# MINUTES REGULAR MEETING OF THE VALDOSTA CITY COUNCIL 5:30 P.M., THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 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, Sandra Tooley, Ben Norton Tim Carroll, Eric Howard, Andy Gibbs, and Vivian Miller-Cody. The invocation was given by Councilman Andy Gibbs, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

# AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS

Consideration of the November, 2020 Employee of the Month Award (Kevin Jenkins, Ricky Hudson, and William Rich, Engineering Department).

Kevin Jenkins, Ricky Hudson, and William Rich began their employment with the City of Valdosta in April of 2014, October of 2016, and December of 2017, respectfully. They all currently work in the Arbor Division. These men strive to ensure the safety of our community through regular pruning, inspecting, and maintaining the City's urban forestry. The nomination for Kevin, Ricky, and William was submitted by Angela Bray, Stormwater Manager, in regard to a veteran whom they helped. Ms. Bray submitted the following: "On Tuesday, September 1, 2020, the Engineering Department received a telephone call from Mr. James Herring, a 96year-old veteran who served in World War II. Mr. Herring resides on Rouse Road and was calling about a fallen tree on his property. Kevin Jenkins inspected the tree that afternoon and confirmed with Cindy Randall, Administrative Assistant for the Engineering Department, that the tree was on private property. As a veteran, Mr. Herring is on a fixed income and with no help, Kevin took it upon himself to ask his crew if they would be willing to assist him after hours to remove a partially fallen pecan tree. Without hesitation, both Ricky and William volunteered to help. Kevin had his daughter bring his personal saws to him and immediately after work, the crew drove their own vehicles to Mr. Herring's house to remove the debris. All three men cut the pecan tree up and placed the pieces at the curb for Public Works to pick up." The Arbor Division is made up of extremely talented and generous individuals, and it is for this reason and many others that the Employee Relations Committee nominated Kevin Jenkins, Ricky Hudson, and William Rich as the November Employees of the Month.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the October 22, 2020 Regular Meeting were approved by unanimous consent (7-0) of the Council.

#### **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

# ORDINANCE NO. 2020-15, AN ORDINANCE TO REZONE 0.62 ACRES FROM RESIDENTIAL-PROFESSIONAL (R-P) ZONING TO NEIGHBORHOOD-COMMERCIAL (C-N) ZONING

Consideration of an Ordinance to rezone 0.62 acres from Residential-Professional (R-P) Zoning to Neighborhood-Commercial (C-N) Zoning District as requested by Chad Arrendale (File No. VA-2020-11). The property is located at 403 Barfield Drive. The Planning Commission reviewed this at the October 26, 2020 Regular Meeting and recommended approval (9-0 Vote).

Matt Martin, Planning & Zoning Administrator, stated that Chad Arrendale is requesting to rezone 0.62 acres from Residential-Professional (R-P) to Neighborhood-Commercial (C-N). The property is located at 403 Barfield Drive, which is along the south side of the street approximately 350' east of North Ashley Street. The property contains a small commercial building (6,280 square feet) that is occupied by the applicant's generator sales and service business (Anderson Power Services). The applicant is not proposing any changes to the building or the site. The main purpose of the rezoning is simply to make the property eligible for a prospective tenant, which is the subject of the next Agenda Item (File No. CU-2020-05). The property is located within a Neighborhood Activity Center (NAC) Character Area on the Future Development Map of the Comprehensive Plan,

#### ORDINANCE NO. 2020-15 (CON'T)

which allows the possibility of C-N zoning. The property is also located within the Urban Commercial Corridor Overlay District (UCCOD). The property is part of the North Ashley Street corridor of commercial development as denoted by its inclusion in the UCCOD. The property was part of the "Islands Annexation" in 2005-2006, whereby it was previously zoned R-P in Lowndes County and was given R-P Zoning upon annexation into the City. In total, it has had R-P Zoning for more than 25 years; however, it is believed to have always been developed and used for commercial purposes during this time. It has, therefore, been a grandfathered-in, non-conforming use situation since at least the time of annexation, and it is clearly mis-zoned. The surrounding development pattern is dominated by commercial uses, but with a large (and less intensive) apartment complex to the east. The development of this apartment complex resulted in the physical closure of this portion of Barfield and it no longer extends eastward from the subject property. There is now a very plain and physical separation from these two development patterns, which underscores the logic of this property having commercial zoning like its other neighbors. Unfortunately, the NAC character area does not allow a zoning more intensive than C-N when the property does not directly front on an arterial or collector street; however, this proposed rezoning will improve the current non-conforming use situation of the property, and it will allow the consideration of the CUP request in the next Agenda Item. 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 October 26, 2020 meeting, found it inconsistent with the Comprehensive Plan and the Standards for the Exercise of Zoning Power (SFEZP), and recommended approval (9-0 vote).

No one spoke in favor of the request.

No one spoke in opposition to the request.

**A MOTION** by Councilman Carroll, seconded by Councilman Gibbs, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to enact Ordinance No. 2020-15, an Ordinance to rezone 0.62 acres from Residential-Professional (R-P) Zoning to Neighborhood-Commercial (C-N) Zoning District as requested by Chad Arrendale, the complete text of which will be found in Ordinance Book XIV.

# ORDINANCE NO. 2020-16, AN ORDINANCE FOR A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT (CUP) FOR A PERSONAL SERVICES SHOP (TATOO PARLOR) IN A NEIGHBORHOOD-COMMERCIAL (C-N) ZONING DISTRICT

Consideration of an Ordinance for a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for a Personal Services Shop (Tattoo Parlor) in a Neighborhood-Commercial (C-N) Zoning District as requested by Chad Arrendale (File No. CU-2020-05). The property is located at 403 Barfield Drive. The Planning Commission reviewed this at the October 26, 2020 Regular Meeting and recommended approval with three conditions (9-0 Vote).

