

**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR MEETING OF THE VALDOSTA CITY COUNCIL**  
**5:30 P.M., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2022**  
**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, Vivian Miller-Cody, Tim Carroll, Ben Norton, Eric Howard. and Andy Gibbs. City Attorney Tim Tanner was absent. The invocation was given by Pastor Mike Wells, New Covenant Church, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the January 20, 2022 Regular Meeting were approved by unanimous consent (7-0) of the Council.

**ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2022-3, A RESOLUTION FOR THE ADOPTION OF A PUBLIC TRANSIT TITLE VI PLAN FOR THE CITY OF VALDOSTA**

Consideration of a Resolution for the adoption of a Public Transit Title VI Plan for the City of Valdosta.

Richard Hardy, Deputy City Manager of Operations, stated that the City of Valdosta applied for a Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Grant through the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) to assist in the funding of a Public Transit System. In order to receive Federal funds, the recipient (City of Valdosta) must have a Public Transit Title VI Plan in place. Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act requires that “No person in the United States shall, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.” The City of Valdosta’s Transit Director collaborated with both GDOT and the Southern Georgia Regional Commission to develop this Plan. Richard Hardy, Deputy City Manager of Operations, recommended that Council approve the adoption of the Resolution for the Public Transit Title VI Plan in order to meet both FTA and GDOT requirements to receive Federal financial assistance.

**A MOTION** by Councilman Gibbs, seconded by Councilman Norton, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to enact Resolution No. 2022-3, a Resolution for the adoption of a Public Transit Title VI Plan for the City of Valdosta, the complete text of which will be found in Resolution Book VI.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2022-4, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT ITEM AGREEMENT/MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO PERFORM UTILITY ADJUSTMENTS FOR A ROADWAY PROJECT**

Consideration of a Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute a Contract Item Agreement/Memorandum of Understanding with the Georgia Department of Transportation to perform utility adjustments for a Roadway Project.

David Frost, Utilities Director, stated that the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) is scheduled to undertake a Roadway Project to mill and resurface approximately 4.5 miles of SR38/HWY84 (Hill Avenue) from Rocky Ford Road to Jones Street. The Project's current L.E.T. date (bid opening) is June 17, 2022. Following a review of the GDOT plans for the Project, the Utilities Department Staff identified 74 valve boxes and 81 manholes that need to be lowered and readjusted to grade as part of the Project. These utilities adjustments are required in accordance with 23 C.F.R. Part 645, Subpart A, and O.C.G.A. 32-6-171. With the City responsible for the cost of the work, Staff had two viable options to address the needed adjustments. The first was to include the work in the Roadway Contract to be let by GDOT with the estimate provided by the City. GDOT would be responsible for all

of the Project scheduling and coordination. The second was to advertise for bid a Contract to complete the work in conjunction with the GDOT Roadway Project. Coordinating and scheduling the work using this option would be more costly and complex. Performing the work in-house by the Utilities Department is not considered a viable option because of the resources necessary to complete the work. Due to its complexity, it will benefit the City to have the utilities adjustments included in the GDOT Roadway Contract. The cost for the work is estimated to be \$332,688.90. The actual cost will be determined following the Project's bid opening. A Resolution has been prepared authorizing the Mayor to execute a Contract Item Agreement/Memorandum of Understanding with GDOT for the Roadway Project. David Frost, Utilities Director, recommended that Council approve the Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute the Contract Item Agreement/Memorandum of Understanding with GDOT to perform the utilities adjustments at the City's expense.

**A MOTION** by Councilman Carroll, seconded by Councilman Gibbs, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to enact Resolution No. 2022-4, a Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute a Contract Item Agreement/Memorandum of Understanding with the Georgia Department of Transportation to perform utility adjustments for a Roadway Project, the complete text of which will be found in Resolution Book VI.

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

Consideration of a request for payment of emergency sewer repairs at Sugar Creek.

David Frost, Utilities Director, stated that in September of 2020, a City Utilities Department crew responded to a report of a leaking sewer main near the 1700 block of West Gordon Street. Following their investigation of the call and a subsequent evaluation of the sewer lines in the area, personnel determined that a 16-inch aerial sewer main section had rusted through causing a small leak. The crew quickly repaired the pipe and stopped the leak. Further inspection of the main showed evidence of advanced corrosion and deterioration along multiple exposed pipe sections. Staff determined the best course of action to prevent further leaks and major pipe failure was to replace the main as soon as possible. Due to the sewer main's poor condition, Staff expedited the replacement Project. They considered various options for replacing the main and determined the most feasible and environmentally sensitive option was to remove the existing aerial main and re-route it underground away from Sugar Creek. Quotes were requested from three local contractors with two responses. James Warren and Associates (JWA), Inc. submitted the lowest quote in the amount of \$168,300 and was asked to proceed immediately. After multiple delays due to supply chain issues, required materials were finally delivered, and JWA installed the new main in December of 2021. Flow has been diverted to the new main which is now in service. The Project also includes the removal of 450 linear feet of the aerial main along with the removal of the carriage and two brick piers that support it over Sugar Creek. JWA completed this part of the Project last week. David Frost, Utilities Director, recommended that Council authorize payment in the amount of \$168,300 to JWA, Inc. for emergency sewer repairs at Sugar Creek.

