

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE VALDOSTA CITY COUNCIL
5:30 P.M., THURSDAY, JUNE 21, 2018
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL

OPENING CEREMONIES

Mayor John Gayle called the Regular Meeting of the Valdosta City Council to order at 5:30 p.m. Council members present were: Joseph “Sonny” Vickers, Tim Carroll, Ben Norton, Sandra Tooley, Eric Howard, Andy Gibbs, and Vivian Miller-Cody. The invocation was given by Pastor J. D. Martin, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the June 7, 2018 Regular Meeting are forthcoming and will be approved at the July 5, 2018 City Council Meeting.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

ORDINANCE NO. 2018-12, AN ORDINANCE FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2019 BUDGET

Public Hearing for the adoption of the Fiscal Year 2019 Budget. (Second Hearing)

Mark Barber, City Manager, stated that in accordance with Georgia Code 36-81-3, each local government shall adopt and operate under an annual balanced budget for the General Fund, each Special Revenue Fund, and each Debt Service Fund in use by the City of Valdosta. The annual balanced budget shall be adopted by Ordinance or Resolution. A Budget Ordinance is balanced when the sum of estimated revenues and appropriated fund balances is equal to appropriations. Nothing contained in the above mentioned Code precludes a local government from adopting a budget for any funds used by the local government other than those specified in paragraph one. These funds include Enterprise Funds, Internal Service Funds, and Fiduciary funds. The Fiscal Year 2019 Proposed City of Valdosta Budget has been reviewed and discussed at a Public Hearing on June 13, 2018 so that citizens had an opportunity to make comments on funding levels. The proposed Fiscal Year 2019 Budget does include a 5 % utility rate increase based upon the water rate analysis and sufficiency study adopted by Mayor and Council. The General Fund Budget presented is balanced with no anticipated millage rate increase. The proposed budget also includes a 2% cost of living adjustment. The City’s medical clinic continues to be funded in this proposed Budget, with no increase in employee contributions for any City benefit offered. The consolidated proposed Budget (uses) increased approximately \$0.1 million when compared to last fiscal year. There are increases in personnel due to new positions and the 2% COLA that are largely offset by decreases in capital and other smaller cuts across the City. This Budget represents an increase of approximately 1/10 of 1% in spending. Mark Barber, City Manager, recommended that Council approve the adoption of Fiscal Year 2019 Budget.

A MOTION by Councilman Carroll, seconded by Councilman Vickers, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to approve the adoption of Fiscal Year 2019 Budget.

BIDS, CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS, AND EXPENDITURES

Consideration of bids for the Georgia Department of Transportation 2018 Local Maintenance & Improvement Grant (LMIG) Program.

Pat Collins, City Engineer, stated that the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) assists cities and counties by awarding funds for resurfacing as well as other local transportation-related improvements via their Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant (LMIG) Program. LMIG awards are formula based and proportionate to a combination of a local jurisdiction’s population and centerline street mileage. Every LMIG award requires a minimum of a 30% match from the local jurisdiction. Our 2018 formula-based allotment is \$611,748.48 and, therefore, our required 30% match is \$183,524.54. Consequently, the minimum total required to be spent in 2018 is \$795,273.02. The 2018 LMIG resurfacing list was approved by City Council on December 14, 2017 and it includes

whole length street segments of the worst condition streets while considering expressed Council-member priorities and balancing the total mileage among the Districts. The recommended list resurfaces 5.16 miles total and was estimated to cost \$910,000.00 to \$983,000. On June 12, 2018, bids were received and opened. The packets were all verified aloud to attendees for compliance with the bid submittal requirements and then the bids were recorded. The low bid was received from Reames & Sons Construction in the amount of \$954,430.00. Pat Collins, City Engineer, recommended that Council approve the low bid submitted by Reames & Sons Construction in the amount of \$954,430 plus a 10% contingency to handle any unforeseen circumstances for a total of \$1,049,873.

A MOTION by Councilman Vickers, seconded by Councilman Carroll, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to approve the low bid submitted by Reames & Sons Construction in the amount of \$954,430 plus a 10% contingency to handle any unforeseen circumstances for a total of \$1,049,873 for the Georgia Department of Transportation 2018 Local Maintenance & Improvement Grant (LMIG) Program.

Consideration of bids for an emergency request to purchase a John Deere 6110M Tractor for the Public Works Department.

