

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
REGULAR SESSION
Tuesday, June 25, 2024

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

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

Commissioner Scott Orenstein was not present.

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

INVOCATION

Commissioner Griner

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

Commissioner Griner

MINUTES

The minutes were presented for the work session of June 10, 2024, the regular session of June 11, 2024, and the Budget Public Hearing of June 13, 2024. No revisions to the minutes were requested. Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, Commissioner Griner seconded. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

FOR CONSIDERATION

Budget Plan for Hotel Motel Proceeds for Fiscal Year 2025

Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented the item. Ms. Black stated the Commission is required to approve a budget for the use of hotel-motel proceeds each year, adding the Tourism Authority's budget is also required to be included in the county's budget plan. Commissioner Griner made a motion to approve the budget plan as presented, Commissioners Evans and Wisenbaker seconded. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Adoption of Fiscal Year 2025 Operating Budget

Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented the item. Ms. Black stated the Commission held the required public hearing on June 13, 2024, adding that the budget remains ready for the Commission's consideration. Commissioner Griner made a motion to approve the budget as presented, Commissioner Wisenbaker seconded. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Lowndes County Accountability Court Grant Approval and Cash Match

Chairman Slaughter presented the item stating the Commission heard from Mrs. Jennifer Fabbri during the work session meeting. Vice Chairman Marshall made a motion to approve the continued funding and cash match of \$35,354.00, as requested, Commissioner Evans seconded. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Purchase of Stream Credits for PI # 0016279, Coleman Road NW Paving and Drainage Improvements

Director of Engineering Services, Chad McLeod, presented a proposal from Georgia Alabama Land Trust, Inc. in the amount of \$51,300.00, for the purchase of stream credits required for the Coleman Road NW project and drainage improvements. Vice Chairman Marshall made a motion to approve the purchase as presented, Commissioner Griner seconded. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Pre-Event Debris Removal Contracts

EMA Director, Ashley Tye, presented the item. Mr. Tye stated this is an update to the disaster related debris removal contracts which have been maintained since 2008. Mr. Tye stated a request for proposal (rfp) was issued and after being evaluated, staff recommends to approve the top three companies, which are Ashbritt, DRC and Southern Disaster Recovery. Vice Chairman Marshall asked what is the criteria in which the committee evaluated? Mr. Tye answered pricing, past experience, qualifications and what resources they have available. Vice Chairman Marshall made a motion to approve the item as presented, Commissioner Griner seconded. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Pre-Event Disaster Debris Monitoring Contracts

EMA Director, Ashley Tye, presented the request for proposal (RFP) for disaster debris monitoring services. Mr. Tye stated the debris monitoring services would work with the debris removal contractors. Additionally, Mr. Tye stated staff recommended Thompson Consulting. Commissioner Griner made a motion to approve the item as presented, Commissioner Evans seconded. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Lowndes County Juvenile Accountability Court (LCJAC)

Chairman Slaughter presented the item stating the Commission heard from Mr. Geoffrey Martin during the work session meeting. Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve the continued funding and cash match of \$15,000.00 as requested, Commissioner Griner seconded. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Lowndes County DUI Court Grant Award and Match Approval

Chairman Slaughter presented the item stating the Commission heard from Ms. Heather Harris during the work session meeting. Commissioner Wisenbaker made a motion to approve the continued funding and cash match of \$42,404.00 as requested, Commissioner Evans seconded. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Request for Proposals (RFP) for Property & Liability Insurance

Human Resources Director, Kevin Beals, presented the item. Mr. Beals stated a request for proposal (RFP) was advertised for property and liability insurance. Mr. Beals stated two proposals were received with ACCGIRMA submitting a proposal that meets all the coverage specifications. Vice Chairman Marshall made a motion to approve the request as presented, Commissioner Wisenbaker seconded. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

BID

Bid for a Vac-Trailer for the Utilities Department

Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented the item. Ms. Black stated three bids were received for the Utilities Department with the low bidder being Carter's Equipment located in Havana, FL in the amount of \$96,110.00. Vice Chairman Marshall asked regarding the delivery time? Utilities Director, Steve Stalvey, responded within a month. Commissioner Wisenbaker made a motion to award the bid to Carter's Equipment, Vice Chairman Marshall seconded. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

REPORTS - County Manager

County Manager, Paige Dukes, mentioned the below:

- The Board of Assessors Office, as of this afternoon, has received 130 appeals on residential and agriculture with the commercial assessment notices being sent out tomorrow.
- Monday, July 1st the Commissioners will be providing lunch from Chick fil-A for employees of Lowndes County as a mid-year appreciation for their hard work.
- As we remain under a heat advisory, Public Information Officer, Meghan Barwick, will be providing social media releases, and we are making sure that our teams in the field are staying hydrated.
- Meghan Barwick and Jessica Ganas are working to have the Lowndes County Historic Courthouse added as a stop on the Georgia Grown Trails Tour. The Lowndes County Historic Courthouse has had over 3,000 visitors since October of last year.
- Lowndes County Sheriff's Office has provided a message board on the Ashley Street side, near the Lowndes County Historic Courthouse, in the downtown area to encourage people to slow down.

CITIZENS WISHING TO BE HEARD -

Marcelle Rosbury, 7855 Enoch Lake Circle, addressed the Commission with concerns regarding the percentage needed on a road paving petition. Mrs. Rosbury would like Enoch Lake Circle to be paved.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chairman Marshall made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Wisenbaker seconded. Chairman Slaughter adjourned the meeting at 5:54 p.m.