

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE VALDOSTA CITY COUNCIL
5:30 P.M., THURSDAY, MAY 9, 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, Sandra Tooley, Eric Howard, Andy Gibbs, and Vivian Miller-Cody. Councilman Ben Norton was absent. The invocation was given by Larry Sayre, The Gideons, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS

SPECIAL PRESENTATION OF THE “IF I WERE MAYOR” ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS

Mayor John Gayle stated that cities across our State celebrated Georgia Cities Week on April 21-27, 2019 with activities that highlight the programs and services that enhance the quality of life for our citizens. In Valdosta, we had several activities for citizens to participate in during this week which included the Customer Service Appreciation Day, the See Click Fix Lunch and Learn, a Blood Drive, Job Shadow Day, Outdoor Movie Night, and the City of Valdosta’s Employee Appreciation Luncheon. However, one of the most popular activities during Georgia Cities Week is the “If I Were Mayor” Essay Contest. This contest challenges sixth grade students in our community to use their grade-level writing skills and civic knowledge to express in 350 words or less what they would do if they had the top elected position in the City. Over the years, the City has received some incredible and thought-provoking work from our local students and this year’s winners are no exception. Mayor Gayle announced the following winners of this year’s contest: 4th Place Winner - Patrick Wallace (St. John Catholic School), 3rd Place Winner - Henry Hamilton (St. John Catholic School), 2nd Place Winner - Ray Moody (St. John Catholic School), and 1st Place Winner - Chandler Monetti (St. John Catholic School). Mayor Gayle commended each student for their great efforts and presented them with a framed Certificate and a gold Mayor’s coin.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF THE 2018-2019 VALDOSTA YOUTH COUNCIL

Mayor Gayle stated that under the direction of Mayor John Gayle and his appointed advisory board, the 16-member Valdosta Youth Council (VYC) successfully completed their fourth program year, 2018-2019, with a variety of accomplishments. The VYC was created for youth to build leadership skills and learn about civic responsibility, to gain a better understanding of municipal government, and to prepare youth for a lifetime of public and community service. Throughout the 2018-2019 program year, VYC members embraced their mission and accomplished the following: (1) Gained an understanding and appreciation of municipal government by meeting monthly with a variety of City and local leaders including: the City Manager, City Clerk, Police Chief, Fire Chief, Crime Lab Director, Police K-9 Unit, Municipal Court Judge, Engineering and Traffic Maintenance, Public Works, Stormwater & Arbor Divisions, and Keep Lowndes-Valdosta Beautiful, (2) Traveled to the Sun Belt Ag Expo in Moultrie, which is known as “North America’s Premier Farm Show”, and learned about agriculture and Georgia Grown Products, (3) Participated in a Community Service Project along with members of the Project Rescue Outreach Ministries to help feed the homeless in our community, (4) Hosted a Leadership Development Training in January, 2019 where VYC members identified leadership traits in themselves, as well as in others, (5) Coordinated the 2019 “If I Were Mayor” Essay Contest, (6) Collectively completed more than 100 hours of community service (a minimum of 8 hours each), (7) Participated in the Valdosta Christmas Tree Lighting, the Electronics Recycling event, and other City-sponsored events, (8) Produced seven VYC Video spots that were shown on Facebook, YouTube, and City Focus with the assistance of Metro 17’s Marcus McConico to discuss issues being addressed each month at VYC meetings, (9) Participated in a radio talk show with Black Crow Media to promote the Youth Council and their initiatives, (10) Continued a growing presence on the VYC Facebook page for local youth to follow the work of the VYC, to be informed on youth issues, and to discover ways to be engaged in their local government, (11) Completed one organized cleanup of their adopted .6 mile portion of North Lee Street resulting in 10, thirty-gallon bags of trash removed from this City street, and (12) Documented their fourth year of VYC activities in a hard-bound scrapbook that will be passed on each year to the succeeding Council. The members of the 2018-2019 VYC are: Juan Angel (Historian), Brayden Anderson, Dean Barnett, Najah Blankumsee, George

Butters, Joey Butters (Vice President), Aniya Davenport, Emily Dinkins, Will Gerber (Secretary/ Treasurer), Janay Hill, Daniel Holcombe (Parliamentarian), Nevin Miller, Catriona Moore, Toni Salami (President), Anthony Thomas, and Erick Thomas, Jr. The appointed members of the VYC Advisory Board were: Valdosta City Councilwoman Vivian Miller-Cody, City Clerk Teresa Bolden, J. L. Newbern Middle School Vice Principal James White, St. John Catholic School Counselor Laurie Wallace, Media Coordinator Marcus McConico, and Public Information Officer Ashlyn Becton.

