

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE VALDOSTA CITY COUNCIL
5:30 P.M., TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 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: Tim Carroll, Sandra Tooley, Eric Howard, Andy Gibbs, and Vivian Miller-Cody. Councilman Joseph “Sonny” Vickers and Councilman Ben Norton were absent due to the COVID-19 Executive Order issued by Governor Brian Kemp to “Shelter in Place” and practice “Social Distancing” in order to help prevent the spread of the virus. The invocation was given by Councilman Tim Carroll, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the April 7, 2020 Special Called Meeting were approved by unanimous consent (5-0) of the Council. Councilwoman Sandra Tooley stated that she would like a statement placed in the minutes that the three Council members were absent due to the COVID-19 Executive Order issued by Governor Brian Kemp to “Shelter in Place” and practice “Social Distancing” in order to help prevent the spread of the virus.

LOCAL FUNDING AND REQUESTS

Consideration of a request to review and approve the completed FY 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan, FY 2020 Annual Action Plan, and the FY 2020 Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program.

Vanassa Flucas, Neighborhood Development and Community Protection Manager, stated that every five years, as a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Entitlement community with the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), we are required to create a Consolidated Plan (Con Plan). The Con Plan is a Strategic Plan of possible activities completed in our community with our CDBG allocations for the next five years (FY 2020-2024). Traditionally, the Year One Annual Action Plan of the completed Con Plan is completed at the same time as the five-year Con Plan. The Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing (AI) is an assessment of the availability of affordable housing in our community required by the Department of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity (FHEO) at HUD. This assessment presents the assets and some of the barriers present locally that may prohibit access to affordable, safe, decent, and sanitary housing and basic community needs for very low and low-to-moderate income individuals. Our last AI was completed during FY 2012. The required submission of this jurisdiction's new AI was scheduled for FY 2018, but the report submission was delayed until the quarter prior to the submission of our next Con Plan for FY 2020-2024 program years because of the changes to FHEO's reporting process and instrument. This is the final year of the FY 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan for the City of Valdosta's CDBG Program. In October 2019, Staff presented the RFQ to select a contractor to complete the Con Plan, Annual Action Plan, and Analysis of Impediments to Mayor and Council for approval. JQUAD Planning Group was selected as the contractor to complete all of the reports. JQUAD has completed the reports for submission to HUD for the City of Valdosta. Mr. James Gilleylen from JQUAD Planning Group will be making a presentation to the Council via Zoom and will give an overview of the FY 2020-24 Consolidated Plan, FY 2020 Annual Action Plan, and the FY 2020 Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing reports which are due for a 30-day public comment period and then submission to HUD. In order to complete the submission process for HUD, the reports must be reviewed and approved by Council and they must be opened for a 30-day public comment period. Due to COVID-19 pandemic, the submission processes and deadline have been augmented. The City must still complete a public hearing for interested citizens which will be completed virtually on May 11, 2020 at 3:30 p.m. The reports will then be available for public comments for 30 days via E-mail and on the City's website (www.valdostacity.com).

James Gilleylen, JQUAD Planning Group, stated that he would be presenting the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan, the 2020 Annual Plan, and the 2020 Analysis of Impediments. The Consolidated Plan is required by HUD as a prerequisite for receiving the Federal funds. The City of Valdosta is an entitlement community that receives its pro rata share of appropriations from Congress each year. In February, 2020, Congress appropriated approximately \$3.4 trillion for this Program of which the City of Valdosta receives its formula share. Although

there are other Programs, the Home Investment Partnership Grant (HOME) and the Housing Opportunities for People with Aids (HOPWA) are not Programs for which the City is eligible. The purpose of this briefing is to provide input on the proposed 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan. There are three components that are required and those are the Five-Year Consolidated Plan, which is the Strategic Plan for five years from 2020-2024, the Annual Action Plan Program Year, and the Analysis of Impediments. Each year, we will receive annual appropriations which will be applied to the strategies in the Programs that have been identified in the Five-Year Plan. The Analysis of Impediments will allow us to address any impediments to fair housing with the Grant appropriations that we received.

