

MINUTES
MEETING OF THE VALDOSTA CITY COUNCIL
5:30 P.M., THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 2023
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: Thomas McIntyre, Andy Gibbs, Sandra Tooley, Eric Howard, Tim Carroll, Vivian Miller-Cody, and Ben Norton. The invocation was given by Councilman Ben Norton, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag which was led by Boy Scout Troop 491 of St. John Catholic Church.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 23, 2023 were approved by unanimous consent (7-0) of the Council.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-5, AN ORDINANCE TO REZONE 1.76 ACRES FROM SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL (R-6) TO MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL (R-M)

Consideration of an Ordinance to rezone 1.76 acres from Single-Family Residential (R-6) to Multi-Family Residential (R-M) as requested by ISH Holdings, LLC (File No. VA-2023-02). The property is located at 915 West Street. The Planning Commission reviewed this at their February 27, 2023 Regular Meeting and recommended approval (8-0 Vote).

Matt Martin, Planning Director, stated that ISH Holdings, LLC is requesting to rezone 1.76 acres from Single-Family Residential (R-6) to Multi-Family Residential (R-M). The property is located at 915 West Street which is along the east side of the road approximately 300 feet south of the intersection with West Gordon Street. The property is currently vacant and the applicant is proposing to develop it as an apartment complex with 12 dwelling units. This will consist of six, one-story buildings with two dwelling units in each building. Each unit will be two-bedroom, two-bath, and consist of 1,088 square feet GFA. All of this is in addition to the applicant's proposed stand-alone duplex to be developed with the same design on the existing adjacent small lot to the north at 921 West Street, which will keep its R-6 Zoning. The property is located within an Established Residential (ER) Character Area on the Future Development Map of the Comprehensive Plan which allows the possibility of R-M Zoning. The property is also located within the City's local Historic District. The applicant's proposed site layout and building design (for new construction) were approved by the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) on February 6, 2023. The surrounding land use pattern is dominated by mostly Single-Family Residential, with some Institutional uses (Churches) nearby, and also a corner convenience store at West Gordon Street 300 feet to the north. Except for the convenience store's C-C Zoning, all of the surrounding and nearby properties are solidly zoned R-6. Therefore, this request for R-M Zoning would seem to be "spot zoning" and out of character with the surrounding patterns; however, this property is somewhat hard to develop with its sloping topography and irregular shape. It also has limited street frontage in comparison to its overall size. There is enough total land area in the property to produce 12 lots under R-6 standards, but to be developed conventionally with individual lots containing houses or duplexes, there is only enough road frontage along West Street to produce three lots. Each of these would then average a little more than 25,000 square feet, as compared to the minimum required lot size of only 6,000 square feet for a single-family residence in R-6 Zoning. In order to add street frontage to allow more lots, a new road (with cul-de-sac) would need to be constructed to gain access to the property's interior. This would only yield about four more lots and its cost of construction would exceed the value of the added lots. The applicant is not seeking high-density residential development and is only wanting to have 12 dwelling units on this property. This matches the overall R-6 density pattern of the neighborhood with an average of 6,000 square feet per dwelling, but without the extra expense of constructing a standard road. The applicant is also wanting to consolidate the rooftops by instead having a village of duplexes with a shared driveway and parking area for the complex. With all six of these duplexes being on a single parcel of land, it is therefore classified by definition as multi-family development, and hence the need for R-M Zoning. The applicant's site plan includes all the required parking and

interior access features. The perimeter area will include a 6' opaque privacy fence and a full buffer yard in accordance with LDR requirements. The buildings themselves will exceed the minimum size requirements for floor area, have pitched roofs, and maintain a house/duplex kind of appearance. There has been very little development or redevelopment in the immediate area in recent years. The applicant's proposal maintains the overall density and land use character of the area and will hopefully serve as a positive catalyst for future redevelopment proposals. 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 February 27, 2023 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).