Richard Hardy, Public Works Director, stated that the Public Works Department needs to replace an existing tractor that is 23 years old and responsible for pulling the tri deck mower (batwing). The current tractor has high hours and is pieced together using fabricated parts since the manufacturer is no longer in business. The electrical wire harness recently burnt and the transmission is very close to going out making the tractor non-operational for the remainder of the mowing season. There are several other issues regarding the tractor that make it necessary to replace. This is an emergency request. Sealed bids were received on June 12, 2018 with the low bid submitted by Lasseter Tractor in the amount of \$75,847.03. Richard Hardy, Public Works Director, recommended that Council approve the low bid submitted by Lasseter Tractor in the amount of \$75,847.03 and allow the Public Works Department to proceed with the purchase.

A MOTION by Councilwoman Miller-Cody, seconded by Councilman Norton, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to approve the low bid submitted by Lasseter Tractor in the amount of \$75,847.03 and allow the Public Works Department to proceed with the purchase.

Consideration of bids for the purchase of a half-ton Service Truck with a Dump Bed for the Utilities Department.

Darryl Muse, Utilities Director, stated that the Utilities Department is requesting approval for the purchase of one (1), one and a half ton Service Truck with a Dump Bed. This vehicle will be used in support of the Utilities Central Lines Division. This vehicle will replace vehicle number 1509 (1998 Ford F-450 with 155,000 miles) which sustained a catastrophic engine failure and was not economical for repair. The funds for this purchase were approved by City Council in the Department's Fiscal Year 2018 budget. Sealed bids were opened on June 12, 2018 by the City of Valdosta's Procurement Department and the low bid was submitted by Nextran Truck Center in the amount of \$44,800. Darryl Muse, Utilities Director, recommended that Council approve the low bid submitted by Nextran Truck Center in the amount of \$44,800 and allow the Utilities Department to proceed with the purchase.

A MOTION by Councilwoman Miller-Cody, seconded by Councilman Norton, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to approve the low bid submitted by Nextran Truck Center in the amount of \$44,800 and allow the Utilities Department to proceed with the purchase.

Consideration of bids for the replacement of sewer lines on Iola Drive.

Darryl Muse, Utilities Director, stated that in 2015, the Environmental Protection Division (EPD) required a Supplemental Environmental Project for updating the Withlacoochee sewer collection system flow model which has now been completed. The new model assisted the Utilities Department in further identifying potential sewage overflow locations as well as areas with high inflow and infiltration probability. The model and associated report identified multiple high priority Sewer Main Upgrade Projects. This Project upsizes three sections of the sewer line on Iola Drive and will eliminate flow restricting bottlenecks. It includes the replacement of approximately 123 feet of 18-inch concrete sewer line and 185 feet of 20" concrete sewer line with 24" PVC. The work will also include the lining of four manholes. On April 24, 2018 the Utilities Department advertised for bids for the Project to

replace the three sections of the Iola Drive sewer main. A mandatory pre-bid conference was held on May 10, 2018 with three potential bidders attending. Bids were received from two bidders and opened on May 24, 2018. The lowest responsive and eligible bidder for the project was James Warren & Associates in the amount of \$297,550.00. This is a budgeted project in the Fiscal Year 2018 Budget. Darryl Muse, Utilities Director, recommended that Council approve the low bid submitted by James Warren & Associates in the amount of \$297,550.00 plus a 10% contingency to handle any unforeseen circumstances for the replacement of sewer lines on Iola Drive.

A MOTION by Councilwoman Tooley, seconded by Councilwoman Miller-Cody, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to approve the low bid submitted by James Warren & Associates in the amount of \$297,550.00 plus a 10% contingency to handle any unforeseen circumstances for the replacement of sewer lines on Iola Drive.

Consideration of bids for Phase 6 of the Manhole Rehabilitation Project.

