

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE VALDOSTA CITY COUNCIL
5:30 P.M., THURSDAY, JANUARY 9, 2020
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 Pastor Joe Buck, Shoreline Church, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

READING OF THE ELECTION RESULTS

Reading of 2019 Municipal Election and the Run-off Election Results.

Mark Barber, City Manager, stated that results of the 2019 General Municipal Election held on November 5, 2019 have been certified by the Lowndes County Board of Elections. The results for the Valdosta City Council are as follows: (1) Valdosta Mayor - Brooks D. Bivins received 102 votes, Kevin J. Bussey received 1,106 votes, Scott James Matheson received 1,579, J. D. Rice received 2,232 votes, David Sumner received 1,387, and Unresolved Write-in votes received 7. (2) Valdosta City Council District 1 - Vivian Miller-Cody (Incumbent) received 942 votes, and Unresolved Write-in votes received 12. (3) Valdosta City Council District 3 - Thomas B. McIntyre, Sr. received 246 votes, Sonny Vickers(Incumbent) received 458 votes, and Unresolved Write-in votes received 6. (4) Valdosta City Council District 5 - Tim Carroll (Incumbent) received 1,732 votes, and Unresolved Write-in votes received 17. (5) Valdosta City Council At Large - Ben H. Norton (Incumbent) received 2,798 votes, Adrian J. Rivers received 1,368 votes, Jeremy L. Stone received 630, Edgar “Nicky” Tooley received 1,350, and Unresolved Write-in votes received 27.

Results of the General Municipal Run-off Election held on December 3, 2019 have been certified by the Lowndes County Board of Elections. The results are as follows: (1) Valdosta Mayor - Scott James Matheson received 2,883 votes, and J. D. Rice received 2,787 votes. (2) Valdosta City Council At Large - Ben H. Norton (Incumbent) received 3,066 votes, and Adrian J. Rivers received 2,490 votes.

A MOTION by Councilman Vickers, seconded by Councilwoman Miller-Cody, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to approve the reading of the results of the 2017 Municipal Election and the Run-off Election.

OATHS OF OFFICE FOR THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL DISTRICTS 1, 3, 5, AND AT LARGE

The Honorable James G. Tunison, Jr. of the Southern Judicial Circuit administered the Oath of Office for Mayor Scott James Matheson, Councilwoman Vivian Miller-Cody (District 1), Councilman Joseph Sonny Vickers (District 3), Councilman Tim Carroll (District 5), and Councilman Ben Norton (At Large). Copies of the Oaths of Office are on record in the permanent file of the January 9, 2020 Regular Meeting of the governing body.

Mayor Gayle turned the gavel over to the new Mayor Scott James Matheson.

ELECTION OF THE MAYOR PRO TEM AND OATH OF OFFICE

Mayor Matheson entertained nominations from Council for the office of Mayor Pro Tem. Councilman Vickers placed in consideration the name of Councilman Tim Carroll. There being no other nominations, Mayor Matheson closed nominations. Councilman Carroll was appointed to serve as Mayor Pro Tem by acclamation.

The Honorable Superior Court Judge James G. Tunison, Jr. of the Southern Judicial Circuit administered the Oath of Office for Mayor Pro Tem to Councilman Tim Carroll. A copy of the Oath of Office is on record in the permanent file of the January 9, 2020 regular meeting of the governing body.

PRESENTATION OF THE 2019 GREATER VALDOSTA CHRISTMAS PARADE AWARDS

Mayor Matheson stated that the annual Greater Valdosta Community Christmas Parade was held on Sunday, December 7, 2019. Sponsors for the Christmas Parade this year was Ossipe Temple #65, the City of Valdosta, Wild Adventures Theme Park, and Coca Cola. This year's theme was "Christmas on Main Street." Float entries were judged on Overall Appearance, Special Effects, Creativity & Workmanship, and use of the Parade Theme. Trophies were awarded to the following top three winners based on their overall scores: Third Place inner - Southeastern Credit Union, Second Place winner - Outback Riders , and First Place winner - Ward's Fabulous Lights. The proceeds raised by Ossipe Temple #65 through parade entry fees were donated to various charities.

