

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
REGULAR SESSION
Tuesday, June 23, 2026

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Chairman Bill Slaughter
Vice Chairman Scott Orenstein
Commissioner Joyce Evans
Commissioner Mark Wisenbaker
Commissioner Michael Smith

Commissioner Demarcus Marshall was not in attendance.

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

INVOCATION

Commissioner Wisenbaker

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

Commissioner Wisenbaker

SPECIAL PRESENTATION TO DEBBIE NAGY

County Manager, Paige Dukes, introduced Mrs. Debbie Nagy and the Commissioners recognized Mrs. Nagy on her retirement after many years of dedicated service to the Lowndes County Judicial System. Her career reflects a remarkable family legacy of public service spanning more than a hundred years. Mrs. Nagy's grandfather, T.N. Holcombe, Sr., served as judge from 1915-1948 and her father, T.N. Holcombe, Jr. served from 1948-1991. Mrs. Nagy was a court reporter and judicial assistant from 1980-2026. In recognition of her outstanding career and commitment to public service, the Lowndes County Board of Commissioners presented Mrs. Nagy with a framed painting of the Lowndes County Historic Courthouse. Mrs. Dukes stated there will also be a display at the Lowndes County Historic Courthouse to commemorate this family's legacy.

MINUTES

The minutes were presented for the work session of June 8, 2026, and the regular session of June 9, 2026. No revisions were requested. Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Commissioner Wisenbaker. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

APPOINTMENT

Lowndes County Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS) Board

County Manager, Paige Dukes, presented the appointment. Mrs. Dukes stated the term of Raymond Conner on the Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS) Board expired June 30, 2026. Mr. Conner expressed a desire to continue to serve. Vice Chairman Orenstein nominated Mr. Raymond Conner. There being no other nominations, Mr. Raymond Conner was reappointed by acclamation.

FOR CONSIDERATION

Lowndes County DUI Court FY 27 Grant Award

Chairman Slaughter presented the item stating the Commission heard from State Court Judge Ellen Golden during the work session. No further discussion took place. Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve the Lowndes County DUI Court grant approval and cash match from Lowndes County in the amount of \$42,404.00 (\$28,719.00 grant required county match and \$13,685.00 additional county subsidy), seconded by Commissioner Smith. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Lowndes County Accountability Court Grant Approval and Cash Match

Chairman Slaughter presented the item stating the Commission heard from Mrs. Jennifer Fabbri during the work session. No further discussion took place. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the Lowndes County Accountability Court Grant approval and cash match from Lowndes County in the amount of \$32,459.00, seconded by Commissioner Evans and Vice Chairman Orenstein. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Lowndes County Juvenile Accountability Court Grant Approval and Cash Match

Chairman Slaughter presented the item stating the Commission heard from Mrs. Jennifer Fabbri during the work session. No further discussion took place. Vice Chairman Orenstein made a motion to approve the Lowndes County Juvenile Accountability Court Grant approval and cash match from Lowndes County in the amount of \$12,773.00, seconded by Commissioner Evans. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Acceptance of Infrastructure for Camelot Crossing Commercial Development

Director of Engineering Services, Chad McLeod, presented the item. Mr. McLeod stated Camelot Crossing Commercial Development is located off of North Valdosta Road at the end of the existing Camelot Crossing Road. There are a total of three (3) roads that are shown highlighted on the attached drawing as roads 1, 3, and 4. Road 1 is 1,281.76' long which is an extension of Camelot Crossing Road. Road 3 is 250' long and Road 4 is 100' long. All construction and paperwork have been completed and Engineering and Utilities staff have conducted the final inspection of the construction. The developer has requested Lowndes County to accept the infrastructure, which includes right of way, roads, stormwater structures within the right of way, and water & sewer infrastructure. Vice Chairman Orenstein asked about a traffic signal at North Valdosta Road and Camelot. Mr. McLeod responded that two weeks ago, the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT), traffic engineer in Atlanta, approved the design and in speaking with the developer, Corbett Electric, has been contacted regarding pricing. Vice Chairman Orenstein made a motion to approve the item as presented, seconded by Commissioner Smith. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Email Software License

ITS Director, Aaron Kostyu, presented the item. Mr. Kostyu stated as discussed yesterday, the county's current email platform has reached its end of life and is no longer able to receive support. Microsoft has released a new model for online exchange and this is a budgeted purchase and is on state contract. Commissioner Wisenbaker made a motion to approve the purchase of the email software license in the amount of \$31,886.40, seconded by Vice Chairman Orenstein. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