Councilwoman Tooley inquired about the area where the fire truck will turn around and will the driveway be designated for that so other people will not park their vehicles there. Matt Martin stated that they are not approving a site plan but that is a fire code requirement and they do not have a choice. It will be up to the Fire Marshal to determine the final design. Just like a fire lane in front of a commercial business, you would not want vehicles parking there because it is for fire access only. This is something to be reserved for emergency vehicle use only. Councilwoman Tooley stated that they need to consider since they are wanting to rezone to Multi-Family Residential. Matt Martin stated that is part of the review process for any Multi-Family development. They will also look at the building designs, fire sprinkler system, the distance to fire hydrants, and more. All of that is applicable here.

Julia Robinson, 941 Lakeside Drive, spoke in favor of the request. Ms. Robinson stated that she is the owner of the land and is in favor of the Project. Councilwoman Miller-Cody stated that the City just built a home at 920 West Street and inquired as to whether the first duplex will be facing 920 West Street. Ms. Robinson stated that was correct. Councilwoman Miller-Cody stated that the duplexes B-G will be going south with the cul-de-sac and facing the pie joint way. Ms. Robinson stated that it would be facing 921 West Street, Building A. There will be five duplexes in the middle and Building A will face 920 West Street. Building C will be on the side of Monroe Street. Since Buildings A and C are facing the front they will be facing West Street and the other ones in the middle will be considered Monroe Street. Councilwoman Miller-Cody inquired as to whether Ms. Robinson, as the owner, will make sure that there are no activities going on there and that if the tenants are not following the guidelines, then she could move them out to protect the senior citizens living in that area. Ms. Robinson stated that she would not be the responsible person for that but she would get a real estate person and they could establish some rules and boundaries. Most likely, they will also do a credit check on the tenants and hopefully, they will get some good tenants in there and generate some revenue. They are also going to have it set up with a washer and dryer that the tenants can use. Maybe they could also bring back the old laundry mat business and bring in some revenue for the West side. Councilwoman Miller-Cody stated that she has spoken with many of the residents in that area and they are good. Ms. Robinson stated that she had a request. She noticed that they are getting ready to build some sidewalks on West Street and she was not sure what side they would be on. She would appreciate it if they could put some sidewalks on the side where she is developing the property. Mayor Matheson stated that the sidewalks would be on the side she is developing. Ms. Robinson stated that she had one more request. She has a huge tree in the yard and would like for them to look at that too.

Councilman Carroll inquired as to whether they could look forward to Ms. Robinson duplicating this elsewhere within the City. Ms. Robinson stated that she hopes to be able to do that if this Project goes well. Councilman Carroll stated that they hope so too. Councilwoman Miller-Cody inquired as to whether Ms. Robinson could purchase the pie joint and do something with that. Ms. Robinson stated that she could certainly look into that as well.

Councilman McIntyre inquired as to whether Ms. Robinson had any Property Managers in mind because they are ones that have most of the control over who is in there and who is not and if there are any violations, they can determine whether or not the tenants leave. Ms. Robinson stated that she did not have one in mind but she was going to get some recommendations.

Councilwoman Miller-Cody inquired as to whether there would be a fence in front of or behind the buffer. Ms. Robinson stated that it would be behind the buffer. Councilwoman Miller-Cody inquired as to whether it would be the type that you cannot see through. Ms. Robinson stated that it would be a wooden fence.

Luella Tillman, 920 West Street, spoke in favor of the request. Ms. Tillman stated that she is not against putting in duplexes in front of her house but if it is possible, with her being a senior citizen, she asked if they would consider putting a senior citizen in front of her at 921 West Street. Mayor Matheson stated that is out of our control but she was heard.

No one spoke in opposition to the request.

A MOTION by Councilman McIntyre, seconded by Councilwoman Miller-Cody, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to enact Ordinance No. 2023-5, an Ordinance to rezone 1.76 acres from Single-Family Residential (R-6) to Multi-Family Residential (R-M) for property located at 915 West Street as requested by ISH Holdings, LLC (File No. VA-2023-02), the complete text of which will be found in Ordinance Book XIV.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-6, AN ORDINANCE FOR REAPPORTIONMENT OF THE VALDOSTA CITY COUNCIL DISTRICTS (SECOND READING)

Consideration of an Ordinance to amend Chapter 42 - Environment, Article VI - Clean Indoor Air Ordinance to include regulations for Vaping.

