

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
REGULAR SESSION
Tuesday, July 23, 2024

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

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

Vice Chairman Marshall was not present.

Chairman Slaughter called the meeting to order at 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 July 8, 2024, the regular session of July 9, 2024 and the executive session meeting of July 9, 2024. No revisions to the minutes were requested. Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, Commissioner Evans seconded. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

FOR CONSIDERATION

Purchase of Wetland Credits for PI#0016278 Kinderlou Clyattville Road Paving and Drainage Improvements

Director of Engineering Services, Chad McLeod, presented a proposal from Williams Investments, LLC, in the amount of \$10,800.00, for the purchase of wetland credits required by the Kinderlou Clyattville Road paving and drainage improvement project. Mr. McLeod stated the wetland credits are \$15,000.00 per credit and Lowndes County will need .72 wetland credits to finalize the permit. Commissioner Wisenbaker made a motion to approve the purchase as presented, Commissioner Orenstein seconded. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Purchase of Stream Credits for PI#0016278, Kinderlou Clyattville Road Paving and Drainage Improvements

Director of Engineering Services, Chad McLeod, presented the item. Mr. McLeod stated Lowndes County is required to purchase 32.9 stream credits as a result of the Kinderlou Clyattville Road paving and drainage improvement project. Mr. McLeod stated staff recommends the purchase of 32.9 stream credits from Georgia

Alabama Land Trust, Inc. for \$1,800.00 per credit, for a total amount of \$59,220.00. Commissioner Wisenbaker made a motion to approve the purchase as presented, Commissioner Evans seconded. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Vertiv Service Contract for the UPS at the 911 Center, Valdosta Tower and Clyattville Tower

911 Director, Tonya Davis, presented the request in the amount of \$21,389.90. Mrs. Davis stated this is an annual renewal of the Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) and this service agreement will provide maintenance and battery replacements for the 911 Center and two tower sites used by the 911 operations. Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve the contract as presented, Commissioner Griner seconded. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Quit-Claim Deed of Abandoned Section of Race Track Road SE

Director of Engineering Services, Chad McLeod, presented this item stating Southern Gateway, LLC has requested a quit claim deed for their portion of property, which is on both sides of the abandoned section of road. Mr. McLeod stated the Commission abandoned a section of Race Track Road, SE west of Highway 31 on May 14, 2024. Commissioner Wisenbaker made a motion to approve the quit-claim deed, Commissioner Orenstein seconded. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Acceptance of FY2025 Juvenile Justice Incentive Grant

Emergency Management Director, Ashley Tye, presented the item stating the Commission approved the application request in April 2024. Mr. Tye stated upon approval of this grant, Evidence Based Associates (EBA) will continue providing Functional Family Therapy Services to Lowndes County youth referred through the Lowndes County Juvenile Court System. Mr. Tye stated for fiscal year 2025, Lowndes County was awarded \$342,426.00, in funding for these program services, allowing the court to provide services to sixty (60) Lowndes County youths and their families. Additionally, Mr. Tye stated this is a request to accept the fiscal year 2025 Juvenile Justice Incentive Grant and authorize the Chairman and staff to execute the award packet, which will include a service agreement with Evidence-Based Associates. Commissioner Griner made a motion to approve the grant as presented, Commissioner Evans seconded. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

BID

Alterations to Lowndes County Fire Station #10

Director of Engineering Services, Chad McLeod, presented the item. Mr. McLeod stated the alterations to Station #10 include turning the existing dayroom into three (3) bedrooms and one (1) shower, remodeling the existing shower, replacing all flooring with luxury vinyl plank (LVP) and painting all interior walls. Mr. McLeod stated one bid was received and opened on June 20, 2024, from Standard Contractors, Inc. in the amount of \$362,662.00. Commissioner Orenstein asked if the architect presented any numbers early on for this project? Mr. McLeod answered no sir, but once the plans were completed, staff and the architect did complete an estimate. Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to approve the item as presented, Commissioner Wisenbaker seconded. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Moody Hydrant Replacement Project

Utilities Director, Steve Stalvey, presented the item. Mr. Stalvey stated bids were solicited to replace a quantity of forty (40) older fire hydrants at Moody Air Force Base. One bid was received from Standard Contractors, Inc. in the amount of \$891,210.00. Mr. Stalvey stated that due to the bid far exceeding the budgeted amount, staff recommends this bid be rejected. Commissioner Griner made

a motion to reject the bid submitted by Standard Contractors, Inc. in the amount of \$891,210.00, Commissioner Evans seconded. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Grassy Pond Utilities Replacement