Matt Martin, Planning & Zoning Administrator, stated that Chad Arrendale is requesting a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for a Tattoo Parlor form of Personal Services Shop in a C-N Zoning District. The property consists of 0.62 acres located at 403 Barfield Drive. This is along the south side of the street approximately 350 feet east of North Ashley Street. The property contains a small commercial building (6,280 square feet) that is occupied by the applicant's generator sales and service business (Anderson Power Services). There are no proposed changes to the exterior of the building or the overall site. The applicant is simply proposing some minor interior remodeling and to lease a small portion of the building (about 500 square feet) to a local tattoo artist. In order to make the property for this CUP request, the applicant is also proposing to rezone this property from Residential-Professional (R-P) to Neighborhood-Commercial (C-N). The property is located within a Neighborhood Activity Center (NAC) Character Area on the Future Development Map of the Comprehensive Plan, and it is also located within the Urban Commercial Corridor Overlay District (UCCOD). The property is part of the North Ashley Street corridor of commercial development as denoted by its inclusion in the UCCOD. The property was part of the "Islands Annexation" in 2005-2006, whereby it was previously zoned R-P in Lowndes County and was given R-P Zoning upon annexation into the City. In total, it has had R-P Zoning for more than 25 years; however, the property has had a long history of being developed and used for commercial purposes. There is strong rationale for its rezoning to a commercial classification, and this is detailed more fully in the aforementioned rezoning request. This proposed CUP request (for a tattoo parlor) is for a use that will occupy only about 1/10<sup>th</sup> of the building and will be much less intensive than the existing primary use of the property. Staff found the request consistent with the

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Comprehensive Plan and the Conditional Use Review Criteria, and recommended approval subject to the following conditions: (1) Approval shall be granted for a Personal Services Shop in the form of a tattoo parlor in C-N Zoning, in the name of the applicant as the owner of the property. (2) Signage for this approved use shall be limited to the existing sign structures on the premises, or new signage as may be allowed on the property as a multi-tenant commercial development. (3) Conditional Use approval shall expire after two years from the date of approval if no Business License for the approved use has been requested by that date. The Planning Commission reviewed this at their October 26, 2020 meeting, found it consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and the Conditional Use Review Criteria, and recommended approval subject to the same conditions as recommended by Staff (9-0 vote).

No one spoke in favor of the request.

No one spoke in opposition to the request.

A MOTION was made by Councilman Carroll to approve a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for a Personal Services Shop (Tattoo Parlor) in a Neighborhood-Commercial (C-N) Zoning District as requested by Chad Arrendale with the following conditions: (1) Approval shall be granted for a Personal Services Shop in the form of a tattoo parlor in C-N Zoning, in the name of the applicant as the owner of the property. (2) Signage for this approved use shall be limited to the existing sign structures on the premises, or new signage as may be allowed on the property as a multi-tenant commercial development. (3) Conditional Use approval shall expire after two years from the date of approval if no Business License for the approved use has been requested by that date. Councilman Gibbs seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously adopted (7-0) to enact Ordinance No. 2020-16, the complete text of which will be found in Ordinance Book XIV.

# ORDINANCE NO. 2020-17, AN ORDINANCE FOR A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT (CUP) FOR A PERSONAL SERVICES SHOP (HAIR SALON) IN A RESIDENTIAL-PROFESSIONAL ZONING DISTRICT

Consideration of a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for a Personal Services Shop (Hair Salon) in a Residential-Professional Zoning District as requested by Stunnershine LLC (File No. CU-2020-06). The property is located at 105 Woodrow Wilson Drive. The Planning Commission reviewed this at the October 26, 2020 Regular Meeting and recommended approval with two conditions (9-0 Vote).

Matt Martin, Planning & Zoning Administrator, Ms. Tylar Sunner, on behalf of Stunnershine LLC, is requesting a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for a hair salon form of Personal Services Shop in a Residential-Professional (R-P) Zoning District. The property consists of 0.31 acres located at 105 Woodrow Wilson Drive. This is along the south side of the street about 300 feet east of North Patterson Street. The property contains a small office building (2,100 square feet) that is currently vacant. The applicant is proposing to purchase the property and renovate the interior for use as a hair salon. The property is located within an Institutional Activity Center (IAC) Character Area on the Future Development Map of the Comprehensive Plan. The property was originally developed as a single-family residence, and like so many others along Woodrow Wilson Drive, it was later converted over for office usage. The property lost its entire front yard as a result of the intersection improvements at Woodrow Wilson and North Patterson Street. It was then purchased by a local investor along with the property to the east. Both properties were then redeveloped keeping their existing buildings but utilizing a shared driveway and parking area. The applicant will purchase only this one parcel but will continue the shared driveway and parking arrangement. The surrounding area is completely dominated with offices and institutional uses, mainly associated with South Georgia Medical Center (SGMC). Small personal service shops such as a small-scale hair salon would fit very well in this particular area. The applicant's proposal is to keep the existing 2,100 square foot building with its rear yard parking, and it will have no real impact in terms of traffic or intensity of use than the surrounding properties. Staff found the request consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and the Conditional Use Review Criteria, and recommended approval subject to the following conditions: (1) Approval shall be granted for a Personal Services Shop in the form of a hair salon in R-P Zoning, in a building not to exceed 3,000 square feet. (2) Conditional Use approval shall expire after two years from the date of approval if no Business License for the approved use has been requested by that date. The Planning Commission reviewed this at their October 26, 2020 meeting, found it consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and the Conditional Use Review Criteria, and recommended approval, subject to the same conditions as recommended by Staff (9-0 vote).

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Adam Sunner, Applicant, spoke in favor of the request. Mr. Sunner stated that he and his wife are hoping to purchase the building and it is contingent on the approval of the Conditional Use Permit.

No one spoke in opposition to the request.

**A MOTION** was made by Councilman Howard to approve a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for a Personal Services Shop (Hair Salon) in a Residential-Professional Zoning District as requested by Stunnershine LLC with the following conditions: (1) Approval shall be granted for a Personal Services Shop in the form of a hair salon in R-P Zoning, in a building not to exceed 3,000 square feet. (2) Conditional Use approval shall expire after two years from the date of approval if no Business License for the approved use has been requested by that date. Councilman Gibbs seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously adopted (7-0) to enact Ordinance No. 2020-17, the complete text of which will be found in Ordinance Book XIV.

# AN ORDINANCE FOR AN AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 222, OFF STREET PARKING STANDARDS, OF THE LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO THE OFFICIAL MAP OF THE RESIDENTIAL PARKING OVERLAY DISTRICT DENIED

Consideration of an Ordinance for an Amendment to Chapter 222, Off Street Parking Standards, of the Land Development Regulations pertaining to the Official Map of the Residential Parking Overlay District as requested by the City of Valdosta (File No. VA-2020-12). The Planning Commission reviewed this at the October 26, 2020 Regular Meeting and recommended denial (7-2 Vote).

