

**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR MEETING OF THE VALDOSTA CITY COUNCIL**  
**5:30 P.M., THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6, 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, and Andy Gibbs. Councilwoman Vivian Miller-Cody was absent. The invocation was given by Pastor Robby Foster, Northside Baptist Church, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

**AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS**

Mayor Gayle asked George Page, Executive Director of the Valdosta-Lowndes County Parks & Recreation Authority to come to the podium for a special presentation. George Page thanked the Mayor and Council for the opportunity to come before them tonight. He has a couple of distinguished guests with the State Georgia Recreation and Parks Association (GRPA) present, Randy Spook Spivey, President of the GRPA from Dublin and Laurens County and Steve Card, the Executive Director of the GRPA. They are here to honor Councilman Andy Gibbs as the Georgia Recreation and Parks Association Volunteer of the Year for all of his work dating back many years for starting the Miracle League. The new facility will be open in March, 2020. Councilman Gibbs is also on the Valdosta-Lowndes County Parks & Recreation Authority Board and he is doing a lot of great work. George Page thanked everyone for allowing them to be here tonight and introduced Steve Card.

Steve Card, Executive Director of the GRPA, stated that the GRPA is the advocacy group for all of the Recreation and Parks across the State, not only from the legislative level but also from the continuing education level through workshops, seminars, and conferences. They also teach sessions at the Georgia Municipal Association Conferences. In 2018, they gave out approximately \$2 million in funding to local Parks and Recreation Departments across the State. He has a unique opportunity to travel across the State to see what is happening in local communities and the great things that are going on. During the past year, he has been to Valdosta three or four time for ribbon cuttings and ground breakings. There are two things that each Council person wants and that is loyalty and passion within their community. Loyalty is the willingness to recommend your community to others and you want to be proud that you are from Valdosta. Passion is the pride they take in their community. The best way to do this is to have groups of volunteers because they are critical to making any community passionate and loyal. A volunteer is a person who helps an organization and does not get paid and even though Councilman Gibbs may not get paid for his volunteer work, if he is counting all the times he has received a thank you, hugs, and the appreciation of what his entire group has done then he is a millionaire over and over. He has broken down barriers in this community. It is interesting to have an individual who saw something on TV years ago that peaked his interest about a program for kids with disabilities and instead of sitting on the sidelines, he made a couple of phone calls to the National Miracle League and asked why we could not have something like that in Valdosta. They knew it would be a big expense but you now have a wonderful \$5 million new facility. Councilman Gibbs went out and rallied the troops with a lot of other people and brings that to the table. We are proud to have people like Councilman Gibbs to be a part of Parks and Recreation across the State who come out and add that pride and loyalty. For that reason and many others, we applaud Councilman Gibbs who, after many years in a private business, felt a calling to go into serving others in education. He has had his hand in the design each and every way to make sure Valdosta has a State of the Art, one of a kind facility, not just for our community but for the entire region for kids with disabilities to have a place that they can call their own and enjoy each and every day. That is really something special and the GRPA is proud and humbled to offer their highest honor of Volunteer of the Year to Councilman Andy Gibbs.

Councilman Gibbs stated that this was a surprise and it meant a lot to him. There are a lot of people behind the scenes who have made the new facility possible and have made a dream of his become a reality. He has 25 members setting up right now at the new Library for the Miracle League players to come and enjoy food and gifts for Christmas. To be able to walk in and see the smiles on their faces is wonderful. If you are having a bad day then you need to come to a Miracle League Game because you will realize that your bad day is not really a bad day. Councilman Gibbs thanked GRPA for the Volunteer of the Year Award.

Consideration of the December, 2018 Employee of the Month Award (Lt. Shelley Miller and Sgt. Allen Carter, Valdosta Fire Department).

Fire Chief Freddie Broome stated Lt. Shelley Miller his employment with the City of Valdosta Fire Department in November of 2009 and currently holds the position of Lieutenant. Fire Lieutenants are responsible for managing the daily operations at the company level, they oversee two to three employees, and they are responsible for being in-charge during emergency incidents. Allen Carter began his employment with the City of Valdosta Fire Department in May of 1999 and currently holds the position of Sergeant. Fire Sergeants are responsible for safely operating the fire apparatuses and conducting daily, weekly, and monthly apparatus inspections to ensure apparatuses are at a level of readiness. In addition, Sergeants assume the Company Officer roles in the absence of the Lieutenants. On Tuesday, August 14, 2018, the Valdosta Fire Department responded to a house fire at 401 North Forrest Street. The call came in at 10:34 p.m. and the first fire unit arrived at 10:36 p.m. They reported heavy flames visible from the carport area. Further investigation revealed there were two vehicles under the carport on fire. The flames were starting to extend to the adjoining house. The first arriving fire units initiated an aggressive fire attack to extinguish the vehicles and the roof area of the adjacent home. The fire was under control at 10:41 p.m. Engine 2's crew attempted to alert the residents and gain access into the house. There was a moderate amount of smoke inside the residence. Fire personnel located the sleeping occupants who were not aware of the fire. There were smoke detectors present inside the home, but they were not working. VFD personnel quickly assisted the occupants to a safe location outside of the house. Thanks to the quick actions of the VFD to alert and evacuate the residence, there were no injuries reported. SGMCMC EMS transported the two occupants for precautionary concerns. The occupants were later released from SGMCMC. It is for these reasons and many others that the Employee Relations Committee nominates Lt. Shelley Miller and Allen Carter as Employee of the Month.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the November 8, 2018 Regular Meeting were approved by unanimous consent (6-0) of the Council.