PRESENTATION OF THE MAY, 2019 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH AWARD

Darryl Muse, Utilities Director, stated that Deborah White began her employment with the City of Valdosta in 1977 in the Parks and Recreation Department. In 2001, she became the Utilities Operations Coordinator with the Utilities Department. The Utilities Operations Coordinator is responsible for overseeing the operations of the administration division of the Utilities Department. During these 42 years of service, Mrs. White has exemplified herself as a professional. She has mentored her Staff and has worked tirelessly to improve operations and efficiency as well as personified the definition of commitment, loyalty, duty, and trust. Her passion for helping people is shone by the way she has touched many employees in our Department, whether to offer condolences during a meaningful moment in their lives or to ensure adherence to a City practice or policy. Being an employee for the City of Valdosta has never been just a job for Mrs. White. Currently, she is serving on the Employee Relations Committee and as a Commissioner on the Public Housing Authority Committee. Mrs. White constantly strives to reach out and make a difference in our community. As an example, Mrs. White co-operates a candy and soda store called "The Little Corner Store" in the Utilities Department. When asked why we had these provisions, she stated, "It was initially started to help the men because they would often come in from the field, having missed lunch, or extremely hot and thirsty. They could leave an IOU and get a drink, cookies, or chips for .50 cents. But after a while, the funds had grown to the point that something had to be done with the money. It was then the "Little Corner Store" began to make donations to various charity groups throughout the City." Those groups include: LAMP, Police Department, Fire Department, The Haven, The Children's Advocacy Center, Relay for Life, and the American Heart Association. On average these donations have exceeded \$5,000 per year. Mrs. White has also been instrumental in assisting in the Great Promise Partnership program. Last year one of the students received a check to help with his college tuition compliments of "The Little Corner" store. Another example occurred when one of our Utility employees was diagnosed with a medical condition that caused him to use all of his sick leave hours. Mrs. White jumped into action and spearheaded a fundraising effort to help alleviate the employee's financial burden. The Utilities Department held luncheons, dinners, sold snack items, and collected donations to help benefit the employee. Thanks to Deborah's leadership, the employee was able to endure financially until other means of income was made available. It is because of her dedicated service and contributions as an outstanding public servant that the Employee Relations Committee nominated Deborah White as Employee of the Month.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the April 11, 2019 were approved by unanimous consent (6-0) of the Council.

BIDS, CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS, AND EXPENDITURES

Consideration of bids for the purchase of two Rear Loader Garbage Trucks for the Public Works Department (Bid No. 31-18-19).

Richard Hardy, Public Works Director, stated that the Residential Garbage Division of the Public Works Department needs to replace two residential Garbage Trucks (25-14, built in 2000 and 25-16 built in 2003) due to age. These trucks are used to service our residential sanitation customers. These are Council approved items for the funding source. Sealed bids were received on April 23, 2019 with the low bid meeting specifications submitted by Waste Built in the amount of \$579,418. Richard Hardy, Public Works Director, recommended that Council approve the low bid meeting specifications submitted by Waste Built in the amount of \$579,418 and allow the Public Works Department to proceed with the purchase.

A **MOTION** by Councilman Howard, seconded by Councilman Gibbs, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to approve the low bid meeting specifications submitted by Waste Built in the amount of \$579,418 and allow the Public Works Department to proceed with the purchase of two Rear Loader Garbage Trucks.

Consideration of bids for the purchase of an Air/Light Support Truck for the Valdosta Fire Department (Bid No. 26-18-19).

