

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE VALDOSTA CITY COUNCIL
5:30 P.M., THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 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, Eric Howard, Andy Gibbs, and Vivian Miller-Cody. Councilwoman Sandra Tooley was absent. Jeremy Baker, Attorney with Coleman-Talley, LLP, filled in for City Attorney Tim Tanner who was also absent. The invocation was given by Stephan Johnson, Freedom Outpost, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS

PRESENTATION OF THE JUNE, 2019 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH AWARD

Gary Turner began his employment with the City of Valdosta in June of 2004 and currently holds the position of Groundskeeper II in the Right-of-Way Maintenance Division. Gary is responsible for the general grounds maintenance and landscaping of the Downtown Main Street area which includes mowing grass, weed control, pressure washing, and keeping grounds free of litter. Some of the seasonal activities include changing decorative banners and planting shrubs and flowers. Gary is the face of Downtown Valdosta Main Street and Martin Luther King, Jr. Park. Over the past several months, Gary has worked tirelessly making sure the City provides a well-kept Downtown for its many visitors and citizens. His commitment and attention to detail are above approach. His dedication provides a first class Main Street and Park in the City's Downtown area as the City prepares for the many upcoming events. Gary's dedication does not stop Downtown. This year, the Mayor and Council's Strategic Initiatives Summit was held at The Woman's Building. Gary took the lead completing many tasks in the preparation of the facility and its grounds to meet the deadline of this highly anticipated event. After the building was pressure washed and the grounds beautified, Gary continued to assist with other tasks that were out of his normal duties. It is because of his perseverance that the deadline was met allowing for a successful event. Gary is a true role model as he represents the City daily during his interactions with visitors and citizens while maintaining Downtown. The City consistently receives numerous words of praise complimenting the appearance of the Downtown area. Gary's actions display great dedication and a "Service Before Self" attitude, both which are superb qualities and says a lot about his commitment. It is for these reasons and many others that the Employee Relations Committee nominated Gary Turner as Employee of the Month.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION OF THE VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY SOCIAL MEDIA AWARDS

Mayor Gayle stated that he wanted to recognize several students from the Valdosta State University (VSU) Social Media Class, which is led by their Professor, Dr. David Nelson. Dr. Nelson has enjoyed a partnership with our City's Public Information Office (PIO) for six years, and this has led to creative academic assignments and viable ideas for the City to implement. These assignments not only serve as educational projects for the students, but it also provides “real life” work experience. During the Spring, 2019 semester, the VSU Social Media students were paired with the PIO office and were tasked with providing insightful ideas for reaching citizens who use social media as their primary source of communication, and also offering innovative suggestions for revamping social media. The students visited the PIO Staff early in the Semester to learn more about the City's current social media platforms and how the PIO Staff would like to receive more engagement. They then worked in their groups to develop realistic social media plans that also became a large part of their class grade. On May 6, 2019, Ashlyn Becton, Public Information Officer, and Marcus McConico, Media Coordinator, judged the presentations. The winning group, which was comprised of Sarah Moman, Brie Tucker, Lacey Hall, and Amanda Hudgins, was selected for their presentation of Social Media Management and Analytics. Their winning presentation features ways of goal setting with social media as well as tracking engagement with analytics. The group also addressed the idea of using other social media outlets to target a younger generation such as the college students at VSU. This continued partnership with VSU demonstrates the City's constant efforts to provide applicable experiences to our local University students, as well as our commitment to engage them in their local government. The Mayor and Council congratulate the winners in this semester's Social Media Project and thank all the students for their creative efforts and contributions to their community.

The minutes of the May 23, 2019 were approved by unanimous consent (6-0) of the Council.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Consideration of a request to change the name of a portion of Jackson Street Lane to Sam Bivins Lane.

