

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE VALDOSTA CITY COUNCIL
5:30 P.M., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2019
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, Sandra Tooley, Eric Howard, Andy Gibbs, and Vivian Miller-Cody. The invocation was given by Ricardo Velmas, The Biz, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH AWARD

Consideration of the February, 2019 Employee of the Month Award (Luis Colon, Engineering Department).

Pat Collins, City Engineer, stated that Luis Colon began his employment with the City of Valdosta in October of 1996 and currently holds the position of Senior Construction Inspector in the Engineering Department. Senior Construction Inspectors are responsible for on-site inspections of public infrastructure to ensure compliance with Valdosta City Standards. Inspecting construction projects include water, sewer, curbs, gutters, sidewalks, streets, stormwater, and driveways. They test new water mains and work with utility companies as well as contractors during inspection visits and walk through infrastructure issues. Senior Construction Inspectors review all payment submittals to ensure compliance with contract documents and they inspect projects to ensure compliance with Land Disturbance permits. During the Christmas holiday, Luis went to visit his parents in Homestead, Florida. During his stay he made plans to visit some of his dearest friends, Cathy and Kenny Martin. During their conversation, Luis told his friends that he would like to stay overnight to be able to spend more time with them. They told Luis that they had very little furniture because they lost everything they had during Hurricane Irma in September of 2017. They only had two small beds and a couple of kitchen chairs. Prior to going by to see his friends, Luis found a used furniture store and bought them a beautiful couch, recliner, and a table. Not only did Luis help Cathy and Kenny, but he also took it upon himself to help his mother who has been so busy seeing about his father who has been placed in a nursing home. He took her car and had two new tires put on it and repaired her lawnmower. The City of Valdosta Engineering Department is overjoyed by Luis's display of love and compassion during the holiday season. It is for these reasons and many others that the employee Relations Committee nominated Senior Construction Inspector Luis Colon as Employee of the Month.

Mayor Gayle recognized Dr. Ted Geltner and students from his Journalism Class at Valdosta State University, Scott Orenstein and Mark Wisenbaker from the Lowndes County Board of Commissioners, Franklin Bailey from the Greater Lowndes Planning Commission, and several members of the 2019 Leadership Lowndes Class.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the February 7, 2019 were approved by unanimous consent (7-0) of the Council.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

ORDINANCE NO. 2019-2, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES FOR THE RENAMING OR THE CLOSING OF PUBLIC STREETS AND ALLEYS (SECOND READING)

Consideration of an Ordinance to amend the requirements and procedures for the renaming or the closing of public streets and alleys. (Second Reading)

Mark Barber, City Manager, stated that this is the Second Reading of a proposed Amendment to the Ordinance for the renaming or closing of public streets and alleys. We are still currently under the six-month Moratorium that was placed on renaming streets in order to clear up some ambiguities and discrepancies. The first area of confusion was the language in the old Ordinance which stated that residents had to retain 60% of property owners and/or residents abutting the public street. The words "and/or" and "residents" were left up to interpretation. In the proposed Ordinance, it now states that 60% of property owners or a verifiable resident can sign the petition. A verifiable resident is a tenant or renter whose name is on the lease. The goal is to get a good base to start from because in the past that was not clear. This will also help when the City Engineering Staff gets the petition back and they are trying to confirm the names. We have Lease Agreements for tenants in our City Utilities system so it will make it easier and faster to verify the names. The second major change is that there will be a mandatory meeting with the City Engineering Staff when citizens are thinking about renaming a street. In the past we suggested a meeting but it was not mandatory. The importance of that meeting is to ensure that the applicant truly understands the process from beginning to end. It will also allow the Engineering Staff to review the information and offer some suggestions that may be helpful. The applicants will also leave the meeting with a newly designed petition that will garner more information than the old petition. This is the only petition that can be used by the group. Another thing that has been added is some parameters as to the timeframe. The Ordinance will now state that when the group or individual has a meeting with the Engineering Staff, they have 90 days to return the petition to Engineering for confirmation and the verification process. There was also no parameter for the Engineering Department Staff to review the petition so they will now have 15 calendar days to confirm, verify, and check the completeness of the petition. Also, there will also be a reimbursement fee for costs that the City incurs for advertisement of the public hearings as well as the labor and manpower to change any street signs. If it comes before the Mayor and Council and they decide to deny the petition, then the money spent by the applicants will be returned. The last thing that was added was that the Mayor and Council should only review the renaming of streets twice per calendar year which is what many other communities are doing. There was a little confusion about this at the last Council Meeting and this is for a specific street that Council has denied twice in a calendar and would not be brought back up a third time. Council can hear as many street renaming requests as they want to throughout the year. Mark Barber, City Manager, recommended that Council approve the Ordinance to amend the requirements and procedures for the renaming or the closing of public streets and alleys.