Matt Martin, Planning & Zoning Administrator, stated that this proposed Amendment was initiated by the City Council at the Council Meeting on September 24, 2020 (4-3 vote) for the proposal to be advertised and studied further by Staff, and then brought back to City Council for an actual decision at a public hearing scheduled for November 5, 2020. This has now been advertised as normally required for LDR Amendments (ad in the newspaper and listing on public hearing agenda), plus the posting of seven public hearing signs in the affected neighborhood along North Lee Street. There is no legal requirement for the notification of individual property owners, nor was there a legal requirement to post signs; however, this was deemed a reasonable means of non-required notice to the neighborhood without sending individual letters to all property owners. Chapter 222 of the Land Development Regulations (LDR) contains the main parking standards for all private parking in the City. It includes two separate Sections that govern parking in residential areas. Section 222-11 is for "Parking Vehicles in Residential Districts" which contains rules for parking in all residential areas of the City. Section 222-12 is for the "Residential Parking Overlay District" (RPOD), which is a special set of supplementary requirements for parking in residential areas that are identified on an official map. This identified area covers most of the northwest neighborhoods of the City, which are mainly west of Ashley Street and north of Baytree Road. The main purpose of adopting the RPOD about 12 years ago was to address an ongoing problem of too many cars parked in front yards of mainly college rental housing, which had a detrimental effect on the aesthetics of established neighborhoods. In general, these special requirements only pertain to regular single-family residential and townhouse-type development, and they do not apply to other forms of development (such as apartments or office/commercial) where a standard parking lot is required because of the use. The main requirements of the RPOD are that all parking, regardless of location on the property, must be on pavement or other surface that is approved by the City Engineer. In the front yard, this parking is further limited to no more than five cars total and provided that no more than 25% of the front yard is a designated parking area. All of the provisions of the RPOD are enforced by the City Marshals who patrol this special area on a regular basis, with particular attention being paid in August and September which corresponds to the start of the VSU fall semester when there is an influx of new college students who might not be readily aware of these rules. When this District was first adopted, most of these residential parking problems were found to be in neighborhoods in proximity to the west side of VSU where there was a predominance of college student housing; however, other neighborhoods of the City might also be experiencing similar issues and this might be one tool that could help. A proposed expansion area of the RPOD would include the neighborhood areas east of North Ashley Street, south of East Park Avenue, and northward of Two Mile Branch. This particular area contains 274 homes (out of 338 total parcels) and is somewhat isolated physically from other neighborhoods of the City. It has been experiencing some problems of too many vehicles parked in front yards, and it could be a convenient expansion of the existing RPOD area; however, Staff can identify both pros and cons to the proposed Amendment and its effects on the existing neighborhood. Some of the drawbacks include potential confusion on the part of the City Staff and

the citizenry for changing the geography of the RPOD which has existed for 12 straight years. This also includes more than 250 households of the area which would be unaware of these changes, unless the City did a separate notification process for them, and even then, some might have difficulty comprehending the new requirements that are being imposed. Staff has also created detailed maps of the residential portion of the subject neighborhood which depict the following: (1) the owner-occupied vs. renter-occupied patterns, as well as, and (2) which properties have existing driveways that are paved vs. those that are unpaved. The parcel-by-parcel inventory and creation of these maps revealed that about 72% of these existing houses are rentals, and that about 58% of the houses have unpaved driveways (there is also no apparent correlation pattern between renter-occupied and unpaved). In both of these categories, the percentages are much higher than most neighborhoods in the City. The inventory also revealed that about 116 (42%) of the houses would currently be found in violation of the RPOD requirements either due to existing parking patterns outside of designated driveway, or too many total vehicles in the vard. In general, Staff is very concerned about the large volume of properties being affected by a sudden requirement that triggers paving of driveways and/or adjacent parking pads (even with the possible use of alternative materials) which can be very costly. There is also a concern about tense situations that could arise between tenants and their landlords (i.e., the tenant causing the problem and the landlord/owner being responsible for the cost), whereby the tenant would likely bear the cost indirectly through rent increases. Staff also recognizes that this neighborhood is very much in need of some upgrades and overall assistance, but there seem to be other issues going on besides just parking. Because the existing conditions in this neighborhood appear to be so much different than other RPOD areas, perhaps it would be wiser to create some incentives or specialized programs/assistance to enhance this area first, before we impose the strict parking requirements of the RPOD throughout the neighborhood. Staff recommended to either deny or withdraw the currently proposed RPOD Amendment, and instead, consider the widest possible range of other alternatives to expeditiously bring neighborhood improvements and meaningful benefits to the residents of this neighborhood. Then at a future date when it is deemed appropriate, consider again the expansion of the RPOD to include this neighborhood in order to enforce parking practices that preserve the new positive appearance of this neighborhood. The Planning Commission reviewed this at their October 26, 2020 Regular Meeting with much discussion, and recommended denial of the proposed Amendment (7-2 vote).

Councilman Carroll stated that, for clarification purposes, in the RPOD guidelines, the chart shows paved versus unpaved; however, there is nothing within the RPOD guidelines that requires these driveways to be paved. Matt Martin stated the only thing that is triggered is if you are parking outside of a designated driveway whether it is paved or unpaved. If you have an existing paved driveway, then the expectation is that you stay within the driveway. If you park outside of it, then that surface would need to be improved whether it is pavement or something else. There is also a cap on how much of the front yard that can be converted to parking and the overall number of vehicles. The other scenario, which would apply to a lot of these properties, is that if there is no paved driveway present, then there is a presumption that you have a designated driveway path from the street to the carport or garage or to that part of the house. As long as you stay within that area, then nothing is triggered. Councilman Carroll stated that this RPOD has really not so much to do with paved or unpaved driveway materials but it simply has to do with parking vehicles in the front yards and areas that degrade the lawn and landscaping which in turn degrades the quality of the neighborhood and the properties around it. Matt Martin stated that was correct. There may also be too many vehicles parked in the yard. That is what the RPOD was created for. For the neighborhood that is existing, the percentages are flipped a little bit more from this where a higher percentage is already paved. One of the benefits of that is that it is a little easier to determine and argue where the designated driveway is; however, some of these properties may get into a little gray area. The language states that if they stay within their designated driveway, they are fine.