There are multiple elements of the Consolidated Plan. The Citizen Participation Plan is where the City receives public input from various constituencies and the general public in terms of what the priorities should be for addressing community needs with the appropriations that we receive next year. The Housing Market Analysis and the Housing and Homeless Needs Assessment are designed as our analytical components of the Strategic Plan. They help to identify what our housing needs are in the community and any gaps that we may have in terms of meeting housing needs for persons who would qualify for the funding, as well as any special populations such as the homeless and senior citizens who might benefit from these Programs as well under the Housing and Homeless Needs Assessment. The Analysis of Impediments addresses both direct discrimination that is found in the marketplace and any impediments to fair housing choices. Impediments would be issues such as the cost of housing. The Consolidated Plan also includes a Monitoring Plan which sets forth how we want to monitor the Programs and ensure that the regulations are followed. HUD requires Certifications by the City and as we receive funding, we certify that we will administer it per the regulations. The Strategic Plan then embodies all of these elements, the Action Plan, the dollar amount that we receive for the year, and they constitute the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan. The Consolidated Plan is a strategic plan and is designed to address and identify community needs. It is a Block Grant so we get to determine as a City Council exactly how the funds that we receive will be applied to the various priorities that we have within the community. There are four principal areas that we can address and those are Housing, Economic Development, Public Services (community, social, human, and health services), and Public Facilities and Public Infrastructure. In order to continue to receive the Grant funds, we must complete this process once every five years. This Regulation was handed down to cities in 1995 and HUD announced that we had to complete this once every five years. It applies to any jurisdiction receiving the various Grant funds and, in our case, the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). It even applies to our local Housing Authority as well. The Strategic Plan identifies the City's priority needs and from those needs, we will decide how we will address those needs based on the analytical assessment of needs and the Programs that we have designed to address those needs. The reason that we identify the priorities among the needs is that most would qualify, but because of the limited funding, it limits us to only funding Programs that we have deemed a priority need. The Annual Plan applies that funding in order to receive the Federal Funds. There are three National objectives that HUD sets forth and we must, in every Program that we fund, address at least one of these National objectives which include benefitting low and moderate income persons who are at 80% or below the median income, or the Programs have to prevent or eliminate slum and blight conditions. Those are issues like Code enforcement, demolition of substandard structures, and repairs to substandard housing or you can apply funds to meet a need having a particular urgency. For this particular year, we have received a supplemental funding allocation for COVID-19 pandemic. This is an example of having a particular urgency. Other ways in which the funds could be applied are in the event that we should have natural disasters such as hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, and other activities. We would either get a supplemental allocation or we could choose to use the funds that we are already receiving to address those urgent needs. The way an individual qualifies for Programs that we structure is based upon income, their household, or the individual would have to have an income that did not exceed 80% of the area median income for Valdosta. In this particular case, the 2020 median income for the Valdosta MSA is \$55,400. If you are a household size of one person, you could earn up to \$31,050 and still qualify for the Programs such as Home Repair Programs and Down Payment Closing Costs, where the individual would benefit. You could also apply funds to an Area Benefit and if 51% or more of the persons in a Census Tract have incomes at or below 80% of the median, then we can apply a benefit to that entire Census Tract. An example would be a public facility that we repair, sidewalks, curbs and gutters, streets, or playground equipment. This means that once the Census Tract complies with the 51% low to moderate income, then anyone can benefit after we make those improvements whether they are income restricted or not. For Valdosta, our first-year allocation for this Program would be \$565,826 for the year 2020. There are some limitations in terms of the way that we utilize the allocation. We can spend no more than 20% as a jurisdiction or administration, no more than 15% on public services which would be

individual benefits to people who operate Programs such as childcare and other types of public services. Then 65% could be allocated by the jurisdiction to everything from community facilities to housing. This is a Block Grant so we can choose to allocate funding to one or more and we are not obligated to contribute funds to each of the categories of funding because it is a limited amount of funds. The Consolidated Plan included the Community Engagement Process, Priority Needs for 2020-2024 based on analytical components, the Housing Market Analysis, the Needs Assessment, and the Analysis of the Non-Housing Community Development Needs.

The Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choices is also required. The concern that HUD has is that you participate in the Grant and you should also participate in making sure that we further the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 which was set out to eliminate discrimination against protected classes such as race, ethnicity, religion, and other categories. The Analysis of Impediments identifies outright acts of discrimination that we might see occurring in the marketplace. An example would be discrimination against a person based on race where you deny them access to an apartment or a loan for housing. It identifies impediments to fair housing choices. One of the major impediments that was identified is financial literacy. When we analyzed community lending within the City, it identified that there is a major disparity impact for people of race and ethnicity, particularly African-Americans, when it came to receiving and being approved for mortgage loans. Primarily, one of the major issues that they faced was financial literacy since it is no longer taught in the home. Many people, because of credit deficiencies and other issues, were denied loans. The Analysis of Impediments also indicated that there were particular areas within the City where lending was even more difficult because it was not the borrowers qualifications for loans but there appeared to be a pattern where lending was not taking place based on the condition of the neighborhood as opposed to the qualifications of the buyer. For each impediment, they recommended remedial actions and best practices where other jurisdictions have dealt with these issues. We are not obligated to follow those recommendations, but they are just examples and alternative ways which we may want to consider addressing. That process also included community engagement as well.

The Strategic Plan identified the priority needs for housing, economic development, non-housing community development, and public services. Under housing, they identified as priority needs such as housing rehabilitation, housing assistance and home ownership, and demolition of slum and blight conditions. For public services, they identified as priority needs youth and senior services, homeless prevention and homeless services, transitional housing (i.e., domestic violence victims), healthcare services (mental and physical health), meals and food, and transportation. Under the Non-Housing Community Development, the priority needs identified were public and community facilities, homeless facilities, public improvement to infrastructure, and parks and recreation. Under Economic Development, the priority needs identified were technical assistance to small businesses, job creation, employment training, and workforce development. There were some other needs that should be addressed and those are CARES Act Funding (COVID-19), barriers to affordable housing, and impediments to fair housing. There are also other priority needs that are not high priorities because they had to choose among the highest priorities. The City Council has an opportunity to review those priority needs and determine if there are additional priority needs or ways in which you want to address them with the allocation funds. The priority needs under the Fair Housing or Analysis of Impediments included fair housing education and outreach and enforcement. One of the analytical processes that we use under the Analysis of Impediments is to identify the number of complaints that have been filed through the City and with HUD for either discrimination or impediments. For the period of 2015-2019, there were only four impediments that had been filed for our jurisdiction with HUD. That is an indication that for the outreach and understanding among the public is needed where they will understand their rights under Fair Housing and ways in which they can file a complaint and have those issues addressed. The cost of housing was also a priority need. We have a particular issue within Valdosta in terms of what is called "cost burden." Cost burden is where, by Federal regulations, a person should not be paying more than 30% of their income for housing and housing related expenses whether they are a renter or a homeowner. We have large segments of the population who are paying more than 30% of their income for housing and others who are even paying more than 50% of their income for housing. We made it a priority to address those needs under the Grant Program. Also, the condition of housing and substandard structures and the ability of low to moderate income persons and seniors to continue to maintain their homes is where the Home Repair Program would be used to address those needs. There was also an issue that needs to be focused on over the next five years and that is called Concentrated Poverty, Race, Ethnicity, and Public Housing. They found that in the analysis there are, by HUD definition, five Census Tracts primarily within the central part of Valdosta where these areas are 50% or greater minority population and the poverty level for those Census Tracts are three times the poverty level of the MSA. These concentrated conditions then result in

area conditions being less than acceptable for most people and having people living in substandard housing. These areas were in North Oak Street, West Gordon Street, North Lee Street, and East Gordon Street. The impediments priority to Fair Housing included the education, cost of housing, condition of housing, concentrated poverty, and limited supply of affordable housing within the community.

Vanassa Flucas stated that we now have 30 days to peruse the Consolidated Plan, the Annual Action Plan, and the Analysis of Impediments. The comment period will start on May 11, 2020 with a virtual Public Hearing and end on June 12, 2020. Because of COVID-19, we cannot have people coming in for a Public Hearing so it will be a webinar Public Hearing. The process for submission of the documents to HUD will take place once the 30-day period is completed and all of the questions have been gathered. We will then come before Council once again in mid-June and ask if they can submit the plans to HUD.

