

MINUTES
MEETING OF THE VALDOSTA CITY COUNCIL
5:30 P.M., THURSDAY, MAY 11, 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, Ben Norton, and Vivian Miller-Cody. The invocation was given by Reverend J. D. Martin, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the Special Called Meeting of March 24, 2023 and the Regular Meeting of April 20, 2023 were approved by unanimous consent (7-0) of the Council.

BIDS, CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS, AND EXPENDITURES

Consideration of the appointment of a new City Manager pursuant to the terms of an Employment Agreement.

Mayor Matheson stated that on April 21, 2023, the Mayor and Council selected Richard L. Hardy as the sole finalist for the position of City Manager of the City of Valdosta. As required by O.C.G.A 50-18-72(a)(11), the City was required to disclose same fourteen (14) days prior to the final vote on Mr. Hardy's ultimate appointment. The City disclosed that Mr. Hardy was the sole finalist on Monday, April 24, 2023. As such, final action can be taken on his appointment at this time. The Employment Agreement for the new City Manager was distributed to the Mayor and Council on Monday, May 8, 2023 for their review and consideration. The Employment Agreement is very similar to the one used for the previous City Manager and complies with the City Charter. The City Attorney will be glad to answer any questions that Council may have.

A MOTION by Councilman Howard, seconded by Councilman Carroll, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to approve the appointment of the new City Manager, Richard Hardy, pursuant to the terms of the Employment Agreement.

Consideration of a request to approve a Proposal with Barge Design Solutions for the Sanitary Sewer Force Main Extension Project and Engineering and Surveying Design Documents for Baytree Road at I-75.

Bradley Eyre, Director of Utilities, stated that he gravity sewer along Buena Vista Circle on the eastern bank of Lake Sheri has in recent history (since sewer flows were redirected here after the closing of the old Withlacoochee WPCP) experienced overflows due to capacity issues and shallow manholes. Other development approval for Riverside Drive/James Road and commercial development approvals on James Road provide a need to address capacity issue. In order to mitigate the capacity and overflow issues, the Lake Sheri Sewer Improvements Project will install approximately 3,000 linear feet (LF) of new force main for the Valdosta Correctional Institute (VCI) & Highway 94 Lift Stations to re-route flow to a downstream sanitary sewer manhole and bypass this portion of the Lake Sheri gravity system. If necessary, after evaluation of the impact of the force main re-route, pump station modifications will be made to the VCI and Highway 94 Lift Stations. Additionally, approximately 600 feet of gravity sewer along Springhill Drive that is upstream of Lake Sheri will be relocated to the east and outside of the existing eroded stream banks. This Agenda Item request is for the preparation of Engineering and Surveying Documents necessary by Barge Design Solutions for the construction of this Project. Barge Design Solutions (Barge) will be responsible for the following: (1) Coordinate with a private utility locator to identify utilities within the potential alignment of the new force main and gravity main segments. (2) Perform a site visit to walk the alignment of the proposed force main. (3) Conduct land surveying to locate marked utilities, topographic features, the edge of pavement, tree lines and other above-ground features along the identified route. The survey will extend 50-feet either side of the proposed pipeline alignment. At a minimum, the items located will include those necessary for gravity sewer design and land disturbance permitting. (4) Barge will contact Georgia 811 and other

marked utilities to request additional information about the utility within the 50-foot either side project area. (5) The topographic survey will be prepared relative to NAVD 88 elevations consistent with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) mapping. (6) Barge will perform a hydraulic analysis using the existing sewer model to confirm that the proposed configuration mitigates estimated capacity issues and potential overflows. (7) In addition, the system curves for the VCI and Highway 94 pump stations will be estimated to determine if pump modifications are required for either station based on the proposed force main alignment. The pump station upgrade design is included as an additional service in the compensation section, if necessary. Bradley Eyre, Director of Utilities, recommended that Council approve the Proposal submitted by Barge Design Solutions in the amount of \$271,200.

