

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE VALDOSTA CITY COUNCIL
5:30 P.M., THURSDAY, AUGUST 5, 2021
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, Tim Carroll, Vivian Miller-Cody, and Andy Gibbs. Councilman Ben Norton and Councilman Eric Howard were absent. The invocation was given by Reverend J. D. Martin, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS

Consideration of the August, 2021 Employee of the Month Award (Patrol Officer Jermaine Johnson, Valdosta Police Department).

Police Chief Leslie Manahan stated that Officer Jermaine Johnson began his employment with the City of Valdosta in June of 2016 as a Patrol Officer. His nomination was submitted by Sgt. Sabrina Smith in regard to his courage and compassion while responding to an apartment fire. Sgt. Smith submitted the following: “On May 23, 2021, Patrol Officer Jermaine Johnson responded to 1635 East Park Avenue in response to a large fire at an occupied apartment building. When Officer Johnson arrived on scene, he immediately began evacuating civilians with the help of another Officer. During the evacuation, the Officers observed an elderly female on the second story of the apartment complex. The elderly female was unable to evacuate because she was not ambulatory. Both Officers quickly made use of a dining room chair and utilized it to lift her down the steps from the second story of the apartment building.” Officer Jermaine Johnson showed compassion and courage for assisting the elderly civilian, and it is for this reason and many others the Employee Relations Committee nominated him as the August, 2021 Employee of the Month.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the July 22, 2021 Regular Meeting were approved by unanimous consent (5-0) of the Council.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-20, AN ORDINANCE FOR A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT FOR A CAR WASH AND QUICK OIL CHANGE BUSINESS IN A COMMUNITY-COMMERCIAL (C-C) ZONING DISTRICT

Consideration of an Ordinance for a Conditional Use Permit for a Car Wash and Quick Oil Change business in a Community-Commercial (C-C) Zoning District as requested by SHJ Construction Group (File No. CU-2021-03). The property is located at 3205 Inner Perimeter Road. The Planning Commission reviewed this at their July 26, 2021 Regular Meeting and recommended approval with four conditions (9-0 vote).

Matt Martin, Planning & Zoning Administrator, stated that SHJ Construction Group is requesting a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for a Car Wash and Quick Oil Change business in a Community-Commercial (C-C) Zoning District. The subject property consists of 1.35 acres and is located at 3205 Inner Perimeter Road, which is along the north of the street, about 600 feet west of North Oak Street Extension. This property is the former “T3 Outdoors” sales lot, which has been vacant for some time. The applicant is proposing to completely redevelop the property as an “Auto Spa” commercial center consisting of a freestanding tunnel car wash building, 16 separate covered vacuum bays, and a quick oil change business (3 bays) on a separate parcel. The site will feature shared access drives and internal traffic circulation, along with a planted buffer yard along the northern border with a solid opaque fence, and heavy landscaping throughout which is promised to exceed the City’s minimum requirements for new development. The subject property is located within a Community Activity Center (CAC) Character Area on the Future Development Map of the Comprehensive Plan. The property is also located with the Urban Commercial Corridor Overlay District (UCCOD). The subject property is part the built-out commercial corridor along the

western-most segment of Inner Perimeter Road, between North Oak Street Extension and North Valdosta Road. The property has always been zoned and developed for commercial uses. In C-C Zoning, the main purpose for these proposed uses to obtain a CUP approval is to ensure that the proposed site layout and overall magnitude of the proposed use(s) is compatible with less-intensive uses which are sometimes within or in close proximity to C-C Zoning. In this case, the property fronts a very busy Arterial roadway and there are other automotive-related uses nearby (such as a gas stations and self-service car wash). When also considering the other nearby commercial uses that include restaurants and even a self-storage facility, the proposed uses will fit in well with this established commercial corridor. The only potential area of concern is the adjacent neighborhood to the north, which could be adversely impacted by a noisy commercial use that operates during night-time hours. Development in C-C Zoning requires a landscaped Buffer Yard along this northern boundary, and there is already dense vegetation and an 8' opaque fence along this border. This already helps mitigate any compatibility issues. The applicant is also proposing to limit their hours of operation from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. daily, and this kind of reasonable limitation should be included in any conditions of CUP approval. Staff found the request consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and the Conditional Use Review Criteria, and recommended approval with the following conditions: (1) Approval shall be granted for an automotive Car Wash and Quick Oil Change business facilities in C-C Zoning, in general accordance with the submitted site layout plan. (2) The required landscaped buffer yard along the north property line shall include the existing vegetation to be fully maintained. (3) Hours of operation for these uses shall be within a daily timeframe of 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. (4) Conditional Use approval shall expire after two years from the date of approval if building and site development plans have not been approved and there is no request for building permit(s) by that date. The Planning Commission reviewed this at their July 26, 2021 Regular Meeting, found it consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and the Conditional Use Review Criteria, and recommended approval with the following conditions (9-0 vote): (1) Approval shall be granted for an automotive Car Wash and Quick Oil Change business facilities in C-C Zoning, in general accordance with the submitted site layout plan. (2) The required landscaped buffer yard along the north property line shall include the existing vegetation to be fully maintained. (3) Hours of operation for these uses shall be within a daily timeframe of 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. (4) Conditional Use approval shall expire after two years from the date of approval if building and site development plans have not been approved and there is no request for building permit(s) by that date.

