

**MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE VALDOSTA CITY COUNCIL  
5:30 P.M., THURSDAY, APRIL 19, 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 Dr. Gerald Williams, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

**AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS**

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION FOR WINNERS OF THE "IF I WERE MAYOR" ESSAY CONTEST**

Mayor Gayle stated that cities across the State will be celebrating Georgia Cities Week on April 21-28, 2018 with activities that highlight the programs and services that enhance the quality of life for our citizens. In Valdosta, we will have several activities for citizens to participate in such as the Great American Clean Up and Bulk Trash Amnesty Day which will take place on Saturday, April 21, 2018. There will also be a Customer Service Day, Job Shadow Day, Outdoor Movie Night, and the Employee Appreciation Luncheon, among a few others, that will take place during the week. One of the most popular activities during Georgia Cities Week, however, is the "If I Were Mayor" Essay Contest. This contest challenges sixth grade students in our community to use their grade-level writing skills and civic knowledge to express in 350 words or less what they would do if they had the top elected position in the City. Over the years, the City has received some incredible and thought-provoking work from our local students and this year's winners are no exception. Dozens of essays were received this year, and all of the participants are to be commended for their great efforts. Judges for the Essay Contest were: Missy Smith from the Main Street Office and Shirley Britt and Teresa Bolden from the City Manager/Mayor's Office. Mayor Gayle announced the following winners and asked them to come forward and read their essays: 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Winner - Emma Graybeal, St. John Catholic School, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Winner - Om Patel, Valdosta Middle School, and 1<sup>st</sup> Place Winner - Stephen Moore, St. John Catholic School.

**EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH AWARD FOR APRIL, 2018**

Consideration of the April, 2018 Employee of the Month Award (Christin Holtzclaw, Utilities Department).

Darryl Muse, Utilities Director, stated that Christin Holtzclaw began her employment with the City of Valdosta Utilities Department in October of 2016 and presently holds the position of GIS and Modeling Technician. Christin is responsible for collecting, digitizing, and recording GPS coordinates of the City's water and sewer system. She also designs, plots, and publishes digital maps while steadily maintaining the integrity of GIS files. Christin serves as a team member at First Step and Plan Review meetings and is steadfast in her precision when reviewing plans. Christin is quick to assist staff, consultants, and customers in identifying and mapping water and sewer infrastructure. She is flawless in organizing and maintaining records, files, drawings and is a key player in modernizing the Utilities map room. Recently, Christin filled in for her Supervisor for nearly three weeks. Christin was able to quickly step in and keep the Division moving seamlessly forward with continued success. She accepted the responsibility with a great attitude and handled the duties in a professional and efficient manner. Not only did she have to perform her regular duties, Christin also tackled the many responsibilities normally reserved for her Supervisor. Christin's splendid work and ability to successfully carry the workload was instrumental in allowing her Supervisor to swiftly and seamlessly transition back to work. It is for these reasons and many others that the Employee Relations Committee nominated Christin Holtzclaw as Employee of the Month.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the April 5, 2018 Regular Meeting were approved by unanimous consent (7-0) of the Council.

Consideration of bids for replacement of the roof at the Police Department.

Police Chief Brian Childress stated that the Police Department headquarters building on North Toombs Street is the location of the Investigations, Training, Patrol, I.T., Support, and Administrative Divisions. The original building was built in 1958. The current roofing, which is approximately 10,000 square feet in area, was placed on the building 21 years ago in 1997. It has just had periodic repairs since that time. Over time the roof has leaked and subsequent repairs have been made. There are currently three sizable leaks, including a leak in the Investigations area which has sophisticated computers. Recently, the leaks have become so severe that repairing them is not effective anymore. In the Budget process, \$65,000 was budgeted within the current Fiscal Year for repairs. Roofing contractors have declined to repair the roof leaks for concern of liability in causing conditions to worsen. In April of 2017, Staff had several roofing contractors visit and advise on the proper method to replace the roof economically. Those methods were used in developing the scope for this advertisement. A reinforced thermoplastic single ply surface with a fleece underside was selected as the desired construction. Contract documents were drafted and placed on the City website, and legal advertisements were placed in the Valdosta Daily Times. Prospective bidders were encouraged to visit the work site before submitting bids. Two construction scenarios were proposed. The first alternative was to remove of the existing roof material and place new roof material. The second alternative was to place new roof material on the existing roof material. On March 28, 2018, one bid for each scenario was submitted. The first alternative cost was \$85,695.39 which greatly exceeded the budgeted funds. The second alternative bid was submitted by J. H. Strickland Construction, LLC, in the amount of \$59,283.39. Chief Childress recommended that Council approve the second alternative bid submitted by J. H. Strickland Construction, LLC in the amount of \$59,283.39 to replace the roof at the Police Department.

**A MOTION** by Councilman Carroll, seconded by Councilman Vickers, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to approve the second alternative cost bid submitted by J. H. Strickland Construction LLC, in the amount of \$59,283.39 to replace the roof at the Police Department.

Consideration of bids for extension of utilities on South Lakeshore Drive.