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

### **ORDINANCE NO. 2018-32, AN ORDINANCE FOR A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT FOR THE EXPANSION OF A SCHOOL IN A SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL (R-10) ZONING DISTRICT**

Consideration of an Ordinance for a Conditional Use Permit for the expansion of a school in a Single-Family Residential (R-10) Zoning District as requested by Scintilla Charter Academy (File No. CU-2018-13). The property is located at 2171 East Park Avenue. The Greater Lowndes Planning Commission reviewed this request at their November Regular Meeting and recommended approval with three conditions (7-0 Vote).

Matt Martin, Planning & Zoning Administrator, stated that Scintilla Charter Academy, Inc. is requesting a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for an expansion of a School in a Single-Family Residential (R-10) Zoning District. The property consists of 28.93 acres located at 2171 East Park Avenue which is along the north side of the street about 400 feet west of Lonesome Dove Road. The applicant has already received CUP approval in 2014 for their school (File No. CU-2014-08) subject to four conditions. The property is located within both a Neighborhood Activity Center (NAC) and a Parks/Recreation/Conservation (PRC) Character Area on the Future Development Map of the Comprehensive Plan. Since 2014, the applicant has maintained compliance with all of its conditions of approval and has been operating successfully on the subject property. In 2014, it was contemplated that this facility would be developed in phases and it would slowly grow over a period of years. The applicant is now requesting to add a Middle School component to their facilities and expand their total building area beyond the original 65,000-sf limitation, all based on an updated master plan. The applicant is now proposing a total building area of a little more than 120,000-sf and is requesting a revised upward limit of 130,000-sf. Other than the new added buildings, the applicant is also proposing to expand their existing (east) parking lot, add a new western parking lot for the Middle School portion, add athletic facilities, and reconfigure for a consolidated student drop-off and pick-up area. In terms of adjacent development patterns, nothing has significantly changed since 2014 other than the construction of the new Valdosta High School facing Inner Perimeter Road more than ½ mile away to the east. Most of the High School's traffic enters and exits from Inner Perimeter Road, although there is a secondary entrance that lines up with the Dogwood Drive intersection a little more than 1,500 feet east of the Scintilla property. These two schools,

along with J.L. Newbern Middle School to the west, have all successfully staggered their school schedules in order to minimize potential traffic congestion along East Park Avenue. At some point, it will become necessary to physically extend Northside Drive eastward along the south boundary of the subject property, across East Park Avenue and connect to Inner Perimeter Road south of the new High School. The applicant has already reserved the first segment of the Northside Drive extension. The applicant's Engineer has already performed a traffic study on the proposed Scintilla expansion, which demonstrates no significant adverse impact on the current traffic situation; however, with continued additional development in the area, traffic will continue to increase over time and the timing of these necessary road improvements will be coordinated with the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and the City's Engineering Staff. Therefore, the existing school should be allowed to expand a bit further with carrying forward the original CUP conditions of approval as deemed appropriate. Staff found the request consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and the Conditional Use Review Criteria, and recommended approval with the following conditions: (1) Conditional Use approval shall be granted for both an Elementary School and Middle School shared campus (grades Pre-K - 8), including school recreational facilities, based on the general layout of the revised master plan and with a total building area not to exceed 130,000 square feet. Site design shall comply with all applicable LDR standards for such schools. Outdoor activities shall be limited to daytime and early evening hours not exceeding 9:00 p.m. All onsite lighting shall be directed away from the northern property line. (2) A minimum 50' wide landscaped buffer shall be extended and remain as undisturbed along the entire northern property line. Additional native trees and shrubs shall be planted to fill in the "bare patches" of this buffer area, as approved by the City Arborist in accordance with the site's approved Landscape Plan. (3) Conditional Use approval shall supersede the approval from 2014, and shall expire after three years from the date of this approval if the Middle School portion of the campus is not operating onsite by that date. The Planning Commission reviewed this at their November 26, 2018 Regular Meeting, found it consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and the Conditional Use Review Criteria, and recommended approval subject to the following conditions (7-0 vote): (1) Conditional Use approval shall be granted for both an Elementary School and Middle School shared campus (grades Pre-K - 8), including school recreational facilities, based on the general layout of the revised master plan and with a total building area not to exceed 130,000 square feet. Site design shall comply with all applicable LDR standards for such schools. Outdoor activities shall be limited to daytime and early evening hours not exceeding 9:00 p.m. All onsite lighting shall be directed away from the northern property line. (2) A minimum 50' wide landscaped buffer shall be extended and remain as undisturbed along the entire northern property line. Additional native trees and shrubs shall be planted to fill in the "bare patches" of this buffer area, as approved by the City Arborist in accordance with the site's approved Landscape Plan. (3) Conditional Use approval shall supersede the approval from 2014, and shall expire after five years from the date of this approval if the Middle School portion of the campus is not operating onsite by that date. Councilman Norton inquired as to whether the applicant would come back to the City Council to ask for an extension if there was a hold up with the State and the permits needed or would they have to go back through the entire process again. Matt Martin stated that they would need to go back through the whole process to amend the extension. Staff originally had thought three years would be sufficient; however, the applicant asked the Planning Commission to expand that to five years which would not be an issue. The longest they have granted for a Conditional Use approval is ten years and they would also be fine in this situation.

Zachary Cowart, Scintilla Board Chairman, spoke in favor of the request. Mr. Cowart stated that he appreciated all of the hard work that Matt Martin and the Planning Commission has done on this request. They hope to get approval from the State so they can move forward with 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grades and the financing is already lined up. Councilman Carroll inquired as to whether the five years would be enough time. Mr. Cowart stated that he would love to have ten years but it is fine with whatever the Council deems appropriate. They hope that it will be done before then but it is outside of their control.

No one spoke in opposition to the request.

