

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES  
REGULAR SESSION  
Tuesday, December 8, 2020

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT**

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

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

**INVOCATION**

Vice Chairman Griner

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG**

Vice Chairman Griner

**FFA PROCLAMATION PRESENTATION (Regular Session)**

Chairman Slaughter recognized the FFA, Future Farmers of America, students who were attending the meeting. The Chairman asked those students to come forward to be recognized and to receive the proclamation.

**MINUTES**

The minutes were presented for the work session of November 9, 2020 and the regular session of November 10, 2020. Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, Vice Chairman Griner second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

**APPOINTMENT**

**Lowndes County Development Authority**, County Manager, Paige Dukes, presented the item. Mrs. Dukes stated the terms of Mr. Brooks Akins, Mr. Gary Cannon and Mr. Jerome Tucker expire December 31, 2020. Vice Chairman Griner recommended Mr. Brooks Akins, Mr. Gary Cannon and Mr. Jerome Tucker be reappointed. There being no other nominations, Mr. Akins, Mr. Cannon and Mr. Tucker were reappointed by acclamation.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**Liquor License - James Lee Vann, Sr. of The Big Dummy's Pub - 4991 US HWY 41 S, Lake Park, GA**, Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented the item. Ms. Black stated Mr. James Lee Vann, Sr. currently has a license for the sale of beer and wine for consumption on premise and is requesting

to add liquor. No one spoke for or against this request. Commissioner Wisenbaker made a motion to approve this request, Commissioner Orenstein second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

**REZ-2020-17 Adams Property Group 3833 Inner Perimeter Road (0149A 036D) R-10 to C-G, City Water & Sewer, ~7.41 acres,** Planning and Zoning Director, J.D. Dillard, presented the item. Mr. Dillard stated the applicant would like to develop a self storage facility. Mr. Dillard further stated the Planning Commission recommended approval, adding the TRC had no objectionable comments. No one spoke for or against the request. Commissioner Marshall made a motion to approve the request, Vice Chairman Griner second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

**REZ-2020-19 Trillium Creek 3435 Bemiss Knights Academy (0146B 099) R-A to R-10, Water & Sewer, ~36.4 acres,** Planning and Zoning Director, J.D. Dillard, presented the item. Mr. Dillard stated the applicant would like to rezone for the purpose of developing an infrastructure for a subdivision with approximately 75 lots. Mr. Dillard stated the Planning Commission recommended approval and the TRC noted that a secondary ingress/egress point was needed for emergency access to the western portion of the proposed lots. No one spoke against the request. Mr. Bill Nijem, 1007 North Patterson Street, spoke in favor of the request on behalf of the applicant. Mr. Nijem wanted to clarify there is a house currently located on the property and at this time, the applicant would like to keep the house on the property and renovate it. Commissioner Marshall made a motion to approve this request, Commissioner Orenstein second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

**REZ-2020-20 Ballyntyne 6712 Clyattstone Road (0071 008) R-1 to R-10, Water & Sewer, ~40.3 acres,** Planning and Zoning Director, J.D. Dillard, presented the item. Mr. Dillard stated the applicant would like to rezone for the purpose of developing an infrastructure for a residential subdivision with approximately 105 single family detached homes. Mr. Dillard stated wetlands on the property are currently being used for agricultural use, a cotton field. The Planning Commission recommended approval and the TRC had no technical objections. Mr. Steven Cooper, 4709 Summerfield Drive, spoke against the request speaking on behalf of the Meadow Woods Subdivision residents. Mr. Cooper stated that they are not opposed to growth, but would like managed growth. Mr. Cooper gave the commission a list of questions that he and the other residents would like answered as well as asking the Commission to table this request. Mr. Matt Phelps, 4560 F Val North Drive, spoke in favor of this request as the civil engineer representing the developer. Mr. Phelps stated he'd like to address a few of the concerns mentioned. Mr. Phelps stated the drainage issues will be taken care of with the engineering process and covenants will be similar to Grove Pointe. Additionally, Mr. Phelps stated regarding traffic issues on Clyattstone Road - this road is expected to be an access between U.S. Highway 41 North and Val Del Road, and because of this, traffic will increase, but with the paving occurring, county engineering staff is aware of future needs. Vice Chairman Griner asked for this request to be tabled and requested the developer to respond with a Planned Development (PD) rezoning request, instead of R-10. Commissioner Orenstein stated this is a critical area in the community and he doesn't support a 10,000 sq. ft. lot with 105 houses in this location. Chairman Slaughter stated that he agrees with Vice Chairman Griner and Commissioner Orenstein to table this request and give the developer an opportunity to address some of the concerns. Vice Chairman Griner made a motion to table this request until the January 12, 2021 meeting, Commissioners Evans and Marshall second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

