

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE VALDOSTA CITY COUNCIL
5:30 P.M., THURSDAY, MARCH 22, 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 Mike Wells, New Covenant Church, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag. Mayor Gayle also recognized Boy Scout Grady Williams, Trinity Presbyterian Church Troop 454, who was in attendance at the Council Meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the March 8, 2018 Regular Meeting were approved by unanimous consent (7-0) of the Council.

BIDS, CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS, AND EXPENDITURES

Mayor Gayle stated that if there was no objection from Council, Agenda Items 3(a) through 3(h) would be considered under a Consent Agenda. There were no objections from Council.

A **MOTION** by Councilman Norton, seconded by Councilman Carroll, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to approve the consideration of Agenda Items 3(a) through 3(h) under a Consent Agenda.

Police Chief Brian Childress presented the following Agenda Items: (1) Item 3(a) Consideration of bids for nine Dodge Charger (Patrol) Pursuit Vehicles for the Police Department (Bid No. 15-17-18) - the low bid was submitted by Cass Burch Dodge in the amount of \$22,091 each for a total of \$198,819, (2) Item 3(b) Consideration of bids for three Dodge Charger Pursuit (Admin) Vehicles for the Police Department (Bid No. 16-17-18) - the low bid was submitted by Cass Burch Dodge in the amount of \$21,211 each for a total of \$63,633, and (3) Item 3(c) Consideration of bids for two Chevrolet Pursuit Tahoes for the Crime Lab (Bid No. 17-17-18) - the low bid was submitted by Cass Burch Chevrolet in the amount of \$34,757 for a total of \$69,594. Chief Childress stated that all of the items up for bid were approved by Council in the current year Budget and asked Council’s consideration in approving the low bids as presented under the Consent Agenda.

Richard Hardy, Public Works Director, presented the following Agenda Items: (1) Item 3(d) Consideration of bids to purchase a One Ton Super Duty Crew Cab Truck with an eight foot bed for the Public Works Department (Bid No. 21-17-18) - the low bid was submitted by Cass Burch Dodge in the amount of \$28,441, and (2) Item 3(e) Consideration of bids to purchase a One Half Ton Crew Cab Pickup Truck for the Public Works Department (Bid No. 23-17-18) - the low bid was submitted by Cass Burch Dodge in the amount of \$25,284. Richard Hardy, Public Works Director, stated that all of the items up for bid were approved by Council in the current year Budget and asked Council’s consideration in approving the low bids as presented under the Consent Agenda.

Darryl Muse, Utilities Director, presented the following Agenda Items: (1) Item 3(f) Consideration of bids to purchase three, One Ton Service Trucks with a Work Utility Body for the Utilities Department (Bid No. 22-17-18) - the low bid was submitted by Nextran Truck Center in the amount of \$38,502 each for a total of \$115,506, and (2) Item 3(g) Consideration of bids to purchase a One Half Ton Crew Cab Pickup Truck for the Utilities Department (Bid No. 23-17-18) - the low bid was submitted by Cass Burch Dodge in the amount of \$25,284. Darryl Muse, Utilities Director, stated that all of the items up for bid were approved by Council in the current year Budget and asked Council’s consideration in approving the low bids as presented under the Consent Agenda.

Pat Collins, City Engineer, presented the following Agenda Item: (1) Item 3(h) Consideration of bids for a Ford F-450 Truck with a Utility Body and Lift Gate for the Engineering Department Bid No. 20-17-18) - the low bid meeting specifications was submitted by Langdale Ford in the amount of \$45,622.32. Pat Collins, City

Engineer, stated that the item up for bid was approved by Council in the current year Budget and asked Council's consideration in approving the low bid meeting specifications as presented under the Consent Agenda.

A MOTION by Councilman Carroll, seconded by Councilman Vickers, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to follow the recommendations as presented and approve the low bids under a Consent Agenda for Agenda Items 3(a) through 3(h).