Jack Langdale, Attorney, 701 North Patterson Street, spoke in favor of the request.

Marty Murphy, 124 East Thompson Street, Thomaston, Georgia, spoke in favor of the request.

Ben Meney, 7 Clark Circle, spoke in opposition to the request.

A MOTION was made by Councilman Carroll to approve the request for a Conditional Use Permit for a Car Wash and Quick Oil Change business in a Community-Commercial (C-C) Zoning District for property located at 3205 Inner Perimeter Road as requested by SHJ Construction Group with the following four conditions: (1) Approval shall be granted for an automotive Car Wash and Quick Oil Change business facilities in C-C Zoning, in general accordance with the submitted site layout plan. (2) The required landscaped buffer yard along the north property line shall include the existing vegetation to be fully maintained. (3) Hours of operation for these uses shall be within a daily timeframe of 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. (4) Conditional Use approval shall expire after two years from the date of approval if building and site development plans have not been approved and there is no request for building permit(s) by that date. Councilman Gibbs seconded the motion. The motion was adopted (5-0) to enact Ordinance No. 2021-20, the complete text of which will be found in Ordinance Book XIV.

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-21, AN ORDINANCE TO REZONE 0.59 ACRES FROM SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL (R-15) TO COMMUNITY-COMMERCIAL ZONING DISTRICT

Consideration of an Ordinance to rezone 0.59 acres from Single-Family Residential (R-15) to Community-Commercial (C-C) as requested by SW North Valdosta, LLC (File No. VA-2021-15). The property is located at 3277 North Valdosta Road. The Planning Commission reviewed this at their July 26, 2021 Regular Meeting and recommended approval (9-0 Vote).

Matt Martin, Planning & Zoning Administrator, stated that SW North Valdosta, LLC is requesting to rezone 0.59 acres from Single-Family Residential (R-15) to Community-Commercial (C-C). The subject property is located at 3277 North Valdosta Road, which is along the south side of the road immediately east of the Dollar

General store. The property is currently vacant and the applicant is proposing to develop this as a small fast food restaurant (1,650-sf) with drive-thru. The subject property is located within a Community Activity Center (CAC) Character Area on the Future Development Map of the Comprehensive Plan, which allows the possibility of C-C Zoning. The property is also located within the Urban Commercial Corridor Overlay District (UCCOD). The existing land use pattern in this area is dominated by commercial uses, although there are some office type uses along the corridor to the east. The existing zoning pattern reflects the same mixture, with R-P Zoning to the east and C-H Zoning elsewhere along the corridor. The existing R-15 Zoning is non-compliant within the CAC Character Area (not intensive enough) and it is simply a remnant carryover from the Castle Creek residential development to the south. The residential streets of this neighborhood are no longer planned to connect through the subject property area to North Valdosta Road, which leaves the subject property's only physical means of access being along its frontage with North Valdosta Road. Maintaining such a low intensity zoning along this frontage is illogical under today's development pattern. Although less intensive than the dominant C-H Zoning along this corridor, the applicant's proposed C-C Zoning matches the actual "land use" pattern of the area and is more compatible with the adjacent R-P Zoning to the east and other R-15 Zoning to the south. Staff found the request consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and the Standards for the Exercise of Zoning Power (SFEZP) and recommend approval to the City Council. The Planning Commission reviewed this at their July 26, 2021 Regular Meeting, found it consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and the Standards for the Exercise of Zoning Power (SFEZP), and recommended approval (9-0 vote).

