

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
REGULAR SESSION
Tuesday, July 28, 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 Orenstein

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

Commissioner Orenstein

MINUTES

The minutes were presented for the work session of July 13, 2020, and the regular session of July 14, 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

South Georgia Regional Library Board

County Manager, Joe Pritchard, presented the appointment. Mr. Pritchard stated there is currently a vacancy on the board, adding Mr. Thomas Lovett is interested in serving. Chairman Slaughter nominated Mr. Lovett. There being no other nominations, Mr. Thomas Lovett was appointed by acclamation.

PUBLIC HEARING

Renaming a Portion of Sara Road

County Engineer, Mike Fletcher, presented the item. Mr. Fletcher stated staff has received a request to change the name of the dirt portion of Sara Road to Harper's Lane, due to part of the road being paved and gated. Mr. Fletcher further stated the matter has been advertised and remains ready for

consideration. No one spoke against the request. Mr. Todd Harper, 4624 Sara Road, spoke in favor of the request as a resident on the road. Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to approve the request as presented, Commissioner Griner second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

FOR CONSIDERATION

Acceptance of Infrastructure for Brayden Place Subdivision

County Engineer, Mike Fletcher, presented the item. Mr. Fletcher stated that issues with infrastructure delayed acceptance for a year, adding the infrastructure is now ready for consideration. Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to approve the acceptance as presented, Commissioner Evans second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Acceptance of Infrastructure for The Landings Subdivision Phase I

County Engineer, Mike Fletcher, presented the item. Mr. Fletcher stated the work is substantially complete, adding the infrastructure is ready for consideration. Commissioner Griner made a motion to accept the infrastructure, Commissioner Orenstein second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Vertiv Service Contract for the Liebert UPS at the 911 Center & the 4 Tower Sites

E911 Director, Danny Weeks, presented the item in the amount of \$24,257.88. Commissioner Griner made a motion to approve the request, Commissioner Wisenbaker second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Proposed Dedication of Enoch Lake Circle

County Manager, Joe Pritchard, presented the item. Mr. Pritchard stated staff has received a proposed dedication of Enoch Circle, which is a private road. Mr. Pritchard stated that out of 79 parcels, owners of 64 parcels have signed the proposed dedication, 3 have declined to sign and 12 have not been reached. Mr. Pritchard stated that in accordance with the county's resolution addressing the acceptance of private roads, staff is presenting the matter for further direction from the Commission. Chairman Slaughter stated the Commission has discussed consideration after one hundred percent participation from property owners. Chairman Slaughter asked if the Commission would consider a motion to allow petitioners to continue to work with staff until the second meeting in September. Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to table the matter until the second meeting in September, Commissioner Griner second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Agreement with Cornerstone

County Manager, Joe Pritchard, presented the renewal in the annual amount of \$96,000.00. Mr. Pritchard stated the contract with Cornerstone Government Affairs, Inc. assists the county with matters related to the support of Moody Air Force Base to include state and federal legislative support. Vice Chairman Marshall made a motion to approve the agreement to include the proposed amendment, Commissioner Wisenbaker second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

ACCG IRMA Property & Liability Program Renewal

HR Director, Kevin Beals, presented the annual renewal in the amount of \$818,021.00. Mr. Beals stated the renewal includes \$139,096.00, in safety credits. Mr. Beals further stated staff has researched deductible limits and is recommending the plan remain at the current level of \$2,500.00. Commissioner Griner made a motion to approve the renewal as presented, Commissioner Wisenbaker second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Reports - County Manager

As you know this is my last opportunity to address you as County Manager. I would like to express my appreciation to this Commission and the previous Commissions I have served. I would also like to acknowledge Commissioner Evans as she is the longest serving Commissioner with whom I have worked. I would like acknowledge and thank the various elected and appointed officials of Lowndes County for their help and cooperation. I am most proud to have had the opportunity and privilege to work with and supervise a superior group of Department Heads and Lowndes County employees. These employees are the keys to any success we have enjoyed over the years. Their hard work and selfless dedication has made the difference in elevating the status of Lowndes County to its current level. Too few people realize the often difficult and thankless task they perform daily with little to no complaints. As a community and county, we are blessed. In addition to the staff, I would like to publicly acknowledge the contribution to Lowndes County and me by Walter Elliott and the Elliott Law Firm. Thank you Walter, for your steadfast counsel and your friendship. I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge and thank some individuals whose contributions and assistance have been invaluable to me. I would like to thank Stephanie Black, Finance Director, Paige Dukes, County Clerk & PIO, Chad McLeod, Project Manager, Belinda Lovern, my administrative assistant and my right-arm. These individuals, along with aforementioned Department Heads, have made this job enjoyable and fulfilling. I cannot express the deep appreciation and affection I have for all these individuals. My life is truly richer having worked with each of you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman for allowing me to express these tributes and may God continue to bless our community.

Citizens Wishing To Be Heard - Please State Your Name and Address

Ben Futch, Enoch Lake Circle, congratulated County Manager, Joe Pritchard, on his retirement and wished him the best in the future. Mr. Futch addressed the Commission regarding the acceptance of Enoch Lake Circle and requested a copy of the resolution addressing private road acceptance.

Adjournment

In observance of County Manager, Joe Pritchard's retirement, the Commission presented him with a binder containing the agenda from each Commission Meeting during his tenure, an embossed rocking chair and a commissioned water color, signed by officials and staff. On behalf of the Commission, Chairman Slaughter thanked Mr. Pritchard for a legacy of leadership second to none. Chairman Slaughter spoke to Mr. Pritchard's credit regarding the county's strong financial position, stable administration and a well trained staff, ready to continue to the business of Lowndes County. At almost twenty years, Joe Pritchard, is Lowndes County's longest serving County Manager.

Commissioner Wisenbaker made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Orenstein second. Chairman Slaughter adjourned the regular session at 5:50 p.m.