

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
REGULAR SESSION
Tuesday, November 8, 2022

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

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

Chairman Slaughter called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and recognized the presence of Leadership Lowndes Youth members.

INVOCATION

Commissioner Marshall

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

Commissioner Marshall

Operation Greenlight Proclamation Presentation (Regular Session)

Chairman Slaughter and the Commission presented the proclamation and recognized the veterans in our community and those in attendance for their service to our Country.

MINUTES

The minutes were presented for the work session of October 24, 2022 and the regular session meeting of October 25, 2022. Vice Chairman Orenstein made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, Commissioners Evans and Griner second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING

Addition to Enhanced Decorative Lighting District: Kinderlou Forest Subdivision, Phases 8A (52 lots) and 9 (58 lots) and Basic Decorative Lighting District: The Landings Subdivision, Phase 2 (65 Lots), Quarterman Estates Subdivision, Phase 3D (21 lots) and Walker Run Subdivision (48 lots), Planning Director, J.D. Dillard, presented the request stating petitions were received and verified to add 52 lots of phase 8A and 58 lots of phase 9 of the Kinderlou Forest Subdivision into the County's enhanced decorative street lighting district. Additionally, Mr. Dillard stated petitions were received and verified to add 65 lots of phase 2 of the Landings Subdivision, 21 lots of phase 3D of the Quarterman Estates Subdivision and 48 lots of the Walker Run Subdivision into the County's basic decorative street lighting district. Mr. Dillard stated the enhanced decorative street lighting is \$115.00 per lot, per year and the basic decorative street lighting is \$61.50 per lot, per year. Mr. Dillard stated the request had been properly advertised, adding staff recommended

approval. No one spoke for or against the request. Commissioner Wisenbaker made a motion to approve the request as presented, Vice Chairman Orenstein second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

FOR CONSIDERATION

Emergency Repairs for the Public Safety Radio System due to Lightning Damage, 911 Director, Danny Weeks, presented the item. Mr. Weeks stated the Tower Top Amp at the Valdosta Radio Tower Site has been damaged, as well as the Naylor Tower Site. This is due to lightning damage. Mr. Weeks stated the total approximate repair cost is \$86,507.85. Vice Chairman Orenstein made a motion to approve the request in the amount of \$86,507.85, Commissioner Griner second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Acceptance of FY 2023 Delinquency Prevention Grant, EMA Director, Ashley Tye, presented the item. Mr. Tye stated this is the acceptance of the grant award and to authorize the Chairman to sign, which would activate the award. Commissioner Marshall made a motion to approve the acceptance of the FY2023 Delinquency Prevention Grant application, Commissioner Evans second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Selection of Provider for Implementation of Strengthening Families Program, EMA Director, Ashley Tye, presented the item. Mr. Tye stated this item is a request for proposal (RFP) for qualified firms to implement the Strengthening Families Program and two bids were received. Mr. Tye stated both Peaceway Counseling and Mediation Services, Inc. and Legacy Behavioral Health Services met qualifications with the preference of Judge Council to award Peaceway Counseling and Mediation Services, Inc. Mr. Tye stated Judge Council was in the audience to answer any questions regarding the program. Commissioner Marshall asked Judge Council why the preference with Peaceway Counseling and Mediation Services, Inc. Judge Council responded after finishing this last session, he received a report from the State congratulating Lowndes County for implementing the program with a success rate of eighty-five percent. Judge Council stated he would like to continue to see Peaceway Counseling and Mediation Services, Inc. continue with this grant to reduce the number of children turning to delinquency. Judge Council asked Dr. Tirrell Andrews with Peaceway Counseling and Mediation Services, Inc, to address the commission. Commissioner Marshall made a motion to approve the grant with Peaceway Counseling and Mediation Services, Inc. as a provider for the Strengthening Families Program, Vice Chairman Orenstein and Commissioners Evans and Griner second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Deannexation of Property of Chris Kain, Chairman Slaughter presented the item which was requested to be added to the agenda for consideration, the Deannexation of Property for Chris Kain. Chairman Slaughter stated this request is inside the city limits of Hahira and requires the adoption of a resolution by the governing authority of the county in which the property is located. Commissioner Griner made a motion to approve and authorize the Chairman to sign the attached resolution, Vice Chairman Orenstein and Commissioner Marshall second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Bid

Partial Renovation to the Second Floor - Administration Building, Director of Engineering Services, Chad McLeod, presented the item. Mr. McLeod stated the partial renovation of the second floor project is designed for the incoming inspections and permitting departments with Kellerman Construction submitting the low base bid and additive alternate #1 in the amount of \$313,282.00. Commissioner Griner made a motion to approve Kellerman Construction as the low bidder, including additive alternate #1, in the amount of \$313,282.00, Vice Chairman Orenstein second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Historic Lowndes County Courthouse Rehabilitation and Restoration – Furniture, Director of Engineering Services, Chad McLeod, presented the item. Mr. McLeod stated the Lowndes County Courthouse Rehabilitation and Restoration furniture package was designed to fit all the spaces within the courthouse once the construction is complete. Mr. McLeod stated there were three companies that were interested in the proposal, but only one company submitted a proposal. Business Interiors submitted a base bid in the amount of \$109,923.14, the period furniture in the amount of \$164,560.29 for a total amount of \$274,483.43. Commissioner Griner asked why the other two companies did not bid, Mr. McLeod stated neither company had the time to research and submit a proposal. Vice Chairman Orenstein asked if Lowndes County had worked with Business Interiors before, Mr. McLeod responded yes, on a smaller scale, but he is confident they can handle this project. Vice Chairman Orenstein made a motion to approve the low bidder Business Interiors as presented, Commissioner Evans second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

REPORTS - County Manager

County Manager, Paige Dukes, stated Lowndes County has lost an employee this morning, Ms. Wendy Young. Mrs. Dukes stated her family is in our prayers and Ms. Young had been a county employee since 2015. Mrs. Dukes reminded the Commission that Lowndes County Offices will be closed Friday, November 11th in observance of Veterans Day. The Construction Manager at Risk package will be out near the end of the month for the mental health expansion at the Lowndes County Jail. Mrs. Dukes stated the plans for the remodeling of the second floor with Permits and Inspections continue to move forward. Mrs. Dukes introduced Diane Carter as the Assistant Director of the Permits and Inspections Department. The Southern Georgia Regional Commission Appreciation Dinner is being held tomorrow evening in Adel. November 22nd at 6:00 a.m. is the Second Harvest Thanksgiving for Thousands. Mrs. Dukes asked EMA Director, Ashley Tye to update the Commission regarding the storm. Mr. Tye stated there is a tropical storm named Nicole, currently east of the Bahamas, and is expected to make landfall as a category 1 hurricane, coming up the peninsula of Florida. The current forecast has the center of the track going through Lowndes County with some tropical storm impacts possibly Thursday, mid-morning. Mr. Tye stated there will be a briefing held at 11:45 a.m. tomorrow morning. Mrs. Dukes stated departments are ready and prepared to take care of the community.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chairman Orenstein made a motion to adjourn the regular session, Commissioner Marshall second. Chairman Slaughter adjourned the meeting at 6:03 p.m.