

**MINUTES
MEETING OF THE VALDOSTA CITY COUNCIL
5:30 P.M., THURSDAY, AUGUST 24, 2023
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL**

OPENING CEREMONIES

Mayor Pro Tem Eric Howard 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, Tim Carroll, Ben Norton, and Vivian Miller-Cody. Mayor Scott James Matheson was absent. The invocation was given by Rueben Benjamin, Lighthouse Christian Church in Lake Park, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag which was led by Boy Scout Joseph Bell with the Hahira Methodist Church Boy Scout Troop 440.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 10, 2023 were approved by unanimous consent (6-0) of the Council.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-24, AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH THE 2023 MILLAGE RATE FOR THE CITY OF VALDOSTA

Consideration of an Ordinance to establish the 2023 Millage Rate for the City of Valdosta.

Richard Hardy, City Manager, stated that the City of Valdosta has a history of maintaining a conservative millage rate. The City adopts a Budget each year that avoids relying on significant increases in the digest in order to minimize the need for millage rate increases. The current millage rate is 7.796. The computed rollback rate is 6.947. The proposed millage rate is 6.947, the “rollback” rate. Georgia law, under the Taxpayer Bill of Rights, established a formal mechanism that calculates the rollback millage rate for local governments. The rollback information is provided by the Lowndes County Tax Commissioner's Office to the City with the calculation already determined. The current digest experienced 15.9% total growth and 3.3% real growth from last year. This should generate adequate revenues to fund the FY24 Budget at the rollback rate. The information the City received from the Lowndes County Tax Commissioners Office shows an overall increase in the City's net tax digest of \$258,777,933 or 15.9%. The increase is largely attributable to reassessments of real property totaling \$205,433,736 and growth in personal property of \$87,531,815 which is partially offset by an increase in exemptions of \$36,649,743. Total exemptions on the digest amount to \$273,909,098. The largest category is freeport inventory at \$205,339,174 followed by senior citizen exemptions at \$25,136,721, standard homestead exemptions at \$22,362,693, and disabled veterans at \$19,156,318 with the balance of \$1,914,192 scattered across all remaining categories. Real changes across all categories before exemptions in the digest was a net increase of \$89,993,940, but this increase was partially offset by the \$36,649,743 increase in exemptions noted above. \$87,531,815 of this net increase is from personal property other than motor vehicles. The continued decrease in motor vehicle value (\$282,760) is the result of the Title Ad Valorem Tax (TAVT) that the State enacted several years back. The Title Ad Valorem Tax Fee provides for an exemption from sales tax on a motor vehicle purchase and the purchaser is also exempt from the annual ad valorem tax or “birthday” tax. The presence of approximately \$205 million in reassessments produces a rollback millage rate as calculated under Georgia law by the Tax Commissioner's office of 6.947 which will fund the Budget adopted for FY 24 assuming a reasonable collection rate. An additional item of concern is that real property increased by only \$2,854,300 or 0.21%. This means that most of the real growth is in personal property and, therefore, may be transitory in nature. A Five-Year History of millage rates must be published one week prior to the adoption of the new rate. This ad appeared in the Valdosta Daily Times on August 16, 2023. An Ordinance has been prepared with the millage rate of 6.947 which is the rollback rate. Additionally, the Millage Rate Ordinance includes the assessment of 5 mills for property located in the Central Valdosta Development area. This is for the continued maintenance and operation of the Central Valdosta area and must be approved by Mayor and Council. Lastly, Mayor and Council must also approve the millage set by the Valdosta City School System. They met on August 22, 2023 to adopt the rollback rate of 14.068 mills. Richard Hardy, City Manager, recommended that Council approve the Ordinance to adopt the new tax millage rate of 6.947, 5 additional mills for property located in the Central Valdosta Development area, and 14.068 mills set by the Valdosta City School System.

A **MOTION** by Councilman Carroll, seconded by Councilman Gibbs, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to enact Ordinance No. 2023-24, an Ordinance to adopt the new tax millage rate of 6.947, 5 additional mills for property located in the Central Valdosta Development area, and 14.068 mills set by the Valdosta City School System, the complete text of which will be found in Ordinance Book XIV.

