

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
REGULAR SESSION
Tuesday, December 12, 2023

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

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

Commissioner Clay Griner was not present.

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

County Manager, Paige Dukes, introduced Mr. Matt Gierden, Senior Vice President with Ashbritt, a national rapid-response emergency management company which Lowndes County contracted with for our debris pickup, after Hurricane Idalia. Mr. Gierden stated he was thankful for the opportunity to serve the community and to work with Lowndes County staff. Mr. Gierden gave an update and stated 677 thousand cubic yards have been hauled and hopefully this project will be completed by the holidays. Ms. Sara Perkins with Ashbritt, representing the Corporate Foundation, stated at the end of this project they would like to give back to the community. In January, a national partnership with the Boys and Girls Club will be launched and in anticipation Ms. Perkins discovered that the local Boys and Girls Club here in Valdosta had their gymnasium destroyed by the hurricane. Ms. Kristin Hanna with the Boys and Girls Club of Valdosta addressed the commission. Ms. Hanna stated there was one inch of standing water in their gymnasium after Hurricane Idalia and the amount to repair was \$83,000.00. The Ashbritt Foundation has partnered with them and will replace the flooring over the Christmas break in the amount of \$50,000.00. Ms. Hanna thanked the Ashbritt Foundation for their support and giving back to our community.

County Manager, Paige Dukes introduced, Lt. Joey Herndon, with Lowndes County Fire Rescue who addressed the commission. Lt. Herndon stated the Heroes for Tots Charity Softball Tournament is hosted by the Dirty South FOOLS, a professional organization of firefighters who come together on their own time to conduct training and community development projects. Lt. Herndon stated the recent tournament was held Saturday, December 9th with twelve teams that participated. The Lowndes County Fire Rescue team won the tournament. 201 toys were donated with an average value of \$4,516.88 with \$1,086.00 cash donations, totaling \$5,602.88. Hosting this tournament was made possible through the efforts of Lt. Herndon's wife, Chief Young and his wife, the SGMC Trauma Commission, local public safety agencies, and community sponsors of Dirty Dozen Coffee Company, Titletown Insurance and Valdosta Lowndes Parks and Recreation (VLPR) and staff. Lastly, Lt. Herndon stated FOOLS, is the Fraternal Order of Letherheads Society.