

MINUTES
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING OF THE VALDOSTA CITY COUNCIL
5:30 P.M., MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2022
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL

OPENING CEREMONIES

Mayor Matheson called the regular meeting of the Valdosta City Council to order at 5:30 p.m. Council members present were: Andy Gibbs, Sandra Tooley, Vivian Miller-Cody, Tim Carroll, Eric Howard, and Ben Norton. The invocation was given by Councilman Carroll, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS

Consideration of the November, 2022 Employee of the Month Award (Leroy Paulo, Central Maintenance Supervisor, Utilities Department).

Leroy Paulo, Central Maintenance Supervisor with the Utilities Department, excels as a Master Technician and Supervisor. The latest example of Leroy's knowledge and expertise was evident during his installation of a new influent bar-screen system for the City of Valdosta's Withlacoochee Wastewater Treatment Plant. This was an extremely challenging Project requiring removal of the old bar-screen system, modifying the mounting system for the new machinery, and working closely with a local Electrical Contractor for the new electrical wiring and controls. The complexity and cost of \$525,000 for this Project normally requires contracting the Project to a firm specializing in this equipment. Leroy consulted with the equipment manufacturer, evaluated the Project requirements, and then designed, planned, and managed the entire Project. Accomplishing this in-house saved the City of Valdosta tens of thousands of dollars. Another complex Project that Leroy planned and accomplished was to upgrade all four of the Plant's Sequencing Batch Reactors (SBR). This upgrade comprised replacing 12 problematic and unreliable floating mixer tether cable assemblies with heavy duty booms for all four SBR's. The booms now maintain the mixers in optimal positions, eliminating frequent cable failures in the original design. Leroy demonstrates both technical expertise and outstanding leadership in guiding his teams to accomplish the complex Projects in minimal time. Leroy Paulo is fully deserving of being selected as the City of Valdosta Employee of the Month.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the October 20, 2022 Regular Meeting were approved by unanimous consent (6-0) of the Council.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-9, A RESOLUTION FOR AN AMENDMENT TO THE CITY OF VALDOSTA DEFERRED COMPENSATION PLAN

Consideration of a Resolution for an amendment to the City of Valdosta Deferred Compensation Plan.

Chuck Dinkins, Finance Director, stated that the CARES Act passed by Congress as part of the Federal Pandemic relief efforts temporarily relaxed certain deferred Compensation Plan requirements. The Act suspended the required minimum distributions attributable to calendar year 2020, permitted certain otherwise prohibited loans and distributions, and extended loan repayments during calendar year 2020. In order to remain compliant with Federal Law, the Plan must be amended to reflect these changes. The Amendment modifies the Plan to reflect these changes and maintains the City's compliance with Federal Law thus maintaining the Deferred Compensation Plan's status as a qualified Plan. Without the Amendment, the Plan will not meet the requirements for a qualified Plan under the Internal Revenue Code. There is no change to the Plan's basic structure and the changes only allow the temporary relief mandated by the CARES Act. The provisions impact only those transactions allowed by CARES Act relief. Chuck Dinkins, Finance Director, recommended that Council approve the Resolution for an amendment to the City of Valdosta Deferred Compensation Plan.

A **MOTION** by Councilman Carroll, seconded by Councilman Gibbs, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to enact Resolution No. 2022-9, a Resolution for an amendment to the City of Valdosta Deferred Compensation Plan, the complete text of which will be found in Resolution Book VII.

BIDS, CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS, AND EXPENDITURES

Consideration of a request to approve Amendment No. 2 to the Master Terms and Conditions for Via Transit Service for the purpose of the sale of advertising.

