

MINUTES
RESCHEDULED MEETING OF THE VALDOSTA CITY COUNCIL
5:30 P.M., TUESDAY, JULY 8, 2025
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL

OPENING CEREMONIES

Mayor Scott James Matheson called the Rescheduled Regular Meeting of the Valdosta City Council to order at 5:46 p.m. Council members present were: Eric Howard, Tim Carroll, and Vivian Miller-Cody. Councilmen Thomas McIntyre, Andy Gibbs, and Nick Harden were absent. Councilwoman Sandra Tooley arrived late at 5:46 p.m. The invocation was given by Pastor Jimmy Boyd, Christian Love Bible Baptist Church, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the June 5, 2025 Regular Meeting and the June 16, 2025 Special Called Meeting are forthcoming.

LOCAL FUNDING AND REQUESTS

Consideration of a request to approve the proposed Community Development Block (CDBG) Grant Application Annual Action Plan for Fiscal Year 2025.

Anetra Riley, Neighborhood Development/Community Protection Manager, stated that each year, as a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Entitlement community with the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), we are required to create an Annual Action Plan. In the Annual Action Plan, we are to complete two tasks: (1) outline proposed activities, and (2) provide the funding amounts associated with each proposed activity for the upcoming program year. This year, our Annual Action Plan is due to HUD by July 13, 2025, or we forfeit the Grant funding allocations for the upcoming year. Allocations were released by HUD, and they advised the City of Valdosta of their FY2025 Grant allocation for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. The City of Valdosta is scheduled to receive \$600,391 as its FY2025 Grant allocation, which is \$32,000 less than the FY2024. The proposed activities for the 2025 program year are as follows: (1) Program Administration - \$120,078.20, (2) Single Unit Residential - \$405,312.80, (3) Fair Housing - \$10,000.00, (4) Great Promise Partnership (GPP) - \$50,000.00, (5) Back to School - \$10,000.00, and (6) Small Business Ed - \$5,000.00. The total amount for FY2025 is \$600,391. The proposed activities were presented to citizens at Public Hearings that were held on June 6, 2025 and June 12, 2025, and there will be a period of public comment for the proposed spending until July 12, 2025. This is the first year of the 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan for Valdosta. The FY25 Annual Action Plan will be completed and submitted to the HUD by July 13, 2025. Anetra Riley, Neighborhood Development/Community Protection Manager, recommended that Council approve the proposed CDBG allocation

A MOTION by Councilman Howard, seconded by Councilwoman Tooley, was unanimously adopted (4-0) to approve the proposed Community Development Block (CDBG) Grant Application Annual Action Plan for Fiscal Year 2025.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Curtis Mack, Lawyer from Atlanta and Law Professor from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, thanked Council for the opportunity to speak to them. Mr. Mack stated that he is a native of Valdosta and Clyattville. He learned an awful lot growing up and taking trips. He started school here and was the youngest person to graduate from the Lowndes County schools. He graduated at 16 and went off to Michigan for more education. He is not going to tell you about all the learning he did in Michigan and about all the law he has practiced around the world such as London, Thailand, Russia, Chicago, New York, and California. He encouraged Council to take a look at the University of Michigan and Google his name. The major corporations in this country, such as McDonald's General Motors, Kelloggs, Coca Cola, and Boeing, can tell you that he was the best lawyer to ever represent them. The CEOs can tell you about the cases he tried for them and the legal advice he gave them and how they benefited from it. That would take days and days and months. Mayor Matheson stated that Jerome Tucker could come up and finish his story.

Jerome Tucker, 5922 Jumping Gully Road, stated that he was not going to attempt to finish Mr. Mack's story. The purpose of this visit and for Mr. Mack returning home is to open a law office here in Valdosta and to tell Council about their plans.

James Moore stated that he and Curtis Mack have been discussing some things for several years. They met as adversaries in the Courtroom on opposite sides. He represented the Plaintiff and Curtis represented the Defendant. Out of that trial and litigation process, they became friends and Curtis became his mentor. For years, Curtis has talked to him about doing something in Valdosta. The representation is needed. A couple of years ago, they launched a satellite office in Athens, and it is doing well. They are considering opening a satellite office here, but why now? Why now is because now is the time for action. Senate House Bill 68 was recently passed by the Georgia Legislature which limits access to the Courts for victims, families, children, and small businesses. Now is the time because this is a call to action. It is not time to shrink but a time to grow. It is not time to be quiet but time to be heard. That is why they are here. Mr. Moore thanked Council for their time.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Richard Hardy, City Manager, stated that the Valdosta Police Department is hosting the Students Against Youth Violence Everywhere (S.A.V.Y.E.) for children ages 13-16 years old. They will learn critical skills and knowledge to address issues such as bullying prevention, gang resistance, substance abuse resistance, firearm safety, and the importance of mentorship. Experienced Valdosta Police Officers will lead the activities and sessions. This program will help cultivate a safer and healthier community. The Battle of the Badges Blood Drive will be held on Wednesday, July 23, 2025 from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the City Hall Annex Multi-Purpose Room. This friendly competition aims to encourage donation. Participants are encouraged to show their support for either the Valdosta Police Department or the Valdosta Fire Department. The Back-to-School Block Party will be held on Saturday, July 26, 2025 at Unity Park from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. This event will include free haircuts, free food, and free school supplies. The Valdosta Fire Department will be hosting Camp Blaze on July 28-30, 2025 for girls who are 15-16 years old and will combine fun with education. This initiative demonstrates the Valdosta Fire Department's commitment to empower young women and foster future leaders in public safety.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

There were no Council comments.

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 July 8, 2025 Regular Meeting of the Valdosta City Council at 6:00 p.m. to meet again in Regular Session on Thursday, July 24, 2025.

City Clerk, City of Valdosta

Mayor, City of Valdosta