

**MINUTES**  
**MEETING OF THE VALDOSTA CITY COUNCIL**  
**5:30 P.M., THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 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 Pastor Mike Wells, New Covenant Church, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

**AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS**

Special Presentation of the 2022 Greater Valdosta Christmas Parade Winners.

The 2022 Greater Valdosta Community Christmas Parade was held on Saturday, December 3, 2022. Sponsors for the event were the Ossipe Temple #65, the City of Valdosta, and Wild Adventures Theme Park. This year's theme was "Holiday Cards." The Judges for the Float entries this year were DeAnna Clements, President of Wiregrass Georgia Technical College, Jamie Phelps, Owner of Book and Table Inn, and Gabrielle Metts, Marketing and Events Coordinator for Coleman Talley, LLP. The announcer was DJ Brooke Harp. The Float entries were judged on Overall Appearance, Special Effects, Creativity & Workmanship, and use of the Parade Theme. Trophies were awarded to the top three winners based on their overall scores. The Parade winners were as follows: Third Place – Powerhouse Outdoors, Second Place – Langdale Fuel, and First Place – Lowndes County. The proceeds raised by Ossipe Temple #65 through parade entry fees were donated to various charities.

Consideration of the December, 2022 Employee of the Month Award (Jessica Stowe, Finance Department).

Jessica Stowe has been employed as the Purchasing Technician for almost ten years. She has an incredible work ethic and her attendance and attention to detail are outstanding. She is very knowledgeable with regards to her duties and takes them very seriously. The reasons above demonstrate why she is an outstanding employee for the City of Valdosta. Now let me explain what makes her a worthy employee of the month nominee where she goes above and beyond her duties. Jessica has been in college the past four years and is graduating at the end of the semester in December with an Accounting Degree. She wants to further her career and make a bigger difference. Her career is very important to her so this will take her to the next level. She does this while maintaining her 40-hour work schedule. There were several Administrative people recently in the Utilities Department and the Public Works Department that left the City's employment. These were mostly Admins that are responsible for entering purchasing information with regards to the day-to-day function of the Departments as well as major construction projects. Jessica took it upon herself to run a training class for the new Admins in the Departments with regards to the New World System purchasing and accounts payable module. Since Jessica and the Admins interact daily, she felt there was a strong need to train them so that errors could be held to a minimum and they would not have to spend more time on making corrections. Some of the upper Managers also attended to familiarize themselves with the system process of purchasing, signing off on the purchases, and learning the process of what it takes to actually pay for the purchase since some of them were new as well. All that attended said that it helped them understand the process better and it was beneficial to attend. Jessica deals not only with the new Admins but with every Department at some point during the purchasing process. She is always helpful and goes the extra mile to provide solutions. The Purchasing Office, located on the second floor in City Hall, has a fair number of local citizens and out of town visitors during the workday. Purchasing is also responsible for answering the City Hall general phone line. Jessica goes above and beyond directing visitors that are physically in the building knocking on our door to assure they are directed to the correct office, building, or even to another location off site such as the County building. Likewise, she does the same for helping phone customers even to the extent of looking up phone numbers or addresses on the Internet for phone callers for both local and out of town callers. She helps solve any problems that she possible can so they can take care of their business instead of ending the call with no assistance. For these reasons and many more, Jessica Stowe was nominated for the prestigious City of Valdosta Employee of the Month.

The minutes of the Special Called Meeting of October 24, 2022 and the Special Called Meeting of November 14, 2022 were approved by unanimous consent (6-0) of the Council.

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

### **ORDINANCE NO. 2022-32, AN ORDINANCE FOR A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT FOR A PERSONAL CARE HOME IN A RESIDENTIAL-PROFESSIONAL (R-P) ZONING DISTRICT**

Consideration of an Ordinance for a Conditional Use Permit for a Personal Care Home in a Residential-Professional (R-P) Zoning District as requested by Blue Wright Holdings (File No. CU-2022-10). The property is located at 1004 Slater Street. The Planning Commission reviewed this at their November 28, 2022 Regular Meeting and recommended approval with four conditions (8-0 Vote).

Matt Martin, Planning Director, stated that Blue Wright Holdings Opportunity Zone Fund, LLC, represented by Whitney Kimbrough, is requesting a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for a Personal Care Home in a Residential-Professional (R-P) Zoning District. The property consists of 0.16 acres located at 1004 Slater Street which is along the west side of the street about halfway between East Mary Street and East Force Street. The property is currently developed as an unoccupied professional office (1,596 square feet) and is converted from a former residence with a paved parking lot of six to seven spaces in the rear yard. The applicant is proposing to convert the building for use as a licensed Personal Care Home for up to six adults who are senior citizens and/or persons with disabilities. The applicant is not proposing any changes to the site or the exterior of the existing building. The property is located within a Transitional Neighborhood (TN) Character Area on the Future Development Map of the Comprehensive Plan. The property is also located within the local Historic District. Any exterior changes to the building or site will require COA approval from the Valdosta Historic Preservation Commission. Approximately 15 months ago, the applicant requested and received the same CUP approval for a Personal Care Home on the adjacent property to the north at 1006 Slater Street (File No. CU-2021-04). Also, that LDR Section 218-13(BBB)(4) allows no more than one Personal Care Home to be located on the same City block. In order to make this second CUP request eligible, the applicant requested a Variance to this LDR Section, and the Valdosta-Lowndes County Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBOA) granted the Variance request on October 4, 2022 (File No. APP-2022-12). Although each request must stand on its own merits, Staff is supportive of this request for all the same reasons as the previous request in 2021. The property is located within a former residential area that mostly transitioned many years ago to one that is dominated by professional offices. The small historic buildings (former houses) still remain and preserve the unique residential character of the area. The front yards are very small. All parking is off-street and located in the rear yards only, with interconnecting parking lots among the properties. The property is eligible for consideration as its own Personal Care Home with up to six residents. This property is an ideal location for such a use in that it still maintains a residential character even though the surrounding land use pattern is already dominated by non-residential. Even as an institutional use, a Personal Care Home of this size is less intensive than most professional offices that could otherwise locate here under R-P Zoning. Staff is therefore supportive of this request with all the same conditions as approved for the previous request on the neighboring property. Staff found the request consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and the Conditional Use Review Criteria and recommended approval with the following four conditions: (1) Approval shall be granted for a State-licensed and fully compliant Personal Care Home with up to six residents at the facility. No other uses allowed in R-P Zoning shall be allowed on the property that are in addition to the Personal Care Home. (2) All parking associated with the facility shall be located on-site and in the rear yard only. (3) There shall be no temporary signage, and permanent signs shall be limited to those which are allowed in the Historic District under R-P Zoning and in accordance with the Historic District Design Guidelines (LDR Appendix G). (4) Conditional Use approval shall expire after two years from the date of approval if no City Business License has been approved for the facility by that date. The Planning Commission reviewed this at their November 28, 2022 Regular Meeting, found it consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and the Conditional Use Review Criteria, and recommended approval subject to the same four conditions as recommended by Staff (8-0 Vote).