A MOTION by Councilman Gibbs, seconded by Councilman Carroll, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to approve the Proposal submitted by Barge Design Solutions in the amount of \$271,200, for the Sanitary Sewer Force Main Extension Project and Engineering and Surveying Design Documents for Baytree Road at I-75.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES FOR THE RENAMING AND/OR CLOSING OF STREETS (FIRST READING)

Consideration of an Ordinance to amend the requirements and procedures for the renaming and/or closing of streets. (First Reading)

Ben O'Dowd, City Engineer, stated that the City of Valdosta currently has an Ordinance governing the procedure for petitioning and considering the closing or renaming of any public street or alley. This Ordinance was last amended in 2019. Prior to the amendments in 2019, the Ordinance had not been modified since 1990. Since the Ordinance revisions in 2019, the City Engineering Staff have determined that further organizational, procedural, and general housekeeping modifications are necessary to bring the Ordinance into alignment with its intent while protecting the interests of citizens who live along affected streets. The general summary of changes to the Ordinance are as follows: (1) Language was added to clarify the requirements for applicants as well as the requirements for application packages. (2) Language was added to clarify procedural interactions with multi-tenant residential and commercial facilities abutting the subject street. (3) Language was added to clarify responsibility for payment of the cost of the procedures and timing of payment of Reimbursement Fees. (4) Language was added to clarify the Departmental responsibility of distribution of petition information packets by certified mailing. (5) Language was added to clarify responsibility of redistribution of unutilized funds following petition abandonment. (6) Language was added to modify procedural timing changes to allow for better workload integration for City Engineering staff. (7) Language was added to better ensure that no interruption of essential services is experienced by residents/owners abutting an affected street. (8) Language was added to clarify the criteria for road renaming decision by City Council. (9) Language was added to clarify a petition re-application sunset period following petition abandonment or declination by City Council. (10) Language was added to bring the ordinance, specifically the portions governing road and alley closures, into alignment with the requirements of Georgia state law. This list is not an exhaustive summary of all the changes, but it is representative of the major changes to the Ordinance. Ben O'Dowd, City Engineer, stated that this is the First Reading of the Ordinance so no action will be taken tonight.

Councilman McIntyre stated that in Section 86-83, Procedure for renaming a public street or alley, (c) Notice of public hearing, Item (4), Cause a legal notice of the Public Hearing to be published in a newspaper of general circulation within the City a minimum of two (2) separate times at least ten (10) calendar days before the scheduled Public Hearing before Council, he and Councilwoman Miller-Cody think that the public needs to be duly notified as much as we possibly can. The newspaper is good and there is also mail; however, there are other platforms for advertising such as our Facebook page, the City's website, and E-mail. Councilman McIntyre inquired as to whether that can be included so as many people as possible are aware of street name changes. Ben O'Dowd, City Engineer, stated that we can supplement the required notification with additional notifications such as the ones Councilman McIntyre stated. The newspaper circulation is a common way for them to advertise for bids for potential work for the City and there is also signage that is placed there. There are minimum mandatory mailings that will be provided to the residents so there will be ample opportunity for notification. He does not see an issue with exploring other alternatives for additional notice in an effort to get the word out. Councilman

McIntyre also inquired about the abutting facilities and why the people on streets that are abutting the street to be renamed should be notified. Ben O'Dowd, City Engineer, stated that the terminology abutting refers to properties that have access along the right-of-way that would be affected. For example, abutting properties are notified because they abut the right-of-way and there is potential that they may be addressed by that road unless they have dual frontage along two different roads. All of the abutting properties would receive notification because they would be the most keenly affected by a road closure or a road renaming. All abutting parcels along the affected route would need to be notified of a potential road renaming and especially of a potential road closure. Tim Tanner, City Attorney, stated that it would catch the individuals on the street to be renamed and those on a corner lot.

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-5, A RESOLUTION TO RE-ADOPT THE URBAN REDEVELOPMENT PLAN

Consideration of a Resolution to re-adopt the Urban Redevelopment Plan.

Matt Martin, Planning Director, stated that the Urban Redevelopment Plan was drafted and adopted by the Mayor and City Council in March, 2009 and was amended April 2013. This Plan enables the City to utilize economic development tools such as Enterprise Zones and Opportunity Zones. The efforts in improving the areas in the plan are still ongoing and is actively used by the City. All requirements of the Urban Redevelopment Law (O.C.G.A. 36-61) have been met in the plan for re-adoption. The Department of Community affairs requires plans to be less than ten years old in order to qualify the points under a Revitalization Plan. The ten years expired April 11, 2023. This re-adoption is critical and required for application submittal to move forward with Phase II of the Harvest Station Project. Without this re-adoption, the application will not be accepted by DCA. If this plan is not re-adopted, then Valdosta will not receive funding under this tax credit program. The re-adoption is a Resolution of Support for the IDP Phase 2 Project. Matt Martin, Planning Director, recommended that Council approve the Resolution to re-adopt the Urban Redevelopment Plan.