## **FOR CONSIDERATION**

**Resolution Rejection Quitclaim Deed; Affidavit Regarding Title- Branch Point**, County Engineer, Mike Fletcher, presented the item. Mr. Fletcher stated a quitclaim deed was received from the Homeowners Association in the Branch Point Subdivision, which is located inside the City of Valdosta. Mr. Fletcher stated Lowndes County doesn't need the detention pond and requests the commission to adopt the resolution as presented. Commissioner Orenstein asked how does this happen, Mr. Fletcher responded Mr. and Mrs. Stephenson took the information to the Clerk of Court's office for filing. Vice Chairman Griner made a motion to approve this item, Commissioner Wisenbaker second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

**Conveyance of County Property in Exchange for County Road Right of Way- Fender Road**, County Engineer, Mike Fletcher, presented the item stating as part of the Transportation Information Act unconstrained project list, the county will be paving Fender Road. Mr. Fletcher stated right of way is needed from Mr. William Touchton and Mr. Touchton has asked for the county to exchange 0.48 acres for the 0.74 acres of right of way the county is requiring. Commissioner Wisenbaker made a motion to approve the request, Vice Chairman Griner second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

**Georgia Forestry Commission Services Agreement**, Utilities Director, Steve Stalvey, presented the agreement. Mr. Stalvey stated this agreement provides service for controlled burns which would improve the spray fields. Commissioners Marshall and Orenstein made a motion to approve the item, Commissioner Wisenbaker 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**, County Manager, Paige Dukes, presented the item. Mrs. Dukes stated State Court has received supplemental grant funds for DUI Court, that require a \$381.00, match from Lowndes County. Mrs. Dukes further stated the funds are allocated for the purpose of paying the program's surveillance officer. Commissioner Wisenbaker made a motion to approve the funding as requested, Commissioner Evans second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

**2021 Holiday Schedule**, Human Resources Director, Kevin Beals, presented the 2021 Holiday Schedule. Mr. Beals stated Veterans Day was also being provided for consideration as an additional holiday for county employees. Commissioner Marshall made a motion to approve the 2021 Holiday Schedule to include Veterans Day and modify Lowndes County's Personnel Policy Manual to reflect the change, Commissioner Wisenbaker second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

**Section 125 Plan Document Renewal for 2021**, Human Resources Director, Kevin Beals, presented the item. Mr. Beals stated the plan provides for qualifying employee deductions to be withheld pretax. Vice Chairman Griner made a motion to approve the renewal as presented, Commissioner Evans second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

**2021 ACCG Workers' Compensation Insurance Renewal**, Human Resources Director, Kevin Beals presented the renewal in the amount of \$192,711.00, to include discounts and safety credits

that reduce the annual premium to \$174,759.00. Vice Chairman Griner made a motion to approve the renewal, Commissioner Orenstein second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

**2021 Stop Loss Insurance Coverage Renewal Through Symetra Life Ins. Company,** Human Resources Director, Kevin Beals, presented the annual renewal in the amount of \$1,240,297.00. Vice Chairman Griner made a motion to approve the renewal based on 'renewal option 1' as presented, Commissioner Wisenbaker second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

**2021 Commission Meeting Calendar,** County Manager, Paige Dukes, presented the calendar. Mrs. Dukes stated staff took into consideration annual holidays and the ACCG Annual Conference when preparing the calendar. Commissioner Marshall made a motion to approve the calendar as presented, Commissioner Evans second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

## **BID**

**Bid for 2 - Three Quarter Ton Trucks for the Engineering Department,** Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented the item for a quantity of two three quarter ton trucks for the engineering department. One bid was received which met specifications from Cass Burch for 2021 Ram 2500 for \$60,862.00 (total for two trucks). Vice Chairman Griner made a motion to approve the request, Commissioner Marshall second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

**Bid for a Sport Utility Vehicle for the 911 Center,** Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented the bid for a sports utility vehicle for 911. One bid was received that met specifications, a 2021 Jeep Grand Cherokee from Cass Burch for \$27,367.00. Commissioner Marshall made a motion to approve the purchase, Commissioner Evans second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

## **REPORTS- County Manager**

County Manager, Paige Dukes, stated the finance department continues to work on the audit as well as the budget. Mrs. Dukes also stated the COVID numbers continue to increase and the South Health District has shared the tiered information regarding the vaccinations. Additionally, Mrs. Dukes stated civil court cases will start in State Court next week. Mrs. Dukes thanked Public Works Director, Robin Cumbus, and her staff for all of the work done for the parade with surpassed expectations. Santa on the historic courthouse square will begin tonight, with dates and times available on our calendar and also released to social media. Planning, Zoning, Engineering, Public Works and Utilities Holiday Open House will be held Thursday, December 17th, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. on the second floor of the administration building.

**CITIZENS WISHING TO BE HEARD - none**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Slaughter wished the commissioners and staff a very Merry Christmas. Commissioner Marshall asked that prayers continue for Judge Bender's family, with her passing on Monday.

Commissioner Marshall made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Vice Chairman Griner second. Chairman Slaughter adjourned the regular meeting at 6:20 p.m.