

**MINUTES**  
**SPECIAL CALLED MEETING OF THE VALDOSTA CITY COUNCIL**  
**1:00 P.M., THURSDAY, JUNE 16, 2025**  
**COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL**

**OPENING CEREMONIES**

Mayor Scott James Matheson called the Special Called Meeting of the Valdosta City Council to order at 1:00 p.m. Council members present were: Eric Howard, Sandra Tooley, Tim Carroll, and Vivian Miller-Cody. Councilmen Thomas McIntyre, Andy Gibbs, and Nick Harden were absent. The invocation was given by Councilman Tim Carroll, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

**LOCAL FUNDING AND REQUESTS**

Consideration of a request to approve the SPLOST IX proposed Projects for the City of Valdosta.

Chuck Dinkins, Finance Director, stated that SPLOST is a voter approved tax on sales within the County. The proceeds are divided among the County and its subdivisions. SPLOST is limited to five years or six years with tiered Projects or Intergovernmental Agreements. The Referendum providing the tax must specify what Projects the proceeds will fund. The ballot language will generally provide broad categories such as street maintenance. The tax is collected at the point of sale and remitted to the State which distributes the proceeds. The City will account for the tax in a separate fund which will pay for eligible Projects until exhausted. Projects must be capital in nature such as buildings, parks, land improvements, infrastructure, road work, sidewalks, curbs, gutters, and debt repayment. Attached is a list of the proposed SPLOST IX Projects for the City of Valdosta. This list must be approved by the Mayor and Council and submitted to Lowndes County prior to June 24, 2025. Chuck Dinkins, Finance Director, recommended that Council approve the proposed SPLOST IX Projects for the City of Valdosta.

A **MOTION** was made by Councilman Carroll to approve the SPLOST IX proposed Projects for the City of Valdosta. Councilman Howard seconded the motion. The motion was adopted (3-1) with Councilwoman Tooley voting in opposition.

**ORDINANCE AND RESOLUTIONS**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2025-7 A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE FUNDING FOR AN AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROJECT IN THE FORM OF A LOAN FROM THE CITY OF VALDOSTA'S AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) ALLOTMENT**

Consideration of a Resolution to authorize funding for an Affordable Housing Project in the form of a Loan from the City of Valdosta's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) allotment.

Chuck Dinkins, Finance Director, stated that On May 15, 2024, the City adopted a Resolution approving the use of ARPA funds in the amount of \$1,000,000 for the financing of affordable housing for the second phase of the Harvest Station project. The note was specified to be a twenty year note at or below the then current applicable federal rate to satisfy Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) rules. The Harvest Station Project has progressed to the point where the second tranche of financing is needed. The loan would consist of a \$1,000,000 subordinate mortgage from the Valdosta Housing Authority (to be loaned to Harvest Station II, LP) on the Project's land and improvements. The loan term would consist of a 30-month construction period with interest only payments followed by a 17.5-year permanent loan period with 17 equal annual payments and smaller balloon payments. The total length of the loan would be 20 years, but a payment of \$500,000 plus accumulated interest would be due at the beginning of the permanent period leaving a \$500,000 permanent note to be amortized over the remaining term of 17.5 years. The rate on the note would be 3.25% compounded monthly (the long term monthly compounded AFR for June is 4.66%). Chuck Dinkins, Finance Director, recommended that Council approve the Resolution authorizing a loan to the Valdosta Housing Authority.

A **MOTION** by Councilman Howard, seconded by Councilman Carroll, was unanimously adopted (4-0) to enact Resolution No. 2025-7, a Resolution to authorize funding for an Affordable Housing Project in the form of a Loan from the City of Valdosta's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) allotment, the complete text of which will be found in Resolution Book VII.

## Consideration of an Agreement for Governmental Affairs Representation for the City of Valdosta.

Richard Hardy, City Manager, stated that Coleman Talley Strategies LLC (CTS) serves as a Governmental Affairs Consultant and provides representation for municipalities and counties in the State of Georgia. The overall scope of their work is to collaborate in the development of governmental affairs strategies for the State of Georgia and for the Georgia Congressional Delegation. John Crawford is the Principal Consultant at Coleman Talley Strategies LLC (CTS) and will manage the delivery of all services to the City of Valdosta. John is a recognized government affairs professional with more than 22 years of experience. He is a skilled relationship builder with a track record of delivering results. Staff of Coleman Talley Strategies LLC consists of the following: (1) Penny Spencer, Administrative Assistant Government Affairs, with over 22 years of experience in State public policy and government relations, ethics compliance with State, local public officials/employees, and private entities, tracking legislation, preparation of organizational and formation documents, database management, and client billing. (2) Gabrielle Metts, Marketing Professional, with eight (8) years of experience in digital marketing, digital design, event planning, and client relation. Coleman Talley Strategies LLC continues to build relationships with key legislative and executive leadership, and they will work with the City of Valdosta to implement a public policy agenda and communicate directly with members of the General Assembly, Governor Brian Kemp and Staff, and various State agencies and others as appropriate to advocate for policies that best serve the City of Valdosta. Coleman Talley Strategies LLC will develop a well-planned strategy to educate and influence the opinions of government leaders. The proposed monthly fee will be \$4,000 (see attached Agreement). The term of the Agreement will run from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026 and either party may terminate the Agreement without cause by a 30-day notice. Richard Hardy, City Manager, recommended that Council approve the Agreement with Coleman Talley Strategies LLC for Governmental Affairs Representation for the City of Valdosta.

A **MOTION** by Councilman Howard, seconded by Councilwoman Miller-Cody, was unanimously adopted (4-0) to approve the Agreement with Coleman Talley Strategies LLC for Governmental Affairs Representation for the City of Valdosta.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Matheson entertained a motion for adjournment.

A **MOTION** by Councilman Carroll, seconded by Councilwoman Miller-Cody, was unanimously adopted (4-0) to adjourn the June 16 Special Called Meeting of the Valdosta City Council at 1:08 p.m. to meet again in Regular Session on Thursday, July 10, 2025.

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City Clerk, City of Valdosta

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Mayor, City of Valdosta