

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
WORK SESSION
Monday, November 8, 2021

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

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

Commissioner Demarcus Marshall was not in attendance.

Chairman Slaughter called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

One Valdosta-Lowndes Presentation (Work Session)

Dr. Richard Carvajel and Mr. Scott Purvis presented information to the commission regarding One ValdostaLowndes. Chairman Slaughter stated he appreciated their commitment and is hopeful this project will make our community even better. Chairman Slaughter also reminded the commission he sent information to them, for their review, regarding the plan.

MINUTES

Work Session - October 25, 2021, Regular Session - October 25, 2021, & Comprehensive Plan Update Public Hearing - October 26, 2021

There were no revisions requested to the minutes for the work session of October 25, 2021, the regular session of October 25, 2021 and the update of the Comprehensive Plan Submittal of October 26, 2021.

APPOINTMENT

Hospital Authority of Valdosta and Lowndes County, County Manager, Paige Dukes, presented the appointment. Mrs. Dukes stated the seat currently held by Mr. Ben Copeland will expire December 31, 2021. Mrs. Dukes further stated Mr. Norman "Bo" Lovein, Mrs. Suzanne Mathis and Mr. Ben Copeland's names have been submitted by the authority for consideration. Chairman Slaughter thanked Mr. Copeland for serving.

PUBLIC HEARING

REZ-2021-22 John Sineath, 3895 US HWY 41 North, 0.63 acres R-1 to C-G, County Utilities, Planning and Zoning Director, J.D. Dillard, presented the item. Mr. Dillard stated this request represents a change from Low Density Residential (R-1) to General Commercial (C-G). Mr. Dillard stated the applicant would like to use the subject property for commercial use. Additionally, Mr. Dillard

stated the TRC had no objectionable comments and the Planning Commission recommended approval.

REZ-2021-23 Cotton Property, 3986 Wilkerson Road, 5 acres, E-A to R-A, Well & Septic,

Planning and Zoning Director, J.D. Dillard, presented the item. Mr. Dillard stated this request is for E-A (Estate Agricultural) to R-A (Residential Agricultural) zoning, in order to subdivide the property. Mr. Dillard stated the TRC had no objectionable comments and the Planning Commission recommended approval.

REZ-2021-24 Barry Godfrey, Mt. Zion Church Road, 1.5 acres, R-10 to C-H,

Planning and Zoning Director, J.D. Dillard, presented the item. Mr. Dillard stated this request is for R-10 (Suburban Residential) to C-H (Highway Commercial) zoning due to the applicant's desire to downsize his current automotive business. Additionally, Mr. Dillard stated the character of this area is mixed with commercial properties to the west and north, with residential properties to the east and south and educational institutions further east. Further, Mr. Dillard stated most of the consideration regarding this request has to do with supplemental standards for vehicle sales based on residential zoning and commercial zoning. The TRC reviewed this request and found it consistent with the comprehensive plan and the Planning Commission recommended approval. Commissioner Orenstein asked to verify when travelling east there are four homes and a church on the corner, Mr. Dillard answered yes.

TWR-2021-01 CitySwitch II, LLC, Bemiss Road, New 265' Telecommunications Tower,

Planning and Zoning Director, J.D. Dillard, presented the item. Mr. Dillard stated this request is for a new 265-foot telecommunications tower on Bemiss Road. Mr. Dillard stated this property is currently zoned Highway Commercial (C-H) and is in the urban service area and part of the neighborhood activity center on the Future Development Map. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) determined the potential tower to be of 'no hazard to air navigation' and neither Moody Air Force Base nor the Valdosta Airport have additional comments or objections. The TRC had no objectionable comments and the Planning Commission recommended approval.

FOR CONSIDERATION

FY23 5311 Regional Transit Resolution, Planning and Zoning Director, J.D. Dillard, presented the item. Mr. Dillard stated this resolution would authorize Lowndes County to enter into an agreement with the Southern Georgia Regional Commission (SGRC) to operate a 5311 Rural Transit Service on the County's behalf.

Adoption of Budget Calendar for FY 2022 – 2023, Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented the budget calendar. Ms. Black stated the Commission is required to adopt a balanced budget by June 30, 2022, adding the other dates are presented as guidelines to keep the process on track.

Community Development Block Grant-CV - Second Harvest, Director of Engineering Services, Chad McLeod, presented the item. Mr. McLeod stated Second Harvest of South Georgia is seeking a Community Development Block Grant-CV (CDBG-CV). This grant is related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Lowndes County has been asked to submit the grant application and will be the recipient of the grant if awarded. The Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) also requires an authority to be the sub-recipient which will be the Valdosta-Lowndes County Industrial Authority if awarded.

Code Red Annual Renewal, EMA Director, Ashley Tye, presented the agreement. Mr. Tye stated Lowndes County has utilized Code Red since 2007 and in order to continue with the current services provided through Code Red, there is an annual renewal fee for one-year, beginning December 10, 2021, in the amount of \$31,500.00.

Request for Cash Match Increase for VAWA ASG Salary Supplement, Solicitor, Justin Cabral, presented the item. Mr. Cabral stated the VAWA position has been vacant since August and this job position has been posted six times. Mr. Cabral stated due to the competitive salaries offered throughout the state of Georgia, his office is asking for an additional cash match increase from Lowndes County of \$17,217.00, making the total salary supplement \$36,266.00. Mr. Cabral stated this would make the salary \$60,000.00. Commissioner Griner asked if additional funding was available through this grant, Mr. Cabral stated usually it is the same amount, but possibly more could be allocated next year.

2021 Comprehensive Plan Adoption, Planning and Zoning Director, J.D. Dillard, presented the 2021 Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Dillard stated the plan has moved through the required public hearings, solicited stakeholder input, and remains ready for consideration.

BID

2021 LMIG Safety Action Plan Restriping, Director of Engineering Services, Chad McLeod, presented the item. Mr. McLeod stated the Georgia Department of Transportation Local Maintenance Improvement Grant (LMIG) Safety Action Plan Restriping bid includes 63 linear miles of paved county roads. Mr. McLeod stated the restriping includes restriping the centerline, edgeline, stopbars and pavement markings, as well as installing raised pavement markers. Lowndes County received \$150,000.00 of LMIG funding assistance with the remaining being paid from SPLOST VIII. Mr. McLeod stated Peek Pavement submitted the low bid in the amount of \$281,529.50.

REPORTS - County Manager

County Manager, Paige Dukes, requested an executive session for the purpose of attorney-client communication regarding pending or potential litigation. At 9:26 a.m. Vice Chairman Evans made a motion to enter into executive session for the purpose of privileged attorney-client communication regarding potential or pending litigation, Commissioner Griner second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:58 a.m. Chairman Slaughter reconvened the work session, no additional information was discussed. Commissioner Griner made a motion to adjourn the work session meeting, Vice Chairman Evans second. Chairman Slaughter adjourned the meeting.