

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES  
REGULAR SESSION  
Tuesday, June 13, 2023

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

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

Commissioner Demarcus Marshall was not in attendance.

Chairman Slaughter called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and recognized the Leadership Lowndes class members as well as City of Valdosta Councilman, Andy Gibbs. After the Invocation, Chairman Slaughter asked Dan Green to come forward and lead everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**INVOCATION**

Commissioner Wisenbaker

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG**

Dan Green, County Manager, Paige Dukes' Grandson

**MINUTES**

The minutes were presented for the work session of May 8, 2023, the regular session of May 9, 2023 and the budget work session of May 31, 2023. No revisions to the minutes were requested. Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, Vice Chairman Wisenbaker 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 Mr. Anthony Payton's term expired May 21, 2023 and Mr. Payton has expressed a desire to continue to serve. Commissioner Griner nominated Mr. Anthony Payton for reappointment. There being no other nominations, Mr. Anthony Payton was appointed by acclamation.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**REZ-2023-07 Project Viking, ~69 acres, Hunt Road, M-2 & CON to M-2 & CON, City Utilities**

County Planner, J.D. Dillard, presented the item. Mr. Dillard stated this request is to rezone approximately 4.73 acres of the 69 acres from its current CON (Conservation) zoning district to M-2

(Heavy Manufacturing) zoning based upon current field data that delineates the actual wetland boundaries. Mr. Dillard stated the subject property is within the Urban Service Area and Industrial Activity Center Character Area. Further, Mr. Dillard stated the Planning Commission recommended approval and the TRC had no objectionable comments. No one spoke against this request. Mr. Clayton Milligan, 3998 Inner Perimeter Road, spoke in favor of the request on behalf of the Development Authority, stating for further development of the property the wetlands have been delineated now and moving the zoning line to line up with the delineated wetland line. This will also allow more room for the rail spur on the property. Vice Chairman Wisenbaker made a motion to approve the request as presented, Commissioner Evans second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

## **FOR CONSIDERATION**

### **Oak Hill Drive Water Main Extension**

Utilities Director, Steve Stalvey, presented the item. Mr. Stalvey stated two residents on Oak Hill Drive have a well failure limiting their water supply and quality. These residents will be cost sharing in the project. Mr. Stalvey stated this water main extension will make water available to ten lots on Oak Hill Drive. Mr. Stalvey stated RPI submitted the low bid in the amount of \$30,750.00. Commissioner Griner made a motion to approve the purchase from the low bidder, RPI, in the amount of \$30,750.00, Commissioner Orenstein second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

### **Stone Creek Onsite Well Pump**

Utilities Director, Steve Stalvey, presented the item. Mr. Stalvey stated the pumping capacity of the onsite well at Stone Creek decreased significantly and after consulting with Woodrow Sapp Well Drilling, the pump was pulled and inspected. Mr. Stalvey stated due to wear, age and the need to increase capacity, a new pump is recommended. Staff recommends approval of the new Stone Creek onsite well pump, including materials, equipment and labor from Woodrow Sapp Well Drilling in the amount of \$64,095.00. Commissioner Orenstein asked if this will increase pressure, Mr. Stalvey answered no, just more water. Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to approve the item as presented, Commissioner Griner second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

### **Kubota M6-141 Tractor**

Utilities Director, Steve Salvey, presented the item. Mr. Stalvey stated due to increased spraying on the hay fields and the Land Application System (LAS) expansion, an additional tractor is needed at the LAS. Staff determined a Kubota M6-141 was the best option. This tractor is quoted through state contract for the amount of \$100,694.35, but a lower quote was received through our local dealer, Southern Tractor and Outdoors in the amount of \$96,095.22. Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to approve the purchase with Southern Tractor and Outdoors in the amount of \$96,095.22, Commissioner Evans second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

### **Lowndes County DUI Court FY 24 Grant Award**

Chairman Slaughter presented the item stating the Commission heard from Judge Golden with State Court during the work session meeting. Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve acceptance of the grant in the amount of \$143,063.00, to include a twelve percent match in the amount of \$19,509.00, and additional funding to subsidize the surveillance officer's salary as well as a portion of the treatment costs, transportation and drug testing supplies incurred annually, making the total request \$42,404.00, Vice Chairman Wisenbaker second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

## **Lowndes County Juvenile Accountability Court (LCJAC) FY24 Budget & Grant Award**

County Manager, Paige Dukes presented this item stating Judge Jim Tunison has solicited grant funds for Accountability Court for the Juvenile Court from the state with this being the third year that this program is in operation. Mrs. Dukes stated there is a cash match from Lowndes County in the amount of \$8,857.00. Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to approve acceptance of the grant and the required cash match in the amount of \$8,857.00, Vice Chairman Wisenbaker second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

## **REPORTS - County Manager**

County Manager, Paige Dukes, gave the Commission a copy of the Georgia Department of Labor Profile Report for this year which was updated in June 2023. Mrs. Dukes gave the Commission an overview of the report:

Page 1: Employment and Unemployment Trends tracking with State averages

Page 2: U.S. Census Bureau reporting Building Permits are down slightly in April over last year  
Page 3: 2022 Industry Mix

Page 4: 2022 Top Industries by firm, employment and weekly wages

Page 5: Technical College Certificates, Diploma and Degree Graduates; this is important when looking at the value of our Technical College by adding to the workforce here in Lowndes County

Page 6: Top 10 Largest Employers 2022 and Labor Force Education

Mrs. Dukes stated staff will continue to share this information as it is updated.

Mrs. Dukes mentioned that the ACCG awards are featured in this month's Georgia Trend magazine as well as Commissioner Marshall and his family being featured in June's Valdosta Scene magazine. Mrs. Dukes stated there will be bids going out next week for the animal shelter, resurfacing and jail medical. Briggston Road will bid the first of August and we hope to have the new fire station on the north end ready to bid out in August/September. Bids are going out for utilities North/South Connector (water above ground storage tank and the clearing of the Land Application System (LAS) with the ARPA obligation being complete. The Chamber's Young Professionals group was hosted at the Quiet Pines Golf Course last Friday and the Georgia Grown Regional Directors held their meeting there today. Mrs. Dukes reminded those in attendance the offices will be closed on Monday for the Juneteenth holiday. On behalf of the staff, Happy Birthday and Happy Anniversary to Commissioner Orenstein.

## **CITIZENS WISHING TO BE HEARD -**

Janice Monaco, 3744 Bermuda Run Drive, addressed the Commission regarding concerns related to the 2023 property tax assessment. Ms. Monaco also questioned why Lowndes County does not give seniors exemptions regarding property taxes. Chairman Slaughter stated he would discuss the matter with her after the meeting was adjourned.

Blake Robinson, 3819 Schroer Road, addressed the Commission regarding the Georgia County Internship Program with the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG). Mr. Robinson asked the board to consider applying for the program for the 2024 grant cycle.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to adjourn the regular session meeting, Vice Chairman Wisenbaker second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Chairman Slaughter adjourned the meeting at 5:53 p.m.