

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE VALDOSTA CITY COUNCIL
5:30 P.M., THURSDAY, MAY 21, 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, Ben Norton, Sandra Tooley, Eric Howard, Andy Gibbs, and Vivian Miller-Cody. 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 May 7, 2020 Regular Meeting were approved by unanimous consent (7-0) of the Council.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-3, A RESOLUTION AND A LOCAL GOVERNMENT LIGHTING PROJECT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND THE CITY OF VALDOSTA FOR THE INSTALLATION OF A NEW LIGHTING SYSTEM FOR THE PROPOSED ROUNDABOUT PROJECT AT FIVE POINTS

Consideration of a Resolution and a Local Government Lighting Project Agreement between the Georgia Department of Transportation and the City of Valdosta for the installation of a new lighting system for the proposed Roundabout Project at Five Points.

Mark Barber, City Manager, stated that the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) contracts for the maintenance of lighting systems along State routes within the jurisdiction of local municipalities. The City of Valdosta has executed previous Lighting Agreements in the past with GDOT for the lighting systems installed along the I-75 interchanges and urbanized stretches of the I-75 corridor. This Agenda Item seeks authorization to both concurrently adopt a Resolution and to enter into an Agreement, in the form of a Local Government Lighting Project Agreement (LGLPA), for the new lighting system for the proposed Roundabout at Five Points. The Resolution requests that the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized and directed to execute the LGLPA on behalf of the Valdosta City Council. It will be the responsibility of the City to provide the energy, operation, and maintenance of the system. GDOT will be responsible for the design and installation, including all costs of materials for the system. GDOT will remain the owner of the system. The City agrees to operate and maintain the system, including damage repair, replacements of lamps, ballasts, luminaires, conduit, wiring, and other associated equipment and to provide and pay for all energy to operate the system. The term of the Agreement is for 50 years from the date of execution. Should the City elect to de-energize the system or not properly maintain the system during the term of the Agreement, then the City shall reimburse the GDOT for the material cost of the system. Mark Barber, City Manager, recommended that Council approve the Resolution for authorizing and approving the Local Government Lighting Project Agreement with the Georgia Department of Transportation for the installation of a new lighting system for the proposed Roundabout Project at Five Points.

Councilman Norton inquired as to whether the approval of this Resolution means that wherever GDOT puts the lights then the City of Valdosta will maintain them. Mark Barber stated that was correct, but we will have input on that as well as Georgia Power. GDOT is currently revamping some of the designs now because we made some suggestions to them and they went back to the drawing board. The bottom line is that we have to provide the lighting as a municipality anyway so if we can get GDOT to pay for it up front, then we will pick up the maintenance cost.

Councilwoman Tooley inquired about the stipend. Mark Barber stated that some cities will pay GDOT or Georgia Power an amount of money every year as part of an annual contract. Then GDOT will come by a couple of times a year to see if there is anything that needs some work on it. GDOT would use the annual allotment that

the City gave them to make those corrections. The lighting is easy to maintain, and we have something worked out with a local electrical contractor so we will pay them on an as-needed basis and not pay GDOT or Georgia Power an annual fee to maintain the lights.

A MOTION by Councilman Carroll, seconded by Councilman Norton, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to enact Resolution No. 2020-3, a Resolution for authorizing and approving the Local Government Lighting Project Agreement with the Georgia Department of Transportation for the installation of a new lighting system for the proposed Roundabout Project at Five Points, the complete text of which will be found in Resolution Book VI.

BIDS, CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS, AND EXPENDITURES

Consideration of bids for the Baymeadows Drive Pedestrian Improvements Project.

Mark Barber, City Manager, stated that the Baymeadows Drive extends from East Moore Street to East Park Avenue and is classified as a Local road (two-lane). The roadway traverses a residential neighborhood that has heavy foot-traffic. There are attractions such as nearby convenience stores, J. L. Newbern Middle School, and W. G. Nunn Elementary School that all generate foot traffic out of the neighborhood. Baymeadows Drive has curb and gutter on each side, but there are no sidewalks. Pedestrians must walk on the grass shoulders or in the roadway to get to their destinations. The Engineering Department advertised the Baymeadows Drive Pedestrian Improvements Project as a Design-Build Project for award to a single Engineer-Contractor team. A Design-Build Project requires that an Engineer and a Contractor team to design and construct the work. This bid-approach nets a sidewalk that is equal in quality to a traditional Design-Bid-Build Project but in a timelier manner because the design and construction bids are handled simultaneously in a single award. The Project was advertised both in the local newspaper and on the City’s website. Three bids were received and opened at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, May 8, 2020. All bids were considered both responsive and responsible bids. The low bid was submitted by Southland Contractors in the amount of \$103,936.00. A 10% contingency was added in the amount of \$10,393.60 for any unforeseen and unexpected circumstances. The total recommended award is for \$114,329.60. Mark Barber, City Manager, recommended that Council approve the low bid was submitted by Southland Contractors in the amount of \$103,936.00, which includes a 10% contingency in the amount of \$10,393.60 to handle any unforeseen circumstances, for a total amount of \$114,329.60 for the Baymeadows Drive Pedestrian Improvements Project.

A MOTION by Councilwoman Miller-Cody, seconded by Councilwoman Tooley, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to approve the low bid was submitted by Southland Contractors in the amount of \$103,936.00, which includes a 10% contingency in the amount of \$10,393.60 to handle any unforeseen circumstances, for a total amount of \$114,329.60 for the Baymeadows Drive Pedestrian Improvements Project.