Councilwoman Tooley inquired as to whether they have to do the Analysis of Impediments right now with the Consolidated Plan. Vanassa Flucas stated they did need to do the Analysis of Impediments right now because it is normally required 180 days before they do the Consolidate Plan and the Annual Action Plan; however, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, they have been delayed so the Analysis of Impediments will be submitted with the Consolidated Plan. The Consolidated Plan date is normally May 15, 2020 so the Analysis of Impediments should have been submitted April 1, 2020. Councilwoman Tooley inquired as to the last time they did an AI. Vanassa Flucas stated that it was done in 2012 and a copy of it can be found on the City's website. From that report, they created the Fair Housing Committee and it was in place for approximately three years. They did several focus group studies and worked with Valdosta State University, and some of those impediments that were listed in that report will be found in the current report because there were some things that were beyond their control. The only thing they could possibly do is to amp up the financial literacy in our community, but if a bank extends a loan or mortgage to someone, the City has no control over that. HUD changed the Policy in 2015 and they were going to make all Grantees go through this process where you use this Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) Tool through HUD. When all of the people in the nation gave them backlash because it cost them anywhere from \$10,000 to \$25,000 to get these reports done, they pulled back and said they did not want to do this yet. Then HUD said that would let us know something in 2018. HUD then said that when our next Consolidated Plan was due, we should do the Analysis of Impediments before that. Councilwoman Tooley stated that she was concerned about the things they were talking about in 2014 and 2015 and whether anything was done. Vanassa Flucas stated that they have done a lot with the things that they had the ability do something with like the Fair Housing Summit and Town Hall Meetings. Just the fact that they were made abreast of the information about the Title Pawns and they went out into the community and tried to educate people about the difference between using a Title Pawn for their banking or a traditional Bank. They partnered with Vita and all of those other services to make it where everyone was not going to the Title Pawns or the fly-by-night Tax Services to get their taxes done for an exorbitant rate. They told the citizens that they could go through Vita or the IRS and get their money at the same time and have it all. They are still trying to educate the community. They also asked the Valdosta City School System to start putting financial literacy as a course for High School students which they have now done but it is not required.

Councilwoman Miller-Cody stated that this is a chance for them to go back with the blight taxes like they were trying to do once before. Vanassa Flucas stated that they do have a redevelopment tax in the City that can be utilized; however, what Councilwoman Miller-Cody is thinking about is the Residential Inspection Program. Councilwoman Miller-Cody inquired about other homeless shelters besides LAMP and the Salvation Army. They have the Daughters of Zion which can house up to 18 people. Vanassa Flucas stated that if they are not State-sanctioned where the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) knows about them and has certified them, then they may not have been counted. Also, they get funded and that money comes through DCA through our Continuum of Care because we do not get a lot of money through HUD Grants that we can allocate for the homeless population and those services. They apply for that yearly through the Continuum of Care with DCA.

Councilwoman Tooley inquired about the cost burden and the ratio and would the owner lower the rent or charge a certain amount for rent in that area. Vanassa Flucas stated that some people have to work two or three jobs just to be able to live in an affordable housing unit. That makes it a cost burden for them because they are spending almost 80% of what they make working just for housing and that does not include utilities, transportation, and childcare. We do not have a large stock of affordable housing in our community that would satisfy that need. Mark Barber, City Manager, stated that Councilwoman Tooley was referring to substandard housing and a

concentration of substandard housing. The largest percentage of the City's annual allocation goes to the eradication of substandard housing. When we first became an entitlement community, our goal was to eradicate all substandard housing by 2020, but we are not going to reach that goal. We have made some progress, but the problem is that in those areas where we get one house done then another becomes substandard.

A **MOTION** by Councilman Carroll, seconded by Councilwoman Miller-Cody, was unanimously adopted (5-0) to approve a request to review and approve the completed FY 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan, FY 2020 Annual Action Plan, and the FY 2020 Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program.