Richard Hardy, Deputy City Manager of Operations, stated that on March 17, 2021, the Mayor and Council approved a contract with River North Transit, LLC, a subsidiary of Via Transportation (New York, NY) to provide transit services to the City of Valdosta. The contract was amended on June 23, 2022 allowing the City to continue transit as a service. Since the launch of the City's transit service (Valdosta on-Demand), the demand for service has exceeded all expectations. Each fiscal year, the City is required to request funding through the Federal Transit Authority (FTA) 5307 Urbanized Area Formula Grants. After the appropriate Federal share is established, the applicant (City of Valdosta) must provide its local share of the net project cost and must document in its Grant application the source of the local match. As the City continues to fund and look for ways to offset its required match of funding, the FTA has allowed the local match to be collected from revenues from the operation of public transportation service, such as the sale of advertising. Via will collect revenue by entering into advertising partnerships. All advertising will comply with the Via Valdosta Rideshare Advertising Guidelines outlined in this Amendment. Examples of advertising options include, but are not limited to the following: (1) Rooftop screens - advertisers can purchase advertising inventory on such screens which are fixed to the roof of the vehicles, (2) In-vehicle screens - located inside the vehicle behind the front passenger seat and fixed to the headrest which will display a mix of ads, as well as content from Valdosta, and (3) Vehicle wraps - subject to several pre-set designs as agreed between the Parties prior to launch, for which an advertiser purchases space on the vehicle, while preserving space for Customer's branding. Additional advertising options may be selected by Via subject to Valdosta's prior written consent. Via will deduct a 35% management fee from the advertising revenue collected. Richard Hardy, Deputy City Manager of Operations, recommended that Council approve the Contract Amendment with Via for the purpose of advertisement services as a revenue source.

A **MOTION** by Councilman Carroll, seconded by Councilman Gibbs, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to approve Amendment No. 2 to the Master Terms and Conditions for Via Transit Service for the purpose of the sale of advertising.

Consideration of bids for the construction of new Pickleball Courts at McKey Park.

Mark Barber, City Manager, stated that last year we were making progress on finding a location for Pickleball courts as requested by the Valdosta-Lowndes Co. Parks and Recreation Authority (VLPRA) and the Pickleball Association in our community. They were looking at the grassy area at McKey Park that abuts Roosevelt Drive and the adjacent neighborhood objected to the Courts being located there. At that time, the VLPRA Facilities Committee began to look for another location. They looked at Freedom Park and other locations but came back to McKey Park. This time, it will be the Burton Street side of McKey Park on the back side. The playground equipment will remain in the front area by the tennis courts. There will be a new bathroom facility and you will enter from the parking lot to the courts on Oak Street. On Roosevelt Drive, they were going to make angled parking spaces but with this new location it will necessitate a parking lot. The VLPRA opened bids on September 22, 2022. There were two responses for the Request for Proposal (RFP). The lowest and most responsive vendor submitted a base bid. The base bid of \$1,658,000, which was the lowest and most responsive bid, was submitted by Quillian Powell Construction Company. The base bid includes the 12 Pickleball courts, a new restroom building, a new picnic shelter, making appropriate land preparation for the courts, a parking lot (the entrance to the parking lot will be from Oak Street), and landscaping. We also asked the bidders to add alternatives to their bid separately from the base bid one of which was a seating area being similar to what the tennis courts have now; however, we cannot afford that because it was \$750,000 in addition to the \$1,658,000. We discussed this with the VLPRA Staff and they will go ahead and lay the appropriate foundation for a seating area with bleachers in the future. Another alternative was another bridge and this would be coming from Roosevelt Drive across the creek to the Pickleball Court area and that would have been an additional \$200,000. At this point, since

we are expending more funding now to make a parking lot, we are going to forego a bridge at this time. Again, the base bid is \$1,658,000 with all of the items previously mentioned. There is also a possibility that we will have to purchase a \$21,000 in wetland credits. We have a bank here at the City that we may be able to use but right now the Contractor put in \$21,000 for his company to have to purchase wetland credits because it will be close to the creek. There is also a \$25,000 deduction just for goodwill from the Contractor from the base bid. With that being said, the base bid is \$1,658,000, and you take into consideration the \$25,000 deduction and if they have to purchase the wetland credits, that gets it to \$1,654,000. With all bids, we add a 10% contingency of \$165,400 to handle any unforeseen circumstances, especially with as much land preparation and clearing that will have to take place for this to happen. That will bring the bid to \$1,819,400. Last year at this same point in time, it is approximately a \$700,000 increase from what Jeff Lovell did last year as an estimate for us to look at when we began the process to the actual response from a vendor. It is about \$710,000 more. This does not include lighting which was something separate. The estimate is \$135,000 to \$185,000 for lighting. He thought that would have some help with the lighting; however, he just found out that we are not going receive that help. As we discussed at the Work Session on Tuesday, we did not have a line item in SPLOST VIII for Pickleball courts. He is comfortable putting together this funding for some things that we have been under budget on and the total of the Parks and Recreation budget. Mark Barber, City Manager, stated that we will be asking for \$1,819,400 which includes a 10% contingency; however, that does not include lighting at this time.

