

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
REGULAR SESSION
Tuesday, June 28, 2022

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Vice Chairman Scott Orenstein
Commissioner Mark Wisenbaker
Commissioner Demarcus Marshall
Commissioner Clay Griner

Chairman Bill Slaughter was not in attendance.

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

INVOCATION

Vice Chairman Orenstein

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

Vice Chairman Orenstein

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICERS RECOGNITION (Regular Session)

County Manager, Paige Dukes, recognized Animal Welfare Director, Linda Patelski, Animal Control Field Supervisor, Mike Brown and the additional Animal Control Officers present. Mrs. Dukes stated all of the animal control officers received certification from the National Animal Care and Control Association (NACA). Mrs. Dukes asked Sergeant Brown to speak to the commission regarding this certification. Sergeant Brown stated the training was for NACA Animal Control Officer level one and two and staff completed the training in one year. Sergeant Brown introduced the team of animal control officers; Eric Sharp, Mayra Delacruz, Jeffrey Atkison, and Matt Varney. Sergeant Brown thanked the Commission for the opportunity to receive this training. Mrs. Dukes commended Sergeant Brown while he was on a call earlier today; he heard someone yelling for help and he went to help and a citizen's husband had shot himself in the leg. Sergeant Brown rendered aid and stayed until the paramedics arrived on scene.

MINUTES

The minutes were presented for the work session and the regular session of June 16, 2022 and the FY 2023 Budget Public Hearing held June 16, 2022. No changes to the minutes were requested. Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, Commissioner Wisenbaker second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

APPOINTMENTS

Valdosta-Lowndes County Construction Board of Adjustments and Appeals, County Manager, Paige Dukes, presented the appointment. Mrs. Dukes stated the seat currently held by Mr. Randall Crews is expiring June 30, 2022 and Mr. Crews has expressed a desire to be reappointed. Vice Chairman Orenstein nominated Mr. Randall Crews for reappointment. There being no other nominations, Mr. Crews was reappointed by acclamation.

FOR CONSIDERATION

Budget Plan for Hotel Motel Proceeds for Fiscal Year 2023, Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented the item. Ms. Black stated the Commission is required to approve a budget for the use of hotel-motel proceeds each year, adding the Tourism Authority's budget is also required to be included in the county's budget plan. Commissioner Marshall asked regarding fuel prices and the forecast for hotel/motel proceeds for the next year or two, Ms. Black answered that the budgeted amounts were more conservative than the forecast and that payments would be based on actual collections. Commissioner Griner made a motion to approve the budget plan as presented, Commissioner Evans second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Adoption of Fiscal Year 2023 Operating Budget, Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented the fiscal year 2022-2023 budget and the associated resolutions for consideration. Ms. Black stated the Commission held the required public hearing on June 16, 2022. Commissioner Marshall made a motion to approve and adopt the budget as presented, Commissioner Griner second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried. On behalf of the Commission, Vice Chairman Orenstein expressed his thanks to Mrs. Dukes and Ms. Black and the finance staff for their work in preparing the budget for consideration.