Councilman Gibbs stated that if there is a need to park off to the left or right and once they get approval, it does not have to be concrete. It could be pebble rocks, pine straw, pine bark, or other approved materials; however, it has to be outlined with some type of timber ties or railroad ties. Matt Martin stated that was correct. Councilman Gibbs stated that he has been contacted by a lot of citizens saying that once this is approved, they will have to go out and spend \$1,000 on a concrete driveway. Matt Martin stated that a lot would depend on their parking habits. The City Engineer can address the materials and the maintenance. One of the issues is not tracking the material out into the street. Councilman Gibbs stated that if this does pass, they need to make sure that citizens understand that they are not required to pour a concrete pad. They also need to get approval first as to where they are planning to park.

Councilwoman Miller-Cody stated that most of the homes are rental and inquired as to whether the landlord was notified. Matt Martin stated that there are 300 properties and 274 houses, and they did not send any individual notifications out; however, they did go above what they are required to do. They posted seven public hearing signs along the Lee Street frontage which are the entrances into the neighborhood. All that they were required to do was to place an ad in the newspaper. Councilwoman Miller-Cody stated that there were some residents who were not notified about anything and half of the neighborhood did not know.

Councilman Norton stated that when the RPOD was first adopted it was targeting residential areas that had problems with VSU students who were renting homes and parking many cars in the yard. Matt Martin stated that was correct. Councilman Norton inquired as to whether they were having problems in this area with the same issue. It seems like the target for having a RPOD has been lost in this area for some reason and he did not understand why. Matt Martin stated that this was tailored for VSU college parking in nearby single-family neighborhoods. The concern then was that if this type of problem was occurring throughout the City, it would not have been an Overlay District but a City-wide requirement. There was a lot of discussion back in 2008 when all of this was being proposed. He agrees that the proposed area for expansion does not have that many college renters although there is no way to track that or maintain that.

Councilman Howard stated that when some people park cars they are thinking about safety or the weather and they are trying to hurry up and get in the house. That may not always be the way they park. There are 70% of the people in that area who are renters. Matt Martin stated that based on the map, there are 72% on the tax cards. Councilman Howard stated that right now some of the owners of the properties have not received any money since February due to COVID-19. The renters are not going to go out and put this approved surface down. He does not think that this is the right time to add a financial burden on anyone. That might not even be the problem continuously and it could have been that they had company at their house at that time and they chose to park on the grass. He does not think we need to be creating a problem if there is not one.

Councilman Carroll stated that he does not know where his colleagues have been for the last several months, but there is a lady who lives in the dead center of this area that has been here asking Council to help her with this very problem, amongst others, and now Council is going to say that there has not been an issue with junk cars and cars parked in front yards. Councilman Norton stated that they have Ordinances in place that will address that. They are talking about adding to an Overlay District that was targeting VSU students. They do not have that here. Councilman Howard stated that it is not City Council's job to do something for one individual. They cannot go out there and say because you have an issue that we have to solve your issue. There are more people in this area that they have to be concerned with. It is not our job just to take care of one individual's problem. They say that the City Engineer would be the one to approve it and what if they say you have to match the asphalt with asphalt or concrete with concrete. People may not have the money to do that right now. Councilman Carroll stated that he would like to see an example of where that has been done. They have had the RPOD in his District and Councilman Gibbs' District for 12 years now and he knows of no instance like that whatsoever. Councilman Howard inquired as to whether they could show him an instance where someone is asking for this in that area.

Councilman Vickers stated Gracie Bacon has been before Council several times concerning this on Holly Drive. They need to try to do whatever they can to help solve her problem. He has been disturbed about this request and he rode through the entire area. He went back yesterday and rode it again because he wanted to see what it was that somebody was seeing that he just did not see. He rode by Holly Drive yesterday evening and there were some cars across the street, and it looked like that they were fixing cars. He has seen a modest, regular neighborhood with cars parked there. That is an old neighborhood with small lots. You can ride on Brookwood Drive and Lausanne Drive and see the same kind of neighborhood. There are small lots with two or three people with cars. They do not have the proper parking like they have in a neighborhood off of Northside Drive. The difference is the size of the lots. He feels like this proposal is an overkill. Matt Martin has done a marvelous job with this and he has gone above and beyond what this required of him by putting out several signs on Lee Street. This is a big change and we probably should have sent letters to each of these properties to let them know that this was coming up. They should have had some discussion about it, and they need to treat the neighborhood fairly. Usually, when you impact that number of houses you would have a good turnout; however, you did not get a good turnout on this because they did not know anything about it. They may have seen the sign but did not understand the sign. We need to follow the Planning Commission's recommendation or the Staff's recommendation, or they need to table this and do a better job of letting the community know and make sure they are on board with this.

Councilman Gibbs stated that he agreed with Councilman Vickers in that they need to table this so that the homeowners can be notified and be prepared for what may or may not happen. They do have some issues and problems that need to be addressed but they need to take a little more time to make sure that everyone is notified. The last thing we need is to put this out there and then 30, 60, or 90 days later they are being given tickets left and right during this time of COVID. If we let them know what is coming up, then Council can come back and address this. They also need to continue to address Holly Drive as well.