Fire Chief Freddie Broome stated that the Air/Light Support Truck is dispatched to all structure fires. The truck is equipped with an SCBA cascade refilling station, generators, lights, firefighter rehab equipment, and additional essential tools and equipment needed for firefighters to perform their duties efficiently and effectively. Our current Air/Light Truck is over 22 years old. The current vehicle was purchased with an ambulance package and modified to be used as a light rescue truck. It was later modified again and used as an Air/Light and Support Truck. The current vehicle is aged beyond its expected life span and is in need of replacement. It can no longer be modified or upgraded to meet our current and future needs of the Department and is no longer cost efficient to continue to invest in the costly repairs. The current vehicle has a cargo area comparable to a moving truck that no longer suits our needs. The open cargo area allows limited space for equipment transport and accessibility. It does not fully meet our needs as we have enhanced our support and personnel rehabilitation policies and procedures. Air replenishment and rehabilitation are essential for the safety and support of our personnel during emergency operations. An up-to-date support vehicle with an independent Cascade System and generator will give us an endless supply of air for our personnel. Exterior compartments will allow us to safely carry our equipment and improve accessibility without having to climb up and down to get in and out of the truck. After much research, the Fire Department Committee selected the body which will be constructed and installed by Custom Truck and Body Works, Inc. The location for the drop ship will be 13787 Whitehouse Parkway, Woodbury, GA 30293. Custom Truck and Body Works will provide dealer pricing for the body and installation. This bid will be done on two purchase orders, one for the cab and one for the body. This will allow for the payment to the truck dealer once the cab has been inspected by the body installer and verified the cab unit is within specification. At that time the truck dealer can submit an invoice for payment for the truck portion and their part of the bid will be complete. The Fire Department will be responsible for picking the truck up in Woodbury at their own expense once the installation is complete. Appropriate training will be provided by Custom Truck and Body Works to train designated fire personnel at their facility. Any issues with the body will be addressed at the body maker's facility before the City of Valdosta takes possession. The body will take 90-120 days to be constructed and installed. Greg Brown, Purchasing Agent from the City of Valdosta's Purchasing Department, sent letters to vendors and the low bid meeting specifications was submitted by Cass Burch in the amount of \$232,977 (\$180,000 for the body installation and \$52,977 for the 2019 Dodge Ram 5500). The original bid was for a Chevrolet MD 5500 or Comparable Air/Supply Truck. Chevrolet did not have any 2019 MD 5500 modules in stock under the government rate and there is no definite timeline on when the 2020 truck will be available. Chief Broome recommended that Council approve the low bid meeting specifications submitted by Cass Burch in the amount of \$232,977 (\$180,000 for the body installation and \$52,977 for the 2019 Dodge Ram 5500) and allow the Fire Department to proceed with the purchase.

A **MOTION** by Councilman Gibbs, seconded by Councilman Howard, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to approve the low bid meeting specifications submitted by Cass Burch in the amount of \$232,977 (\$180,000 for the body installation and \$52,977 for the 2019 Dodge Ram 5500) and allow the Fire Department to proceed with the purchase of an Air/Light Support Truck for the Valdosta Fire Department.

Consideration of bids for the purchase of a new Regenerative Air Street Sweeper for the Engineering Department (Bid No. 33-18-19).

Pat Collins, City Engineer, stated that the Engineering Department needs to replace their current street sweeper due to age (10 years old) and rising maintenance cost. The current street sweeper sweeps approximately 120 miles per month or approximately 1500 miles per year. The current street sweeper has approximately 40,000 miles on it. Maintenance problems are affecting production due to more than average mechanical break downs. The current machine is listed as vehicle # 5207 and is in the Council-approved current fiscal year Budget. The new sweeper is needed to provide an acceptable quality of service including timeliness that the citizens of Valdosta, Mayor and Council, and the State of Georgia expect from the City. The sweeper has designated routes including

State routes in the City. Sealed bids were received on April 30, 2019 with the low bid meeting specifications submitted by Four Star Freightliner in the amount of \$219,702. The low bid of Environmental Products did not meet several of the required specifications. There was no secondary motor included, no hopper screen air vibrator, or blue logic display. The second low bid of Four Star Freightliner had everything that was required. The Engineering Department budgeted \$235,000 for this purchase and the bid was \$15,298 under Budget. Pat Collins, City Engineer, recommended that Council approve the low bid meeting specifications submitted by Four Star Freightliner in the amount of \$219,702 and allow the Engineering Department to proceed with the purchase.

A MOTION by Councilman Carroll, seconded by Councilman Vickers, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to approve the low bid meeting specifications submitted by Four Star Freightliner in the amount of \$219,702 and allow the Engineering Department to proceed with the purchase of a new Regenerative Air Street Sweeper.

Consideration of bids for the North Lee Street Pedestrian Improvements Construction Project.