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-10, A RESOLUTION FOR THE PRIVATE SALE OF MATHIS CITY AUDITORIUM AT A NEGOTIATED PRICE

Consideration of a Resolution for the private sale of Mathis City Auditorium at a negotiated price.

Richard Hardy, City Manager, stated that the City of Valdosta owns Mathis City Auditorium. Mathis is a multi-purpose civic facility with auditorium having a total gross building area of 31,197 sq. ft. The parcel of land which is 6.975 acres in size and is located at 2300 North Ashley Street in Valdosta. Mathis Auditorium is over 55 years old, outdated, and is an antiquated facility that cannot meet present or future needs and must be replaced. South Georgia Medical Center (SGMC) has a need for future growth and economic development as they are the largest non-government employer in Valdosta and planned expansion will provide a full campus for future growth. On May 17, 2023, Almand & Co., LLC, conducted an inspection and appraisal of Mathis City Auditorium located at 2300 North Ashley Street to determine the property value. The appraisal stated the value of the property and building is \$2,500,000. The City has been working with the SGMC Hospital Staff and Board of Directors to secure ownership of the land and structure from the City at the negotiated fee of \$2,550,000. The City does not have an Ordinance but there is a provision in the Charter, Section 9.12, that states the following: "When the Mayor and Council propose to dispose of real property by private sale, it shall in its regular Council Meeting adopt a Resolution or order authorizing an appropriate City Official to dispose of the property by private sale at a negotiated price. The Resolution or order shall identify the real property to be sold but need not specify a minimum price. The Resolution or order shall also be published once after its adoption and no sale shall be consummated until ten days after its publication." A Resolution has been prepared authorizing the City Manager to sell the property. If approved, the City Clerk will then advertise one time in the local newspaper. After a ten-day waiting period, the City Manager will then proceed with the sale of the property. Richard Hardy, City Manager, recommended that Council approve the Resolution for the private sale of Mathis Auditorium.

A **MOTION** was made by Councilman Norton to approve a Resolution for the private sale of Mathis City Auditorium at a negotiated price. Councilman Gibbs seconded the motion. Councilwoman Miller-Cody stated that she wanted to make sure that we were going to advertise this to give everyone a chance to purchase the property if they want to go higher and we could negotiate with them. Richard Hardy, City Manager, stated that we have already negotiated the price and the Hospital has agreed with the price. Once the Resolution has been advertised and ten days has passed, then the City can proceed with the sale of Mathis Auditorium. The motion was unanimously adopted (6-0) to enact Resolution No. 2023-10, the complete text of which will be found in Resolution Book VII.

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-11, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF A CONTRACT WITH THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (GDOT) TO PROCEED WITH THE DESIGN OF A NEW GENERAL AVIATION TERMINAL AND DESIGN OF RECONFIGURING GENERAL AVIATION PARKING

Consideration of a request from the Valdosta-Lowndes County Airport Authority to approve a Resolution authorizing acceptance of a Contract with the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) to proceed with the design of a new General Aviation Terminal and design of Reconfiguring General Aviation Parking.

Richard Hardy, City Manager, stated that the Valdosta-Lowndes County Airport Authority desires to proceed with the with design of a new General Aviation Terminal and design of Reconfiguring General Aviation Parking at the Valdosta Regional Airport. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has offered to fund 90% of the allowable costs at the Valdosta Regional Airport which is approximately 78% of the total. There are portions of the General Aviation Terminal that are not eligible for Airport Improvement Program Grant Funding such as exclusive use office space. This space makes up the difference in the percentage amount. There will be no City of Valdosta funds required for these Projects. The remaining amount will be funded partially by the Airport Authority

and from SPLOST VIII funds through Lowndes County. The Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) is preparing a Contract to match 5% of Federal Grant Funds for these Projects in an amount not expected to exceed \$35,000. The Contract will be delivered to City Hall. The Contract must be executed in an expeditious manner and returned to GDOT. A Resolution has been prepared authorizing Mayor Scott Matheson to accept the Contract in order to process the document. Richard Hardy, City Manager, recommended that approve the Resolution authorizing the Mayor to accept the Contract from the Georgia Department of Transportation for the Airport Projects.

