

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
WORK SESSION
Monday, January 25, 2016

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Chairman Bill Slaughter
Vice Chairman Clay Griner
Commissioner Joyce E. Evans
Commissioner Scott Orenstein
Commissioner Mark Wisenbaker

Commissioner Demarcus Marshall was not in attendance.

Chairman Slaughter called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

PROCLAMATION - Valwood School Football Program (regular session)

MINUTES

The minutes were presented for the work session of January 11, 2016, and the regular session of January 12, 2016. No changes to the minutes were requested.

APPOINTMENTS

Hospital Authority of Valdosta and Lowndes County, County Manager, Joe Pritchard, presented the appointment. Mr. Pritchard stated that in accordance with the legislation governing the authority, the county had been presented with three names for consideration: Dr. Steven Brian Dawson, Dr. John W. Devine, and Dr. John D. Roan.

Lowndes County Division of Family and Children Services, County Manager, Joe Pritchard, presented the appointment. Mr. Pritchard stated Mrs. Elsie Napier had been recommended as a candidate to fill a position created by an expired term.

Valdosta-Lowndes County Conference Center and Tourism Authority, County Manager Joe Pritchard, presented the appointment. Mr. Pritchard stated incumbent appointee, Mr. David Motley, had expressed a desire to be reappointed.

FOR CONSIDERATION

Beer, Wine and Liquor License - Chandrakant V. Patel Of Manikanth LLC /Db a Mitt's Liquor #1 - 3498 Madison Hwy., Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented the item. Ms. Black stated the request was due to a change in ownership and all requirements had been met.

Special Assessment Rate for 2016, Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented the Commission with the 2016 Special Assessment Rate. Ms. Black stated the Commission is required to set the rate at two percent above prime, or 5.50%, for any paving and utility assessments that are not paid off during the initial ninety-day phase.

Anti-Virus Software Lease, County Manager, Joe Pritchard, informed the Commission that the current vendor would not modify their contract to meet requirements set forth by state law. Mr. Pritchard further stated the county could not move forward without a legal contract, adding staff would work to find another vendor.

REPORTS

County Manager, Joe Pritchard, requested an executive session for attorney-client privilege for the purpose of discussing real estate.

At 8:53 a.m., Chairman Slaughter called the work session to order. Chairman Slaughter asked the Commission to consider amending the agenda for the purpose of adding an item for consideration at the regular session the following evening. Chairman Slaughter explained the Commission discussed a request from Sabal Trail for an easement through county property near the old Clyattville Landfill. Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to amend the agenda, Vice Chairman Griner second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Wisenbaker made a motion to adjourn the work session, Commissioner Orenstein second. Chairman Slaughter adjourned the meeting at 8:56 a.m.

Bill Slaughter, Chairman

K. Paige Dukes, County Clerk

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
REGULAR SESSION
Tuesday, January 26, 2016

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Chairman Bill Slaughter
Vice Chairman Clay Griner
Commissioner Joyce E. Evans
Commissioner Scott Orenstein
Commissioner Mark Wisenbaker
Commissioner Demarcus Marshall

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

PROCLAMATION

Valwood School Football Program, Chairman Slaughter and the Commissioners presented Valwood Head Coach, Ashley Henderson, with a proclamation recognizing the success of the Valwood Football Program to include a 2015 State Championship title.

Chairman Slaughter recognized the presence of Youth Leadership League class member, Katie Courson. Chairman Slaughter thanked Miss Courson for her commitment to learning more about Lowndes County.

MINUTES

The minutes were presented for the work session of January 11, 2016, and the regular session of January 12, 2016. Commissioner Marshall made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, Commissioner Orenstein second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

APPOINTMENTS

Hospital Authority of Valdosta and Lowndes County, County Manager, Joe Pritchard, presented the appointment. Vice Chairman Griner made a motion to nominate Dr. John D. Roan, in accordance with the names presented for consideration by the authority. There being no other nominations, Dr. Roan was appointed by acclamation.

