

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
WORK SESSION
Tuesday, September 8, 2020

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

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

Commissioners Scott Orenstein and Demarcus Marshall were not in attendance.

Chairman Slaughter called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

MINUTES

The minutes were presented for the work session of August 24, 2020 and the regular session of August 25, 2020. No changes to the minutes were requested.

APPOINTMENT

Greater Lowndes Planning Commission, County Manager, Paige Dukes, presented the reappointment of Mr. Tommy Willis for the Greater Lowndes Planning Commission. Mrs. Dukes stated his term will expire October 31, 2020.

PUBLIC HEARING

REZ-2020-10 Benny Cowart, 4115 Ezelle Rd., 0188 160, 7.9 ac., EA to R1, well/septic, Planning and Zoning Director, J.D. Dillard, presented the request stating the applicant would like to divide the property between his four children. Mr. Dillard further stated the Planning Commission recommended approval of the request and the TRC had no objectionable comments.

REZ-2020-11 Bella Mill Plantation, 8450 Ousley Rd., 0017 096, 15.8 ac., EA to PD, well/septic, Planning and Zoning Director, J.D. Dillard, presented the item. Mr. Dillard stated the applicant would like to rezone P-D for the purpose of using the property as an event facility/venue for weddings, reunions, birthday parties, corporate events, etc. The Planning Commission recommended approval with three conditions and TRC recommended approval with three conditions. Mr. Dillard stated correspondence was received from attorney, Mr. Bill Nijem representing Mr. Bill Altman. Commissioner Evans stated she wasn't sure if Spain Ferry Road could handle the traffic. Chairman Slaughter asked since Spain Ferry Road was a dirt road what would be the position of the county's planning from the stand point of the entrance out to Ousley Road, County Engineer, Mike Fletcher,

answered in the past the county hasn't allowed event facilities to come out on dirt roads due to the maintenance of the road and traffic without improvements being done to the road. Chairman Slaughter asked the distance from Ousley Road to the proposed entrance, Mr. Dillard responded 1,100 feet. Vice Chairman Griner asked is there enough space on Ousley Road for the entrance to be moved north so the lights aren't shining directly on the house across the road, Mr. Dillard stated he believed there was enough road frontage. Vice Chairman Griner stated he would rather the entrance be moved so it's not directly across the street from the houses, if there's enough space. Commissioner Wisenbaker, stated there was an event facility, in south Lowndes County on a dirt road, Quail Branch Lodge, and the county has been able to maintain that road.

REZ-2020-12 Southern Tractor & Outdoors Valdosta Facility, US Hwy 84, 0059 090, 43.8 ac., EA to CH, water/sewer, Planning and Zoning Director, J.D. Dillard, presented the request to change 43.8 acres from E-A zoning to CH zoning. Mr. Dillard stated this request is to subdivide the parcel into two lots, with one lot being purchased by Southern Tractor and Outdoors for an agricultural equipment sales facility. Mr. Dillard further stated the Planning Commission recommended approval of the request and the TRC had no objectionable comments. Commissioner Wisenbaker asked who is the applicant, County Engineer, Mike Fletcher stated a Kubota dealer.

TWR-2020-02 Kinspy Rd., 7346 Porter Rd., 0226 005, 37.3 ac., EA, Planning and Zoning Director, J.D. Dillard, presented the item for a new 300 ft. telecommunications tower to be constructed within an approximate 32.5 acre tract, east of Highway 41 South, south of Lake Park. The new tower at the subject property will help with gaps in the existing coverage area. The Planning Commission recommended approval and the TRC had no objectionable comments regarding this request.

REPORT - County Manager

County Manager, Paige Dukes, introduced Celine Gladwin, architect with Gladwin Vaughn Architecture, to give the commission an update regarding the Lowndes County Historic Courthouse Project. Chairman Slaughter thanked Mrs. Gladwin for the presentation and stated Judge McLane would like to maintain the historic preservation of the courthouse. Chairman Slaughter thanked Project Manager, Chad McLeod, for his work with the architects. Additionally, Chairman Slaughter also stated the future use and utilization of the historic courthouse will be a topic of discussion for the near future. Commissioner Wisenbaker asked regarding the seating capacity in the main courtroom in the historic courthouse, Mrs. Gladwin responded approximately 270.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chairman Griner made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Wisenbaker second. Chairman Slaughter adjourned the work session at 9:18 a.m.