

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
REGULAR SESSION
Tuesday, March 23, 2021

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 meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

INVOCATION

Commissioner Marshall

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

Commissioner Marshall

AWARD PRESENTATION

GFOA Financial Reporting Award, Chairman Slaughter recognized Ms. Stephanie Black, although she was unable to attend the meeting. Chairman Slaughter thanked her and her staff for their ongoing commitment to preparing and presenting financial information in a clear and precise manner. Chairman Slaughter further stated that the Lowndes County Finance Department continues to excel in governmental accounting.

GEMA/Homeland Security Presentation, County Manager, Paige Dukes, presented the award presentation for EMA Director, Ashley Tye. Mrs. Dukes stated Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA) and Homeland Security has a list of ten (10) additional standards that local EMA's can meet to qualify for a reduced cost share in the event of a Federally Declared Disaster. Since Lowndes County EMA has met all ten (10) of these standards, Lowndes County and each of the cities, will be eligible to receive reimbursement at a higher rate than the standard cost share if we were to have a disaster over the next year. GEMA and Homeland Security began offering this incentive in 2011 and Lowndes County has qualified in each of the past ten (10) years. This has resulted in over \$75,000 in additional reimbursement, above and beyond the normal reimbursements available, for Lowndes County and the Cities over the past five (5) years. Chairman Slaughter recognized Mr. Tye for his countless hours of hard work in achieving this recognition.

Recognition of Firefighter of the Year, Chairman Slaughter stated the Exchange Club of Valdosta has named Ms. Bailey Holt, Firefighter of the Year. Chairman Slaughter recognized Ms. Holt, although she was unable to attend. Chairman Slaughter stated Ms. Holt is a state certified firefighter and an EMT-Basic. Chairman Slaughter stated Ms. Holt is a tremendous asset to the Lowndes County Fire Rescue Department.

MINUTES

The minutes were presented for the work session of March 8, 2021, and the regular session of March 9, 2021. Commissioner Marshall made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, Commissioner Orenstein second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING

REZ-2021-03 Johnston Subdivision, School House Pond Road (0195 053) R-1 to R-10, County Water & Sewer, —21 acres, Planning and Zoning Director, J.D. Dillard, presented the item. Mr. Dillard stated this rezoning is a change from R-1 to R-10, 15,000 square feet per lot. Mr. Dillard mentioned a petition was signed with over 200 people in opposition. Mr. Dillard stated the GLPC recommended approval to rezone the property to R-10 with the condition of a minimum lot size of 15,000 square feet. Marie Bennett, 5474 School House Pond Road, spoke against the request with issues related to the newest site plan. Mark Perkins, 5530 Timberwind Circle, spoke against the request. Mr. Perkins stated there is a tree line and drainage easement which provides an acoustical blanket from School House Pond Road and provides his family to not be intruded upon with what's going on behind their property. Mr. Perkins stated it's his desire as well as Ms. Bennett's to have the buffer extend corner to corner. Jack Langdale, 701 North Patterson Street, spoke in favor of the request as the applicant. Mr. Langdale stated he has been speaking with the neighboring home owners on School House Pond Road for some time and apologized for the confusing multiple site plans. Mr. Langdale stated that he's asking for the property to be rezoned R-10, with a condition that no lots are smaller than 15,000 square feet. Commissioner Orenstein asked regarding the right of way line in front of Mr. Perkins property, he would have to comply with rear yard and front yard setbacks, Mr. Dillard answered correct. Commissioner Orenstein questioned lot 26 and Mr. Langdale stated that he would continue property discussions with Mr. Perkins. Commissioner Wisenbaker made a motion to approve the request for R-10 with the condition of a minimum lot size of 15,000 square feet, Commissioner Marshall second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