A **MOTION** was made by Councilman Gibbs to approve the bid submitted by Quillian Powell Construction Company, Inc. in the amount of \$1,819,400 which includes a 10% contingency for the construction of new Pickleball Courts at McKey Park. Councilman Carroll seconded the motion. Councilman Norton inquired as to whether they could utilize the contingency if it is not used for lighting. Mark Barber, City Manager, stated that we could but that usually happens at the end of the Project. The motion was adopted (5-1) with Councilwoman Tooley voting in opposition.

LOCAL FUNDING AND REQUESTS

Consideration of a request to approve the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding for the Small Business Grant Program allocation.

Chuck Dinkins, Finance Director, stated that the City of Valdosta allocated \$1,000,000.00 of its American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) allocation for a Small Business Grant Program as a counterpart to the Non-Profit Grant Program. The Program is designed to provide relief to small businesses impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic and help to revitalize the local economy. The response to the program was overwhelming and Council approved an additional \$1,000,000.00 to expand the program at the October 20, 2022 City Council Meeting. As discussed at the prior meeting, the City formed a Committee from the local small business community to design and publicize the Program. The following individuals served on the Committee: (1) Christie Moore - Chamber of Commerce, (2) DeWayne Johnson - Bridge Builder Education Foundation, (3) Katrena Sermons - First Federal Savings, (4) Karla Walker - Attorney (Copeland, Haugabrook and Walker), (5) Miguel Vicente - Hispanic Business Community, (6) Stephen Heddon - Asian Business Committee, (7) Ricco Ramsey - Black Business Committee, (8) Nick Perry - Ella's Top Corral, (9) Chris Jones - Georgia Beer Company, (10) Justin Purvis - Attorney (Young, Thagard, & Hoffman), (11) Nick Harden - Big Nick's, (12) Councilman Tim Carroll, and (13) Councilman Eric Howard. Applications from business owners were accepted from September 26, 2022 until October 17, 2022. In order to receive Grant Funding, applicants were required to meet the following qualifications: (1) Be a for profit business, (2) Have a City of Valdosta business license, (3) Have under 500 employees, (4) Have been in business continuously since March 1, 2020, and (5) Not be in bankruptcy or delinquent with required filings or tax payments. The Committee met on October 24, 2022 to discuss the allocation of the additional funds and decided that only priority one applications received in the first two weeks should be funded at 100%; however, additional funds from incomplete, ineligible, and over-stated applications freed enough funding to cover all Tier 1 applications. Maximum awards range from \$800.00 to \$30,000.00 depending on the business's gross receipts and priority but are limited to documented eligible expenses. Applications were prioritized based on location in the qualified census track (QCT) as defined by ARPA, minority/female/veteran ownership, and time of application receipt. This prioritization results in the applications being divided into four buckets: (1) Minority/female/veteran owned businesses located in the QCT submitting applications in the first two weeks of the application process. These would be funded at 100% eligibility. (2) Non-minority/female/veteran owned businesses located in the QCT.

These would be funded at a fraction of eligibility. (3) Minority/female/veteran owned businesses located outside of the QCT. These would be funded in proportion to residual funds after all other buckets are funded. (4) Non-minority/female/veteran owned businesses located outside of the QCT. These would be funded at the lesser of eligibility or \$800.00. The Committee is recommending that we fund the Bucket One allocation at 100%, the Bucket Two allocation at 45%, the Bucket Four allocation at a flat amount of \$800 unless the requested amount was less so it would be the lesser of \$800 or the requested amount. The Bucket Three allocation would receive the remaining funds prorate. With that being said, the allocation based on the qualified applications would be \$1,645,835 for Bucket One, \$244,380 for Bucket Two, \$93,818 for Bucket Three, and \$10,433 for Bucket Four. Chuck Dinkins, Finance Director, recommended that Council approve the allocation as recommended by the Committee.

