

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE VALDOSTA CITY COUNCIL
5:30 P.M., THURSDAY, JULY 25, 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, and Vivian Miller-Cody. Councilman Andy Gibbs was absent. The invocation was given by Mayor John Gayle, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Mayor Gayle recognized the Women of Juda and representatives from the Theta Phi Sigma Christian Sorority, Inc. who were in attendance at the Council Meeting. They gave out over 300 book bags to school children last Saturday. That was a tremendous job in getting the supplies and putting them in the book bags and we appreciate their hard work.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-8, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF A GRANT FROM THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION (FAA) TO PROCEED WITH A PARTIAL REHABILITATION OF TAXIWAY M, WIDENING TAXI LANES (NORTH RAMP), AND DESIGNING AIRPORT DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS

Consideration of a request from the Valdosta-Lowndes County Airport Authority to approve a Resolution authorizing acceptance of a Grant from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to proceed with a partial rehabilitation of Taxiway M, widening taxi lanes (North Ramp), and designing Airport drainage improvements.

Mark Barber, City Manager, stated that the Valdosta-Lowndes County Airport Authority desires to proceed with the partial rehabilitation of Taxiway M, widening taxi lanes (North Ramp), and designing Airport drainage improvements. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has agreed and has offered to fund 90% of the cost at the Valdosta Regional Airport. The remainder of the funds is expected to come from the Georgia Department of Transportation and a combination of Passenger Facility Charges collected from passengers that fly out of the Airport and local Airport funds. There will be no City of Valdosta funds required for these Projects. The FAA prepared a Grant which is in the amount of \$1,089,067 for the projects. The Grant has been delivered to City Hall. The Agreement must be executed and returned to the FAA on or before August 16, 2019. A Resolution has been prepared authorizing Mayor John Gayle to accept the Grant in order to process the documents. Mark Barber recommended that Council approve the Resolution authorizing the Mayor to accept the Grant.

A **MOTION** by Councilman Carroll, seconded by Councilman Vickers, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to enact Resolution No. 2019-8, a Resolution authorizing acceptance of a Grant from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to proceed with a partial rehabilitation of Taxiway M, widening taxi lanes (North Ramp), and designing Airport drainage improvements at the Valdosta Regional Airport, the complete text of which will be found in Resolution Book VI.

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-9, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF A GRANT FROM THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION (FAA) TO PROCEED WITH ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY LOCATED WITHIN THE RUNWAY 17/35 PROTECTION ZONE

Consideration of a request from the Valdosta-Lowndes County Airport Authority to approve a Resolution authorizing acceptance of a Grant from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to proceed with acquisition of property located within the Runway 17/35 Protection Zone.

Mark Barber, City Manager, stated that the Valdosta-Lowndes County Airport Authority desires to proceed with the acquisition of property located within the Runway 17/35 Protection Zone. This was approved last year but the Project was delayed pending resolution of the disposition of a house on one of the parcels. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has offered to fund 90% of the cost at the Valdosta Regional Airport. The remainder of the funds is expected to come from the Georgia Department of Transportation and Passenger Facility Charges collected from passengers that fly out of the Airport. There will be no City of Valdosta funds required for this Project. The properties being sought are the Cone/Malone property and a portion of Edgewood Farms property which are both located on the south end of the Airfield and are contiguous with existing Airport property. A future Project will address future use of the properties. The FAA is preparing a Grant which is expected to be in an amount not to exceed \$500,000 for the Project. The Grant will be delivered to City Hall. The final amount depends upon the negotiated price for the properties being acquired. The Agreement must be executed and returned to the FAA expeditiously. A Resolution has been prepared authorizing Mayor John Gayle to accept the Grant in order to process the documents. Mark Barber recommended that Council approve the Resolution authorizing the Mayor to accept the Grant.

A MOTION by Councilman Vickers, seconded by Councilman Norton, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to enact Resolution No. 2019-9, a Resolution authorizing acceptance of a Grant from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to proceed with acquisition of property located within the Runway 17/35 Protection Zone at the Valdosta Regional Airport, the complete text of which will be found in Resolution Book VI.

BIDS, CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS, AND EXPENDITURES

Consideration of bids for a Vacuum Sewer Truck for the Engineering Department's Stormwater Division.