Chuck Dinkins, Finance Director, stated that the City of Valdosta adopted the Clean Indoor Air Ordinance in 2003. The Ordinance was amended several times and restated in 2014. In 2019, the City Council adopted a moratorium on new vaping shops due to concerns about the impact of vaping on the health of Valdosta's citizens, particularly those too young to purchase traditional tobacco products. The moratorium was intended to allow time to monitor developments in this area at the Federal and State level. The regulatory landscape has not developed as expected in this area and the City needs to enact an Ordinance that addresses the health concerns of Council and allows the moratorium to be lifted. The Ordinance regulates vaping in a manner similar to smoking to ensure that vaping does not become a method of avoiding the smoking restrictions. While this Ordinance does not address the sale of vaping products, it does restrict the use these products to areas where smoking is permissible thereby decreasing the incentive to view vaping as a safe alternative. Chuck Dinkins, Finance Director, recommended that Council approve the Ordinance to amend Chapter 42 - Environment, Article VI - Clean Indoor Air Ordinance to include regulations for Vaping.

A MOTION by Councilman Norton, seconded by Councilman Carroll, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to enact Ordinance No. 2023-6, an Ordinance to amend Chapter 42 - Environment, Article VI - Clean Indoor Air Ordinance to include regulations for Vaping, the complete text of which will be found in Ordinance Book XIV.

BIDS, CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS, AND EXPENDITURES

Consideration of a request to purchase 17 Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) with cylinders for the Valdosta Fire Department.

Fire Chief Brian Boutwell stated that the City of Valdosta Fire Department currently has 55 Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) used to supply breathable air to Firefighters in Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health (IDLH) atmospheres. The current SCBA's are 2008 edition. Newer editions have been updated with more safety restrictions that our current SCBA's do not have. Due to the newer standards, the Fire Department intends to replace the current cache of SCBA's over a three-year period. The Fire Department currently has \$127,000 in SPLOST VIII funds for FY23. The SCOTT SCBA was selected by members after wearing three different brands in the field on actual incidents while providing a warranty against defects in workmanship and materials as long as the product is owned by the original purchaser. The purchase of SCOTT SCBA's will make the transition to new SCBA's seamless due to the fact that we are currently using SCOTT. The Fire Department is requesting permission to proceed with the purchase of 17 Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) with cylinder plus one extra cylinder per unit to allow total interoperability with our SCBA inventory under State Contract (Georgia State Safety and Lab Contract 99999-SPD- SPD0000156 at \$141,576.34. The SCBA's are in compliance with National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards and

mandates for all our first responders. Due to the current economic environment, the purchase is over by \$14,576.34. Chief Brian Boutwell recommended that Council approve the purchase of 17 SCBA's with cylinder plus an extra cylinder under State Contract in the amount of \$141,576.34.

A MOTION by Councilwoman Miller-Cody, seconded by Councilman Gibbs, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to approve the purchase of 17 Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) with cylinders plus an extra cylinder under State Contract in the amount of \$141,576.34 for the Valdosta Fire Department.

Consideration of a request to approve a Contract for Professional Services for compliance with Phase III of the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) Consent Order.

Bradley Eyre, Director of Utilities, stated that the City of Valdosta entered into a Consent Order Agreement (No. EPD-WP-8904) with the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (GA EPD) in August of 2020. The City of Valdosta contracted with Barge Engineering later in 2020 to provide professional engineering services in support of complying with the Consent Order requirements. Previous Program Supports Phase I and Phase II were approved by Council and successfully completed by the Engineering Consultant. Among other tasks, this Phase III Agreement will include the following: (1) Barge will conduct bi-monthly in person work sessions with the City to review program progress and review with the I&I Action Plan schedule. (2) Barge will provide assistance to the City for the required semi-annual progress reports that are submitted to the Georgia EPD. (3) Barge will provide guidance to the City regarding timing requirements of specific projects to facilitate meeting the overall Consent Order deadline. (4) Barge will maintain a project tracking log to support the overall Consent Order rehabilitation deadline. (5) Barge will renew the annual contract with the flow monitoring vendor for the 2023 software and cellular communication contract (ADS). (6) Barge will provide support under this Agreement from the date this Contract is approved through the August 11, 2025 Consent Order deadline. Bradley Eyre, Director of Utilities, recommended that Council approve the Agreement proposal submitted by Barge Design Solutions in the amount of \$171,000.