**A MOTION** was made by Councilman Norton to approve a Conditional Use Permit for the expansion of a school in a Single-Family Residential (R-10) Zoning District as requested by Scintilla Charter Academy with the following three conditions: (1) Conditional Use approval shall be granted for both an Elementary School and Middle School shared campus (grades Pre-K - 8), including school recreational facilities, based on the general layout of the revised master plan and with a total building area not to exceed 130,000 square feet. Site design shall comply with all applicable LDR standards for such schools. Outdoor activities shall be limited to daytime and early

evening hours not exceeding 9:00 p.m. All onsite lighting shall be directed away from the northern property line. (2) A minimum 50' wide landscaped buffer shall be extended and remain as undisturbed along the entire northern property line. Additional native trees and shrubs shall be planted to fill in the "bare patches" of this buffer area, as approved by the City Arborist in accordance with the site's approved Landscape Plan. (3) Conditional Use approval shall supersede the approval from 2014, and shall expire after ten years from the date of this approval if the Middle School portion of the campus is not operating onsite by that date. The motion was seconded by Councilman Carroll. The motion was unanimously adopted (6-0) to enact Ordinance No. 2018-32, the complete text of which will be found in Ordinance Book XIV.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2018-33, AN TO REZONE 1.79 ACRES FROM SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL (R-10) TO MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL (R-M)**

Consideration of an Ordinance to rezone 1.79 acres from Single-Family Residential (R-10) to Multi-Family Residential (R-M) as requested by Ailone Tichon (File No. VA-2018-15). The property is located at 1505 and 1507 Hickory Road. The Greater Lowndes Planning Commission reviewed this request at their November Regular Meeting and recommended approval (7-0 Vote).

Matt Martin, Planning & Zoning Administrator, stated that on behalf of Yona Point LLC, Mr. Ailone Tichon is requesting to rezone two parcels totaling 1.79 acres from Single-Family Residential (R-10) to Multi-Family Residential (R-M). The properties are located at 1505 and 1507 Hickory Road which is along the east side of the street approximately 800 feet north of North St. Augustine Road. This is diagonally across the street from recently-constructed Candlewood Suites hotel. The properties each currently contain a single-family residence, which are used as rental housing. The applicant is proposing to demolish the existing residences and redevelop the combined property as a rental apartment complex with 32 dwelling units (64 total bedrooms), based on either of two (2) possible site plans. The subject property is located within a Community Activity Center (CAC) Character Area on the Future Development Map of the Comprehensive Plan which allows the possibility of R-M zoning. It should be noted that the existing R-10 Zoning on the property is non-compliant with the CAC Character Area. The subject properties are part of a residential neighborhood that was one of the unincorporated islands annexed by the City in 2006. These properties had R-10 Zoning in the County and were given R-10 Zoning in the City upon annexation. In the years leading up to its annexation, this area was once dominated by owner-occupied single-family housing and it was considered a very stable neighborhood; however, this characteristic has since changed to one that is now dominated by rental houses and a large apartment complex in the rear area along Harmon Drive. While the neighborhood was still in the County, even some non-residential uses crept in through special approvals in R-10 Zoning and there was even a failed neighborhood buyout attempt for a proposed shopping center. During the past three years, the property across the street to the southwest was rezoned to C-C to allow the development of a four-story hotel (Candlewood Suites, now operating), and the neighborhood's Character Area was changed from Transitional Neighborhood (TN) to Community Activity Center (CAC) for the specific purpose of furthering the transition of this neighborhood to an area of a little higher intensity development. As was discussed during the C-C rezoning and the Character Area amendment a few years ago, Staff believes the majority of these properties toward the rear of the neighborhood are very well-suited for either multi-family or professional office development with commercial redevelopment occurring on assembled properties fronting North St. Augustine Road. The applicant's proposal is in keeping with this land use projection; however, Staff's only concern is to have an orderly transition of the neighborhood development pattern and to avoid a piecemealed design. Ideally, this next multi-family redevelopment proposal would have been adjacent to the existing Harmon Heights Apartments, but the applicant's property is at least close. The applicant has also informally expressed a desire to continue his redevelopment efforts in this area with future phases of multi-family development that are adjacent to this subject property and that are based on an overall master plan. Staff finds this encouraging and therefore supports this request. It should be further noted that the City now has some new supplemental standards in place through the LDR that were not in place when Harmon Heights was first being built. These include both architectural standards as well as additional buffering requirements. Staff found the request consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and the Standards for the Exercise of Zoning Power (SFEZP), and recommended approval. The Planning Commission reviewed this at their November 26, 2018 Regular Meeting, found it consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and the Standards for the Exercise of Zoning Power (SFEZP), and recommended approval (7-0 vote).

Matt Phelps, Phelps Construction Company, 4560 Valnorth Drive, spoke in favor of the request. Mr. Phelps stated that he is the Engineer for the Project and asked Council's consideration in approving the request.

No one spoke in opposition to the request.

A **MOTION** by Councilman Vickers, seconded by Councilman Carroll, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to enact Ordinance No. 2018-33, an Ordinance to rezone 1.79 acres from Single-Family Residential (R-10) to Multi-Family Residential (R-M) as requested by Ailone Tichon, the complete text of which will be found in Ordinance Book XIV.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2018-34, AN ORDINANCE TO REZONE 11.14 ACRES FROM SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL (R-10) TO RESIDENTIAL-PROFESSIONAL (R-P)**

Consideration of an Ordinance to rezone 11.14 acres from Single-Family Residential (R-10) to Residential-Professional (R-P) as requested by New Harvest United Methodist Church (File No. VA-2018-16). The property is located at 2548 East Park Avenue. The Greater Lowndes Planning Commission reviewed this request at their November Regular Meeting and recommended approval (7-0 Vote)