A MOTION was made by Councilman Carroll to enact Ordinance No 2019-2, an Ordinance to amend the requirements and procedures for the renaming or the closing of public streets and alleys. Councilwoman Tooley seconded the motion. The motion was adopted (6-1) with Councilman Howard voting in opposition, the complete text of which will be found in Ordinance Book XIV.

ORDINANCE NO. 2019-3, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CITY OF VALDOSTA'S RADAR PERMIT

Consideration of an Ordinance to amend the City of Valdosta's Radar Permit.

Pat Collins, City Engineer, stated that the Georgia Department of Public Safety issues Radar Permits to Law Enforcement Agencies so that speed detection devices can be used to enforce the posted speed limit. This permit is necessary to legally run radar on City streets. Per Georgia Code, the City applies to the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) Office of Traffic Operations with all Permit changes or renewals. Upon review of the City, requested revisions or renewal, the Office of Traffic Operations compiles the updated list and sends it to the Mayor and City Council for their approval at the local level. The approved and executed list is then submitted to the Georgia Department of Public Safety in Atlanta for final authorization and issuance of the updated permit. The Police and Engineering Departments compiled a list of revisions to the City's current Radar Permit for the use of speed detection devices. The new Ordinance includes the addition of a school zone for the new Valdosta High School on Inner Perimeter Road and the elimination of a school zone for the old Valdosta High School on North Forrest Street. Pat Collins recommended that Council approve the Ordinance to amend the City of Valdosta's Radar Permit.

A MOTION by Councilwoman Miller-Cody, seconded by Councilman Norton, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to enact Ordinance No 2019-3, an Ordinance to amend the City of Valdosta's Radar Permit, the complete text of which will be found in Ordinance Book XIV.

Consideration of a Resolution to amend the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA) Loan for the extension of water and services to the annexed islands.

Chuck Dinkins, Finance Director, stated that the City signed an \$8 million Loan Agreement with the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA) on December 18, 2017 which was designated as Loan No. GF2017012. The purpose of the Note was to finance the installation of water service, sewer service, and related appurtenances in the remaining annexed islands. The terms of the Note called for all disbursements under the Note to be made by April 1, 2019. The Project will not be completed by this date so GEFA has agreed to extend the deadline to make the final draw against the Note until November 1, 2019. The documents from GEFA, as well as the legal opinion from the City Attorney, are required to formally amend the Note and allow the City the additional time needed to complete construction and make the final draw. A Resolution has been prepared for the Governing Body to approve the amendment to the GEFA Note.

A MOTION by Councilwoman Tooley, seconded by Councilman Carroll, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to approve the Resolution No. 2019-6, a Resolution to amend the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA) Loan for the extension of water and services to the annexed islands, the complete text of which will be found in Resolution Book VI.

RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION OF HOUSE BILL 302, PREEMPTION OF LOCAL BUILDING DESIGN STANDARDS TABLED

Consideration of a Resolution in opposition of House Bill 302, Preemption of Local Building Design Standards.

