may be businesses that look to utilize those because they are attractive. U. S. Press also makes signs for the City of Douglas, the City of Waycross, and others and they are all about the same size. There could be some advantages to this. Councilman Yost stated that unless someone has a specific comment on this specific issue then he did not have a problem amending the motion to change it from 24" to 30". Councilman Norton inquired as to what the purpose was in putting restrictions on signs on fences. There are a lot of businesses in town who utilize that. He also inquired about the small businesses that have the small square footage or frontage and their sign cannot be as large as the business next to them which may be a large building. Matt Martin stated that they are not rolling everything back to what it was in 2010. One of the changes for banners is that they will be 24 square feet regardless of the size of the business. Councilman Norton inquired as to whether that would be one per business. Matt Martin stated that was correct. Councilman Norton inquired about those businesses that utilize numerous signs now. We expect them to advertise the types of products they have inside so why would we limit it to one if they have a fence large enough to accommodate it. Matt Martin stated that it is one temporary banner and they still have free standing signs. Councilman Norton stated that they could put a free standing sign next to their fence but not attached to their fence. Matt Martin stated that was correct. Councilman Norton stated that he did not understand why they are doing that because if putting it on a fence is fine now then why go back to putting it only on the building. Councilman Carroll stated that the reason he supported not allowing this was because if someone wanted to put a sign on a fence then they could call the chain link fence company, get them to put some posts up, and then put chain link in between the posts. They would then have a fence so someone could possibly put a sign up on the chain link fence. Councilman Norton stated that he did not think a business is going to do something that will detract from the beauty of their business to entice people to come in and shop at their establishment. Councilman Carroll stated that he was not arguing with that but you do open the door that the permanent structure suddenly can be a section of chain link fence. Councilwoman Tooley stated that they should go ahead and leave the motion as it is because it is apparent that they are going to be revisiting this again. She is pro small business and has more questions as well. They are not going to get through everything tonight so they need to proceed with leaving it as it is because it is not written in stone and they can amend it at a later date. Councilman Vickers stated that they will never have an Ordinance that everyone is in 100% agreement with and he will reluctantly support this with the knowledge that it is not written in stone. Sometimes they do things and then it is hard to go back to it. All the Ordinances need to be revisited from time to time. Councilman Vickers commended the Sign Regulations Committee for making some adjustment to the business community even though it may not be as much as they wanted or as much as he likes. He does not feel that Council is anti-small business but that is the perception. They have showed a lot of courage in making some adjustments to it and he is in support of it along those lines. Councilman Payton stated that he wanted to thank those people who served on the Committee as well as Staff. They had a lot of input and that is always important. Councilman Yost stated that in regards to Councilman Norton's concern about the fencing, they discussed this at length and part of the problem was clutter and more banners and other things on fences. They had to look at the big picture and when there is a time to look at this again then he will not be on that Committee. The Committee looked at everything along with Staff and they worked very hard on bringing these changes. Tim Tanner, Attorney, stated that for clarification and for the record they are amending Section 230-9(e)(2)(c)(2). Mayor Gayle asked Teresa Bolden, City Clerk, for clarification on the motion. Teresa Bolden stated that the motion made by Councilman Yost was to approve the changes as presented by Staff. Councilman Carroll seconded the motion. There was discussion regarding changes to pole banners from 24" to 30" and Councilman Yost was in agreement with the change as long as Staff approved. Staff was in agreement with the change. Councilman Carroll was also in agreement with the amendment to the motion. The motion was adopted (5-2) with Councilman Norton and Councilwoman Miller-Cody voting in opposition to enact Ordinance No. 2016-14, an Ordinance to amend the City of Valdosta's Land Development Regulations (LDR)

as it pertains to Chapter 106 - Definitions, Chapter 210 - Overlay Districts, and Chapter 230 - Sign Regulations, the complete text of which will be found in Ordinance Book XIII.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Consideration of an Ordinance to amend the Animal Control Ordinance. (First Reading)

