

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

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

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

Vice Chairman Joyce Evans was not in attendance.

Chairman Slaughter called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Leadership Lowndes class members were in attendance as well as Youth Leadership Lowndes class members and recognized by Chairman Slaughter.

INVOCATION

Commissioner Orenstein

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

Commissioner Orenstein

MINUTES

The minutes were presented for the work session of February 21, 2022 and the regular session of February 22, 2022. Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, Commissioner Griner second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

APPOINTMENT

Valdosta-Lowndes County Land Bank Authority, County Manager, Paige Dukes, presented the appointment. Mrs. Dukes stated the seat currently held by Mr. Jason Dove has expired, adding Mr. Dove would like to continue to serve. Mrs. Dukes stated Mr. Keith Lee also expressed a desire to serve. Commissioner Orenstein nominated Mr. Jason Dove for this appointment. There being no other nominations, Mr. Dove was reappointed by acclamation.

PUNLIC HEARING

REZ-2022-04 Radney, 5761 Long Pond Road, R-10 w/conditions to R-10, County Water/Sewer, ~1.0 acre, Planning and Zoning Director, J.D. Dillard, presented the item. Mr. Dillard stated this request is to remove the existing conditions from the 2019 case and divide the northern parcel into two 1/4 acre lots for the purpose of building three spec homes at approximately 2,000 square feet within the next twelve to eighteen months.

Mr. Dillard stated the Planning Commission recommended approval with the below conditions:

1. Modular or mobile homes are not allowed.
2. Duplexes are not allowed.
3. The northern lot (Lot 1) may only be split once into an R-10 conforming lot for the purpose of building a 2,000 square feet heated single-family home.

Further, Mr. Dillard stated the TRC has no objectionable comments. No one spoke against this request. Jake Howell, 5813 Rivera Prado, Lake Park, spoke in favor of the request as the agent for the owner of the property. Mr. Howell stated there is no interest in duplexes, mobile homes or modular homes. Mr. Howell stated three single family homes with roughly 2,000 square feet would be built and mentioned with all of the construction on 4-H Club Road they would like to have two driveways on Pikes Pond Road to keep the traffic down and one driveway on Long Pond Road. Commissioner Orenstein stated he spoke with some of the Planning Commission members due to his concern with the third condition and why we would put the language on the plat stating that it should not be further subdivided; Mr. Wildes stated he made that motion at the Planning Commission and followed the motion because it met the requirements of the applicant at the time. Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to approve with the following conditions: (1.) modular or mobile homes are not allowed, (2.) duplexes are not allowed and (3.) the northern lot (Lot 1) may only be split once into two (2) R-10 conforming lots, Commissioner Wisenbaker second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

REZ-2022-05 Lakeland Hwy (0184 054), E-A to R-A, Well & Septic, ~5.3 acres, Planning and Zoning Director, J.D. Dillard, presented the item. Mr. Dillard stated this request represents a change in zoning on the subject property from E-A (Estate Agricultural) zoning to R-A (Residential Agricultural) zoning. Mr. Dillard stated the applicant would like to divide approximately 5.3 acres into two equal parcels for single family homes. Mr. Dillard stated the subject property is within the rural service area and possesses road frontage on Lakeland Highway and Old State Road. Further, Mr. Dillard stated the Planning Commission recommends approval and the TRC has no objectionable comments. No one spoke against this request. Jake Howell, 5813 Rivera Prado, Lake Park, spoke in favor of the request. Mr. Howell stated that the rezoning survey tract one before the proposed changes was non-conforming, but with the changes suggested it will go back to a conforming lot with a single-family home on the northern section. Commissioner Marshall made a motion to approve the request as presented, Commissioner Orenstein second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

FOR CONSIDERATION

2022 Public Defender Contracts, Chairman Slaughter stated the Southern Judicial Circuit Public Defender, Wade Krueger presented this request during the work session. There being no additional questions, Commissioner Marshall made a motion to approve the contracts as presented, Commissioner Orenstein second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

BID

Bid for Vehicle Lift for Mechanical Shop at Public Works, Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented a bid to purchase a vehicle lift for the mechanical shop to be used for the maintenance of all fire trucks and other fire department equipment. Additionally, Ms. Black stated Stertil was the

Bid for Vehicle Lift for Mechanical Shop at Public Works, Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented a bid to purchase a vehicle lift for the mechanical shop to be used for the maintenance of all fire trucks and other fire department equipment. Additionally, Ms. Black stated Stertil was the only bid received that met specifications, in the amount of \$44,900.00. Commissioner Griner made a motion to approve the purchase as presented, Commissioner Orenstein second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

REPORTS - County Manager

County Manager, Paige Dukes, gave the Commission an update regarding the fuel costs, stating the county paid \$1.97 per gallon for unleaded and \$2.05 per gallon for diesel in 2021 and currently, the cost is \$2.57 per gallon for unleaded and \$2.98 per gallon for diesel. Mrs. Dukes stated Mr. Kevin Beals has heard from the solid waste providers and a fuel consideration request may be made with the renewal of the franchise agreements deadline approaching. Additionally, Mrs. Dukes stated she briefed staff regarding the Commission Retreat and we are now moving forward with preparing for the budget. Mrs. Dukes mentioned Leadership Lowndes Local Government Day will be held Thursday, March 17th. Mrs. Dukes stated Fire Chief, Lloyd Green, will be meeting next week with Georgia Forestry regarding illegal burning. Lastly, Mrs. Dukes asked EMA Director, Ashley Tye, to update the Commission on the weather tomorrow.

CITIZENS WISHING TO BE HEARD

Carol Singletary, 4871 Gary Lane, addressed the commission regarding the contract for the Public Defender's office asking if there was any additional cost. Ms. Singletary also mentioned the schools in the Lowndes County School System to have the same level of commitment countywide. Lastly, Mr. Singletary mentioned an accident that occurred today on Highway 31 near PCA and the convenience store and how dangerous this area is with the traffic from the school and logging trucks.

Pam Hubbard, 2642 Moore Crossing Road, addressed the commission regarding the Board of Elections and how the members are appointed. Ms. Hubbard also stated other boards are listed on the county website and have the terms listed and she would like to request for the Board of Elections to show that as well.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Marshall second. Chairman Slaughter adjourned the regular session at 5:53 p.m.