Utilities Director, Steve Stalvey, presented the item. Mr. Stalvey stated bids were solicited to replace the utilities for the RV park and cabins at Grassy Pond Recreation Facility. Mr. Stalvey stated this capital project will be funded by Moody Air Force Base (AFB) through a modification to our current water and sewer contract with Moody AFB. Mr. Stalvey stated K-Dug Corporation submitted the low bid in the amount of \$995,604.00. Commissioner Orenstein asked if Lowndes County has experience with this company? Mr. Stalvey answered yes, they worked on the clearing and grubbing on the Land Application Site (LAS) expansion. Also, Mr. Stalvey mentioned they are well known in the Waycross and Blackshear areas. Commissioner Wisenbaker made a motion to approve the request as presented, Commissioner Orenstein seconded. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

REPORTS - County Manager

County Manager, Paige Dukes, mentioned the below items:

- This week is National Probation and Parole Appreciation Week and Mrs. Dukes commended the Lowndes County Probation Department for their continued dedication and success. To show our appreciation, lunch will be provided Friday.
- Mrs. Dukes met with Valdosta State University (VSU) Director of Athletics, Troy Katen and partnerships were discussed related to work force development as well as internships with their student athletes.
- Crisis Track Software, a previously approved agenda item, to help Emergency Management in the event of a disaster, training has begun and several groups have completed this training.
- Tomorrow, Wednesday, July 24th Lowndes County will be hosting several young ladies from the beautiful creations by Channel program, sharing local services from the County and taking them to lunch.
- Thursday, July 25th, the Business After Hours event, "Christmas in July" is being held at the Rainwater Conference Center and is highlighting tourism.
- Monday, July 28th, Community Development Director, Rachel Thrasher and her staff will be hosting the Elks Lodge Kids Camp at Quiet Pines Golf Course.
- Thursday, August 1st Georgia Grown Trails ribbon cutting will be held at 3:00 p.m. at the historic courthouse.
- Lowndes County Animal Shelter was awarded a \$3,000.00, spay and neuter grant from the Department of Agriculture and staff will be going to Tifton tomorrow to accept this award. Fees continue to be adjusted to help the animals to get adopted. This grant focuses on pit bulldogs, which is the highest type of breed suffering from euthanasia.

Commissioner Wisenbaker asked what else is involved in the healthcare of an animal before adoption? Mrs. Dukes responded the Georgia Department of Agriculture has specific requirements to be followed which include spaying or neutering, rabies vaccinations, first round of shots, health certification from the veterinarian's office and microchipping. Commissioner Wisenbaker asked what is the total cost? Mrs. Dukes responded close to \$200.00.

CITIZENS WISHING TO BE HEARD -

Burton Fletcher, 3533 Cherry Creek Road, addressed the commission regarding the Lowndes County Animal Shelter. Mr. Fletcher mentioned that Lowndes County needs an animal welfare commission overseeing the shelter. Mr. Fletcher mentioned with a new shelter being built, he believes the citizens

should be involved in the process. Lastly, Mr. Fletcher mentioned the hours of the shelter being unsuitable for the public and the shelter staff needs to be more proactive.

Janice Monaco, 3744 Bermuda Run, addressed the commission regarding the Lowndes County Animal Shelter. Ms. Monaco mentioned the budget for the animal shelter, the spay/neuter program, educating the public, food donations, and asking clubs/agencies to sponsor programs within the shelter. Ms. Monaco mentioned too many animals are being killed and an animal welfare commission needs to be established to oversee the animal shelter.

Nancy and Danny Griffin, 4171 Newton Circle, addressed the commission regarding the Lowndes County Animal Shelter. Ms. Griffin mentioned they have volunteered at the shelter in the past and did not feel welcomed. Mrs. Griffin stated she started helping with an animal shelter in Quitman. Lastly, Mrs. Griffin mentioned the spay/neuter program.

Tara Parker, 4911 Timberwood Drive, addressed the commission regarding the Lowndes County Animal Shelter. Mrs. Parker thanked the people who reached out a few weeks ago. Mr. Parker mentioned professionals came to the Lowndes County Animal Shelter and gave reports stating extending the adoption hours, working with volunteers, coordinate with non-profit organizations, utilize social media, and have adoption events outside of the shelter. Mrs. Parker mentioned the problem is a lack of policies and procedures, not the building.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to adjourn the regular session meeting, Commissioner Wisenbaker seconded. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Chairman Slaughter adjourned the meeting at 6:05 p.m.