

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
REGULAR SESSION
Tuesday, September 14, 2021

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

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

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

INVOCATION

Chairman Bill Slaughter

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

Chairman Bill Slaughter

CODE ENFORCEMENT APPRECIATION

County Manager, Paige Dukes, recognized the Lowndes County Code Enforcement Department. Mrs. Dukes stated this office covers all of Lowndes County and on average has 172 cases each month.

MINUTES

The minutes were presented for the work session of August 23, 2021, the Millage Hearing of August 24, 2021 and the regular session of August 24, 2021. No changes to the minutes were requested. Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, Vice Chairman Evans second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING

REZ-2021-14 LAR Properties of Lake Park 5359 Mill Store Road, Lake Park P-D to C-H,

Planning and Zoning Director, J.D. Dillard, presented the item. Mr. Dillard stated this request is to obtain a single commercial zoning on the subject property for expansion of an existing commercial (recreation vehicle sales) operation. The Planning Commission recommended approval and the TRC recommended the need to maintain a permanent easement to access the County Utilities in the northernmost corner of the property. Commissioner Wisenbaker asked if there were any conditions as far as a buffer, Mr. Dillard answered it will be addressed in the commercial plan review. No one spoke against this request. Mr. Bill Kent, 2214 North Patterson Street, spoke in favor of this request as the applicant's project engineer. Commissioner Wisenbaker made a motion to approve the request as presented, Commissioner Orenstein second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

FOR CONSIDERATION

Beer & Wine License - Falguniben Chaudhary of Aarush 420 Corp., DBA Barrett's Food Mart - 6685 Bemiss Rd., Valdosta, GA, Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented the item. Ms. Black stated the applicant is requesting a license for the sale of beer and wine off premise, due to a change of ownership. Ms. Black further stated all requirements have been met. Commissioner Griner made a motion to approve the request as presented, Commissioner Marshall second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Agreement for Automatic Aid in Fire and Emergency Services between Lowndes County and Moody Air Force Base, County Manager, Paige Dukes, presented the item. Mrs. Dukes stated the agreement will provide for an automatic aid from Moody AFB to structure fires in the unincorporated area that are on the north end of the county. Mrs. Dukes stated the details have been discussed between the Fire Chiefs. Commissioner Orenstein asked if the County would respond behind the gates of Moody Air Force Base, Mrs. Dukes answered no. Commissioner Marshall asked if the renewal was for five years, Mrs. Dukes answered yes. Commissioner Marshall made a motion to approve the agreement as presented, Commissioner Orenstein second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Lowndes County Historic Courthouse Early Demolition and Abatement GMP (Guaranteed Maximum Price), Engineering Services Director, Chad McLeod, presented the item. Mr. McLeod stated this is a demolition and abatement project for the historic courthouse. Mr. McLeod stated bids were received in August and the total amount for the demolition and abatement (guaranteed maximum price) is \$411,125.00. Commissioner Marshall asked when will the demolition begin, Mr. McLeod responded October 1, 2021. Commissioner Orenstein commented this is a good way to start this project, Chairman Slaughter agreed. Commissioner Marshall asked will the courthouse be usable to rent, Chairman Slaughter answered the lawn can still be used. Mrs. Dukes added after the first of next year the square will be off limits when construction begins. Vice Chairman Evans made a motion to approve the request as presented, Commissioner Orenstein second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

GMASS Commercial Contract, Chairman Slaughter presented the item, stating the Commission heard from Mrs. Bryant, with the Assessor's Office, during the work session. Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to approve the contract with GMASS in the amount of \$108,000.00, Commissioners Wisenbaker and Marshall second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

REPORTS - County Manager

County Manager, Paige Dukes, updated the Commissioners on the Winnersville Classic Week for the Lowndes County Employees next week. Mrs. Dukes stated that due to the stressful year of dealing with COVID, Lowndes County wanted to show the employees how much they're appreciated. Door prizes will be given out throughout the week, signs which say 'heroes work here' will be displayed outside of the county offices, there will be a fall decorating contest and t-shirts will be given to all county employees with lunch being delivered to employees on Friday. Mrs. Dukes mentioned Commissioner Evans, herself and Mr. McLeod attended the Southside Library fundraising event which is in need of 1.5 million dollars to expand the library to enhance an area for teens, provide a community meeting space and also a children's area. A letter of support will be submitted on behalf of the

Commission and sent to Senator Goodman. Additionally, Mrs. Dukes stated there would be a meet and greet for David DeSalvo, the director of the Valdosta-Lowndes Conference Center being held at Georgia Beer on September 21st. Lastly, Mrs. Dukes stated there will be a Stakeholders Comprehensive Plan meeting on September 28th beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the Commission Chambers.

CITIZENS WISHING TO BE HEARD

There were no citizens wishing to be heard.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Wisenbaker second. Chairman Slaughter adjourned the regular session at 5:48 p.m.