**A MOTION** by Councilman Vickers, seconded by Councilman Norton, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to authorize payment in the amount of \$168,300 to JWA, Inc. for emergency sewer repairs at Sugar Creek.

Consideration of bids for four, one-half ton Crew Cab Trucks with a Regular Bed for the City of Valdosta Engineering Department and the Utilities Department (Bid No. 15-21-22).

Greg Brown, Purchasing Agent, stated that the Engineering Department and the Utilities Department need to replace trucks in their fleet. The Engineering Department will replace Unit #1536 (2004 Chevrolet Silverado) which has 145,021 miles. The Utilities Department will replace Unit #1548 (2002 F-150) with 105,620 miles and Unit #1407 (2008 F-150) with 78,679 miles. The vehicles need to be replaced due to age, rising maintenance costs, and serviceability. The third unit for the Utilities Department will be a new truck added to their fleet. All trucks are in the current Mayor and Council approved Budget for this Fiscal Year. Sealed bids were received on January 25, 2022 with the low bid submitted by Wade Ford in the amount of \$148,762.20 (\$37,190.55 each). Several other companies were sent the invitation to bid but did not respond. Bid advertisements were posted as the Ordinance dictates. As with other vehicle bids recently, the automotive industry is still experiencing raw material shortages to build the vehicles which has resulted in inventory problems throughout the United States. Greg Brown, Purchasing Agent, recommended that Council approve the low bid submitted by Wade Ford in the amount of \$148,762.20 and allow the Engineering Department and the Utilities Department to proceed with the purchase.

A **MOTION** by Councilman Carroll, seconded by Councilwoman Miller-Cody, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to approve the low bid submitted by Wade Ford in the amount of \$148,762.20 and allow the Engineering Department and the Utilities Department to proceed with the of purchase four, one-half ton Crew Cab Trucks with a Regular Bed.

Consideration of bids for two, one-half ton Extended Crew Cab Trucks with a Regular Bed (Bid No. 16-21-22) for the City of Valdosta Finance Department and the Inspections Department.

Greg Brown, Purchasing Agent, stated that the Finance Department and the Inspections Department need to purchase two trucks. The Finance Department is replacing a 1998 Ford Taurus (#0118) with 103,389 miles. The car is being replaced due to age, availability of parts, and functionality. The Inspections Department is purchasing a truck for a previously approved new position. Both vehicles are in the current year Mayor and Council approved Budget. Sealed bids were received on January 25, 2022 with the low bid submitted by Wade Ford in the amount of \$65,499.60 (\$32,749.80 each). Several other companies were sent the invitation to bid but did not respond. Bid advertisements were posted as the Ordinance dictates. As with other vehicle bids recently, the automotive industry is still experiencing raw material shortages to build the vehicles which has resulted in inventory problems throughout the United States. Greg Brown, Purchasing Agent, recommended that Council approve the low bid submitted by Wade Ford in the amount of \$65,499.60 and allow the Finance Department and the Inspections Department to proceed with the purchase.

A **MOTION** by Councilman Gibbs, seconded by Councilman Norton, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to approve the low bid submitted by Wade Ford in the amount of \$65,499.60 and allow the Finance Department and the Inspections Department to proceed with the purchase of two, one-half ton Extended Crew Cab Trucks with a Regular Bed.

Consideration of a request to approve Utility and Drainage Easement Agreements for Bimbo QSR Ohio, LLC.

Pat Collins, City Engineer, stated that Bimbo QSR Ohio, LLC Inc., a subsidiary of Bimbo Bakeries USA, has purchased a tract of land from the Valdosta-Lowndes County Development Authority which consists of eight acres. The parcel is adjacent to South St. Augustine Road in the Valdosta-Lowndes County Development Authority's Westside Business Park. In the last two years, a 100,000 square foot facility has been constructed on the parcel. In the development of that parcel, a short access road was created. In order to serve this property and the remainder of Westside Business Park, two easements are needed. The first easement is a drainage easement that is needed to carry the stormwater runoff from the newly create public road (Bimbo Boulevard). The second easement, which is a utility/sewer easement, is needed to connect the entire park (Bimbo Bakery and other parcels behind it) to a lift station located on the east side of St. Augustine Road. Two Utility and Drainage Easement Agreements have been prepared. Pat Collins, City Engineer, recommended that Council approve the two Utility and Drainage Easement Agreements for Bimbo QSR Ohio, LLC.