LOCAL FUNDING AND REQUESTS

Consideration of a request to purchase two Emergency Standby Generators for the Utilities Department (Bid No. 39-19-20).

Mark Barber, City Manager, stated that in addition to its two Wastewater Treatment Plants, the City of Valdosta currently has 37 Sewer Lift Stations in operation. The Wastewater Treatment Plants and Lift Stations rely on a consistent electric power source to function as designed and prevent sewer overflows. While we have a very reliable electric grid to provide this power consistently, there are times when sustained power outages occur, usually as a result of storms causing trees to fall on power lines. The Master Lift Station on Gornto Road and the Mud Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant currently utilize a dual feed electrical system for emergency power. These dual feed systems do not provide the continuity needed at these critical facilities. If both feeds fail, which has occurred at both locations in the past, all power is lost. To ensure the Utilities Department has the capability to operate the Lift Station and the Mud Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant should they encounter a power outage, the Utilities Department developed a scope of work to purchase emergency standby generators. Additionally, Action Item 4.b. in the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) Consent Order requires the purchase of emergency standby equipment to prevent sewer overflows. To expedite the purchasing process and allow for the lowest possible pricing, the formal invitation to bid process was not utilized for these two generators. The City opted to use cooperative purchasing through a Sourcewell Contract. Cooperative purchasing is a process permitted

by the City's Purchasing Ordinance and has been used several times. Sourcewell is a national consortium that holds hundreds of competitively solicited cooperative contracts. This streamlined process saves time and money by combining the buying power of 5,000 government, education, and non-profit organizations. Proposals to purchase the two generators were received via the consortium from Yancey Power Systems. After past research and cost analysis on generators of this size, Staff determined the pricing provided by Yancey Power Systems is well below the industry average. The quote is for the purchase and delivery of the aforementioned power generation units only. Design and installation will be provided by professionally licensed Engineers and Electrical Contractors. The quote submitted by Yancey Power Systems was \$470,000 for a 1500 kW Generator for the Gornto Road Master Lift Station and \$449,000 for a 1500 kW Generator for the Mud Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant. The total combined cost of the two generators is \$919,000. Mark Barber, City Manager, recommended that Council approve the quote submitted by Yancey Power Systems in the amount of \$919,000 for the two generators.

A MOTION by Councilman Vickers, seconded by Councilwoman Miller-Cody, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to approve the quote submitted by Yancey Power Systems in the amount of \$919,000 for two, 1500kW Emergency Standby Generators for the Gornto Road Master Lift Station and the Mud Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

There were no citizens to be heard.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mark Barber, City Manager, stated that this was Public Works Week and there were several planned activities to show the Public Works employees how much we appreciate their hard work. They really put their heart and soul into their job, and they do a great job every day.

The first City Event that will be held since the COVID-19 Pandemic will be the re-introduction of the Maker's Market on Saturday, June 13, 2020. If there is a change in the number of Coronavirus cases in Valdosta and the number goes up, then we will change the date. We have a full roster of vendors scheduled for the event and several are on a waiting list. They will be implementing social distancing and other safety measures for the event.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Vickers stated that he had several comments and inquired as to whether Mathis Auditorium has been opened up for events. Mark Barber, City Manager, stated that they have not opened it up yet. They are planning to reopen it on Friday, June 12, 2020 in accordance with Governor Brian Kemp's Declaration. There are also no group meetings being held in the City Hall Annex Building Multi-Purpose Room. Councilman Vickers also inquired as to when they will get the Budget materials to review. Mark Barber stated that he would be confirming the Budget Hearing Dates tomorrow and the Budget is scheduled to be adopted at the last Council Meeting in June. The last two years we have gotten the Budget Hearings down to one night so he would like to suggest that they skip the dinner this year and just have some snacks so that they can get through it in one day. There will also be a different format this year and he will spend more time discussing the capital projects because that those are big dollars and they need to focus on that more than maintenance. Councilman Carroll stated that a couple of years ago they had the Council Members come in two at a time to meet with the Budget Staff and go over the Budget prior to the Budget Hearings. Mark Barber stated that they could do that again. Council will be getting lots of detail and they can look at a summary or more detailed information.

Councilwoman Miller-Cody stated that the Valdosta Youth Council has done a tremendous job submitting artwork during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Mark Barber, City Manager, stated that they are a tremendous group of young people in our community and even though they have not been holding their regular meetings, they are still working on different things. Councilwoman Miller-Cody inquired as to whether we could post that on Facebook so the public could see. Mark Barber stated that they could do that.

Councilwoman Tooley inquired as to what was going on with the Amphitheater. Mark Barber, City Manager, stated that they are still working on that and he will be showing some renderings that have been done at the Budget Hearing. They have collaborated with Engineering students from the University of Georgia and they have done a great job. We have had to cut back some funds that were designated for the Amphitheater, but we should have enough to get us started at the end of the year.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Matheson entertained a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting and enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing real estate.

A MOTION by Councilman Howard, seconded by Councilman Norton, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to adjourn the May 21, 2020 Meeting of the Valdosta City Council at 5:59 p.m. to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing real estate.

Mayor Matheson reconvened the May 21, 2020 Meeting of the Valdosta City Council at 6:30 p.m. and stated that no action would need to be taken on the discussion of real estate.

Mayor Matheson entertained a motion for adjournment.

A MOTION by Councilman Howard, seconded by Councilman Carroll, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to adjourn the May 21, 2020 Meeting of the Valdosta City Council at 6:31 p.m. to meet again in Regular Session on Thursday, June 11, 2020.

City Clerk, City of Valdosta

Mayor, City of Valdosta