

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
WORK SESSION
Tuesday, October 14, 2025 - 8:30 AM

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

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

Vice Chairperson Joyce Evans and Commissioner Michael Smith were 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 September 22, 2025, and the regular session of September 23, 2025. No revisions to the minutes were requested.

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 to this application, including the proposed location's ability to enhance telecommunication service, minimize adverse impacts on the community, and encourage the location of towers in non-residential areas. The Planning Commission also recommended approval. Commissioner Wisenbaker asked if this was a self-supporting tower, Mr. Dillard responded yes. Commissioner Marshall asked regarding concerns about other towers in the area and possible medical conditions caused by towers. Chairman Slaughter responded he was unaware of any data. Chairman Slaughter asked regarding collocating towers to minimize the number of towers, Mr. Dillard answered the applicant hasn't found a suitable area inside the location, with the nearest tower being 3.5 miles away and a new tower is needed to