

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE VALDOSTA CITY COUNCIL
5:30 P.M., THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2015
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL

OPENING CEREMONIES

Mayor Gayle called the regular meeting of the Valdosta City Council to order at 5:31 p.m. Council members present were James Wright, Robert Yost, Sandra Tooley, Ben Norton, Tim Carroll, and Joseph "Sonny" Vickers. Councilmember Alvin Payton, Jr. was absent. The invocation was given by Associate Pastor Jeff Williams, New Covenant Church, and immediately followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS

Special Presentation for the Winners of the Georgia Municipal Association's "If I Were Mayor" Essay Contest.

Mayor Gayle stated that it was time to recognize a special group of students for participating in the "If I Were Mayor Essay Contest." These students are six graders who are challenged to use their writing skills and their knowledge of their community to write an essay on what they would do if they were the Mayor. We are blessed to have students in our community who are talented enough to incorporate day to day activities into their essays. Six graders have great ideas, in fact this year I plan to utilize an idea suggested in one of the essays. All three winners are from Valdosta Middle School where Ms. Beth DeLoach serves as Principal and from the same class room where they are taught by Mrs. Whitfield and Mrs. Edgerton. At this time I'd like to recognize our winners in reverse order and ask that each one read their essays: 3rd Place Winner - Beth Ann Thornton, 2nd Place Winner - Tyson Parker, and 1st Place Winner - Abbi Long. Mayor Gayle congratulated each student, and presented them with a gift bag from the City and a Mayor's coin. He then addressed the audience and stated that he planned to implement the idea of a Youth Council suggested by Miss Abbi Long. This is an idea I was exposed to earlier this year and I think it is an excellent opportunity to hear ideas and interact with students. I've already talked to Councilman Ben Norton and asked for his assistance as well as Brian Law, a counselor at Valdosta High School. The Youth Council will consist of middle school and high school students and I assure you Abbi that you will serve on the Council. Thank all of you; your essays were very well written and the City of Valdosta is proud of you.

Mayor Gayle also recognized the Public Information Office at VSU the Social Media Partnership. Joining us tonight are several students from Valdosta State University's media class and their instructor Dr. David Nelson. This group has been working on a partnership with our public information office to put together a social media plan for the city. I'm looking forward to seeing the end result.

Special IT Update from Ryan Wilson of VC3

Ryan Wilson, Regional Manager of VC3, stated that VC3 personnel recently met with city department heads for an update on the cloud. One of our Sr. Architects has been on site yesterday and today visiting all departments to identify applications, processes and procedures that are currently in use by city staff so that we can combine it all and starting building the actual cloud and structure. Since the last update we now have a server that is on site. That is where your email migration server lives and also where we will be building the first portion of cloud infrastructure. In the next two weeks we'll be migrating all of the file servers which houses a huge portion of the data stored at the City and we'll be able to shut down about four physical servers and migrate that data to the cloud. In addition, the networking infrastructure is being addressed. We've received all of the network switches; those are being configured and we should be rolling that out in the next couple of weeks as well. AT&T has almost completed the new circuit for the internet connection which should speed up service. Once those items are in place we'll start pilot testing for the cloud. Our go live date for everyone in the city is the last week of June pending any issues with the network infrastructure. Mr. Wilson then introduced Ms. Davion Billups, the new System's Engineer for VC3 whose office is located on the second floor of City Hall. Ms. Billups will be providing all of the onsite support for the City. Ms. Billups thanked everyone for the warm welcome and asked that Council reach out to Shirley if they run into any issues to ensure there is a swift and prompt response to their request.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the April 9, 2015, Regular Meeting were approved by unanimous consent (6-0) of the Council.

PUBLIC HEARING**Consideration of a request to close an alley running from Brookwood Place to College Street between Williams and Slater Streets.**

Pat Collins, City Engineer, stated that this is basically an alley on paper and from the street it doesn't resemble an alley at all. In March of 2015, Mr. Alex Alvarez of 1506 Williams Street formally petitioned the City to vacate the alley. Vacating the alley required a petition to be submitted with signatures from at least 70% of the property owners. The request was reviewed by the Engineering Staff and submitted to various departments in the City. No existing utilities were identified and there were no objections from city staff. Georgia Power accesses the south end of the alley off of Brookwood to read the meter for a few properties so we ask that you consider closing the alley pursuant that an access easement is granted to Georgia Power. Mayor Gayle stated that he looked for the alley three times and was unable to locate it.

