

Angela Bray had commented the following: “The City Marshal and I went on-site and spoke to the property owner. She is aware of the problem and vowed to keep the area and property in better condition. This, of course, is a very high pedestrian area and so daily and hourly clean-ups may be difficult for the owner. A Marshal will keep an eye on the property.” This was August 11, 2022. That was several years ago. Nothing happened to the property and nothing was issued on the citation. He has several more instances of the 21 that were reported where nobody went out there and issued a citation. No one followed up and that place is still trashed to this day. In that same area, if you go to the Fire Department that we talked about, Angela Bray has said that there is a City contractor that has paid \$200,000 to clean the canal. She spoke about how they cleaned it up and it took a day and a half to pick up the trash because they typically do not do it. You are paying somebody to pick up trash and they are not doing it. There is a SeeClickFix from Richard Carlton where they kicked it back and forth from Angela Bray to Anetra Riley to Sharah Denton and it is still sitting open from July 7, 2023. Carlton Richard reassigned this issue to Angela Bray. If you are encouraging people to use SeeClickFix, you might want to look at the Supervisors in those Departments and ask them to do the job that they get paid to do.

Gracie Bacon, 708 Holly Drive, stated that she has been out of her house for a year and two months due to the storm tearing her house apart. She had to have it redone inside and outside. She has stayed in a motel for over a year. She thought that by the time she got back to Holly Drive things would have changed. The only thing that has changed on Holly Drive is her taxes. That mess on Holly Drive that she has been talking about for 20 years is still there and you have done nothing. Her house has a six foot fence around it. She also has locks and cameras. There is trash and junk in her neighbor’s yard and noise goes on all night long. Cars are down there all night long. There is stuff going on and nobody cares. Her neighbor will not call for a pickup because he does not want to pay for it. He has all kinds of trash and furniture piled up. She asked that Council drive down Holly Drive today after the Council Meeting and see what a mess the residential area is. She asked them to do something about it.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Richard Hardy, City Manager, stated that on Saturday, March 22, 2025, there will be a Love Where You Live Road Cleanup. Volunteers will meet at 2145 Bemiss Road to begin the cleanup. The route will cover Bemiss Road to Melrose Drive. Also on Saturday, there will be a Touch a Truck Event from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at SGMC Health. There will be City of Valdosta vehicles from Public Works, the Fire Department, and the Police Department on display. Ending that evening, 2025 Azalea City Civic Club will host the 7th Annual Pub Crawl in Downtown Valdosta. Proceeds will benefit CASA of Lowndes and Echols Counties.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Matheson stated that the 3rd Annual Bluesberry Festival will be held April 11-12, 2025 at Unity Park. It will start at 5:00 p.m. on Friday and 11:00 a.m. on Saturday. We hope to see 30,000 people in our Downtown area.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Matheson entertained a motion for adjournment into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing litigation.