Councilman Carroll stated that there has been a lot of discussion about this proposed House Bill and he would like to table this request until the first Council Meeting in April to allow them time to meet with representatives from the HBA as well as other interested parties in this legislation prior to any action being taken.

A MOTION by Councilman Carroll, seconded by Councilman Gibbs, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to table the request for a Resolution in opposition of House Bill 302, Preemption of Local Building Design Standards, until the first Regular Council Meeting in April.

BIDS, CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS, AND EXPENDITURES

Consideration of bids for a Vacuum Sewer Truck for the Utilities Department.

Darryl Muse, Utilities Director, stated that the Utilities Department needs to replace an older Jet Vacuum Sewer Truck that has high mileage, high usage hours, and rising maintenance costs. A new Vacuum Sewer Truck is in the Council-approved current year Budget (Line Item VR-57). The purchase of a new Vacuum Sewer Truck is an approved capital purchase in the current fiscal year Budget. It will replace an older model that is beginning to require an elevated degree of maintenance. Sealed bids were received on February 5, 2019 with the low bid submitted by Adams Equipment in the amount of \$371,596. Darryl Muse recommended that Council approve the low bid submitted by Adams Equipment in the amount of \$371,596 and allow the Utilities Department to proceed with the purchase. Councilman Vickers inquired as to when the vendor could deliver the new Vacuum Sewer Truck. Darryl Muse stated that it would be approximately 180 days. Mayor Gayle inquired as to where Adams Equipment was located. Darryl Muse stated that they were out of Atlanta.

A MOTION by Councilwoman Miller-Cody, seconded by Councilman Norton, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to approve the low bid submitted by Adams Equipment in the amount of \$371,596 and allow the Utilities Department to proceed with the purchase of a new Vacuum Sewer Truck.

Consideration of bids for the Georgia Department of Transportation 2019 Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant (LMIG) Program.

Pat Collins, City Engineer, stated that the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) administers the Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant (LMIG) Program which allocates transportation funding from the State based on a formula that includes population and street mileage (paved or unpaved). Most communities will use the funds to resurface streets. The City has received a Grant in the amount of \$616,269.28 and is required to provide a 10% match or \$61,626.93. Consequently, the minimum Project total cost will be \$677,896.21. The 2019 LMIG resurfacing list was approved by City Council on November 8, 2018. Nineteen streets were selected from the list for this year's LMIG Program based on funding availability and conditions of the roads. The recommended list resurfaces 5.33 miles total and was estimated to cost \$985,874 to \$1,125,093. Bids were received and opened publicly on February 12, 2019 at 10:30 a.m. The low bid was submitted by The Scruggs Company in the amount of \$728,796.03. The SPLOST VII Resurfacing Account will be used to pay the amount over the GDOT commitment level. Pat Collins recommended that Council to approve the low bid submitted by The Scruggs Company in the amount of \$728,796.03 plus a 10% contingency of \$72,879.60 to handle any unforeseen circumstances for a total of \$801,675.63. Councilman Norton inquired as to whether this covers the paving of the intersection of East Park Avenue and Forrest Street or would it stop at Forrest Street. Pat Collins stated that this will run between Slater Street and North Ashley Street to East Park Avenue; however, he will be bringing something before Council at a later date for the resurfacing of that intersection. Mark Barber, City Manager, stated that usually there is a 30% match for LMIG; however, because of the passage of TSPLOST this will be a 10% match. The City matches beyond the 30% anyway just to get more streets so dollar-wise we will not see a big difference. Councilman Howard inquired as to whether there were other companies who bid on this. Pat Collins stated that they did and it is included in the Council packet. They typically have a pre-bid meeting so everyone is clear about the scope of the work and they have to attend that meeting in order to bid. They had four companies at the pre-bid meeting and three of them submitted a bid.

A MOTION by Councilwoman Tooley, seconded by Councilwoman Miller-Cody, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to approve the low bid submitted by The Scruggs Company in the amount of \$728,796.03 plus a 10% contingency of \$72,879.60 to handle any unforeseen circumstances for a total of \$801,675.63 for the Georgia Department of Transportation 2019 Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant (LMIG) Program.