Pat Collins, City Engineer, stated that on February 27, 2019, Ms. Annie J. Perry visited the Engineering Department with a request to change the east-west portion of Jackson Street Lane from Jackson Street Lane to Sam Bivins Lane. Ms. Perry's current address is 511 Jackson Street Lane (also known as Magnolia Street Lane). Presently, Jackson Street Lane runs north-south off of J. L. Lomax Drive and turns 90 degrees in an east-west direction terminating at 2nd Avenue. There are two parcels are owned by the Davis' and two other parcels owned by Francis Wade. Ms. Perry obtained six signatures representing seven of the eight abutting parcels along the east-west portion of Jackson Street Lane to be renamed. A seventh signature was not counted as it was one of two Wade brothers who live together and reside on the same parcel. The Petition has exceeded the 60% signature requirement as outlined in Ordinance No. 2019-2. All names were verified using property records and the customer service database. As required, a public notice was run in the Valdosta Daily Times on May 17, 2019 and May 24, 2019 to advertise the renaming of a portion of the street and hearing date. Ms. Perry often receives mail for the following addresses: 802 Magnolia Lane, 511 Second Avenue, 802 Magnolia Street, and 509 Jackson Street Lane. The name change would help to reconcile confusion with street addresses and assist with proper mail delivery. If approved, Ms. Perry's parcel is the only occupied parcel with a mailing address change affected by the petition. The only other parcel subject to the name change is a vacant lot parcel across the street owned by the Davis'. Ms. Susie Davis signed the petition. In addition, the proposed name would recognize Ms. Perry's father who built the house at 511 Jackson Street Lane and raised Ms. Perry and her family there.

No one spoke in favor of the request.

No one spoke in opposition to the request.

A MOTION by Councilman Vickers, seconded by Councilwoman Miller-Cody, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to approve the name change for a portion of Jackson Street Lane to Sam Bivins Lane.

ORDINANCE NO. 2019-9, AN ORDINANCE FOR A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT (CUP) TO ESTABLISH A FAMILY PERSONAL CARE HOME FACILITY IN A RESIDENTIAL-PROFESSIONAL (R-P) ZONING DISTRICT

Consideration of an Ordinance for a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) to establish a Family Personal Care Home facility in a Residential-Professional (R-P) Zoning District as requested by Chad Bailey (File No. CU-2019-23). The property is located at 4019 Forrest Run Circle. The Greater Lowndes Planning Commission reviewed this request at their May regular meeting and recommended approval with four conditions (4-3 Vote).

Matt Martin, Planning & Zoning Administrator, stated that Chad N. Bailey is requesting a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) to establish a Family Personal Care Home facility in a Residential-Professional (R-P) Zoning District. The property consists of 0.14 acres (6,000 square feet) located at 4019 Forrest Run Circle which is along the north side of the south loop of the street. It is approximately four houses east of the subdivision entrance. The property contains a single-family residence (3 bedrooms, 2.5 bath, 1,756 square feet) with a small driveway and no garage or carport. The applicant acquired the property as their residence in 2014, but has now relocated to another residence and is proposing to utilize this existing residence as a Personal Care Home with six children (teenage girls) which will be known as "Bailey's Blossoms." The applicant is proposing this to be part of the State's "Child Caring Institution (CCI)" Program. The State of Georgia defines these as a child-welfare facility with full-time room, board, and watchful oversight to six or more children ages 6-18. The minimum number of residents the State allows to be considered for this program is six children. The applicant is not proposing any building expansions or changes to the site. The applicant has recently learned the State is able to consider a CCI facility with less than six children, if a special waiver is approved. The applicant has also learned that their facility will only accommodate up to five children under State CCI guidelines based on the limited size of one of the bedrooms. The applicant is now proposing their facility to house only teenage boys, instead of all girls. The property is located within a Suburban Area (SA) Character Area on the Future Development Map of the Comprehensive Plan. This entire

