

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES  
WORK SESSION  
Monday, August 22, 2022

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Chairman Bill Slaughter  
Vice Chairman Scott Orenstein  
Commissioner Joyce Evans  
Commissioner Mark Wisenbaker  
Commissioner Demarcus Marshall

Commissioner Clay Griner was not in attendance.

Chairman Slaughter called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

**MINUTES**

The minutes were presented for the work session of August 8, 2022 and the regular session of August 9, 2022. No changes were requested.

**APPOINTMENT**

**Valdosta Lowndes Zoning Board of Appeals**

County Manager, Paige Dukes, presented the appointment. Mrs. Dukes stated Mr. John McCall's term will expire on August 28, 2022 and Mr. McCall has expressed a desire to continue to serve.

**Public Hearing**

**Addition to Basic Decorative Lighting District: Grove Pointe Subdivision, Phase 5, Sections 1 and 2 (101 Lots)**, Planning and Zoning Director, J.D. Dillard, presented the lighting districts. Mr. Dillard stated this request has been advertised as required and staff recommends approval of adding the 101 lots of the Grove Pointe Subdivision, Phase 5, sections 1 and 2 into the County's basic decorative street lighting district.

**FOR CONSIDERATION**

**QPublic Appeals Module**

Chief Appraiser, Lisa Bryant, presented the item. Mrs. Bryant stated Lowndes County currently utilizes qPublic.net and has for years. Mrs. Bryant stated the new addition is an online appeals module, that will allow the public to research and submit an appeal electronically. Mrs. Bryant stated this is an item that has been allocated in their budget and the amount for the first year is \$18,736.00, with the current remaining balance amount of \$10,776.00.

### **Adoption of 2022 Millage Rate**

Chairman Slaughter stated this item would be discussed at the regular session meeting.

### **Adoption of 2022 Fire District Millage Rate**

Chairman Slaughter stated this item would be discussed at the regular session meeting.

### **Utilities Radio Replacement**

Utilities Director, Steve Stalvey, presented a request in the amount of \$64,160.45, to purchase twenty-two (22) radios from Motorola. Mr. Stalvey stated the current radios are outdated and no longer supported.

### **FY2023 Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Grant**

EMA Director, Ashley Tye, presented the grant. Mr. Tye stated Lowndes County was awarded the Delinquency Prevention Grant in April 2022 with this grant helping the low risk youth. Mr. Tye stated this grant is for a full year, October 1, 2022 - September 30, 2023 and Lowndes County is eligible for up to \$50,000.00 in continuation funding and intends to apply for the full amount in order to continue the Strengthening Families Program. Mr. Tye stated Evidence Based Associates has indicated that they will not be able to serve as the program administrator for this grant; once funding is awarded, Lowndes County will solicit proposals from qualified service providers to continue providing the Strengthening Families Program. Mr. Tye stated locally, PeaceWay Counseling and Mediation is participating with this grant. Commissioner Evans asked how many families would this serve, Mr. Tye responded that currently twelve (12) families are being served and this will allow the program to serve two groups of twelve with a minimum of twenty-four (24) total. Commissioner Evans asked the age group which would be served, Mr. Tye stated seven year olds through seventeen year olds. Commissioner Marshall asked what percentage of participants are homeless, Mr. Tye stated to his knowledge no participants are homeless. Mr. Tye stated he would verify this information as well.

### **BID**

#### **Manhole Improvements Project**

Utilities Director, Steve Stalvey, presented the item. Mr. Stalvey stated Lowndes County was awarded a Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA) loan for lift station and manhole improvements. Mr. Stalvey stated there are approximately 100 manholes in need of repair. Mr. Stalvey stated RPI, Inc. submitted the low bid in the amount of \$439,836.00.

#### **South Lowndes Utilities Building Expansion**

Utilities Director, Steve Stalvey, presented the item. Mr. Stalvey stated additional shop space is needed at the Land Application System (LAS). Mr. Stalvey stated that with the current inventory of pumps and generators, there is currently not enough space to store these items. Mr. Stalvey stated Kellerman Construction submitted the low bid in the amount of \$386,167.00.

### **REPORTS - County Manager**

Chairman Slaughter recognized Leadership Lowndes members who were in attendance.

County Manager, Paige Dukes, requested an executive session for the purpose of a privileged attorney-client communication regarding potential or pending litigation and settlement. At 8:47 a.m. Vice Chairman Orenstein made a motion to enter into executive session for the purpose of privileged

attorney-client communication regarding potential or pending litigation and settlement, Commissioners Evans and Marshall second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:36 a.m. Chairman Slaughter reconvened the work session with no additional information being discussed. Commissioner Wisenbaker made a motion to adjourn the work session meeting, Vice Chairman Orenstein second. Chairman Slaughter adjourned the meeting.