No one spoke in favor of the request.

No one spoke in opposition to the request.

A **MOTION** was made by Councilwoman Tooley to approve a Conditional Use Permit for a Personal Care Home in a Residential-Professional (R-P) Zoning District as requested by Blue Wright Holdings subject to the following four conditions: (1) Approval shall be granted for a State-licensed and fully compliant Personal Care Home with up to six residents at the facility. No other uses allowed in R-P Zoning shall be allowed on the property that are in addition to the Personal Care Home. (2) All parking associated with the facility shall be located on-site and in the rear yard only. (3) There shall be no temporary signage, and permanent signs shall be limited to those which are allowed in the Historic District under R-P Zoning and in accordance with the Historic District Design Guidelines (LDR Appendix G). (4) Conditional Use approval shall expire after two years from the date of approval if no City Business License has been approved for the facility by that date. Councilman Gibbs seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously adopted (6-0) to enact Ordinance No. 2022-32, the complete text of which will be found in Ordinance Book XIV.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2022-33, AN ORDINANCE FOR A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT FOR A PERSONAL CARE HOME IN A RESIDENTIAL-PROFESSIONAL (R-P) ZONING DISTRICT**

Consideration of an Ordinance for a Conditional Use Permit for a Mini-Warehouse Self-Storage Facility within the Inner Perimeter Road Corridor Overlay District as requested by David Hiers (File No. CU-2022-11). The property is located at 5225 and 5273 Inner Perimeter Road. The Planning Commission reviewed this at their November 28, 2022 Regular Meeting and recommended approval with five conditions (8-0 Vote).

Matt Martin, Planning Director, stated that David Hiers is requesting a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for a Mini-Warehouse Self-Storage facility within the Inner Perimeter Road Corridor Overlay District. The property consists of 27.34 acres located at 5225 and 5273 Inner Perimeter Road and is along the east side of the road approximately 2,000 feet south of the intersection with U.S. Hwy. 84 East. The property is currently undeveloped and it is zoned M-1. The applicant is proposing to develop about 10 acres of this property as a Mini-Warehouse Self-Storage facility with 700 plus storage units. None of these units are currently planned to be climate controlled. Most of the remaining acreage is consumed by a large Georgia Power transmission easement; however, the residual area (approximately three acres) is planned for a few 10,000 square feet buildings as rental space for light industrial or commercial businesses such as offices for building contractors, small scale distributors. It is the Mini-Warehouse Self Storage portion of this proposal (which is within the IPR Overlay District) that requires the CUP approval. The property is located within an Industrial Activity Center (IAC) Character Area on the Future Development Map of the Comprehensive Plan. The property is also located within the Inner Perimeter Road Corridor Overlay District. The property is located within an established Industrial area along this portion of Inner Perimeter Road. The kind of use is often found in commercial areas instead, where special site plan requirements and special conditions of approval are needed to make the use fit better within a commercial environment. In this case, the CUP is triggered by the property's location within the IPR Corridor Overlay District and not the M-1 Zoning. Most of the Overlay District does not have Industrial Zoning and is instead zoned either Commercial or Residential. Given the surrounding Industrial Zoning and land use pattern, there is little concern here about the potential impacts of the proposed use's intensity. The only real concern is that of maintaining some level of aesthetics for any development that immediately fronts or is visible from Inner Perimeter Road itself. In this case, the applicant is proposing all one-story warehouse type buildings, but with metal siding that is normally not allowed in the Overlay District for building facades facing the road. As mitigation for this, the applicant is proposing to separate these buildings from the road frontage with their onsite storm detention pond that includes evergreen landscaping in the form of a vegetative buffer. The front wall of the front building will be painted dark green to augment the effect of the evergreen buffer, and the site design is such that the interior area will not be visible at all from the roadway thus concealing the other metal buildings on the property. All applicable requirements of the LDR supplemental standards for such use will be followed. Most of the design standards for the Overlay District will also be followed, but given the unique nature of this being a warehouse type use in an industrial area, some of the detailed Overlay items (such as front door orientation, and inter-parcel access and sidewalks, etc.) will be coordinated through Staff as an Administrative Variance review. As a template for this CUP approval, Staff is recommending many of the same CUP conditions of approval from the File No. CU-2016-03 request for the property located at 3819 North Valdosta Road (Southern Self-Storage). It should be noted that this request and these conditions are for the proposed Self-Storage facility only, and do not include the other proposed commercial/industrial buildings denoted on the site plan. Staff found the request consistent with the

Comprehensive Plan and the Conditional Use Review Criteria, and recommended approval with the following five conditions: (1) Approval shall be granted for a Mini-Warehouse Self-Storage facility within the Inner Perimeter Road Corridor Overlay District, in general conformity with the Letter of Intent and the layout of the submitted conceptual site plan, and subject to all LDR supplemental standards for such use. All buildings shall be one-story and not exceed a height of 15 feet. Final site layout shall be as approved by the City Engineer and Fire Marshal. (2) Any outdoor storage areas shall be for recreational vehicles only, shall be limited to no more than one acre of total area, and shall be located at least 200' from Inner Perimeter Road. (3) Outdoor lighting shall be directed away from neighboring properties, and lighting fixtures shall be exempt from the special design requirements of the Overlay District. (4) The main building wall facing Inner Perimeter Road may include metal siding but shall maintain a dark green color that is consistent with evergreen vegetation. Total signage on this wall shall follow LDR requirements (250 square feet maximum per sign, 400 square feet maximum total). Except for approved driveways, the entire front yard adjacent to this front building shall contain stormwater management areas and dense evergreen vegetation as depicted on a Landscape Plan to be approved by the City Arborist. As a guideline for this landscape design, the intent is to effectively and opaquely screen the non-signage areas of this building façade from view. This landscaped area shall be maintained utilizing an automated irrigation system. (5) Conditional Use approval shall expire after three years from the date of approval if no plans for a building permit have been submitted by that time. The Planning Commission reviewed this at their November 28, 2022 Regular Meeting, found it consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and the Conditional Use Review Criteria, and recommended approval subject to the same five conditions as recommended by Staff (8-0 Vote).

Councilman Howard inquired as to whether they could make changes to it with it being in the Overlay District. Matt Martin, Planning Director, stated that they are still subject to the rules of the Overlay District. The only place where it has overlapped is the condition about the metal siding on the front wall. That would normally be its own variance process but since it is an integral part of their design where they are requesting other features above and beyond, they simply made it a condition of approval. With that, there may be a few details with some of the other buildings, such as an issue with inner parcel access, which will be addressed during site plan review and a lot of that can be done administratively.

Nick Clark, 2944 Dasher Johnson Road, spoke in favor of the request. Mr. Clark stated that he would be glad to answer any questions Council may have about the building.

No one spoke in opposition to the request.