Jason Fritz, 4151 Ashford Dunwoody Road, Atlanta, Georgia, spoke in favor of the request.

No one spoke in opposition to the request.

A MOTION by Councilman Carroll, seconded by Councilman Gibbs was adopted (5-0) to enact Ordinance No. 2021-21, an Ordinance to rezone 0.59 acres from Single-Family Residential (R-15) to Community-Commercial (C-C) for property located at 3277 North Valdosta Road as requested by SW North Valdosta, LLC, the complete text of which will be found in Ordinance Book XIV.

AN ORDINANCE TO ANNEX 1.14 ACRES INTO THE CITY OF VALDOSTA TABLED

Consideration of an Ordinance to deannex 310 acres from the City of Valdosta as requested by Uvalde Land Company (File No. VA-2021-16). The property is the City portion of the Cherry Creek Wetlands Mitigation Bank property which is located between the Withlacoochee River and the Cherry Creek residential neighborhoods. The Planning Commission reviewed this request at their July 26, 2021 Regular Meeting and recommended denial (6-3 Vote).

Matt Martin, Planning & Zoning Administrator, stated that this was a different kind of request and it is an annexation in the backwards direction. As discussed at the Work Session, this is the first time we have had a deannexation proposal in ten years. This is a large tract of land and it is over 300 acres. It is zoned R-15 in the City Limits. The map in the Agenda Packet shows the Zoning patterns around the land whether it is City or County. The City Limits are highlighted in the light-shaded yellow. To the west is the rest of the Withlacoochee River Flood Plain that has Conservation Zoning in the County. There is also a Resolution in the Agenda Packet from Lowndes County in support which is required by State Law for the applicant to obtain before they request the annexation. The County is agreeing to take the property back if the City agrees to deannex. What has not happened yet to this point is an official discussion of what Zoning the property would receive once it is in Lowndes County. That would have to be a separate process under Lowndes County jurisdiction. Other maps in the Agenda Packet include Character Areas, Parks and Recreation Conservation, and the dark green line is a Character Area that we do not see very often which is associated with the Withlacoochee River Channel. That is the protected stream buffer that the State imposes along the River. The aerial imagery shows more of the surrounding setting of what is there and the property has wetlands and uplands. On the east side is the Cherry Creek neighborhood as well as Cherry Creek North. On the west side is Val Del Road on the other side of the Withlacoochee River and the clear patches are the River Chase neighborhood. They have received a lot of public input in terms of E-mails and letters and those are included in the Agenda Packet. Some additional ones were distributed tonight. We have received those from residents not only in Cherry Creek but also in River Chase. The dark areas within the forest on the map are some lime sink ponds. The survey is also in the Agenda Packet and it is the Cherry Creek

Mitigation Bank property in its entirety which is about 530 acres. Most of it is currently in the City Limits which is the 310 acres that we are talking about. The map also shows where the wetland areas are and the darker tones are the jurisdictional wetlands that are under protection of the Army Corps of Engineers. The white areas in between are the uplands area. All of this had to be carefully delineated when the owners were going through this process 20 years ago. Matt Martin stated that he looked at part of a summary report and with the total acreage, less than half of the property is jurisdictional wetlands and more than half is uplands. It does not mean that it does not get damp when it rains hard but it is not under jurisdictional protection. The property has very little access which was discussed at length at the Work Session. The entrance gate is on the south side and the property actually touches South Lakeshore Drive. It is not a right-of-way or easement and it is actually part of this property. This is the only access to a public street that is open. It does touch the right-of-way that goes across the Mill Dam but that has been closed to public use. Everything else abuts houses or other open tracts of land. There has been lots of discussion and information distributed and this is not a rezoning decision or even a land use decision. It is simply a proposed boundary change to the City and whether we change it or not is the question and what jurisdiction it would be. Council has a formal request from the applicant to table this for two weeks and it was submitted after the Planning Commission Meeting. There are a lot of citizens here this evening who were most likely at the Planning Commission Meeting. Council can decide to take action on tabling or not early or have the Public Hearing and then decide. All of those options are there at your disposal. In terms of the recommendation of this from the Planning Commission, they are recommending denial of the deannexation by a 6-3 vote.