Consideration of bids for the installation of sidewalks on Lake Park Road.

Pat Collins, City Engineer, stated that it was determined that sidewalks were needed in various locations within the City Limits of Valdosta. There is a portion of Lake Park Road located between the Pinevale Elementary School and South Street which has an asphalt surface with no physical barrier between pedestrians and vehicles. This sidewalk is important to School Crossing Guards in order to maintain the safety of children. Sealed bids were received by the City of Valdosta at the City Engineer's Office at 11:00 a.m. on February 12, 2019. The low bid was submitted by Southland Contractors in the amount of \$57,986. Pat Collins, City Engineer, recommended that Council approve the bid submitted by Southland Contractors in the amount of \$57,986 plus a 10% contingency (\$5,798.60) to handle any unforeseen circumstances for a total of \$63,784.60.

A MOTION by Councilman Norton, seconded by Councilman Gibbs, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to approve the low bid submitted by Southland Contractors in the amount of \$57,986.00 plus a 10% contingency (\$5,798.60) to handle any unforeseen circumstances for a total of \$63,784.60 for the installation of sidewalks on Lake Park Road.

Consideration of a Contract for a Pavement Management System for the Engineering Department.

Pat Collins, City Engineer, stated that the City of Valdosta owns and maintains 323 miles of streets. Currently, the City evaluates pavement conditions and establishes resurfacing priorities based upon a windshield survey of observed roadway conditions without knowledge of the actual underlying conditions. The most recent survey was completed in 2017 and the majority of the seated City Council members participated in a City-wide ride-along to visit the best and worst-rated roadways in every District. This priority rating has been used to largely establish the priority streets for subsequent resurfacings. A Pavement Management System is a planning tool used to aid pavement management decisions. Pavement Management Systems model future pavement deterioration due to traffic and weather and recommend maintenance and repairs to the road's pavement based on the type and age of the pavement and various measures of existing pavement quality. Field measurements are taken by Technicians

traveling in a moving vehicle using automated sensors either mounted on and/or pulled by the vehicle. Research has shown that it is far less expensive to keep a road in good condition than it is to repair it once it has deteriorated. This is why Pavement Management Systems place the priority on preventive maintenance of roads in good condition, rather than reconstructing roads in poor condition. In terms of lifetime cost and long term pavement conditions, this will result in better system performance. Agencies that concentrate on restoring their bad roads often find that by the time they have repaired them all, the roads that were in good condition have deteriorated. Pavement Management Systems survey results in composite pavement quality rankings based on pavement quality measures on roads or road sections. Recommendations are usually biased towards predictive maintenance, rather than allowing a road to deteriorate until it needs more extensive reconstruction. A line item to contract with Infrastructure Management Services (IMS), a sole-source provider, was approved in the Fiscal Year 2019 Budget in the amount of \$109,733. This request, if approved, will authorize the Engineering Department to contract with IMS for a Pavement Management System survey and testing, dyna-flect mobilization, deflection testing, mapping, and any additional on-site meetings as needed. Pat Collins, City Engineer, recommended that Council approve the contract with Infrastructure Management Services (IMS) in the amount of \$109,733 for a Pavement Management System for the Engineering Department. Councilwoman Tooley inquired as to whether there were any other cities who had worked with this company. Pat Collins stated that there is a list of clients in Georgia that have used this company such as Marietta, Sandy Springs, Dunwoody, Chamblee, Peachtree Corners, Atlanta, Fulton County, Powder Springs, Buckhead, and the Georgia Department of Transportation. Councilman Vickers inquired as to whether they would be doing all of the streets this year. Pat Collins stated that they are doing all of the arterial and collector streets and major run streets at this point. There will also be some local collector roads that go back into the neighborhoods. Councilman Vickers stated that North Street between Ashley Street and Patterson Street is in terrible condition.