A MOTION by Councilman Gibbs, seconded by Councilman McIntyre, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to enact Resolution No. 2023-11, a Resolution authorizing acceptance of a Contract with the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) to proceed with the design of a new General Aviation Terminal and design of Reconfiguring General Aviation Parking at the Valdosta Regional Airport, the complete text of which will be found in Resolution Book VII.

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-12, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF A CONTRACT WITH THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (GDOT) TO PROCEED WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL TOWER

Consideration of a request from the Valdosta-Lowndes County Airport Authority to approve a Resolution authorizing the acceptance of a Contract from the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) to proceed with the construction of a new Air Traffic Control Tower.

Richard Hardy, City Manager, stated that the Valdosta-Lowndes County Airport Authority desires to proceed with the with construction of a new Air Traffic Control Tower. There are various sources of funding for this Project that include Transportation Investment Act funds, Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funds, Airport Authority funds, and Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) funds. GDOT has offered limited participation in the amount of \$500,000. There will be no City of Valdosta funds required for this Project. GDOT is preparing a Contract in the amount of \$500,000 to partially fund construction of the new Air Traffic Control Tower. The Contract will be delivered to City Hall. The Contract must be executed in an expeditious manner and returned to GDOT. A Resolution has been prepared authorizing Mayor Scott James Matheson to accept the Contract in order to process the document. Richard Hardy, City Manager, recommended that Council approve the Resolution authorizing the Mayor to accept the Contract from the Georgia Department of Transportation for the new Air Traffic Control Tower at the Valdosta Regional Airport.

A MOTION by Councilman McIntyre, seconded by Councilman Carroll, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to enact Resolution No. 2023-12, a Resolution authorizing acceptance of a Contract with the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) to proceed with the construction of a new Air Traffic Control Tower at the Valdosta Regional Airport, the complete text of which will be found in Resolution Book VII.

BIDS, CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS, AND EXPENDITURES

Consideration of bids for the Baytree Road and Gornto Road Intersection and Signal Improvements Project.

Ben O'Dowd, City Engineer, stated that in August of 2020, the City entered into a Transportation Investment Act Project Agreement with the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT). Through this Agreement, the City selected to locally deliver the design and construction for three projects including the Baytree Road at Gornto Road Intersection and Signal Improvements. The total Project Budget was established at \$2,734,000. Design by a Consultant and right-of-way acquisition by City Staff were completed in May, 2023 with a cost of less than \$250,000. The Construction Project was advertised in June, 2023 on the City website, in the local newspaper, and on the Georgia Procurement Registry website. The pre-bid meeting was held on June 14, 2023 with two contractors attending. Bids were opened June 28, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. with only one bid received. The bid is considered both responsive and responsible. The single, low bid was submitted by Reames and Son Construction Company, Inc. with a total \$1,162,952.00. Adding a 10% contingency (\$116,295.20) for unknown field conditions would bring the total Project cost to \$1,279,247.20. This cost is within the remaining Budget of the Project. Ben O'Dowd, City Engineer, recommended that Council approve the bid submitted by Reames and Son

Construction Company, Inc. in the amount of \$1,162,952.00 plus a 10% contingency (\$116,295.20) for a total Project cost of \$1,279,247.20.

A MOTION by Councilman Gibbs, seconded by Councilman Carroll, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to approve the bid submitted by Reames and Son Construction Company, Inc. in the amount of \$1,162,952.00 plus a 10% contingency (\$116,295.20) for a total Project cost of \$1,279,247.20 for the Baytree Road and Gornto Road Intersection and Signal Improvements Project.

Consideration of bids for new lighting at the Valdosta-Lowndes County Parks & Recreation Authority Main Office Gymnasium.