Mayor Gayle stated that this is the First Reading of an Amendment to the Animal Control Ordinance and no vote will be taken tonight. Police Chief Brian Childress stated that the current City Ordinance addresses treatment, security, licensing, and enforcement of animal control activities inside the City Limits of Valdosta. In the past, Lowndes County Animal Control and Valdosta Police Officers have been charged with enforcing this Ordinance inside the City Limits. Recently the Lowndes County Commission adopted a revised Ordinance pertaining to animals. Due to the fact Lowndes County Animal Control is partly responsible for the enforcement of both County and City Ordinances pertaining to animals, in an effort to be consistent with both Ordinances and to be fair to both City and County residents, the City has reviewed the current Animal Ordinance, Chapter 14, and made revisions to be consistent with the adopted County Ordinance. There have been some definition changes which either spelled out the Georgia law or followed the County's definition. The biggest change was to prohibit the sale of animals on corners throughout the City and we have adopted the County's portion of that. We also have used the County's Ordinance on tethering. The County's Ordinance states that you have to have a line with a rotating hook to allow the animal to run free range within a certain distance. It also includes that you cannot let the animal run past outside their property. The reason why they do not want animals chained to a stationary object is because overall it is better and safer to let the animal run back and forth. They did leave some language in the Ordinance regarding fees and fines which is a little different than the County. These are good changes though because it is enforceable in the City and the County.

Councilman Vickers stated that he has received calls about aggressive raccoons and opossums and inquired as to how that would be handled. Chief Childress stated that this is addressed in the Ordinance under the Section that mentions vicious animals; however, the Police and Animal Control can respond to a vicious animal and assist with trapping the animal if necessary. Councilman Yost inquired as to how many people are employed in the Animal Control Department, how many are out on calls, and how many are available to the community to pick up dogs or stray animals. Chief Childress stated that he would get that information from Animal Control. Councilman Carroll stated that he has had calls from several citizens in his District and Animal Control did a great job and was very efficient and professional. Councilman Vickers inquired as to how the public would be notified about the changes in the Ordinance. Tim Tanner, Attorney, stated that any manner that Council deems fit to advertise would be appropriate such as on the City's website or in social media outlets.

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-8, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF AN APPLICATION WITH THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE TO APPLY FOR GRANT FUNDS FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO LAW ENFORCEMENT CAPABILITIES

Consideration of a Resolution authorizing the filing of an application with the U. S. Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance to apply for Grant Funds for improvements to the law enforcement capabilities of the Valdosta Police Department and the Lowndes County Sheriff's Office.

Police Chief Brian Childress stated that the City received funding under the Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program in 2005 through 2015. Since a disparate situation exists between the City of Valdosta and Lowndes County, the grants were joint projects where both law enforcement agencies teamed together to request Federal grant funds to improve law enforcement services in the City of Valdosta/Lowndes County area. The grant guidelines identify seven purpose areas for which grant funding can be utilized: (1) law enforcement programs, (2) prosecution and court programs, (3) prevention and education programs, (4) corrections and community corrections programs, (5) drug treatment and enforcement programs, (6) planning, evaluation, and technology improvement programs, and (7) crime victims and witness programs. In 2007 and 2009, the City and the County were each awarded allocations for use in one of seven program purpose areas with crime victim and witness programs (other than compensation) being added to the program purpose areas. The funding in 2008 was so low that the County did not request any of the funding allocation. The 2005 through 2015 grants are complete.

The City and County has completed their portion of the 2015 award and the City has completed the closeout package. For the 2016 Grant Program, a lump sum was again awarded and after previous discussion with the Department of Justice, it was recommended the split of funding be based on FBI Part 1 Crimes in the City and County. A split has been proposed as follows: \$12,292 for the City of Valdosta and \$4,558 for Lowndes County. Since a disparate situation exists with Lowndes County, an agreement must be reached on the allocation of funding between entities. Both the City and the County will use their funding for one of the seven program purpose areas. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been executed with the County pursuant to the allocation breakdown. The City will file the grant application for the entire amount of \$16,850 and act as the fiscal agent for the funding. No match is required for the grant. Chief Childress recommended that Council approve the Resolution authorizing the filing of an application with the U. S. Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance to apply for Grant Funds for improvements to the law enforcement capabilities of the Valdosta Police Department and the Lowndes County Sheriff's Office.

A MOTION by Councilman Vickers, seconded by Councilman Payton, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to enact Resolution No. 2016-8, a Resolution authorizing the filing of an application with the U. S. Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance to apply for Grant Funds for improvements to the law enforcement capabilities of the Valdosta Police Department and the Lowndes County Sheriff's Office, the complete text of which will be found in Resolution Book V.