Councilwoman Miller-Cody inquired as to whether the numbers had changed since the first time they received the numbers. Councilman Norton stated that the number was rounded. Councilwoman Miller-Cody stated that if you give it to her in black and white, she wants to see it in black and white. Chuck Dinkins stated that the grand total should be \$2,000,000. Councilman Gibbs asked the Finance Director if he would read the totals that he had without rounding them up. Chuck Dinkins stated that the total should be \$1,645,835.51, \$2,444,379.83, \$93,817.64, \$10,432.69, and \$1,994,465.71. There was the postage cost of \$1,540.14, U. S. Press fees which was the printing of the post cards of \$994.25, a \$3,000 processing fee to the Valdosta-Lowndes County Chamber of Commerce for their assistance in reviewing the initial applications, and \$.10 worth of rounding. Councilwoman Miller-Cody stated that she likes everything done in a way that if someone asks her and it goes out in the paper a different way, then she wants to be able to explain to them. She apologized if she offended anyone but she likes to represent her citizens. Chuck Dinkins stated that he would be glad to provide Councilwoman Miller-Cody with a different breakdown if that would be more useful.

Councilman Norton inquired about the duplicate in total Two and if it was corrected. Chuck Dinkins stated that they did correct that. There was an Urban Bella Boutique and an Urban Bella Salon. It was actually two separate businesses but in reviewing it, the names were similar but it was the same owner. Even though it was two separate businesses, the same owner would not be eligible to put in two applications. They removed the second one that was received and that money was then allocating over the remaining which made it approximately \$40 difference to each qualified application in Bucket Three.

Councilwoman Tooley inquired as to what Chuck Dinkins role was in the process. Chuck Dinkins stated that he served as an Ex Officio Member of the Committee. He was there to review the rules and do the math. Councilman Gibbs stated that Chuck Dinkins served the same role on the non-profits. Chuck Dinkins stated that was correct. Also, in the audience tonight is Christie Moore and Dewayne Johnson who were the Co-Chairs for the Committee. They worked very hard on this and came up with a good allocation that spread the money across the entire applicant pool while preserving the intent of focusing on the Qualified Census Tracts.

Councilwoman Miller-Cody inquired about the \$3,000 going directly to the Chamber and why some of that money did not go to Dewayne Johnson because it appears that he worked for free. Chuck Dinkins stated that the Chamber was there to review the applications so the Chamber itself was not part of the Committee. Christie Moore is part of the Committee and the Chamber but the Chamber itself was not an official Committee Member. Councilman Carroll stated that this was agreed upon by the whole Committee. Councilwoman Tooley stated that they asked this and they were told that the Chamber was not going to receive a fee or the United Way for doing this. Mayor Matheson stated that they asked them to advertise this so everyone knew the pot was out there and that is what was printed up. Councilwoman Tooley stated that she remembered that they were told the Chamber would not get a fee for their service. Chuck Dinkins stated that the Committee voted as part of the deliberations to put these fees in place because they wanted to do a public service. Councilwoman Tooley stated that they went over what the Council had presented and said. Councilman Gibbs stated that those were reimbursed expenses for post cards and postage. Chuck Dinkins stated that two of those items were straight expenses which were reimbursements. The \$3,000 was a fee paid to the Chamber for a variety of things including publicizing the event, reviewing the applications, and providing feedback to the applicants. That was a big difference because they wanted everyone to have a chance to say this is what I am turning in and does it meet the requirements. There were a large number of people who took advantage of that. Councilwoman Miller-Cody inquired as to whether we paid the United Way when they did the Non-Profit Organizations. Chuck Dinkins stated that we did not get a bill from

the United Way. Councilman Carroll stated that in all fairness, the Committee discussed this but the work required that the Chamber go through all of these applications. Councilman Gibbs stated that the United Way Staff did not go through those applications and the Chamber Staff did. Councilwoman Miller-Cody stated that she was on that Committee and they had to turn their applications back in too because she knew that there were several of them that she sat in on that they had to come back and redo the applications. She wanted citizens to know that we did not pay the United Way and they sent back the same applications. She does not see this as any different because the United Way did the same thing with their applicants. She wanted this to be known but she will vote for it because it is helping our citizens in the City of Valdosta. We did not do fair to the United Way.

Councilman Howard inquired as to whether our Staff did that for the Non-Profits. Chuck Dinkins, Finance Director, stated that we did intake for it. The process for the Non-Profits was slightly different because they were looking at individual applications and deciding which Non-Profits was doing the most good throughout the community. There was a qualitative aspect to it whereas with the small businesses it was more about picking out the rules as to how it was going to be divided. There was no looking at an individual application to decide if this was the type of thing they want to do. It was more like does the application meet this set of rules. Mayor Matheson stated that a point of clarity that it was not the United Way but the Committee. The United Way had a person who was represented on the Committee. Councilman Howard inquired as to how many applications we had for the Non-Profits. Chuck Dinkins stated that it was a fraction of what we had for small business. We had 234 small business applications. Councilwoman Tooley inquired as to whether all of the small business applications were stamped and brought in. Chuck Dinkins stated that these were all the ones that were stamped and received within the window. There were a few that were turned in after the fact.