A **MOTION** by Councilman Norton, seconded by Councilman Carroll, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to approve the two Utility and Drainage Easement Agreements for Bimbo QSR Ohio, LLC.

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

Consideration of an appointment to the Central Valdosta Development Authority/ Downtown Development Authority.

Mayor Matheson stated that the Central Valdosta Development Authority/Downtown Development Authority has a member, Mikki Wills, whose term expired on December 31, 2021. Ms. Wills did not express 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) Edward J. Cochran - Attorney (Coleman Talley LLP), and (2) Sarah Saxton - Self Employed Chiropractor (Nomad Chiropractic).

Mayor Matheson entertained nominations for the Central Valdosta Development Authority/Downtown Development Authority.

Councilman Carroll placed into consideration Edward J. Cochran. Councilwoman Tooley placed into consideration Sarah Saxton. There being no other nominations, Mayor Matheson closed nominations. Sarah Saxton received three votes and Edward J. Cochran received four votes. Edward J. Cochran was appointed to serve a term of two years on the Central Valdosta Development Authority/Downtown Development Authority.

Consideration of appointments to the Valdosta Historic Preservation Commission.

Mayor Matheson stated that the Valdosta Historic Preservation Commission has two members, Laura Yale and Sally Querin, whose terms will expire on February 13, 2022. Both Ms. Yale and Ms. Querin have expressed an interest in being reappointed; however, Ms. Querin was not able to complete the Board Application prior to the deadline. Ms. Querin will submit a Board Application and Ethics Form in the very near future. 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 Laura Yale (Interior Designer with MODified Interior Design).

Mayor Matheson stated that since Laura Yale was the only applicant to apply, she will be appointed by acclamation to serve a three-year term on the Valdosta Historic Preservation Commission.

Consideration of an appointment to the Valdosta Tree Commission.

Mayor Matheson stated that the Valdosta Tree Commission had a member, Mishonne Shealy, who resigned due to personal reasons. Her term will expire on September 6, 2024. 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 was Thomas Humphrey.

Mayor Matheson stated that since Thomas Humphrey was the only applicant to apply, he will be appointed by acclamation to fill an unexpired term on the Valdosta Tree Commission.

## **CITIZENS TO BE HEARD**

Doug Robinson, 921 Lausanne Drive, stated that he was concerned about LMIG and wondered why Ponderosa Drive has been taken off the list. It was Number 10 on the list when Mayor Gayle was in office and it needs to be back on the list because the drainage is so poor. They put asphalt in the gutters so the water cannot drain into the sewer. This has been overlooked for many years. Also, they have a problem with the pipes that drain behind a house on Ponderosa. There is water sitting back there and there is a bad odor. People should not have to live in this environment. Mr. Robinson asked that someone look into these issues.

## **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

Mark Barber, City Manager, stated that on Monday, February 14, 2022, the Valdosta Police Department K-9 Unit will be donating Items to the Lowndes County Animal Shelter. The time will be announced later.

There will be an Arbor Day Ceremony on Friday, February 18, 2022 and Mayor Matheson will present a Proclamation at 10:00 a.m. at the Customer Service Building in the McKey Street parking lot in honor of Arbor Day. There will also be different activities during the week. On Wednesday, February 16, 2022, the Valdosta Tree Commission will be hosting a book give-away, The Magic and Mystery of Trees, at five local elementary schools. On Thursday, February 17, 2022, Valdosta State University will hold an Arbor Day Ceremony virtually at 10:00 a.m. Also, on Thursday, February 17, 2022, the City of Valdosta will host a Rain Barrel Lunch and Learn Event at 12:00 p.m. in the City Hall Annex Building in the Multi-Purpose Room. On Friday, February 18, free tree seedlings (Bald Cypress and Catalpa) will be given away at the City Hall Annex Building (back entrance on the Ashley Street side) from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

National Engineering Week is February 20-27, 2022, and there will be a Proclamation presented on Monday, February 21, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. at City Hall on the Central Avenue side. Also, Pat Collins, City Engineer, and Larry Ogden, Traffic Manager, will be speaking to Engineering Students on Wednesday, February 23, 2022 at Valdosta State University for Engineering Night.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Councilman Howard stated that at future Council Meetings when they are bidding on items, he would like to add what SPLOST it is coming out of so that citizens can be aware of the funding source that is being used. Mark Barber, City Manager, stated that it is on the Agenda Item under Funding Source but we can make it more prevalent.

**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 February 10, 2022 Meeting of the Valdosta City Council at 5:53 p.m. to meet again in Regular Session on Thursday, February 24, 2022.

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City Clerk, City of Valdosta

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Mayor, City of Valdosta