PRESENTATION OF THE MUNICIPAL AUDIT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018

Mark Barber, City Manager, stated that the purpose of an annual audit is to review the financial statements, footnotes, and supplementary information to ensure compliance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) and to provide an opinion on the financial statements. The audit of the City of Valdosta's Fiscal Year 2019 CAFR was conducted by the firm of Henderson & Godbee. Henderson & Godbee is a local, full-service accounting firm with significant experience in auditing, including governmental auditing. The audit team leaders were Mark Rogers, Engagement Partner, and Scott Simpson, Engagement Manager. The annual audit will also be posted on the City's website. The Accounting Department does a tremendous job in keeping up with the City's finances. They have once again obtained the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Georgia Government Finance Officers Association (GGFOA). This represents the 35th year that they have won this Award which is a very prestigious Award and one that is recognized in the United States, Canada, and other foreign countries. It demonstrates that the 2018 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report is organized, readable, and transparent. We receive this Award because of the transparency of our numbers and the detail that we put in there so our citizens can become engaged and keep up with what is going on in our community. There are high standards to win this Award and the City of Valdosta should be very proud because there are only a small percentage of local governments that have won this prestigious Award.

Chuck Dinkins, Finance Director, stated the firm of Henderson & Godbee, LLP has conducted the audit for the City of Valdosta and Mark Rogers, CPA, will present the findings.

Mark Rogers, CPA with Henderson & Godbee, LLP, stated that stated that they have completed the audit of financial statements for the City of Valdosta for the year ending June 30, 2019 and have issued an unqualified auditors' report on those financial statements dated December 10, 2019. The Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) is 124 pages long which encompasses all 31 Funds of the City. Many hours of work both from Henderson & Godbee and the City of Valdosta's Accounting Department has gone in to produce this Report. The Accounting Department prepares this entire Report. They are very few governments in the State of Georgia that prepare their own financial statements.

The total revenue was \$83,280,857. For the year ended June 30, 2019, the General Fund ended with a budgetary income of \$379,659. Revenues received totaled \$35,865,353 and were over budgeted amounts by \$447,396. Expenditures were \$36,105,114 and were under budget by \$2,410,055 on a budgetary basis. Net transfers in were \$654,486 and were under budget by \$2,499,632. In the General Fund revenue, property taxes account for 33%, sales tax accounts for 24%, and other taxes represent 34%. The General Fund expenditures for the year shows that the Police Department accounts for 42%, the Fire Department accounts for 24%, and the General Government represents 24%. For other Governmental Funds, the Special Revenue Funds has revenues of \$4,108,772 and expenditures of \$3,332,146. The majority of the activity was in the Accommodations Tax Fund which accounted for \$3,339,736 of the revenue and \$2,373,245 of expenditures. The HUD Fund accounted for \$369,571 of the revenue and \$599,963 of the expenditures. In the Capital Projects Funds, revenues were \$4,040,437 and expenditures were \$11,210,585. The Sales Tax 2013 Fund accounted for \$11,706,548 of revenue and \$8,691,996 of expenditures for the year. The Airport Fund had revenues of \$1,213,756 and expenditures of \$1,099,578. The TSPLOST Fund was new this year and had revenue of \$503,864 and no expenditures. The Enterprise Funds had total revenues of \$29,266,305, expenses were \$25,141,093, capital contributions of \$5,406,788, and operating transfers out of \$3,060,944 resulting in net income of \$2,418,848. The Water/Sewer Revenue Fund had revenues of \$19,784,219 and capital contributions from SPLOST were \$5,406,788 resulting in

