

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES  
WORK SESSION  
Monday, January 24, 2022

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Vice Chairman Joyce Evans  
Commissioner Demarcus Marshall  
Commissioner Clay Griner

Chairman Bill Slaughter, Commissioner Scott Orenstein and Commissioner Mark Wisenbaker were not in attendance.

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

**MINUTES**

The minutes were presented for the work session of December 13, 2021 and the regular session of December 14, 2021. No changes to the minutes were requested.

**FOR CONSIDERATION**

**Set Qualifying Fees**

County Manager, Paige Dukes, presented a resolution for consideration to set the qualifying fees for the 2022 election cycle.

**Office of the Governor Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Accountability Court Lowndes County DUI Court - Law Enforcement Subgrant– State Court**

DUI Court Coordinator with State Court, Heather Harris, presented a request for grant funding in the amount of \$9,195.00, with no match required by the County. Ms. Harris stated this local law enforcement subgrant will assist with the surveillance officer curfew checks, drug and alcohol screens and surveillance duties for the remainder of the fiscal year ending June 31, 2022.

**Office of the Governor Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Accountability Court Lowndes County DUI Court - Enhancement and Innovation Subgrant Award – State Court**

DUI Court Coordinator with State Court, Heather Harris, presented the item. Ms. Harris stated this enhancement and innovation subgrant award is in the amount of \$3,580.00, with no match requirement by Lowndes County. Ms. Harris further stated this supplemental grant has been requested for GPS Monitors and Document Translations into Spanish.

**Nelson Hill Lift Station Pump Upgrade**

Utilities Director, Steve Stalvey, presented a request to purchase two new pumps from Xylem, Inc., in the amount of \$45,742.00. Mr. Stalvey stated due to the growth in the area, the current 10hp pumps are at capacity and need to be upgraded. Mr. Stalvey stated to meet the expected capacity, the existing 10hp pumps will be changed to 25hp pumps.

### **Approval of DA's Federal VOCA/CESF Grant Application Renewal**

Victim Services Director with the District Attorney's Office, Carla Williams, presented the request. Ms. Williams stated the application is a continuation of a VOCA grant that has been in operation since 1997 and the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) has been given COVID emergency supplemental funding with the application deadline of January 31, 2022. Further, Ms. Williams stated the funds from the grant, along with "five percent" funds, pay for victim services.

### **Special Assessment Rate for 2022**

Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented the item. Ms. Black stated the county is required to set the interest rate on special assessments each year. Ms. Black stated the rate is set to be at two percent above prime, adding the 2022 rate is calculated at 5.25%. Ms. Black stated the rate for last year was 5.25%.

### **AT&T Switched Ethernet Circuit Continuation of Service**

911 Director, Danny Weeks, presented the item. Mr. Weeks stated this is an existing contract and the board is being asked to approve in order to keep the current rate for the next 36 months; if not approved the cost would increase 25%.

### **GDOT Safety Action Program Loch Laurel Road Project**

Director of Engineering Services, Chad McLeod, presented the item. Mr. McLeod stated the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) has identified Loch Laurel Road for a possible 2024 Off System Safety Project. The project will be 100% federally funded. Mr. McLeod stated the project includes audible centerline striping and audible edgeline striping. Mr. McLeod further stated since Lowndes County already has audible edgeline striping, new edgeline striping will be substituted for that item and the County will be responsible for clipping the shoulders. Commissioner Marshall asked if bike lanes have been mentioned to be installed with any of the safety projects, Mr. McLeod answered not to his knowledge, but he could verify with Georgia Department of Transportation.

### **FY 2023 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant Application**

Fire Chief, Lloyd Green, presented the item. Mr. Green 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 nine (9) full-time firefighters and fully fund their salary for three (3) years. Mr. Green stated this grant requires no matching funds, however, it provides funding for salaries and benefits only.

### **Valdosta-Lowndes County Parks and Recreation Authority Sales Tax Exemption**

County Manager, Paige Dukes, presented the item. Mrs. Dukes stated currently, Lowndes County is working with Valdosta-Lowndes County Parks and Recreation Authority (VLPRA) on some of their large SPLOST purchases, especially to handle those through the county to save on sales tax. Mrs. Dukes stated when the authority was created it was not taken care of legislatively, with regards to its tax exempt status. Additionally, Mrs. Dukes stated Representative John Corbett will carry legislation to hopefully get the General Assembly to approve for VLPRA. Mrs. Dukes stated this is not statewide, this is only for our parks and recreation authority in Lowndes County. Mrs. Dukes stated in order to move forward, a resolution that demonstrates the commission is in favor is attached.

### **Property Purchase – Building Valdosta, LLC**

County Manager, Paige Dukes, presented the item. Mrs. Dukes stated this is a follow-up on the Building Valdosta, LLC property purchase. Mrs. Dukes stated the attorney has prepared the purchase agreement and we have communicated with the representatives of Building Valdosta, LLC and are in agreement with the proposed purchase agreement. Mrs. Dukes stated the price is \$568,971.00, which is for the purchase of the property as well as the development costs.

### **REPORTS - County Manager**

County Manager, Paige Dukes, requested an executive session for the purpose of attorney-client communication regarding pending or potential litigation and for the purchase of property. At 8:42 a.m. Commissioner Marshall made a motion to enter into executive session for the purpose of privileged attorneyclient communication regarding potential or pending litigation and for the purchase of property, Commissioner Griner second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:55 a.m. Vice Chairman Evans reconvened the work session with no additional information being discussed. Commissioner Griner made a motion to adjourn the work session meeting, Commissioner Marshall second. Vice Chairman Evans adjourned the meeting.