Pat Collins, City Engineer, stated that North Lee Street is a two lane urban collector road. The vehicle speed limit is 35 miles per hour. This street has one of the greater amounts of pedestrian traffic due to the presence of convenience stores, homes, businesses, and healthcare facilities along the corridor. This Project would construct sidewalk, curb and gutter, and storm drainage on the east side of North Lee Street. The extent would be from Vallotton Street to East Park Avenue. This Project was approved for the FY 19 Capital Budget. The portion of North Lee Street between Gordon Street and the Ora Lee West homes was completed in 2018. Sidewalk is found on North Lee Street from East Hill Avenue to Gordon Street, and from Ora Lee West Homes to Vallotton Drive. This work would complete the connection of North Lee Street between Hill Avenue and East Park Avenue. The work consists of construction of 2,600 linear feet of sidewalk on the east side of North Lee Street between Vallotton Drive and East Park Avenue. The Project will provide a safe and convenient pedestrian along the Vallotton Street to East Park Avenue corridor. The Project was properly advertised in the local newspaper and on the City's website. Bids were opened at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, April 30, 2019. The low bid was submitted by Rountree Construction in the amount of \$589,809.10. Pat Collins, City Engineer, recommended that Council approve the low bid was submitted by Rountree Construction in the amount of \$589,809.10 plus a 10% contingency (\$58,980.91) to handle any unforeseen circumstances for a total amount of \$648,790.01.

A MOTION by Councilwoman Tooley, seconded by Councilwoman Miller-Cody, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to approve the low bid submitted by Rountree Construction in the amount of \$589,809.10 plus a 10% contingency (\$58,980.91) to handle any unforeseen circumstances for a total amount of \$648,790.01 for the North Lee Street Pedestrian Improvements Construction Project.

LOCAL FUNDING AND REQUESTS

Consideration of additional funding for the Valdosta Fire Department Training Facility Improvements Project.

Pat Collins, City Engineer, stated that the City Council approved a contract at the March 21, 2019 Regular Meeting with Reames and Sons for \$64,038.00 with no contingency. There were no contingency funds requested or approved given that the Project had been previously budgeted for \$65,000.00 in FY2019 and Staff was making every attempt to stay within budget. The Project scope included removal of old asphalt and concrete surfaces, a new asphalt paving surface, ditch grading, new piping, removal of the original asphalt driveway, and the addition of two new concrete driveways (one for ingress and one for egress). Reames and Sons mobilized to the site and began work on April 11, 2019. The City Engineering Inspectors have continuously monitored the ongoing work as it has been completed in the field. Given the actual site topography, site measurements, and the quantity of tickets collected from Reames and Sons as they delivered, laid down, and rolled the new asphalt, it became obvious the Project work quantities were fast approaching, and would soon exceed the budgeted quantities. Thus, Staff stopped the contractor and put the work on hold given there was no approved contingency funding authorized by City Council to complete the remainder of the work. The amount required to complete the previously authorized scope of work which was approved by City Council is \$10,154. Records have determined that \$4,120 in unused funds remain in the Project Budget. The required sum to complete the previously approved scope of work is \$14,274. To date the contractor has completed removal of the old asphalt and concrete surfaces and replaced them with new

asphalt paving, installed the new drainage pipes beneath the original driveway entrance and at the location of the new proposed driveway exit, and completed all associated ditch grading improvements. Pat Collins, City Engineer, recommended that Council approve \$10,154 plus a 20% contingency to handle any unforeseen circumstances to complete the previously approved scope of work.

A MOTION by Councilwoman Miller-Cody, seconded by Councilwoman Tooley, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to approve \$10,154 plus a 20% contingency (\$2,030.80) for a total of \$12,184.80 to complete the previously approved scope of work for the Valdosta Fire Department Training Facility Improvements Project.

Consideration of a request to appeal the decision on a Certificate of Appropriateness by the Historic Preservation Commission for improvements to a house located at 107 East Cranford Street (HPC Case File #2019-29).

Mayor Gayle stated that this request was withdrawn by the applicant and no action will need to be taken.

BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AUTHORITIES, AND ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Consideration of an appointment to the Community Development Block Grant Citizens Advisory Committee.

Mayor Gayle stated that the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Citizens Advisory Committee had a member, Bill Donaldson, whose term expired on February 24, 2019. Mr. Donaldson did not express an interest in being reappointed. This appointment was advertised according to the Boards, Commissions, Authorities, and Advisory Committees Policy that was adopted by Mayor and Council. The only applicant to apply was Wendelin Hodges - Retired Nurse (Second Choice).

