

MINUTES
VALDOSTA CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
May 5, 2022

on a citizen's request, did an operation in Downtown Valdosta with three Troopers and three MCCD Officers who are the Commercial Heavy Truck Compliance Officers. It started at 6:00 a.m.

John Robinson, 3227 San Juline Circle, stated that he wanted to talk about the line that they have drawn in the sand pertaining to our Attorneys. Council has been put on notice and was given 60 days to respond or they were going to file litigation. They have taken a lot of things into consideration and before they make such a move, they want to give everyone one last chance to see if they can get some things resolved. He is here tonight to ask the same question that was put before Council and that is if they want a partnership between the City and The People's Tribunal. They want the City to ask, on behalf of the City, for \$250 million to restore and revitalize the southside and the lower end community of Valdosta. It is pathetic that he has to come here and ask Council to ask for help to help their own City for the underprivileged who are in the City. There is no denial that when you go to the James Beck Overpass and you drive over the top of it, you see a portion of the City that is run down. It is disgraceful for it to have stayed like that for all of these years. He has been up here before John Fretti, John Gayle, and now a new Mayor. He is here to appeal to Council tonight that they do not want to move forward with the litigation and they want to see if they can come to some resolution; however, they have drawn a line in the sand. There is a tremendous need here. When the City Council Members have to go out and feed people in the community, that is a signal that something is terribly wrong. We need some justice and equality in the City for one time. Mr. Robinson asked that Council please take under consideration that they make the decisions and they will make the ultimate decision as to which way this is going to play out. They want to partner and form a committee that will help monitor the activities of the City. That is all they are asking. They need to make some things happen that can improve the lives of many people in the City. This is not just a mere fact that people are living below poverty and we need to take a positive step.

Gracie Bacon, 708 Holly Drive, stated that she has not been before Council in a while and it is not because her street is any better. It is worse. They have three houses with lots of automobiles. You cannot say anymore that you cannot see it because it is in the back yard. All of the hedges and the trees have been cut down so you can see it just fine. You do not even have to get out of your car or stop. Those three houses are filled with all kinds of cars, tractors, washers, dryers, and lawn mowers. All you have to do is drive by. On May 3, 2022, one of the City Marshals was talking to the man. She does not know what was said but she paid for it that night. She had to stay up all night because he decided that between 12:00 a.m. and 3:00 a.m., he would move all of those cars from one side of the street to another on a flatbed. Not only was it noisy moving the cars, you could also see all the lights. They were lighting up her whole house. Council does not need to sit there and say they cannot look in the backyard. They cannot say that they did not know. They can say that they do not care because this is a black neighborhood. If they do not pay their taxes, then you are the first one to send them a notice. One of her friends got a letter from the City and she had one car in her yard. She had to move the car by March 12, 2022 or pay \$1,000. The person across the street from her house has 40 or 50 cars. Do you charge him \$1,000 per car like they did her friend? May 3rd is payday for a lot of people so they had City Marshals down there on May 3rd and May 4th. They did not have any today because you can see it from her house. A lot more is going on than what Council knows about.

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of May 5, 2022 5:30 PM (Minutes Approval)