

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES  
REGULAR SESSION  
Tuesday, April 27, 2021

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT**

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

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 April 12, 2021, and the regular session of April 13, 2021. No changes to the minutes were requested. Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, Commissioners Evans and Marshall second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

**APPOINTMENT**

**Valdosta Lowndes County Airport Authority**, County Manager, Paige Dukes, presented the item. Mrs. Dukes stated the seat currently held by Jeff Sikes will be expiring May 21, 2021, adding Mr. Sikes has expressed a desire to continue to serve. Being that no additional candidates were presented, Chairman Slaughter stated Mr. Jeff Sikes will be reappointed by acclamation.

**FOR CONSIDERATION**

**Liquor License - Richard D. Johnson of Johnson Distributing Co. - 4571 N. Valdosta Rd., Valdosta, GA**, Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented the item. Ms. Black stated Johnson Distributing Company currently has a beer and wine wholesale license and is requesting to add liquor. Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to approve the request, Vice Chairman Griner second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

**Wine License - Jacquylne A. Sirmans of Eddie Felders, LLC, DBA Eddie Felders Country Meat Market - 3954 Old US Hwy 41 North, Valdosta, GA,** Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented the item. Ms. Black stated this is a new establishment requesting a license for the sale of wine for consumption off premise. Ms. Black stated this location was previously a liquor store which has been closed for over a year. Vice Chairman Griner made a motion to approve the request, Commissioner Orenstein second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

**Historic Lowndes Courthouse Rehabilitation and Restoration Construction Manager Selection,** Projects Manager, Chad McLeod, presented the item. Mr. McLeod stated the courthouse rehabilitation and restoration construction manager selection process began in February 2021. Mr. McLeod stated staff received six proposals and the top three companies selected are Ajax, Allstate Construction with Cauthan Construction, and Spraitlin and Son Construction. Mr. McLeod provided an explanation of the RFP review process and announced Allstate Construction with Cauthan Construction as the staff recommended selection based on a scoring of the proposals received. Vice Chairman Griner made a motion to approve the request, Commissioners Evans and Orenstein second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

**Comprehensive Facilities Energy Savings Project,** Projects Manager, Chad McLeod, presented the item. Mr. McLeod stated Lowndes County sought proposals for a guaranteed energy savings performance contract. Mr. McLeod stated ABM has completed the audit. Mr. McLeod introduced Jason Anderson with ABM and he gave a presentation to update the commission. Commissioner Orenstein stated he felt the ABM team was a part of the Lowndes County team and additionally stated the commission will be better stewards with the tax payers money with this project being approved. Chairman Slaughter stated he appreciated Mr. Anderson and the staff of ABM and it has been a pleasure working with everyone. Mr. Anderson stated he appreciated and would like to thank the Chairman, Commissioners, County Manager and all of the County staff involved in this project. Vice Chairman Griner made a motion to approve and authorize the Chairman to sign the attached resolution approving the four referenced vendor agreements with ABM and approve and authorize the Chairman to sign the attached resolution approving the referenced Equipment Lease/Purchase Agreement, related documents, and other actions, Commissioners Evans and Marshall second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

**Acceptance of Infrastructure for The Landings Phase II,** County Engineer, Mike Fletcher, presented the item. Mr. Fletcher stated the County is being asked to accept all infrastructure related to Phase II, adding the work is substantially complete at this time. Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve the request, Commissioner Orenstein second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

**Purchase of License and Hardware for the Odyssey Jail Project,** IT Director, Aaron Kostyu, presented the item. Mr. Kostyu stated the Lowndes County Sheriff's Office has requested additional licenses for the Odyssey Jail Project. Additionally, Mr. Kostyu stated the licenses are for the jail inmate classification and e-signatures. Further, Mr. Kostyu stated the purchase of additional signature pads for the jail is needed for the 'go-live' next month. Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to approve the request in the amount of \$26,751.00, Commissioner Evans and Vice Chairman Griner second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

## **BID**

**Lowndes County Fire Rescue Station #5 Additions and Renovations**, Projects Manager, Chad McLeod, presented the item stating five bids were received with Kellerman Construction Company presenting the low bid in the amount of \$796,865.00. Commissioner Wisenbaker asked is this for Station #5 only, Mr. McLeod responded there will be minor renovations at the Clyattville Fire Station being handled in-house. Commissioner Marshall made a motion to approve the request, Commissioner Wisenbaker second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

## **REPORTS - County Manager**

County Manager, Paige Dukes, stated the budget meetings with Finance Director, Stephanie Black, have been completed with elected officials and other departments. Mrs. Dukes thanked the ABM team for their effort and time spent with the county departments to move forward with this project. Additionally, Mrs. Dukes stated this project was initiated by former County Manager, Joe Pritchard, in 2018 and thanked him for his time and efforts. County Manager Paige Dukes, requested an executive session for the purpose of the proposed purchase of property. Chairman Slaughter asked that the motion be made for the executive session after citizens wishing to be heard.

## **CITIZENS WISHING TO BE HEARD**

Robert Eugene Simmons, Jr., 2109 North Troup Street, spoke to the Commission regarding the inequality within the community.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to enter into executive session at 5:59 p.m., Commissioner Evans second.

At 6:18 p.m., Chairman Slaughter reconvened the regular meeting, no additional information was discussed. Commissioner Wisenbaker made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting, Vice Chairman Griner second. Chairman Slaughter adjourned the meeting at 6:19 p.m.