Darryl Muse, Utilities Director, stated that the Utilities Department has over 6,500 sewer manholes within its sanitary sewer system. Most of these manholes are at least 30 years old or older with some almost 100 years old. In addition, many are seriously deteriorated due to hydrogen sulfide gas corrosion over the years. Both their age and constant corrosive effects of sewer gases have caused many to be at a point where failure is likely without immediate rehabilitation. As manholes fail, they cause sewage spills near the manholes which, in most cases, create a violation of State and Federal regulations as well as public health and safety issues. Failure to address this issue will result in regulatory action, including but not limited to, fines and/or consent orders. To address this, the Utilities Department has implemented an annual Manhole Replacement and Rehabilitation Program using structurally sound liner technology where the most seriously deteriorated manholes are being addressed first. This is an ongoing Program until the entire system has been evaluated and proper corrective measures taken where needed. SPLOST VII Funds were approved in the FY 2018 budget in the amount of \$500,000 for manhole rehabilitation and liner replacement. Since 2011, the Utilities Department Staff inspected about 50% of the sewer system's manholes focusing on areas within the City where prior manhole failures occurred, recurring sewer overflows occurred, and where defects were detected through smoke testing. From these investigations, Staff compiled a list of manholes meeting one or more of the criteria required for rehabilitation. The first five phases of this annual program addressed approximately 160 manholes. This Project will be the sixth phase and will address 30 additional manholes. A pre-bid conference was held on May 24, 2018 to review the expectations and requirements of this work as well as answer pertinent questions from the prospective bidders. Bids were received on June 7, 2018 from the following three bidders: James Warren & Associates, Inc., RPI Underground, Inc., and Standard Contractors. The low bid was submitted by James Warren & Associates in the amount of \$142,466. A 10% contingency is requested on this Project due to potential unknown structural issues associated with the manholes. Darryl Muse, Utilities Director, recommended that Council approve the low bid submitted by James Warren & Associates in the amount of \$142,466.00 plus a 10% contingency for the Phase 6 Manhole Rehabilitation Project.

A MOTION by Councilwoman Miller-Cody, seconded by Councilman Gibbs, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to approve the low bid submitted by James Warren & Associates in the amount of \$142,466 plus a 10% contingency for the Phase 6 Manhole Rehabilitation Project.

Consideration of bids for the Cured-In-Place-Pipe (CIPP) Lining Project.

Darryl Muse, Utilities Director, stated that The sanitary sewer system has a history of stormwater inflow and infiltration (I&I) issues. In order to evaluate the sanitary sewer system, identify sources of I&I, and schedule repairs, the Utilities Department contracted with Constantine Engineering for smoke testing of the entire system. During the final phase of smoke testing in areas of Garland Place, MLK Jr. Drive, and North Toombs Street, several locations were identified where smoke was emitting from the sewer system indicating potential pipe failure. Following the smoke test results, crews performed Closed Circuit Television Camera (CCTV) inspection of the sewer lines in these areas. These inspections indicated that there were numerous fractured lines throughout each of these collection systems. SPLOST VII funds were approved in the FY 2018 budget in the amount of \$500,000 for manhole rehabilitation and liner replacement. Due to the location of the sewer lines, potential repair or rehabilitation methods were very limited. As a result, Staff had only three viable options to solve the recurrent problems. The first option was to excavate the areas of the sewer lines at all locations to access the broken sewer pipe and then make necessary repairs. Because of numerous residences, related traffic flow, as well as costs related

to excavation and repair to roads, sidewalks, driveways, and stormwater systems, this was not considered the best option. The second option was to combine pipe-bursting and Cured-In-Place-Pipe (CIPP) lining technology to rehabilitate the failed sewer pipe. The third option was to utilize CIPP only and risk a costly Change Order for a point repair. The Project to line (CIPP only) was advertised for bid and has a combined total of 1,454 linear feet of 12 and 8-inch sewer pipe which includes reinstating an estimated 25 service laterals and lining 7 associated manholes. Three companies submitted proposals on June 7, 2018. The lowest responsive bidder for CIPP only was Southeast Pipe Survey, Inc. in the amount of \$141,868; however, due to the highly deteriorated condition of the 12-inch pipe at Garland Place, bidders were also asked to submit two alternate bids--Alternate Bid 1 (pipe bursting) and Alternate Bid 2 (point repairing the most deteriorated portion of that sewer main). The lowest responsive bidder for both alternate bids was also Southeast Pipe Survey. Their bid for the combined CIPP and Alternate Bid (1) pipe bursting is \$180,253. Their bid for the CIPP work and Alternate Bid 2 (point repair) is \$216,159. After discussions with Staff and the contractor, it was determined the best option would be to utilize the combined CIPP and Alternate Bid 1 pipe-bursting option given the highly deteriorated condition of the Garland Place main. Darryl Muse, Utilities Director, recommended that Council approve the combined CIPP and Alternate Bid 1 for pipe bursting submitted by Southeast Pipe Survey, Inc. in the amount of \$180,253 plus a 10% contingency to handle any unforeseen circumstances.