Darryl Muse, Utilities Director, stated that in December of 2017, a resident at the southern terminus cul-de-sac of South Lakeshore Drive inquired about having City water and sewer utilities extended to each of the properties in the cul-de-sac. There are currently four homes in the cul-de-sac that utilize their own private well and septic system. One of these homes has a septic system on the verge of failure. These properties are not part of the former unincorporated islands which were annexed ten years ago. Most of the homes in this area were constructed in the 1980's and early 1990's. This group of lots was excluded from City sewer service possibly due to low elevation issues preventing the use of gravity sewer. GIS maps show the closest City water and sewer lines to be approximately 500 feet away at the intersection of South Lakeshore and Lake Laurie Drive. Since these parcels were not part of the annexed islands, they were not included in any of the City's Island Projects to install water and sewer services; however, these properties are located within the City limits and their septic systems are aging and risk failure. Because of this, the Utilities Department conducted research to determine the most feasible method of extending water and sewer utilities to the cul-de-sac. Staff determined the best option was to extend the water main to the cul-de-sac and install a sewer force main from the cul-de-sac to Lake Laurie Drive. Given the low elevation of the parcels, residents interested in connecting to the force main will be required to install residential pump stations for each of their homes. Installation and maintenance of the pump station would be the resident's responsibility. Due to the scope of the extension Project, the work will need to be completed by an underground utility contractor. A scope of work was developed, and the Utilities Department advertised for bids on February 16, 2018. Bids were received from three bidders and opened on March 28, 2018. The lowest responsive bidder was James Warren & Associates, Inc. with a quote of \$38,685.00. Darryl Muse recommended that Council approve the low bid submitted by James Warren & Associates, Inc. in the amount of \$38,685 to extend utilities on South Lakeshore Drive plus a 10% contingency to handle any unforeseen circumstances.

**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, Inc. in the amount of \$38,685 plus a 10% contingency to handle any unforeseen circumstances to extend utilities on South Lakeshore Drive.

Consideration of a bid to purchase an asphalt patch trailer for the Engineering Department.

Pat Collins, City Engineer, stated that the Engineering Department needs to replace their asphalt patch trailer due to the age and disrepair of the older unit which was purchased approximately 12 years ago. This unit is used by Staff in the Streets Division. Asphalt is purchased from one of the local providers and placed into this unit which is used to haul the asphalt and keep it at a very hot temperature for patching holes and other purposes as deemed necessary. This is a current year Council-approved Budget item. The City of Valdosta has the option to purchase items off of the State of Georgia contracts as do other cities and counties. Environmental Products of Georgia currently holds the State contract for asphalt patch trailers which was bid at the State level. The trailer desired by the Engineering Department will cost \$58,621. Pat Collins recommended that Council approve the bid of Environmental Products of Georgia in the amount of \$58,621 and allow the Engineering Department to proceed with the purchase of an asphalt patch trailer.

**A MOTION** by Councilman Norton, seconded by Councilman Carroll, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to approve the bid submitted by Environmental Products of Georgia in the amount of \$58,621 and allow the Engineering Department to proceed with the purchase of an asphalt patch trailer.

Consideration of a bid to purchase 15 Controllers and 39 Modules for the Traffic Management Center.

Pat Collins, City Engineer, stated that the Traffic Management Center (TMC) needs to purchase 2070LC Controllers and the 2070-1C CPU Modules for the traffic cabinets. The Controllers store data that runs the signals and the Modules allow communications between the cabinets and the TMC. These Controllers and Modules are current year Council-approved Budget items. The City of Valdosta has the option to purchase items off of the State of Georgia contracts as do other cities and counties. Control Technologies currently holds the State contract for these items which were bid at the State level (Georgia Department of Transportation Contract 48400-185-DOT0000640-006). The total cost for 15 Controllers (\$1,947.60 each) and 39 Modules (\$628.20 each) is \$53,713.80. This is a reduction of \$4,160.00 which was approved in the 2018 Budget. Pat Collins recommended that Council approve the bid submitted by Control Technologies in the amount of \$53,713.80 and allow the Traffic Management Center to proceed with the purchase of 15 Controllers and 39 Modules.

**A MOTION** by Councilman Vickers, seconded by Councilman Norton, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to approve the bid submitted by Control Technologies in the amount of \$53,713.80 and allow the Traffic Management Center to proceed with the purchase of 15 Controllers and 39 Modules.

## **LOCAL FUNDING AND REQUESTS**

Consideration of a request to declare two vehicles from the Valdosta Police Department as surplus property.

Police Chief Brian Childress stated that the Valdosta City School System recently approached the City of Valdosta about the possibility of purchasing two surplus vehicles from the City. The School System does the same thing for the City when we need school buses. There are two vehicles available that are no longer of value or service to the City and have already been replaced due to age, mileage, or serviceability. The City has provided surplus vehicles in the past to area agencies after being granted permission by Council. These vehicles are no longer of value to the City and have already been replaced. The two vehicles from the Police Department, a 2006 Ford Expedition (Asset ID 16-23) and a 2000 Ford Crown Victoria (Asset ID 01-70) will need to be declared surplus by the Mayor and Council if they are in agreement with selling the vehicles to the School System. Chief Childress recommended that Council declare the two vehicles as surplus property and sell to the Valdosta City School System for \$1.00 each.

