

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
WORK SESSION
Monday, November 11, 2019

Call to Order

Chairman Bill Slaughter
Vice Chairman Demarcus Marshall
Commissioner Joyce E. Evans
Commissioner Scott Orenstein
Commissioner Mark Wisenbaker
Commissioner Demarcus Marshall

Chairman Slaughter called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Chairman Slaughter reminded everyone of the Veteran's Day ceremonies scheduled at Bazemore Hyder Stadium, Valdosta State University, Freedom Park and the City of Hahira.

MINUTES

The minutes were requested for the work session of October 21, 2019, and the regular session of October 22, 2019. No changes to the minutes were requested.

Revision of the County Occupation Tax Ordinance

Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented the item. Ms. Black stated the ordinance has not been comprehensively addressed since the mid 1990s, adding the update includes changes required by law and provides for a better understanding of requirements.

For Consideration

Solicitor-General's VOCA Continuation Grant

Solicitor-General Justin Cabral, presented the item. Mr. Cabral stated the grant provides for additional staff assigned to assisting victims. Mr. Cabral further stated the requested \$6,000.00, will offset the funding required to provide health benefits to the employees funded by the grant.

Solicitor-General's Office VAWA Continuation Grant Application

Solicitor General, Justin Cabral, presented the item. Mr. Cabral stated the \$16,667.00, cash match will fund the continuation of the grant used by his office to address crimes against families and women.

Approval of DA's Federal VOCA Grant Application Renewal

District Attorney, Brad Shealy, presented the item. Mr. Shealy stated his office has received the grant since 1997, adding it benefits all five counties in the Southern Judicial Circuit. Mr. Shealy stated the funds benefit victims of crimes that are handled by Superior Court.

Georgia Department of Transportation Local Maintenance & Improvement Grant (LMIG)

County Engineer, Mike Fletcher, presented the item in the amount of \$138,000.00. Mr. Fletcher stated the funding amount represents Lowndes County's LMIG match for safety improvements to Knights Ferry Road, Trotters Ridge Subdivision, Pikes Pond Road, Amberly Trail, Copeland Road, Joseph Road, Studstill Road, Lloyd Jackson Road, Hammock Hill Heights Subdivision and Sandbridge Drive.

Grant Re-Application for the Rural Transportation Program and Associated Resolution

County Engineer, Mike Fletcher, presented the grant reapplication for Lowndes County's Georgia Department of Transportation 5311 Transit Program. Mr. Fletcher informed the Commission the program ran 24,357 trips in 2019.

Approval of the Submittal Resolution for the CDBG-EIP Grant Application for Street Paving and Drainage Improvements to Support the Arglass Project

County Manager, Joe Pritchard, presented the item. Mr. Pritchard stated that while Lowndes County is a partner on the application, no funding will be required by the county. Mr. Pritchard further stated the Valdosta-Lowndes County Development Authority will handle the balance of the project cost once the grant funds have been applied.

A Resolution to Support Eliminating Through Tractor Trailer Truck Traffic Downtown

County Manager, Joe Pritchard, presented the item. Mr. Pritchard stated that while the Commission has previously approved a resolution supporting the effort, updated action has been requested. Mr. Pritchard further stated that if approved, staff will submit the requested resolution to the Georgia Department of Transportation.

Transfer of Chitty Park to Parks and Recreation Authority

County Manager, Joe Pritchard, presented the item. Mr. Pritchard stated that when the property was initially transferred to the Valdosta-Lowndes County Recreation Authority, it was wrongfully described. Mr. Pritchard further stated approval of the request will correct the error.

Greater Lowndes Planning Commission Joint Ordinance / Agreement

County Manager, Joe Pritchard, presented the item. Mr. Pritchard stated the Greater Lowndes Planning Commission has submitted an updated joint ordinance for consideration by all member governments. Vice Chairman Marshall asked how many representatives Remerton has on the Planning Commission, to which Mr. Pritchard replied one.

Hart Road Lift Station Pump

Utilities Director, Steve Stalvey, presented the item. Mr. Stalvey stated the cost of repairs exceeds seventy-five percent of the cost of a new pump. Mr. Stalvey further stated staff recommends replacing the pump at a cost in the amount of \$30,589.30, due to the cost of repair.

Bid

Bids for Lowndes County Judicial and Administrative Complex Roof Cleaning

Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented the item with Proficient Pool and Lawn Service, Inc., presenting the low bid in the amount of \$39,500.00. Vice Chairman Marshall asked when the project might be complete. Project Manager, Chad McLeod, stated it should be finished by mid January. Commissioner Wisenbaker asked if a chemical would be used to prevent discoloration in the future. Mr. McLeod stated the vendor is required to follow manufacturer guidelines so that the warranty remains in effect. Vice Chairman Marshall asked if the project includes cleaning the gutters, to which Mr. McLeod replied yes.

Bids for a New Generator for 911

Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented the item. Ms. Black stated the existing generator is no longer in service, adding a working generator is required in the event the 911 Center loses power. Ms. Black further stated the County has been renting a generator until a purchase could be approved. Project Manager, Chad McLeod stated staff recommends purchasing a Caterpillar Generator in the amount of \$99,000.00, adding Ace Electric provided the sole bid with three generator options. Mr. McLeod further stated staff has been pleased with the service provided by Caterpillar.

Reports - County Manager

County Manager, Joe Pritchard, invited EMA Director/Fire Chief Ashley Tye, to provide the Commission with an overview of Fire Prevention Month programs during the month of October. Chief Tye introduced Fire Marshall, Lloyd Green, and Inspector, Terry Parsons, and conveyed his appreciation for the 3,041 students they reached through fire prevention programs. Chairman Slaughter echoed Chief Tye's comments.

Adjournment

Vice Chairman Marshall made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Orenstein second. Chairman Slaughter adjourned the work session at 8:52 a.m.