A MOTION by Councilman Carroll, seconded by Councilman Norton, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to approve Resolution No. 2023-5, a Resolution to re-adopt the Urban Redevelopment Plan, the complete text of which will be found in Resolution Book VII.

LOCAL FUNDING AND REQUESTS

Consideration of a request for the Goodyear/Cherry Creek Lift Station relocation and Force Main improvements.

Bradley Eyre, Director of Utilities, stated that the existing Goodyear Sanitary Sewer Lift Station is located in a corner of the parking lot of an auto repair facility at 4119 Bemiss Road. This existing site lies in a flood zone and the Lift Station is under capacity for its service area. The City has a need to relocate and improve this Lift Station. The City owns property immediately to the north on the opposite side of Cherry Creek along Bemiss Road where the Utilities Department has plans for the Lift Station relocation. The location is of sufficient size to accommodate our standard requirements and provide better access and security. In addition, the relocated Lift Station will be upsized to accommodate the current and future growth in the immediate service area. Current and future planned projects in permitting will need to be coordinated with these Lift Station improvements due to the current capacity issues at the existing Station. The Utilities Department has requested an engineering design proposal from Turnipseed Engineers (on the City's approved consultant list) for the design work. The proposal submitted for engineering design services is estimated at \$55,250.00 based on a projected construction cost of \$650,000.00 (engineering fees are calculated at 8.5% of final construction costs). Bradley Eyre, Director of Utilities, recommended that Council approve the proposal from Turnipseed Engineers in the amount of \$55,250 for the Goodyear/Cherry Creek Lift Station relocation and Force Main improvements.

A MOTION by Councilman Norton, seconded by Councilman Carroll, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to approve the proposal from Turnipseed Engineers in the amount of \$55,250 for the Goodyear/Cherry Creek Lift Station relocation and Force Main improvements.

Consideration of a request to approve the revised American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) proposed Projects and allocation amounts.

Chuck Dinkins, Finance Director, stated that the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFR), a Part of the American Rescue Plan, delivered \$350 billion to State, Local, and Tribal Governments across the Country to support their response to and recovery from the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency. The City of Valdosta received a total allocation of \$16,254,692 from this Program. The City has expended a total of \$7,074,259.78 of these funds with \$9,180,432.22 remaining. Council discussed this Grant at the prior Retreat and provided guidance on the use of these funds. In the intervening time, these priorities have shifted and amendments have been made to the plan. Based on recent developments, additional changes to the allocation are recommended. In order to fully fund the purchase of the land and building for the new Fire Station, it will be necessary to increase the facilities line item by \$609,857.52. These funds can be reallocated from the Land Bank seed funds (\$100,000), the Savannah Avenue Train Project (\$186,665.89), the ambulance subsidy for SGMG (\$250,000), and the Second Harvest Subsidy (\$73,191.63). If the preceding adjustments are adopted, the new allocation would be as follows: (1) Griffin Avenue Housing Project - \$3,300,000, (2) City of Valdosta (Facilities, Technology, etc.) - \$1,909,858, (3) ARPA Project Manager - \$250,000, (4) Land Bank Funding (4 Years for Executive Director) - \$120,000, (5) Land Bank Authority Seed Funding - \$150,000, (6) Purchase of Properties on South Patterson & Surrounding Parcels - \$1,300,000, (7) Small Business Development - \$2,008,442, (8) Valdosta On-Demand - \$500,000, (9) Neighborhood Rehabs - Housing Rehab (Paint, Weatherization, etc.) - \$850,000, (10) Mildred Hunter Center (Lighting & Court Replacement) - \$245,000, (11) Non-Profit Allocation - \$955,000, (12) Premium Pay to Employees - \$3,214,584, (13) Savannah Avenue Train Project - \$475,000, (14) Second Harvest Assistance - \$926,808, (15) Library Subsidy - \$50,000. The total amount for the ARPA proposed Projects and allocation amounts is \$16,254,692. Chuck Dinkins, Finance Director, recommended that Council approve the revised ARPA proposed Projects and allocation amounts.

A **MOTION** by Councilman Howard, seconded by Councilman Norton, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to approve the revised ARPA proposed Projects and allocation amounts.

BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AUTHORITIES, AND ADVISORY COMMITTEES

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

Mayor Matheson stated that the Central Valdosta Development Authority/Downtown Development Authority needs to fill the unexpired term of Rhett Holmes who resigned in November of 2022. His term will expire on December 31, 2023. This appointment was advertised according to the Boards, Commissions, Authorities, and Advisory Committees Policy that was adopted by Mayor and Council. The applicants are as follows: (1) Tiffany Bentley - Self-Employed, Downtown Social, (2) Joshua Hunt - City Marshal, City of Valdosta, (3) Jordan Klaus - Director of Operations, Miller Hardware Company, and (4) Elissa Noyes - Attorney and Registered Nurse.

Mayor Matheson entertained nominations from Council for an appointment to the Central Valdosta Development Authority/Downtown Development Authority.

Councilman Gibbs placed into consideration Jordan Klaus. Councilwoman Tooley placed into consideration Joshua Hunt. There being no other nominations, Mayor Matheson closed nominations. Jordan Klaus received three votes and Joshua Hunt received four votes. Joshua Hunt was appointed to fill the unexpired term of Rhett Holmes on the Central Valdosta Development Authority/Downtown Development Authority which will expire on December 31, 2023.

Consideration of an appointment to the Greater Lowndes Planning Commission.

Mayor Matheson stated that the Greater Lowndes Planning Commission has a member, Calvin Graham, Sr. whose term will expire on July 6, 2023. Mr. Graham has expressed an interest in being reappointed. This appointment was advertised according to the Boards, Commissions, Authorities, and Advisory Committees Policy

that was adopted by Mayor and Council. The applicants are as follows: (1) Calvin Graham, Sr. - Retired, Military and Department of Defense, and (2) James Miller- Consultant.

Mayor Matheson entertained nominations from Council for an appointment to the Greater Lowndes Planning Commission.

Councilman Howard placed into consideration James Miller. There being no other nominations, Mayor Matheson closed nominations.

Mayor Matheson stated that if Council had no objections, James Miller will be appointed by acclamation to serve a term of five years on the Greater Lowndes Planning Commission. There were no objections from Council.

Consideration of appointments to the Valdosta Historic Preservation Commission.

Mayor Matheson stated that the Valdosta Historic Preservation Commission has two members, Tommy Crane and Harry Hamm, whose terms expired on February 13, 2023. Mr. Crane and Mr. Hamm have expressed an interest in being reappointed. This appointment was advertised according to the Boards, Commissions, Authorities, and Advisory Committees Policy that was adopted by Mayor and Council. The applicants are as follows: (1) Tommy Crane - Professor, Valdosta State University, and (2) Harry Hamm - Executive Director, Lowndes Advocacy Resource Center (LARC).

Mayor Matheson stated that if Council had no objections, Tommy Crane and Harry Hamm will be appointed by acclamation to serve a term of three years on the Valdosta Historic Preservation Commission. There were no objections from Council.

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

Mayor Matheson stated that the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Citizens Advisory Committee has a vacant position due to the resignation of Vanassa Ross. This position serves at will. This appointment was advertised according to the Boards, Commissions, Authorities, and Advisory Committees Policy that was adopted by Mayor and Council. The only applicant to apply was Deborah White (Retired).

Mayor Matheson stated that if Council had no objections, Deborah White will be appointed by acclamation to serve at will on the Valdosta-Lowndes County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Citizens Advisory Committee. There were no objections from Council.

Consideration of appointments to the Public Art Advisory Committee.

Mayor Matheson stated that the Public Art Advisory Committee has three members, Robin Fretti (LVAC Member At Large), Cheryl Oliver (Community At Large), and Angela Crance (Community At Large) whose terms will expire on June 1, 2023. Cheryl Oliver had expressed an interest in being reappointed and Robin Fretti and Angela Crance have not expressed an interest in being reappointed. These appointments were advertised according to the Boards, Commissions, Authorities, and Advisory Committees Policy that was adopted by Mayor and Council. The applicants are as follows: Position #1 (LVAC Member At Large) - John Steven Lahr - Retired Professor Emeritus, Valdosta State University Fine Arts Department, Position #2 (Community At Large) - Annette Crobby - Artist and Moniker Meler - Art & Design Department Head, Valdosta State University, and Position #3 (LVAC Member At Large) - Cheryl Oliver - Retired Executive Director of the Turner Center for the Arts.