Richard Hardy, City Manager, stated that the current lighting system at the Valdosta-Lowndes County Parks and Recreation Authority (VLPRA) Main Office Gymnasium located at 1901 Barack Obama Boulevard is 15 years old and is need of updating to accommodate the current level of league and tournament play. The Gymnasium at the VLPRA Main Office on Barack Obama Boulevard is in need of new lighting to improve tournament play and reduce energy and repair costs. The VLPRA has obtained a quote for new LED lighting from Musco Sports Lighting in the amount of \$32,000. The quote was obtained under a SourceWell contract (041123-MLS). It includes equipment, design, and layout of the system, and a 10-year warranty with on-site labor. The cost of the system will be partially covered by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) allocation to the VLPRA and the balance will come from SPLOST VIII. Council allocated \$245,000 from ARPA to cover the basketball court floor at Mildred Hunter Center as well as the lighting for the Gymnasium at the Main Office. The basketball court floors were approved at the August 10, 2023 City Council Meeting in the amount of \$225,250 leaving \$19,750 to cover the lighting system. This means that \$12,250 will need to come from SPLOST VIII. Richard Hardy, City Manager, recommended that Council approve the Musco Sports Lighting quote in the amount of \$32,000 with \$19,750 funded from ARPA and the balance of \$12,250 funded from SPLOST VIII.

Councilwoman Tooley stated that it was her understanding that the funding was going to be used for the lighting at the Mildred Hunter Center. They were going to take \$11,000 or \$12,000 that was left from the Mildred Hunter Basketball Court Project and use it for lighting at the Mildred Hunter Center. Maybe she misunderstood but they talked about it and they said they needed more money for the lighting. They were specifically letting us know that lighting was not included in that but we had a certain amount left over from the ARPA funding. Mayor Pro Tem Howard stated that they voted on that at the last Council Meeting. They voted on the flooring and the remaining money would be going toward lighting for the Administrative Building. Councilwoman Tooley stated that she did not hear Administrative Building and she thought she heard Mildred Hunter. Councilwoman Miller-Cody stated that was not what she voted for. They voted for that money to go to the Mildred Hunter Center because George Page and Andre Newsome talked about it. That was not the presentation that was given to them.

Councilman Gibbs inquired as to whether they replaced the lighting at the Mildred Hunter Center a few years ago with Musco Lighting. Richard Hardy, City Manager, stated that was correct. Councilman Gibbs stated that was why they earmarked some of this money left over from replacing the floor to go to the Administrative Building because their lighting has not been updated with the Musco Lighting. Richard Hardy stated that was correct and the lighting at Mildred Hunter is approximately three years old and during the allocation of ARPA, there was money allocated to Mildred Hunter for the floors and the remaining would be set aside for lighting at the Main Office. Councilwoman Tooley inquired as to whether there was a warranty on the lighting at the Mildred Hunter Center because this is not working. It was stated that the lighting was replaced three years ago but it is not working so that is why she wanted to know if there was a warranty on it or if anyone was trying to check on that. There was a request for lighting at Mildred Hunter Center and that is why she is asking about this. Richard Hardy, City Manager, stated that he would check with the Parks & Recreation Authority and then they can go from there. Councilman Gibbs stated that Musco does a lot of work for them and they did Freedom Park, the Miracle League, and the Soccer Complex. Maybe when they are here they can check to see if the lighting is producing what is needed. It may be a matter of just changing out a few bulbs. Councilwoman Tooley stated that since there is such a discrepancy with this that she was going to make a motion to table this request until they get it straight.

A MOTION was made by Councilwoman Tooley to table the request for bids for new lighting at the Valdosta-Lowndes County Parks & Recreation Authority Main Office Gymnasium until the next Council Meeting. Councilwoman Miller-Cody seconded the motion. Mayor Pro Tem Howard asked City Clerk Teresa Bolden if she

had a copy of the Minutes from the last Council Meeting where they voted on it. Councilwoman Miller-Cody stated that she was not disagreeing but she misunderstood when they did the presentation at the last Council Meeting about the floors. George Page stood there and said the remaining funds would be used to do the lighting at the Mildred Hunter. That is why she was all in for getting this done because they wanted the Mildred Hunter Center to have better lighting. Never would she have voted to do the Gymnasium when Parks & Recreation gets so many funds and they have enough funds to supply there needs automatically without always taking from the disadvantaged area. Mayor Pro Tem Howard stated that in the Minutes that they had. Councilwoman Miller-Cody stated that all she said was that she misunderstood it and she did not disagree. Councilwoman Tooley stated that she did talk to them and asked where else they could get some funding to help with the rest of the money for the lighting. She just wanted to clear it up. She was not against it but just wanted to clear it up. She would like to have a little more conversation with them about it. Mayor Pro Tem Howard stated that they are tabling this and inquired about tabling this until they come back and do what. Councilwoman Tooley stated that they are tabling it until the next Council Meeting and they would have more time to talk to them and clear it up. The motion was tied (3-3) with Councilman Gibbs, Councilman Norton, and Councilman Carroll voting in opposition. Mayor Pro Tem Howard broke the tie and voted in favor of tabling the request until the next Regular Council Meeting.

