

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE VALDOSTA CITY COUNCIL
5:30 P.M., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2015
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL

OPENING CEREMONIES

Mayor Pro Tem Alvin Payton, Jr. called the regular meeting of the Valdosta City Council to order at 5:30 p.m. Council members present were: Tim Carroll, Sandra Tooley, James Wright, and Robert Yost. Councilman Ben Norton arrived late at 5:35 p.m., and Mayor John Gayle and Councilman Joseph "Sonny" Vickers were absent. The invocation was given by Pastor Tyler Barrett, Northgate Church, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Mayor Pro Tem Payton also recognized members of the Lowndes Youth Leadership League and the South Street Community Care House.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the February 5, 2015 Regular Meeting were approved by unanimous consent (5-0) of the Council.

LOCAL FUNDING AND REQUESTS

Consideration of a request to amend the City of Valdosta's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) 2013 Annual Action Plan.

Mark Barber, Deputy City Manager of Administration, stated that Staff is asking to amend the current U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Plan for an infrastructure project. This is a one-time request and will not be something that is on-going and this does not indicate that we are not going to allocate housing funding in the future. The City of Valdosta (CDBG) Program must meet a yearly timeliness test to ensure the yearly allotments are being spent for program activities in a timely manner. On May 2nd of each program year, HUD reviews the funding available in each grantee's line of credit to make sure they have adequately administered their program throughout the year and is at or below the 1.5 % threshold. The current amount in our line of credit is 2.28 %. The .78 % difference in the threshold is primarily due to City's incapacity to utilize CDBG funding for any budgeted activities during a 14 period, due to environmental issues. The timeframe included the entire FY 2012 program year and a portion of FY 2013. Once the City could resume activities, it was difficult to stay within the prescribed threshold because of the narrow confines of the City's 2013 Annual Action Plan. The 2013 Plan only focuses on housing, thus, an amendment to the 2013 Annual Action Plan is being requested. In order to meet our timeliness test on May 2, 2015, the funds available in our line of credit must be at or below 1.5 % of our current allotment (\$550,525). As per 24 CFR 91.105 Citizen Participation Plan of the City of Valdosta, an amendment to our 2013 Annual Action Plan is being requested and have a portion of the funds re-allocated to a new budget line item for the activity of infrastructure repair. The approved Annual Action Plan total allocation for Fiscal Year 2013 was \$560,352, with the following individual budget line items: (1) Single Family Rehabilitation and Reconstruction - \$438,282, (2) Fair Housing Education - \$ 10,000, and (3) Program Administration - \$112,070. The amended budget line items would be: (1) Single Family Rehabilitation and Reconstruction- \$219,282, (2) Infrastructure Repair - \$219,000, (3) Fair Housing Education - \$10,000, and (4) Program Administration - \$112,070. The City of Valdosta is currently undertaking several rehabilitation and reconstruction housing projects, along with administration costs utilizing our CDBG funding, which will use approximately \$257,000 of our line of credit by the May 2nd timeliness test. We are proposing an infrastructure project to assist in utilizing the necessary funds. The proposed street repaving project in the Designated Revitalization Area (DRA) is on parts of Church Street, Slater Street, Mary Street, Smith Street, and Cypress Street, which will use approximately \$219,000 of our line of credit. The repaving in District 1 will be .5 miles, District 2 will be .39 miles, and District 3 will be .51 miles. Currently, the City's Program has \$431,938 which we must expend before the May 2, 2015 timeliness deadline; however, the above mentioned rehabilitation and reconstruction housing projects coupled with the proposed amendment will expend more than the required target amount. Staff is confident that this can be achieved and the City will be successful in expending the \$431,938 before the May 2 deadline and will avoid any sanctions from HUD which includes the risk of having all

funds over the 1.5 % recaptured by HUD. The City is working closely with HUD to ensure all future timeliness compliance. Mark Barber recommended that Council approve the request to amend the City of Valdosta's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) 2013 Annual Action Plan.

