

low bidder to include 2' widening on McMillian Road, the amount for the widening is \$255,453.49, making the total amount \$1,789,468.17. Commissioner Marshall asked when would the resurfacing begin for McMillian Road? Mr. McLeod answered, once the notice to proceed is given, they have 180 days to complete the project. Commissioner Griner made a motion to approve the low bidder, The Scruggs Company, in the amount of \$1,789,468.17, Commissioner Marshall second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

REPORT - County Manager

County Manager, Paige Dukes, stated that Lowndes County is featured in the ACCG Summer 2023 Georgia County Government Magazine with an article featuring our agreements with Moody Air Force Base and the Quiet Pines Golf Course, and the awards won at the Annual ACCG Conference. The Board of Assessors will be holding a special called meeting on Thursday at 9:00 a.m. Mrs. Dukes stated after meeting with Utilities Director, Steve Stalvey, the software and meter projects are moving forward very well. Over the last two weeks, Lowndes County has in-processed twenty (20) new employees. Additionally, Mrs. Dukes stated we are helping to sponsor the Freedom to Grow Conference being organized by Mr. Derrick Dawson (the Father of Joshua Dawson, our Extension Agent here locally) held at the Lowndes County Civic Center, July 20-21, 2023 and this was initiated by Commissioner Marshall. Mrs. Dukes asked the Director of Permitting, Inspections and Code Enforcement, Mindy Bates, to give the Commission an update. Mrs. Bates stated the total applications submitted as of 4:30 p.m. this afternoon is 44 applications, submitted and processed. Related to those 44 applications, 26 permits have been issued, with seven having been completely through the process and closed out, with one commercial permit and 26 residential permits. On the first day, two applications were submitted and processed as well as two inspections. There have been 70 contractors' licenses and occupational tax registrations registered and verified. There has been assessed approximately \$10,000.00 in fees, with \$2,500.00 being collected to date. Additionally, Mrs. Bates stated an application for commercial was received late this afternoon for a \$750,000.00 warehouse coming to town. Mrs. Dukes stated she is proud of Mrs. Bates and her staff for their hard work. Lastly, Mrs. Dukes stated there has been a leadership change with the Lowndes County Fire Rescue Department and Billy Young will be the Fire Chief. Chief Green has moved into a Senior Fire Marshal position. Chairman Slaughter stated he looks forward to working with Chief Young while continuing to work and build what Chief Green has done with Lowndes County Fire Rescue. Chairman Slaughter and the Commissioners congratulated Chief Young.

CITIZENS WISHING TO BE HEARD -

Catherine Reese, 3908 Forrest Street Extension, addressed the Commission regarding a Lowndes County Code Enforcement matter at 3910 and 3912 Forrest Street Extension. Ms. Reese stated she began speaking to the Code Enforcement Office regarding this matter on July 21, 2020, and is asking that the properties be cleaned up.

Diane Cox, 1009 Cherry Creek Drive, addressed the Commission stating that she sent an email to all of the Commissioners and the County Attorney, regarding using paper ballots for municipal elections. Ms. Cox is requesting to use paper ballots and to stop using the Dominion voting machines.

Cheri Whitney, 4513 Water Oak Trail, addressed the Commission to ask that the Commissioners review the Halderman Report and to quit using the Dominion voting machines and start using paper ballots.

Mary Gebbia, 3916 Weatherby Lane, addressed the Commission to ask for support from the local legislature in removing the Dominion voting machines and to use paper ballots instead.