Mayor Matheson stated that we will go forward with the Public comment period due to the great interest and the great interest there was at the Planning Commission Meeting as well. He will give each side 20 minutes whether that is one person as the designated spokesperson or multiple, it is still the same 20 minutes. With that being said, Mayor Matheson asked if anyone would like to speak in favor of the request to please come forward.

No one spoke in favor of the request.

Jim Tunison, Jr., Attorney, 908 North Patterson Street, spoke in opposition to the request. Mr. Tunison stated that he was here on behalf of Cherry Creek Hills Property Owners Association. He asked for Council's consideration to deny this deannexation request. The question before you is why would you decide to weaken permanent conservation restrictions that were put on the property permanently. The reason for deannexation given to you in the request is for maintenance of wildlife and permitted recreational use including hunting. Currently, the original Land Bank restrictions allow hunting and planned burning, which was the only reason he heard at the Planning Commission Meeting as to why the applicant wants it de-zoned and moved to the County. The applicant bought the property approximately 17 months ago with the agreement of all these restrictions placed on there. That is in the deed that he took and it included all of these land restrictions. It was obviously agreed upon when he made the purchase. Clearly, they were on notice about all of these restrictions and that all applied. The applicant is now asking for your vote in helping him remove these restrictions that were agreed upon. They recognize that this is a City Council and that you cannot affect the Corps of Engineers restrictions, but this is one step in the process. They know that the Corps of Engineers has been out there on the land with the applicant. A vote to deannex a City property for a use that is now permitted does not seem to be a valid reason to give away 310 acres of City land. Any use that you allow, or the Corps of Engineers allows, is going to have access to this property through that one 40-foot strip that comes off of a residential City street. This property was put into a Mitigation Bank to allow the subdivision of Cherry Creek North to be built so it does not seem proper to change the rules because you cannot unbuild those houses. Why would you undo the rules under which they were built? Does the Corps of Engineers support this request? Of course, all of these parties were involved when the Mitigation Bank was agreed to and these restrictions were put on this deed in 2001. That is the Developers, the Corps of Engineers, the University of Georgia Foundation who took ownership of the property, the Tax Collector, and the applicant that is before you. They were all on notice and were in full agreement with these restrictions. The applicant agreed to these restrictions when he paid \$200 per acre for the land in March of 2019. Why should you get involved with your vote to change the deal that all of the property owners agreed to themselves as parties? In zoning, rezoning, annexation, and deannexation, all these are frequently contested because they impact a change in people's homes and neighborhoods. Another reason that strong opposition to these requests arises is because it generates a feeling that the government is breaking its promise. The promise was made when the Land Bank was created in exchange for the housing development permission. The parties to that promise were the landowners, the Corps of Engineers, the

City Zoning and Planning who acted on behalf of the citizens of Valdosta, and the buyers of the conservation credits. A residential planning community was built next to this Mitigation Bank property only because of the agreement was it allowed to be built. Now we are facing an effort to cause the agreement with the government to be broken. The way to break this agreement started with our friends at the County and now it is up to each of you to decide where it goes. You should not rely, we suggest, on the Corps of Engineers and the Federal government to protect our fair City. Did the Corps protect the citizens around the Everglades, the lower 9th Ward of New Orleans, or the Chesapeake Bay residents just to name a few? Mr. Tunison stated that he does not think it would be smart for the City to give up its land in hopes that the Corps of Engineers and the Federal government decide to keep these restrictions in place. The deed instrument does allow for the Corps of Engineers to modify or change the rules. They need your vote to start that process and we ask you humbly not to give your protection of our City and its residents to the Corps of Engineers. Will you vote to break the Conservation Agreement promise? We ask you not to. In conclusion, no compelling reason has been given to break a promise with all of these homeowners, and no compelling reason has been given to break the City's commitment in your Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive Plan discusses the protection of waterways, recharge areas, and riverbanks. All of these are a feature of this property that was put in the Mitigation Bank for these very reasons. We ask you respectfully to vote to deny this deannexation request. Thank you for your consideration.