Councilwoman Tooley stated that she presented this recommendation for consideration and one reason for this was to try and figure out how to resolve the problem. She looked at several different things during the process and she looked around the area. She also walked the area and spoke to some people. She got a lot of input back and for people to say no one was notified is not true because she talked to them. She also went street-by-street and looked at every one of the houses. She wrote down what type of driveway they had and the driveways were within guidelines so no one would have to spend any money anywhere whether it was the property owner or the tenant. After she spoke with the people, they told her that nothing ever happens in their neighborhood and nothing is ever done. They asked her why something could not be done for them. She asked the residents how we could make things better. One person told her that they keep their property up, but their neighbors do not. Since she had started this Parking Overlay, she wanted to see what we could do to enforce the parking. If the residents start parking their cars in the driveway then it would help to make the property look decent. In turn, it would make the area look better. It would be a start. She is a nurse and sometimes you may need to have surgery but cannot afford to get it done right now so you just leave it alone. You may take a pill until you can get what it takes to have the surgery, but you do not just leave it alone and let it die. If the area needs to be fixed up and we decide to just leave it like it is then it will continue to deteriorate. This is a baby step to start and it means we are doing something. There are ways to inform the people and if this approved tonight, we can always extend the time and let them know. We could give them 90 days to inform them and they do not necessarily have to spend money. If the property owners want to make improvements that is on them. Councilman Vickers stated that he wanted to make sure that they are aware of it. Councilwoman Tooley stated that she wanted to ask for an extension and give them 90 days so it would be around February before anything would be done. Councilwoman Miller-Cody stated that she agreed with Councilman Vickers and they should table this until next year. Councilwoman Tooley stated that she wanted to finish speaking. She already has a motion that she wants to make and Council can agree or not. This is not taking on a one-person problem, but this is something for an entire area. Some people have different visions and she has a vision for improvements and ways to do it. The City may not have all the money right now to initiate it, but we can build on it. Sometimes you have to take baby steps and that is what she is looking at. She has a vision to start some type of improvement and for those who do not want to take steps for improving the area that is on them. This area needs some improvements.

Gracie Bacon, 708 Holly Drive, spoke in favor of the request. Ms. Bacon stated that she did not appreciate Councilman Vickers putting black people in a box. Stop saying what we cannot do and what we do not understand. No one sent her a notice and they did not mail her a letter. No one told her about the hearing. The sign is so small, and someone removed the signs on Holly Drive and on College Street. The signs were left up everywhere else, but they were removed on her street. No one came to her house and told her about the Planning Committee or about this meeting. It was on the sign. No one needed to notify her because there was a phone number on the sign that she can call and ask questions so stop saying we do not know and stop saying that we do not understand. That is like putting them in a box and she does not want to be in a box. She does not need anyone to tell her how to read a sign or how to make a phone call. She was at the Planning Meeting and no one told her where it was going to be held because it was on the sign. It is just common sense. There were two black people who voted for the zoning and everyone else voted against it. She is not talking about making something pretty because she is too intelligent to say they just need something pretty. She is talking about health and safety. You are dealing with rats, snakes, allergies, and cancer. One of the City Council Members came out and he saw what she was talking about. Those were not visitors. It is every day and every night. She lives in this situation and it did not start this month but over ten years ago. She spoke with her Pastor because she was frustrated and angry. She told him about the zoning and what was going on. The Pastor always tells her to get knowledge because knowledge is good; however, knowledge without understanding is nothing. She does not understand why there is an Ordinance about parking in certain parts of the City and there is no Ordinance about parking on Holly Street. She did not understand why the rule applied to certain people and not to her street. She has the knowledge, but she does not understand it. Her Pastor did not tell her to pray and he did not give her a scripture to read, but he told her it was very simple. He told her that they do

not have to care because it is not their neighborhood. Why should they care about her neighborhood? They do not live there, they do not sleep there, and they do not play there or socialize there so they do not have to care. It was so simple when he said that. You all are not going to care until her street becomes Wisenbaker Lane.

No one spoke in opposition to the request.

A MOTION was made by Councilwoman Tooley to approve the request to proceed with the RPOD as recommended by Council with the stipulation of a grace period of 90 days for time to inform residents and others as to what will be happening. Councilman Carroll seconded the motion. The motion was denied (2-5) with Councilman Vickers, Councilman Norton, Councilman Howard, Councilman Gibbs, and Councilwoman Miller-Cody voting in opposition.

## **ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

# RESOLUTION NO. 2020-13, A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AN AMENDMENT TO THE GEORGIA MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES BENEFIT SYSTEM (GMEBS) MASTER DEFINED BENEFIT RETIREMENT PLAN

Consideration of a Resolution to approve an Amendment to the Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System (GMEBS) Master Defined Benefit Retirement Plan.

Chuck Dinkins, Finance Director, stated that the Board of Trustees of the Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System (GMEBS) previously adopted the GMEBS Defined Benefit Retirement Plan, which most recently received a favorable advisory level from the IRS on March 30, 2018 and was most recently amended by the Board on September 28, 2018. On September 25, 2020, the GMEBS Board of Trustees approved a Resolution thereby adopting Amendment 2 to the GMEBS Defined Benefit Retirement Plan ("DB Plan"), which implemented the following Federal Law changes: Section 6.06(a)(3) of the Master Plan, regarding In-Service Distribution, is amended to reduce the minimum age for In-Service Distribution from 62 to 59 ½ for Plan Years starting on or after January 1, 2020. In-Service Distribution allows participants who have met the requirements to receive a Normal or Alternative Normal retirement benefit to begin receiving their accrued benefit while they are still employed. This is subject to the Federal minimum age requirement which was recently reduced from 62 to 59 1/2. While In-Service Distribution is permitted under the GMEBS Master Plan, the City of Valdosta's Plan does not provide for In-Service Distribution. This can be found in Section 14 of the City's Adoption Agreement. Because In-Service Distribution is not allowed under the City's Plan, this Amendment would not directly impact the City's employees. Chuck Dinkins, Finance Director, recommended that Council approve the Resolution of the Board of Trustees of the Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System setting forth an Amendment to the Master Plan in order to meet Internal Revenue Service regulations.

A MOTION by Councilman Norton, seconded by Councilman Gibbs, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to enact Resolution No. 2020-13, a Resolution for an Amendment to the Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System (GMEBS) Master Defined Benefit Retirement Plan, the complete text of which will be found in Resolution Book VI.

#### BIDS, CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS, AND EXPENDITURES

Consideration of bids for two Rear Loader Garbage Trucks for the Public Works Department (Bid No. 12-20-21).

Richard Hardy, Public Works Director, stated that the Residential Garbage Division of the Public Works Department needs to replace two residential Garbage Trucks (25-14, built in 2000 and 25-16 built in 2003) due to age. These trucks are used to service residential sanitation customers. These are Council-approved items for the funding source. Sealed bids were received on October 22, 2020 with the low bid meeting specifications submitted by Waste Built in the amount of \$591,786. Richard Hardy, Public Works Director, recommended that Council approve the low bid meeting specifications submitted by Waste Built in the amount of \$591,786 and allow the Public Works Department to proceed with the purchase.