Mayor Gayle entertained a motion to appoint Wendelin Hodges to the Community Development Block Grant Citizens Advisory Committee.

A MOTION by Councilman Carroll, seconded by Councilman Gibbs, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to appoint Wendelin Hodges to the Community Development Block Grant Citizens Advisory Committee to serve a term of four years.

Consideration of an appointment to the Greater Lowndes Planning Commission.

Mayor Gayle stated that the Greater Lowndes Planning Commission has a member, Johnny P. Ball, III, whose term will expire on July 8, 2019. Mr. Ball has expressed an interest in being reappointed. This appointment was advertised according to the Boards, Commissions, Authorities, and Advisory Committees Policy that was adopted by Mayor and Council. Mr. Ball was the only applicant to apply.

Mayor Gayle entertained a motion to appoint Johnny P. Ball, III, to the Greater Lowndes Planning Commission.

A MOTION by Councilman Vickers, seconded by Councilman Carroll, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to appoint Johnny P. Ball, III, to the Greater Lowndes Planning Commission to serve a term of five years.

Consideration of an appointment to the Hospital Authority Appointment of Valdosta & Lowndes County.

Mayor Gayle stated that the Hospital Authority of Valdosta-Lowndes County has a member, Sam Allen, whose term will expire on May 1, 2019. The Hospital Authority submitted the following three names for consideration: (1) Sam Allen - Retired Superintendent of Valdosta City Schools, (2) Frank Moorman, Jr., - Retired U. S. Air Force, and (3) Jerome Tucker - retired Business Manager. Mr. Allen has expressed an interest in being reappointed. This appointment was not advertised according to the Boards, Commissions, Authorities, and Advisory Committees Policy that was adopted by Mayor and Council due to the Hospital Authority By-Laws which require the Hospital Authority of Valdosta and Lowndes County to submit three names to the City of Valdosta for consideration of Mr. Allen's seat.

Mayor Gayle asked for nominations for an appointment to the Hospital Authority Appointment of Valdosta & Lowndes County.

Councilman Vickers placed into consideration Sam Allen. There being no other nominations, Mayor Gayle closed the nominations. Sam Allen was unanimously appointed (6-0) to serve a term of five years on the Hospital Authority Appointment of Valdosta & Lowndes County.

Consideration of an appointment to the Keep Lowndes-Valdosta Beautiful Board.

Mayor Gayle stated that the Keep Lowndes-Valdosta Beautiful Board has a member, Molly Ferrier, whose term will expire on June 30, 2019. Ms. Ferrier has not expressed an interest in being reappointed. This appointment was advertised according to the Boards, Commissions, Authorities, and Advisory Committees Policy that was adopted by Mayor and Council. The applicants are as follows: (1) Victoria O'Steen - Office Manager (Video Management Services), and (2) Kelly Stubbs - Tattoo Artist (The Brass Quill Gallery).

Mayor Gayle asked for nominations for an appointment to the Keep Lowndes-Valdosta Beautiful Board.

Councilwoman Miller-Cody placed into consideration Kelly Stubbs. Councilman Carroll placed into consideration Victoria O'Steen. There being no other nominations, Mayor Gayle closed nominations. Kelly Stubbs received four votes and Victoria O'Steen received two votes. Kelly Stubbs was appointed to serve a term of three years on the Keep Lowndes-Valdosta Beautiful Board.

Consideration of appointments to the Public Art Advisory Board.

Mayor Gayle stated that the Public Art Advisory Committee has three members, Pam Scruggs (LVAC Board Member who recently resigned), Dr. Steve Lahr (LVAC Professional Artist), and Carol "Charlie" Oliver (Community at Large) whose terms will expire on June 1, 2019. Dr. Lahr has expressed an interest in being appointed as the LVAC Board Member and Ms. Oliver has not expressed an interest in being reappointed as the Community at Large Member. These appointments were advertised according to the Boards, Commissions, Authorities, and Advisory Committees Policy that was adopted by Mayor and Council. The applicants are as follows: Position #1 - LVAC Board Member - Dr. Steve Lahr - Retired Professor Emeritus, Valdosta State University, Department of Art, Position #2 - LVAC Professional Artist Member - Steven S. Walker - Artist, Steven Walker Studios, and Position #3 - Community at Large - Wendelin Hodges - Retired Registered Nurse (First Choice).