Consideration of a request to purchase Mixer Mooring Assemblies for the Withlacoochee Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Darryl Muse, Utilities Director, stated that since its start-up in 2016, the Withlacoochee Wastewater Treatment Plant has used a cable mooring system to secure the floating mixers in each of its three AquaSBR® Sequencing Batch Reactors (SBRs). The cables are attached at various points around the wall of the tank and connect to the floating mixers near the middle of the tank. This cable system is unreliable and is a safety hazard. The cables have broken several times and dropped into the tank, damaging the mixer's power cable and other components inside the tank. The broken cables result in the mixers floating loose, causing further damage while also hampering the treatment process. When performing repairs and routine maintenance on the mixers, Plant Maintenance personnel must use a small boat to access them in the tank. This is a risky and difficult process, but necessary to perform maintenance and repairs on the mixers. The cable mooring system must be replaced with a more safe and secure system. Staff originally considered replacing the floating mixers with submersible mixers; however, after further research, Staff determined the submersible mixers were too costly (\$400,000) and not the best alternative. The most feasible option was to replace the cables with stainless steel pivotal mooring arms (booms). Designed and manufactured solely by Aqua-Aerobic Systems, Inc. for this SBR system, the booms will provide the stability and safety needed for efficient operation and maintenance of the mixers. The booms will allow personnel to perform routine maintenance on the mixers from a safer location without using a boat. The power cables, currently exposed and attached to the mooring cables, will be secured inside the boom avoiding potential damage and mixer failure. Upon taking delivery of the mooring assemblies, Plant Maintenance personnel will install them under the supervision of Aqua-Aerobics personnel. Aqua-Aerobics is the sole manufacturer of the AquaSBR® system and the sole provider for parts and services. The cost to purchase the Mixer Mooring Assemblies is \$51,960, which includes freight and two days of onsite mechanical supervision from Aqua-Aerobics. Darryl Muse, Utilities Director, recommended that Council approve the request to purchase Mixer Mooring Assemblies for the Withlacoochee Wastewater Treatment Plant from Aqua-Aerobics in the amount of \$51,960. Councilwoman Miller-Cody inquired as to whether someone was watching the employee who goes out in the boat. Daryl Muse stated that they have a person watching him and they also have him tethered because once you aerate liquid you cannot float in it or swim in it because it is 60% air.

A **MOTION** by Councilwoman Miller-Cody, seconded by Councilman Gibbs, was unanimously adopted (5-0) to approve a request to purchase Mixer Mooring Assemblies for the Withlacoochee Wastewater Treatment Plant from Aqua-Aerobics in the amount of \$51,960.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-1, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF A GRANT FROM THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION (FAA) TO USE THE FUNDS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FAA'S POLICY AND PROCEDURES ON THE USE OF AIRPORT REVENUE FOR ANY LAWFUL PURPOSE AT THE VALDOSTA REGIONAL AIRPORT

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 use the funds in accordance with the FAA's Policy and Procedures on the use of Airport revenue for any lawful purpose at the Valdosta Regional Airport.

Mark Barber, City Manager, stated that on April 14, 2020, the Secretary of Transportation announced funds for Airports as part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The amount for each Airport was derived by using a formula developed by the Department and is being distributed through the normal Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) financial system. The amount allocated for the Valdosta Regional Airport is \$1,183,547. The major difference between this Grant and the normal Airport Improvement Grant is that, instead of being limited to capital improvement projects, this money can be used for operations and maintenance as well as requiring no State or local match funds. It must be spent in accordance with the FAA's Policy and Procedures on use of Airport Revenue and for any lawful purpose. The FAA is preparing a Grant which is expected to be in the amount of \$1,183,547 for the purposes outlined above and it will be delivered to the Valdosta City Hall. The Agreement must be executed and returned to the FAA expeditiously. A Resolution has been prepared authorizing Mayor Scott James Matheson to accept the Grant in order to process the documents. Mark Barber, City Manager, recommended that Council approve the Resolution authorizing the Mayor to accept the Grant from the FAA. Councilwoman Tooley inquired as to what the Grant funds would be used for. Mark Barber stated that this money would be used for operation and maintenance and it is not just for a capital project. If they choose to use it for a capital project, they can do that as well. Councilman Carroll stated that they need to remember that airlines are seeing fewer passengers and fewer flights and the Airport Authority makes part of its money is from passengers and flights. Their revenue sources are down so this is a great way to help shore up their shortfall in revenues.