Mr. Hanson stated that it is important for the motion to include a stipulation that an access agreement be executed satisfactory to Georgia Power. Mayor Gayle stated this was a public hearing item; however, no one spoke in favor or in opposition of the request.

A **MOTION** by Councilwoman Tooley seconded by Councilman Norton was unanimously adopted (6-0) to approve the request with a stipulation for an access agreement for Georgia Power.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**RESOLUTION NO. 2015-5 Consideration of a Resolution Authorizing an Officer of the City to Execute Lease Supplements for Leases Under the Georgia Municipal Direct Leasing Program.**

Mark Barber, Deputy City Manager of Administration, stated that the resolution is a supplemental lease to GMA's Direct Lease Program. Back in October 2014, Council approved a Master Lease with GMA which allowed us to enter into supplemental leases for purchase of fleet replacement. This is the first set of vehicles we are purchasing through the lease program. Each time we do this it's considered a supplemental lease and I will have to come before you and ask for your approval for the resolution. This lease will be for a 60-month period at a rate of 1.67 percent, so we feel good about the interest rate and this will help the cash flow. These are not additional vehicles but replacement vehicles for vehicles that are in fairly bad shape. Mr. Hanson made Council aware that Mr. Barber is seeking approval for a resolution authorizing the purchase of vehicles that were approved for purchase at the March 5, 2015, Council Meeting. Councilman Vickers asked if the buy-back program was still in affect and if the backhoe would be purchased under this program. Mr. Barber stated yes and confirmed that the City will continue utilizing the buy-back program. Councilman Vickers asked if the police vehicles would be sold on line. Mr. Barber stated that the vehicles would be sold on Gov.deals and stated that the City had already been contacted by several other governments that might be interested in purchasing the vehicles. Councilwoman Tooley stated that she thought that these vehicles were approved to be purchased from certain vendors at the March 5 meeting. Mr. Barber commented that those vendors are still the approved vendors; however, they will be paid through the GMA Lease Program. Councilwoman Tooley then questioned exactly how the transactions would take place. Mayor Gayle explained that instead of paying \$971,103 for the vehicles in a lump sum, the City will get a loan through GMA to pay for the vehicles up front and we will pay \$16,881.43 monthly until all vehicles are paid off. It's a way for us to get the vehicles in a timely manner without waiting on SPLOST funds because some of the vehicles are in bad shape. It's a little bit like a car payment but the end result is those vehicles will be ours even though it says it will be a lease. Councilwoman Tooley questioned the total vehicles being purchased for the police department. Mr. Hanson stated that 16 vehicles were for patrol, and the rest were for Administration and Investigations. He further stated that there were a total of 19 for the police department, just in different divisions. Councilwoman Tooley questioned the change in the cost of the vehicles and the total number of vehicles being

purchased versus what was approved. Mr. Barber explained that the vehicles will be split between various departments and that the amount of the purchase is different from the amount approved because the police department needed one less vehicle. Councilwoman Tooley asked if the vehicles would be paid for with SPLOST funds. Mr. Hanson answered that some of the larger items would be paid for with SPLOST funds but not items such as police vehicles.

A **MOTION** by Councilman Norton, seconded by Councilman Carroll was unanimously adopted (6-0) to approve resolution to execute lease supplements under the Georgia Municipal Leasing Program, a complete text of which will be found in Resolution Book V.

BIDS, CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS, AND EXPENDITURES

Consideration of a Request for Bids Received for Extension of Utilities for Annexed Island 69B.

Pat Collins, City Engineer, provided a short overview stating that this request is a continuation of the City's efforts to provide water and sewer to the annexed islands. This request is for Island 69B which is located off of Langford Drive. The low bid was received from Standard Contractors in the amount of \$849,906.00 plus a 10% contingency for a total of \$934,896.60.