#### BIDS, CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS, AND EXPENDITURES (CON'T)

**A MOTION** by Councilman Gibbs, seconded by Councilwoman Miller-Cody, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to approve the low bid meeting specifications submitted by Waste Built in the amount of \$591,786 and allow the Public Works Department to proceed with the purchase of two Rear Loader Garbage Trucks.

Consideration of bids for painting the exterior of the City Hall Annex Building (Bid No. 10-20-21).

Richard Hardy, Public Works Director, stated that the exterior of City Hall Annex has not been painted since the City took ownership in 2000. The building is in need of a protective water seal coating and two coats of quality finish paint to protect the exterior and interior walls as there are some seeping issues. The City of Valdosta will purchase the paint ourselves, which is estimated at approximately \$5,000, off of a Georgia State Contract (Sherwin Williams). This will provide for the lowest sales price possible and alleviate any mark-up on the product. The labor, insurances, equipment, repair materials, and all other costs associated with the project will be provided by the contractor. The estimated time to complete the project is six to eight weeks depending on the weather. A mandatory pre-bid meeting was held on October 8, 2020 where an information and walk-around session of the entire building was provided. This included the expectations of what the end product would look like. Sealed bids for labor and other necessary materials with the exception of paint were received on October 20, 2020 with the low bid meeting specifications submitted by Ryan Adams Painting (from Stockton, Georgia) in the amount of \$36,290. Richard Hardy, Public Works Director, recommended that Council approve the low bid meeting specifications submitted by Ryan Adams Painting in the amount of \$36,290 for painting the exterior of the City Hall Annex Building.

**A MOTION** by Councilman Vickers, seconded by Councilman Carroll, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to approve the low bid meeting specifications submitted by Ryan Adams Painting in the amount of \$36,290 for painting the exterior of the City Hall Annex Building.

Consideration of bids for a Backhoe for the Utilities Department (Bid No. 19-20-21).

Darryl Muse, Utilities Director, stated that the City of Valdosta's Utilities Department has four crews performing water and sewer repairs and new construction throughout the City. Currently, these crews have to share one backhoe. As a result, repairs are delayed, and the Department cannot effectively respond to multiple outages or schedule simultaneous projects. If approved, this unit will be purchased utilizing the State's five-year Buy-Back program. City Council approved this purchase in the FY 2021 Budget. Sealed bids were received on August 11, 2020 with the low bid submitted meeting specifications submitted by Flint Equipment in the amount of \$103,500 with a net price of \$58,500 for a guaranteed buy back of \$45,000. The low bid from Tidewater did not meet the minimum engine requirements. Darryl Muse, Utilities Director, recommended that Council approve the low bid meeting specifications submitted by Flint Equipment in the anet price of \$58,500 for a guaranteed buy back of \$45,000. The low bid from Tidewater did not meet the minimum engine requirements. Darryl Muse, Utilities Director, recommended that Council approve the low bid meeting specifications submitted by Flint Equipment in the amount of \$103,500 with a net price of \$58,500 for a guaranteed buy back of \$45,000 with a net price of \$58,500 for a guaranteed buy back of \$45,000 with a net price of \$58,500 for a guaranteed buy back of \$45,000 with a net price of \$58,500 for a guaranteed buy back of \$45,000 and allow the Utilities Department to proceed with the purchase of a Backhoe.

**A MOTION** by Councilman Norton, seconded by Councilwoman Tooley, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to approve the low bid meeting specifications submitted by Flint Equipment in the amount of \$103,500 with a net price of \$58,500 for a guaranteed buy back of \$45,000 and allow the Utilities Department to proceed with the purchase of a Backhoe.

Consideration of bids for maintenance of the pavement markings and stripes for the City of Valdosta roads (Bid No. 09-20-21).

Pat Collins, City Engineer, stated that every year the City budgets \$40,000 for maintenance of pavement markings and striping. The goal is to have streets re-striped on a rotational basis every ten years. This contract will provide the City with a single source of supply for our striping needs which also benefit the City on pricing. This is a yearly contract with an option to renew. To streamline acquisition of striping services, it was decided to contract for an annual contract to lock in the price, save money, and reduce procurement time. It is a unit price contract which means that we pay for the quantities used per job. It is a one-year contract with renewal options. The initial contract will terminate on December 31, 2021 and provide three, one-year renewals at same price. Bids were opened on October 20, 2020 with the low bid submitted by Peek Pavement in the amount of \$15,276.50. Pat Collins, City Engineer, recommended that Council approve the low bid submitted by Peek Pavement in the amount of \$15,276.50 for maintenance of the pavement markings and stripes for the City of Valdosta roads.

#### BIDS, CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS, AND EXPENDITURES (CON'T)

**A MOTION** by Councilwoman Miller-Cody, seconded by Councilman Norton, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to approve the low bid submitted by Peek Pavement in the amount of \$15,276.50 for maintenance of the pavement markings and stripes for the City of Valdosta roads.

#### BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AUTHORITIES, AND ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Consideration of appointments to the Central Valdosta Development Authority/ Downtown Development Authority.

Mayor Matheson stated that the Central Valdosta Development Authority/Downtown Development Authority has three members, Daniel Bayman, Michael C. Lee, and Howard Dasher, III, whose terms will expire on December 31, 2020. Mr. Bayman and Mr. Lee have expressed an interest in being reappointed and Mr. Dasher has not expressed an interest in being reappointed. These appointments were advertised according to the Boards, Commissions, Authorities, and Advisory Committees Policy that was adopted by Mayor and Council. The applicants are as follows: (1) Daniel Bayman - Owner, The Firm/GUD Coffee, and (2) Michael C. Lee - Accountant, Lee & Associates Accountants, Inc.

Mayor Matheson entertained a motion for appointments to the Central Valdosta Development Authority/ Downtown Development Authority.

**A MOTION** by Councilman Carroll, seconded by Councilman Norton, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to reappoint Daniel Bayman and Michael C. Lee to serve a two-year term on the Central Valdosta Development Authority/Downtown Development Authority.

Consideration of an appointment to the Valdosta Housing Authority.