FOR CONSIDERATION

Adopt Resolution Accepting Infrastructure for Quarterman Estates Subdivision Phase III, County Engineer, Mike Fletcher, presented a resolution to accept all infrastructure for Phase III of Quarterman Estates subdivision. Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to approve the resolution, Commissioner Evans second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Approve Condemning Right of Way and Drainage Easement for Hightower Road - Cooper Road TSPLOST Paving Project, County Engineer, Mike Fletcher, presented a request in the amount of \$339.00, related to the condemnation of 3156+/- acres of right of way and 1500.17+1- acres for a drainage easement for the project. Vice Chairman Griner made a motion to approve the request as presented, Commissioner Orenstein second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Advanced Disposal Services Residential Solid Waste Franchise Renewal, Human Resources Director, Kevin Beals, presented the item. Mr. Beals stated Advanced Disposal has applied to renew their existing franchise agreement. Mr. Beals stated Advanced Disposal has merged with Waste Management as of last year and their name is now Advanced Disposal Services Solid Waste Southeast, Inc. Mr. Beals also stated some required information has been submitted, but additional items are needed. Mr. Beals asked if this item can be approved and documents signed once the additional items are received, as long as they are received by March 31, 2021, to which Chairman

Slaughter stated he did not have an issue with proceeding with the approval of this item. Vice Chairman Griner made a motion to approve the renewal as presented, Commissioner Marshall second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Deep South Sanitation, LLC. Residential Solid Waste Franchise Renewal, Human Resources Director, Kevin Beals, presented the item. Mr. Beals stated Deep South Sanitation has submitted a request to renew their franchise agreement. Mr. Bea's further stated that all information required has been submitted, adding the request remains ready for consideration. Commissioner Wisenbaker made a motion to approve the renewal as presented, Commissioners Evans and Orenstein second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

FY 2020 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant Application, EMA Director, Ashley Tye, presented the item. Mr. Tye stated the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has a Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant Program which provides funding for the hiring of additional firefighters. Lowndes County Fire Rescue is requesting to apply for a SAFER Grant which would fund the hiring of twelve (12) additional full time firefighters and fully fund their salary for three (3) years. This grant requires no matching funds, however, it provides funding for salaries and benefits. Commissioner Marshall asked regarding the twelve positions, Mr. Tye answered these will be entry level firefighter positions. Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to approve the request as presented, Commissioner Marshall and Vice Chairman Griner second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

BID

Bid for Breathing Air Machine for the Fire Department, County Manager, Paige Dukes, presented the item with B & T Enterprises submitting the low bid in the amount of \$43,490.00, for the purchase of a breathing air machine for the fire department. Commissioner Marshall asked for an additional explanation of this machine, Mrs. Dukes responded the firefighters wear masks with bottles and this machine would refill the air bottles. Commissioner Wisenbaker asked if the bottles were being recharged, Mrs. Dukes responded yes. Commissioner Wisenbaker made a motion to approve the purchase as presented, Commissioner Marshall second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

REPORTS - County Manager

County Manager, Paige Dukes, stated budget meetings will begin next week. Additionally, Mrs. Dukes stated this week is Georgia Agriculture Awareness Week. Mrs. Dukes also stated our Southern Marketing Coordinator, with the Georgia Department of Agriculture, Beth DeLoach Meeks, is scheduling with our Commissioners and some members of the City Council to tour some schools with agriculture programs. Mrs. Dukes stated the Public Works Department began the scrap tire grant with a quantity of 115 tires received on the first day, per Public Works Director, Robin Cumbus. Mrs. Dukes asked County Engineer, Mike Fletcher, to update the commission on the Fiscal Year 2021 LMIG Safety Action Plan which we received from the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT). Mr. Fletcher stated there would be eighty (80) miles of county roads which would be restriped, pavement markings installed and RPM's installed and GDOT chose the roads based off of crash data.

CITIZENS WISHING TO BE HEARD – None

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Orenstein wanted to publicly thank the Lowndes County staff for their continued perseverance and dedication to making Lowndes County a safe, prosperous community and a great place to live and work. Commissioner Orenstein also stated it's a pleasure and honor to work with the citizens of Lowndes County.

Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Wisenbaker second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Chairman Slaughter adjourned the regular session at 6:04 p.m.