Consideration of bids for the 2017 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 2017 formula-based allotment is \$566,158.69 and, therefore, our required 30% match is \$169,847.61. The minimum total required to be spent in 2017 is \$736,006.30. The 2017 LMIG resurfacing list was approved by City Council on December 8, 2016. It includes whole length segments of streets in the worst condition while considering those streets that Council members have expressed as their priority and balancing the total mileage among the Districts. The recommended list resurfaces a total of 5.44 miles and was estimated to cost \$959,706 to \$1,036,483. On February 22, 2018, three 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 bid submitted by Reames & Sons Construction, Inc. was deemed non-responsive for failing to acknowledge Addendum #1 and Addendum #2. Their bid was \$973,332. The other two bids received were both deemed complete and responsive. The low bid was received from H & H Paving in the amount of \$1,022,764.50. Staff is recommending their selection along with a 10% contingency for a total of \$1,125,040.95. If H & H Paving is approved, this will be the first time that the City of Valdosta has used them for the annual LMIG resurfacing program. H & H Paving owns and operates a hot mix asphalt drum-plant in Quitman, Georgia. Both the Plant and the Laboratory are certified, inspected, and routinely monitored by GDOT to ensure that acceptable mixes are produced. They have recent or ongoing LMIG experience in Moultrie, Hahira, Quitman, Brooks, Colquitt, and Thomas Counties. Pat Collins stated that he visited their facilities in Quitman and visited their Plant, Laboratory, and Fleet. They have all the GODT certifications and he also sent letters to surrounding towns that have used them for the LMIG Programs since the work done by H & H Paving on Dogwood. Based on the feedback he received and the GDOT certifications, Pat Collins recommended that Council approve the low bid submitted by H & H Paving in the amount of \$1,022,764.50 plus a 10% contingency to handle any unforeseen circumstances for a total of \$1,125,040.95 for the 2017 Local Maintenance Improvement Grant (LMIG) Program. Mark Barber, Interim City Manager, stated that the last time H & H Paving did work for the City of Valdosta, we had some concerns; however, at that point in time, they did not have their own asphalt-producing equipment which they do now. They also have a larger Staff which was part of the previous problem. This will be an opportunity for them to have a second chance and they know that we will be constantly monitoring their progress and if something goes astray then they will be removed from the job immediately. Mayor Gayle inquired as to whether they were a Valdosta Small Emerging Business (VSEB) contractor. Mark Barber stated that they were a minority contractor.

A MOTION by Councilwoman Tooley, seconded by Councilman Vickers, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to approve the low bid submitted by H & H Paving in the amount of \$1,022,764.50 plus a 10% contingency to handle any unforeseen circumstances for a total of \$1,125,040.95 for the 2017 Local Maintenance Improvement Grant (LMIG) Program.

Consideration of bids for replacement of a street box culvert on North Patterson Street.

Pat Collins, City Engineer, stated that in November, 2014, the City was contacted about a private dumpster that had fallen into a storm pipe. The storm pipe was actually a 6' x 4.5' box culvert that comes from North Patterson Street and runs southeast between Ming's Restaurant and U.S. Renal Care. While the only portion of culvert that collapsed was where the dumpster was located, Staff did find that there was no rebar in the damaged portions which brought concern for the remainder. Staff inspected the rest of the culvert and no visible failures were found. Since funding was not available at the time to replace the culvert, Staff addressed the immediate issue by removing the dumpster and debris from the culvert, stabilizing the area, and installing a fence within the

drainage easement to secure the area. Over the years, Staff has routinely inspected the remaining portion of the culvert and did not find any changes. Funding was requested each budget year; however, it was not available until this year. On February 27, 2018, a mandatory pre-bid meeting was held and sealed bids were received on March 12, 2018. The low bid was submitted by Standard Contractors, Inc. in the amount of \$105,465 plus a 10% contingency to handle any unforeseen circumstances for a total cost of \$116,011.50. Pat Collins recommended that Council approve the low bid was submitted by Standard Contractors, Inc. in the amount of \$105,465 plus a 10% contingency to handle any unforeseen circumstances for a total cost of \$116,011.50 for replacement of a street box culvert on North Patterson Street.