BIDS, CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS, AND EXPENDITURES

Mayor Gayle stated that if there was no objection from Council, Agenda Items 5(a) through 5(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 5(a) Consideration of bids for ready mix concrete for the City of Valdosta (Bid No. 23-15-16) – the low bid was submitted by Scruggs Concrete in the amount of \$107 for Class A and \$103 for Class B, (2) Item 5(b) Consideration of bids for retread tires for the City of Valdosta (Bid No. 24-15-16) – the low bid was submitted by Snider's Fleet in the amount of \$18,269 (3) Item 5(c) Consideration of bids for work uniforms for the City of Valdosta (Bid No. 25-15-16) – the low bid was submitted by Cintas in the amount of \$16,749.22, (4) Item 5(d) Consideration of bids for gas and diesel fuel for the City of Valdosta (Bid No. 26-15-16) – the low bid was submitted by Petroleum Traders in the amount of .0389, (5) Item 5(e) Consideration of bids for hand tools for the City of Valdosta (Bid No. 27-15-16) – the low bid was submitted by Whitehead/Miller Hardware in the amount of \$19,235.95, and (6) Consideration of bids for filters for the City of Valdosta (Bid No. 27-15-16) – the low bid was submitted by The Parts House in the amount of 62% discount off the jobber price.

A MOTION by Councilman Payton, seconded by Councilman Norton, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to follow the recommendation of the Purchasing Agent and approve the low bids under a Consent Agenda for Agenda Items 5(a) through 5(f).

Consideration of an Amendment to the Parsons Contract for additional Construction Management Services for the Force Main Project.

Henry Hicks, Utilities Director, stated that Parsons is the design Engineer for the Force Main Project and has utilized Lovell Engineering for the design of the gravity and force main segments of this Project. City Council authorized Amendment No. 9 to the Parsons Contract in November, 2015 which included \$144,270 for extended Construction Management Service as a result of an extension to the completion date for the Force Main Project. This extension was a direct result of lost work days due to above normal rain delays that went over the number of days contemplated in the original contract scope for Construction Management by Parsons. Since that November Council action, an additional 11 days in delays occurred as a result of negotiations for a new unplanned easement through an Advanced Disposal Services (ADS) buffer zone for the pipeline connecting the new Treatment Plant to the existing outfall at the old Withlacoochee Plant. Immediately following this delay, a major rain event resulted in river flooding which effectively brought any chances of final completion of connections to the Gornito Road and Remer Pump Stations to a halt, as well as elsewhere on other associated portions of the Project. Finally, several

unexpected but necessary changes were required before certifications of substantial completion could be issued. Work delays as a result of these incidences have pushed the substantial completion deadline to early June, 2016. Amendment No. 10 authorizes additional Construction Management Services for the Force Main project to its planned substantial completion date of May 23, 2016. Tasks to be performed under this Amendment pursuant to and in support of the Agreement include: (1) Task 1 - Provide Construction Management Services to monitor the Force Main Project through the revised Substantial Completion Date of May 23, 2016 as agreed upon between the City and Force Main contractor (\$115,400). (2) Task 2 - Provide NPDES Permit Inspection on the Force Main Project until erosion control systems are removed and soils stabilized (estimated at \$36,000 through August 31, 2016). (3) Owner Direct Purchase of muffler systems for air relief valves at both the Gornto Road and Remer Pump Stations to reduce noise levels (\$58,000). The total estimated cost (including lump sum and allowance items) to complete Tasks 1 and 2 above, as well as the cost for Owner Direct Purchase of necessary muffler systems is \$209,400. With the approval of Amendment No. 10, the total for construction, design and Construction Management services will be \$308,145.29 in excess of the existing Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA) Loan and will need to be paid from SPLOST VII funds. The Utilities Department will reduce a current SPLOST VII Project in their budget by this amount to cover these expenses. Henry Hicks, Utilities Director, recommended that Council approve Amendment No. 10 to the Parsons Contract in the amount of \$209,400 for additional Construction Management Services for the Force Main Project.

A MOTION by Councilman Payton, seconded by Councilwoman Miller-Cody, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to approve Amendment No. 10 to the Parsons Contract in the amount of \$209,400 for additional Construction Management Services for the Force Main Project.

Consideration of a request to approve a Change Order for the new Withlacoochee Wastewater Treatment Plant Design Build.

