

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES

Public Hearing on the Comprehensive Plan Update
Tuesday, October 26, 2021 - 5:30 PM

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

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

Vice Chairman Joyce Evans was not in attendance.

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

PUBLIC HEARING

Transmittal of the 2021 Comprehensive Plan Update, Southern Georgia Regional Commission Planning Director, Elizabeth Backe, stated that this is the second public hearing for the transmittal of the 2021 Comprehensive Plan Update for Lowndes County and the Cities and this completes the required public hearings for this process. This is to notify the public that the draft is ready and available to review and will be transmitted to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs for their review. Once the draft is final, it will be up to cities and county to adopt the plan that would complete the process for another five years. The components that make up this plan include the seven required elements for Lowndes County, goals/vision, needs and opportunities, policies, the community work program, transportation, broadband and it includes an update of the land use element. There is an opportunity for the public to comment regarding the Comprehensive Plan Update tonight and this update will be shared with neighboring jurisdictions and state agencies as well. Chairman Slaughter thanked Ms. Backe for her efforts and leadership during this process.

David Houtz, 5767 Thompson Road, addressed the commission asking that the Comprehensive Plan remain the same with no changes. Mr. Houtz mentioned he has not seen the plan yet and Ms. Backe gave Mr. Houtz a copy for his review.

City of Valdosta and City of Hahira, Planning and Zoning Administrator, Matt Martin, stated regarding a portion of the future development map as it affects the Hahira city limits area. There are mapping issues to be addressed and some recommended changes earlier in the process did not get entered, as well as the current city limits line. Mr. Martin stated there is also one line item for the community work program for the City of Valdosta.

Commissioner Marshall asked to verify that the character areas are not changing from the 2016 map, Ms. Backe stated there would be no changes to the map regarding the unincorporated areas. Ms. Backe stated there will be no changes to Val Del Road or the Bethany area. Chairman Slaughter

stated the Comprehensive Plan is a guide, including character areas, we still have a responsibility for the best fit in any area. It's a guide for staff to give citizens guidance and recommendations. Commissioner Wisenbaker made a motion to approve the transmittal of the 2021 Comprehensive Plan Update, Commissioner Marshall second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Griner made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Marshall second. Chairman Slaughter adjourned the work session at 5:48 p.m.