Councilman Vickers asked if Island 69B was the last island to receive utilities. Mr. Hanson replied that although this will be the last large island, there are still other islands to be serviced and the project still has another two - three years before it is completed. Mayor Gayle identified the location of Island stating that it was behind the church and Parker Mathis School off of Langford Drive.

A **MOTION** by Councilman Yost, seconded by Councilman Carroll was unanimously adopted (6-0) to approve the bid from Standard Contractors to provide sewer services to Island 69B in the amount of \$849,906.00 with a 10% contingency.

Consideration of a Request for Bids for the Rogers Street Lift Station Force Main.

Henry Hicks, Director of Utilities, stated that this lift station was recently renovated as part of a rehab program for all lift stations. Discharge from this station goes into a smaller 8-in sewer main and there have been repeated overflows on Cypress and Mystic Streets. Staff initially recommended Option 1 which would extend the current force main at a cost of \$86,048.00 but after careful consideration and reevaluating the situation we are recommending Option 2, which installs a new force main and redirects the sewer flow to the Mud Creek Plant. We felt this is a more viable option and is in the best interest of both systems. This option allows flow to be redirected to the Mud Creek Plant, a plant that is not being used to its full capacity and needs the additional flow and at the same time removes flow from the Withlacoochee Plant. Therefore, our recommendation is Option 2, award the low bid to Radney Plumbing for the amount of \$113,146.00 with a 10% contingency. Mr. Hanson stated that the main price difference in the two options is that Option 2 requires the City to bore underneath the railroad. Option 2 really is better for the overall system since Mud Creek has doubled in size and needs additional flow. This also helps the Withlacoochee Plant because in major rain events we still have a lot of collection in that system. Councilman Vickers asked if this would affect Cypress Street. Mr. Hicks answered no, stating that staying away from Cypress Street was prerequisite of the bid process. Councilwoman Tooley asked about the railroad and the paperwork needed to proceed with the project. Mr. Hanson commented that the paperwork was already in place for processing and the railroad has stated that the process will take 60- 90 days for approval. Councilwoman Tooley was concerned that Option 2 would be approved and there was still no approval from the railroad. Mr. Hanson explained that the City has received approval but there is still a paperwork trail that needs to be followed. He further explained that this is not an uncommon practice, it just a very bureaucratic process. Mr. Hicks stated that there have been several railroads that the City has bored underneath and this repair is in an area that will not cause problems. Mayor Gayle asked if it was a spur track and was told that staff believed it was. Councilwoman Tooley asked about the cost of the project. Mr. Hanson stated that the construction of the project makes it more costly; it requires more pipe and a directional bore underneath the railroad. Councilman Wright asked if he was correct in stating that by redirecting the flow, it will reduce the chance of potential overflows from Withlacoochee and

eliminate overflows on Cypress and Mystic Streets. Mr. Hicks answered in the affirmative stating that the added benefit is that some of the industrial discharge will also be looped. Councilman Yost asked if he was correct in assuming the flow from the new VHS and the new Charter school will be absorbed into Mud Creek. Mr. Hanson answered yes, stating the additional flow will be good for the operation of the Mud Creek Plant. Mayor Gayle requested that the motion state a specific option.

A **MOTION** by Councilman Carroll, seconded by Councilman Wright approved the request for Option 2 as presented (5-1) with a 10% contingency. Councilwoman Tooley voted in opposition.

Consideration of a Request for Bids Received for Production Wells 9 & 10 and Associated Pipelines.

Mr. Hicks, Director of Utilities, stated that this has been a long process. We have evaluated two sites over the last year and installed test wells that could easily be converted into production wells. There were three potential bidders. CDM reviewed the bids and also made the same recommendation as staff to award the bid to the lowest and responsible bidder, Radney Plumbing, in the amount of 1,333,399.18 with a 10% contingency. Councilman Vickers asked about the capacity and how much flow. Mr. Hicks stated that the wells could pump 9 to 10 million gallons per day with the capacity as high as 15 million. Councilwoman Tooley asked about the location of the wells and if they would be located in Freedom Park. Mr. Hicks and Mr. Hanson both stated that the wells would be strategically located throughout the 250 acres of the park.

A **MOTION** by Councilman Carroll, seconded by Councilman Norton was unanimously adopted (6-0) to approve as the low bid of Radney Plumbing in the amount of \$1,333,399.18 with a 10% contingency.