Mayor Matheson stated that if Council had no objections, for Position #1 (LVAC Member At Large), Dr. John Steven Lahr would be appointed by acclamation to serve a three year term on the Public Art Advisory Committee. There were no objections from Council.

Mayor Matheson entertained nominations from Council for Position #2 (Community At Large).

Councilman Carroll placed into consideration Annette Crosby. There being no other nominations, Mayor Matheson closed nominations.

Mayor Matheson stated that if Council had no objections, for Position #2 (Community At Large), Annette Crosby will be appointed by acclamation to serve a three year term on the Public Art Advisory Committee. There were no objections from Council.

Mayor Matheson entertained nominations from Council for Position #3 (Community At Large).

Councilman Carroll placed into consideration Cheryl Oliver. There being no other nominations, Mayor Matheson closed nominations.

Mayor Matheson stated that if Council had no objections, for Position #3 (Community At Large), Cheryl Oliver will be re-appointed by acclamation to serve a three year term on the Public Art Advisory Committee. There were no objections from Council.

Consideration of an appointment to the Valdosta Housing Authority (Resident Appointment).

Mayor Matheson stated that the Valdosta Housing Authority has a Resident Member, DeShonda Jenkins, whose term will expire on July 1, 2023. Ms. Jenkins has expressed an interest in serving again. This appointment was advertised according to the Boards, Commissions, Authorities, and Advisory Committees Policy that was adopted by Mayor and Council. The only applicant applying for this position was DeShonda Jenkins. Mayor Matheson stated that he will make this appointment and he appointed DeShonda Jenkins as the Resident Appointment to the Valdosta Housing Authority to serve a one year term.

Consideration of an appointment to the Valdosta Housing Board of Adjustments and Appeals.

Mayor Matheson stated that the Valdosta Housing Board of Adjustments and Appeals has three vacant positions and two members, Carlton Richard and Camryn Brown, whose terms will expire on August 7, 2023. Neither Mr. Richard nor Ms. Brown have expressed an interest in being reappointed. These appointments were advertised according to the Boards, Commissions, Authorities, and Advisory Committees Policy that was adopted by Mayor and Council. The only applicant to apply was Deborah White (Retired).

Mayor Matheson stated that if Council had no objections, Deborah White will be appointed by acclamation to serve a three year term on the Valdosta Housing Board of Adjustments and Appeals. There were no objections from Council.

Consideration of an appointment to the Valdosta-Lowndes County Airport Authority.

Mayor Matheson stated that the Valdosta-Lowndes County Airport Authority has one member, Lee Turner, whose term will expire on May 21, 2023. Mr. Turner has expressed an interest in being reappointed. This appointment was advertised according to the Boards, Commissions, Authorities, and Advisory Committees Policy that was adopted by Mayor and Council. Mr. Turner (Retired Small IT Business Owner, and Retired Military Air Traffic Controller) was the only applicant to apply.

Mayor Matheson stated that if Council had no objections, Lee Turner will be re-appointed by acclamation to serve a four year term on the Valdosta-Lowndes County Airport Authority. There were no objections from Council.

Consideration of an appointment to the Valdosta-Lowndes County Construction Board of Adjustments & Appeals.

Mayor Matheson stated that the Valdosta-Lowndes County Construction Board of Adjustments and Appeals has a member, Michael G. Miller, whose term will expire on June 30, 2023. Mr. Miller has expressed an

interest in being reappointed. This appointment was advertised according to the Boards, Commissions, Authorities, and Advisory Committees Policy that was adopted by Mayor and Council. Mr. Miller was the only applicant to apply.

Mayor Matheson stated that if Council had no objections, Michael G. Miller will be re-appointed by acclamation to serve a three year term on the Valdosta-Lowndes County Construction Board of Adjustments & Appeals. There were no objections from Council.

Consideration of appointments to the Valdosta-Lowndes County Parks and Recreation Authority.

Mayor Matheson stated that the Valdosta-Lowndes County Parks and Recreation Authority has one vacant slot and one member, Cisco Diaz (Rotating Member), whose terms will expire on June 30, 2023. Mr. Diaz has not expressed an interest in being reappointed. These appointments were advertised according to the Boards, Commissions, Authorities, and Advisory Committees Policy that was adopted by Mayor and Council. The applicants are as follows: (1) Timothy McCoppin, Operations & IT Manager (Automotive Transfers, Inc., and (2) Reginald Mitchell - Athletic Director (Valdosta City Schools).

