

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
WORK SESSION
Monday, November 7, 2022

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Chairman Bill Slaughter
Vice Chairman Scott Orenstein
Commissioner Joyce Evans
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.

Broadband Presentation (Work Session)

Community Development Director, Rachel Thrasher, addressed the commission regarding the statewide broadband project. Mrs. Thrasher stated the Broadband Ordinance is being reviewed and will be ready for consideration next year. Additionally, Mrs. Thrasher stated there is a program to help citizens, the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) through the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), which will give citizens who qualify, an opportunity to receive a reduced rate with internet service.

Disruption of the fire alarm, our building was evacuated at 8:33 a.m. and the meeting resumed at 8:45 a.m.

Fire Prevention Activities Presentation (Work Session)

Fire Marshal, Mark Maskule, provided the Commission with an overview of Fire Prevention Month programs during the month of October. Mr. Maskule stated eleven schools had been visited, five daycares with 3,020 students being reached.

MINUTES

The minutes were presented for the work session of October 24, 2022 and the regular session of October 25, 2022. No revisions to the minutes were requested.

PUBLIC HEARING

Addition to Enhanced Decorative Lighting District: Kinderlou Forest Subdivision, Phases 8A (52 lots) and 9 (58 lots) and Basic Decorative Lighting District: The Landings Subdivision, Phase 2 (65 Lots), Quarterman Estates Subdivision, Phase 3D (21 lots) and Walker Run Subdivision (48 lots), Planning Director, J.D. Dillard, presented the request stating petitions were received and verified to add 52 lots of phase 8A and 58 lots of phase 9 of the Kinderlou Forest Subdivision into the County's enhanced decorative street lighting district. Additionally, Mr. Dillard

stated petitions were received and verified to add 65 lots of phase 2 of the Landings Subdivision, 21 lots of phase 3D of the Quarterman Estates Subdivision and 48 lots of the Walker Run Subdivision into the County's basic decorative street lighting district. Mr. Dillard stated the enhanced decorative street lighting is \$115.00 per lot, per year and the basic decorative street lighting is \$61.50 per lot, per year. Mr. Dillard stated the request had been properly advertised, adding staff recommended approval.

FOR CONSIDERATION

Emergency Repairs for the Public Safety Radio System due to Lightning Damage, 911 Director, Danny Weeks, presented the item. Mr. Weeks stated the Tower Top Amp at the Valdosta Radio Tower Site has been damaged, as well as the Naylor Tower Site. This is due to lightning damage. Mr. Weeks stated the total approximate repair cost is \$86,507.85. Commissioner Wisenbaker asked if this damage is covered by insurance, Mr. Weeks responded insurance will be filed and the portion that is not covered will go through the public safety radio system. Vice Chairman Orenstein asked if the repairs could be done now, Mr. Weeks responded the equipment has been ordered.

Acceptance of FY 2023 Delinquency Prevention Grant, EMA Director, Ashley Tye, presented the item. Mr. Tye stated Lowndes County has been awarded \$50,000.00 in continuation funding to be used to continue the Strengthening Families Program (SFP). Mr. Tye stated if approved, the Chairman will be authorized to sign the grant documents and activate the grant award. Chairman Slaughter recognized Judge Council in the audience.

Selection of Provider for Implementation of Strengthening Families Program, EMA Director, Ashley Tye, presented the item. Mr. Tye stated Evidence Based Associates (EBA) has been used over the last few years to provide overall program management. Mr. Tye stated EBA informed Lowndes County it would be in the best interest of all parties for Lowndes County to contract directly with a service provider and they would not be serving as program manager for this grant moving forward. Lowndes County solicited requests for proposals, receiving two (2) proposals from qualified firms, Peaceway Counseling and Mediation Services, Inc. and Legacy Behavioral Health Services, both located in Valdosta. Legacy Behavioral Health Services submitted a proposal in the amount of \$45,114.00 and Peaceway Counseling submitted a proposal in the amount of \$50,000.00. Mr. Tye stated Judge Council's preference is Peaceway Counseling and Mediation Services, Inc.

BID

Partial Renovation to the Second Floor - Administration Building, Director of Engineering Services, Chad McLeod, presented the item. Mr. McLeod stated the partial renovation of the second floor project was designed specifically for the incoming Inspections and Permitting Department. Mr. McLeod stated two bids were received with Kellerman Construction submitting the low bid in the amount of \$313,282.00 to include the Additive Alternate #1.

Historic Lowndes County Courthouse Rehabilitation and Restoration – Furniture, Director of Engineering Services, Chad McLeod, presented the item. Mr. McLeod stated the Lowndes County Courthouse Rehabilitation and Restoration furniture package was designed to fit all the spaces within the courthouse once the construction is complete. Mr. McLeod stated there were three companies that were interested in the proposal, but only one company submitted a proposal. Business Interiors -

Base Bid: \$109,923.14, Period Furniture: \$164,560.29 Total Amount: \$274,483.43 Vice Chairman Orenstein asked if these items were included in the original budget, Mr. McLeod answered yes and the amount allotted for the furniture is between \$400,000-\$500,000.00. Chairman Slaughter mentioned the discussion of personal donations, Mr. McLeod stated there is a list of the items which are being donated.

REPORTS - County Manager

The County Manager, Paige Dukes was not in attendance.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Griner made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Wisenbaker second. Chairman Slaughter adjourned the work session at 9:00 a.m.