Mayor Matheson stated that the Valdosta Housing Authority has a member, David Hiers, whose term will expire on December 31, 2020. Mr. Hiers has expressed an interest in serving again. This appointment was advertised according to the Boards, Commissions, Authorities, and Advisory Committees Policy that was adopted by Mayor and Council. The applicants are as follows: (1) Camryn Brown - Realtor (Prime Properties Services, LLC) - First Choice, (2) David Hiers - Partner (RST Construction, Inc.), and (3) Alma Williams - Retired (Self-employed Trainer for Child Care Directors, Bright from the Start).

Mayor Matheson stated that he will make the appointment to the Valdosta Housing Authority and he would like to reappoint David Hiers to serve a five-year term on the Valdosta Housing Authority.

Consideration of appointments to the Valdosta Housing Board of Adjustments and Appeals.

Mayor Matheson stated that the Valdosta Housing Board of Adjustments and Appeals has three members, John Valdes, Malcolm Mayfield, and Thomas Daughtrey, whose terms expired on August 7, 2020. None of the three members have expressed an interest in serving again. These appointments were advertised according to the Boards, Commissions, Authorities, and Advisory Committees Policy that was adopted by Mayor and Council. The only applicant to apply was Camryn Brown, Realtor with Prime Properties Services, LLC, and this is her third choice.

Mayor Matheson entertained a motion for an appointment to the Valdosta Housing Board of Adjustments and Appeals.

A MOTION by Councilman Gibbs, seconded by Councilwoman Miller-Cody, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to appoint Camryn Brown to serve a three-year term on the Valdosta Housing Board of Adjustments and Appeals.

Consideration of appointments to the Valdosta Tree Commission.

Mayor Matheson stated that the Valdosta Tree Commission has three members, Amy Hall, Brent Moore, and Sally Turner Querin, whose terms expired on September 6, 2020. They also had a member, Tyler Tucker, who

## BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AUTHORITIES, AND ADVISORY COMMITTEES (CON'T)

resigned and whose term will expire on September 6, 2022. Ms. Hall and Mr. Moore have expressed an interest in being reappointed and Ms. Querin has not expressed an interest in being reappointed. These appointments were advertised according to the Boards, Commissions, Authorities, and Advisory Committees Policy that was adopted by Mayor and Council. The applicants are as follows: (1) Amy Hall - Accountant (City of Valdosta), (2) Charles "Brent" Moore, Jr. - CEO (Proficient Pool & Lawn Service, Inc.), (3) Starr Page – Retired from the City of Valdosta, (4) Mishonne Shealy - Self Employed (Marketing Representative), and (5) Kerry Watts - Horticulture Instructor (Wiregrass Technical College).

Mayor Matheson entertained a motion for appointments to the Valdosta Tree Commission.

**A MOTION** by Councilman Carroll, seconded by Councilman Gibbs, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to reappoint Amy Hall and Brent Moore to serve a four-year term on the Valdosta Tree Commission.

**A MOTION** by Councilwoman Tooley, seconded by Councilwoman Miller-Cody, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to appoint Mishonne Shealy to serve a four-year term on the Valdosta Tree Commission.

Consideration of appointments to the Valdosta-Lowndes County Conference Center & Tourism Authority.

Mayor Matheson stated that the Valdosta-Lowndes County Conference Center & Tourism Authority has two members, Emily Browning (At Large Appointment) and Councilman Tim Carroll (Council Appointment), whose terms will expire on December 31, 2020. Both Ms. Browning and Councilman Carroll have expressed an interest in being reappointed. These appointments were advertised according to the Boards, Commissions, Authorities, and Advisory Committees Policy that was adopted by Mayor and Council. The applicants for the At Large Slot are as follows: (1) Deborah Bradley - Professor of Music (Georgia Military College), (2) Emily Browning - Self Employed (Sales - Rodan & Fields), and (3) Chris Jones - Owner, Georgia Beer Company. For the Council Appointment Slot, Councilman Tim Carroll - Store Manager (Farmers Home Furniture), has asked to be reappointed.

Mayor Matheson entertained a motion for appointments to the Valdosta-Lowndes County Conference Center & Tourism Authority.

A MOTION by Councilman Vickers, seconded by Councilman Gibbs, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to reappoint Councilman Tim Carroll to serve a three-year term on the Valdosta-Lowndes County Conference Center & Tourism Authority.

For the At Large slot, Councilwoman Miller-Cody placed into consideration Chris Jones. Councilman Tim Carroll placed into consideration Emily Browning. There being no other nominations, Mayor Matheson closed nominations. Chris Jones received six votes and Emily Browning received one vote. Chris Jones was appointed to serve a three-year term on the Valdosta-Lowndes County Conference Center & Tourism Authority.

Consideration of an appointment to the Valdosta-Lowndes County Development Authority.

Mayor Matheson stated that the Valdosta-Lowndes County Development Authority has a member, Tom Call, whose term will expire on January 1, 2021. Mr. Call has expressed an interest in being reappointed. This appointment was advertised according to the Boards, Commissions, Authorities, and Advisory Committees Policy that was adopted by Mayor and Council. The applicants are as follows: (1) Camryn Brown - Realtor (Prime Properties Services, LLC) - Second Choice, (2) Tom Call - Self Employed (Real Estate Development/Broker), and (3) Katrena Sermons - Vice President/Loan Officer (First Federal Savings & Loan of Valdosta).

Mayor Matheson entertained a motion for appointments to the Valdosta-Lowndes County Development Authority.

**A MOTION** by Councilman Howard, seconded by Councilwoman Miller-Cody, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to reappoint Tom Call to serve a five-year term on the Valdosta-Lowndes County Development Authority.

#### BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AUTHORITIES, AND ADVISORY COMMITTEES (CON'T)

Consideration of an appointment to the Valdosta-Lowndes County Land Bank Authority.

Mayor Matheson stated that the Valdosta-Lowndes County Land Bank Authority has a member, Councilwoman Sandra Tooley, whose term will expire on January 31, 2021. This appointment was advertised according to the Boards, Commissions, Authorities, and Advisory Committees Policy that was adopted by Mayor and Council. The only applicant to apply for this slot was Councilwoman Sandra Tooley.

Mayor Matheson entertained a motion for an appointment to the Valdosta-Lowndes County Land Bank Authority.