**A MOTION** was made by Councilwoman Miller-Cody to approve a Conditional Use Permit for a Mini-Warehouse Self-Storage Facility within the Inner Perimeter Road Corridor Overlay District as requested by David Hiers with the following five conditions: (1) Approval shall be granted for a Mini-Warehouse Self-Storage facility within the Inner Perimeter Road Corridor Overlay District, in general conformity with the Letter of Intent and the layout of the submitted conceptual site plan, and subject to all LDR supplemental standards for such use. All buildings shall be one-story and not exceed a height of 15 feet. Final site layout shall be as approved by the City Engineer and Fire Marshal. (2) Any outdoor storage areas shall be for recreational vehicles only, shall be limited to no more than one acre of total area, and shall be located at least 200' from Inner Perimeter Road. (3) Outdoor lighting shall be directed away from neighboring properties, and lighting fixtures shall be exempt from the special design requirements of the Overlay District. (4) The main building wall facing Inner Perimeter Road may include metal siding but shall maintain a dark green color that is consistent with evergreen vegetation. Total signage on this wall shall follow LDR requirements (250 square feet maximum per sign, 400 square feet maximum total). Except for approved driveways, the entire front yard adjacent to this front building shall contain stormwater management areas and dense evergreen vegetation as depicted on a Landscape Plan to be approved by the City Arborist. As a guideline for this landscape design, the intent is to effectively and opaquely screen the non-signage areas of this building façade from view. This landscaped area shall be maintained utilizing an automated irrigation system. (5) Conditional Use approval shall expire after three years from the date of approval if no plans for a building permit have been submitted by that time. Councilman Carroll seconded the motion. The motion was adopted (4-2) with Councilman Howard and Councilman Norton voting in opposition to enact Ordinance No. 2022-33, the complete text of which will be found in Ordinance Book XIV.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2022-34, AN ORDINANCE TO REZONE  
48.16 ACRES FROM PLANNED MIXED-USE DISTRICT  
(PMD) TO SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL (R-6)**

**12/08/22 CONTINUED**

Consideration of an Ordinance to rezone 48.16 acres from Planned Mixed-Use District (PMD) to Single-Family Residential (R-6) as requested by T.W. Paine (File No. VA-2022-21). The property is located approximately 1,000 feet west of Riverside Road. The Planning Commission reviewed this at their November 28, 2022 Regular Meeting and recommended approval (8-0 Vote).

Matt Martin, Planning Director, stated that T.W. Paine Properties LLLP and River Hill LLC are requesting to rezone 48.16 acres from Planned Mixed-Use District (PMD) to Single-Family Residential (R-6) Zoning. The property is currently undeveloped and located approximately 1,000 feet west of Riverside Road, south of the James Road intersection. This property is in addition to, and immediately to the west of, the property that was rezoned for the applicant back in June (58.73 acres rezoned to R-6 and 8.14 acres rezoned to C-N (File No. VA-2022-09). As with the previous request, the applicant is proposing to develop the R-6 areas as a conventional single-family residential subdivision. This proposed additional phase of the subdivision will have approximately 130 lots. The property is located within a Neighborhood Activity Center (NAC) Character Area on the Future Development Map of the Comprehensive Plan which allows the possibility of R-6 Zoning. All of the background information, thought rationale, and applicable responses to the Standards for the Exercise of Zoning Power (SFEZP) are the same for this request, as they were for the previous File No. VA-2022-09 request six months ago. This property is part of the northern James Road corridor in the City Limits which is still dominated by mostly vacant lands which are tied up in the Market Street master plan (PMD Zoning). With exception of rezoning public hearings regarding the property to the east, and a Quick Trip truck stop to the north at the intersection of James Road and North St Augustine Road, this entire property has been sitting dormant for 15 years. The original PMD Master Plan covered about 240 acres and called for a fairly intensive mixed-use development pattern consisting of 500 plus high-density dwelling units (townhouses, duplex/villas, and houses on 60' wide lots), as well as approximately 1.3 million square feet of commercial development, consisting of retail shopping centers with anchor tenants, hotels, restaurants, and offices. For multiple reasons, it is unfortunate that this PMD development never got built, nor even started. The property consists of a little less than one-third of the total PMD acreage but is part of the least intensive portion which was planned for residential development rather than commercial. Just as with the previous request, the applicant's proposal is less intensive than what is called for in this portion of the PMD, and therefore, technically it could be considered a down-zoning. As before, Staff still finds the applicant's conventional layout design to be very non-creative and unimaginative, but with the old PMD Master Plan now being a foregone conclusion, Staff is reluctantly supportive of this current request as well. 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 November 28, 2022 Regular Meeting, found it consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and the Standards for the Exercise of Zoning Power (SFEZP), and recommended approval (8-0 Vote).

Matthew Inman, Advanced Engineering Services, 4560 Valnorth Drive, spoke in favor of the request. Mr. Inman stated that he is the Engineer for the Project and he would be glad to answer any questions. They do intend to have a third entrance and they are also planning on using City water and sewer at James Circle where the water and sewer connections will be. Farther in the back of the property, there will be a lift station and stormwater detention/management.

William C. Morgan, 2181 Smith Street, spoke in opposition to the request. Mr. Morgan stated that they do have some concerns about this Project. He introduced James Miller who will voice those concerns.

James Miller, 3505 Hidden Hills Drive, stated that last week he had the privilege to speak with a young lady in her mid-70's who had moved back to Valdosta from Chicago a couple of years ago to live in a house that she grew up in after her brother died. Her daughter lives in the house across the street and it was during this conversation that he was reminded of one of the things that makes the City of Valdosta feel so special and that is the people. There is something that makes the Jones Community very special and that is the fact that you can connect with a number of families who have been in the City of Valdosta in the Jones Community for 25, 50, 75, and in some cases, more than 100 years. He is not sure what the benchmark is for calling something historic, but 100 plus years is a pretty long time in his book. Having said that, they understand that the tides of change are rolling in everywhere in the City of Valdosta and the Jones Community. With this understanding, they were open

