

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
REGULAR SESSION
TUESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2024

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

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

Vice Chairman Demarcus Marshall was not present.

Chairman Slaughter called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

INVOCATION

Commissioner Wisenbaker

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

Commissioner Wisenbaker

MINUTES

The minutes were presented for the work session of July 26, 2024 and the regular session of July 27, 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.

APPOINTMENTS

Lowndes County Division of Family and Children Services (DFACS) Board

County Manager, Paige Dukes, presented the item. Mrs. Dukes stated Mr. Lonnie Denton's term has expired, and he has expressed a desire to continue to serve. Commissioner Wisenbaker nominated Mr. Lonnie Denton for reappointment. There being no other nominations, Mr. Denton was reappointed by acclamation.

Valdosta-Lowndes County Parks and Recreation Authority

County Manager, Paige Dukes, presented the item. Mrs. Dukes stated the term of Bubba Highsmith has expired and he has expressed a desire to continue to serve. Mrs. Dukes mentioned Mr. George Foreman has also expressed a desire to serve. Commissioner Griner nominated Mr. Bubba Highsmith for reappointment. There being no other nominations, Mr. Highsmith was reappointed by acclamation.

FOR CONSIDERATION

Beer and Wine License - Frank C. Love, IV of Love's Travel Stops & Country Stores, Inc., DBA Love's Travel Stop #550, 2319 Old Clyattville Rd., Valdosta, GA

Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented the item. Ms. Black stated this is Love's Travel Stops and Country Stores, Inc. DBA Love's Travel Stop #550, located at 2319 Old Clyattville Road requesting a license for the sale of beer and wine for consumption off premises. Ms. Black stated this is a new establishment and all requirements have been met. Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to approve the request as presented, Commissioner Wisenbaker seconded. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

BID

Pump Station Rehab

Utilities Director, Steve Stalvey, presented the item. Mr. Stalvey stated several lift stations are in need of repair and rehabilitation. The Utilities Department solicited bids to address these issues at fourteen (14) lift stations. Mr. Stalvey stated four contractors attended the mandatory pre-bid meeting and three contractors visited the lift stations and submitted questions. One bid was received from RPI, Inc. in the amount of \$1,792,027.80. Staff recommends approval. Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve the item as presented, Commissioner Orenstein seconded. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Utilities Forklift

Utilities Director, Steve Stalvey, presented the item. Mr. Stalvey stated due to growth and upgraded warehouse space, the utilities department is in need of a forklift. Staff evaluated the cost of a new forklift versus used, and a used forklift would meet the needs and is more economical. Staff recommends R&S Lift Trucks in the amount of \$18,100.00. Commissioner Orenstein asked if this warehouse was in Lake Park where the E/One pumps are stored? Mr. Stalvey answered yes. Commissioner Orenstein asked if there was a forklift being used currently? Mr. Stalvey answered no. Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to approve the purchase of a forklift from R & S Lift Trucks in the amount of \$18,100.00, Commissioner Griner seconded. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

REPORTS - County Manager

County Manager, Paige Dukes, mentioned the below items:

- Mrs. Dukes thanked everyone from the Lowndes County IT, Public Works, Fire/Rescue and Engineering Department who worked last night to help restore usage of a data room which was down due to an electrical fire yesterday afternoon.
- Thursday, August 15th, Lowndes County Board of Commissioners will be hosting Leadership Lowndes in the Commission Chambers at 1:30 p.m. speaking about local government.
- Monday, August 19th, 2:00 p.m. there will be a ribbon cutting held at Love's Travel Stop
- On Monday, August 19th, Chairman Slaughter is being sworn in at the Capitol at 3:00 p.m. to serve on the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities statewide board.
- August 24th, Saturday at 8:00 a.m. the Feed Your Neighbor 5K run/walk to support Quola (our community soup kitchen) will be held.

- This past Sunday, the Lowndes County Animal Services met with the Humane Society of Valdosta and the ASPCA at the animal shelter and 14 animals were transported to a shelter in Kentucky.

Mrs. Dukes asked EMA Director, Ashley Tye, to give the commission an update regarding Tropical Storm Debby. Mr. Tye stated over a week ago Tropical Storm Debby occurred and shifted at the last minute. Lowndes County did not receive quite the impact as expected. The highest wind gusts were 50 mph at the airport and between 4-7 inches of rain was received throughout the county. Approximately twenty-five (25) homes were damaged by trees falling and one hundred (100) individuals expressed an interest for assistance with yard debris. Mr. Tye stated the damage was minimal. GEMA is coming in next week to do a preliminary assessment. Chairman Slaughter and the commissioners thanked Mr. Tye as well as county staff, and all agencies involved with helping during the storm.

CITIZENS WISHING TO BE HEARD -

Deborah Wilcox, 3240 Kelsee Circle, addressed the commission regarding the Lowndes County Animal Shelter. Ms. Wilcox mentioned a spay/neuter program and ordinances and/or laws to help with people dumping animals.

Burton Fletcher, 3533 Cherry Creek Road, addressed the commission regarding the Lowndes County Animal Shelter. Mr. Fletcher mentioned improving communication between the public and the Commissioners, possible monthly and/or weekly meetings with the Chairman and the County Manager to have updates regarding the animal shelter, ordinances on animal welfare, citations for dumping animals, and a spay/neuter program. Mr. Fletcher thanked the board for the additional four hours added to the hours at the animal shelter.

Janice Monaco, 3744 Bermuda Run, addressed the commission regarding the Lowndes County Animal Shelter. Ms. Monaco mentioned the budget for the animal shelter, a spay/neuter program and educating the public.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Wisenbaker made a motion to adjourn the regular session meeting, Commissioner Evans seconded. Chairman Slaughter adjourned the meeting at 6:00 p.m.