Henry Hicks, Utilities Director, stated that Parsons was awarded the Design Build Contract for the new Withlacoochee Treatment Plant in June, 2014. Following contract negotiations, they were issued a Notice to Proceed on September 23, 2014. At that time, the final completion date for this Project was set for May 23, 2016. The Consent Order completion date for this item is August, 2017. The negotiated contract construction price was \$18,306,408 with the City paying for the direct purchase of major equipment in the amount \$4,813,199. The total Project cost is \$23,119,607. The new Plant began operations on June 13, 2016 which was 14 months ahead of the Environmental Protection Division (EPD). Since construction began, one Contract Amendment to address EPD requirements and a series of minor Change Orders were processed as the Project moved forward to address field discrepancies not known at the time of design as well as some minor modifications to improve on the initial design. This Change Order is to address safety equipment at the facility to meet an OSHA requirement for safety rings at each treatment basin and additional costs for pumping of processed wastewater from the old Plant to the new Plant after the contract allotted time due to delays caused by flooding and acquiring the ADS easement. The pumping equipment is still in use as we must remove all remaining wastes from the old Plant before we can initiate a decommissioning plan for the old facility. Henry Hicks, Utilities Director, recommended that Council approve a Change Order in the amount of \$58,573.75 for the new Withlacoochee Wastewater Treatment Plant Design Build.

A MOTION by Councilman Carroll, seconded by Councilman Norton, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to approve a Change Order in the amount of \$58,573.75 for the new Withlacoochee Wastewater Treatment Plant Design Build.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mark Barber, Assistant City Manager, stated that the Annual Water Quality Report was recently mailed to citizens and it is also on the City's website.

On Monday, June 27, 2016, the City of Valdosta will be welcoming Ernie Andrus, a 92-year old gentleman who started running from San Diego, California, in 2013. He is averaging approximately six miles per day and he is headed to Brunswick, Georgia. Mr. Andrus is trying to raise funds for the LST325 Memorial Ship. This was a Navy ship and it is the only one that is restored and operational. He would like to take it across the Atlantic and place it back at Normandy. He is running to raise money so that they will be able to get this ship to Normandy in 2019.

The Ribbon Cutting for the new Withlacoochee Wastewater Treatment Plant will be held on July 12th at 8:00 a.m. and Council is encouraged to attend.

The Group Workcamp starts next week and we will be welcoming 207 youth to our community. They will be doing minor rehabilitation work on some selected homes. The youth pay \$400 to come here and work on these homes and this is a great time every year when they come to Valdosta. The media tour will be held on Thursday, June 30, 2016 at 8:30 a.m. starting at the City Hall Annex Building.

Mark Barber, Assistant City Manager, stated that he will be attending the Georgia Municipal Association Annual Convention in Savannah on June 24-28, 2016 and he will be glad to assist Council with any issues that may arise.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Vickers thanked everyone for their thoughts and prayers during his recent hospital stay and recovery from surgery. He is getting better every day.

Councilman Carroll thanked Henry Hicks, Utilities Director, and Sementha Mathews, Public Information Officer, for their work on the Annual Water Quality Report. This is a great document because it is very thorough and easy for most citizens to read and understand.

Councilman Yost thanked Staff, members of the Sign Regulations Review Committee, and Council for their work and support of the changes to the sign regulations. Also, it is time for the Hospital Authority to act and fire their CEO and Attorney and for the City's representatives to resign.

Councilwoman Miller-Cody stated that she is excited about the Group Workcamp and the repair work that will be done on seven homes in District 1. Mayor Gayle stated that Council Districts 1, 2, and 3 were all represented for the Group Workcamp. Mark Barber, Assistant City Manager, stated that two homeowners in District 2 decided not to participate.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Edgar Robinson, 921 Lausanne Drive, stated that he is having an issue with people parking on his property. He keeps his grass maintained and when he asks them to move their vehicles they do not want to move because it is owned by the City. He is also having problems with people running stop signs and speeding in the neighborhood. This generally happens on the weekends and he is concerned about the children in the area. There are speed limit signs on the north side of the street and the City needs to place signs on the opposite side of the street.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Gayle entertained a motion for adjournment.

A MOTION by Councilman Vickers, seconded by Councilman Carroll, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to adjourn the June 23, 2016 Meeting of the Valdosta City Council at 6:54 p.m. to meet again in Regular Session on Thursday, July 7, 2016.

City Clerk, City of Valdosta

Mayor, City of Valdosta