Mayor Pro Tem Payton inquired as to who the vendor is for the project. Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that the vendor is The Scruggs Company. We had an exceptional bid at the time and fuel prices are down which have had lot of influence over the price of asphalt. The street to be repaved in District 1 will be Cypress Street, District 2 will be Slater Street from Gordon Street to Ann Street and Church Street from Martin Luther King, Jr. Street to the end. In District 3 there are three streets which are West Mary Street from Oak Street to West Street, West Mary Street from Smith Street to 100 feet east, and Smith Street from West Gordon Street to the end. For the past five or six years the CDBG funding has been reduced by the Federal government and this week we received a letter stating that the funding had increased. It was discussed at the Mayor/Council Retreat about diversifying the funds and not just investing the funds in housing but in other areas such as economic development and job training. Councilwoman Tooley inquired as to how they determined which streets would be used in the project. Larry Hanson stated that the Engineering Department maintains a list of streets which are submitted by the Mayor and Council and citizens. The streets are evaluated and the selection is based on Engineering's analysis. In this case the streets had to be within the DRA so they were trying to balance it in those three Districts as close as possible. Any street can be submitted at any time to be placed on the list. The Scruggs Company has just completed all the streets on the Local Maintenance Improvement Grant (LMIG) Program so they are mobilized and ready to go. Councilwoman Tooley stated that she felt like we are wasting time and money with the one little spot on Church Street and inquired as to why we did not add it to Slater Street and put it in one spot. Larry Hanson stated that all we really needed to add was one-tenth of a mile and typically you have to find a natural place to end the repaving. Councilwoman Tooley inquired as to why they could not take all that on Slater Street plus this and put it in another street. There were some other streets that really needed repaving. Larry Hanson stated that they came to a logical stopping place on Church Street which fit the profile and it was on the last list.

A MOTION by Councilman Wright, seconded by Councilman Norton, was unanimously adopted (5-0) to amend the City of Valdosta's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) 2013 Annual Action Plan.

Consideration of a request to appeal the decision on a Certificate of Appropriateness by the Historic Preservation Commission for stacked-stone veneer on the front entryway on a house located at 111 East Park Avenue.

Mayor Pro Tem Payton stated that the appellant would present first followed by the defendant, Matt Martin, Planning & Zoning Administrator for the City of Valdosta. There will be no public comments on the appeal but Council can ask questions.

Bo Sears, Reef Properties of Georgia, LLC, was not present at the Council Meeting so Matt Martin was asked to present.

Matt Martin, Planning & Zoning Administrator, stated that at the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) meeting on January 5, 2015, Mr. Bo Sears, Reef Properties of Georgia, LLC, requested approval for exterior alterations at his property located at 111 East Park Avenue. This included replacing all the wood siding with new fiber cement/concrete siding, replacing all the existing windows with high-efficiency double-paned windows, and having a stacked-stone veneer around the front entry of this existing house. The applicant's request came as the result of a City Marshal citation several weeks earlier for work already being done without the necessary permits or prior Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) approval. Staff found the applicant's request to use fiber cement siding as well as the now-existing windows compatible with the Historic District "Design Guidelines" and recommended approval; however, Staff also recommended that as a condition of approval, the now-existing stone veneer be removed and replaced with either a traditional brick or the same fiber cement siding that is approved for the remainder of the façade. The property is located in the northern portion of the local historic district and is also within the "Brookwood North" National Register Historic District. Any material changes to the exterior of an existing building must first receive COA approval from the HPC before going through the actual permitting process. At their January 5th meeting, the HPC openly discussed all aspects of the request and the majority of members deemed the stacked-stone veneer to be incompatible with the historic character of the building and the area. The COA request was approved with the following conditions: (1) The fiber cement lap siding shall be