net income of \$,815,640. The Sanitation Fund revenues were \$5,573,828 resulting in a net loss of \$196,972. The Internal Service Funds revenues were \$12,020,584, expenses were \$14,458,948, and transfer in were \$2,772,011. The Motor Pool Fund broke even on revenues of \$5,007,718, the Group Insurance Fund broke even on revenues of \$4,897,441, It Services broke even on revenues of \$1,403,831, and the Workers' Compensation Fund had net income of \$289,626 on revenues of \$719,594. During the year, the Water/Sewer Fund continued with major water and sewer upgrades by adding \$3,769,641 in construction in progress with \$1,863,112 coming from GEFA loans and \$861,333 from the SPLOST Fund. Total sales tax projects amounted to \$8,691,996 for the year, including \$4,545,455 for GEFA loan payments for the Water/Sewer Fund. Federal awards expenditures totaled \$1,725,213 with \$565,495 coming from HUD and \$1,046,626 from the U. S. Department of Transportation. Mark Rogers thanked the Mayor and Council for the opportunity to serve as their Auditor.

A MOTION by Councilman Norton, seconded by Councilman Carroll, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to approve the Municipal Audit for Fiscal Year 2019 for the City of Valdosta.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the December 5, 2019 were approved by unanimous consent (7-0) of the Council.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-1, AN ORDINANCE TO REZONE 6.70 ACRES FROM PLANNED MIXED USE DEVELOPMENT (PMD) TO HIGHWAY-COMMERCIAL (C-H) BY QUICK TRIP CORPORATION

Consideration of an Ordinance to rezone 6.70 acres from Planned Mixed Use Development (PMD) to Highway-Commercial (C-H) by Quick Trip Corporation (File No. VA-2019-08). The property is located at 1394 North St. Augustine Road. The Greater Lowndes Planning Commission reviewed this request at their November Regular Meeting and recommended approval (8-0 Vote). Council postponed this request at the December 5, 2019 Regular Meeting until the January 9, 2020 Regular Meeting.

Matt Martin, Planning and Zoning Administrator, stated that Quick Trip Corporation is requesting to rezone 6.70 acres from Planned Mixed Use Development (PMD) to Highway Commercial (C-H). The property is located at 1394 North St Augustine Road which is along the south side of the road between James Road and James Circle. The property is currently vacant and uncleared (forest). The applicant is proposing to purchase the property and develop it as a Travel Center consisting of a large convenience store (8,292 square feet) with 20 gasoline fuel pumps for automobiles, 8 diesel fuel pumps for heavy trucks (18-wheelers) with expansion room to 10 pumps, a truck weighing scale, and also separate truck parking area. The number of diesel fuel pumps is enough for this Project to trigger a Development of Regional Impact (DRI) review, which is currently under review by the Southern Georgia Regional Commission. This property was rezoned to PMD in 2007 as part of the approved master plan for the large Bass Pro Shops shopping center development which never materialized. Although still commercial, the proposed change in use for this portion of the PMD property triggers the need for rezoning. The property is located within a Regional Activity Center (RAC) Character Area on the Future Development Map of the Comprehensive Plan, which allows the possibility of C-H Zoning. The property is part of what was once planned as a very large and intensive mixed-use development that comprised more than 240 acres and consisted of large shopping centers with all forms of retail, hotels, restaurants, and also several forms of high-density residential. This was all part of an approved master plan that was approved prior to the Land Development Regulations (LDR) and is tied to the PMD Zoning designation on this property as a Planned Development. The City no longer approved Planned Developments as a Zoning change. This means that only the approved master plan can be constructed on this property. Any other uses or configurations would trigger a Rezoning process to a zoning classification that is currently recognized by the LDR such as C-H Zoning as being requested by the applicant, for a use that was not part of the PMD master plan. The surrounding zoning pattern at the Exit 18 area is very much dominated by C-H Zoning and the applicant's proposal fits in very well with this pattern. Although Staff is very concerned about the truck traffic impacts of the proposed use, Staff cannot find sufficient rational to recommend denial of the proposed rezoning. The main issue is that the LDR's definition is unfortunately insufficient in classifying the proposed use as a Truck Stop and, therefore, the proposed use as a Travel Center (convenience store with fuel pumps) is a