Matt Martin, Planning & Zoning Administrator, stated that New Harvest United Methodist Church is requesting to rezone 11.14 acres from Single-Family Residential (R-10) to Residential-Professional (R-P). The property is located at 2548 East Park Avenue which is along the south side of the street approximately 600 feet east of Stallings Road and one-half mile east of Inner Perimeter Road. The property contains an existing church facility which the applicant received specific approval for (as a Special Exception) more than 20 years ago. The applicant is now proposing to expand and more than double the size of their facility. The property is located within a Community Activity Center (CAC) Character Area on the Future Development Map of the Comprehensive Plan which allows the possibility of R-P Zoning. It should be noted that the existing R-10 Zoning on the property is non-compliant with the CAC Character Area. Although the original church facility received approval many years ago, the proposed major expansion triggers either a re-approval as a Conditional Use in R-10 Zoning based on a new master plan, or a rezoning to a classification such as R-P which allows churches as a Permitted Use. Pursuant to Staff's advice, the applicant chose the rezoning option to R-P so that future expansions may yet be allowed without another Public Hearing process, as well as the notion that R-P fits the existing zoning pattern in this area better than R-10. This is still a fairly remote area of the City and most of the surrounding properties remain undeveloped and forested. The only developed properties in the immediate area include the subject property (church), the Methodist Children's Home directly across the street (church-related), a large electric substation to the NE, and a convenience store/gas station at the intersection with Inner Perimeter Road (one-half mile to the west). The surrounding zoning pattern is very mixed and irregular, but approximately half of the nearby properties already contain R-P Zoning. Although this area is developing very slowly, R-10 Zoning is not compliant with the CAC Character Area as depicted on the Comprehensive Plan's Future Development Map for this area. R-10 Zoning would also not be very appropriate in the long-term for a future urbanizing development pattern along a State highway, which will eventually get widened to multiple lanes. Given the surrounding land use patterns and development trends, the church's continued use (and expansion) on the subject property is very appropriate. Rezoning the property to R-P to allow for continued church expansions in the future, is certainly more logical and more flexible than repeated Conditional Use approvals in R-10 Zoning. Staff found the request consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and the Standards for the Exercise of Zoning Power (SFEZP), and recommended approval. The Planning Commission reviewed this at their November 26, 2018 Regular Meeting, found it consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and the Standards for the Exercise of Zoning Power (SFEZP), and recommended approval (7-0 vote).

Ricky Johnson, Head Trustee of New Harvest United Methodist Church, spoke in favor of the request. Mr. Johnson stated that they wanted to add on a Fellowship Hall and found out that they were not zoned right. Mr. Johnson asked Council's consideration in approving the request.

No one spoke in opposition to the request.

A **MOTION** by Councilman Vickers, seconded by Councilman Norton, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to enact Ordinance No. 2018-34, an Ordinance to rezone 11.14 acres from Single-Family Residential (R-10) to Residential-Professional (R-P) as requested by New Harvest United Methodist Church, the complete text of which will be found in Ordinance Book XIV.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2018-35, AN ORDINANCE TO REZONE  
2.57 ACRES FROM SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL (R-10)  
TO NEIGHBORHOOD-COMMERCIAL (C-N)**

**12/06/18 CONTINUED**

Consideration of an Ordinance to rezone 2.57 acres from Single-Family Residential (R-10) to Neighborhood-Commercial (C-N) as requested by Treina Dove (File No. VA-2018-17). The property is located at the northwest corner of North St Augustine Road and the northern leg of Hightower Circle. The Greater Lowndes Planning Commission reviewed this request at their November regular meeting and recommended approval (7-0 Vote).

Matt Martin, Planning & Zoning Administrator, stated that Ms. Treina Dove is requesting to rezone 2.57 acres from Single-Family Residential (R-10) to Neighborhood-Commercial (C-N). The property is located at the northwest corner of North St. Augustine Road and the northern leg of Hightower Circle. This is immediately south and across Hightower Creek from the Valdosta Mall Corners shopping center. The property is currently vacant and the applicant is simply proposing to market the property as speculation for future commercial development. The property is located within a Community Activity Center (CAC) Character Area on the Future Development Map of the Comprehensive Plan, which allows the possibility of C-N Zoning. It should be noted that the existing R-10 Zoning on the property is non-compliant with the CAC Character Area. The North St. Augustine Road corridor has a fairly intensive development pattern and it is dominated by both commercial zoning and commercial uses. Continued single-family development on properties facing this corridor is no longer logical or appropriate, and such zoning categories are non-compliant with the CAC Character Area designations on the Comprehensive Plan's Future Development Map. However, the subject property is part of one of the last remaining stable, yet small single-family neighborhoods along the corridor. Increasing the intensity of the zoning for any of these properties should be done with an abundance of caution. The applicant's request is purely speculative in nature, and there is currently no proposed site plan for future commercial development. Staff would normally not be at all supportive of such requests; however, it is difficult to imagine this property being eventually developed for something other than commercial development. Therefore, at Staff's suggestion the applicant is requesting C-N Zoning which matches the existing zoning on the other side of the highway and is the lowest intensity of the three possible commercial zonings. This proposal would allow the applicant to market the property as commercial. If a proposed buyer would like to develop the property for a commercial use that requires a little higher zoning (such as perhaps C-C or C-H), then that buyer could prepare their own proposed site plan and come back through the rezoning process for possible consideration at that time. Staff found the request consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and the Standards for the Exercise of Zoning Power (SFEZP), and recommended approval. The Planning Commission reviewed this at their November 26, 2018 meeting, found it consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and the Standards for the Exercise of Zoning Power (SFEZP), and recommended approval (7-0 vote).

No one spoke in favor of the request.

No one spoke in opposition of the request.

**A MOTION** by Councilman Carroll, seconded by Councilman Gibbs, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to enact Ordinance No. 2018-35, an Ordinance to rezone 2.57 acres from Single-Family Residential (R-10) to Neighborhood-Commercial (C-N) as requested by Treina Dove, the complete text of which will be found in Ordinance Book XIV.

**BIDS, CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS, AND EXPENDITURES**

Consideration of bids for painting the exterior of City Hall.

