

- There are two items for consideration next week that we will need to have a commission meeting for Tuesday evening, October 22nd. At the direction of Chairman Slaughter, we have canceled the work session for Monday, October 21st. We have two items that cannot wait until the November meeting.
- We are working closely with the Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS). Some of us have gotten comments regarding food insecurities for some of our citizens as a result of Hurricane Helene. The Red Cross continues to provide hot meals, but that will dwindle. DFCS will bring in a DSNAP program which is disaster benefits for families with food insecurities. This is not technically for people who were already receiving SNAP benefits, but for people who may not qualify for those benefits but may have lost everything in their refrigerator and have food insecurities. The state will bring in a team of about 300 people that will serve an eight-county area, not only Lowndes County. We are in the process of working with DFCS to get that scheduled. Let us know if you have citizens who are calling in with those issues and we will get them connected with times and locations for them to apply for those benefits.
- Thanked the commissioners for their support. Some of the policies, procedures and funding that the commissioners put into place after Hurricane Idalia, from a pre-disaster mitigation standpoint, such as the Crisis Track Software, we have definitely seen the benefits of those things from our response to Hurricane Helene. Thank you for your continued leadership and support. We will come to you again with lessons learned when we finish this recovery through the next budget cycle to see what other things need to be put in place for us to be even better prepared next time.

Chairman Slaughter stated this has been a hard time in the last thirteen months. It is unprecedented that we have been hit by basically three hurricanes, with two of them being hurricane strength here in Lowndes County. How the community stood up, cooperated, and worked together to get through this is unprecedented. There are people who are still without electricity, but that is not because of the utility companies. There are other repairs that have to be made before they can get electricity back to those homes. The great work that electrical utilities, Colquitt EMC and Georgia Power did, again is unprecedented. The lessons learned from Hurricane Idalia, we took to fruition and we stood strong together and did what we had to do as a community to get through this difficult time. I am extremely proud of the Commission, staff, and more than anything, the community. Mrs. Dukes recognized Ashley Tye, EMA Director, for his leadership and efforts. Commissioner Orenstein recognized Chief Young for his efforts and wished him a Happy Birthday. Vice Chairman Marshall thanked Chairman Slaughter and County Manager, Paige Dukes for standing in the gap when he and some of the other commissioners could not be there. Vice Chairman Marshall also thanked the community.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Griner made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Marshall seconded. Chairman Slaughter adjourned the regular session meeting at 5:55 p.m.