LOCAL FUNDING AND REQUESTS

Consideration of a request to purchase two Sodium Hypochlorite Cell Assemblies for the City of Valdosta Water Treatment Plant Disinfection System.

Jason Barnes, Assistant Utilities Director, stated that a Clor-Tec Onsite Hypochlorite Generation System was installed at the Water Plant in 2007 as part of the Plant's upgrade Project. The system consists of two hypochlorite generators that generate a sodium hypochlorite disinfection solution. Sodium hypochlorite is added to the City's water for final disinfection and to provide the required disinfection residual in the water distribution system. The main components of each generator are two hypochlorite cell assemblies, which have a five to seven year operational life expectancy. The cell assemblies were replaced for one of the two generators approximately 2017. Due to their age and current state of operational wear, the two cell assemblies need to be replaced for the second hypochlorite generator. The generator is losing its efficiency and will lose its ability to produce sodium hypochlorite if the cells fail. De Nora Water Technologies is the sole manufacturer of the Clor-Tec Hypochlorite System and the sole provider for parts and services. Jason Barnes, Assistant Utilities Director, recommended that Council approve the purchase of the two cell assemblies in the amount of \$186,105.40 plus shipping from the sole source manufacturer De Nora Water Technologies for the City of Valdosta Water Treatment Plant Disinfection System.

A MOTION by Councilman Norton, seconded by Councilwoman Miller-Cody, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to approve the purchase of the two cell assemblies in the amount of \$186,105.40 plus shipping from the sole source manufacturer De Nora Water Technologies for the City of Valdosta Water Treatment Plant Disinfection System.

Consideration of a request to approve an Engineering Proposal for Phase 2 of the new Water Treatment Plant.

Jason Barnes, Assistant Utilities Director, stated that CDM Smith, Consultant, assisted the City in 2021 to apply and receive Georgia American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding for a new Water Treatment Plant (WTP II). In early 2023, Phase 1 (Test Well) was completed, and the City has acquired a new property for the Project site. Under Phase 2, the Consultant will provide professional engineering services for the Project to include conceptual design, preliminary design, final design, opinion of probable construction cost, permitting support, assistance during bidding services, engineering services during construction, and start-up support. This Project is the overall alternative water supply program under the secured State Fiscal Recovery Funds for Phase 2 across the next 36 months. The Project will need to be designed, permitted, and awarded to a General Contractor by September 30, 2023 and completed by October 31, 2026. Jason Barnes, Assistant Utilities Director, recommended that Council approve the Proposal submitted by CDM Smith in the amount of \$2,030,096 for Phase 2 of the new Water Treatment Plant.

A **MOTION** by Councilman McIntyre, seconded by Councilwoman Miller-Cody, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to approve the Proposal submitted by CDM Smith in the amount of \$2,030,096 for Phase 2 of the new Water Treatment Plant.

Consideration of a request for Sunday Voting dates for the City of Valdosta 2023 Municipal Election.