Richard Hardy, Public Works Director, stated that the exterior of City Hall was last painted approximately 18 years ago. The building is in need of a protective water seal coating and two coats of quality finish paint to protect the exterior and interior walls as there are some seeping issues. Other areas such as the doors, windows, eaves, etc., will also be addressed. The City will purchase the paint ourselves, which is estimated at approximately \$5,000, off of a Georgia State Contract (Sherwin Williams). This will provide for the lowest sales price possible and alleviate any mark up on the product. The labor, insurances, equipment, repair materials, and all other costs associated with the project will be provided by the contractor. The estimated time to complete the project is six to eight weeks depending on the weather. A mandatory pre-bid meeting was held on October 17, 2018 where an

information and walk around session of the entire building was provided. This included the expectations of what the end product would look like. Sealed bids were received on October 30, 2018. The low bid was submitted by S&S Services of Hahira, Georgia in the amount of \$57,100 for labor and other necessary materials with the exception of paint. S&S Services has completed many large projects across the southeast including hotels, the Valdosta State University library, and the new Coleman/Talley building downtown. Several other companies that attended the pre-bid did not follow through with proposals due to the complexity and time frame of the job. Richard Hardy recommended that Council approve the low bid submitted by S&S Services in the amount of \$57,100 for labor and other necessary materials with the exception of paint for painting the exterior of City Hall.

**A MOTION** by Councilman Howard, seconded by Councilman Norton, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to approve the low bid was submitted by S&S Services in the amount of \$57,100 for labor and other necessary materials with the exception of paint for painting the exterior of City Hall.

Consideration of bids for the purchase of ten emergency standby generators for the Utilities Department.

Darryl Muse, Utilities Director, stated that the City currently has 37 Sewer Lift Stations in operation. These stations rely on a consistent electric power source to function as designed and prevent sewer overflows. While we have a very reliable electric grid to provide this power consistently, there are times when sustained power outages occur, usually as a result of storms causing trees to fall on power lines. To ensure the department has the capability to operate each lift station should it encounter a power outage, the utility department developed a scope of work to purchase emergency standby generators, as well as emergency standby diesel pumps to meet the electrical and mechanical needs of any lift station. Additionally, action Item 4.b. in the EPD consent order requires the purchase of emergency standby equipment to prevent sewer overflows. Competitive bids were received by the City of Valdosta on November 26, 2018 with the low bid Powerhouse Diesel in the amount of \$107,162. We are adding five stationary generators throughout the City per the EPD Consent Order requirements. Those prices are the same as offered by Powerhouse Diesel and we took the low bid number of \$107,162 and used their pricing per unit to obtain the additional five generators for a total amount of \$224,901.50. This purchase was approved by City Council in the FY 2018 budget, and additionally, hardens the Utilities infrastructure against storms and equipment malfunctions. Darryl Muse, Utilities Director, recommended that Council approve the low bid submitted by Powerhouse Diesel in the amount of \$107,162 plus the five additional stationary generators at a total cost of \$224,901.50 along with a 10% contingency to handle any unforeseen circumstances. In addition, the Utilities Department is requesting to use this bid for an extended six-month period at the current prices to meet future needs.

**A MOTION** by Councilman Gibbs, seconded by Councilman Norton, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to approve the low bid was submitted by Powerhouse Diesel in the amount of \$107,162 plus the five additional stationary generators at a total cost of \$224,901.50 plus a 10% contingency to handle any unforeseen circumstances, and to use this bid for an extended six-month period at the current prices to meet future needs of the Utilities Department.

Consideration of bids for water treatment chemicals for the Utilities Department.

Darryl Muse, Utilities Director, stated that the contract for water treatment chemicals is due to expire on December 31, 2018. These chemicals are used at the Wastewater and drinking Water Treatment Plants every day. This bid is for one year with an option to renew for an additional year. By having an annual contract, this results in better service, delivery, and pricing throughout the contract period for this market. This bid will be awarded to multiple vendors because no one vendor can supply all of the necessary chemicals although they are within the same industry. Each company typically specializes in one or two chemicals. Sealed bids were received on November 27, 2018 with the following results: (1) Caustic Soda - Univar - (\$1.9539), (2) Sulfuric Acid - Southern States Chemical (\$150.00), (3) Hydrofluosilic - Mosaic Chemicals (\$2.41), (4) Oxygen - Air Gas (\$0.06950), (5) Salt - Morton Salt (\$141.00), (6) F-35 Phosphate - Hawkins Chemical (\$6.25), (7) Bleach - Allied Universal (\$0.77), and (8) Sodium Bisulfite - Allied Universal (\$1.79). Darryl Muse recommended that Council approve the bids received for water treatment chemicals for the Utilities Department.

**A MOTION** by Councilman Carroll, seconded by Councilman Norton, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to approve the following bids submitted for water treatment chemicals for the Utilities Department: (1) Caustic Soda - Univar (\$1.9539), (2) Sulfuric Acid - Southern States Chemical (\$150.00), (3) Hydrofluosilic - Mosaic Chemicals

(\$2.41), (4) Oxygen - Air Gas (\$0.06950), (5) Salt - Morton Salt (\$141.00), (6) F-35 Phosphate - Hawkins Chemical (\$6.25), (7) Bleach - Allied Universal (\$0.77), and (8) Sodium Bisulfite - Allied Universal (\$1.79).

Consideration of a bid from Georgia Power for the relocation of poles for the Lake Park Road Sidewalk Project.

