

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
REGULAR SESSION
Tuesday, August 23, 2022

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Chairman Bill Slaughter
Commissioner Joyce Evans
Commissioner Mark Wisenbaker
Commissioner Demarcus Marshall

Vice Chairman Scott Orenstein and Commissioner Clay Griner were not in attendance.

Chairman Slaughter called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and recognized Leadership Lowndes and Youth Leadership Lowndes class members in attendance.

INVOCATION

Commissioner Marshall

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

Commissioner Marshall

MINUTES

The minutes were presented for the work session of August 8, 2022 and the regular session of August 9, 2022. Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, Commissioner Marshall second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

APPOINTMENT

Valdosta Lowndes Zoning Board of Appeals

County Manager, Paige Dukes, presented the appointment. Mrs. Dukes stated the seat held by Mr. John McCall will expire on August 28, 2022 and Mr. McCall has expressed a desire to continue to serve. Commissioner Evans nominated Mr. John McCall for reappointment. There being no other nominations, Mr. McCall was reappointed by acclamation.

PUBLIC HEARING

Addition to Basic Decorative Lighting District: Grove Pointe Subdivision, Phase 5, Sections 1 and 2 (101 Lots), Planning and Zoning Director, J.D. Dillard, presented the lighting districts. Mr. Dillard stated a petition was received and verified to add one hundred and one (101) lots of the Grove Pointe Subdivision, Phase 5, sections 1 and 2 into the County's basic decorative street lighting district. Mr. Dillard stated the current charge for the basic decorative street lighting is \$61.50 per lot, per year. No one spoke for or against the request. Commissioner Marshall made a motion to approve the request as presented, Commissioner Evans second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

FOR CONSIDERATION

QPublic Appeals Module

Chairman Slaughter presented the item stating the commission heard from Mrs. Bryant, with the Assessor's Office, during the work session. No further discussion took place. Commissioner Marshall made a motion to approve the item as presented, Commissioner Wisenbaker second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Adoption of 2022 Millage Rate

Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented the item. Ms. Black stated following the 5:00 p.m. public hearing, this item is to adopt the millage rate as proposed. Ms. Black stated the county-wide millage rate for 2022 should be set at 10.211 mills, with the County receiving 7.961 mills, the Industrial Authority receiving 1.00 mill, and the Parks and Recreation Authority receiving 1.25 mills. Commissioner Wisenbaker made a motion to adopt the 2022 county-wide millage rate at 10.211 mills, Commissioner Evans second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Adoption of 2022 Fire District Millage Rate

Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented the item. Ms. Black stated this item is for the unincorporated fire millage for a special district that is made up of the unincorporated area and used to fund fire services. Ms. Black stated the 2022 rate should be set at 2.50 mills, which is no change from the prior year millage. Commissioner Marshall made a motion to adopt the 2022 fire district millage rate at 2.50 mills, Commissioner Evans second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Utilities Radio Replacement

Utilities Director, Steve Stalvey, presented a request in the amount of \$64,160.45, to purchase a quantity of twenty-two (22) radios for the utilities department. Mr. Stalvey stated these are needed to replace existing radios which are no longer supported. Mr. Stalvey stated this amount includes programming and initial hardware needed. Additionally, Mr. Stalvey mentioned this item was approved and included in the current budget. Commissioner Wisenbaker made a motion to approve the item as presented, Commissioner Evans second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Vice Chairman Orenstein arrived at 5:38 p.m. due to being out of town at a GEFA meeting in Atlanta.

FY2023 Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Grant

EMA Director, Ashley Tye, presented the item. Mr. Tye stated this is a continuation grant allowing Lowndes County to apply for an additional \$50,000.00, in funding to continue the Strengthening Families Program. Mr. Tye stated Evidence Based Associates has indicated they will be unable to serve as the program administrator for this grant so Lowndes County will solicit proposals. Mr. Tye stated if approved by the commission, an application would be submitted. Lastly, Mr. Tye verified information for Commissioner Marshall that there are currently no participants who are homeless in this program. Vice Chairman Orenstein made a motion to approve this item as presented, Commissioner Evans second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

BID

Manhole Improvements Project

Utilities Director, Steve Stalvey, presented the item. Mr. Stalvey stated Lowndes County was awarded a Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA) loan for lift station and manhole improvements. Mr. Stalvey stated there are approximately 100 manholes in need of repair. Mr. Stalvey stated RPI, Inc. submitted the low bid in the amount \$439,836.00. Commissioner Wisenbaker made a motion to approve the low bidder, RPI, Inc., in the amount of \$439,836.00, Vice Chairman Orenstein second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

South Lowndes Utilities Building Expansion

Utilities Director, Steve Stalvey, presented the item. Mr. Stalvey stated additional shop space is needed at the Land Application System (LAS). Mr. Stalvey stated that with the current inventory of pumps and generators there is currently not enough space to store these items. Mr. Stalvey stated Kellerman Construction submitted the low bid in the amount of \$386,167.00. Commissioner Marshall made a motion to approve the low bidder, Kellerman Construction, in the amount of \$386,167.00, Vice Chairman Orenstein second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

REPORTS - County Manager

County Manager, Paige Dukes, thanked Vice Chairman Orenstein for representing Lowndes County at GEFA today. Mrs. Dukes stated a second hose uncoupling will be held Thursday, August 25th at 10:00 a.m. at the Bemiss Road Fire Station. Mrs. Dukes reminded the Commission of the 9/11 Memorial Ceremony being held Friday, September 9th at 10:00 a.m. at Freedom Park. Mrs. Dukes mentioned The Valdosta Fire Department will be hosting a 9/11 Memorial 5k Run in which Lowndes County Fire Rescue will be participating in on Saturday, September 10th. Mrs. Dukes stated the mid-year commission retreat has been confirmed for Friday, November 18th. Mrs. Dukes mentioned the second round of ARPA funding from the state related to water projects to include 20,000 gallon hydro tanks at Creekside and Alapaha, an elevated tank on the northend, Creekside water main extension and an additional loop considering 9.23 miles (westside of the interstate), new wells and Nano-filtration plant on north end, a water main extension on Mcmillan Road to Register Road (4.83 miles), funding for the Lake Alapaha treatment plant and an elevated tank at exit 13. Mrs. Dukes stated there is 400 million dollars available at the state level. Utilities Director, Steve Stalvey, gave an update on the sink hole located on Golf Drive in Lake Park. Commissioner Wisenbaker asked the time frame regarding completion, Mr. Stalvey answered close to a month later. Commissioner Wisenbaker asked if the current hole had to be re-excavated, Mr. Stalvey replied no sir.

CITIZENS WISHING TO BE HEARD - There were no citizens wishing to be heard.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chairman Orenstein made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Griner second. Chairman Slaughter adjourned the regular session meeting at 5:49 p.m.