smooth textured and match the vertical dimensions used on adjacent houses, (2) The replacement windows shall have muntins with an 8-over-8 design on the front of the house, and 6-over-6 design elsewhere, and (3) The now-existing stone veneer shall be removed and the original stucco design restored. In his appeal, Mr. Sears has indicated at the meeting that he did not feel the stacked-stone veneer would have any adverse effect on the aesthetic, historic, architectural, or archaeological significance and value of the local historic property or the local historic district. In addition, if he has to remove the stacked-stone veneer and replace it with a stucco veneer then he would be incurring a cost of \$3,500. This cost is excessive and would be detrimental to his business. Mr. Sears is respectfully requesting that the City Council balance the economics of requiring the removal of the stacked-stone veneer versus the positive benefit the stacked-stone veneer has on the current look as well as the value to both the house and the neighborhood and allow him to keep the stacked-stone veneer. The Historic Preservation Commission discussed the windows and the stacked stone. The general consensus was that it does not look bad there but is just not recognized as a historic material. The material or the design was not used back in the era when the house was built and you do not see this type of design or material anywhere in the local Historic District. Staff recommended that the stacked stone veneer be removed and replaced with a different material. They liked the idea but perhaps replace it with brick or stucco. Originally, it was stucco and that seemed to be the general preference. They thought brick might look good but then realized that the chimney has white brick and it might not look good on the front so discussion was steered back to the stucco. One of the HPC members made a motion to approve this with the first two conditions and allow the retention of the stacked stone but it died for the lack of a second. Another motion was made and they voted to have the third condition included. Everyone agreed that the house looks all right and if the house was outside of the Historic District it would be fine. The concern was that a non-historic material was used in not only the Historic District but the National Registry District and it might be setting a bad precedence and detract from the historic character of this house which was used to help get the Brookwood National Register District approved.

Larry Hanson, City Manager, inquired as to whether the applicant was aware that the hearing was scheduled for today. Matt Martin, Planning & Zoning Administrator, stated that he did not have any communication with the applicant. Mr. Sears turned in the paperwork for this meeting and he thought they knew the time, date, and place of this meeting. George Talley, City Attorney, inquired as to whether Mr. Sears was served with a copy of the Agenda. Matt Martin stated that Mr. Sears turned in the paperwork to get it on this Council Meeting Agenda and he was not aware of any discussions that occurred as this was not submitted through the Planning and Zoning Department. Mr. Sears turned in the paperwork directly to the City Clerk. Mayor Pro Tem Payton stated that it was possible that Mr. Sears did not know this was on the Agenda. Matt Martin stated that it could be possible but he found it surprising.

Councilman Yost stated that if Mr. Sears submitted the appeal he would have had to have known the date. He did all this work without obtaining any permits and he assumed that the people who are renovating the home just ignored it because it is hard to believe that they did not know they needed a permit to do the amount of work that was done on the house. Councilman Yost stated that he had no trouble in agreeing with the Historic Preservation Commission on this. They did it, they did not have a permit to do anything, and they should not have done it. They are now being asked to redo something and he had no problem with voting tonight and denying the appeal.

Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that the Appeal Form states that the applicant has 30 days following the decision of the Historic Preservation Commission to file an appeal and Mr. Sears did file a timely appeal. The Appeal Form also states that the appeal will be heard within 60 days by the Mayor and Council and it does not say at the next regularly scheduled Council Meeting. Larry Hanson asked the City Attorney, George Talley, as to whether they should act on something if they are not certain the appellant was aware of the appeal. George Talley stated that we are assuming that Mr. Sears knew about the appeal hearing and legally it is bad to assume something that you cannot prove. Councilman Yost inquired as to whether the process was followed. Matt Martin stated that normally when these things occur the first thing that happens is for the appellant to contact the Planning & Zoning Department regarding how to file an appeal. They explain the process to them and give them the paperwork. This did not take place and he was not aware that Mr. Sears was filing an appeal until the Agenda was on its way out to the Mayor and Council. He was asked by the City Manager about the appeal and he indicated that he did not know anything about the appeal. George Talley stated that this is like a Court proceeding. You serve the opposing party with a copy and the hearing is set up. A notice should be given to both parties. We do not know whether this was done or not.

