

put in their notes when updating the ULDC and try to create a consistent plan for I-75 at the entry point. Chairman Slaughter stated that would be something to contact GDOT about to see what authority the County has on their right of way. Commissioner Smith asked if the applicant applied for C-G Zoning or if C-G was recommended. Mr. Dillard replied, C-G was recommended. Vice Chairman Orenstein made a motion to approve the item with the two conditions (that does not include the color of fencing) recommended by staff, seconded by Commissioner Smith. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

FOR CONSIDERATION

Loch Laurel Road Termination of Unused Utility Easement

Utilities Director, Steve Stalvey, presented the item. Mr. Stalvey stated the County has been asked to release and terminate a utility easement located adjacent to Loch Laurel Road that the County is no longer using and that it does not have a known need to use in the future. There was formerly a booster station at the site, but it was removed in 2019. Mr. Stalvey further stated the present owner of the property encumbered by the utility easement is Tim Blanton, and the affected property is designed as tax parcel 0168 006 by the Lowndes County Tax Assessor. Staff recommends approving the termination of the unused utility easement. Commissioner Wisenbaker made a motion to approve the item as presented, seconded by Vice Chairman Orenstein. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Temporary Burn Ordinance *Agenda Item Added*

County Manager, Paige Dukes, presented the item. Mrs. Dukes stated after conversation and a meeting with Georgia Forestry requesting some assistance in policy relating to the drought and numerous wild fires fought in Lowndes County and surrounding counties as well, we have received a Temporary Burn Ordinance draft from Georgia Forestry. Mrs. Dukes further stated local governments in Georgia are not allowed to, individually and on their own, implement a burn ban, but we have received the language before the Commission from Georgia Forestry regarding a temporary burn restriction. Mrs. Dukes stated an ALERT Lowndes call went out to citizens regarding the burn restriction, and it was sent to the media. Mrs. Dukes went on to say that this is not in an effort to create an environment where Code Enforcement and Fire Rescue are writing citations to citizens, this is to give them the authority that they need to let people know that they cannot set fires and if they find them, they need to be put out. There have been many acres burned over the last two weeks. Lowndes County has received questions related to recreational fires, but there have been recreational fires that have done damage. As dry as it is and with the wind, the best policy right now is to not burn at all. This does not impact any fires that are agricultural or land clearing that are routinely managed by forestry, but at the moment that burning is not being allowed either. Commissioner Marshall mentioned having a conversation with local haulers, Deep South Sanitation and Waste Management, regarding relaxing some of their limitations on picking up yard debris during this time. Chairman Slaughter stated we can have those conversations. Chairman Slaughter stated that since January 1st of this year, there have been 109 grass fires in Lowndes County. This has been an ongoing problem that Lowndes County Fire Rescue has been dealing with. Chairman Slaughter also stated there have also been calls from mutual aid to our neighboring counties. Commissioner Smith asked if this is only for the unincorporated areas of Lowndes County and the cities do not allow burning anyway. Chairman Slaughter stated to his knowledge, that is correct, unless there is a smaller city allowing it that he is not aware of. Commissioner Marshall asked if the ban includes controlled burning inside of a barrel as well. Chairman Slaughter responded, yes. County Manager, Paige Dukes stated any open flame. Mrs. Dukes stated if the Commission approves this ordinance this evening, staff will be on standby