Pat Collins, City Engineer, stated that the Engineering Department's Stormwater Division 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). 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. It will take approximately six to nine months to manufacture this truck and deliver it to the City. Mayor Gayle inquired as to how many of the Vacuum Sewer Trucks we currently have. Pat Collins stated that the Engineering Department has one and the Utilities Department has one. They are going to swap one out with this one and they are not adding to their fleet. They are replacing a 10-year old piece of equipment and will sell the other one on GovDeals. These are very hard-working vehicles because they can dig a hole immediately and are also used to jet things with. Councilwoman Miller-Cody inquired as to how long the warranty was for this piece of equipment. Pat Collins stated that he was not exactly sure but would get the information and send to her. Councilman Carroll inquired as to whether ten years was the normal useful life for one of these trucks. Mark Barber, City Manager, stated that each piece has a different warranty because they build the truck for us so there will not just be one warranty. The average life is seven years but we try to extend it to ten years. Councilwoman Tooley inquired as to whether they were replacing a truck. Pat Collins stated that the truck he currently has is approximately ten years old. Councilwoman Tooley stated that there was money in the Budget to allocate for the purchase of another one but that is not what they are doing with this one. Pat Collins stated that they have money after July 1st to purchase a new truck and that is what Council will be authorizing. The Utilities Department purchased a truck under the FY2019 Budget and they are purchasing one out of the FY2020 Budget. The company held the same price for us to purchase another one. Pat Collins recommended that Council approve the low bid submitted by Adams Equipment in the amount of \$371,596 for a Vacuum Sewer Truck for the Engineering Department's Stormwater Division.

A MOTION by Councilman Norton, seconded by Councilman Carroll, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to approve the low bid submitted by Adams Equipment in the amount of \$371,596 for a Vacuum Sewer Truck for the Engineering Department's Stormwater Division.

Consideration of bids for two Rear Loader Garbage Trucks for the Public Works Department.

Richard Hardy, Public Works Director, stated that the Residential Garbage Division of the Public Works Department needs to replace two residential Garbage Trucks (25-19 and 25-20) due to age (built in 2008). These trucks are used to service residential sanitation customers. These are Council-approved items for the funding

source. Sealed bids were received on April 23, 2019. Anticipating a future purchase of the exact nature, the bid allowed for a guaranteed price lock for six months. The low bid meeting specifications was submitted by Waste Built in the amount of \$579,418. Councilman Vickers inquired as to whether these trucks are larger than the ones we already have in service. Richard Hardy stated that they are larger and hold approximately four additional cubic yards. The trucks that we use now pack out at approximately 11 tons and these pack out between 15 and 16 tons. We currently send three vehicles to the residences and each one will pick up a different item. The new trucks will be able to pick up everything from the rollouts, yard debris, and the bulk items. Councilman Vickers inquired as to how long they would last in running their route. Richard Hardy stated that we currently run five trucks in picking up residential garbage and they run all day. They will empty at the end of a shift. Richard Hardy recommended that Council approve the low bid meeting specifications submitted by Waste Built in the amount of \$579,418 for two Rear Loader Garbage Trucks for the Public Works Department.

A MOTION by Councilwoman Miller-Cody, seconded by Councilman Vickers, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to approve the low bid meeting specifications submitted by Waste Built in the amount of \$579,418 for two Rear Loader Garbage Trucks for the Public Works Department.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Juanita Miller-Little, 940 Bunche Drive, Lincoln Park, stated that she is concerned about her neighborhood. Jerald Howard owns a home at 933 Bunche Drive and he is allowing people to sell drugs and stolen goods out of it and there was a drive-by shooting last week. They cannot have that in their neighborhood. The Police Officers have been out many times and they would like to get him evicted from his own house because he is not doing anything about the house. She called him last week and explained to him what was going on and he has not gotten back with her yet. When she talked to him it was like he did not care. There are a lot of widows in the neighborhood and they should not have to be afraid to go outside get their mail. Mr. Howard has no respect for them and he needs to do something. He does not care who he rents to as long as he gets the money.

Eula Mae Mitchell, 942 Bunche Drive, stated that she was told that she had to post signs to keep people off her property; however, they still come through it and throw chicken boxes in her yard. She was in her house when the Police called one night and asked her if she gave anyone permission to drive her car. She told them no and that her car was in her yard because it was 3:30 a.m. She then found out that they had stolen her car. Nothing was done because the Police said they could not identify them even though the Officer chased them when they got out of the car and ran. She got her car back and it was damaged and she had to fix it. It is all coming from that one house that Mr. Howard is renting out. He has been confronted about the renters because they are out of control. They are gang bangers and they have never had that in their neighborhood before. The neighbors are scared and are in their houses before dark. Last week they shot up the whole house and they do whatever they want to do.

