

Information Sharing Session to Address Data Center Ordinance Considerations

The information sharing session began immediately following the adjournment of the regular session meeting.

County Manager, Paige Dukes stated the purpose of tonight's session is to share information, share the county's concerns, as well as hear more about citizens' concerns. Mrs. Dukes and the commission passed out cards that citizens could use to write their questions. Mrs. Dukes stated they would not be able to address every question tonight, but they will follow-up with all the questions. Mrs. Dukes stated Dr. Noll will be the screener/spokesperson for the priority tonight. Mrs. Dukes then stated that she wanted to make it clear that this conversation is not meant to make a case for or against a data center. This is meant to encapsulate the conversation of data centers, acknowledge everyone's concerns, and how we can possibly put that into an ordinance that as many people as possible are comfortable with. Mrs. Dukes further stated it is also from a policy standpoint, something the commission feels is positive for our community.

Mrs. Dukes gave a presentation on data center considerations. At the end of the presentation, some of the commissioners offered comments regarding information presented. Dr. Noll read questions submitted by citizens regarding data centers. Some of the questions asked were what if a data center application comes in before the ordinance is done, and would the ordinance specifically disallow the use of PFAS chemicals? Mrs. Dukes and Chairman Slaughter responded to the questions. Chairman Slaughter stated the Commission is putting the necessary ordinances and regulations in place so that, if a data center does come to Lowndes County, the County will be prepared.

Mrs. Dukes stated if anyone has studies, research, or information they want to provide on data centers, they are welcome to submit it to them.

The information session ended at 7:09 p.m.