

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
REGULAR SESSION
Tuesday, July 14, 2020

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

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

Chairman Slaughter called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

INVOCATION

Commissioner Griner

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

Commissioner Griner

MINUTES

The minutes were presented for the work session of June 22, 2020, and the regular session of June 23, 2020. Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, Commissioner Evans second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

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 she is interested in continuing to serve. Mr. Pritchard further stated Ms. Rhonda Harraghy is also interested in serving. Chairman Slaughter nominated Mrs. Rebecca Powell for reappointment. There being no other nominations, Mrs. Powell was appointed by acclamation.

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 and Zoning Director, JD Dillard, presented the item. Mr. Dillard stated that the applicant has requested to subdivide a lot that was recently subdivided due to a settlement, into three smaller lots. Mr. Dillard further stated that due to the request being inconsistent with the Comprehensive Plan and Future Land Use Map and other factors, both the Planning Commission and TRC

recommended denial. No one spoke for or against the request. Commissioner Evans made a motion to follow the recommendation of the Planning Commission and TRC to deny the request, Commissioner Wisenbaker second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

FOR CONSIDERATION

Adoption of Fiscal Year 2021 Budget

Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented the Fiscal Year 2021 Budget for consideration. Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to approve the budget as presented, Commissioner Griner second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

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 all requirements have been met. Commissioner Griner made a motion to approve the request as presented, Commissioner Orenstein second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

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. Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to approve the request, Commissioner Griner second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Fiber Optic to Lowndes EOC

ITS Director, Aaron Kostyu, presented a proposal from Mr. Dave Stacey, in the amount of \$198,775.00. Mr. Kostyu stated the project will provide a fiber optic connection to the Lowndes County Emergency Operations Center. Mr. Kostyu also stated the project is a sole source consideration being that Mr. Stacey was the only interested vendor able to complete the entire project. Vice Chairman Marshall made a motion to approve the request as presented with Mr. Dave Stacey as the sole source vendor, Commissioner Orenstein second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Judicial System Software Purchase

ITS Director, Aaron Kostyu, presented the item in the amount of \$102,762.00, from Tyler Technologies for the purchase of software to assist the Probate Court. Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve the item as presented, Commissioner Wisenbaker second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

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

County Engineer, Mike Fletcher, presented the item. Mr. Fletcher stated the deeds have been previously approved by the Commission; however, the names changed. Mr. Fletcher further stated the deeds needed to be voted on again as amended. Commissioner Griner made a motion to approve

the deeds as presented, Commissioner Orenstein second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Amendment to TPO Agreement FY2021 - Transit

County Engineer, Mike Fletcher, presented the agreement. Mr. Fletcher stated there is no additional cost to the county, adding the only change includes a unit price. Vice Chairman Marshall made a motion to approve the amendment to the agreement, Commissioner Evans second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Acceptance of FY 2021 Juvenile Justice Incentive Grant

EMA Director, Ashley Tye, presented the grant in the amount of \$289,498.00. Mr. Tye stated the funding will provide services for fifty-six youth to be served by Juvenile Court programs in Lowndes County. Vice Chairman Marshall made a motion to approve the grant and accept the funds, Commissioner Wisenbaker second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

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. Commissioner Griner made a motion to approve the request as presented, Commissioner Wisenbaker second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

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. Vice Chairman Marshall made a motion to approve the renewal as presented, Commissioner Orenstein second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

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

Chairman Slaughter presented the item, adding the Commission heard from Judge Golden during the work session. Commissioner Wisenbaker made a motion to approve the grant as presented, Commissioner Evans second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Utility Easement Purchases & Release of Utility Easement

Utilities Director, Steve Stalvey, presented a request in the amount of \$248,625.00, for the purchase of three utility easements and the release of a fourth easement. Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to purchase parcel #2 from Loch-Winn Farms LLLP, .230 acres, for \$34,500.00, parcel #3 from River Hill LLC, 1.68 acres, for \$168,000.00, parcel #4 from Loch-Winn Farms LLLP, .369 acres, for \$46,125.00 and the release of parcel #4 Loch-Winn Farms LLLP, .647 acres, Commissioner Wisenbaker second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

REPORTS - County Manager

County Manager, Joe Pritchard, requested an executive session for attorney-client privilege to discuss personnel. Commissioner Wisenbaker made a motion to go into executive session at 5:56 p.m., Commissioner Orenstein second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

CITIZENS WISHING TO BE HEARD

David Johnathan Davis, 2004 Falling Leaf Lane, addressed the Commission on behalf of the Valdosta Peaceful Protest group. Mr. Davis stated his group has worked to design a statute for consideration. Mr. Johnny Lewis Cook III, 417 University Drive, spoke with Mr. Davis as the artist that designed the statute. Mr. Davis stated he would like installation of the statute considered along with a walking museum on the historic courthouse square.

Michael Noll, 2305 Glynnedale Drive, addressed the Commission regarding the county's support of KLVV and the restoration of funding for the program.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:22 p.m., Chairman Slaughter reconvened the regular meeting. Chairman Slaughter stated the Commission discussed the position of County Manager due to the retirement announcement of current County Manager, Joe Pritchard, effective July 31, 2020. Commissioner Griner made a motion to appoint County Clerk/PIO, Paige Dukes, as the County Manager as of August 1, 2020, Commissioner Evans second. Commissioners Evans, Griner and Orenstein voted in favor of the motion, Commissioner Wisenbaker and Vice Chairman Marshall opposed. Chairman Slaughter asked that his vote be recorded in affirmation. Motion carried.

Commissioner Wisenbaker made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Griner second. Chairman Slaughter adjourned the regular meeting at 6:24 p.m.