Kevin Tolliver, Development Review Engineer, stated that each year the City of Valdosta earmarks funds for new sidewalks. Lake Park Road was identified as an ideal location for a sidewalk. The location of the work is at the Pinevale Elementary School on the west side of Lake Park Road. Currently, school children utilize an unmarked paved shoulder to travel to and from school. The Valdosta Police Department has requested this sidewalk for safety of the children. In 2016 a local engineer designed the sidewalk based on the needs of the students. This proposed sidewalk would first extend to South Street at the north end of the school campus and placed westward to connect to existing sidewalk on South Street. The site contained five poles and one pole guy wire that is in conflict with the sidewalk and required to be relocated by Georgia Power. Construction of the Lake Park Road sidewalk was approved for the 2018 - 2019 fiscal year by Mayor and Council. This project will be advertised for bid in January, 2019. Georgia Power developed the scope for the relocation activities and submitted a quotation to the Engineering Department on October 29, 2018. The total cost for the work was determined to be \$66,689.00; however, in accordance with the franchise agreement between the City and Georgia Power, the City must bear 90% of the cost which is \$60,020.00. Kevin Tolliver recommended that Council approve the bid submitted by Georgia Power in the amount of \$60,020.00 plus an additional 10% contingency (\$6,002.00) to handle any unforeseen circumstances for a total of \$66,022.00 for the relocation of poles for the Lake Park Road Sidewalk Project.

**A MOTION** by Councilwoman Tooley, seconded by Councilman Carroll, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to approve the bid submitted by Georgia Power in the amount of \$60,020.00 plus a 10% contingency (\$6,002.00) to handle any unforeseen circumstances for a total of \$66,022.00 for the relocation of poles for the Lake Park Road Sidewalk Project.

## LOCAL FUNDING AND REQUESTS

Consideration of a Single-Family Residential Rehabilitation Repair (SFRR) Program Policies and Procedures. (Second Reading)

Vanassa Flucas, Neighborhood Development and Community Protection Manager, stated that this is the Second Reading of the Single-Family Residential Rehabilitation Repair (SFRR) Program Policies and Procedures. In April of 2018, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) came and conducted a Program Monitoring of the City of Valdosta's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. During the week-long monitoring, our Atlanta Regional Community Planning and Development (CPD) representative revealed some areas in our Program which needed to be addressed before moving forward with the activities surrounding the City's CDBG Housing Program. Under the strong recommendations of our HUD CPD representative at the conclusion of the Program Monitoring, the City placed the CDBG funded housing program on hiatus until all of the necessary changes to the CDBG program are made to guarantee program compliance. Official changes to the Program were discussed with the Mayor, City Council and City Administration following the receipt of the final closeout report of the City's Program Monitoring in July 2018. One of the areas discussed in the final closeout report was the need for a separate set of Policies and Procedures for the Single-Family Residential Rehabilitation (SFRR) Repair Program. These policies will document the parameters for the City's Housing Program, and will offer a consistent level of compliance for the funding and level of impact on the affordable housing stock for the City. In order to remove the Housing Program from hiatus, policies and procedures for the SFRR Program must be reviewed and approved by HUD and the Mayor and City Council in early December so the new policies and procedures can be instituted and advertised for the new City Housing Program start date of January 1, 2019. There will be a two page, pre-application and once the applicants are approved it will go to a seven page application that is required by HUD. Councilman Vickers inquired as to how much more detail is on the seven page application. Vanassa Flucas stated that they will ask about who is living in the home, the income levels. Vanassa Flucas recommended that Council approve the Single-Family Residential Rehabilitation Repair (SFRR) Program Policies and Procedures.



A **MOTION** by Councilman Vickers, seconded by Councilman Norton, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to approve the Single-Family Residential Rehabilitation Repair (SFRR) Program Policies and Procedures.

Consideration of a request to purchase a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system for Lift Stations and Water Treatment Plants.

Darryl Muse, Utilities Director, stated that the City of Valdosta's Utilities Department is currently under a Consent Order until December 31, 2018. A requirement within the Consent Order was for installation of a remote monitoring system to alert Utilities personnel in the event of system malfunctions or hydraulic conditions which could result in a sewer spill. The proposed system meets the requirements outlined within the Consent Order. Currently the City's lift stations are not universally equipped with systems which notify Utilities personnel in the event of system malfunctions or failure. Presently, notice is provided by citizens in the vicinity of sewer lift stations when a red flashing light is observed. The red flashing light indicates the sewer pump station is spilling or near spilling. Additionally, due to the latency in notification and the resulting delayed response, reportable sewer spills occur. To meet the requirement of the Consent Order, proposals were received on October 24, 2018. Three providers responded and costs were established based on each proposal as well as additional equipment costs borne by the City. The low bid was submitted by EMC Inc. in the amount of \$292,459.00 for Lift stations and all Treatment Plants). EMC Inc. produces a product based on VT SCADA a Trihedral product. The system incorporates system control, monitoring, notification, historian, and overall redundancy. Additionally, EMC provided an all-inclusive alternate price to incorporate the lift stations as well as all other Utilities assets within the City. That price is highlighted above. Based on Ala-Carte pricing for the remaining Utilities assets within the City, the alternate pricing represents a costs savings of \$82,469. The fiscal year 2020 Utilities Department proposed budget includes an additional \$150,000 request to address the remaining Utility SCADA requirements. Funds for this project were approved in the FY 2019 budget (\$250,000). Additional funds for the alternate pricing, if approved, would come from Equipment Replacement or Equipment Rehabilitation line items approved in the FY 2019 budget (\$800,000). Darryl Muse recommended that Council approve the purchase and installation of SCADA system with additional alternatives from EMC in the amount of \$292,459.00 for Lift stations and all Treatment Plants).

A **MOTION** by Councilman Carroll, seconded by Councilman Gibbs, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to approve the purchase and installation of a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system from EMC in the amount of \$292,459.00 for Lift Stations and Water Treatment Plants.

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

Consideration of an appointment to the Keep Lowndes-Valdosta Beautiful Board.

Mayor Gayle stated that the Keep Lowndes-Valdosta Beautiful Board has two members, Tom Daughtrey whose term expires June 30, 2021 and who resigned due to personal reasons and Ike Harbuck whose term expires on June 30, 2020 who resigned due to the relocation of his job. This appointment was advertised according to the Boards, Commissions, Authorities, and Advisory Committees Policy that was adopted by Mayor and Council. The only applicant to apply was Travis Morgan, General Manager for Best Buy.