A MOTION by Councilman Howard, seconded by Councilman Gibbs, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to approve the combined CIPP and Alternate Bid 1 for pipe bursting submitted by Southeast Pipe Survey, Inc. in the amount of \$180,253 plus a 10% contingency to handle any unforeseen circumstances for the Cured-In-Place-Pipe (CIPP) Lining Project.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Alvin Payton, Jr., 3211 Tyndall Drive, stated that he had sent an invitation to the Mayor and Council to attend an event that Wiregrass Technical College will be holding on Tuesday, June 26, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Mildred Hunter Center. Wiregrass is one of the communities' largest employers and they always want to attract industry to our area. Technical education is a viable option for those who want to take advantage of it. They will have their Air Conditioning Technology Staff at the event along with the Fire Service Technology Staff, Culinary Arts, Nursing, and many others. This is an Outreach Program that Wiregrass put together, but more importantly, they have the support of the Divine Nine which is an organization made up of nine black organizations (five fraternities and four sororities). They will also have the support of both the local and State Chapters the National Coalition of Negro Women and the 100 Black Men. The Mayor and Council are invited to attend.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mark Barber, City Manager, stated that the Mayor and City Council Members will be traveling to Savannah tomorrow to the Georgia Municipal Association's Annual Convention. Council Members have been given a training notebook to take with them.

Taylor Marzell is the new Associate City Clerk and she will be working with Teresa Bolden, City Clerk, to learn about the responsibilities of the City Clerk position.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Howard stated that during the Budget Hearing they discussed running the City with no debt and that could be used as a talking point when they talk to citizens about SPLOST and how important it is. Wiregrass Technical College could be used as another talking point as well as why we need public transportation. A lot of people on that side of town do not have transportation to go to Wiregrass Technical College or Georgia Military College. We can sell our community on the things that we are trying to do here and that we are spending their money wisely.

Councilman Vickers stated that it is important for us to make a plan as to whether we are going to do public transportation or not. There is a need there and with TSPLOST and SPLOST VIII coming up we need to get some help in coming up with a plan that fits our needs.

Councilwoman Miller-Cody stated that at one time they were supposed to travel to Hinesville, Georgia to look at their public transportation system and inquired as to whether they were still planning to do that. Mark Barber, City Manager, stated that they are going through some changes with their transit system and they are going to have to reduce it substantially or do away with it totally. They did not feel that this was a good time for the Council to come and visit. He will have some additional information for the Council within the next couple of weeks. There is some new legislation out there that perhaps could help with this.

Councilman Carroll stated that he does not object to looking at public transit but one thing in particular that needs to be considered is that we just asked the citizens to give us an additional penny in sales tax. That was not popular across the board and the vote was “no” to TSPLOST in Lowndes County. Whatever steps we take in moving towards some form of public transportation, it would behoove us to not put the burden of paying for it on the property owners of the City of Valdosta.

Mayor Gayle stated that he spoke with Via Transportation last week and they are willing to come to Valdosta to make a presentation. They charge \$3.00 per ride and they will pick you up within twenty minutes. There is a part that the City would have to supplement on that. The next thing that they have to do is to get the operational costs. Mark Barber, City Manager, stated that he will have that information.

Councilwoman Tooley stated that public transportation is a need of the citizens of Valdosta and they as Council Members do owe the citizens. Granted that there are different types of citizens and we have those that have, those that have some, those who have little, and those who have none; however, the City as a whole has to work together to fit them all because those who have none, if they fall off and die, then it takes away from our City and the whole City will have a tendency to deteriorate and die. We have to find a way regardless to make it work for the whole. She has been in the City a long time and has seen certain areas where decisions were made and the City is top heavy while other areas are not. That part of the City, like a tree limb, is going to fall over and break. We have to consider all the citizens involved and the poor people will be putting their time and sweat into this as well. We need to give back to them and help them with education when they are trying to help themselves. She has also noticed that a lot of citizens have been talking to her about things going on in the City and they are getting more involved. Councilwoman Tooley thanked the Department Heads for their support when citizens ask for things. The SeeClickFix Program is very useful and even though it takes a little time to get them started it is definitely beneficial for the City.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Gayle entertained a motion for adjournment.

A **MOTION** by Councilman Vickers, seconded by Councilwoman Miller-Cody, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to adjourn the June 21, 2018 Meeting of the Valdosta City Council at 6:29 p.m. to meet again in Regular Session on Thursday, July 5, 2018.

City Clerk, City of Valdosta

Mayor, City of Valdosta