Councilman Wright stated that he was concerned about this because he was not sure whether it was the local builder or the homeowner who made the repairs. Matt Martin stated that the siding contractor was from out of town. When he was found to be working without a permit, he came to the Planning & Zoning Department in November, 2014 and said that he did not know the house was located in the Historic District and did not know that he needed to get a permit to do this type of work. He had told them that he did not install the stacked stone veneer. Matt Martin stated that he thought that once it was approved, the contractor who later came back to their office to get the permit finished his part of the job which was to put up cement fiber siding instead of vinyl siding and finish out the windows. He left the stacked stone veneer up to the responsibility of the owner. Councilman Wright stated that he doubted the contractor was going to come back in here and correct this. He has left the owner with the expenses that will be incurred. The owner may or may not have known that the contractor should have had a permit. It is easy to say to let them tear the house back up. His concern is that if you hire an out of town contractor who may or may not have known and he gets his check. He then does not care what happens after that and the homeowner is stuck with the possibility of having to tear the building down. Councilman Wright stated that he would hate to do this and impose a penalty upon the owners without them having an opportunity to speak. Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that this is rental property and he wanted to separate the issues. The issue of not having a building permit is totally separate and is an enforcement issue. The Ordinance is clear in that case and what the resolution is for that. The only issue that Council has before them tonight is appealing the Historic Preservation Commission's decision and whether they abused their discretion. You could make the argument that this is self-imposed and had they submitted plans and applied for a permit it would have been denied and no materials would have been bought or work done. Larry Hanson stated that as an abundance of caution he would suggest that this request be postponed because there is 60 days to hear this appeal and everyone is made aware and you are not making the decision without the party being present. George Talley, City Attorney, stated that this is due process and basically you are discussing a property issue and the appellant should have an opportunity to be heard. If he ignored it and we could prove it that is another thing but if he was unaware of it he should be given a chance to be heard.

Councilman Yost stated that the fact that we do not know if Mr. Sears was told and the fact that our Staff person did not know it was going to be placed on the Agenda is an internal problem and it needs to be fixed before this comes before Council again. His vote may never change because Mr. Sears did wrong and he is the one who created this problem and now we have to fix the problem on appeal. He did not think that that Historic Preservation Commission did anything wrong and they followed the guidelines. Council should uphold what they decided whether it is this meeting or two meetings from now. We need to get our act together so this does not happen again in the future.

Mayor Pro Tem Payton stated that according to the Land Development Regulations, Section 238-15, there are three options if this appeal is not going to be postponed. Those options are as follows: (1) Uphold the Commission's determination upon finding that the Commission did not abuse its discretion in reaching its decision, (2) Reject the Commission's determination upon finding that the Commission abused its discretion in reaching its decision, and (3) City Council has the option to return the matter to the Commission for reconsideration only if the new information is presented to City Council during the appeal hearing that directly relates to the Commission's decision.

A MOTION was made by Councilman Carroll to postpone the request to appeal the decision on a Certificate of Appropriateness by the Historic Preservation Commission for stacked-stone veneer on the front entryway on a house located at 111 East Park Avenue until the March 5, 2015 Council Meeting. Councilman Norton seconded the motion. Councilman Yost stated that if we are not sure of the process that should be in place then we should get one in place to handle this so that we have documentation that protects us, the Historic Preservation Commission, and the homeowner in this process. This needs to be in place by the March 5, 2015 Council Meeting. The motion was unanimously adopted (5-0).

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that VC3 has hired a new employee who will be located in the City Hall IT Office and will begin on or around March 16, 2015. She is currently separating from the U. S. Air Force where she worked in Information Technology and she is originally from Adel and wanted an opportunity to come back home. VC3 and City Staff interviewed her and they were all duly impressed.

Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that one of the big items this year is the Transportation Bill (HB 170) and there has been a lot of activity and work going on. The City of Valdosta has been actively engaged in those conversations to ensure that there is a fair and balanced outcome once the Bill moves out of the House into the Senate for further consideration.

Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that we sent out a Press Release regarding removal of the elevated water tank on Savannah Avenue and the work will begin on February 25, 2015 and will take approximately three days. It is a 500,000 gallon metal water tank that will be removed so there will be some traffic disruption. By adding the 2 million gallons of storage capacity in the water tank on Fry Street, we have now been able to eliminate three old water tanks that had small capacity. There will be a lot of savings also because they have to be maintained, flushed, and painted.

Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that the LMIG resurfacing is now complete as far as the asphalt and District 1 had Holiday Street, Douglas Street, Windsor Street, and Fraizer Street. District 2 had the entire intersection of Lee Street and Vallotton Drive completely resurfaced because it was in a state of disrepair. District 3 had Middleton Road and Tracy Lane. District 4 had Arkwright Drive and Perimeter Circle. District 5 did not have any streets resurfaced because we accelerated the Eager Road Project to take advantage of the work that the contractor was already doing in that area on the island. District 6 had Brookdale Drive and Georgia Avenue.

Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that the Arbor Day celebration was held today and our City was recognized for being a Tree City USA for 29 consecutive years. There are 536 cities in Georgia and only 8 have achieved this distinction as being a Tree City for 29 years or more. Our community and elected officials, both past and present, have made a commitment to tree planting and preservation. To achieve that you are required to invest a certain amount per capita each year and a full time professional, a Tree Ordinance, and an Arbor Day celebration. This is not something that is easy to achieve and that is why only 8 cities out of 536 are in the same level that we are. We also incorporated tree plantings at W. G. Nunn Elementary School and the City's Municipal Court.

Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that Emily Foster, who was our Preservation Planner, left several months ago and her position has now been replaced by James Horton who used to work for the City as a Preservation Planner and the Main Street Director. He started on Monday and will be the Preservation Planner/Special Projects Manager. We are glad to have him on board.

Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that the deadline for City Government 101 is March 20, 2015 and it is filling up fast. We have 20 of the 25 slots filled and we have one student. Citizens are encouraged to sign up.

Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that Police Chief Brian Childress is participating in a fund raiser at Valdosta High School for the Debate Team. It is a Prom competition and they are raising money to declare a Prom Queen. The Prom Queen will have to walk across the gymnasium floor in front of the students in a Prom dress. Chief Childress' lifelong dream since he was a little boy was to be a Prom Queen and we should not deny him of the opportunity. All of the City employees are encouraged to join in and make a contribution to help him win the competition.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Carroll stated that Larry Hanson, City Manager, has done a yeoman's job on the Transportation Act (HB 170). He got up at 5:00 a.m. to go and meet with the Chairman of the Transportation Committee in Atlanta. Through his efforts in approaching this Bill he has brought forth a fair and balanced Bill that still lets the State achieve its goals and needs without harming all local governments. Councilman Carroll thanked the City Manager for his efforts.

Councilman Wright stated that he wanted to recognize Linda Payton, wife of Mayor Pro Tem Payton, who was in the audience tonight.

Councilman Yost stated that he was not directing his comments to anyone in particular but was speaking on behalf of Robert Yost and not the Council. The newspaper seems to print things lately with insinuations about the City Council, County Commissioners, and Executive Sessions and that we are not doing things right and we are

doing things wrong and hiding things from the public. Councilman Yost stated that when we go into Executive Session, we do the business of the people. Our City Attorney is always present to slap them on the hand if they get out of line or do anything they should not be doing in Executive Session. So for the Editor of the newspaper and the Publisher who agrees with him to insinuate that most governments do wrong is not a good thing and they need to start printing some things that highlight the good things that are going on in this City and County. They have also insinuated that we waste taxpayers' money and we do not spend it wisely by having Retreats. Councilman Yost stated that he has not seen this Editor in the Council Chambers yet but he could be wrong and if he was wrong someone please tell him. The Publisher has been here a lot longer than the Editor and he has never darkened the doors. Councilman Yost stated that neither one of them has asked Council any questions or come to the Mayor and Council Retreat to see what they do. It might be a good learning lesson for them instead of insinuating things that they have no earthly idea that Council accomplishes in the Retreats. He commended the County as they do their Retreat a little different than the City but they accomplish what they need to. Councilman Yost stated that he could guarantee you that the City accomplishes what they are supposed to do and they are held accountable for that. He does not personally see a reason to change how we do that whether the newspaper agrees with us or not. We do the right thing and we do it right by what our people and constituents want. He would like the newspaper to print something that is good for a change and have them darken the doors of these Chambers to find out what is actually going on first hand. Councilman Yost asked that this message be given to them and he would love to sit down with them and give them his point of view. He was sure they would enjoy it.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Paul Arambula, 110 West Force Street, stated that he had some concerns about the use of the CDBG money because traditionally it has been used for helping people who are needy, especially with the weather that we are having now. We could have made an effort to address some of those people who are in need. To put the amount of money that you are talking about to repave City streets is a bit of a concern as well. Mr. Arambula inquired as to what the process was to come to the decision to use these funds in the manner that you are using them and in keeping with the requirements of HUD for public meetings in regards to the use of these funds. Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that there have been discussions with HUD and infrastructure is an eligible project. HUD has authorized the use of funds for this purpose. Many communities in the past have used CDBG for a multitude of things including housing, economic development, job training, infrastructure, and public facilities. The only requirement is that it is a low to moderate income areas within a Designated Revitalization Area. This meets all HUD criteria. Mayor Pro Tem Payton stated that Mark Barber, Deputy City Manager of Administration, had indicated that HUD made the recommendation to do this. Mark Barber stated that was correct and over the years it has been one of Council's goals to get rid of all substandard housing. That is why the current allocation was for housing and that is why they were asking for the reallocation. Larry Hanson stated there are \$200,000-\$300,000 housing projects that are on-going and those will be completed by May 1, 2015 so housing is not being ignored. Paul Arambula stated that he was concerned about the emergency use of this funding that the City is doing right now and putting a short timetable. Mr. Arambula inquired as to whether we went to the citizenry at all in this particular case to ask if we wanted the City to act with this amount of money for this particular function (repaving of streets). It seems like the citizen input is missing from this particular emergency type of allocation. Mark Barber stated that this is a HUD related activity and meetings will be held within the next few months for the community to have input for the new Five-Year Plan. This will be a perfect time for comments and things you would like to see us do with the allocations in the future. Mr. Arambula stated that he did attend a meeting with Vanessa Flucas, Neighborhood Development Manager, and there was a laundry list of different allocations that could be used for these funds. It concerns him because the use of these funds for repaving streets does not seem appropriate for this money. The money could have been used for extending sidewalk projects which is a much better use of the funds for development of the business district, especially in parts of the City that needs to connect sidewalks. If you are looking at revitalizing the Downtown area you really need to be looking at ways to get people Downtown and making it more walkable.