Mayor Gayle entertained a motion to appoint Travis Morgan to the Keep Lowndes-Valdosta Beautiful Board to fill the unexpired term of Ike Harbuck.

A **MOTION** by Councilman Vickers, seconded by Councilman Carroll, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to appoint Travis Morgan to the Keep Lowndes-Valdosta Beautiful Board to fill the unexpired term of Ike Harbuck whose term expires June 30, 2020.

Consideration of an appointment to the Valdosta Tree Commission.

Mayor Gayle stated that the Valdosta Tree Commission has a member, Stephanie Mata, who is ineligible to serve and whose term will expire on September 6, 2020. This appointment was advertised according to the Boards, Commissions, Authorities, and Advisory Committees Policy that was adopted by Mayor and Council. The

applicants are as follows in no order of preference: (1) Stacey Griffin - Self-employed as an Arborist/Horticulturist, and (2) Brent Moore - Owner/Landscaper (Proficient Pool & Landscaping).

Mayor Gayle asked for nominations for an appointment to the Valdosta Tree Commission.

Councilman Norton placed in consideration the name of Brent Moore. There being no other nominations, Mayor Gayle closed the nominations. Council voted unanimously (6-0) to appoint Brent Moore to fill the unexpired term of Stephanie Mata on the Valdosta Tree Commission.

Consideration of an appointment to the Valdosta-Lowndes County Development Authority.

Mayor Gayle stated that the Valdosta-Lowndes County Development Authority has a member, Roy Copeland, whose term is a joint appointment between the City of Valdosta and the Lowndes County Board of Commissioners and it will expire on January 1, 2019. Mr. Copeland has not expressed an interest in being reappointed. This appointment was advertised according to the Boards, Commissions, Authorities, and Advisory Committees Policy that was adopted by Mayor and Council. The only applicant to apply was Aneesha Johnson, Plant Manager for DuPont.

Mayor Gayle entertained a motion to appoint Aneesha Johnson to the Valdosta-Lowndes County Development Authority.

**A MOTION** by Councilman Carroll, seconded by Councilman Vickers, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to appoint Aneesha Johnson to serve a term of five years as the joint appointment on the Valdosta-Lowndes County Development Authority.

## **CITIZENS TO BE HEARD**

Mark George, Coordinator of the Mary Turner Project, stated that this race relations organization was founded in 2007 and it is his understanding that Council will decide next week whether or not the name of Forrest Street will be changed. There has been some debate about the origins of the name and for the record he was the person who originally researched the history of that street as well as other streets in Valdosta. He identified a list of streets that were named after slave holders or Confederate Veterans. He is a professional Sociologist with a Ph.D. and used to teach at Valdosta State University. The research was done at the Lowndes County Historical Society and since that time the documents have been misplaced. He has also heard a rumor about whether Forrest Street was named after an African American man, Elbert Forrest. The evidence totally disproves that and in fact, up until the 1930's, the Klu Klux Klan was very active in Lowndes County. In fact, they were organizing in 1993 and recruiting members. There was a long legacy of lynching in the region and segregation was not addressed until 1970's. Sonny Martin with the Lowndes County School System fought against the desegregation of schools as well as J. L. Newbern. The Lowndes County School System lost over \$300,000 of Federal funding and that was what really motivated them to desegregate. In fact, the Valdosta City Schools only got out of a Consent Decree a few years ago where the Department of Justice had them under to fully desegregate. The idea that Valdosta was progressive and named Forrest Street after an African American man is a fantasy when we look at the evidence of our community. When he drives around and sees the monument that was placed at the Courthouse lawn 40 years after the Civil War had ended, it was a by-product for retelling why the South went to war and succeeded from the Union. In Georgia's statement about why they went to war they say it was about slavery and the retention of slavery and the expansion of slavery. Mayor Gayle stated that the renaming of Forrest Street has not come up for a vote and we do not have another meeting until January, 2019 and we have not received the proper documentation to put that item on the Council Agenda.

John Quarterman, 6565 Quarterman Road, stated that WWALS will be having an event on February 2, 2019 from the Troupville boat ramp down to U. S. 84 and on June 14, 2019, 300 of their closest friends will be boating from Troupville boat ramp all the way to the Suwanee River and turn right and go all the way down to Branford, Florida. It will be five days on the Suwanee River and they will carry all your gear for you and cart you out there on buses. They will also cater meals. Mr. Quarterman commended Darryl Muse, Utilities Director, for all

of his recent work in improving the water system in addition to what has already been done; however, there is still some room for improvement. There is also an interesting time in finding out what happens and it does not have to be like that. Both Lowndes County and Quitman had spills but most people do not know that because neither one of them announced it to the public. The way he knows is that he asked the Georgia Environmental Protection Division. After many months he now receives a list for the entire State of Georgia. They could just publish that on-line because Florida and Alabama already do that. You can also sign up for their E-mail alerts when there is a spill. There are 27 organizations in Georgia and Florida who have signed a Resolution to that effect and he is hoping that the City of Valdosta will entertain also signing it. The Georgia EPD Director Dick Dunn says that it is an interesting idea and they are looking into it. Mr. Quarterman asked Council's consideration in signing the Resolution.

