

**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR MEETING OF THE VALDOSTA CITY COUNCIL**  
**5:30 P.M., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2013**  
**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, Alvin Payton, Jr., Robert Yost, Deidra White, and James Wright. The invocation was given by Pastor Jeff Williams, Associate Pastor of New Covenant Church, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

**AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS**

**PRESENTATION OF THE FEBRUARY, 2013 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH AWARD**

Commander Bernard Robinson presented the February, 2013 Employee of the Month Award (Robin Jackson, Police Department).

Robin Jackson began her employment with the City of Valdosta Police Department July, 1989 as a Records Clerk. Robin was transferred to the Training Division in July, 2002 and then to the Patrol Division as a Secretary in March, 2003, which is the position she currently holds. Robin is a very efficient and dependable Secretary. She keeps the Patrol Commander aware of all activities in the Patrol Bureau and ensures time sensitive items assigned to the Officers are kept on task. Robin is always willing to help others, no matter how big or small the problem. A great example of her willingness to lend a helping hand recently occurred. The Police Department front desk and records areas were short-handed for quite some time. Robin took the opportunity and jumped right in to help. Robin assisted in the Records Division by helping with daily log-in of 911 dispatch sheets, incident reports, and citations. Not only did she keep her daily responsibilities as a Secretary completed, she also worked during the weekends to ensure the Records Division duties were accomplished. George Patton once said, "Always do more than is required of you." Robin is a perfect example of this quote and always gives quality service as a City of Valdosta employee. For these reasons and many others, the Employee Relations Committee nominated Robin Jackson as Employee of the Month.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the January 24, 2013 Regular Meeting were approved by unanimous consent (7-0) of the Council.

**LOCAL FUNDING AND REQUESTS**

Consideration of a request to appeal the decision on a Certificate of Appropriateness by the Historic Preservation Commission for the relocation of 11 houses. This request was postponed at the January 24, 2013 Regular Council Meeting until the February 7, 2013 Regular Council Meeting.

Mayor Gayle stated that this situation has been resolved and the applicant has withdrawn the request.

**BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AUTHORITIES, AND ADVISORY COMMITTEES**

Consideration of appointments to the Historic Preservation Commission.

Mayor Gayle stated that the Valdosta Historic Preservation Commission has the following two members whose terms will expire February 13, 2013: (1) Mary Bryant, and (2) Latesha Bradley. Ms. Bryant has expressed an interest in being reappointed; however, Latesha Bradley has not expressed an interested in serving again. These appointments were advertised according to the Boards, Commissions, Authorities, and Advisory Committees Policy that was adopted by Mayor and Council. The applicants for consideration are as follows in no order of preference: (1) Mary F. Bryant - Self Employed (Personal and Direct Support Specialist), (2) Henry Byron Courson - Insurance Agent (Valdosta Insurance Services, Inc.), (3) Randall S. Crews - Structural Engineer (Crews Engineering, Inc.), and (4) William P. Reeves - Retired (South Georgia Pecan).

Mayor Gayle asked for nominations for Position No. 1. Councilman Vickers placed in consideration the name of Mary Bryant. There being no other nominations, Mayor Gayle closed nominations. Mary Bryant was appointed by acclamation to serve a term of three years on the Valdosta Historic Preservation Commission.

Mayor Gayle asked for nominations for Position No. 2. Councilwoman White placed in consideration the name of Randall Crews. There being no other nominations, Mayor Gayle closed nominations. Randall Crews was appointed by acclamation to serve a term of three years on the Valdosta Historic Preservation Commission.

Consideration of appointments to the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Advisory Committee.

Mayor Gayle stated that the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Advisory Committee has the following four members whose terms will expire February 24, 2013: (1) Susan Johnson, (2) Rebecca Taylor, (3) Barthaniel Werts, Jr., and (4) Anthony Bellamy. Rebecca Taylor and Anthony Bellamy have both expressed an interest in being reappointed; however, Susan Johnson and Barthaniel Werts, Jr. have not expressed an interest in serving again. These appointments were advertised according to the Boards, Commissions, Authorities, and Advisory Committees Policy that was adopted by Mayor and Council. The applicants for consideration are as follows in no order of preference: (1) Anthony Bellamy - CEO/Founder (Bray's Temple Outreach), (2) Rebecca L. Taylor - Director of Testing (Valdosta State University), and (3) Jessica R. Young - Attorney (Langdale Vallotton LLP).

Mayor Gayle asked for nominations for Position No. 1. Councilman Wright placed in consideration the name of Anthony Bellamy. There being no other nominations, Mayor Gayle closed nominations. Anthony Bellamy was re-appointed by acclamation to serve a term of four years on the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Advisory Committee.

Mayor Gayle asked for nominations for Position No. 2. Councilwoman White placed in consideration the name of Rebecca Taylor. There being no other nominations, Mayor Gayle closed nominations. Rebecca Taylor was re-appointed by acclamation to serve a term of four years on the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Advisory Committee.

Mayor Gayle asked for nominations for Position No. 3. Councilman Carroll placed in consideration the name of Jessica Young. There being no other nominations, Mayor Gayle closed nominations. Jessica Young was appointed by acclamation to serve a term of four years on the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Advisory Committee.

Mayor Gayle stated that the open position would be advertised at a later date.

## **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

Larry Hanson, City Manager, stated that applications are being accepted for the City Government 101 Class through the end of February. Council members are encouraged to let constituents in their Districts know about the Class in order for us to have representation from citizens throughout the City. The Class is limited to 25 individuals.

Mayor/Council Retreat items are due by the end of the day tomorrow and Council members should prioritize the top three items.

The Lowndes County Bird Supper will be held on February 27, 2013 at 5:00 p.m. at The Depot in Atlanta.

The Arbor Day Celebration will be held on February 15, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. at Valdosta State University. The City will receive the Tree City USA designation for the 27<sup>th</sup> consecutive year. Council members are encouraged to participate in this event.

Railroad crossing repairs are continuing and the initial phase has been completed. Crews will be coming back within the next few weeks to make the permanent repairs.

The Community Builders of Valdosta will be holding a Community Revitalization Event on February 9, 2013 at 11:00 a.m. at Grace Tabernacle Church. The purpose of this Event is to help support local farmers, rebuild communities, and save our children.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Councilman Carroll thanked Mayor Gayle and Lowndes County Commission Chairman Bill Slaughter for their efforts in working together. Mayor Gayle stated that it has been a pleasure to work with Chairman Slaughter.

**CITIZENS TO BE HEARD**

There were no citizens to be heard.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Gayle adjourned the February 7, 2013 regular meeting of the Valdosta City Council at 5:46 p.m. to meet again in regular session on Thursday, February 21, 2013.

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City Clerk, City of Valdosta

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Mayor, City of Valdosta