subdivision area was rezoned to Residential-Professional (R-P) in 1998 as part of speculative rezoning that was originally for a professional office complex along the North Forrest Street frontage, and a high-density residential development in the form of multi-family located to the east. However, market forces apparently shifted after 1998 and the residential portion was instead developed as a high-density single-family subdivision instead which is more along the lines of a traditional R-6 development (60'x100' lots). This particular CUP request is very similar to one by Eleanor McBurrough that was approved two years ago for a CCI Personal Care Home with up to six children on property located at 208 Hollywood Street. This other property is zoned R-6, which is similar in many ways to R-P in terms of single-family development; however, these two neighborhood areas and even the subject properties themselves are very different. The properties on Hollywood Street are wider (75' instead) with lot sizes that are more than twice the size (0.30 acres) than the lots on Forrest Run Circle, which gives the neighborhood a less crowded feel. The house itself was six bedrooms with nearly 2,500 square feet of floor area. It was easy to envision six children living there, as well as extra room for onsite supervision that is also residing on the premises much like a large traditional family. In this case, however, the house on Forrest Run Circle is noticeably smaller with three bedrooms and no additional space shown on the floor plan for any resident supervisors of the facility. There is also less room in the existing driveway for Staff vehicles to park. Although the property is eligible for up to six children in a Personal Care Home, Staff is very concerned that the applicant is attempting to overcrowd the facility with too many persons, and in a way, that resembles more of an institutional use (closer to an orphanage) than a traditional household environment with resident adults. Staff understands the minimum requirements of six children for the State's CCI Program. A similar but smaller Personal Care Home with three children is a Permitted Use in R-P Zoning and does not require a CUP. Therefore, Staff was tempted to recommend denial of this request. However, Staff believes that given the size of the home and it having three bedrooms, that perhaps a maximum of four children could be reasonably accommodated here (perhaps utilizing one bedroom for house parents, but with proper conditions of approval to help ensure the property maintains its single-family residential character. Staff found the request consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and the Conditional Use Review Criteria, and recommended approval subject to the following conditions: (1) Approval shall be granted for a Family Personal Care Home in R-P Zoning not to exceed four children, and in the name of the applicant or his immediate family members only. (2) There shall be no more than two, on-site Staff persons at any one time, and no more than two vehicles shall be parked on the subject property at any one time. All parking shall be within the existing driveway of the subject property, and there shall be no on-street parking. (3) The property shall maintain its single-family residential character, have no outdoor signage, and shall be kept clean and mowed at all times. (4) Conditional Use approval shall expire after two years from the date of approval if no Business License application has been submitted by that time. The Planning Commission reviewed this at their May 28, 2019 meeting, found it consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and the Conditional Use Review Criteria, and recommended approval subject to the same conditions as recommended by Staff (4-3 vote).

No one spoke in favor of the request.

No one spoke in opposition to the request.

A MOTION by Councilman Howard, seconded by Councilman Vickers, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to enact Ordinance No. 2019-9, an Ordinance to approve a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) to establish a Family Personal Care Home facility in a Residential-Professional (R-P) Zoning District as requested by Chad Bailey along with the following four conditions: (1) Approval shall be granted for a Family Personal Care Home in R-P Zoning not to exceed four children, and in the name of the applicant or his immediate family members only. (2) There shall be no more than two, on-site Staff persons at any one time, and no more than two vehicles shall be parked on the subject property at any one time. All parking shall be within the existing driveway of the subject property, and there shall be no on-street parking. (3) The property shall maintain its single-family residential character, have no outdoor signage, and shall be kept clean and mowed at all times. (4) Conditional Use approval shall expire after two years from the date of approval if no Business License application has been submitted by that time.

BIDS, CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS, AND EXPENDITURES

Consideration of bids for a Cured-In-Place-Pipe (CIPP) Lining Project for sewer pipe repairs at various locations within the City of Valdosta.

Darryl Muse, Utilities Director, stated that the sanitary sewer system has a history of stormwater inflow and infiltration (I&I) issues. In order to evaluate the sanitary sewer system, identify sources of I&I, and schedule repairs, the Utilities Department contracted with Constantine Engineering for smoke testing of the entire system. During the final phase of smoke testing in areas of West Moore Street, University Drive, Slater Street, and Williams Street, locations were identified where smoke was emitting from the sewer system indicating potential pipe failure. Following the smoke test results, Utilities crews performed Closed Circuit Television Camera (CCTV) inspection of the sewer lines in these areas. These inspections indicated that there were numerous fractured lines throughout each of these collection systems. Repair methods were limited to two options. The first was to excavate the areas of the sewer lines at all locations to access the broken sewer pipe and then make necessary repairs. This was not considered the best option due to numerous residences, traffic flow, and costs related to excavation and repair of roads, driveways, and stormwater systems. The second option was to utilize Cured-In-Place-Pipe (CIPP) lining technology to rehabilitate the failed sewer pipe. This will be the most cost-effective, quickest, and least intrusive method of repair. The Project to line a combined total of 3,140 linear feet of 8-inch sewer pipe, which includes reinstating fifty-seven (57) service laterals, was advertised for bid on April 16, 2019. Six companies submitted proposals on May 23, 2019. The lowest responsive bidder was American Infrastructure Technologies Corporation in the amount of \$90,275. Darryl Muse, Utilities Director, recommended that Council approve the low bid submitted by American Infrastructure Technologies Corporation in the amount of \$90,275 plus a 10% contingency (\$9,027.50) to handle any unforeseen circumstances for a total of \$99,302.50.

A MOTION by Councilman Norton, seconded by Councilman Carroll, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to approve the low bid submitted by American Infrastructure Technologies Corporation in the amount of \$90,275 plus a 10% contingency (\$9,027.50) to handle any unforeseen circumstances for a total of \$99,302.50 for the Cured-In-Place-Pipe (CIPP) Lining Project for sewer pipe repairs at various locations within the City of Valdosta.