A MOTION by Councilman Carroll, seconded by Councilman Norton, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to approve the low bid submitted by Standard Contractors, Inc. in the amount of \$105,465 plus a 10% contingency to handle any unforeseen circumstances for a total cost of \$116,011.50 for replacement of a street box culvert on North Patterson Street.

Consideration of a request to purchase four NO SMOKE Diesel Exhaust Systems for the Fire Department.

Fire Chief Freddie Broome stated that the NO SMOKE system is an apparatus-mounted, direct source capture exhaust removal system that works automatically to protect Firefighters and citizens from the dangers of breathing diesel exhaust. In 2016, the Valdosta Fire Department enhanced their cancer reduction efforts by adding the NO SMOKE exhaust removal system to the new Fire Trucks. Also, the NO SMOKE system will be installed on the new Ladder Trucks, which are expected to be delivered in October, 2018. The Fire Department currently has two front-line engines and two reserves engines that need installation of the NO SMOKE systems. The NO SMOKE systems are apparatus-mounted, direct capture systems that work automatically to remove harmful diesel exhaust from fire stations and maintenance facilities. These systems will eliminate the need to upgrade, repair, or install current Nederman systems at each fire facility which has been estimated at more than \$155, 855. Our maintenance facility and three stations do not have any removal systems in operation at all. Those that we have are in dire need of upgrade and/or repair. These systems will make us compliant with OSHA, NIOSH, and NFPA standards. The Fire Department had \$38,200 approved in the 2018 Budget year to purchase four No SMOKE systems from Ward Diesel. Ward Diesel Filter is the sole manufacturer and sole distributor of the patented NO SMOKE diesel filtration system granted by the United States Government pursuant to Patent Number 4,803,838. No other company or individual has been licensed to manufacture or market an identical or similar system. Installation of the system is completed by a Ward Diesel Service Technician on all new installations at the manufacturer facilities. As a retrofit assembly, the installation will be completed at the Fire Department. The system cost is \$8,739.06 and the total to purchase four systems would be \$34,956.24. Chief Broome recommended that Council approve the request to purchase four NO SMOKE Diesel Exhaust Systems from Ward Diesel Filter in the amount of \$34,956.24 for the Fire Department.

A MOTION by Councilwoman Miller-Cody, seconded by Councilman Norton, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to approve the purchase of four NO SMOKE Diesel Exhaust Systems from Ward Diesel Filter in the amount of \$34,956.24 for the Fire Department.

LOCAL FUNDING AND REQUESTS

Consideration of a request to discuss personnel.

Mayor Gayle stated that at the Strategic Initiatives Summit that was held recently at Lenox River Ranch in Lenox, the Council went into an Executive Session to evaluate members of the Staff. They came out of the Executive Session with no action being taken; however, the Mayor and Council are now ready to make a motion regarding personnel.

A MOTION was made by Councilman Vickers to promote Interim City Manager Mark Barber to the permanent City Manager position. Councilman Carroll seconded the motion. Mayor Gayle stated that they raised Mark Barber's pay when they made him Interim City Manager and they will keep that pay intact. The motion was unanimously adopted (7-0).

Lisa Renee Straughter, 4970 Patton Drive, stated that she is opening up The Meeting Place II Transitional Center for Women to help women who are coming out of homelessness, incarceration, or high risk situations and to get them back into the community to do great things. It truly can be done because she was in that situation at one time. She was homeless and incarcerated but she is now doing great things in the community and the world. Ms. Straughter asked for Council's consideration in giving her a helping hand. She is starting her 501(c)(3) from the bottom up and has recently gotten her Articles of Incorporation. She has gotten through all of this the help of God. Valdosta needs this type of Center because the women really have no place to go and no life skills. They have no one to help give them a hand up so her job is to help give them a hand up. When they come out of the facility, they will have a job, a place to live, and hopefully, a car. They can be successful and she knows that this can be done. She asked for Council's help in making Valdosta greater and to make Valdosta the City that she knows it can be. Councilman Vickers inquired as to where the Transitional Center was located. Ms. Straughter stated that she is currently looking for a location to house the Transitional Center. She is also having a Black Tie Affair on Friday, March 30, 2018 at Mathis Auditorium and Council members are invited to attend.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mark Barber, City Manager, stated that the Strategic Initiatives Summit that was held last weekend was a success and they came away with a solid list of goals and action items that will have a positive effect on our community.