to the initial rezoning request that was presented this summer to rezone approximately 16 acres from PMD to R-6. With this added light Commercial that was going to be coming along James Road, they had the understanding that this would bring approximately 150 to 250 homes in this area. As a Community, they have inquired as to what is being developed there. Their engagement requests for information have netted no more from the Developers than some of the pictures that they have been presenting in the Zoning Meetings. They are open to meaningful development but they are highly concerned about what 150 plus single-family housing units with the addition of another proposed 150 plus highly concentrated housing units will do both to the City of Valdosta as well as their Community. He would like to highlight two major impact concerns that a blanket approval vote will have on their Community. The first is the utility burden and the second is the use burden. As a Community, they have considered the burden of what 300 plus homes will place on the main utility infrastructure such as water, sewer, stormwater, and electricity. The PMD rendering shown earlier and the Mixed-Use Development Project showed different uses placed in different demands on the site, the Community as well as the infrastructure. In their presentations, the Developers have been very quick to gloss over the necessary site improvements that will be required to properly serve this proposed development of single-family homes. A quick reference of the sewage flow rates defined by the U.S. Standards for Water Usage and Sewage Strength, overlaid with the household size information provided by the U.S. Census Bureau for Valdosta, shows that the water and sewer demand for a R-6 residential community would easily be three to six times greater in volume than the previously proposed Mixed Use Development. In other words, the additional infrastructure costs to the City of Valdosta just to improve the underground water and sewer could conservatively double or triple the cost of the infrastructure improvements already expended. A quick look at the National Wetlands Inventory in the topographic maps for this area also show substantial wetlands and significant grade changes falling off the site towards the river. In the upper corner of this site, there is a 71-foot fall from Riverside Road towards the back of the initial first zoned proposed area. For the sake of visualization, imagine being in the upper northwestern corner and you are standing on the rooftop of a six-story building, you would be back near the street height level to walk along Riverside Road. For another point of reference, think about the grade changes and slopes that we have at the YMCA and multiply that by 1.5. There are people far smarter than him in this room that can easily calculate the runoff coefficients using the Georgia Stormwater Management Manual. As a Community, they remember the major flooding that occurred just a few years ago in the neighborhood with houses on Englewood Drive and South Sherwood Drive. They are only assuming the additional infrastructure costs to manage the additional stormwater runoff will also be incurred at least partially by the City of Valdosta. The Development Team has mentioned the intention of adding pump stations to facilitate the additional sewage produced by these 300 plus homes. Whether they are site built or pre-fabricated, they understand that the pump stations require regular maintenance as well as an outside source of power to operate during the typical 20-year life cycle. When they look at the use burden as a Community, they are highly concerned about the frequent conversion of the residential neighborhoods into rental housing. The National Association of Realtors had a report out that shows the average housing tenure was five to seven years. So in five to seven years, people will move out of their homes and into other residences. The vacant homes are often converted into rental homes, especially with the recent flood of private equity money flowing into the single-family rentals market. As a Community, they have seen the impact of this type of housing conversion in the densely developed areas such as Blue Pool. You can search regularly and easily find seven to ten homes available for rent in Blue Pool on any given day. This has created a major devaluation of the surrounding areas. He has not discussed the traffic impact or other public service burdens that another 300 plus homes would place on the City of Valdosta or their Community. They have only looked at the utility burden and the use burden. The people in the Jones Community have not been blatantly opposed to development; however, they are highly concerned about how that development takes place. With a limited perspective, they conservatively estimate that the City of Valdosta may have to invest an additional three to four times of what has already been spent to create the infrastructure to support all of these housing units. He is in agreement with Mr. Martin and his statement that he would like to see more creativity and how the rezoning of this PMD is developed. As a Community, they understand that once the rezoning takes place, there is usually little if any public consideration about the use as long as the Project fits within the defined zoning parameters. As the deciding Council, if you make the decision to approve these rezoning requests, the Jones Community asks that a land use restriction be added to prevent these homes from becoming rental properties in the next 20 to 25 years. Ideally, they would like to see Council to decide to table this rezoning request for a while and at least until they can see the Developers take advantage of the already proposed and approved rezoning request from this summer. They would like to see what they are building and understand the real impact of the Project and what that will be for all of us.

William Morgan stated that he wanted to re-emphasize that this homes are not turned into rental property because when that happens, it devalues the property almost instantly. Then you have crime. There is so much to consider if this turns into rental property. They would like to make that concession on this particular issue.

A **MOTION** was made by Councilman Gibbs to approve a request to rezone 48.16 acres from Planned Mixed-Use District (PMD) to Single-Family Residential (R-6) for property located approximately 1,000 feet west of Riverside Road as requested by T.W. Paine. Councilman Carroll seconded the motion. Councilman Carroll stated that it might be important for the City Attorney or Matt Martin speak to us being able to condition this zoning to keep out rentals because we cannot. City Attorney Tim Tanner stated that was accurate. The City is a government and they cannot do that. There would be a fair housing action more than likely if the City did that. A private party who develops this has the option to do that but the City as a government cannot. The motion was adopted (4-2) with Councilwoman Miller-Cody and Councilwoman Tooley voting in opposition to enact Ordinance No. 2022-34, the complete text of which will be found in Ordinance Book XIV.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2022-35, AN ORDINANCE TO GRANT PLANNED DEVELOPMENT APPROVAL FOR A SINGLE-FAMILY ATTACHED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT**

Consideration of an Ordinance to grant Planned Development approval for a Single-Family Attached Residential Development as requested by Stoker Utilities LLC (File No. VA-2022-22). The property is located along the east side of North Forrest Street Extension between Knights Academy Road and Branch Point Drive. The Planning Commission reviewed this at their November 18, 2022 Regular Meeting and recommended approval with seven conditions (8-0 Vote).

Matt Martin, Planning Director, stated that Stoker Utilities LLC is requesting Planned Development approval for a proposed single-family attached residential development (townhouses) in an R-6(c) Zoning District. The property is located along the east side of North Forrest Street Extension, between Knights Academy Road and Branch Point Drive. The property consists of 6.34 acres and is depicted as Tract 1 on the accompanying survey plat. Tract 2 is planned to be a future phase of the Biles single-family residential subdivision and is not part of this PD request. The property is currently undeveloped (farm field). The applicant is proposing to develop this property with 42 townhouse-style dwelling units divided among 7 different buildings. Each unit will be 2-story and contain a 2-car garage with its own driveway for parking. The complex will utilize a shared internal access drive, with clusters of shared visitor parking, mailboxes, playgrounds, dumpsters, general open space, as well as a 25' landscaped buffer along its east boundary line. It should be noted that the conditions of approval with the R-6(c) Zoning are only related to minimum lot sizes for single-family residential development in all of the surrounding developed and undeveloped subdivisions zoned this way. These special conditions are inconsequential to the proposed development and should be ignored for purposes of this Planned Development review. The property is located within a Suburban Area (SA) Character Area on the Future Development Map of the Comprehensive Plan. As with most Planned Development proposals, there are a few deviations from the City's standard Land Development Regulations (LDR). All other standard development codes applicable to R-6 Zoning and single-family attached (townhouse) development will be followed as appropriate. Most of the listed deviations are related to the LDR supplemental standards for this kind of development. These are all relatively minor in scope and are mainly due to the existing narrowness of the property and the applicant's proposal to have a non-conventional style of townhouse development. The proposed master plan indicates a desire to comply with the intent of these regulations while still exercising creativity in the overall design. The surrounding development pattern is currently dominated by the existing single-family residential subdivisions to the east, as well as the vacant land in between which is still planned for addition single-family development. The undeveloped properties to the west across North Forrest Street Extension, are very likely to be developed (long term) with fairly intensive commercial uses due to its frontage along Bemiss Road on the other side. This is reflected in the more intensive Community Activity Center (CAC) Character Area on that side of the road. North Forrest Street Extension is also likely to be eventually widened to four lanes with a significant increase in traffic. Therefore, under these long-term scenarios, higher density residential development (such as townhouses) along this portion of the road frontage, seems to make more sense than additional single-family development along the North Forrest road frontage. Staff found the request consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and the Planned Development Review Criteria, and recommended approval subject to the following seven conditions: (1) Approval shall be granted for a non-conventional townhouse style development with a maximum of 42 dwelling units, in general accordance with the layout of the