Consideration of bids for sewer rehabilitation on a section of Browns Canal.

Darryl Muse, Utilities Director, stated that in 2015, the EPD-required Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP), which updated the Withlacoochee sewer collection system flow model, was completed. The new model assisted the Utilities Department in identifying potential sewage overflow locations and areas with high inflow and infiltration probability. The model and ensuing rehabilitation report identified numerous sections of the system in need of sewer main upgrades to eliminate flow restricting bottlenecks. Six high priority Phase 1 Projects and five Phase 2 Projects were developed as a result. Three of the high priority Projects have been completed to date. This, the fourth high priority Project, will eliminate a major bottleneck issue in the area of Lamar Street and West Adair Street. Utilizing the pipe bursting method, it will replace 560 feet of deteriorated sewer line and upsize it from 15 to 18-inch pipe. The Project also includes the installation and lining of one new manhole and the rehab and lining of three existing manholes. Bidders were asked to submit an alternate bid that includes the replacement of an additional 385 feet of 15-inch sewer main further along West Adair Street. This section of sewer main was identified in the rehab report as a Phase 2 Project and needs to be replaced and upsized to further reduce bottleneck issues in this area. On April 18, 2019, the Utilities Department advertised for bids for the Project to rehab this section of the Browns Canal sewer basin. A mandatory pre-bid conference was held on May 9, 2019 with three potential bidders attending. Bids were received from two bidders and opened on May 23, 2019. The lowest responsive and eligible bidder for the Project was RPI Underground, Inc. in the amount of \$255,964 for the base bid. RPI was also the lowest responsive and eligible bidder for the additional work in the amount of \$228,040. The combined total cost for the base bid and alternate bid to rehabilitate a combined total of 945 feet of sewer main would be \$484,004. Darryl Muse, Utilities Director, recommended that Council approve Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the Project and the low bid submitted by RPI Underground, Inc. in the amount of \$255,964 for the base bid and \$228,040 for the additional work, for a total amount of \$484,004. He also requested a 10% contingency (\$48,400.40) to handle any unforeseen circumstances for a grand total of \$532,404.40 for the sewer rehabilitation on a section of Browns Canal.

A MOTION by Councilman Carroll, seconded by Councilman Gibbs, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to approve the low base bid of RPI Underground, Inc. in the amount of \$255,964 and the alternate bid in the amount of \$228,040 for a total of \$484,004 plus a 10% contingency (\$48,400.40) to handle any unforeseen circumstances for a grand total of \$532,404.40 for sewer rehabilitation on a section of Browns Canal.

Consideration of a request to allocate the distribution of the Federal Fiscal Year 2019 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding allocation and proposed activities.

Mayor Gayle entertained a motion to take this request off of the Agenda until the first Regular Council Meeting in July in order to gain additional information.

A **MOTION** by Councilwoman Miller-Cody, seconded by Councilman Carroll, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to take this request off of the Agenda until the first Regular Council Meeting in July.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Roy Taylor, 2209 Bridlewood Drive, stated that we have a lot of young people in Valdosta who cannot afford to swim this summer. We have a great Parks and Recreation Department and he wanted to help them out. Last year, he donated funds to help 50 children to go swimming. This year the number has increased to 100. He also belongs to an organization that is looking to sponsor 150 children. Mr. Taylor thanked Councilwoman Vivian Miller-Cody for bringing this to his attention and he presented her with a donation.

Thomas Henderson, III, 4122 Amberly Trail, stated that the City owns some property on Lankford Drive and that houses the Foster Grandparent Program. Dr. Ronnie Mathis has been before Council several times to seek aid. They have just spent \$900 for a handicap ramp and they need the City's help in getting an air conditioner for the building. They have no heat or air conditioning so when it is cold they have to go to another location. Mr. Henderson asked Council's consideration in helping them with the installation of an air conditioning/heating unit.

Sementa Mathews, 4069 Conway Circle, stated that she is the Executive Director of the Turner Center for the Arts and thanked the Mayor and Council for their support. There is a big move across the City of Valdosta with citizens having an interest in the arts. The Turner Center for the Arts has a wonderful Youth Program which is supported by many people in our community. They have classes that teach children how to use technology to do art. They have culinary and etiquette classes along with painting and pottery classes. They also offer scholarships to children who are unable to afford some of these classes. They are also honoring the military with a public art piece called "A Tribute to Our Military" which is a six foot monument with lots of tiles affixed to it. The Public Art Advisory Committee will be placing an eagle sculpture on top of it once all the tiles are in place. This sculpture sits right in front of the Miracle League field which is a wonderful place to have it. They need the community's help in putting these tiles on the monument so they are having workshops on June 26-29, 2019.