permitted use in the C-H Zoning District. Therefore, any foreseen negative impacts of the proposed use will need to be addressed by the City during the commercial Plan Review and permitting phase of development, and these may also stem from the non-binding advisory comments of the DRI review process. This item was tabled for one month at the December 5, 2019 City Council Meeting to allow completion of the State-required Development of Regional Impact (DRI) review process. The Southern Georgia Regional Commission (SGRC) issued its DRI findings report for this project on December 6, 2019 and the DRI process was officially completed on December 20, 2019 by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA). The DRI review resulted in no adverse comments being submitted by any State agency or any surrounding local/regional government; however, some remaining questions are still raised by the City Engineer as well as the Valdosta-Lowndes County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Staff regarding the Project's traffic impact analysis, and these will be addressed during the City's plan review process which is customary for such commercial development projects. The City Council is now free to take action on the Rezoning request. Staff found the request consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and the Standards for the Exercise of Zoning Power (SFEZP) and recommended approval. The Planning Commission reviewed this at their November 25, 2019 meeting, found it consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and the Standards for the Exercise of Zoning Power (SFEZP), and recommended approval (8-0 vote).

Bill Nijem, Attorney with Langdale Vallotton, 1007 North Patterson Street, spoke in favor of the request. Mr. Nijem stated that he represented the applicant, Quick Trip, and this request is to clean up a Planned Development that never came to fruition. They have a tract of land that sits between James Road and James Circle on State Road 133 and there is Highway-Commercial (C-H) Zoning all around it. They are asking to take the property back to what it should be which is C-H. State Road 133/St. Augustine Road is a major thorough-fare and that is why it is attractive to Quick Trip. The brick building will be approximately 8,000 square feet and there will be 20 gas pumps in the front and 8 diesel pumps in the back. Two of the diesel pumps will service automobiles exclusively and six will service trucks. These are all over metro Atlanta and they have 800 locations in 11 states with 136 stores in Georgia and in 20 counties in Georgia. This will be a good corporate citizen for Valdosta and Lowndes County, and they have a successful track record. There will be approximately 45-50 employees at this store, and it will generate between \$100,000 and \$200,000 in local taxes. Michael Burke, Quick Trip, is also here to answer any questions. Mr. Nijem asked Council's consideration in approving the request to rezone the property.

Michael Burke, Real Estate Manager for Quick Trip, spoke in favor of the request. Mr. Burke stated that he had been employed by Quick Trip for 19 years and started working for them when he was 16 years old and in high school. They paid for his college education and he earned a Degree in Real Estate. He is now working 1,000 miles from home and is trying to bring more jobs into some of the smaller communities. He would like to say that he is the exception, but he is actually part of the rule. Quick Trip hires and promotes from within whenever possible. A lot of their Executives were former store employees just like he was. Councilman Vickers inquired about the living wages. Mr. Burke stated that the Quick Trip Store Managers make anywhere from \$75,000 and \$80,000 per year and the Assistant Store Managers make approximately \$45,000 per year. They also offer part time employment as well as tuition reimbursement for college students. Councilwoman Miller-Cody inquired about the trucks and scales. Mr. Burke stated that they have the scales and they do not do any type of laundry facilities, no lounge, and no overnight parking. They are strictly a "get and go" type of facility.

David Jonathan Davis, representative of the Sociology and Anthropology Club at Valdosta State University and Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, spoke in favor of the request. Mr. Davis inquired as to what the starting pay would be for regular employees. Mr. Burke stated that they would start at \$9.00 per hour and they offer advancements. Mr. Davis inquired about the tuition reimbursement. Mr. Burke stated that the employee would apply for their Undergraduate Degree and pay for their tuition up front. After the semester is over, they would submit their transcripts and grades to Quick Trip for reimbursement.