A Press Release was sent out about the Service Delivery Strategy and nothing has changed at this time from what the City Attorney discussed at the Retreat.

The American Red Cross is hosting the Hometown Heroes Dinner at the James H. Rainwater Conference Center tonight. There were 18 nominations and 7 of those were City of Valdosta employees. City of Valdosta nominees from the Valdosta Fire Department were Justin Ply, Michael Penland, John Herpin, Dereck Willis, Darrien Williams, and Jeffrey Talley and Shannon Floyd from the Police Department. We were represented very well and this shows the caliber of the people that we have working for the City of Valdosta.

City Government 101 starts Monday, April 2, 2018 and Council is invited to attend and meet the new class members. There are several slots left for the Citizens Police Academy which starts April 12, 2018 and citizens are encouraged to apply. Citizens are also encouraged to sign up for E-News and keep up-to-date on events happening in the City of Valdosta.

Mark Barber, City Manager, stated that he and Councilwoman Tooley attended a Memorial Service for Capt. Mark Weber on March 21, 2018 at Moody Air Force Base who was killed in a helicopter crash. We need to keep our Moody family close at heart and in our prayers.

Mark Barber, stated that he would like to take a point of personal privilege. He is seldom without words but tonight may be one of those times. He thanked the Mayor and Council for appointing him as the new City Manager. This means a great deal to him and he truly appreciated the trust and confidence that the Mayor and City Council have placed in him. He thanked the Department Heads for their support not only during the past three months but for over the years that they have known each other. He thanked the 600 co-workers at the City of Valdosta and he looks forward to working side-by-side with each one of them and achieving the great things that are going to happen at the City of Valdosta. Last but not least, he thanked his parents, Ann and Larry Barber, his sister, Judge Joni Parker and her husband David Parker and their daughter Holly Parker, his son and family, Landon Barber and Brittany and his grandson Bentley, and his wife, Judy, who has supported him for 30 years.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Vickers stated that he has known Mark Barber for many years and he is looking forward to working with him as the new City Manager. Mark will do an outstanding job for the City of Valdosta.

Councilman Howard stated that he wanted to recognize a group of young ladies in the audience tonight who do a lot for our community. They do not like recognition but they walk the streets of our City and they pray for our City and our leaders. They believe that prayer still works.

Councilwoman Miller-Cody thanked Mayor Gayle for allowing her to fill in for him at an event at the Elks Lodge on Sunday, March 18, 2018. She enjoyed meeting with the Veterans who served in Vietnam. It brought back a lot of memories because her first cousin, Curtis Jones, was one of the first young black men killed in Vietnam. For her to have a part in that celebration touched her in such a special way and she thanked Mayor Gayle for the opportunity to attend in his absence.

Mayor Gayle stated that he had to travel to Atlanta to help bring into the world John Gayle, III and he had asked members of Council to help him cover some events. Councilwoman Tooley and Councilwoman Miller-Cody both did a great job filling in for him while he was out-of-town.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Gayle entertained a motion for adjournment.

A MOTION by Councilman Vickers, seconded by Councilman Carroll, was unanimously adopted (7-0) to adjourn the March 22, 2018 Meeting of the Valdosta City Council at 6:11 p.m. to meet again in Regular Session on Thursday, April 5, 2018.

City Clerk, City of Valdosta

Mayor, City of Valdosta