George Boston Rhynes, 5004 Oak Drive, thanked Mark George for coming forward because he did a lot of research when there was controversy with the renaming of Barber Park. The Valdosta Daily Times actually published lies and we see the same trend developing concerning the renaming of Forrest Street. The archival record must be maintained because if it is not the generations to come will be lost. That is why we have a Bible because someone maintained the record. He maintained the record of the young man at Antioch Church and we have always had black people in our positions of black people and what was best for black people. We had blacks that stood against themselves being free so they are used to that. Barber Park has all been documented and major portions of it were in the Lake Park Post. Many of you may have forgotten. The Valdosta Daily Times did an extremely sorry job of publishing what took place but he has it better documented than CNN or 60 Minutes or 48 Hours. It will also be with Forrest Street. If Council does some research of cities that have renamed streets in honor of President Barrack Obama, they will see cities across this nation giving that honor to the first black President. His grandparents died and never got an opportunity to even vote for a black President. If it is not renamed it is not really a problem in his humble opinion because we know that greater Mayors and Council members will come forth regardless of what the Ordinance says today and they will change it. Some people thought that black people would never be able to sit in a restaurant, be a Police Officer, never be in the Congress or Senate or local government; however, by the grace of God truth prevailed and tomorrow truth will prevail again. Mr. Rhynes stated that Ordinances can be changed if Council really wants to do it. In Hollywood, Florida blacks and whites came together because when it came down to what is just and right, skin color served no purpose in the eyes of his God.

John Robinson, 3227 San Juline Circle, Lake Park, commended George Boston Rhynes and Mark George for their statements they made tonight. Mr. Robinson stated that he wanted to talk about economic redemption that they need here in the City. They have been working with banks in the past several months trying to get them to come together to help small businesses thrive better in our City. The City needs to put more emphasis on the Valdosta Small Emerging Business (VSEB) Program. The major problem they have is getting money to circulate through the community. Contractors cannot get the financial stability that they need and sometimes the programs that are implemented do not need to be revised to the point that they are broken down to a simpler basis or terms. Mr. Robinson asked that everyone comply with something that would contribute to making a better economy for people in the City.

Charles Robert Judge, Sr. stated that a local business man who does business with the City, Valdosta State University, and South Georgia Medical Center attacked and assaulted him and he has been trying to get something done about it. The former Police Chief, Brian Childress, got him in front of a Judge a few months ago to present his case and she would not rule on it. The man attacked him without cause or provocation. There were several witnesses who worked for him and still do and they testified against him. His name is Ron Corbett and he runs The Boardwalk. This case is in Civil Court (CV161589) and Criminal Court (Charles Robert Judge vs. Ron Corbett and The Boardwalk - 18CW00462). It came out in the Civil Case that he has done this several times before and he is trying to make a racial issue out of it as his reason for assaulting him. Mr. Judge stated that he is not a racist and a lot of people know it. He goes to a Church that is predominately black and was going there long before this incident happened. He wanted to let the Council know about where they spend the City's money and the kind of person it is going to.

Minister Jasper Norwood, Serenity Church under the Pastorship of Gerald Williams, stated that he wanted to speak on behalf of The People's Tribunal and the name change of Forrest Street. He headed the petition and he

is a very thorough individual. It is a travesty to him that one has put some much emphasis in trying to dispel something it gets his attention. What he finds in life is that the truth does not need explaining. Whenever someone put so much attention on trying to dispel something that is where he finds the issues at. They were in total compliance with the Ordinance required for the petition and everything is in line and to get the results back that he got was unbelievable to him. He has a concern about the City being 51% black and they are not asking for anything. They do not have to give them anything but actually what they require and they require the change of that name from a Klu Klux Klan man's name and Confederate soldier to Barrack Obama Boulevard. Truth will always prevail because that is the grace of God.

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

Mark Barber, City Manager, stated that Friday, December 7, 2018 is Family Movie Night at 5:30 p.m. at the Courthouse lawn. It is also First Friday and Tacky Christmas Sweater Day in the Downtown area.

The Department Heads and Council members will be ringing the Salvation Army bell tomorrow beginning at 9:00 a.m. at Winn Dixie.

The Bird Supper will be held on January 30, 2019 at The Depot in Atlanta. Ashlyn Becton, Public Information Officer, and Paige Dukes, County Public Information Officer have been working hard to put on a great program for this event.

The Christmas Parade will take place on Sunday, December 9, 2018 at 2:30 p.m. They will wait on one more weather report from Ashley Tye, Executive Director of the Emergency Management Agency, tomorrow but the odds are not looking favorable for good weather. We will be working on an event in the Downtown area for the community to celebrate Christmas on December 22, 2018 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. There will be activities to decorate ornaments, color with a Fireman, and pictures with Santa.

The Strategic Initiatives Summit will be held March 15-16, 2019 at the Women's Building. We will be working on items for the Retreat.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Councilman Carroll stated that in light of the recent memorial service and funeral for former President George Bush, Councilman Gibbs was obviously one of those thousand points of light. Councilman Carroll congratulated Councilman Gibbs on his award. He does a lot of great work and the kids participating in the Miracle League are much better for his efforts. Councilman Carroll also thanked Vanassa Flucas for all the work she did on bringing about the amendments to the Rehabilitation Guidelines.

Councilman Vickers commended Darryl Muse on his vast knowledge of water and sewer. He makes it very clear for the Council members to understand it.

Councilwoman Tooley thanked all of the Department Heads for their hard work. It is good for the City and it is noticeable. It is very much appreciated so keep up the good work. Also, she thanked Mark George for the information on the streets in Valdosta.

Councilman Howard stated that we have another opportunity for bad weather this weekend and he urged citizens to use social media and to stay off the streets during the inclement weather.

Mayor Gayle stated that he has named a Performing Arts Committee and has heard no objection from those he has appointed. Richard Hardy, Public Works Director, is the Chairman of that Committee and he will be in touch with everyone very soon about an upcoming meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Gayle entertained a motion for adjournment.

A **MOTION** by Councilman Vickers, seconded by Councilman Carroll, was unanimously adopted (6-0) to adjourn the December 6, 2018 Meeting of the Valdosta City Council at 7:03 p.m. to meet again in Regular Session on Thursday, January 10, 2019.

---

City Clerk, City of Valdosta

---

Mayor, City of Valdosta