submitted master plan. The development shall consist of 2-story single-family attached residential units each on their own parcel of land and clustered in buildings with adequate fire wall separation. Architectural design of these buildings shall be consistent with the general styles of the submitted building elevation drawings. All non-building areas of the site shall be a shared Common Area with shared access, parking, and open/recreation space. (2) Use of the buildings shall be limited to single-family residential purposes only. There shall be no residential Home Businesses, Personal Care Homes, Daycares or any form of outdoor storage allowed. The overall residential development shall be managed as a single entity with an on-site resident manager. (3) Parking. In addition to the dwelling unit driveways to hold 2 vehicles each, at least 42 guest parking spaces total, shall be provided in multiple areas within the complex. Up to half of these additional spaces shall be considered "pavement optional" at the discretion of the City Engineer and intended to be overflow parking during peak times. (4) Pedestrian walkways shall be installed along the interior shared driveway of the development, and property stubbed out at each driveway end of the development to connect to future sidewalks along North Forrest Street Ext. and Branch Point Drive. Decorative pedestrian scale lighting shall be installed along the internal shared driveway with lighting fixtures being no taller than 20'. Development entrance signage shall be consistent with the same requirements for multi-family development in R-M Zoning. (5) Landscaping. A minimum 8' opaque fence or wall shall be installed along the entire east property line. The depicted transitional buffer yard along the east property line shall be at least 20' wide with vegetation requirements consistent with LDR requirements for such buffer yards. A minimum 8' decorative opaque fence or wall shall be installed along the western and northern property lines, in the areas between the buildings and the street right-of-way lines. Perimeter landscaping consistent with LDR requirements for multi-family development shall be installed on the outside of this fence/wall. (6) All other applicable LDR development standards and requirements for the overall development shall be followed. Final site design for the entire complex shall be subject to full commercial plan review in the same manner as a multi-family development, including an overall Landscape Plan being submitted and approved by the City Arborist. (7) From the date of final approval, the development shall commence within three years (begin construction of at least one primary building). Otherwise, Planned Development approval shall automatically expire. The Commission reviewed this at their November 28, 2022 Regular Meeting, found it consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and the Planned Development review criteria, and recommended approval subject to the same seven conditions as recommended by Staff (8-0 Vote).

Matthew Inman, Advanced Engineering Services, 4560 Valnorth Drive, spoke in favor of the request. Mr. Inman stated that he is the Engineer for this Project. The property they have is not the dimension in size to do a traditional single-family residence and the previous phase they are doing is for 41 homes. There are 42 proposed townhouses with this Project. It is a similar type zoning and density. There would be an extension of and expansion of the stormwater pond at the corner of Forrest Street and Knights Academy. They will also connect to City utilities. This is a good transition from the Commercial on Bemiss Road and extend over to Forrest Street Extension.

Linda Battles stated that she was considering getting a house in the Jones Community and she was wondering if they had thought about getting someone to go through there with a video and take pictures of some of the houses out there so that you could see the value of these people are fighting for. Mayor Matheson stated that they are not talking about that particular request at this time.

**A MOTION** was made by Councilman Howard to approve a request grant Planned Development approval for a Single-Family Attached Residential Development for property located along the east side of North Forrest Street Extension between Knights Academy Road and Branch Point Drive as requested by Stoker Utilities LLC (1) Approval shall be granted for a non-conventional townhouse style development with a maximum of 42 dwelling units, in general accordance with the layout of the submitted master plan. The development shall consist of 2-story single-family attached residential units each on their own parcel of land and clustered in buildings with adequate fire wall separation. Architectural design of these buildings shall be consistent with the general styles of the submitted building elevation drawings. All non-building areas of the site shall be a shared Common Area with shared access, parking, and open/recreation space. (2) Use of the buildings shall be limited to single-family residential purposes only. There shall be no residential Home Businesses, Personal Care Homes, Daycares or any form of outdoor storage allowed. The overall residential development shall be managed as a single entity with an on-site resident manager. (3) Parking. In addition to the dwelling unit driveways to hold 2 vehicles each, at least 42 guest parking spaces total, shall be provided in multiple areas within the complex. Up to half of these additional



spaces shall be considered "pavement optional" at the discretion of the City Engineer and intended to be overflow parking during peak times. (4) Pedestrian walkways shall be installed along the interior shared driveway of the development, and property stubbed out at each driveway end of the development to connect to future sidewalks along North Forrest Street Ext. and Branch Point Drive. Decorative pedestrian scale lighting shall be installed along the internal shared driveway with lighting fixtures being no taller than 20'. Development entrance signage shall be consistent with the same requirements for multi-family development in R-M Zoning. (5) Landscaping. A minimum 8' opaque fence or wall shall be installed along the entire east property line. The depicted transitional buffer yard along the east property line shall be at least 20' wide with vegetation requirements consistent with LDR requirements for such buffer yards. A minimum 8' decorative opaque fence or wall shall be installed along the western and northern property lines, in the areas between the buildings and the street right-of-way lines. Perimeter landscaping consistent with LDR requirements for multi-family development shall be installed on the outside of this fence/wall. (6) All other applicable LDR development standards and requirements for the overall development shall be followed. Final site design for the entire complex shall be subject to full commercial plan review in the same manner as a multi-family development, including an overall Landscape Plan being submitted and approved by the City Arborist. (7) From the date of final approval, the development shall commence within 3 years (begin construction of at least one primary building). Otherwise, Planned Development approval shall automatically expire. (File No. VA-2022-22). Councilman Gibbs seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously adopted (6-0) to enact Ordinance No. 2022-35, the complete text of which will be found in Ordinance Book XIV.

#### **AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 222 – OFF-STREET PARKING STANDARDS OF THE CITY OF VALDOSTA LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS (LDR) AS IT PERTAINS TO GENERAL PARKING REGULATIONS IN RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS (FIRST READING)**

Consideration of an Ordinance to amend Chapter 222 - Off-Street Parking Standards of the City of Valdosta Land Development Regulations (LDR) as it pertains to General Parking Regulations in Residential Districts. (First Reading)

Matt Martin, Planning Director, stated that the City of Valdosta is proposing to amend Chapter 222 of the City of Valdosta Land Development Regulations (LDR) as it pertains to general parking regulations in residential districts. These proposed changes are shown in underline/strikeout format and reflect the discussions at the City Council's Strategic Initiatives Summit earlier this year. More specifically, these provisions deal with the differences of off-street parking requirements in single-family and duplex residential developments in general, versus similar requirements for such developments that are located within the designated "Residential Parking Overlay District". It should be noted that none of these provisions are applicable to apartments or non-residential developments, which are subject to commercial-type parking requirements. Staff found the request consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and recommended approval. The Planning Commission reviewed this at their November 28, 2022 Regular Meeting, found the request consistent with the Comprehensive Plan, and recommended approval (8-0 Vote). Matt Martin, Planning Director, stated that this is the first reading and no action will need to be taken.

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

Consideration of bids for one Dump Truck for the Utilities Department (Bid No. 19-22-23).

