

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
REGULAR SESSION
Tuesday, March 10, 2020

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

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

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

INVOCATION

Commissioner Orenstein

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

Commissioner Orenstein

MINUTES

The minutes were presented for the work session of February 24, 2020, and the regular meeting of February 25, 2020. Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, Commissioner Orenstein second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

APPOINTMENTS

Valdosta-Lowndes County Land Bank Authority

County Manager, Joe Pritchard, presented the appointment stating the seat held by Mr. Frank Morman had expired. Mr. Pritchard further stated Mr. Morman does not wish to be considered for reappointment. Mr. Pritchard added that Mr. Michael Thomas, Mrs. Jill Maine and Mr. Seth Brown have all expressed an interest in serving. Chairman Slaughter nominated Mrs. Jill Maine to serve. There being no other nominations, Mrs. Maine was appointed by acclamation.

South Georgia Community Service Board

County Manager, Joe Pritchard, presented the appointment. Mr. Pritchard stated the seat currently held by Mrs. Cindy Vickery has expired, adding Mrs. Vickery would like to continue to serve. Chairman Slaughter stated he serves with Mrs. Vickery on the board, adding he would like to nominate her for reappointment. There being no other nominations, Mrs. Vickery was nominated by acclamation.

Lowndes County Library Board

County Manager, Joe Pritchard, presented the appointment. Mr. Pritchard stated Mr. Dwayne Johnson has expressed interest in filling the seat previously held by Mr. Barry Barr. Vice Chairman Marshall nominated Mr. Johnson for appointment. There being no other nominations, Mr. Johnson was appointed by acclamation.

PUBLIC HEARING

Abandonment of Unopened Right of Way - Hart Road

County Engineer, Mike Fletcher, presented the item. Mr. Fletcher stated the required determination was previously made by the Commission, adding the request has been appropriately advertised and remains ready for consideration. No one spoke for or against the request. Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to abandon the unopened right of way as presented, Commissioner Wisenbaker second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

REZ-2020-03 Wetherington Property, Val Del Rd. R-A to P-D, County Water and Sewer, ~72.54 acres Districts 2 and 5

Planning Representative, Molly Stevenson, presented the item. Mrs. Stevenson stated the applicant would like to rezone for the purpose of developing 214 lots. Mrs. Stevenson further stated the Planning Commission recommended approval and there were no objectionable comments from the TRC. No one spoke against the request. Mr. Jack Langdale, 701 N Patterson Street, spoke in favor of the request on behalf of the applicant. Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to approve the request as presented, Commissioner Griner second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

FOR CONSIDERATION

Solicitor-General's Office 2020 VAWA Grant Award Activation

Chairman Slaughter presented the item stating the Commission heard from the Solicitor during the work session. Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve the grant as presented to include the \$19,167.00, cash match as required, Commissioner Wisenbaker second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Accept Gaines Lane Quit-Claim Deeds and add into the County Road Inventory for Maintenance

County Engineer, Mike Fletcher, presented the item. Mr. Fletcher stated the required deeds have been received, adding staff is seeking further direction from the Commission. Commissioner Evans made a motion to proceed as outlined in the county's ordinances, Vice Chairman Marshall second. County Manager, Joe Pritchard, stated staff will move forward with the next items required by the process in order to follow up with the Commission. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Approval of Clyattstone Rd.-Simpson Ln. ROW Purchases

County Engineer, Mike Fletcher, presented the item. Mr. Fletcher presented right of way purchases for property numbers 24, 25, 29 and 38. Commissioner Orenstein asked how many properties remain, to which Mr. Fletcher replied nine. Commissioner Griner made a motion to approve the purchases as presented, Commissioner Orenstein second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Abandoned Mobile Homes

County Manager, Joe Pritchard, presented a request to appoint Code Enforcement Director, Mindy Bates, Lowndes County's Local Government Agent, in accordance with the Abandoned Mobile Home Act. Commissioner Wisenbaker made a motion to approve the appointment as requested, Commissioner Orenstein second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

BID

Bid for a 3,000 Gallon Tanker for the Fire Department

Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented a request to purchase a 3,000 gallon tanker with Innovative Fire Group submitting the low bid, in the amount of \$399,414.00, with a discount option in the amount of \$388,355.00. Vice Chairman Marshall asked if the purchase is included in the current budget, to which County Manager, Joe Pritchard, replied yes. Vice Chairman Marshall made a motion to approve the low bidder at the pay upon order price of \$388,355.00, Commissioner Wisenbaker second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Request to Purchase New Firefighter Turnout Gear

Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented a request to purchase 14 sets of turnout gear in the amount of \$28,327.04 from Ten-8 Fire Equipment. Vice Chairman Marshall made a motion to approve the purchase as presented, Commissioner Griner second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

REPORTS - County Manager

County Manager, Joe Pritchard, stated that during their annual retreat, the Commission asked staff to further develop a recommendation for providing a higher level of fire protection to residents in the unincorporated area. As a result, Mr. Pritchard, asked Finance Director, Stephanie Black, to provide information related to funding options and timelines.

CITIZENS WISHING TO BE HEARD

Chico Gramardie, 9251 US Highway 84 West, Quitman, Georgia, addressed the Commission regarding the American Workers Foundation and requested \$13,500.00 in funding.

Michael Noll, 2305 Glendale Drive, addressed the Commission to request additional consideration be given to the funding level of Keep Lowndes-Valdosta Beautiful.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Evans thanked Chairman Slaughter and County Clerk, Paige Dukes, for their assistance in hosting a stakeholder meeting for those working with the homeless population in Lowndes County.

Chairman Slaughter recognized the presence of Leadership Lowndes Youth League class members.

Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Vice Chairman Marshall second. Chairman Slaughter adjourned the regular meeting at 6:14 p.m.