Anthony Cody spoke in opposition to the request. Mr. Cody stated that the Quick Trip stations that he has been to are very clean and well kept; however, he was concerned about the lack of security. In Atlanta, they had problems with vandalism and people leaving their cars and trucks parked there. Mr. Cody inquired as to what they would do about that. Mr. Burke stated that all of their stores are centrally monitored by their Security Desk in Tulsa, Oklahoma, 24 hours per day. They cover every square inch of their properties with high definition video cameras outside and inside. They also have audio inside the store so the Security Desk can hear what is going on in

the store. If there is an event, the employees will have a belt alarm as well as alarms positioned throughout the store. Their older security system had a reaction time of approximately four minutes, but the new system is nearly instantaneous. It is IP-based, and alarms go off and it will flash up on a screen in a room the size of the Council Chambers. Their parking stalls are fairly limited because they do not want truckers parking on the property. They had the opportunity to purchase the land behind it for additional parking but they chose not to because it is not really part of their business model anymore. They also make sure the areas are well lit.

Ricky Stokes, Managing Partner for Valdosta Toyota, spoke in opposition to the request. Mr. Stokes stated that he was concerned about it being in this area of James Circle of James Road. Their business has been there for ten years and they are located on James Circle. When they built their business in 2007, they had to get some special assessments. There is a concrete median that runs down the middle of St. Augustine Road and if you get off the Interstate on Exit 18 heading south there is a traffic light; however, when you turn right to turn back left, there was a section of that concrete that had to be cut out from the original site plan for access to James Circle. They are talking about putting semi-trucks that are coming off the Interstate and there is barely enough room when you turn off of Exit 18 and onto St. Augustine Road. You have to immediately turn back left. Their site plan has two major accesses into the property on a two-lane road. Just down the street where there is no traffic light there is a four-lane and James Road. He does not want to stop Quick Trip in coming to Valdosta and they would welcome them as a business partner in the community; however, he was concerned about some of the things in their proposal based on the traffic flow. If they come in on James Circle, there will be a problem for the businesses that are there and there is also a school just down the street. Mr. Stokes asked Council's consideration in making a decision that is not just good for the business community but also what is happening with safety. Mark Barber, City Manager, stated that he appreciated all of Mr. Stokes' points; however, tonight, Council is addressing the rezoning. All of the points that he made would be addressed at a later time.

A MOTION by Councilman Gibbs, seconded by Councilman Norton, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to enact Ordinance No. 2020-1, an Ordinance to rezone 6.70 acres from Planned Mixed Use Development (PMD) to Highway-Commercial (C-H) by Quick Trip Corporation, the complete text of which will be found in Ordinance Book XIV.

BIDS, CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS, AND EXPENDITURES

Consideration of bids for the purchase of one Leaf Collector Vacuum Truck for the Public Works Department (Bid No. 11-19-20).

Richard Hardy, Public Works Director, stated that the Sanitation Division of the Public Works Department is adding a vehicle to its fleet. This is a truck with a vacuum leaf collector dump body and is used to vacuum leaves and lawn clippings. This is a Council-approved item for the funding source. Sealed bids were received on December 10, 2019 with four vendors supplying bids. The low bid meeting specifications was submitted by Four Star Freightliner in the amount of \$204,530. Richard Hardy recommended that Council approve the low bid meeting specifications was submitted by Four Star Freightliner in the amount of \$204,530 and allow the Public Works Department to proceed with the purchase. Councilman Vickers inquired as to the life expectancy of the Leaf Collector Vacuum Truck. Richard Hardy stated that most vehicles in their fleet exceed 15 years. This vehicle has a five-year engine/transmission warranty and a one-year bumper-to-bumper.

A MOTION by Councilwoman Miller-Cody, seconded by Councilman Gibbs, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to approve the low bid meeting specifications was submitted by Four Star Freightliner in the amount of \$204,530 and allow the Public Works Department to proceed with the purchase of a Leaf Collector Vacuum Truck.