Greg Brown, Purchasing Agent, stated that the Utilities Department has a dump truck that is 27 years old at the Mud Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant that needs to be replaced. This new truck will replace the existing dump truck (#2029) which is a 1995 Ford F-800. The maintenance costs have risen over time due to the age of the truck and the functionality is no longer dependable resulting in increasing down time at the Maintenance Center. The Mayor and Council approved \$115,000 in the current year motor pool Budget to replace this truck. One sealed bid was received on November 29, 2022 from Wade Ford in the amount of \$95,155. The bid was properly advertised as the Ordinance dictates. Although the market is still in disarray, this bid came in almost \$20,000 under budget. There will be an approximate six month wait time or longer for the truck to be delivered. Greg Brown, Purchasing Agent, recommended that Council approve the bid submitted by Wade Ford in the amount of \$95,155 one Dump Truck for the Utilities Department.

A **MOTION** by Councilman Carroll, seconded by Councilman Gibbs, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to approve the bid submitted by Wade Ford in the amount of \$95,155 for one Dump Truck for the Utilities Department.

Consideration of one, 26,000 lb Truck with Sway Car Dump and Tow Body for the Public Works Department (Bid No. 24-22-23).

Greg Brown, Purchasing Agent, stated that the Residential Division of the Public Works Department needs to replace an existing truck (#2118) which is 14 years old. The truck being replaced is a 2008 Ford F-650. The truck has a blown engine which makes it non-operational and other pieces have been removed off of the truck to keep others on the road. This new truck will be used to relocate and dump sway car trailers that become full with residential yard trash. Not all sway car trucks can dump the trailers due to the extra cost of the dumping mechanism and keeping enough trucks on daily routes picking up yard waste. The Mayor and Council approved \$150,000 in the current year Budget to replace this truck. Sealed bids were received on November 29, 2022. The low bid meeting specification was Solid Waste Applied Technologies (Freightliner) in the amount of \$130,500. The low bid submitted by Wade Ford in the amount of \$108,633 did not meet the specifications because the truck they proposed had an engine and transmission that were too small and did not include warranties specified in the bid. The low bid meeting specification of Solid Waste Applied Technologies was almost \$20,000 lower than the budgeted amount. Greg Brown, Purchasing Agent, recommended that Council approve the low bid meeting specification of Solid Waste Applied Technologies in the amount of \$130,500.

A **MOTION** by Councilman Norton, seconded by Councilman Gibbs, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to approve the low bid meeting specifications submitted by Solid Waste Applied Technologies in the amount of \$130,500 for the purchase of one, 26,000 lb Truck with Sway Car Dump and Tow Body for the Public Works Department.

Consideration of a request to renew a Contract for Misdemeanor Probation Services for the City of Valdosta Municipal Court.

Municipal Court Judge Jeremy Baker stated that The City of Valdosta currently has probation management services provided by Georgia Probation Management, Inc. (GPM). The current contract will expire on December 31, 2022. GPM has indicated a desire to continue to provide probation services for the City of Valdosta. GPM was awarded the contract for probation management on May 24, 2018. The current contract began July 1, 2018 and expires December 31, 2022. The existing contract provides the City with the option to renew the contract up to five times in one-year intervals. Municipal Court Judge Jeremy Baker is satisfied with the level of service the Court is receiving and would like to continue utilizing GPM's services. GPM has proposed a renewal with price increases of \$5.00. This would raise Supervision Fees to \$45.00 and Environmental Ordinance Supervision to \$40.00. In addition, Electronic Monitoring Services have been expanded so fees charged for new or different services represent a change to the fee structure. The entire fee schedule is listed in the contract addendum. These fees are paid by the Probationers and the Judge has no objection to the increases. The new contract would commence January 1, 2023 and expire December 31, 2023. The contract allows four, one-year extensions (the original five less the current extension). Judge Baker recommended that Council approve a Contract Renewal with GPM with the agreed upon terms to continue to provide probation services for the City of Valdosta.

A **MOTION** by Councilman Gibbs, seconded by Councilwoman Miller-Cody, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to approve a Contract Renewal with GPM with the agreed upon terms to continue to provide probation services for the City of Valdosta.

Consideration of bids for the Exit 16 Gateway Improvement Project.

Ben O'Dowd, City Engineer, stated that the City of Valdosta, in partnership with the Valdosta Tree Commission, applied for and received a Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) "Welcome to Georgia" Gateway Beautification and Enhancement Program Reimbursement Grant in 2018. Gateways are entrance points into and out of communities and are typically marked by landscaping and welcome signage. The City of Valdosta and its Design Consultants have developed a set of landscape and construction documents which detail the

installation of two decorative monument signs, lighting, irrigation, and substantial landscaping. The proposed gateway improvements to be located at Exit 16 would present a unique opportunity to welcome countless travelers to Valdosta from I-75 as well as GA Highway 84. This Project has been a topic of discussion and planning for several years but has faced delays in implementation due to funding availability, permitting requirements, and plan/scope development. This Project was originally put out for bid in 2021 and the City received only one bid for \$456,167.45. This bid amount was much higher than anticipated so the decision was made to reassess the construction estimates, ensure that the projected construction costs were reasonable, and to put the Project back out to bid at a later date. The City succeeded in acquiring a special encroachment permit for this Project from GDOT in 2021. This permit expires End of Year (EOY) 2022. If we are to act and initiate this Project, we must complete the mandatory pre-construction meeting and contractor checklist prior to the permit expiration. GDOT Staff and Artesian have both been made aware that we must act quickly following council action to comply with the requirements of the permit and the mandatory pre-construction meeting is currently scheduled for Tuesday, December 13, 2022. The Exit 16 Gateway Improvement Project was re-bid in January of this year. It was advertised both in the local newspaper and on the City's website. Four Contractors attended the mandatory pre-bid meeting on January 5, 2022. One bid was received and opened on February 15, 2022. The bid was submitted by Artesian Contracting Co. in the amount of \$551,904.00. This bid amount exceeded the funding which was originally available for the implementation of this Project. Over the following months, additional conversations were had, and additional funding partner inputs developed which brought the original Project cost into the range of feasibility. In September of this year, the Engineering Department reached out to Artesian Contracting to inquire if they would honor the bid they submitted in February, 2022. They reported an increase in costs of \$5,900.00 due to market adjustments and inflation. Given the current inflationary market environment, a ~1% increase in cost over the course of seven months can be considered negligible. This bid cost increase would bring the total bid amount to \$557,804.00. Factoring in a 10% contingency of \$55,780.40 for unforeseen costs encountered during construction, the total Project cost would be \$613,584.40. Funding for this Project would be utilized from the following sources: (1) \$189,162.40 from SPLOST VIII (Council approved original budget amount for this project from FY21), (2) \$15,000.00 from the Valdosta Tree Commission, (3) \$61,422.00 from the GDOT "Welcome to Georgia" Gateway Beautification and Enhancement Program Grant, (4) \$198,000.00 from SPLOST VIII (Funding which can be reutilized from the Council-approved FY22 "Gordon/Lamar Turn Lane" Project which was cancelled), and (5) \$150,000.00 from the Valdosta-Lowndes Tourism Authority. Ben O'Dowd, City Engineer, recommended that Council approve the bid submitted by Artesian Contracting in the amount of \$551,904.00, plus a bid cost increase of \$5,900.00, plus a 10% contingency of \$55,780.40 for a total project cost of \$613,584.40.