Dr. Amanda Hall, 2102 North Sherwood Drive, stated that she is a Veterinarian here in Valdosta and she wanted to discuss the feral cat problem. There are some neighborhoods that are worse than others and according to the Department of Health, there were 350 cat bites last year which is significantly under reported. The cost of rabies post exposure treatment is approximately \$3,000. Feral cats are a nuisance to our community and a true public health problem. They can carry rabies, toxoplasmosis, round worms, and many other diseases. The Animal Shelter takes in approximately 2,200 cats each year and 75% of those are euthanized. She called the Animal Shelter today and they are packed full of cats. She started a feral cat program for the Humane Society in hopes to get a handle on it. This year they have done 1,500 feral cats and altogether with her program and the low cost Spay/Neuter Program in Thomasville, the Humane Society has spent \$64,000. They are not even coming close to a solution. Dr. Hall asked Council's consideration in having an Ordinance that mandates all female cats must be spayed at six months of age. We mandate how tall the grass can be so if we are mandating because we are worried about vermin then it does not seem unreasonable that the City should consider an Ordinance that would have a true impact on public health in our community.

John Quarterman, 6565 Quarterman Road, stated that he would like to congratulate the Utilities Department and the Utilities Director, Darryl Muse, for proposing more sewer system improvements. They should have the I & I problem fixed soon. Also, they are having an event, Paddle Georgia, where approximately 300 people throughout Georgia and Florida will be paddling down the river. Mr. Quarterman invited the Mayor and Council to join them at the Troupville boat ramp at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 15, 2019 to see them off or they could come to Grassy Pond to meet them on June 14, 2019. Also, the Georgia Water Coalition has more than 300 members throughout the State of Georgia and it is well known for its "Dirty Dozen" which are the worst threats to Georgia's water. He has never nominated Valdosta for the "Dirty Dozen" and the Georgia Water Coalition now

has a new thing called the “Clean Thirteen.” He is observing that Valdosta has not had any sewage spills this year and that the City has seven, one megawatt solar installations and new LED street lights. He was wondering what else Valdosta was doing because he wants to nominate Valdosta for the “Clean Thirteen.”

George Boston Rhynes, 5004 Oak Drive, stated that at the last Council Meeting, Rev. Floyd Rose, who is President of the People’s Tribunal, was escorted out of the building. That video went out across the United States of America and the world. An 80 year old man was escorted out because he wants a street renamed for former President Barrack Obama. The Valdosta Daily Times filled the newspaper with that article; however, there were other people who spoke at the Council Meeting. The citizens of our community do not know anything else about the Council Meeting because it was not published. He has said it once and he will continue to say that they need a freedom of the press in Valdosta that will keep everyone informed. He is not trying to tell the Mayor how to conduct the Council Meetings, but he goes to Council Meetings all across this State and when the Mayor sounds the gavel on citizens and taxpayers, they are often offended by it. They may also be someone on the City Council that does not approve of it. Some other cities ask the Council members what their pleasure is in letting citizens speak. They may say give that person two or three minutes and that gives the people more acceptance of the people they elect into public office. The Valdosta Daily Times also said that Rev. Rose believes that Forrest Street was named after Nathan Bedford Forrest, the KKK founder and KKK member. If you check the historic archival record like he has checked, then the Valdosta Daily Times does not have to say that is Floyd Rose’s opinion. That is a historical fact. Let’s not cast shadows that will cause the race issue in Valdosta being worse than it already is. He has documented proof that the Valdosta Daily Times ignores the news even when it is brought before the Mayor and Council.

CITY MANAGER’S REPORT

Mark Barber, City Manager, stated that the Juneteenth Celebration Dinner will be held on Tuesday, June 11, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. at Mathis Auditorium. There will be another event, Community Awareness Day, on Saturday, June 15, 2019 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the old Courthouse square. There will be a Proclamation reading at 11:00 a.m. as well activities for children and a free lunch.

There will be an unveiling of a mural that is located at the corner of Ashley Street and Central Avenue at 10:00 a.m. tomorrow. The mural was painted by a local artist who now lives in Atlanta and it has made a world of difference to that wall. If it is raining there will be an alternative unveiling at Artists on Ashley.