Mayor Gayle entertained a motion to appoint all three applicants, Dr. Steve Lahr, Steven S. Walker, and Wendelin Hodges to the Public Art Advisory Board.

A MOTION by Councilman Carroll, seconded by Councilman Vickers, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to appoint Dr. Steve Lahr as the LVAC Board Member, Steven S. Walker as the LVAC Professional Artist Member, and Wendelin Hodges as the Community at Large Member to serve a term of three years on the Public Art Advisory Board.

Consideration of an appointment to the Valdosta Housing Authority - Resident Appointment.

Mayor Gayle stated that the Valdosta Housing Authority has a Resident Member, DeShonda Jenkins, whose term will expire on July 1, 2019. Ms. Jenkins has expressed an interest in serving again. This appointment was advertised according to the Boards, Commissions, Authorities, and Advisory Committees Policy that was adopted by Mayor and Council. The only applicant applying for this position was Ms. Jenkins. Mayor Gayle will make this appointment and he reappointed DeShonda Jenkins to serve a one year term as the Resident Appointment for the Valdosta Housing Authority.

Consideration of an appointment to the Valdosta-Lowndes County Airport Authority.

Mayor Gayle stated that the Valdosta-Lowndes County Airport Authority has a member, Lee Turner, whose term will expire on May 21, 2019. Mr. Turner has expressed an interest in being reappointed. This appointment was advertised according to the Boards, Commissions, Authorities, and Advisory Committees Policy that was adopted by Mayor and Council. The only applicant to apply was Mr. Turner.

Mayor Gayle entertained a motion to appoint Lee Turner to the Valdosta-Lowndes County Airport Authority.

A MOTION by Councilwoman Miller-Cody, seconded by Councilman Carroll, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to appoint Lee Turner to the Valdosta-Lowndes County Airport Authority to serve a term of four years.

Consideration of a request to lift the tabling of the Valdosta-Lowndes County Construction Board of Adjustment & Appeals.

Mayor Gayle stated that at the August 10, 2017 City Council Meeting, the Mayor and Council voted to table the appointments to the Valdosta-Lowndes County Construction Board of Adjustments and Appeals indefinitely. That particular Board had not had any appeals in several years and had not met in quite some time. It was suggested that the Valdosta-Lowndes County Construction Board of Adjustments and Appeals and the Valdosta Housing Board of Adjustments and Appeals could possibly be combined into one Board. Mayor Gayle, City Manager Mark Barber, and City Attorney Tim Tanner met to discuss combining these two Boards. It was determined that these two Boards would remain as separate entities. The Valdosta-Lowndes County Construction Board had two members, John Sineath (General Contractor, Devcon Corporation) and Erik Cox (Southern Builders Supply), whose terms expired on June 30, 2017. Mr. Sineath and Mr. Cox have not expressed an interest in serving again. The term for Keith Scarborough, Electrical Contractor, on this Board expired June 30, 2018. Also, Jimmy Cone, Architect, has a term that will expire on June 30, 2019. One of these appointments must be a General Contractor. Mayor Gayle stated that we have had several people come to us and ask that we reinstate that Board; however, in order for us to advertise for these slots on this Board, the City Council must first lift it from the table.

A MOTION by Councilman Carroll, seconded by Councilwoman Tooley, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to lift this item off the table and allow City Clerk Teresa Bolden to proceed with advertising for these three slots on the Valdosta-Lowndes County Construction Board of Adjustments and Appeals.

Consideration of an appointment to the Valdosta-Lowndes County Parks & Recreation Authority.

Mayor Gayle stated that the Valdosta-Lowndes County Parks and Recreation Authority has a member, Stan Rome, whose term will expire on June 30, 2019. Mr. Rome has expressed an interest in being reappointed. This appointment was advertised according to the Boards, Commissions, Authorities, and Advisory Committees Policy that was adopted by Mayor and Council. The only applicant to apply was Mr. Rome.

Mayor Gayle entertained a motion to appoint Stan Rome to the Valdosta-Lowndes County Parks & Recreation Authority.

A MOTION by Councilman Howard, seconded by Councilman Gibbs, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to appoint Stan Rome to the Valdosta-Lowndes County Parks & Recreation Authority to serve a term of three years.

