

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
WORK SESSION
Monday, July 13, 2020

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

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

Commissioner Clay Griner was not in attendance.

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

MINUTES

The minutes were presented for the work session of June 22, 2020, and the regular session of June 23, 2020. No changes to the minutes were requested.

APPOINTMENT

Lowndes County Division of Family and Children Services Board

County Manager, Joe Pritchard, presented the appointment. Mr. Pritchard stated the seat held by Rebecca Powell has expired, adding Mrs. Powell would like to continue to serve. Mr. Pritchard further stated Ms. Rhonda Harraghy has also expressed an interest in serving. Ms. Harraghy addressed the Commission and provided details related to her experience in working with children and families.

PUBLIC HEARING

Rezoning Case REZ-2020-06 Cedric Solomon, GA Hwy 135, E-A to R-1, Well and Septic, (District 1 and 4)

Planning & Zoning Director, JD Dillard, presented the item. Mr. Dillard stated the parcel was previously subdivided in March of 2020 as part of a settlement. Mr. Dillard further stated the property owner would like to further subdivide the property into three smaller lots. Mr. Dillard informed the Commission that the Planning Commission and TRC voted to deny the request, adding the request is inconsistent with the Comprehensive Plan and Future Land Use Development Map. Spot zoning that increases population density and impact the rural character of the area and safety on a state route were also cited as reasons for denial.

FOR CONSIDERATION

Adoption of Fiscal Year 2021 Budget

Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented the fiscal year 2021 Budget. Ms. Black stated the budget is balanced and remains ready for the Commission's consideration.

Beer, wine, and liquor license - Saumil Patel and Shiv Patel of Lake Park Liquor, LLC. DBA. Smitty's Liquor - 1265 Lakes Blvd, Lake Park, GA

Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented the item. Ms. Black stated the request is due to a change in ownership, adding that all requirements have been met.

Beer and wine license - Mayank Pandya of Lake Park Food Mart, LLC DBA Lake Park Food Mart - 7215 Lakes Blvd, Lake Park, GA

Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented the item. Ms. Black stated the request is due to a change in ownership, adding all requirements have been met.

Fiber Optic to Lowndes EOC

ITS Representative, Paul Basehore, presented a proposal in the amount of \$198,775.00, for the extension of a fiber optic link to the Lowndes County Emergency Operations Center. County Manager, Joe Pritchard, stated staff found only one vendor, Mr. Dave Stacey, that could manage the entire project. Chairman Slaughter stated one vendor will provide a greater accountability if there are any issues. Chairman Slaughter further stated this is a much needed project in that dependable communications are vital to emergency response. Vice Chairman Marshall questioned the size of the fiber, to which Mr. Basehore replied ninety-six strand.

Judicial System Software Purchase

ITS Representative, Paul Basehore, presented a proposal in the amount of \$102,762.00, from Tyler Technologies for judicial system software needed by the Probate Court. Mr. Basehore stated the technology will greatly improve the court's function with regards to licenses and other records.

Approval of Clyattstone Rd.-Simpson Ln. ROW and Easement Purchases (Parcels 26 and 34)

County Engineer, Mike Fletcher, presented the item in the amount of \$23,590.00. Mr. Fletcher stated both parcels have been previously approved by the Commission; however, the names on the deeds changed. This being the case, the deeds need to be considered with the updated names.

Amendment to TPO Agreement FY2021 - Transit

County Engineer, Mike Fletcher, presented a clerical update to Lowndes County's agreement with MIDS Inc. Mr. Fletcher stated the update will not increase the cost to the county and only addresses a change from fixed pricing to unit pricing.

Acceptance of FY 2021 Juvenile Justice Incentive Grant

EMA Director, Ashley Tye, presented the item on behalf of Juvenile Court Judge, James Council. Mr. Tye stated \$289,489.00, in grant funds have been awarded to fund programs that will serve fifty-six youth over the next grant cycle.

GEFA Loan Application

Utilities Director, Steve Stalvey, presented a request to apply for a Georgia Environmental Finance Authority grant in the amount of \$2,500,000.00, to be used for utility projects. Mr. Stalvey stated the loan can be structured for repayment over the next thirty years, the interest rate will not exceed 1.94% and there is a grant component which allows for forgiveness up to \$625,000.00.

Annual Contract Renewal for Mosquito Identification and Testing

Public Works Director, Robin Cumbus, presented a contract between Lowndes County and Valdosta State University in the amount of \$45,790.00, for the annual trapping and testing of mosquitoes.

Office of the Governor Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Accountability Court Lowndes County DUI Court- State

State Court Judge, Ellen Golden, presented the grant award in the amount of \$104,057, for the upcoming fiscal year that requires a ten percent match (\$11,562). Judge Golden further stated they are asking for the same funding amount (\$40,000) as last year, that will help fund a portion of the court director's salary and allow the DUI Court to continue operations.

REPORTS - County Manager

County Manager, Joe Pritchard, requested an executive session at 8:44 a.m., for attorney-client privilege for the purpose of discussing real estate. Commissioner Wisenbaker made a motion to enter into executive session as requested, Vice Chairman Marshall second. All voted in favor, no one opposed.

To preserve social distancing standards, Chairman Slaughter asked that everyone exit the Commission Chambers.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:50 a.m., Vice Chairman Marshall made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Orenstein second. No further discussion took place. Chairman Slaughter adjourned the work session at 8:50 a.m.