

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT: TWR-2025-01 New 260' Telecommunications Tower

DATE OF MEETING: October 14, 2025

Work  
Session/Regular  
Session

BUDGET IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE:

- Annual
- Capital
- N/A
- SPLOST
- TSPLOST

COUNTY ACTION REQUESTED ON: TWR-2025-01 New 260' Telecommunications Tower

HISTORY, FACTS AND ISSUES: This case represents a request by the applicant to construct a new ~260' telecommunications tower on a 10,000sf leased area on Rocky Ford Road near Watkins Road. The subject property is currently zoned Estate Agricultural (E-A) and is allowed to be used for the construction of a new telecommunications tower with GLPC review and LCBOC approval. The proposed tower is determined to be of "No Hazard to Air Navigation" by the Federal Aviation Administration, and officials at Valdosta Regional Airport (VLD) and Moody Air Force Base (MAFB) have been notified of the request and provided no objection, noting that the proposed construction would be acceptable contingent upon the addition of marling/lighting IAW FAA Aeronautical study No 2025-ASO-7122-OE and FAA Advisory circular 70/7460-1 Change 1.

The primary motivation for a new tower at the subject property is to fill a gap in the existing coverage area. The subject property is in the Rural Service Area and depicted as Rural Residential on the Future Land Use Map. Surrounding properties include a County Fire Station, Watkins Family property, and Camp Rock of Georgia.

The TRC analyzed the request, the standards set forth in 5.05.00 and 10.02.00 of the ULDC, and factors most relevant to this application, including the proposed location's ability to enhance telecommunication service, minimize adverse impacts on the community, and encourage the location of towers in non-residential areas, and therefore recommends approval of the request for a new telecommunications tower.

At the Planning Commission meeting, the applicant's representative spoke in favor of the request, as did the property owner and nearby residents. Several neighbors spoke in opposition, along with submitting a petition and letter stating their concerns about the proposal. Ultimately, the GLPC voted unanimously to recommend Approval (6-0).

- OPTIONS:
- 1) Approve
  - 2) Approve with Conditions
  - 3) Table
  - 4) Deny