Richard Hardy, City Manager, stated that the City of Valdosta has contracted with the Lowndes County Board of Elections for the 2023 Municipal Election which will be held on Tuesday, November 7, 2023. The City of Valdosta City Manager has received several requests from various organizations in our community requesting that the City add two Sundays during the Advanced/Early Voting period. The two dates would be Sunday, October 22, 2023 and Sunday, October 29, 2023. The City Attorney reviewed the applicable law which provides as follows: OCGA 21-2-385 (d) . Voting by absentee electors; penalties, (d)(1) There shall be a period of advance voting that shall commence: (A) On the fourth Monday immediately prior to each primary or election; and (B) As soon as possible prior to a runoff from any general primary or election but no later than the second Monday immediately prior to such runoff and shall end on the Friday immediately prior to each primary, election, or runoff. Voting shall be conducted beginning at 9:00 A.M. and ending at 5:00 P.M. on weekdays, other than observed state holidays, during such period and shall be conducted on the second and third Saturdays during the hours of 9:00 A.M. through 5:00 P.M. and, if the registrar or absentee ballot clerk so chooses, the second Sunday, the third Sunday, or both the second and third Sundays prior to a primary or election during hours determined by the registrar or absentee ballot clerk, but no longer than 7:00 A.M. through 7:00 P.M.; provided, however, that, if such second Saturday is a public and legal holiday pursuant to Code Section 1-4-1 if such second Saturday follows a public and legal holiday occurring on the Thursday or Friday immediately preceding such second Saturday, or if such second Saturday immediately precedes a public and legal holiday occurring on the following Sunday or Monday, such advance voting shall not be held on such second Saturday but shall be held on the third Saturday prior to such primary or election beginning at 9:00 A.M. and ending at 5:00 P.M. Except as otherwise provided in this paragraph, the registrars may extend the hours for voting to permit advance voting from 7:00 A.M. until 7:00 P.M. and may provide for additional voting locations pursuant to Code Section 21-2-382 to suit the needs of the electors of the jurisdiction at their option; provided, however, that voting shall occur only on the days specified in this paragraph and counties and municipalities shall not be authorized to conduct advance voting on any other days. The Registrar for the Lowndes County Board of Elections was contacted about the possibility of adding the two dates for Sunday Voting. After checking the legalities and dates for advertisements, those dates were deemed good. The hours of Sunday Voting would be from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Lowndes County Board of Elections Office. Although it is within the purview of the Registrar per the statute, she has since asked for some direction from the City since there are four possible options.

Councilman Gibbs stated that we need to keep in mind that we have 17 days of early voting with two on them on Saturdays. The last week of voting which ends on November 3, 2023 which is four days before we vote on the final day, that whole week is from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. which are 12-hour days. He inquired as to whether it was necessary to have a Sunday vote when they have so much time and days available in the early voting and extending the last week from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Is it really necessary to throw in a 5-hour day on a Sunday? Sometimes people cannot get off of work or they work a 10-hour day or whatever the case may be; however, that is why the last week has 12-hour days and 2 Saturdays as well.

A **MOTION** was made by Councilman Miller-Cody to approve Sunday, October 22, 2023 from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. as an additional voting date for the upcoming Municipal Election in November of 2023. Councilwoman Tooley seconded the motion. The motion was adopted 4-2 with Councilman Norton and Councilman Gibbs voting in opposition.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

There were no citizens to be heard.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Richard Hardy, City Manager, stated that from August 29, 2023 to October 24, 2023, the Citizens Fire Academy will be held every Tuesday at the Valdosta Fire Department Training facility from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

On September 1, 2023, there will be the First Friday After Five in Downtown Valdosta. On September 8, 2023 at 9:00 a.m., the Doors to Freedom Unveiling will be held outside of City Hall. Invitations are being sent out and citizens are encouraged to attend. On September 9, 2023, the annual 9/11 5K Run will be held in Downtown Valdosta beginning at 7:00 a.m. with registration. On September 11, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. the 9/11 Memorial Ceremony with Lowndes County will take place at the Historic Lowndes County Courthouse. On September 14, 2023 through November 2, 2023, the Citizens Police Academy will take place every Thursday from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Valdosta Police Department. On September 20, 2023, the Valdosta State University Family Fun Night will take place at Unity Park from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Miller-Cody stated that Mayor Pro Tem Howard did an excellent job filling in for the Mayor today at the Council Meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Matheson entertained a motion for adjournment.

A MOTION by Councilman Carroll, seconded by Councilman Norton, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to adjourn the August 24, 2023 Regular Meeting of the Valdosta City Council at 6:14 p.m. to meet again in Regular Session on Thursday, September 7, 2023.

City Clerk, City of Valdosta

Mayor, City of Valdosta