

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE VALDOSTA CITY COUNCIL
5:30 P.M., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2020
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL**

OPENING CEREMONIES

Mayor Scott James Matheson 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 arrived late at 5:40 p.m. The invocation was given by Pastor David Adams, Mt. Calvary Baptist Church, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS

PRESENTATION OF THE FEBRUARY, 2020 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH AWARD

Fire Chief Brian Boutwell stated that Edward Coppage began his employment with the City of Valdosta in June of 2005 and presently assumes the position of Fire Lieutenant. Fire Lieutenants are responsible for managing the daily operations at the company level. They oversee two to three employees and are responsible for being in charge during emergency incidents. Lt. Coppage has a real talent that has recently become known. He has been honing his skills at leather working and it shows. Over the past year or two, he has created some outstanding radio straps for several members of the Fire Department and has even made a few helmet fronts, which is not an easy task. There is one occurrence that stands out above and beyond his service to the Fire Department. Each apparatus in our fleet has a thermal imaging camera (TIC) in its inventory. These cameras are vital in assisting with locating victims during search and rescue operations and in locating hidden heat sources during fire calls. These cameras can be attached to their gear utilizing a mechanical lanyard. The mechanical lanyards have been known to break during training events and on emergency calls and are not repairable. Having seen a need for a simpler and easily repairable option, Lt. Coppage went to work with his leather working skills. He has created a wonderful lanyard that is durable, useful, and 100% repairable with little to no down time. On his own time and with no request or thought of payment, he made a total of 10 completely hand stitched and individually stamped lanyards for each apparatus. This use of his personal skill set, time, and materials to benefit the Fire Department is why they feel he has put the lives of our citizens and members of the Fire Department above his own personal gain. Lt. Coppage has made several items for Fire Department members including lanyards which cost \$75 to replace. On average, we replace three lanyards and by Lt. Coppage making these lanyards, he has saved the Fire Department over \$200 annually. It is for these reasons and many others that the Employee Relations Committee nominated Edward Coppage as Employee of the Month.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the February 10, 2020 Regular Meeting were approved by unanimous consent (6-0) of the Council.

BIDS, CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS, AND EXPENDITURES

Consideration of bids for emergency repairs to a metal storm pipe located at 1407 South Patterson Street.

Pat Collins, City Engineer, stated that during daily inspections, the Stormwater Division found a large hole on top of a 60-inch, corrugated metal pipe (CMP) located at 1407 South Patterson Street. CMP is no longer used nor recommended by the City. The existing pipe has retained water due to the rigid shape and has rusted out. Holes within the CMP have caused the ground above it to create a large void which is approximately 10 feet from a building, rendering it an emergency repair. Due to the emergency situation at this location, invitations to bid were requested by E-mail. Bids were received on February 3, 2020 with the low bid submitted by RPI Underground, Inc. in the amount of \$78,241. Pat Collins, City Engineer, recommended that Council approve the low bid submitted by RPI Underground, Inc. in the amount of \$78,241 plus a 10% contingency of \$7,824.10 to handle any unforeseen circumstances for a total of \$86,065.10.

A **MOTION** by Councilman Vickers, seconded by Councilman Carroll, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to approve the low bid submitted by RPI Underground, Inc. in the amount of \$78,241 plus a 10% contingency of \$7,824.10 to handle any unforeseen circumstances for a total of \$86,065.10 for emergency repairs to a metal storm pipe located at 1407 South Patterson Street.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

There were no citizens to be heard.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mark Barber, City Manager, stated that the Bird Supper will be held on Wednesday, February 26, 2020 at The Depot in Atlanta. There will also be a meeting with the Valdosta-Lowndes County Development Authority and Georgia Power from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. on that day as well.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Gibbs stated that on March 12, 2020, there will be a Celebrity Basketball Tournament sponsored by Rebound Ministries at 6:30 p.m. at Valwood. They help high school basketball players who do not have the ability to go to basketball camps so they can get in front of scouts and other people. This event will allow them to raise money to help sponsor these players. They have helped players to get to Morehouse College and Valdosta State University. Councilman Gibbs stated that he has been asked to participate in the event.

Councilwoman Miller-Cody stated that there will be a Ministerial Breakfast on Tuesday, February 25, 2020 at 8:00 a.m. at the City Hall Annex Multi-Purpose Room and City employees will be cooking. Councilwoman Miller-Cody encouraged everyone to attend.

Councilwoman Tooley stated that she wanted to remind everyone about the City Employee Appreciation Luncheon sponsored by the South Street Community Care House which will be held on Friday, February 28, 2020 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Parks and Recreation Office located at 1901 North Forrest Street.

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 February 20, 2020 Meeting of the Valdosta City Council at 5:50 p.m. to meet again in Regular Session on Thursday, March 5, 2020.

City Clerk, City of Valdosta

Mayor, City of Valdosta