A MOTION by Councilman Carroll, seconded by Councilman Gibbs, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to approve a Contract for Professional Services with Barge Design Solutions in the amount of \$171,000 for compliance with Phase III of the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) Consent Order.

LOCAL FUNDING AND REQUESTS

Consideration of a request to participate in the new National Opioids Settlements.

Richard Hardy, Interim City Manager, stated that the City of Valdosta is a participant, along with many other political subdivisions and public entities, in the global litigation regarding the mass manufacture and distribution of highly addictive opioids that spurred the opioid crisis in the United States. During the course of this massive litigation, certain Defendants have reached settlements. The amount of settlement proceeds and the use thereof is often dictated at the State level. Additionally, most of the funds are received by the State. Settlements have recently been reached with distributors such as Teva, Allergan, CVS, Walgreens, and Walmart. To participate in the settlement, we must authorize the Interim City Manager to execute the Participation Package. The allocation of funds is dependent upon multiple factors including the number of participants. Consequently, we do not know the settlement amount that Valdosta will receive, but the failure to participate will more than likely result in receiving nothing. Richard Hardy, Interim City Manager, stated that the City Attorney Tim Tanner is recommending that the City of Valdosta participate in the new National Opioids Settlements and to authorize the Interim City Manager to execute the Participation Package.

A MOTION by Councilman Carroll, seconded by Councilman Howard, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to approve a request to participate in the new National Opioids Settlements and authorize the Interim City Manager to execute the Participation Package.

Consideration of a request for Phase 1 Master Pump Station Improvements at the Withlacoochee Water Pollution Control Plant.

Bradley Eyre, Director of Utilities, stated that the Master Pump Stations (Remer Station and Gornto Station), constructed in 2014, pump the majority of the sewage generated in the City of Valdosta to the Withlacoochee WPCP (Water Pollution Control Plant). Since their commission, the Master Pump Stations exhibited problematic issues that have created on-going maintenance and repair issues. After initial startup of the Master Pump Stations, the City's Utilities Central Maintenance Staff noticed severe slamming of the check valves, movement in pipe headers, breaker tripping, and pipe joint failures that have led to significant sewer spills. Turnipseed Engineers was commissioned to prepare an engineering report/study after a sewage spill event happened at the Gornto lift station due to a piping joint failure. Turnipseed completed an evaluation of the Pump Stations in January, 2023 that revealed numerous shortcomings or defects and recommended significant improvements in their findings and final engineering report. The Utilities Department had budgeted \$761,000 for FY23, which was approved by Council, for the following items: (1) Remer Influent Chamber Rehab - \$150,000 (SPLOST), (2) Four Gornto Lift Stations (VFD) - \$500,000 (SPLOST), (3) Two Remer Lift Station Check Valves - \$44,000 (UF), and (4) Two Master Lift Station Check Valves - \$67,000 (UF). The proposal for these Phase I Improvements is \$799,000 which includes \$38,000 in engineering fees for consultation, coordination, and oversight that was not budgeted. Bradley Eyre, Director of Utilities, recommended that Council approve the proposal in the amount of \$799,000 for scheduled and determined improvements with the engineering consulting fees.

A MOTION by Councilman Gibbs, seconded by Councilwoman Miller-Cody, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to approve the Proposal submitted by Turnipseed Engineers in the amount of \$799,000 for Phase 1 of the Master Pump Station Improvements at the Withlacoochee Water Pollution Control Plant.

Consideration of a request to approve the purchase and transfer of real estate for the Griffin Avenue Affordable Housing Project.

