

MINUTES
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING OF THE VALDOSTA CITY COUNCIL
5:30 P.M., TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 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, Ben Norton, Eric Howard, and Andy Gibbs. Councilman Joseph “Sonny” Vickers, Councilwoman Sandra Tooley, and Councilwoman Vivian Miller-Cody 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 Ben Norton, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the March 5, 2020 Regular Meeting were approved by unanimous consent (4-0) of the Council.

BIDS, CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS, AND EXPENDITURES

Consideration of bids for a secondary Equalization (EQ) Basin at the Withlacoochee Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Mark Barber, City Manager, stated that since its start-up in 2016, the Withlacoochee Wastewater Treatment Plant has experienced multiple major rain events. Two of those events resulted in spills from its existing 6 million-gallon Equalization (EQ) Basin. In December of 2018, we experienced a heavy rain event where we had 16 inches of rain and our Withlacoochee Wastewater Treatment Plant almost held all of that stormwater; however, right at the last few hours, it could not quite hold it all. Beginning that night, this Equalization (EQ) Basin Project began. The Withlacoochee Wastewater Treatment Plant currently does not have the holding capacity to account for these elevated flows from major rain events. Based on its design, peak hourly flows to the Plant greater than eight hours will more than likely result in an overflow of the current EQ Basin. Staff determined that the best course of action is to construct a new secondary EQ Basin for the Plant. We had to submit our plan to the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) and they have approved everything with a few minor changes. When we first spoke about the EQ Basin, we spoke in terms of 10 million gallons and that is what we would ideally like; however, because of the water table at the Withlacoochee Wastewater Treatment Plant, it will be 7.26 million gallons. The City contracted with Lovell Engineering Associates (LEA), P.C. to provide design and engineering services for the construction. The new secondary Basin will provide more available storage for extended periods of operation at the peak hourly flow thereby reducing the potential for overflows at the Plant. The EQ Project includes a lined 7.26 million-gallon excavated Basin, a new Pump Station, and an associated Gravity Pipe and Force Main. On February 12, 2020, the Utilities Department advertised for bids for the construction of the new secondary Basin. A mandatory pre-bid conference was held on February 27, 2020. Bids were received from five bidders and opened on March 12, 2020. As the design Engineer, LEA, P.C. reviewed bid documents and made its recommendation to the City to award the contract to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, Reynolds Construction of Georgia, LLC, in the amount of \$1,789,000 which includes a contingency. We were expecting bids to come in for the EQ Basin Project at approximately \$2.2 million. Reynolds Construction has worked at the Withlacoochee Wastewater Treatment Plant and they actually helped to build the original Plant. Mark Barber, City Manager, recommended that Council approve the bid submitted by Reynolds Construction of Georgia, LLC in the amount of \$1,789,000 for a secondary Equalization (EQ) Basin at the Withlacoochee Wastewater Treatment Plant. Councilman Gibbs inquired as to how much rain has to fall in order for the new 7.26 million-gallon Basin to come into play. Mark Barber stated that we are hoping we will never have to measure that and right now it is hard to say because we are also combatting flooding with inflow and infiltration (I & I). We know at the heavy rain event in 2018, we had approximately 34 million gallons running through there. This new second Basin will store the water if needed and when the rain event stops, we will then pump the water back up, treat it, and release into the Withlacoochee River.

A MOTION by Councilman Carroll, seconded by Councilman Norton, was unanimously adopted (4-0) to approve the bid submitted by Reynolds Construction of Georgia, LLC in the amount of \$1,789,000 for a secondary Equalization (EQ) Basin at the Withlacoochee Wastewater Treatment Plant.

ADJOURNMENT

04/07/20 CONTINUED

Mayor Matheson entertained a motion for adjournment.

A **MOTION** by Councilman Howard, seconded by Councilman Carroll, was unanimously adopted (4-0) to adjourn the April 7, 2020 Special Called Meeting of the Valdosta City Council at 5:36 p.m. to meet again in Regular Session on Thursday, April 23, 2020.

City Clerk, City of Valdosta

Mayor, City of Valdosta