**A MOTION** was made by Councilman Gibbs to approve the bid submitted by Artesian Contracting for the Exit 16 Gateway Improvement Project in the amount of \$551,904.00 with a bid cost increase of \$5,900.00, and a 10% contingency in the amount of \$55,780.40 for a total project cost of \$613,584.40. Councilman Carroll seconded the motion. The motion was adopted (5-1) with Councilwoman Tooley voting in opposition.

Consideration of a request to approve an Agreement with RedSpeed for the Traffic Safety Camera Program.

Police Chief Leslie Manahan stated that in May of 2018, the Governor of the State of Georgia signed 2017 6a. HB 978 into law, which resulted in the Official Code of Georgia Annotated Section 40-14-18, taking effect on July 1, 2018. This Code Section is titled, "Enforcement of speed limit in school zones with recorded images; civil monetary penalty; vehicle registration and transfer of title restrictions for failure to pay penalty." This allows for speed enforcement in schools by using photographically recorded images for violations, which results in a citation for the alleged violation to be issued to the registered owner of the vehicle. RedSpeed Georgia, LLC, at no expense to the City of Valdosta, provides a "Speed Photo Enforcement System", which places traffic enforcement cameras in school zones. These cameras identify and photograph vehicles, along with their license plate information, who are alleged to have exceeded the speed limit inside the school zones. RedSpeed will confirm the citations and certified Police Officers with the Valdosta Police Department will validate the citations prior to the citations being sent in the mail. All citations are a set fine which is sent to the registered owner of the vehicle. If a person, issued and mailed a citation, fails to pay the civil monetary penalty, their information is referred to the Department of Revenue which will prohibit the renewal of the license plate or transfer of the title. RedSpeed's Speed Photo Enforcement System will assist the Valdosta Police Department in providing a safer school zone for students who are walking in the area. Based off of the RedSpeed traffic study conducted on October 28, 2022, along with the

Valdosta Police Department's 2022 Annual Crossing Guard Report, three school zones were identified as having a higher concentration of pedestrians, along with numerous traffic violations recorded during the school zone times. Pinevale Elementary has the average of 238 children crossing in a day, with 129 violations recorded. W.G. Nunn Elementary has the average of 150 children crossing in a day, with 114 violations recorded. S.L. Mason has the average of 215 children crossing in a day, with 77 violations recorded. All three school zones that were identified are elementary schools, due to the younger aged children crossing for their safety. Police Chief Manahan recommended that Council approve the Agreement for a year with RedSpeed for Speed Photo Enforcement.

Tim Tanner, City Attorney, stated that Council would need to approve the red-lined version of the Agreement with RedSpeed that was distributed to Council tonight and with the condition and if there are any restrictions on speed enforcement, he heard Tuesday night at the Work Session that Council wanted 10 miles per hour and over. Councilman Gibbs stated that is what it has to be. Mayor Matheson stated that it was in excess of 10 miles per hour so that is 11 miles per hour. Chief Manahan stated that according to RedSpeed we set the speed limit so it would be at 11 miles per hour over. Councilwoman Tooley stated that it has to be greater than 10 miles per hour. Tim Tanner, City Attorney, stated that in the motion that you want to enforce 10 miles per hour and over. Councilwoman Tooley stated that she heard two things. Mayor Matheson stated that it would be over 10 miles per hour. Tim Tanner, City Attorney, stated that law enforcement agencies with the exception of the Georgia State Patrol and State Agencies cannot write a speeding ticket unless the individual is going 10 and over; however, they can if they are in a school zone. Technically, if this company wanted to send a ticket to someone running 5 miles per hour over they could so we need to make a statement here that says we are only agreeing to enforce 10 miles per hour and over. Mayor Matheson stated that in case anyone was wondering why in front of Valdosta High School it is 55 miles per hour posted and 55 in a school zone. Councilwoman Tooley stated that he is saying it has to be greater than 10 miles per hour. Chief Manahan stated not in a school zone. Mark Barber, City Manager, stated that when the City Attorney reviewed the contract it was his thought as well to make this into an Ordinance even though it is a pilot program. The Ordinance will be brought forth in January for Council's approval but they will go ahead and approve the Contract tonight in order that the infrastructure can be placed and RedSpeed can do their job. Tim Tanner, City Attorney, stated that their actual Agreement provided that the City had already adopted an Ordinance so he changed it to read that we shall adopt an Ordinance. If you look at the third page of the Agreement under Item (5) – Term and Termination, he revised the Agreement to become effective on January 15, 2023 or 15 days after the passage of the Ordinance. He also added that if Council fails to adopt the Ordinance by March 15, 2023 then the Agreement shall be considered null and void. Mark Barber, City Manager, stated that this will also give us time for marketing and getting it out to the citizens so they will not be blind-sided by the Project. Councilwoman Miller-Cody inquired as to when they will start issuing tickets. Tim Tanner stated that this will not become effective until the Ordinance is passed which will at least be the second Council Meeting in January. They will also not start issuing tickets until the first notice of violation is sent out. Councilman Gibbs stated that at least they can start now letting citizens know this is coming out 60 to 90 days down the road.

**A MOTION** was made by Councilman Gibbs to approve the request as stated. Councilwoman Miller-Cody seconded the motion. Councilman Carroll inquired as to whether they need to incorporate into the motion that it includes those discussion and items pointed out by the City Attorney and City Manager. Tim Tanner, City Attorney, stated that is should include they are approving the red-line version and no speed enforcement by photographic means upon individuals traveling in excess of 10 miles per hour. Councilman Gibbs and Councilwoman Miller-Cody were in agreement with the changes. Councilwoman Tooley stated that this would not be an Ordinance until after March. Tim Tanner, City Attorney, stated that this is an Agreement and is not effective until an Ordinance is passed. The motion was unanimously adopted (6-0).

## LOCAL FUNDING AND REQUESTS

Consideration of a request to approve the Valdosta On-Demand Safety Plan in accordance with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) when expending 5307 Grant Funds.

Richard Hardy, Deputy City Manager of Operations, stated that the City of Valdosta's Safety Program is governed by the City's General Self Inspection Program and the City of Valdosta Safety Committee Manual which was revised October 19, 2018. The Valdosta On-Demand Safety Plan assigns responsibilities, provides guidance, establishes policies and procedures, and outlines safety procedures required by FTA and Georgia Department of

Transportation (GDOT) when expending 5307 Grant Funds. This Plan is applicable to all transit employees directly engaged in operations of FTA Federally-funded vehicles and equipment. This Safety Plan requires annual adoption. The FTA administers 5307 Grants. GDOT receives these and passes them through to the cities and counties in the State that provide transit service to urbanized areas. The FTA has certain safety related requirements that the City needs to adhere to for expending 5307 Federal dollars. The proposed Plan will allow the City to adhere to GDOT's and FTA's safety requirements while retaining current practices for non-Federal dollars. Richard Hardy, Deputy City Manager of Operations, recommended that Council approve the Valdosta On-Demand Safety Plan.