Ashley LeFiles Hart, 1055 Ridge Road, Cherry Creek Hills Subdivision, spoke in opposition to the request. Ms. Hart distributed some information to the Council and stated that this is an aerial shot of her family's home on Ridge Road. In the bottom left corner is the legend. If you look at their pool and back porch, you can see that it is only about 120 feet from the property line that it shares with the Mitigation Bank. Mr. Warren has stated that he wants the land deannexed so that he can hunt on the property but she does not feel comfortable with anyone discharging firearms within 120 feet of her pool where her son and family spend most of the evenings during summer, fall, and spring. That also begs another question. Mr. Warren stated that he only wants it deannexed so he can hunt with his son. Mr. Warren looks pretty young and she wondered how old his son was who would be firing guns with immediately behind her backyard. She is not comfortable with a child firing guns within the range of her child. Furthermore, it is her understanding that Mr. Warren's other developmental property, Northside Property Development which is doing some work off of Val Del Road, has already secured four acres of wetlands in the County to be developed. She would not put it past Mr. Warren to push development of this property also. This is a pristine piece of wetlands behind her house that feeds the river, it helps the flooding and erosion, and it is habitat for endangered and threatened Federal and State species. There are so many reasons that she could argue why it should not be deannexed and she asked Council's consideration in voting not to deannex the property.

John Quarterman, Suwannee River Keeper, spoke in opposition to the request. Mr. Quarterman stated that Council is aware that right across from the Withlacoochee River directly west of Cherry Creek is Shadrack's Sink which leaks with the Withlacoochee River water down into the groundwater and goes several miles east of where Valdosta's water wells are on Guest Road. That is why those water wells are as deep as they are. Shortly after they were put there, it was discovered that the Withlacoochee River water was getting into the well water. There was a choice to either pay for much more expensive equipment and treatment methods to deal with the tannic acid and the biological items in the water or just make the wells deeper which is what the City did. There is also another sink hole right where Cherry Creek meets the Withlacoochee River that opened up in a matter of months in 2013 and there is a whole line of sink holes to the west of that. Land disturbance on this property could produce more sink holes. That is one problem and then any clearing of the land could contribute to more flooding. Everyone is concerned about things getting into the Withlacoochee River water and affecting not only the City wells but other people's wells downstream. It is a very sensitive area and for those reasons he would suggest that Council not deannex the property but keep the part of it that is in the City in the City because you will have more control over what happens to the property. He recommended that Council go farther and see if they could obtain the property because it would be a great addition for a series of trails along side the Withlacoochee River and Little River water trail. It would have to be done in consultation with the nearby property owners who have rights of use of that property in the covenant. Mr. Quarterman asked Council's consideration in denying the deannexation.

Jimmy LeFiles, 3561 River Chase Drive, spoke in opposition to the request. Mr. LeFiles stated that he is a resident of River Chase Drive and is on the wooded side of the map. His property line in the back of his lot ends at the Withlacoochee River and he has been there 28 years. This is a fairly simple decision. That piece of property

was put into a Mitigation Bank 20 years ago to do exactly what it has done for 20 years. It protects these people's property from flooding, it keeps them safe and minimizes dangerous activities on the property, and it provides a great habitat for a lot of endangered species that live back there. If your decision tonight is to allow Mr. Warren to deannex the property, then you are destabilizing that situation. You are opening up a situation that might allow that to change and the land will not serve its intended purpose anymore. Mr. LeFiles stated that it is not that complicated to him and he asked that Council take that into consideration.

Phillip Walker, 950 South Lakeshore Drive, spoke in opposition to the request. Mr. Walker stated that he is a citizen of Valdosta first and a resident of the greater Lowndes County second. The City is his first line of communication with other property owners that surround him. If they ever have an issue with each other, they would have to resolve it between themselves and the Mayor and Council sitting before us. If Council votes to approve this then that will change. All of the citizens along this piece of property would have to go to the County so then it would be City versus County. The way it is set up is perfect and if somebody wants to use the land differently than what it was intended for there are steps that they can come to the Council to ask for a variance. He wanted to let Council know that he is against the deannexation and he is directly affected by it.

Clyde Thomlinson, 924 South Lakeshore Drive, spoke in opposition to the request. Mr. Thomlinson urged Council to deny the request.

Mayor Matheson stated that there were no others who wanted to speak in opposition to the request and turned it over to Council for action.

Councilman Carroll stated that while he did not know if it would make a big difference, but as usual, when an applicant asks for us to table a request for two weeks, we generally honor them. They did ask and out of respect that we give all applicants he wanted to make a motion to table the request.

