

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES  
WORK SESSION  
Monday, January 7, 2019

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

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

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

**MINUTES**

The minutes were presented for the work session of December 10, 2018, and the regular session of December 11, 2018. No changes to the minutes were requested.

Chairman Slaughter announced Lowndes County and the City of Valdosta have planned a ceremony to recognize local law enforcement as a part of National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day to be held on Wednesday, January 9, at 11:30 a.m., on the historic courthouse lawn.

Chairman Slaughter also announced the date of the Lowndes County Bird Supper has changed from January 30, 2019, to February 13, 2019, due to the Super Bowl being held in Atlanta the week of the 30<sup>th</sup>.

Chairman Slaughter reminded the Commission and staff that the Commission's annual retreat is scheduled for February 7-8. The Chairman encouraged the Commission to coordinate with staff as soon as possible on any items they would like to discuss that have not already been included in the planning process.

**APPOINTMENT**

**Valdosta-Lowndes County Development Authority (Joint Appointment- City's Rotation)**, County Manager, Joe Pritchard, presented the appointment. Mr. Pritchard stated the seat rotates between Lowndes County and the City of Valdosta, adding this appointment belongs to the city, but must also be approved by the county. Mr. Pritchard stated Ms. Aneesha Johnson, Dupont Plant Manager, has been appointed by City Council, adding the action is ready for the Commission's affirmation. Commissioner Evans asked if Ms. Johnson, could attend the regular meeting to be introduced. Mr. Pritchard stated staff would reach out to see if she is available.

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

**Abandonment of Unopened Right of Way off of Reed Road**, County Engineer, Mike Fletcher, presented the item. Mr. Fletcher stated the Commission made the initial determination at their last regular meeting, adding the request remains ready for final consideration.

## **FOR CONSIDERATION**

**Termination of Hay Lease Agreement**, Utilities Director, Steve Stalvey, presented the agreement. Mr. Stalvey stated Mr. Rodney Tyre, has submitted a verbal request to terminate the lease in accordance with the requirements of the lease agreement. Chairman Slaughter asked if there are future plans for the spray field being considered. Mr. Stalvey replied yes, adding there are some other citizens interested in moving forward with an agreement.

## **REPORTS**

Georgia Forestry Chief Ranger, Steven Spradley, addressed the Commission regarding forestry's activities over the last year. Chief Spradley presented the Commission with a 2018 report and thanked them for their continuing support.

At 8:45 a.m., County Manager, Joe Pritchard, requested an executive session for attorney-client privilege to discuss the acquisition of real estate. Commissioner Griner made a motion as requested, Commissioner Marshall second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

At 9:12 a.m., the Commission adjourned the executive session and reconvened the work session. No further discussion took place. Commissioner Griner made a motion to adjourn the work session, Vice Chairman Wisenbaker second. Chairman Slaughter adjourned the meeting at 9:14 a.m.

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Bill Slaughter, Chairman

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K. Paige Dukes, County Clerk

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES  
REGULAR SESSION  
Tuesday, January 8, 2019

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

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

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

Commissioner Griner gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Chairman Slaughter reminded those in attendance of the Law Enforcement Appreciation Day ceremony scheduled for the following day at 11:30 a.m. on the historic courthouse square, the Commission Retreat scheduled for February 7-8, and the Lowndes County Bird Supper on February 13, 2019, at the Railroad Depot in Atlanta.

**MINUTES**

The minutes were presented for the work session of December 10, 2018, and the regular session of December 11, 2018. Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, Commissioner Orenstein second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

**APPOINTMENT**

**Valdosta-Lowndes County Development Authority (Joint Appointment- City's Rotation)**, County Manager, Joe Pritchard, presented the appointment. Ms. Aneesha Johnson, addressed the Commission and thanked them for the opportunity to serve. Commissioner Griner made a motion to affirm the Valdosta City Council's appointment of Ms. Johnson, Commissioners Evans and Orenstein second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**Abandonment of Unopened Right of Way off of Reed Road**, County Engineer, Mike Fletcher, presented the abandonment. Mr. Fletcher stated the Commission made the initial determination at their last meeting. Commissioner Orenstein asked Mr. Fletcher if a sign could be posted to alert those in the area. Mr. Fletcher replied that there is already a gate up. Vice Chairman Wisenbaker asked if this is a paved section of road, to which

Mr. Fletcher replied no. No one spoke for or against the request. Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to close the abandoned right of way, Commissioner Griner second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

## **FOR CONSIDERATION**

**Termination of Hay Lease Agreement**, Utilities Director, Steve Stalvey, presented the item. Mr. Stalvey stated the County has received a request from Mr. Rodney Tyre, to terminate the lease as per the terms of the agreement. Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to terminate the lease, Vice Chairman Wisenbaker second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

**Purchase of Davidson Road Real Estate**, Project Manager, Chad McLeod, presented the item. Mr. McLeod stated the State of Georgia has approved \$820,000.00, in One Georgia grant funds for the purchase of property near the Davidson Road entrance to Moody Air Force Base. Mr. McLeod stated that in addition to the purchase, Lowndes County will need to remove several old mobile homes and other debris at a cost of approximately \$200,000.00. Commissioner Marshall made a motion to accept the grant funds and approve the funding required to clear the area, Commissioner Evans second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

**Simpson Road Right of Way Just Compensation**, County Engineer, Mike Fletcher, presented a resolution required to move forward with the paving of Simpson Road. Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to approve the resolution, Commissioner Griner second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

**REPORTS** – no additional information was reported.

Chairman Slaughter wished County Clerk, Paige Dukes, a happy birthday and thanked her for her service.

## **CITIZENS WISHING TO BE HEARD**

Kemesha Martin & Valerie Martin, 3196 Black Road, Ms. Kemesha Martin addressed the Commission on behalf of her grandmother who recently passed away. Miss Martin stated she will continue to support her grandmother's efforts to see that Black Road is paved. Chairman Slaughter asked County Engineer, Mike Fletcher, to meet with Miss Martin regarding the project.

Reverend Dr. Belinda Hart Love, Pastor at St. Paul AME Church, Valdosta, 4460 Madison Highway, addressed the Commission regarding the paving of Williams School Road.

Commissioner Marshall thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve as a Commissioner for four more years. Chairman Slaughter thanked Commissioner Marshall for his continued service.

Commissioner Marshall made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Griner second. Chairman Slaughter adjourned the regular meeting at 5:48 p.m.

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Bill Slaughter, Chairman

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K. Paige Dukes, County Clerk