Councilman Norton stated that he would like to congratulate all of the recipients of the money and express his appreciation for the Committee Members and the job that they did. This was a monumental effort. It is an incredible list of diversity of businesses that will benefit from the funds and he appreciated that.

A MOTION was made by Councilman Norton to approve the allocation recommended by the Committee. Councilman Carroll seconded the motion. The motion was adopted (5-1) with Councilwoman Tooley voting in opposition.

Consideration of a request to abandon a stormwater easement located on the undeveloped property north of 2517 Forrestwood Drive.

Ben O'Dowd, City Engineer, stated that Tony Barker has petitioned the City to abandon an existing stormwater easement on the undeveloped property north of 2517 Forrestwood Drive for new development. The property is described as Map 0151A, Parcel 031. The shaded easement area is the only portion of the stormwater easement which is being petitioned for abandonment. The request for the abandonment has been circulated to other City Departments and utility companies. This easement has no impact on any existing or proposed public interest and can be responsibly abandoned. Ben O'Dowd, City Engineer, recommended that Council approve the stormwater easement located on the undeveloped property north of 2517 Forrestwood Drive.

A MOTION by Councilwoman Miller-Cody, seconded by Councilman Howard, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to approve the request to abandon a stormwater easement located on the undeveloped property north of 2517 Forrestwood Drive.

Consideration of a request to abandon a portion of public right-of-way adjacent to 614 Justin Drive.

Ben O'Dowd, City Engineer, stated that the applicant, Madison Reed, has petitioned for the City to abandon an existing portion of public right-of-way adjacent to 614 Justin Drive. This portion of public right-of-way was originally deeded to the City to provide a means of interconnection for future residential development. The secondary phase of the residential development was never pursued and eventually the Publix grocery store was constructed along the rear property line thus eliminating any possibility or desire for future interconnection. The request for the abandonment has been circulated to other City Departments and utility companies. The only utility which is currently located within this right-of-way is an existing storm pipe. A 20-foot wide stormwater drainage easement centered about the existing storm pipe has been depicted and will be dedicated to the City for the

maintenance of stormwater facilities as a condition of any approved abandonment. Ben O’Dowd, City Engineer, recommended that Council approve the right-of-way abandonment with the condition stated above.

A MOTION by Councilman Carroll, seconded by Councilwoman Miller-Cody, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to approve the request to abandon a portion of public right-of-way adjacent to 614 Justin Drive with the condition that a 20-foot-wide stormwater drainage easement centered about the existing storm pipe that has been depicted will be dedicated to the City for the maintenance of stormwater facilities as a condition of any approved abandonment.

Consideration of a request for replacement of aging and deteriorating Sluice Gates at the Mud Creek Water Pollution Control Plant.

Bradley Eyre, Director of Utilities, stated that On January 29, 2022, there was a failure of the influent aeration basin sluice gate on the number five east train aeration basin that occurred at 1638 New Statenville Hwy. at the Mud Creek Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP). After examination, it was discovered that the aluminum gate and housing was deteriorated due to acidic conditions of the treatment process. Due to this failure and an inspection of the remaining ten gates, it was determined that all eleven sluice gates, which were in a state of deterioration, needed replacement. Due to the deterioration of the existing eleven sluice gates and housing, proper operating conditions and treatment processes is impeded. This is an approved line item in the FY23 Budget (CP23.62) and was budgeted for \$500,000. Funds for this purchase will come from User Fees. This Agenda Item is submitted to authorize payment to Rodney Hunt Company, sole source provider, in the amount of \$147,890.00 for the purchase of the sluice gates. Installation of the sluice gates will be done in-house. Bradley Eyre, Director of Utilities, recommended that Council approve this sole source purchase of all eleven gates on the east train aeration basin in the amount of \$147,890 to Rodney Hunt Company.

A MOTION by Councilman Gibbs, seconded by Councilwoman Miller-Cody, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to approve this sole source purchase from Rodney Hunt Company in the amount of \$147,890 for replacement of aging and deteriorating Sluice Gates at the Mud Creek Water Pollution Control Plant.

BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AUTHORITIES, AND ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Consideration of an appointment to the Community Development Block Grant Citizens Advisory Committee.

Mayor Matheson stated that the Community Development Block Grant Citizens Advisory Committee had a member, Wendelin Hodges, who resigned in 2021 due to personal reasons. Her term will expire on February 24, 2023. 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 Wendelin Hodges. Mayor Matheson stated that if there was no objection from Council, Wendelin Hodges would be appointed by acclamation to fill the unexpired term. There was no objection from Council.

Consideration of an appointment to the Greater Lowndes Planning Commission.

Mayor Matheson stated that the Greater Lowndes Planning Commission has a member, Robert Jefferson, whose term will expire on November 21, 2022. 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 Robert Bythwood. Mayor Matheson stated that if there was no objection from Council, Robert Bythwood would be appointed by acclamation to serve a five-year term on the Greater Lowndes Planning Commission. There was no objection from Council.

Consideration of an appointment to the Valdosta Housing Authority.

Mayor Matheson stated that the Valdosta Housing Authority has a member, Deborah White, whose term will expire on December 31, 2022. Ms. White has expressed 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 were Deborah White (Retired) and Beth Haun (Self Employed in Real Estate Sales). Mayor Scott James Matheson will make this appointment and he appointed Beth Haun to serve a five-year term on the Valdosta Housing Authority.

Consideration of an appointment to the Valdosta Tree Commission.

Mayor Matheson stated that the Valdosta Tree Commission has a member, Jacob Eckwahl, whose term expired on September 6, 2022. Mr. Eckwahl 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 only applicant to apply for this position was Jacob Eckwahl, Owner of Southern Interiors. Mayor Matheson stated that if there was no objection from Council, Jacob Eckwahl would be reappointed by acclamation to serve a four-year term on the Valdosta Tree Commission. There was no objection from Council.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Charles Powers, 427 Georgetown Circle, stated that he needs the City's help to move up the repaving schedule for Windemere Street and Georgetown Circle. Windemere Street starts at Eager Road and goes down 2,000 feet. On the west side is Langdale Place and on the east side is First Federal. The street was put in by the Langdale Company when they developed Langdale Place in 1989. It is a low traffic inverted curb design which means the curb is reversed. All streets basically are top crowned which will flow five degrees or so into gutter and run out to catch basins. What happens with this type street is that it takes the majority of the water right down the center of the street. This undermines the center joint which is very hard to pave. The street is now 32 years old and it is deteriorating from the center. The street is approximately 2,000 feet and Langdale Place uses that as an entrance. They have a 300-bed nursing home that has a large group of cars coming in every day. Also, in 1990, right after Langdale Place was built, he developed Georgetown Subdivision which included 40 homes. They use that as an entrance also.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mark Barber, City Manager, stated that the joint Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony with Lowndes County will be held on Friday, December 2, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. at Unity Park. The program will last a little longer this year as they have included some special events.

On Saturday, December 3, 2022, they will have the Children's Christmas Crafts at Unity Park. Also, the Christmas Parade will be held on December 3, 2022 and they will be a special float for the Council Members to ride on.

There is a report on your desk tonight from Red Speed who looked at our school zones and collected data for us on speeding. Council will need to review and let him know if they have any questions. If they reach a consensus then maybe they will be ready to go at the beginning of the new year. Greg Parks, Red Speed Representative, will be glad to come and answer any questions Council may have.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Carroll stated that they failed to thank someone during the ARPA discussion and that was Crystal McGhin,, Accounting Manager. She did a super job staying on top of things and getting things out to the Committee. He just wanted to make sure they included her in the thank you.

Councilman Howard stated that he wanted to thank each one of you guys for allowing us to do this for the small businesses because a lot of them are still hurting. He also thanked City Manager Mark Barber because it was his idea at the Retreat as to what they could do with the ARPA money. They did not have to do it but they thought it would help our citizens and community.

Mayor Matheson entertained a motion for adjournment.

A **MOTION** by Councilman Carroll, seconded by Councilman Norton, was unanimously adopted (4-0) to adjourn the November 14, 2022 Special Called Meeting of the Valdosta City Council at 6:26 p.m. to meet again in Regular Session on Thursday, December 8, 2022.

City Clerk, City of Valdosta

Mayor, City of Valdosta