Consideration of bids for the purchase of a Backhoe for the Utilities Department (Bid No. 08-19-20).

Darryl Muse, Utilities Department Director, stated that the Utilities Department currently has a Backhoe that needs to be bought back by the original dealer. The Utilities Department has funding for the purchase to replace the machine and take advantage of the government buy-back program. The bid is done in such a way that the new machine will be bought back after five years meaning the net price is used in determining the winning bidder. The buy-back allows the City to operate a current model machine with a full, five-year warranty. Sealed

bids were received on December 10, 2019 and there was only one bidder, Flint Equipment. The bid submitted by Flint Equipment was \$101,789, the buy-back price was \$47,500, for a new price of \$54,289. Although there was only one bidder, prices were consistent with previous low bids. The Backhoe comes with a five-year, bumper-to-bumper warranty so if anything goes wrong with it, they will bring us a replacement while it is being repaired.

A **MOTION** by Councilman Vickers, seconded by Councilman Carroll, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to approve the low bid submitted by Flint Equipment in the amount of \$54,289 and allow the Utilities Department to proceed with the purchase of a Backhoe.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

George Boston Rhynes, 5004 Oak Drive, thanked the Mayor and Council for the great work they did on the Budget. He goes to a lot of cities who do not do what they do on the Budget. As a black American and Veteran, in the 160-year history of Valdosta, they have never had a black elected Mayor. When black people, white right people, and others may not have embraced the new Mayor so tightly, people want to see change. Black or white does not make it right, but right always makes it right. Brooks County has had two black Mayors and many other communities in our surrounding area has had black Mayors. He served this country not as a Democrat or a Republican, black, white, Christian, Muslims, Jew, Hindu, or you, but he served this nation because he is an American. He served in the Vietnam War and they told him that they are all Americans and when your Commander gives you the order to go, you did not know if you would come back or not. They went, they bled, they suffered, and some people died. He would like to say to Valdosta as our community moves forward to take all of us with you. Do not leave one comrade behind because as you know, black people have a different interpretation of what the best qualified means. Not too many decades ago, you could have a Ph.D. if you were black but you could not even be a Police Officer or State Patrol. As we march forward, let us all do what Jesus said and that is to love each other, respect each other, and want for their neighbor that which we want and have for ourselves, our family, and our children.

Brenda Vickers Johnson, 4246 Deercrest Drive, stated that she was the oldest daughter of Councilman Joseph Sonny Vickers and he had no idea that she was coming to speak before the Council tonight. Ms. Vickers stated that she wanted to petition the Mayor and City Council to name the bridge on West Hill Avenue after her father. When she was a little girl, her father was trying to figure out how the people on the West side of town to get across to the other side of town when the train was blocking the tracks. They had no emergency access or if a crime was committed, the Police could not get to them due to the train on the tracks. They would have to go a long, long way around it. Where the bridge comes down near West Street, her grandmother's house was there but they had to sell the land because it would have been taken for that bridge. Her father has contributed a lot to the City of Valdosta and to the citizens as well. Mr. Johnson asked for Council's consideration in having the bridge named after Councilman Vickers.

John Quarterman, 6565 Quarterman Road, stated that he wanted to invite the City Council to a Paddle Event down the Withlacoochee River on Saturday, January 18, 2020. The new Mayor had suggested this, and he is calling it the Mayor's Paddle. The purpose is for people to see our beautiful river. This is part of a larger effort of across the State line eco-tourism in conjunction with the Florida Counties and those in Georgia. They will start at the Troupville Boat Ramp and will meet at 9:00 a.m. They will take out of the Withlacoochee River at Spook Bridge which is a little downstream from U. S. Highway 84. If you do not have a boat, they will be glad to supply one. They will be going past the future home of the Troupville River Camp which Council supported this recently.

