

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
REGULAR SESSION
Tuesday, October 14, 2025 - 5:30 PM

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Chairman Bill Slaughter
Commissioner Scott Orenstein
Commissioner Mark Wisenbaker
Commissioner Demarcus Marshall
Commissioner Michael Smith

Vice Chairperson Joyce Evans was not in attendance.

Chairman Slaughter called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and recognized the presence of Leadership Lowndes Class Members.

INVOCATION

Commissioner Michael Smith

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

Commissioner Michael Smith

MINUTES

The minutes were presented for the work session of September 22, 2025, and the regular session of September 23, 2025. No revisions to the minutes were requested. Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, second by Commissioner Marshall. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING

TWR-2025-01 New 260' Telecommunications Tower

County Planner, J.D. Dillard, presented the item. Mr. Dillard stated this case represents a request by the applicant to construct a new approximately 260' telecommunications tower on a 10,000 square foot leased area on Rocky Ford Road near Watkins Road. The subject property is currently zoned Estate Agricultural (EA) and is allowed to be used for the construction of a new telecommunications tower with the Greater Lowndes Planning Commission and the Lowndes County Board of Commissioners' approval. The subject property is in the Rural Service Area and depicted as Rural Residential on the Future Land Use Map. There are no wetlands on the property. Surrounding properties include a County Fire Station, Watkins Family Property and Camp Rock. Mr. Dillard stated the closest tower is 3.7 miles away to the southeast, located at Wild Adventures. The primary motivation for a new tower on the subject property is to fill a gap in the existing coverage area. Mr. Dillard stated this is to improve 5G coverage, provided by T-Mobile, and other providers such as Verizon and AT&T could rent space on the proposed tower. The TRC recommended approval of this request, noting the standards set forth in 5.05.00 and 10.02.00 of the ULDC, and factors most relevant