A MOTION was made by Councilman Carroll to table the request to deannex 310 acres from the City of Valdosta as requested by Uvalde Land Company until the August 19, 2021 Regular Council Meeting. Councilwoman Miller-Cody seconded the motion. Councilman Vickers inquired as to whether they would have another Public Hearing over again at the end of the two weeks. Mayor Matheson stated that if we come back in two weeks, there would not be a Public Hearing because that is what they held tonight. Councilwoman Miller-Cody stated they would just be voting. Mayor Matheson stated that was correct. The motion was adopted (4-1) with Councilwoman Tooley voting in opposition.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

AN ORDINANCE FOR FILM PRODUCTION IN THE CITY OF VALDOSTA (FIRST READING)

Consideration of an Ordinance for Film Production in the City of Valdosta. (First Reading)

Ashlyn Johnson, Public Information Officer, stated that for over 40 years, Georgia has been engaged in bringing film and television production to the State. With its temperate climate, great variety of locations, the world's busiest airport, large crew base, and pro-business focus, Georgia is now a leading destination in the world for filming. In the past several years, South Georgia has seen its fair share of Hollywood productions. The adoption of a Film Production Ordinance will help facilitate commercial movie and television projects that shoot in Valdosta. Georgia has succeeded in marketing the State as a location for film productions, recognizing the economic impact this industry provides, as well as the tourism it generates for local jurisdictions; however, film productions take place at the local level, where cities and counties must decide how to regulate commercial activities. With more film projects coming to the area, a permitting process becomes necessary to address certain inconveniences to the public that may result. Valdosta's proposed straightforward process will ensure that proper standards are met, that the public is notified of any impacts, and that the production company can maintain their schedule. Ashlyn Johnson, Public Information Officer, stated this is the first reading of the Ordinance and no action will be taken.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2021-11, A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE
AN AMENDMENT TO THE GEORGIA MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES
BENEFIT SYSTEM (GMEBS) MASTER DEFINED
BENEFIT RETIREMENT PLAN**

08/05/21 CONTINUED

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 there has been a change in the Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System (GMEBS) Master Defined Benefit Retirement Plan. This was an adjustment to the actuarial equivalent tables. On March 31, 2021, the Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System ("GMEBS") Board of Trustees adopted Amendment 3 to the restated GMEBS Master Defined Benefit Retirement Plan ("Master Plan") document. Amendment 3 updated the actuarial assumptions, factors, and interest rates that are used to calculate "Option B" joint and survivor retirement benefits, "Option C" period certain and life retirement benefits, actuarial reserve death benefits, late retirement factors, and the actuarial offset that applies when a participant re-retires. These updates are detailed in "Attachment 'A'" to the Resolution to adopt Amendment 3, which is included with this memorandum. In order to remain in compliance with GMEBS, we need to approve the Resolution to adopt Amendment 3 to our Plan. Chuck Dinkins, Finance Director, recommended that Council approve the Resolution to amend the Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System (GMEBS) Master Defined Benefit Retirement Plan.

A MOTION was made by Councilman Carroll to approve a Resolution to amend the Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System (GMEBS) Master Defined Benefit Retirement Plan. Councilman Vickers seconded the motion. The motion was adopted (4-1) with Councilwoman Miller-Cody voting in opposition to enact Resolution No. 2021-11, the complete text of which will be found in Resolution Book VI.

BIDS, CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS, AND EXPENDITURES

Consideration of bids for 95 Gallon Roll Out Cart Containers for the Public Works Department (Bid No. 58-20-21 95).

Richard Hardy, Deputy City Manager of Operations, stated that the 95 gallon roll out container contract expired on June 30, 2021. This contract supplies the City with a single source of supply for the 95 gallon roll out containers utilized to pick up household trash for City customers on routes throughout the City. This is an annual contract with renewal options. Sealed bids were received on May 29, 2021 with the low bid submitted by Otto in the amount of \$64.08. Several other vendors did not respond to the invitation to bid. The last contract price was \$47.69 which was awarded in 2017. The City has used Otto in the past but they were not the last supplier. The quality of the container has been tested to assure that it will work with our equipment. Richard Hardy, Deputy City Manager of Operations, recommended that Council approve the low bid submitted by Otto in the amount of \$64.08 for the purchase of 95 gallon Roll Out Cart Containers for the Public Works Department.

A MOTION by Councilman Vickers, seconded by Councilman Gibbs, was unanimously adopted (5-0) to approve the bid submitted by Otto in the amount of \$64.80 for the purchase of 95 gallon Roll Out Cart Containers for the Public Works Department.

LOCAL FUNDING AND REQUESTS

Consideration of a request to declare two vehicles from the Valdosta Police Department as surplus property.