A MOTION by Councilman Gibbs, seconded by Councilman Howard, was unanimously adopted (5-0) to approve Resolution No. 2020-1, a Resolution authorizing acceptance of a Grant from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to use the funds in accordance with the FAA's Policy and Procedures on the use of Airport revenue for any lawful purpose at the Valdosta Regional Airport, the complete text of which will be found in Resolution Book VI.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Mark Barber, City Manager, stated that we received two E-mails for Citizens to be Heard. The first E-mail was from Steve and Kathy Dale and they wanted the Council to address the reopening of Freedom Park. Social distancing can be done on the track, walking trails, and disc golf course and none would require additional sanitation issues. Freedom Park is a great place to go and get outside and enjoy good, healthy exercise. This would seem safer than a gym.

The second E-mail we received was from Austin Dale. In the past he has frequently played disc golf at Freedom Park. He was hoping that it would be reopened very soon. He understands that social distancing is important, and many people would be ecstatic just to be able to play by themselves.

Mark Barber, City Manager, stated that he did had a discussion today with George Page, Executive Director of the Valdosta-Lowndes County Parks and Recreation Authority, and his employees are not coming back to work until May 14, 2020 when the Emergency Declaration is over. They plan to reopen some parks on May 14, 2020 unless there are some changes. The Senior Citizens Program is part of the Parks and Recreation and they definitely cannot open that back up. We cannot consider opening one park and not all of the parks. Councilman Gibbs stated that before the parks are opened on May 14, 2020, they may need to consider bringing some people in prior to that date to get the parks back in shape and cleaned up. Mark Barber stated that George Page has already taken that into consideration. Councilwoman Miller-Cody stated that George Page has done a great job because Scott Park was a mess and citizens still disobeyed the order not to gather there even when it was closed. Mark Barber stated that this was not just the decision of George Page, Executive Director, but it was the discussion and decision of the entire Parks and Recreation Authority Board. There will also be a lot of discussion about their summer camps which is undecided at this time. Mayor Matheson stated that he has gotten a lot of E-mails from people asking for the parks, the walking track, tennis courts, and trails to be reopened. He will reach out to the Parks and Recreation Authority Board and request that they readdress it. Councilwoman Tooley stated inquired as to whether they are going to open up certain sections because there are a lot of people walking the tracks and a lot of citizens are ready to get back to playing basketball. Mark Barber stated that one of the pushes is to reopen the tennis courts because people are going to Valdosta State University to play tennis anyway. If you open the tennis courts, then you are going to have to open the basketball courts at Scott Park. It is either open all of them or none of them.

Mark Barber, City Manager, stated that approximately 260-300 City employees who have been sheltering in place now for almost a month will be coming back to work on May 1, 2020. The public buildings will continue to remain locked until May 13, 2020 when the Emergency Declaration that was issued by Governor Brian Kemp is over. We have adapted very well during this pandemic and Staff has done a fantastic job. We have 640 employees and we have had no positive COVID-19 cases. There have been some people in quarantine, but they did not test positive.

We are also still working on the Budget and it will be a lot tougher than usual due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We will probably have a Special Called Meeting to adopt it in late June. The Budget will be very lean, and they are trying to predict where the revenue shortfalls will be.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Matheson stated that if there was no objection from Council, he wanted to appoint Councilman Tim Carroll to the Group Health Services Committee. There were no objections from Council.

Councilman Howard stated that the U. S. Census deadline has been extended and he encouraged citizens to complete the Census form. It is very important because it brings money to our area. Citizens should take the time to complete it while they are sheltering at home. They should also register to vote and stay at home as much as possible.

Councilwoman Miller-Cody thanked Ashlyn Johnson, Public Information Officer, for doing a great job with the Facebook Page and keeping everyone in tune with what is going on. She also thanked Vanassa Flucas, Neighborhood Development and Community Protection Manager, for her assistance with trucker information.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Matheson entertained a motion for adjournment.

A MOTION by Councilman Carroll, seconded by Councilman Gibbs, was unanimously adopted (5-0) to adjourn the April 28, 2020 Meeting of the Valdosta City Council at 6:33 p.m. to meet again in Regular Session on Thursday, May 7, 2020.

City Clerk, City of Valdosta

Mayor, City of Valdosta