Ronnie Pierce, 823 Vallotton Drive, stated that he has been a resident of the City of Valdosta for 17 years and he is a productive member of his neighborhood and is active in the community. In the neighborhood where he resides, every convenience store is Indian-owned. He has nothing against them and wants them to be successful; however, he has a problem with them selling crack pipes. He is aware of this because he suffered from that addiction for 20 years and changed his whole personality. He would hate to see other suffer from what he suffered from. There is no reason in world that a person can find a crack pipe in every corner of his neighborhood. They are on the front shelves of the stores and the average person would not know what they are because they are disguised as a rose in a vase or a heart in a piece of glass. It does not look like a crack pipe and it has on the package that it is not intended for any illegal use. Everybody who smokes crack knows what it is for. Mr. Pierce

asked for Council's consideration in helping to get these crack pipes out of our community. Mark Barber, City Manager, stated that he has met with Police Chief Manahan and they are looking at some things.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mark Barber, City Manager, stated that on Tuesday, January 14, 2020, the Neighborhood Development Division will be hosting a Public Forum at 5:30 p.m. in the City Hall Annex Building in the Multi-Purpose Room where citizens will have the opportunity to participate and offer their opinions on the Consolidated Plan in the areas of housing, economic development, and public facilities. We are an entitlement community with the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program so every five years we must complete the plan and outline the needs and priorities for our upcoming entitlement allotment.

The Engineering Department will be holding a Public Meeting on January 21, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. at Lifeline Ministries to discuss the improvements which will be made to the intersection of Park Avenue and Forrest Street.

The Affordable Housing Summit and Town Hall Meeting will be held on Saturday, January 18, 2020 at the Mildred Hunter Center from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The Town Hall portion of the Meeting will be from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and this will be an opportunity for citizens to meet the Council Representatives. The second portion will include a presentation by CDBG Staff on some of the services that are available to our citizens.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Matheson thanked City Manager Mark Barber for helping him with the new transition as Mayor. There was no grace period. The Run-off Election ended on Friday and they counted provisional ballots on Monday. He was in meetings that entire week as well as the second week. He got five days off for Christmas and they have been meeting all this week as well. He also thanked all of the Council Members for meeting with him individually and for their sound advice.

Councilman Howard congratulated Councilman Vickers, Councilman Carroll, Councilman Norton, and Councilwoman Miller-Cody for their re-election. He also congratulated Mayor Matheson on his election. He stated that with a new Mayor he urged patience because there is new leadership and new expectations. Sometimes the expectations are a little high than he may be able to achieve so he asked that everyone be patient with him and be patient with the Council. There were a lot of things that the previous Mayor and Council had that was near and dear to our hearts that we still plan on getting accomplished. They are going to need each and every citizen to help the Council with that. There are Boards and Authorities that people can choose to participate on, but they do ask that as they move forward with the City's business, if you are going to be a part of the team then get on board. If you are going to be a distraction, they ask that you step aside and allow the Council to move forward with the City's business. He still urged everyone to be patient because it is a new transition with a Mayor.

Councilman Vickers stated that there was an article in the Valdosta Daily Times today about Service Delivery Strategy (SDS) that used his names several times. He thought it was commendable for them to have some conversation, but he really thought that was just the beginning. He had no earthly idea that they would come back to the Council and approve it. He did think that was a start that they could build off. Mayor Matheson stated that he agreed and everyone sitting out there could be very proud. He has personally held seven or eight meetings with the Lowndes County Board of Commissioners and every one of the City Council has done it individually and as a group as well. They are moving forward with SDS and everyone should get excited about the progress that is being made.

Councilwoman Miller-Cody thanked all of her family and friends who came here tonight to support her and asked that they continue to help her make a difference in District 1 and the City of Valdosta.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Matheson entertained a motion for adjournment.

A **MOTION** by Councilman Vickers, seconded by Councilman Carroll, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to adjourn the January 9, 2020 Meeting of the Valdosta City Council at 6:54 p.m. to meet again in Regular Session on Thursday, January 23, 2020.

City Clerk, City of Valdosta

Mayor, City of Valdosta