Police Chief Leslie Manahan stated that the Citizens Against Violence Ministry, Inc. recently approached the City of Valdosta asking about the possibility of purchasing two surplus vehicles from the City. There are two vehicles available that are no longer of value or service to the City and have already been replaced due to age, mileage, or serviceability. The City has provided surplus vehicles in the past to area agencies after being granted permission by Council. These vehicles are no longer of value to the City and have already been replaced. The two vehicles are from the Police Department (Asset ID 02-41 - 2003 Ford Crown Victoria and Asset ID 02-71 - 2005 Ford Crown Victoria) and will need to be declared surplus by Council if they are in agreement with selling the vehicles to the Citizens Against Violence Ministry, Inc. Police Chief Leslie Manahan recommended that Council

approve the request and declare the two vehicles surplus and sell them to the Citizens Against Violence Ministry, Inc. for \$1 each.

A MOTION by Councilwoman Miller-Cody, seconded by Councilman Gibbs, was unanimously adopted (5-0) to approve the request to declare two vehicles surplus from the Valdosta Police Department as surplus property and sell them to the Citizens Against Violence Ministry, Inc. for \$1 each.

BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AUTHORITIES, AND ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Consideration of an appointment to the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Citizens Advisory Committee.

Mayor Matheson stated that the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) had a member, Jim Parker, who resigned due to personal reasons. Members of the MPO CAC serve at will. 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) Tanner D. Herrington - Attorney (Gower, Wooten & Darneille, LLC), and (2) Eric V. Dawkins, Sr. - Ministering Evangelist (Second Choice).

Mayor Matheson entertained nominations for the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Citizens Advisory Committee.

Councilman Carroll placed into consideration Tanner D. Herrington. There being no other nominations, Mayor Matheson closed nominations. Tanner D. Herrington was approved by acclamation to serve at will on the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Citizens Advisory Committee.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

J. D. Rice, 501 Knob Hill Drive, stated that approximately two and a half years ago he approached Mayor and Council about a proposal to name the Senior Citizens Center on Park Avenue after Ruth K. Council. He was informed that the City had deeded that building over to the Valdosta-Lowndes County Parks and Recreation. He then met with the Executive Director of Parks and Recreation and he was told that he would need to speak to the Parks and Recreation Board which he did. A few weeks later he was notified by the Board through the Executive Director that they did not own that building and that it belonged to the City. Since then he has been in contact with City Hall about the proposal and he presented a Petition with over 100 signatures on it. He would like to find out whether the City would like to proceed or not. The Ordinance has some stipulations about naming buildings or structures owned by the City after someone who is deceased; however, there have been some exceptions to that. There are three that he knows of. He would like to see Ms. Council receive her flowers before she is no longer with us.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mark Barber, City Manager, stated that the Douglas County Fire & EMS Department in Douglasville donated \$6,000 to the Injured First Responders Fund. The love and support shown for these employees has been overwhelming. The last employee will be going home tomorrow.

The monthly Hot Spot Clean-up will be held on August 23-27, 2021 and will be from North Lee Street to Springfield Drive between East Cranford Avenue and East Moore Street. That will include Springfield Drive, Clover Drive, North Troup Street, and Charlton Street.

The Georgia Municipal Association will be holding their Annual Convention from August 6-10, 2021 in Savannah.

Mark Barber, City Manager, thanked Dennis Wise with Recyclops for his demonstration on recycling at the Work Session on Tuesday.

Councilman Carroll stated that he would like to do a special thank you from the Mayor and Council to the Douglas County Fire & EMS Department. Mark Barber, City Manager, stated that they could do that.

Councilwoman Tooley stated that she has gotten quite a few questions from citizens and asked the City Manager and City Attorney to provide them with a statement to put out about the Executive Order 13985 and the Americans Relief Plan money.

Councilwoman Miller-Cody stated that she would love to see Recyclops be a sponsor with the City's Back to School Program next year. Mr. Wise stated that they would certainly discuss it.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Matheson entertained a motion for adjournment.

A MOTION by Councilman Vickers, seconded by Councilman Carroll, was unanimously adopted (5-0) to adjourn the August 5, 2021 Meeting of the Valdosta City Council at 6:08 p.m. to meet again in Regular Session on Thursday, August 19, 2021.

City Clerk, City of Valdosta

Mayor, City of Valdosta