Consideration of a Request to Approve Bids for a Cured-In-Place-Pipe (CIPP) Sewer Lining Repair Project.

Mr. Hicks, Director of Utilities stated that in February, staff discovered a break in an 18-inch sewer pipe. Upon CCTV inspection by the contractor hired to repair the break it was determined that an entire section of the pipe had deteriorated beyond repair and would need to be replaced. Because of the location of the numerous residences near the sewer line and the cost to clear and excavate, staff went with CIPP lining technology which is the least intrusive and most feasible form of repair. Staff recommends awarding the contract to the lowest bidder in the amount of \$139,167.00 with a 10% contingency.

A **MOTION** by Councilman Wright, seconded by Councilwoman Tooley was unanimously adopted (6-0) to approve the low bid from Radney Plumbing in the amount of \$139,167.00 with a 10% contingency.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Hanson, City Manager, stated that this week was Georgia Cities Week and a number of activities had been planned. The employee appreciation luncheon was held earlier today and many of you were present and served. There was a good turnout, great food, and all seemed to enjoy themselves. I'd like to thank Sementha for coordinating the event and the ERC for their assistance and support. It's been a very good and productive week.

Mr. Hanson stated that Government 101 was in its third week. This week the class toured the water plant and received short overviews from Utilities, Public Works, and Engineering. We invite you all to come out to attend any class that is convenient for you or any class that is held in your district.

Mr. Hanson stated that on Tuesday he welcomed the attendees of the Community Reinvestment Act Forum (CRA). This was a free workshop sponsored by the Office of Comptroller of the Currency for the Treasury Department, the FDIC and the City. This is another way the City is working to try and ensure the best for our citizens. In addition to the CRA, we also hosted our sixth Job Shadow Day. This is an all-around great experience for everyone involved and a great opportunity for students and parents to learn a little more about their city.

Mr. Hanson made Council aware of the Firefighter graduation ceremony is scheduled for Friday, April 24, at the Forrest Street Community Center. The graduation will take place at 4:00 pm. There will be 11 recruits graduating and I'm sure Chief Broome will appreciate the support.

Mr. Hanson stated that the deadline for applications to apply for Board and Authority positions is Wednesday, April 29, 2015. If you know of anyone who might be interested in serving, please encourage them to apply by next Wednesday.

Mr. Hanson made council aware that the 50th Annual Red Carpet Event was held on Saturday, April 18 with over 200 people from all over in attendance. General Mark Welsh, Chief of Staff, was in attendance and the Mayor and I were actually able to meet and speak with him last Friday; it was a productive meeting.

Mr. Hanson stated that the ribbon cutting for the new Gateway sign will be held on tomorrow, April 24, at 10:00 am. This sign was primarily purchased with grant funds from the Department of Transportation and cost a total of \$14,244.00, including labor costs from our own staff who built the sign. We have a lot of talented employees and I want to thank Emily Davenport and her staff for building the sign in house. Our goal is to replicate this sign at each entrance. We will begin working on the next sign as funds become available.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Wright asked if the Community Reinvestment Act Forum was well attended by banks. Mr. Hanson answered that there were a number of banks in attendance but Ms. Flucas could possibly provide specific numbers.

Councilman Vickers asked if the smoke testing was finished. Mr. Hicks answered that this was just the third year of a five year test program. All results have been good and staff has actually been able to identify some troubled areas through the testing.

Councilman Yost stated that Jay Shaw would be missed. He was a great advocate for our city and helped bring about a lot of good changes. I also want to thank the Valdosta Police Department for the way they helped handle the situation at Valdosta State University.

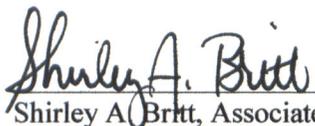
CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

There were no citizens to be heard.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Gayle entertained a motion for adjournment.

A **MOTION** by Councilman Carroll, seconded by Councilman Wright was unanimously adopted (6-0) to adjourn the April 23, 2015, meeting of the Valdosta City Council at 6:14 pm to meet again in regular session on Thursday, May 7, 2015.


Shirley A. Britt, Associate City Clerk


Mayor John Gayle