

Von Shipman, 3012 Britain Drive, thanked the Mayor, Council, and City employees for the great job that they do. He retired 12 years ago as City Engineer and this year marks 25 years from when he first came to Valdosta. He has a couple of issues to discuss. The first one is the noise on Inner Perimeter Road and North Oak Street Extension around 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. There seems to be a lot of muscle cars in the area and they scream and make an unruly amount of noise. He does not know if anything can be done because you have to catch them and you would have to prove how much noise they make but it hurts his wife's ears so it is a problem. The second thing is that his neighbors have brought it to his attention and he brought it to the City Engineer's attention that the street light pedestals in their neighborhood are 27 years old and need some maintenance. He wanted to make sure that Georgia Power has been presented with this issue so that they can schedule the maintenance work in a reasonable period of time (at least a couple of years). Finally, from a traffic safety point of view with all the development and traffic on Inner Perimeter Road at Brookfield and Lake Laurie Drive which have sidewalks, there is a lack of a pedestrian crosswalk at that intersection. It is a very busy intersection and if you want to try and cross it you will be doing so at your own peril. He has asked the City Engineer to contact the Georgia Department of Transportation but he has not heard any feedback that they received the concern and that they are programming that work. While they are at it, he has also written the City about the intersection of Bemiss and Perimeter which is probably the busiest intersection in the City. Again, there is no pedestrian crosswalk; however, there is one at Forrest Street, North Oak Street Extension, and at Country Club Road.

George Boston Rhynes, 5004 Oak Drive, stated that if you go West Floyd Street and look to the right you will see a lot cars. The people across the street talk about it and he has even taken pictures. He shared the pictures with some of the elected officials. He does not understand how some people are cited and others are not. That is what they are saying. He would like for the City to be more consistent. He has also been concerned for many years about no crosswalks in front of the east side of Lowndes High School which is a four-lane highway. Sometimes you will see people crossing at that intersection and he does not understand why he is the only one in the City that can see that there needs to be some crosswalks to that school. They have sidewalks but no crosswalks. He is also taking pictures of all the potholes in the City and he will soon find a label for Valdosta based upon the potholes that cause damage to cars. People call him all the time but he does not come before Council as much as he used to. He has not seen a lot of change and that is why he does not come before Council on those issues anymore.

Daniel Bayman, 3018 Shelton Road, stated that he works at 118 North Patterson Street which is in the Downtown area. He would like to introduce himself to the Council. He is the owner of GUD Coffee and is currently remodeling the McKey Building and making it into a boutique hotel. He is also the Chairman of the Central Valdosta Development Authority (CVDA). It is his intent as Chairman to incorporate and do more with the Authority in the Downtown. In the past, they have not. They now have more funding options than they typically had so they are able to utilize the 5 mills that the Downtown Development Authority gets off of the CVDA region to create financing options that were not available before. A lot of the Council Members are familiar with the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) funds and Georgia Cities Funds (GCF) which are utilized for the purchase and remodel of Downtown buildings. Unfortunately, that is not something that is affordable for the majority of the small business owners. Typically, people who are working in small business want to rent. A lot of