Richard Hardy, Interim City Manager, stated that on May 5, 2022, the Mayor and Council passed a Resolution to authorize the expenditure of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds for the develop of affordable housing in Valdosta to assist in the provision of approximately 80 units of affordable housing on Griffin Avenue. The City committed approximately \$3,300,000 of ARPA funds to assist with acquisition and financing of the Griffin Avenue Project which will be located on tax parcels 0161A 159 and 0161A 160 as they exist now. The property will be re-platted in accordance with the proposed plat. As stated in the Resolution (No. 2022-5), the City will purchase the property and then transfer the property to the Valdosta Housing Authority pursuant to O.C.G.A. 36-37-6(e)(2)(D). The units described above will be constructed in Phase 1 of the development. Phase 2 will consist of additional development of affordable housing in the same approximate density by September 30, 2026. Even though the Resolution noted above has passed, as always, the City has to authorize the following: (1) the purchase of the subject real estate; and (2) subsequent transfer to the Valdosta Housing Authority for the development of the aforementioned affordable housing. Richard Hardy, Interim City Manager, recommended that Council authorize the purchase of the real estate for the Griffin Avenue Project and transfer to the Valdosta Housing Authority for the development of affordable housing.

A MOTION by Councilman Gibbs, seconded by Councilman Carroll, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to approve the purchase of real estate and the transfer of the property to the Valdosta Housing Authority for the Griffin Avenue Affordable Housing Project.

Consideration of a request to approve an additional 5% discount to local builders (builders based in Lowndes County or a contiguous County) for new construction only.

Chuck Dinkins, Finance Director, stated that the City of Valdosta Inspections Department provides inspections and permitting services for all of Lowndes County. This activity is housed in its own fund to track the revenues and expenses associated with this service. The revenues generated within the Inspections Fund vary significantly in conjunction with the level of activity in the local building industry. In 2014, revenues had declined to the point that the General Fund was forced to transfer \$400,000 into the Inspections Fund to maintain its fiscal integrity. By 2017, the Inspections Fund had recovered enough that the City began providing a 5% discount to local builders (defined as those builders based in Lowndes County or a contiguous County) for new construction only. Since 2017, the Inspections Fund net assets have increased although the \$400,000 has not been repaid to

General Fund. Given the current level of revenues generated by permitting and the generally positive outlook for construction activity over the short term, the City is in a position to offer an additional 5% discount (for a total of 10%) to local builders (defined as those builders based in Lowndes County or a contiguous County) for new construction only. This discount would be effective only until June 30, 2023 (the City's fiscal year end). The fees would revert to their current level on July 1, 2023 absent further Council action. Chuck Dinkins, Finance Director, recommended that Council approve the additional 5% discount to local builders (defined as those builders based in Lowndes County or a contiguous County) for new construction only.

Councilman McIntyre inquired as to how the people are going to know about this. Chuck Dinkins stated that it would only be for the builders who come in and the Permits Clerk would let them know when they apply for it on-line or over the telephone. Councilman McIntyre inquired as to whether there was any other way to have it advertised so people will know that they are getting an additional 5%. Chuck Dinkins stated that we could put it on the City's website.

Councilwoman Miller-Cody stated that people do not know about a lot of the things that Council approves because they do not go on the City's website. She inquired as to whether there was another way they could do it other than Facebook and the City's website. Chuck Dinkins stated that they would also work with the Homebuilders Association; however, social media and the website are the best tools for this. Councilman McIntyre stated that it could also be included in the flyer that comes out in the E-mail.

A MOTION by Councilman Carroll, seconded by Councilman Gibbs, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to approve the additional 5% discount to local builders (defined as those builders based in Lowndes County or a contiguous County) for new construction only until June 30, 2023.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Rannie Dean, Adel, stated that he built a house at 812 Penny Place for the purpose of transitional housing. People who come out of LAMP are frequently not able to stay on their own. He talked with the Director of LAMP in 2019 and she said that 40% of the people who leave LAMP end up being homeless again and come back to them. It is quite a bit higher than 40% now. Mr. Dean stated that he needs some land. The construction model is very similar to Habitat for Humanity. There is volunteer labor and discounted or donated material. Of the 15 people who stayed at the transitional house, one stayed for a month at no cost and two stayed for one to two months at a cost of \$100 per week. During his research in 2019, there was a motel on Ashley Street and their rate was \$150 per week and now they are at \$175 per week. His purpose is to help people get on their feet and provide transitional housing. He has done all that he can do and needs help from the Council. The Bible don't despise the days of small beginnings. He is about as small as you can get. The City has a lot of land. They have a Fire Station on a lot of acreage and the City could build a fence there and do an acre outparcel for him so he could build several houses. There are a lot of small parcels around.