The Park Avenue and Forrest Street Intersection Project will begin on Monday, June 10, 2019 but could be delayed due to inclement weather.

First Friday will be held tomorrow and they have really been great this year. They have had a lot of participation from the citizens.

The Historic Preservation Division in the Planning & Zoning Department will be hosting a Lunch & Learn on Tuesday, June 11, 2019 from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. at The Woman’s Building. They will have a Historical Preservationist from Atlanta who will be conducting the session. This will be good for contractors and homeowners who work and live in the Historical District.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Vickers inquired about the E-mails that were sent out regarding Park Avenue and Inner Perimeter Road. Mark Barber, City Manager, stated that on Wednesday evening there was a microburst storm at that intersection and it exploded the traffic signals and sent debris down the road. The Engineering Department arrived at the scene immediately and worked until 3:00 a.m. to get the signals back up and functioning. They came back in at 8:00 a.m. the next morning and had everything fixed by 10:00 a.m.

Councilman Howard stated that the City of Valdosta does a lot of great work for our citizens, but after what happened at the last Council Meeting, he felt like he needed to say something. He was outside of the Council Meeting when he got a text from Councilman Gibbs saying that the Valdosta Daily Times had breaking news that Rev. Floyd Rose was escorted out of the Council Meeting. The City had just adopted a \$99 million Budget and that

was not breaking news. He did not think escorting Rev. Rose out of the Council Chambers was breaking news. Sometimes they are put into difficult positions as City Council Members. They do not have the ability to say that they agree with it or do not agree with it because it puts them all in a bad light. For instance, no one is questioning the experience that the new Fire Chief Brian Boutwell has; however, when he is hired and they do not go through the process of a nationwide search and interviews, it puts him and the Council in a bad position. They are left to defend the decision and Chief Boutwell is left to defend himself. If they are going to do those things, they need to go through process next time with no questions. He kept quiet through the renaming of Forrest Street, but once it was placed in the newspaper, someone from the City should have reached out to the group to make sure it was done correctly. When they began the process, he spoke with the City Manager and the People's Tribunal in order to reach some type of resolution. When they were gathering signatures for the petition, they were not aware that one apartment complex that holds 500 or 600 different addresses could only be counted as one signature. He did not want the Council to be defending things that they do not feel are true. If they do not want to rename the street, then they need to say they do not want to rename it. They do not need to get into the position of defending whether the street is named after someone or not. This thing gotten to him because he received a text and call from a friend of his who was asking if that was still going on in Valdosta. We are still trying to move forward and make Valdosta grow, but we still have the same old issues that we are fighting. He understands that a lot of times they want to say who is right and who is wrong and just leave it at that; however, they need to take the conversation a step further. He knows the People's Tribunal and they are not demanding that the street be named, but they are asking Council to compromise and put it for a vote. If it passes then it passes and if it does not it dies. They do not need to have people on Council defending it and saying that the street is not named after certain people. It is no coincidence that you have other streets named Troup, Ashley, Lee, and Forrest. He would like for them to stop and just say either they are going to do it or not. He attends meetings that are not advertised to the public all over the City. People in Districts 1, 2, and 3 are a little more interested than you think. He spoke with a woman who is 73 years old and she told him every vote he has made and every time he spoke. She showed him an E-mail list with over 3,500 people that can gather and say this is what they want done. For the betterment of our community, they should not do things just to prove they are right. They should be doing things for the advancement of the community and what they can do to compromise. The woman told him to ask the City Manager and the Mayor how much it would hurt our City if the next SPLOST did not pass. They know certain Districts in the City do not vote for SPLOST. He asked her why would the citizens would want to hurt our community and she told him that were willing to do that if that is what it takes to get their attention. He does not want that to happen because he knows how much SPLOST means to our community, but he knows what 3,500 or 4,500 votes would do to SPLOST. We need to restore the credibility of our City leaders because they are all leaders. Sometimes they have to make tough decisions but it comes with the territory. Sometimes they may have to step down and say they are not going to run for re-election. He does not want the Council to lose the credibility from the citizens so if they could possibly come up with some compromise to say yes to some of the requests that people have it would go a lot further in our community.

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 June 6, 2019 Meeting of the Valdosta City Council at 6:32 p.m. to meet again in Regular Session on Thursday, June 20, 2019.

City Clerk, City of Valdosta

Mayor, City of Valdosta