**A MOTION** by Councilman Vickers, seconded by Councilman Carroll, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to declare the two vehicles from the Valdosta Police Department as surplus property and sell to the Valdosta City School System for \$1.00 each.

Consideration of a request to purchase and replace Connex containers used for live fire training at the Valdosta Fire Department's Regional Training Center.

Fire Chief Freddie Broome stated that the Fire Department is required to have at least one live fire training once a year. Over 15 years ago, the Fire Department received five Connex containers from the Georgia Public Safety Training Center. The Georgia Public Safety Training Center was reconstructed into a burn building and used at the Valdosta Regional Training Facility for live fire training. In 2015, due to safety concerns, the building was condemned by the City's Building Inspector. The existing building cannot be used for live fire evolutions due to life safety and building code violations. Certified Firefighters are required to conduct live fire training evolutions annually to meet ISO and State requirements. The Valdosta Fire Department had to use Lowndes County's burn building to meet ISO and State requirements last year. The only other option is to send personnel to the Georgia Public Safety Training Center (GPSTC) in Forsyth, Georgia. Kevin Tolliver, Development Review Engineer from the Engineering Department, sent out four letters to the following potential vendors: (1) Drager, (2) Mobile Fire Units, (3) Fire Facilities, and (4) PFAB, LLC. The purpose of the letter was to explain the goal, which was to provide a structure suitable for live fire training, and to obtain a quote. They would be required to salvage existing doors, windows, and stairs, demolish the five existing Connex containers, disconnect the existing utilities, place three, forty-foot Connex containers in a configuration identified by the Valdosta Fire Department, fabricate and install three fire boxes or equivalent to allow the burning of Class A materials in the structure, and properly dispose of the existing Connex containers. PFAB, LLC from Nashville, Georgia was the only vendor to respond to the letter and their quote \$42,000. Chief Broome recommended that Council approve the quote of PFAB, LLC in the amount of \$42,000 for the purchase and replacement of the Connex containers.

**A MOTION** by Councilwoman Miller-Cody, seconded by Councilman Norton, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to approve the quote submitted by PFAB, LLC in the amount of \$42,000 for the purchase and replacement of the Connex containers used for live fire training at the Valdosta Fire Department's Regional Training Center.

## **CITIZENS TO BE HEARD**

David Jonathon Davis, with the African American Initiative at Valdosta State University (VSU), stated that they are planning to have a Conference around the third or fourth week of August and they would like for the City to be part of the Conference. The name of the Conference will be "What You Can Do" and they want bring Valdosta, Lowndes County, VSU, and Moody Air Force Base together to help motivate the children. There are a lot of taxes gained for the City while the students are here; however, they leave and take their money and skills somewhere else. Mr. Davis stated that he would like for the City officials to assist them in going forth with the Conference. They would also like to have a speaker from the Mayor and Council. He spoke with Main Street about renting out a place in the Downtown area for the Conference and he will bring more information back to the Council at a later date.

Justin Carter, Valdosta State University student, stated that they are selling discount cards for \$20 to raise money for the football team and was wondering if the Mayor and Council members would like to purchase one. Mayor Gayle stated that he would purchase one but he would have to stop by the Mayor's Office.

Antrez Miller, "It Starts at Home" organization, stated that he would like to invite the Mayor and Council to attend their Conference which is tentatively scheduled for August 11, 2018. They would like to incorporate the City as much as possible and they are reaching out to a lot of local businesses and churches to get donations and sponsorships. They are looking to house 100 youth for the event and they want to make sure registration was not a problem for them. They want to educate them and teach them how to be a leader, carry themselves inside a community, and what they can do for their community. They want them to have a fun and enjoyable experience and teach them how to do things for others. Mayor Gayle inquired as to whether they were registered as a 501(c)(3). Mr. Miller stated that they were not. Mayor Gayle stated that we could help them with that so they could accept charitable donations. Councilman Vickers suggested that they work together with other groups so there would not be a duplication of efforts.

Mark Barber, City Manager, stated that next week is Georgia Cities Week and there will be an Employee Appreciation Luncheon at Saunders Park on Thursday, April 26, 2018 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

There will be an upcoming Job Fair on Thursday, April 26, 2018 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the James H. Rainwater Conference Center. There will be approximately 80 companies participating in the event which is the highest number they have ever had.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

There were no Council comments.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

**A MOTION** by Councilman Norton, seconded by Councilman Carroll, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to adjourn the April 19, 2018 meeting of the Valdosta City Council at 6:24 p.m. and enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel.

Mayor Gayle reconvened the Regular City Council Meeting at 6:54 p.m. and stated that there was discussion of personnel in the Executive Session and no action would need to be taken.

Mayor Gayle entertained a motion for adjournment.

**A MOTION** by Councilman Vickers, seconded by Councilman Carroll, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to adjourn the April 19, 2018 Meeting of the Valdosta City Council at 6:54 p.m. to meet again in Regular Session on Thursday, May 10, 2018.

---

City Clerk, City of Valdosta

---

Mayor, City of Valdosta