Consideration of an appointment to the Valdosta-Lowndes County Zoning Board of Appeals.

Mayor Gayle stated that the Valdosta-Lowndes County Zoning Board of Appeals has a member, Nancy Hobby, whose term will expire on July 1, 2019. Ms. Hobby has expressed an interest in being reappointed. This appointment was advertised according to the Boards, Commissions, Authorities, and Advisory Committees Policy that was adopted by Mayor and Council. The only applicant to apply for this position was Ms. Hobby.

Mayor Gayle entertained a motion to appoint Nancy Hobby to the Valdosta-Lowndes County Zoning Board of Appeals.

A **MOTION** by Councilwoman Miller-Cody, seconded by Councilman Carroll, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to appoint Nancy Hobby to the Valdosta-Lowndes County Zoning Board of Appeals to serve a term of three years.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Lee Turner, 2848 Sapelo Drive, stated that he was humbly thankful that Council selected him to serve on the Valdosta-Lowndes County Airport Authority again. It has been a very interesting appointment and his aviation background has really helped him to understand what goes on at the Airport. He appreciated the appointment and will faithfully serve in that capacity.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mark Barber, City Manager, stated that this week was National Drinking Water Week and the Utilities Department has had many activities throughout the week. It will culminate tomorrow at an event which will be held at the Water Treatment Plant on Guest Road from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Law Enforcement Prayer Day will be held on Monday, May 13, 2019 at the old Lowndes County Courthouse at 10:00 a.m. There will also be a Neighborhood Walk with the Police Department in the Tyndall Drive area with Councilman Howard, Police Chief Manahan, and several Police Officers to do a "meet and greet" with the residents. On Tuesday, May 14, 2019, Chief Manahan will be at the Chick-Fil-A on St. Augustine Road to have coffee with citizens from 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. On Thursday, May 16, 2019, from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m., the Police Department will be sponsoring a Lunch and Learn on how to deal with an active shooter request.

There will be a Budget Hearing on Tuesday, May 14, 2019 starting at 3:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers and hopefully, they will finish everything in one meeting; however, since it was advertised publically for two days, they will meet back on Wednesday, May 15, 2019 at 3:00 p.m. in case there are any citizens who wish to be heard.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Gayle stated that at the Strategic Initiatives Summit he appointed two Committees, one to study the City Charter and one to study Transportation. Councilman Carroll was appointed as the Chair of the City Charter Committee and he will give Council an update on that tonight.

Councilman Carroll stated that everyone has reviewed the City Charter and there were a couple of comments; however, there were very few things that needed to be changed. Any change to the City Charter will require State and legal processes and they are working on that to get everything done. They plan to bring it to the Mayor and Council in the near future for approval.

Councilman Vickers thanked the City Manager and Department Heads for the pictures they distributed to Council on several of the Agenda Items.

Councilman Howard inquired about the information centers and where they had been placed. Mark Barber, City Manager, stated that the first one was placed in the Devonwood area two weeks ago. The next area will be in Tom Town.

Councilwoman Tooley thanked Lee Turner for coming to the Council Meeting tonight and for thanking Council for nominating him to the Valdosta-Lowndes County Airport Authority. That is good that people who are appointed to these Boards acknowledge it and show interest. By Mr. Turner coming here tonight, it shows that he has interest and he wants to do something.

Councilman Carroll stated that since this is Mayor Gayle's final year in office, he hoped that the Valdosta Youth Council, which was a vision of Mayor Gayle, would continue. It has been a fantastic program for the youth.

Mayor Gayle entertained a motion to adjourn the Regular Council Meeting and enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing real estate and litigation.

A MOTION by Councilman Carroll, seconded by Councilman Vickers, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to adjourn the May 9, 2019 meeting of the Valdosta City Council at 6:35 p.m. and enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing real estate and litigation.

Mayor Gayle reconvened the Regular City Council Meeting at 7:03 p.m. and stated that there was discussion of real estate and litigation in the Executive Session and no action would need to be taken.

Mayor Gayle entertained a motion for adjournment.

A MOTION by Councilman Vickers, seconded by Councilman Carroll, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to adjourn the May 9, 2019 Meeting of the Valdosta City Council at 7:03 p.m. to meet again in Regular Session on Thursday, May 23, 2019.

City Clerk, City of Valdosta

Mayor, City of Valdosta