A MOTION by Councilman Carroll, seconded by Councilwoman Miller-Cody, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to approve the contract with Infrastructure Management Services (IMS) in the amount of \$109,733 for a Pavement Management System for the Engineering Department.

Consideration of a request to purchase a Grapple Truck for the Public Works Department.

Richard Hardy, Public Works Director, stated that the Sanitation Division of the Public Works Department is replacing a 15 year old Grapple Truck which burned and is now a total loss. This is a truck with a claw mounted on a boom with a dump trash body and is used for picking up yard trash and other types of debris. On January 23, 2019, a Public Works Grapple Truck caught fire and burned. The truck was destroyed and needs to be replaced as soon as possible. To keep debris operations on schedule without interrupting customer services, the truck needs to be replaced before the summer and fall months of this year. The Maintenance Center began an exhaustive search for a suitable replacement that closely matches the specifications of the two Grapple Trucks recently purchased. A suitable replacement was located by Wastebuilt, who is the preferred body supplier, and they can deliver a new unit in 90-100 days which is far sooner than a typical purchase of nine months. Wastebuilt provided a quote in the amount of \$147,800 for a complete unit. Richard Hardy, Public Works Director, recommended that Council approve the quote submitted by Wastebuilt in the amount of \$147,800 for a Grapple Truck and allow the Public Works Department to proceed with the purchase. Councilman Carroll inquired as to where the funding for the new Grapple Truck was coming from for this purchase. Mark Barber, City Manager, stated that they would take the funding from User Fees from the Sanitation Fund. This is also an emergency purchase and is why they did not go through the normal procurement process.

A MOTION by Councilwoman Miller-Cody, seconded by Councilman Norton, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to approve the quote submitted by Wastebuilt in the amount of \$147,800 for a Grapple Truck for the Public Works Department.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

There were no citizens to be heard.

Mark Barber, City Manager, stated that the Georgia Heirs Property Law Workshop will be held on Saturday, February 23, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. at the Valdosta-Lowndes County Parks and Recreation Office located at 1901 North Forrest Street. Citizens are encouraged to attend.

The Georgia Production Partnership Meeting will be held on February 28, 2019 at 1:30 p.m. at the Valdosta State University Student Union. Movies are the number one economic boom right now in the State of Georgia so there will be a lot of discussion about that as well as the Film Festival.

The Miracle League Ribbon Cutting will be held on Saturday, March 2, 2019 at 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Freedom Park.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Vickers inquired as to when the Performing Arts Center Committee would be meeting again to talk about the replacement of Mathis Auditorium. Mayor Gayle stated that there is a group that will be assessing the condition of Mathis Auditorium within the next couple of weeks. Richard Hardy, Public Works Director, stated that the evaluation would take place on March 3-5, 2019 to determine the structural condition of Mathis Auditorium. Mayor Gayle stated that they have also met with Valdosta State University. Mark Barber, City Manager, stated that they would also be meeting with the Valdosta City School system to possibly work out a partnership with them. Councilman Vickers also inquired as to when the deadline would be for submitting items for SPLOST VIII. Mayor Gayle stated that would be due right after the Mayor/Council Retreat. Mark Barber, City Manager, stated that Lowndes County has to call the meeting for that but all of the local governments are working on their SPLOST VIII lists.

Councilwoman Miller-Cody inquired the noise problem on Cypress Street. Mark Barber, City Manager, stated that he left a message for Mr. & Mrs. Ferguson to let them know that Reames & Sons were behind on some projects so they were having to work around the clock to try and get back on schedule. This was not something that happens very often.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Gayle entertained a motion for adjournment.

A MOTION by Councilman Vickers, seconded by Councilman Carroll, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to adjourn the February 21, 2019 Meeting of the Valdosta City Council at 6:13 p.m. to meet again in Regular Session on Thursday, March 7, 2019.

City Clerk, City of Valdosta

Mayor, City of Valdosta