Thomas Henderson, III, 4122 Amberly Trail, stated that he wanted to expand on what was discussed previously with the Council. Mr. Henderson stated that the Foster Grandparents building located at 1302 Lankford Drive needs a new air conditioning unit. He would like for the Council to come out and inspect it and then come back with a proposal to help them. Councilman Vickers stated that years ago when the City leased the building to the Foster Grandparents organization, the Lease Agreement stated that the Foster Grandparents organization would maintain the building. Mark Barber, City Manager, stated that the Lease Agreement gave the Foster Grandparents organization the house for \$1.00 and any repairs would be the responsibility of the organization and not the City of Valdosta. Since Mr. Henderson was here the last time, he has been trying to find some air conditioning companies that would donate a unit to the Foster Grandparents; however, he has had no luck in finding someone. Because of the Lease Agreement, that is all he can do at this time. Mr. Henderson stated that the City has a Budget of \$99 million and you cannot find an air conditioning unit to go in that house. With a legitimate organization like Foster Grandparents, they go into schools and supervise the bad children with the teachers. Their Secretary needs heat and air condition. Mayor Gayle stated that they have requests like that from other organizations and it is hard for the City to help with everything. He spoke with the City Manager about this the other day and he is trying to find someone who would donate an air conditioning. We will continue to do that.

Evelyn Smith, 307 South Street, stated that she was concerned about the south side of town. They have no stores over there and there are a lot of elderly people who live there who cannot get around. She is 82 years old and gets around pretty good, but they need some stores and restaurants. They need things over there just like they need

things in the Downtown area. It is a historic area and they need events like they have Downtown. Ms. Smith asked Council's consideration in getting some things on the south side of town. Mayor Gayle stated that we do everything we can to encourage businesses all over town; however, it is not up to us to tell people where to put their business. There is Ella's Top Corral, McDonald's, and a new Hurry Back Market with Enmark so there are some things going on with the south side of town. Ms. Smith stated that it can be done if everyone puts their heads together because through God all things possible.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mark Barber, City Manager, stated that the Battle of the Badges Blood Drive with the Fire Department and the Police Department will be held on Wednesday, July 31, 2019 from 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Mathis Auditorium Multi-Purpose Room.

The Annual Back to School Community Block Party will be held on August 3, 2019 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Drexel Park. We currently have 700 students pre-registered; however, citizens can still participate even though they are not pre-registered.

The Valdosta Youth Council will be accepting applications for 6th, 7th, and 8th graders who may be interested in participating in the Youth Council. For more information, citizens may contact Teresa Bolden, City Clerk.

The Fire Academy will be accepting applications until August 2, 2019. There are still some slots available and citizens are encouraged to apply. The Police Academy is also accepting applications for their program.

Mark Barber, City Manager, stated that he will be on vacation next week but he will be available if anyone needs him.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Vickers stated that he knows the Police Department is doing the best they can but he would like to see the Patrol units beefed up in the areas where we are receiving complaints. It will usually last a day or two and then it falls off. We could do a little better when we do get these complaints. These unruly homes and tenants are 99% rentals and you cannot come in and put them out on the street. He would like for Chief Manahan to step up the patrol in those areas. Mark Barber, City Manager, stated that one thing that is helping us right now is that the turnover rate in the Police Department is very low. We are retaining the Patrol Officers much better now than a year ago.

Councilwoman Tooley stated that she would like to get an Anonymous Box placed at City Hall where people can come and drop a note about what is going on in the area. They do not have to sign their name and they could just drop a note in the box. Council could then look at those notes and address any concerns that the citizens might have. Mark Barber, City Manager, stated that we have one in the lobby area of City Hall. Councilwoman Tooley stated that she did not think people know about it.

Councilwoman Miller-Cody stated that we need Patrol Officers in some areas of the City. At one time, Brittany Woods and Park Chase were both having the same problems and Police Officers were posted there 24/7. Hudson Docket had an Officer at one time. You now have young men shooting in the area and people walking the streets at all times of the night. We need a Patrol Officer posted in Hudson Docket. There are people going in the houses and threatening the resident to come out the door so they can jump on them. She has spoken with the mothers and they are crying out for help and calling the Police Department. One woman told her that an Officer was very rude to her. She told the woman to get the Police Officer's Badge Number if it happened again because they would present it to the Police Chief and the City Manager so that they could handle it. We are all taxpayers and we are a City of love. We love our community and love to make a difference. We need an Officer posted in Hudson Docket and one Officer in Ora Lee West. She lives by Ora Lee West and has timed when you see an Officer ride through there and it is not that often. We have to do something to help our community.

Mayor Gayle stated that he has purchased a table for ten for the Valdosta Veterans Ministry Event which is scheduled for Saturday, August 3, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. at the Rainwater Conference Center and he would like to have Council Members help him fill up the table. Councilman Vickers stated that he and a guest would like to attend.

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 July 25, 2019 meeting of the Valdosta City Council at 6:11 p.m. to meet again in Regular Session on Thursday, August 8, 2019.

City Clerk, City of Valdosta

Mayor, City of Valdosta