Lowndes County Division of Family and Children Services, County Manager, Joe Pritchard, presented the appointment. Commissioner Evans nominated Mrs. Elsie Napier, for consideration. There being no other nominations, Ms. Napier was appointed by acclamation.

Valdosta-Lowndes County Conference Center and Tourism Authority, County Manager, Joe Pritchard, presented the appointment. Mr. Pritchard stated incumbent appointee, Mr. David Motley, had expressed a desire to continue to serve. Commissioner Marshall made a motion to reappoint Mr. Motley. There being no other nominations, Mr. Motley was reappointed by acclamation.

FOR CONSIDERATION

Beer, Wine and Liquor License - Chandrakant V. Patel of Manikanth LLC /Db a Mitt's Liquor #1 - 3498 Madison Hwy., Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented the item, stating the request is due to a change in ownership. Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to approve the license, Commissioner Wisenbaker second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Special Assessment Rate for 2016, Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented the special assessment rate at 5.50% above prime. Ms. Black stated the rate would apply to any paving or utility assessments that are not paid off within the initial ninety-day phase. Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to set the special assessment rate at 5.50%, Commissioners Evans and Griner second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Anti-Virus Software Lease, County Manager, Joe Pritchard, informed the Commission during the work session that this item was no longer eligible for consideration due to an impasse with the current vendor related to contract details.

Natural Gas Underground Pipeline Easement and Agreement, County Engineer, Mike Fletcher presented the easement and agreement. Vice Chairman Griner asked if the county would be required to return the \$54,300.00, in compensation if the pipeline permit was not granted, to which County Attorney, Walter Elliott, replied no. Commissioner Marshall questioned the county's action related to a previous resolution approved by the Commission, opposing the pipeline. Chairman Slaughter stated approving the easement and agreement would be in accordance with the option chosen by ninety percent of citizens. Mr. Fletcher stated fifty-nine out of sixty-five property owners in the county had granted easements, adding the county would be number sixty. Commissioner Marshall asked if the agreement would allow the county to wait and see if the pipeline was going to be permitted, before taking action. Chairman Slaughter stated the action reflects the same action taken regarding any other easement, adding the agreement before the Commission had been drafted to protect the county's interest. Commissioner Marshall asked what would happen if the county did not approve the easement. Mr. Elliott stated Sabal Trail would have the right of eminent domain, in the event the pipeline is permitted and the county refused to grant right of way. Commissioner Orenstein stated the Commission may agree or disagree; however, best business practices should be followed for the benefit of citizens. Commissioner Marshall stated that he agreed; however, he was hesitant due to the Commission voting to oppose it. Commissioner Wisenbaker asked if the county opposed it or added stipulations, to which Chairman Slaughter replied both. (The resolution approved by the Commission, opposing the pipeline, was approved

prior to Commissioners Wisenbaker and Orenstein taking office.) Mr. Fletcher stated all items the county had presented as concerns, were addressed in the agreement before the Commission. Mr. Fletcher further stated that the landfill would not be disturbed and that no additional permits would be required. Commissioner Wisenbaker stated that taking into consideration that fifty-nine out of sixty-five property owners in the county had already moved forward, he would like to make a motion to approve the request and authorize the Chairman to sign the easement and agreement to include the acceptance of \$54,300.00, Vice Chairman Griner second. Vice Chairman Griner and Commissioners Evans, Wisenbaker, and Orenstein voted in favor of the motion, Commissioner Marshall opposed. Motion carried.

REPORTS – no additional information was reported.

CITIZENS WISHING TO BE HEARD

John Quarterman, 6565 Quarterman Road, addressed the Commission regarding his opposition to the Sabal Trail pipeline project.

Commissioner Marshall made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Wisenbaker second. Chairman Slaughter adjourned the regular meeting at 5:57 p.m.

Bill Slaughter, Chairman

K. Paige Dukes, County Clerk