Mayor Matheson entertained nominations from Council for appointments to Valdosta-Lowndes County Parks and Recreation Authority.

Councilman McIntyre placed into consideration Reginald Mitchell for the vacant slot. There being no other nominations, Mayor Matheson closed nominations.

Mayor Matheson stated that if Council had no objections, Reginald Mitchell will be appointed by acclamation to fill the vacant slot and Timothy McCoppin will fill the Rotating slot for a term of three years on the Valdosta-Lowndes County Parks and Recreation Authority. There were no objections from Council.

Consideration of an appointment to the Valdosta-Lowndes County Zoning Board of Adjustments & Appeals.

Mayor Matheson stated that the Valdosta-Lowndes County Zoning Board of Appeals has a member, Allan Strickland, whose term will expire on May 7, 2023. Mr. Strickland has expressed an interest in being reappointed. This appointment was advertised according to the Boards, Commissions, Authorities, and Advisory Committees Policy that was adopted by Mayor and Council. The only applicant to apply for this position was Allan Strickland, Owner of General Rental.

Mayor Matheson stated that if Council had no objections, Allan Strickland will be re-appointed by acclamation to serve a three year term on the Valdosta-Lowndes County Zoning Board. There were no objections from Council.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

There were no citizens to be heard.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Richard Hardy, City Manager, thanked everyone for having the confidence in his abilities to take this position. He appreciated the entire selection process and Council's support in selecting him as the City Manager. He also wanted to thank the Department Heads and the Leadership Team. During the past three months, they have done an amazing job keeping the City functioning while taking care of the needs of the citizens. He thanked the two Clerks, Teresa Bolden and Bryan Tillman, for their patience as they have kept him on track with the many appointments, phone messages, and phone calls. To all of the City employees, he has enjoyed working with each and every one of you because of the difference that you make and your dedication to serve the City and our great citizens. He thanked Catherine Ammons, Deputy City Manager of Administration, for her partnership and

friendship as they have worked together to solve many of the unknowns that they encounter daily. He would not be here tonight without her support and assistance. To his wife Terri and his children, Rikki and Matt, he thanked them for their support and understanding as he responds to the daily demands of this position. To all citizens of Valdosta, he thanked them for their support and he looks forward to serving this great community.

Richard Hardy, City Manager, stated that he also wanted to recognize Councilwoman Vivian Miller-Cody for receiving her Master's Degree in Adult Career Education on May 5, 2023 from Valdosta State University.

Richard Hardy, City Manager, stated that there are a lot of events going on this weekend throughout the City. Downtown will host a "Build a Bouquet" for Mother's Day on Saturday, May 13, 2023 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. This is an interactive event with the merchants which will result in a gorgeous floral arrangement for Mothers. You will need to spend a minimum of \$30 with one of the participating Downtown merchants and then bring your receipt to the Main Street table located on the Courthouse Square for validation. You can then collect a flower from all of the participating merchants.

Other events include the Scrap Tire Recycling Event which is hosted one time a period with Lowndes County and the other with the City of Valdosta. Lowndes County will be holding it this time at their Public Works facility from May 8-19, 2023.

On Friday, May 12, 2023, the Great Promise Partnership will hold a graduation in the City Hall Annex Building in the Multi-Purpose Room at 12:30 p.m. Also, on May 12, 2023, at 5:30 p.m., there will be a National Historic Month Proclamation event at the Roberts House on 206 Wells Street.

On Saturday, May 13, 2023, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., there will be a Maker's Market at the Courthouse Square.

Finally, on May 15, 2023, the City Government 101 Class will hold its graduation at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers. There were 18 citizens who participated in the City Government 101 Class this year.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Matheson stated that he wanted to remember the passing of two fantastic men, Officer Griffin and his dear friend Dick Rockey. The City is less without them.

Councilwoman Miller-Cody stated that tomorrow is Councilwoman Sandra Tooley's birthday and wished her Happy Birthday!

Councilman Carroll stated that to make it official, he is announcing his plans to run for re-election for City Council District 5.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Matheson entertained a motion for adjournment.

A MOTION by Councilman Carroll, seconded by Councilman Norton, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to adjourn the May 11, 2023 Regular Meeting of the Valdosta City Council at 6:04 p.m. to meet again in Regular Session on Thursday, May 25, 2023.

City Clerk, City of Valdosta

Mayor, City of Valdosta