

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES  
REGULAR SESSION  
Tuesday, October 24, 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 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 October 9, 2023 and the regular session of October 10, 2023. No revisions were requested. Vice Chairman Wisenbaker made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, Commissioner Orenstein second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Mrs. Dukes asked EMA Director, Ashley Tye, to give the Commission an update on the FEMA Assistance and the Disaster Recovery Centers upcoming deadlines. Mr. Tye stated the Disaster Recovery Center that has been open at the Lowndes County Civic Center since September 17th, will be closing Tuesday, October 31st at 6:00 p.m. Additionally, the Disaster Recovery Center in Brooks County will be closing Wednesday, November 1st. Mr. Tye stated if someone would like to meet with a person from FEMA, they could go to the Disaster Recovery Center in Cook County. The deadline for people to register with FEMA is November 6th. There have been over 8,200 people in Lowndes County to register with FEMA and \$3.1 million dollars in assistance has been given to Lowndes County residents; with the maximum amount being \$41,000.00 (with less than ten of those awards being given out). Mr. Tye stated we are still working with non-profit organizations as well.

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

## **FOR CONSIDERATION**

### **Extension of Agreement for ULDC Updates with Goodwyn Mills Cawood**

County Planner, J.D. Dillard, presented the item. Mr. Dillard stated this proposal represents an extension of the contract between Lowndes County and Goodwyn Mills Cawood (GMC) for updates to the Unified Land Development Code (ULDC) and to provide technical assistance. The same terms and rates will be used as in the original agreement. Mr. Dillard stated no additional compensation is required to GMC, at this time, for this extension. Lowndes County has previously budgeted a total of \$15,000.00 in the FY2023 budget allocated to this ULDC project through June 30, 2024. Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to approve the agreement as presented, Commissioner Evans second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

### **Acceptance of FY2024 Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Grant**

EMA Director, Ashley Tye, presented the item. Mr. Tye stated this is the third year of the Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Grant and Lowndes County has been awarded \$50,000.00 in continuation funding. Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve the grant as presented, Vice Chairman Wisenbaker and Commissioner Orenstein second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

### **Adopt Resolution Accepting Infrastructure for Val Del Estates Subdivision Phase IV**

Director of Engineering Services, Chad McLeod, presented the item. Mr. McLeod stated staff received a letter of request from the developer to accept the infrastructure for Val Del Estates Subdivision, Phase IV, which is located off of Val Del Road and includes twenty-two (22) residential lots. All inspections have been completed. Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to adopt the resolution as presented, Commissioner Griner second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

### **Land Application System (LAS) Generator**

Utilities Director, Steve Stalvey, presented the item. Mr. Stalvey stated the generator at the Land Application System (LAS) needs to be upgraded in order to run the aerators in the treatment ponds. The generator currently there is not sized to handle this and will have to be relocated to the Val Tech lift station. The lead time for generators is 12-15 months and there have been two price increases in the past twelve months. Cowart Electric has a 100kw generator scheduled to be delivered in December and the customer has cancelled the order. The cost of this unit is \$48,068.00. There were two additional quotes received for Cummins Sales and Service for \$54,225.99 and Davis Industrial Electric for \$60,800.00. Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to approve the purchase of the generator with Cowart Electric in the amount of \$48,068.00, Commissioner Griner second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

### **Reissuance of Hospital Authority Refunding Revenue Anticipation Certificates**

County Manager, Paige Dukes, presented the item. Mrs. Dukes stated the Commission approved the Refunding Revenue Anticipation Certificates issued by the Hospital Authority in 2019 and the authority is now planning to lease the hospital facilities financed or refinanced by the 2019 Certificates to a new corporation named South Georgia Medical Center, Inc. The Internal Revenue Code and Treasury Regulations will treat the proposed lease as a reissuance of the 2019 Certificates, which must be approved by the Commission. Vice Chairman Wisenbaker made a motion to approve the resolution as presented, Commissioner Orenstein second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

## **REPORTS - County Manager**

County Manager, Paige Dukes, mentioned the upcoming events:

- The ribbon cutting / open house for the Lowndes County Historic Courthouse will be held October 25th at 10:00 a.m.
- On October 30th there will be a kick-off meeting scheduled for the Defense Community Infrastructure Pilot meeting (DCIP) with Moody Air Force Base being held at 1:00 p.m.
- The Lowndes County Sheriff's Office Safe Halloween event is scheduled for October 31st from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
- A neighborhood meet-n-greet for downtown businesses on will be held November 2nd at 8:30 a.m. in the Lowndes County Historic Courthouse.
- On November 3rd Lowndes County will be hosting the Valdosta City Schools for a field trip.
- Leadership Lowndes will be hosting a Glow Golf Tournament on the Lowndes County Historic Courthouse lawn, the evening of November 3rd, with the tournament raising money for students in the Valdosta City School System to be a part of the Future Farmers of America (FFA) program.
- On November 4th Girls on the Run will hold their annual 5k celebration.

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

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Evans second. Chairman Slaughter adjourned the regular session meeting at 5:47 p.m.