

Conference when preparing the calendar. Chairman Slaughter asked to change the regular commission meeting date on January 10th to January 9th, due to a conflict. Commissioner Marshall made a motion to approve the commission meeting calendar with the adjustment of the regular session meeting being held on Monday, January 9, 2023, as well as the work session meeting, Vice Chairman Orenstein second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

REPORTS - County Manager

County Manager, Paige Dukes, stated this is the season of giving and below are events Lowndes County employees attended since November:

- More than 35 employees assisted with the Second Harvest Thanksgiving event, with Lowndes County having the largest group from any employer there.
- This past Saturday, Lowndes County Fire Rescue organized a softball tournament for Toys for Tots, over 800 toys collected and \$3,000.00 raised.
- Employees baked cookies for the Airmen at Moody Air Force Base.
- Lowndes County Public Works won the Christmas Parade Float contest in the Greater Valdosta Community Christmas Parade held December 3rd.
- Chairman Slaughter, Commissioner Evans, Mrs. Dukes, Mrs. Barwick and Mrs. Thrasher were asked to judge in the Lowndes High School Door Decorating Contest.
- Mrs. Dukes stated all County departments painted Christmas cards and the cards were placed around the County Buildings. Mrs. Dukes thanked Mrs. Cumbus and staff for the decorations, mentioning the wreaths hanging above the two entrances, were fabricated by the Public Works Department due to the size and cost. Santa's helper, Chief Green's son, Rob Green has been available for pictures here at the Lowndes County Administration Building with dates and times available on social media.
- Lowndes County participated for the first time countywide in the Small Business Saturday.
- Farmer of the year was recognized last week; the large farmer winner was South Georgia Produce and the small farmer winner was Fifth Day Farms, with 70 nominations being received and those were sent out of the county to be blind judged.
- Chairman Slaughter, Mrs. Dukes and Mrs. Barwick interviewed with Georgia Trend and will be highlighted in their upcoming issue.
- The Lowndes County Employee luncheon will be held on Thursday, December 15th at the Lowndes County Civic Center.
- Mr. Beals has had a conversation with Waste Management regarding roadside litter and the landfill. A meeting will be held next week on how to help garbage trucks not drop the litter and a possible campaign for employees to bag trash before putting it in the garbage cans. Also, the landfill after January 1st, will not be accepting loads not properly tarped.
- Mrs. Dukes stated we continue to finalize details so the audit is on time; currently we have not filed yet.
- Lowndes County offices will be closed Friday, December 23rd and Monday, December 26th for the Christmas holidays.

Mrs. Dukes wished everyone a Merry Christmas and the Lowndes County Staff is excited for 2023.

CITIZENS WISHING TO BE HEARD

Kelley Saxon, 8 Baldwin Place, addressed the commission as a resident of Lowndes County and the Chairperson of the Homeless Task Force. Ms. Saxon stated the County received \$22 million in ARPA funding and an investment of \$6.59 million is needed for affordable housing. Ms. Saxon mentioned