Office of the Governor Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Accountability Court Lowndes County DUI Court Grant Award- State Court, Vice Chairman Orenstein presented the item stating the Commission heard from Judge Golden during the work session. Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve acceptance of the grant in the amount of \$132,193.00, to include a twelve percent match in the amount of \$18,026.00, and additional funding to subsidize the surveillance officer's salary, bringing the total request to \$42,495.00, Commissioner Wisenbaker second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Adopt Resolution Accepting Water and Sewer Infrastructure for Kinderlou Forest Subdivision Phase 8-A, Director of Engineering Services, Chad McLeod, presented the item. Mr. McLeod stated the County is being asked to accept water/sewer infrastructure; however, the roads will remain private. Commissioner Wisenbaker made a motion to approve the item as presented, Commissioner Griner second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Adopt Resolution Accepting Water and Sewer Infrastructure for Kinderlou Forest Subdivision Phase 9, Director of Engineering Services, Chad McLeod, presented the item. Mr. McLeod stated the county is being asked to accept water/sewer infrastructure; however, the roads will remain private. Commissioner Wisenbaker made a motion to approve the item as presented, Commissioner Evans and Griner second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Transportation Investment Act (TIA) Local Project Delivery Application - Old Clyattville Road Widening, Director of Engineering Services, Chad McLeod, presented the item. Mr. McLeod stated the local project delivery application starts the process to allow Lowndes County to manage the project and procurement process at the local government level. Mr. McLeod stated engineering will begin in the fall of 2022. Commissioner Wisenbaker made a motion to approve the application and authorize the Chairman to sign for the Old Clyattville Road Widening, Commissioner Marshall second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Cyber Security Maturity Continuation, IT Director, Aaron Kostyu, presented the item. Mr. Kostyu stated this item is requested to enter the next phase of the Cyber Security Maturity model which began last year. Mr. Kostyu stated this year, the focus will be a comprehensive cyber security preparedness. Commissioner Marshall asked if ABM had done an assessment, Mrs. Dukes responded no, their focus is based on efficiency and this is based on risk. Commissioner Griner made a motion to approve the request as presented, Commissioner Marshall second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

BID

Bid for Tractor for Public Works, Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented a request to purchase a new tractor for right-of-way mowing. Ms. Black stated the county received two bids that met specifications. Commissioner Marshall asked regarding the delivery time, Public Works Director, Robin Cumbus, answered both vendors have the tractors in stock. Commissioner Marshall made a motion to award the bid to Southern Tractor in the amount of \$50,000.00, due to local vendor preference, Commissioner Evans second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

REPORTS - County Manager

County Manager, Paige Dukes, thanked the Commission for their confidence and support during the budget process and thanked the Finance and the Human Resource staff for their hard work. Mrs. Dukes stated the county held a required Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) meeting on Thursday, June 23rd which started a sixty-day window to complete the process. Mrs. Dukes stated Lowndes County staff visited the Thomasville Animal Shelter to review policies and procedures in preparing to move forward with Lowndes County's new Animal Shelter. Mrs. Dukes mentioned the Tourism Authority's meeting held this morning, in which she and Commissioner Evans attended and a feasibility study was discussed for a future phase of the conference center. Mrs. Dukes mentioned complaints in the unincorporated area related to chickens and updating the ULDC with provisions for chickens with guidelines. Further, Mrs. Dukes mentioned moving forward with the provision for the allowance of chickens prior to the final update of ULDC, with setback requirements as discussed. Mrs. Dukes reminded the Commission the offices will be closed Monday, for the July 4th holiday and the employees will be receiving an appreciation gift. Commissioner Wisenbaker asked the time frame LOST is reviewed, Mrs. Dukes answered every ten years. Commissioner Griner thanked the staff for their hard work with the budget. Commissioner Evans expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to sit in on the budget meetings. Vice Chairman Orenstein stated he had heard great reviews regarding the budget process this year.

CITIZENS WISHING TO BE HEARD

John Robinson, 3227 San Juline Circle, addressed the commission to request a sewer line be installed in Clyattville at Williams School Road and Johnson Road to further his project. Vice Chairman Orenstein stated he would speak with Mr. Robinson after the meeting was adjourned.

Charles Judge, 1739-B Poplar Street, addressed the commission regarding an assault that he was involved in, which occurred in 2016, and he believes the crime is being concealed. Vice Chairman Orenstein stated he would speak with Mr. Judge after the meeting was adjourned.

George Boston Rhynes, 5004 Oak Drive, addressed the commission regarding a nine-year criminal trespassing order that he's requesting to be removed. Vice Chairman Orenstein stated he would speak with Mr. Rhynes after the meeting was adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Griner made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Marshall second. Vice Chairman Orenstein adjourned the regular session at 6:10 p.m.