2026 Lowndes County Alcoholic Beverage Ordinance

Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented the item. Ms. Black stated at the board's direction staff has worked with the county attorney to make changes to the alcoholic beverage ordinance. There is a resolution included as well as a copy of the new ordinance. Ms. Black stated the relevant changes are Section 4-3(b) has been amended to change the distance for a church to six hundred (600) feet for distilled spirits and four hundred (400) yards for a school building. Ms. Black stated article 13 was added to this to handle establishments that are currently within or meet the distance requirements that would be outside the distance requirements under the new ordinance. Vice Chairman Orenstein asked to clarify, should a business owner sell his/her existing business to a new buyer, and it is continued to be used as a liquor store, there is no issue. Ms. Black responded yes, as long as the use remains the same, they would not be impacted by the new ordinance. Commissioner Orenstein then asked if the business was sold and was used as a hair salon and then the previous owner wanted to buy it back and change it back to a liquor store. Ms. Black stated he would not meet the requirements. Commissioner Smith asked to verify this only applies to the unincorporated areas. Ms. Black responded, yes, only the unincorporated areas. Commissioner Wisenbaker made a motion to approve the resolution as presented for the 2026 Lowndes County Alcoholic Beverage Ordinance, seconded by Commissioner Smith. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

REPORTS - County Manager

County Manager, Paige Dukes, presented the items below:

- Mrs. Dukes asked 911 Director, Tonya Davis, to provide an update to the Commission on a recent audit of the 911 Center. Mrs. Davis explained that every three (3) years the Georgia Criminal Information Center (GCIC) conducts an audit to ensure compliance with state laws, federal regulations and Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) security policies governing access to criminal information databases. The audit was recently completed, and the Lowndes County 911 Center received a perfect compliance report. Mrs. Davis stated this was the first during her tenure and only the second in the history of the 911 Center. Mrs. Davis explained the numerous areas that this audit evaluates. Mrs. Dukes congratulated Mrs. Davis and her staff and stated that this was a tremendous achievement.
- Mrs. Dukes reminded those in attendance of the July 2nd, Time Capsule Unveiling at 6:00p.m. at the historic courthouse. Mrs. Dukes stated there is a plan to bury another time capsule with that being closer to the end of the year.

Vice Chairman Orenstein asked if any communication had been received regarding Coleman Road and the data center, Mrs. Dukes responded that there had been none. Commissioner Smith asked regarding Next Generation 911. Mrs. Dukes responded we are capable as far as texting where the current system is concerned, and SPLOST funding has been allocated if there is a mandate.

CITIZENS WISHING TO BE HEARD

George Fisher, 5278 Hall Road, addressed the commission regarding his concerns and opposition to a data center in our community. Mr. Fisher spoke regarding sinkhole identification and mentioned he is available to present a presentation on sinkholes. Mr. Fisher asked for permission to see the Geohazards report on the Snake Nation Road sinkhole prepared by Jim Olson.

Michael Noll, 2305 Glynndale Drive, addressed the commission regarding his concerns and opposition to a data center in our community. Dr. Noll gave the commissioners a handout to review regarding data centers and a possible data center ordinance. Dr. Noll stated this is the time for the commission

to adopt a data center ordinance and asked for an update. Dr. Noll mentioned the possibility of another location being chosen.

Tetiana Babcock, 3561 Skeet Ridge Road, addressed the commission regarding her concerns and opposition to a data center in our community. Ms. Babcock asked where the county stands on developing a data center ordinance and when a draft ordinance will be available.

Kelly Saxon, 8 Baldwin Place, addressed the commission regarding asking for assistance with the rehabilitation of the Craig Center. Ms. Saxon stated the initial request was for \$50,000.00, to make necessary repairs and improvements to the facility. She stated that since that time, additional donations and city efforts have helped move this project forward. Ms. Saxon asked what level of financial support the county was willing to provide to help complete this project.

Prashant Patel, 6005 North Oak Street Extension, addressed the commission regarding the alcohol ordinance change. Mr. Patel stated his question was answered during the presentation of the agenda item for the alcoholic beverage ordinance.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Wisenbaker made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Vice Chairman Orenstein. Chairman Slaughter adjourned the regular session meeting at 6:09 p.m.