**A MOTION** by Councilman Gibbs, seconded by Councilwoman Miller-Cody, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to approve the Valdosta On-Demand Safety Plan in accordance with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) when expending 5307 Grant Funds.

Consideration of a request for the replacement of Filter Cloths at the Withlacoochee Water Pollution Control Plant.

Bradley Eyre, Director of Utilities, stated that these are the filter cloths that go over the effluent filter disks where the water is treated and discharged. On July 27, 2022, it was determined that there were a number of the effluent filter cloth socks on filter unit #2 of the Withlacoochee Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP) located at 3180 Wetherington Lane that would need to be replaced. These filter cloths were showing advanced signs of wear. The City previously purchased new filter socks in January of 2019. The filter socks for all three filters were installed in the summer of 2019. The life expectancy of the filter socks is three to five years; however, due to the amount of flow and number of monthly cleaning cycles, we are currently at three years when we started observing wear and tear problems. After an inspection of the other filter units, it was determined that the remaining 192 filter socks would need to be replaced. Due to normal wear/tear conditions of the existing filter cloths, it is necessary to replace worn and torn socks to maintain normal wastewater treatment processes and maintain proper BOD permit limits. This Agenda Item is submitted to authorize payment to Aqua-Aerobic Systems, Inc. in the amount of \$67,008 to purchase the full complement of the filter cloths. Bradley Eyre, Director of Utilities, recommended that Council approve this sole source purchase of all 192 filter cloths in the amount of \$67,008 to Aqua-Aerobic.

**A MOTION** by Councilwoman Tooley, seconded by Councilman Norton, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to approve the sole source purchase in the amount of \$67,008 from Aqua-Aerobic for the replacement of 192 filter cloths at the Withlacoochee Water Pollution Control Plant.

## **CITIZENS TO BE HEARD**

Wanda Bennett, 4 Pinedale Circle, stated that she was concerned about speeding in that area as well as along Langdale Drive which runs vertical to Pinedale Circle. There have been a couple of accidents there during the summer and someone's dog got run over. She spoke with someone in the City about it and a study was conducted. It was found that there was considerable speeding along that area. She was told that she needed to get signatures from residents that live in that area. Ms. Bennett inquired as to whether there was another type of mechanism that could be used for getting speed bumps in the area. She is a clean energy advocate and the speed bumps would help reduce the greenhouse emissions. Ms. Bennett asked Council's consideration in helping her to get speed bumps in the area.

Marion Ramsey, 605 Monroe Street, stated that he is the President of a non-profit called One Nation of Power and they are holding a "Stop the Violence" Chess Tournament on Saturday, December 10, 2022 at the Lona & Gladys Event Center at the corner of Troup Street and Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Mr. Ramsey invited the Mayor and Council to attend and participate in the Chess Tournament. One Nation of Power focuses the youth and their physical, mental, and health well-being. They help to get troubled youth to professional counseling and they also offer boxing for the youth.

## **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

Mark Barber, City Manager, stated that the City of Valdosta has really gotten everyone in the Christmas spirit. The Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony on Friday, December 2, 2022 had a wonderful turnout and there

were so many City employees who worked very hard to ensure that it was successful. The Public Works employees spent several weeks putting up decorations and making everything look great. Also, the Christmas Parade, which was held on Saturday, December 3, 2022, was a great success and it was his honor and privilege to serve as the Grand Marshal this year. The Ossipe Temple always does a wonderful job on the Christmas Parade as well. They had a wonderful celebration today with the Mayor's Motorcade going to Parkwood Developmental Center.

The Mayor and Council are invited to a Crises Management luncheon with Ms. Spikes who is the Director of Public Affairs with the Atlanta Police Department on December 15, 2022 at 11:30 a.m. at the Coleman Talley Law office.

The Bird Supper will be held on Wednesday, February 1, 2023 at The Depot in Atlanta. This is always a fun time so please mark your calendars.

### **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Mayor Matheson stated that there are a lot of good things happening in the City of Valdosta and a lot of growth. Mayor Matheson thanked everyone for their incredible efforts. The Mayor's Motorcade was a great success and he thanked the Fire Department and the Public Information Office for their assistance. They made Christmas a lot brighter for the patients at Parkwood Developmental Center.

Mayor Matheson asked Sementha Mathews, Executive Director of the Turner Center for the Arts, to come forward and share some information about two grants that the Arts Center has been awarded.

Sementha Mathews, Executive Director of the Turner Center for the Arts, stated that with the help of the Mayor, Council, City Manager, and the City of Valdosta, they won the Levitt Amp Grant so that brings them \$60,000 every year for three years for outdoor live music at the Turner Center for the Arts. Also, the Arts Center is embarking on the Children's Imagination Station and their first \$1 million of fund raising out of \$6 million total. Everyone who they have spoken with believes in it and they held a Legislative Luncheon today with the local Legislative delegation and many others to discuss funding. Also, they applied for a grant for their Murals Program and she will be going to a three-day Conference in February, 2023 in Thomasville along with the City of Valdosta Main Street Manager and the Mayor to learn about how to build our community up with these murals and how to access money to make that happen. Sementha Mathews, Executive Director of the Turner Center for the Arts, thanked the Mayor and Council for supporting the arts.

Councilman Carroll stated that he and his wife did some Christmas shopping at the Arts Center and made several selections. If you have not considered the Arts Center for Christmas gifts, please do so.

Councilwoman Tooley stated that she has enjoyed a lot of the Christmas festivities and she personally wanted to thank Brandie Dame, Main Street Manager, and whoever helped with the gift that she received at Unity Park. That was a nice package that they put together. Councilwoman Tooley also thanked the Staff for their efforts in decorating Unity Park.

Councilwoman Miller-Cody stated that she is going to go around the City tomorrow and pick up all of the election signs. She did not put them out but we want to keep the City of Valdosta clean. As Council Members, they have to go above and beyond sometimes to help the Public Works crew clean up our City. Also, the Mayor's Motorcade to Parkwood Developmental Center was great and to see the excitement of those clients was awesome. They loved the gifts and the fire truck.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

A **MOTION** by Councilman Carroll, seconded by Councilman Norton was unanimously adopted (6-0) to adjourn the December 8, 2022 Meeting of the Valdosta City Council at 7:04 p.m. to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing real estate and personnel.

Mayor Matheson reconvened the December 8, 2022 Meeting of the Valdosta City Council at 7:22 p.m. and stated that there was discussion of real estate in the Executive Session and no action was taken. There was no discussion of personnel in the Executive Session.

Mayor Matheson entertained a motion for adjournment.

A **MOTION** by Councilman Carroll, seconded by Councilman Gibbs, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to adjourn the December 8, 2022 Special Called Meeting of the Valdosta City Council at 7:22 p.m. to meet again in Regular Session on Thursday, December 8, 2022.

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City Clerk, City of Valdosta

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Mayor, City of Valdosta