Steve Freeman stated that he just moved here from West Palm Beach, Florida, and he loves Valdosta but he has some complaints. On northwest Second Avenue, there is an alley there that is First Street and there are no more houses on that property. It is used for drug trafficking at night and they are throwing trash out on the right side of the property. The City owns one of those lots and they said that nothing else could be put there. The property is becoming a trash dump. When he first moved here, he spent \$2,000 out of his own pocket to clean the alley up and then he found out that the City owns it. The alley still needs to be cleaned out. He is having problems finding out who he needs to contact at the City because the City should be responsible for cleaning the alley. He would also like to obtain signatures from the Church located nearby to have the road closed.

George Boston Rhynes, 5004 Oak Drive, stated that he is a social media guy and has been through 20 cities and others across the State of Georgia trying to make living conditions better by reporting the news that others ignore. He has been complaining for the past nine years about the Georgia State flag not being displayed in honor of members of the Armed Forces. That is a problem to him and it should be a problem to all Veterans who have served this country and being that we are home to Moody Air Force Base. He does not know if Council heard about the Coroner causing an accident on North Valdosta Road and Country Club. He was called by someone who works at the Valdosta Police Department and then he received three other calls and several E-mails when the Chief

of Police made her findings. He has been saying for years that there are so many things that do not reach the newspaper, television, or the radio stations. It is a disgrace in his opinion. Then he found out a few days ago, on the Lowndes County Board of Elections website, Valdosta and Lowndes County is what they call “the Capitol of the South.” Mr. Rhynes inquired as to whether there was a “Capitol of West Georgia, East Georgia, and North Georgia.” With not flying the Georgia State flag, he inquired as to whether there was another agenda that some of us do not know about. The American people better wake up because something is happening in this country and as a retired military Veteran, he believes that we need to stand up for the rights that are guaranteed by the Constitution, the Declaration of Independence, and the Bill of Rights.

CITY MANAGER’S REPORT

Richard Hardy, Interim City Manager, stated that the Azalea After Dark is scheduled for March 11, 2023 at Unity Park from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. There will be food trucks, music, and other entertainment.

The Bluesberry Festival will be held on Friday, April 14, 2023 from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at Unity Park and on Saturday, April 15, 2023 beginning at 12:00 p.m.

The Exchange Club will hold the Officer of the Year Event on March 16, 2023. Officer Devante Battle will be recognized at this Event.

On March 25, 2023, the Engineering Department will host a Spring Litter Clean-up at the intersection of Two Mile Branch and Berkley Drive. This will be a collaborative effort of litter clean-up hosted jointly by the WWALS Group from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

On Friday, March 10, 2023, the Neighborhood Development Department and the Valdosta Fire Department will hold a fire structure burn at 10:00 a.m. at 1108 Old Lake Park Road. This will provide a more realistic training opportunity for members of the Fire Department.

The 2023 Leadership Lowndes Class will be visiting the City of Valdosta on Thursday, March 16, 2023 for Government Day.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Matheson stated that the Azalea Festival will open tomorrow night at the Turner Center Art Park at 7:00 p.m. with Two River Station. The following morning, the Valdosta-Lowndes County Parks & Recreation Authority will hold a 5K run at 8:00 a.m. at the VECA building. At 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., the Azalea Festival will begin at Drexel Park and then at Unity Park that night, there will be a jazz singer. On Sunday, the Azalea Festival will be from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The Azalea Festival is 23 years in the making and we should be very proud of that.

Councilman Gibbs inquired as to whether the City has the State of Georgia flag flying at our buildings. Mayor Matheson stated that we do and it is also displayed in his office. Councilman Gibbs stated that the only location that is not flying the State flag is the Lowndes County Courthouse which falls under Lowndes County. The Lowndes County Commissioners need to be addressed.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Matheson entertained a motion for adjournment.

A MOTION by Councilman Carroll, seconded by Councilwoman Miller-Cody, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to adjourn the March 9, 2023 Regular Meeting of the Valdosta City Council at 6:13 p.m. to meet again in Regular Session on Thursday, March 23, 2023.