**A MOTION** by Councilwoman Miller-Cody, seconded by Councilman Howard, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to reappoint Councilwoman Sandra Tooley to serve a four-year term on the Valdosta-Lowndes County Land Bank Authority.

#### **CITIZENS TO BE HEARD**

Eddie McDonald, 907 North Lee Street, stated that there is a problem with automobiles on Gordon Street and Marion Street. There are a lot of cars on the side of the road on Gordon Street and it is starting to look like a junk pile. As you turn the corner, someone is trying to put a lot of junk in front of his house. They are never going to fix the cars and they need to get them out of there because it brings the neighborhood down even more than it already is. He needs help to change it.

#### **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

Mark Barber, City Manager, stated that we will start back with the "Love Where You Live" Campaign on Saturday, November 7, 2020 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The event will be held in District 3 on River Street, Hill Avenue, and St. Augustine Road. Teresa Turner, Sustainability Coordinator, and Richard Hardy, Public Works Director, have worked hard this past week to get the Claw trucks running through the neighborhoods. They placed hangars on every door to let citizens know that the City will be picking up any items that they need to get rid of.

There will be a Food Truck Crawl on Thursday, November 12, 2020 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. with 15 food trucks set up at various locations around the Downtown area. The food trucks will be socially distanced, and we are excited to bring this event back.

On Friday, November 13, 2020, we will host the Bites & Bluegrass event at the historic Lowndes County Courthouse square from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. This event is free to the public and citizens are encouraged to bring their lawn chairs and enjoy the live music.

The Fall Festival that was planned for Thursday, October 29, 2020 got rained out; however, it was rescheduled for Friday, October 30, 2020. There was an impromptu drive-by "Trick or Treat" event and all of the City Departments participated. It was great to see the smiles on the faces of all the children as the candy was passed out.

Teresa Turner, Sustainability Coordinator for the City of Valdosta, is working on areas within our City that we felt needed some help and revitalization. For the past two months, we have worked in the neighborhood that was mentioned earlier tonight in Councilwoman Tooley's District. They have gotten rid of abandoned vehicles, taken care of overgrown lots, mowed overgrown ditches, and replaced street signs which shows that we do care about our neighborhoods and we have not forgotten about our citizens.

The City Manager's Report for November has been completed and copies have been given to the Council Members for review.

#### **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Councilman Vickers stated that he was sorry that he missed the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony that was held on Wednesday, November 4, 2020 at 10:30 a.m. at the house located on Lily Street.

Councilman Norton stated that our words are powerful. He was disturbed because he knows the Council Members and to hear that one of our citizens, especially a Pastor, say that we do not care because it is not our neighborhood is unnerving to him. He does not know the person, but he knows Ms. Bacon. If the Council Members did not care about the City of Valdosta, then they would not have run for this position. They represent their Districts and individually, they do a great job representing their District; however, they also understand that their District affects the entire City. We cannot force people to agree with everything we do, but we try to do what is best and fair for everyone. He appreciates what Councilwoman Tooley is doing and to walk the streets means that she cares. Councilwoman Miller-Cody worked very hard to get people to come out and vote, and she got voters to the polls herself. To say that Council does not care because it is not their neighborhood is wrong. It is a lie and that is how he feels. We care about the City of Valdosta and each other, our Mayor, our City Attorney, our City Manager, our Department Heads, and City Staff. Fortunately, we have money that we can spend hundreds of thousands of dollars on great equipment to help our employees who work so hard every day. To say that we do not care is the biggest lie he has ever heard, and he is very disappointed. If they did not love Valdosta, then they would not be here. This is why they ran for office. If they are not doing a good job then other people will run and take their places in the future; however, right now, they are all committed to do the best that they can. They care about the community and the citizens.

Mayor Matheson stated that he received an E-mail from Deb Cox, Supervisor of Elections, on the final Friday of early voting and they processed 2,100 people through the Lowndes County Board of Elections. He witnessed first-hand Councilwoman Miller-Cody directing traffic in that parking lot. Deb Cox complimented Councilwoman Miller-Cody who went over and above her duty.

Councilman Carroll stated that Councilman Norton is correct, and you should have sensed tonight the passion that they have for the City of Valdosta. They all want to do good things for our community.

Councilman Howard stated that he would like to have a suggestion box on the City's website since we are not having as many people come to City Hall. Also, COVID-19 is still real, and we need to keep doing the things we are hearing about that will keep us safe. We do not want to see things shut down again and we need to remain vigilant when it comes to protecting ourselves and others.

Councilman Gibbs stated that there will be a Stocked Cart Race on Saturday, November 7, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. in the parking lot at Lowe's. This event is for Hungry at Home and is sponsored by the Valdosta-Lowndes County Parks & Recreation Authority. He will be participating in the event in place of the Mayor and he encouraged everyone to come out and bring some food items to put into the shopping carts.

Councilwoman Miller-Cody stated that she ran into Emily Davenport, GMA Representative, and she spoke very highly of the Valdosta City Council. GMA has sent out a survey for all of the GMA Districts and they are coming up with some new ideas due to COVID-19. They will be having a new event called "Coffee & Conversations" on December 2, 2020 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. They will be interacting with Districts 10 and 11.

Councilman Vickers inquired as to whether the City will be hosting a Christmas Parade this year. Mark Barber, City Manager, stated that we have not cancelled the Christmas Parade this year. They have had several meetings and have come up with some suggestions to make it more socially-distanced than it has been in the past. One of the ideas is to get rid of the bleachers Downtown. Also, they may not have walking groups in the parade because they tend to get cluttered together, and there will be no throwing candy from the floats.

Mayor Matheson stated that he needed someone from Council to serve on the Finance Department's Audit Committee for a Request for Qualifications (RFQ). Councilwoman Miller-Cody stated that she would like to nominate Councilman Carroll to serve. There were no other nominations from Council.

## COUNCIL COMMENTS (CON'T)

**A MOTION** by Councilwoman Miller-Cody, seconded by Councilman Norton, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to appoint Councilman Tim Carroll to serve on the Finance Department's Audit Committee for a Request for Qualifications (RFQ).

# 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 November 5, 2020 Meeting of the Valdosta City Council at 6:55 p.m. to meet again in Regular Session on Thursday, November 19, 2020.

City Clerk, City of Valdosta

Mayor, City of Valdosta