

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
REGULAR SESSION
Tuesday, February 27, 2024

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Chairman Bill Slaughter
Vice Chairman Demarcus Marshall
Commissioner Joyce Evans
Commissioner Scott Orenstein
Commissioner Mark Wisenbaker
Commissioner Clay Griner

Chairman Slaughter called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

INVOCATION

Vice Chairman Demarcus Marshall

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

Vice Chairman Demarcus Marshall

MINUTES

The minutes were presented for the work session of January 22, 2024, the regular session meeting of January 23, 2024, and the work session of February 12, 2024. The regular session of February 13, 2024 was canceled due to lack of a quorum and sickness. Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, Commissioner Wisenbaker second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

FOR CONSIDERATION

Clyattville Tower Replacement

IT Director, Aaron Kostyu, presented the item. Mr. Kostyu stated the Clyattville tower was destroyed during Hurricane Idalia and this tower provides connectivity for the Clyattville Fire Department. Commissioner Wisenbaker made a motion to approve the quote from Tower Services of South Georgia, LLC in the amount of \$47,884.00, Commissioner Orenstein second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Kinderlou-Clyattville Road Right of Way Purchases

Director of Engineering Services, Chad McLeod, presented the request in the amount of \$274,765.00, for the right of way purchases. Mr. McLeod stated Lowndes County has negotiated purchase of the right of way for parcels 1-2 and 6A - 43 for the Kinderlou-Clyattville Road TSPLOST project. Commissioner Wisenbaker asked if this is the purchase price per acre? Mr. McLeod responded yes, it is the price per acre and other amenities are included, such as fencing or wells on the property. Commissioner Wisenbaker made a motion to approve the item as presented, Commissioner Evans second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Briggston Road Paving and Drainage Improvements, P.I.0016275 Supplemental Agreement No.

1 Director of Engineering Services, Chad McLeod, presented the item. Mr. McLeod stated the original agreement dated March 14, 2021, with the Georgia Department of Transportation has a "not to exceed amount" of \$2,525,000.00 for the Briggston Road paving and drainage improvements. Staff asked the TIA office for an additional funding request to cover the cost difference between the actual cost of the project and the agreement amount, which is \$1,114,709.16. After reviewing, the TIA office agreed to provide additional funds of \$1,115,000.00 to cover the total cost of the project. Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to approve the request as presented, Commissioners Wisenbaker and Evans second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Acceptance of Infrastructure for Quarterman Estates Phase 4, Section 2

Director of Engineering Services, Chad McLeod, presented the item. Mr. McLeod stated Quarterman Estates Subdivision Phase 4, Section 2 is located in the southern portion of Lowndes County, off of White Water Road and includes thirty-three (33) lots. Mr. McLeod stated final inspections of the construction have been completed. Commissioner Wisenbaker asked if this would complete the Quarterman Estates projects? Mr. McLeod answered no, there is another phase. Commissioner Wisenbaker made a motion to approve the resolution as presented, Commissioner Orenstein second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Spring Creek Well Pilot Study

Utilities Director, Steve Stalvey, presented the item. Mr. Stalvey stated the Spring Creek well has high organic levels in the water being pumped from the aquifer that creates disinfection by-products when the water is chlorinated. This is causing Trihalomethanes and haloacetic acids in our potable water. Staff and Lovell Engineering Associates asked for a RFP for a pilot study to determine the feasibility of installing a water treatment plant to remove the organics for the well water. Harn R/O Systems, Inc, met all requirements and the cost for a three-month pilot study is \$62,650.00 with an additional month being added if needed, for an additional \$8,850.00, with a not to exceed cost of \$71,500.00. Commissioner Orenstein asked how many customers this well serves? Mr. Stalvey responded between Kinderlou and the Bemiss Road area, there are five wells within this system. Vice Chairman Marshall asked regarding a notice being sent to the citizens regarding the organics in the water? Mr. Stalvey answered a letter from the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) is required to be sent notifying citizens. Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to approve the pilot study with Harn R/O Systems, Inc. with a "not to exceed" amount of \$71,500.00, Vice Chairman Marshall second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

BID

Bid to Upgrade the Main Elevator at the Human Resource Building

Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented the item. Ms. Black stated the elevator at the Human Resource Building has been broken and unable to repair due to the age it was built, in the late 1980's. There were three bids received with the low bidder being GA Lift Solutions. Vice Chairman Marshall made a motion to approve GA Lift Solutions in the amount of \$91,980.00, Commissioner Griner second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Bid to Repair Buildings at the 4-H Camp

Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented the item. Ms. Black stated two bids were received to repair the damaged buildings at the 4-H Camp, due to Hurricane Idalia. Ms. Black stated Artesian Contracting Company was the low bidder in the amount of \$73,950.00. Additionally, Ms. Black stated

FEMA will be reimbursing Lowndes County for approximately 87% of the repairs. Commissioner Wisenbaker made a motion to award the bid to Artesian Contracting Company in the amount of \$73,950.00, Commissioner Griner second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Bid to Repair the Roof of the Governmental Building

Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented the item. Ms. Black stated the Lowndes County Governmental Building has portions of the roof damaged due to Hurricane Idalia and repairs are needed. The sole bidder is Chuck Smith and Son Construction, in the amount of \$19,884.00. Additionally, Ms. Black stated FEMA would reimburse the county for approximately 87% of the repairs. Commissioner Griner made a motion to award the bid to the sole bidder, Chuck Smith and Son Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$19,884.00, Vice Chairman Marshall second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Golden Oaks Subdivision Force Main

Utilities Director, Steve Stalvey, presented the item. Mr. Stalvey stated the Golden Oaks Subdivision is located adjacent to the Val-Tech lift station on Shiloh Road. This is an older subdivision and the septic systems are beginning to fail. Residents have called in requesting to connect to the county system. Staff has evaluated and determined that installing an E/One force main is a viable option for the area. Bids were received with James Warren & Associates submitting the low bid in the amount of \$100,572.45. Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve James Warren & Associates in the amount of \$100,572.45, Commissioner Griner second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

REPORTS - County Manager

County Manager, Paige Dukes, mentioned that staff met with representatives from Moody Air Force Base (AFB) regarding a blanket Intergovernmental Support Agreement (IGSA). Mrs. Dukes stated the IGSA is a mechanism under which Utilities Director, Steve Stalvey, currently operates Moody's wastewater, as well as Quiet Pines Golf Course. Mrs. Dukes stated that Moody AFB would like to pursue a blanket agreement.

Mrs. Dukes mentioned the following events:

- The building dedication at Second Harvest will be held tomorrow morning at 10:00 a.m. at their new site
- On Friday at 8:30 a.m. the Lowndes County Human Resource Department will be at Lowndes High School for their career fair.
- Friday is also National Employee Appreciation Day and treats will be provided for each employee.
- For the "First Friday Event", Public Information Officer, Meghan Barwick, and her staff will be hosting an event at the historic courthouse for the Valdosta State University's Film Festival beginning at 6:00 p.m.
- On Saturday, Chairman Slaughter and Mayor Scott Matheson will be participating in the Chairman's River Paddle at Langdale Park.

Lastly, Mrs. Dukes presented the latest draft of the Service Delivery Strategy legislation, which was disbursed to the commission before the meeting.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chairman Marshall made a motion to adjourn the regular session, Commissioner Evans second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Chairman Slaughter adjourned the meeting at 5:48 p.m.