Linda Battle, River Street, inquired about the Projects on Lee Street and revitalizing that area. They only did the front row and did not complete the rest. Also, near Pinevale-Lomax Elementary School, there is a canal there and for years it has been unprotected. When cars go around the curve they could easily go off into the canal. There have been people killed in that area and it needs to be built up a little bit for safety purposes. Even in other areas of the City we have a lot of people riding in the motorized wheel chairs and we do not have enough space for them on the sidewalk. They do have some extra space on Williams Street and this should also be in other areas of

the City for those people who use the motorized wheel chairs. Ora Lee West also needs to be revitalized. These areas have been like this since she was a child and she is now 59 years old. It is about time to improve the looks of those areas.

Jim Parker, 1714 North Lee Street, stated that he wanted to speak about the Transportation Funding Act (HB 170). The State government is trying to allocate transportation funds which most of the time they mean roads and streets and very little public transportation. We are talking about transportation that is autocentric and this is something that has happened in American cities basically since World War II. Because of the good economy that we had after World War II with cheap oil, we began an experiment in how to build cities. We spread out horizontally over the landscape which was a lot different from the way that cities had been designed through trial and error from the previous 4,000 years. As a consequence of that type of design, it was a pattern of development that we engaged in America and not just in Georgia. Through the first life cycle, we were able to finance this through our savings and tax money and we built something wonderful called the Interstate highway system. Because it was such a success, highway designers, street designers, and city engineers tried to apply these same kinds of principles to the design of cities and streets. After the first life cycle of roads, which is approximately 25-30 years, we had to redo it. That responsibility fell on the shoulders of local government. That was a lot of money. We are now in the third life cycle and we do not have the money to maintain roads. Nationally, they say we need \$5-6 trillion to upgrade our infrastructure. Georgia State government is now looking for \$2.3 billion which is \$1 billion more than they had been spending to upgrade the infrastructure. The way we built the roads is a flaw in the design and it is costing us too much. It is a big financial burden upon local governments. In Valdosta and Lowndes County we have accepted a high cost to build a new sewage treatment plant that is costing \$32 million. We had to scramble for that money. Our sewage treatment plant was built outside of the flood plain 40 years ago but is now in the flood plain because of the runoff from the sprawl that has happened in Lowndes County due to the pattern of development. So in the future, it would be good to consider this sort of thing in deliberations of how you continue to build the City. Our City is how we get together and design our shared prosperity. This is an example of a different type of thinking and insight into how we build our cities and we may want to return back to thinking more density and less sprawl.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Pro Tem Payton entertained a motion for adjournment.

A **MOTION** by Councilman Wright, seconded by Councilman Carroll, was unanimously adopted (5-0) to adjourn the February 19, 2015 Meeting of the Valdosta City Council at 6:34 p.m. to meet again in Regular Session on Thursday, March 5, 2015.

City Clerk, City of Valdosta

Mayor, City of Valdosta