

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
WORK SESSION
Monday, January 8, 2018

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

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

Commissioners Clay Griner and Demarcus Marshall were not in attendance.

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

MINUTES

The minutes were presented for the work session of December 11, 2017, and regular session of December 12, 2017. No changes to the minutes were requested.

APPOINTMENTS

Development Authority of Lowndes County, County Manager, Joe Pritchard, presented the appointment. Chairman Slaughter asked the Commission to consider candidates for recommendation at the regular meeting.

Greater Lowndes Planning Commission, County Manager, Joe Pritchard, presented the appointments. Mr. Pritchard stated two seats are available for consideration, the position held by Mr. Franklin Bailey and a vacancy created by the resignation of Mr. Brad Folsom. Mr. Pritchard further stated Mr. Bailey has expressed an interest to continue to serve, and reminded the Commission Mr. Folsom resigned due to his recent appointment to the Valdosta-Lowndes County Development Authority. Further, Mr. Kevin Bussey, Mr. Gary Moser, Mr. Ed Hightower, and Mr. Bart Davis, have also expressed a desire to serve.

Lowndes County Board of Health, County Manager, Joe Pritchard, presented the appointment. Mr. Pritchard stated the current vacancy is the result of the resignation of Mr. Myron Faircloth. Mr. Pritchard stated Mr. Faircloth resigned due to moving out of the area. Chairman Slaughter stated he has spoken to Dr. Grow and Dr. Grow stated it is helpful for appointees to have a healthcare background, but it's not required.

FOR CONSIDERATION

Adoption of the 2018-2019 Budget Calendar, Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented the budget calendar for the 2018-2019 fiscal year budget. Ms. Black stated the dates are somewhat flexible, with the exception of the June 30 deadline required for adoption.

Beer and Wine License - Donna Smithey of Fred's Stores of Tennessee Inc. DBA Fred's Store # 3115, 4401 Bemiss Road, Valdosta, GA, Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented the item. Ms. Black stated there has been no change in ownership, only a desire to expand sales to beer and wine for consumption off premises. Vice Chairman Orenstein asked if any other Fred's Stores in Lowndes County currently sell alcohol, to which Ms. Black replied no.

Workers' Compensation Insurance Renewal, Human Resources Director, Kevin Beals, presented the annual renewal for Lowndes County's workers' compensation coverage with the ACCG's Group Self-Insurance Workers' Compensation Fund, in the amount of \$246,708.00.

Set Qualifying Fees, County Manager, Joe Pritchard, presented the item. Mr. Pritchard stated the Commission is required to set qualifying fees for county elections. Mr. Pritchard further stated the position of Commissioner will be on the upcoming ballot, adding qualifying fees are established by law at three percent of base salary which is \$450.00.

BID

Bid for Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus Equipment, Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented the item with Thermo Fisher submitting the low bid, in the amount of \$443,262.00.

REPORTS

County Manager, Joe Pritchard, thanked everyone who responded to the recent winter storm that blanketed most of the community with nearly an inch of snow and ice. Mr. Pritchard stated local agencies were quick to respond which helped to minimize the extent of damage and potential for injuries. Chairman Slaughter echoed Mr. Pritchard's comments and also thanked Mr. Pritchard for his leadership with regards to providing resources and support to department heads and their staff.

County Manager, Joe Pritchard, reminded the Commission a hearing is scheduled at 9:00 a.m., for Union Cathedral's Claim for Refund.

Commissioner Wisenbaker made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Vice Chairman Orenstein second. Chairman Slaughter adjourned the work session at 8:41 a.m.

Bill Slaughter, Chairman

K. Paige Dukes, County Clerk

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
REGULAR SESSION
Tuesday, January 9, 2018

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

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

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

Vice Chairman Orenstein gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

MINUTES

The minutes were presented for the work session of December 11, 2017, and regular session of December 12, 2017. Vice Chairman Orenstein made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, Commissioner Evans second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

APPOINTMENTS

Development Authority of Lowndes County, County Manager, Joe Pritchard, presented the appointment. Mr. Pritchard stated there is a vacant seat on the Development Authority of Lowndes County and that the authority is a financial vehicle used by the County and the Valdosta-Lowndes County Development Authority. Chairman Slaughter stated that he would like to nominate Gary Moser. There being no other nominations, Mr. Moser was appointed by acclamation.

Greater Lowndes Planning Commission, County Manager, Joe Pritchard, presented the appointments. Mr. Pritchard stated there are two seats available on the Greater Lowndes Planning Commission, the appointment of Mr. Franklin Bailey and due to the resignation of Mr. Brad Folsom, there is a vacant seat. Mr. Pritchard also stated that the individuals interested in filling the vacant seat are Mr. Kevin Bussey, Mr. Gary Moser, Mr. Ed Hightower, and Mr. Bart Davis. Commissioner Wisenbaker nominated Mr. Hightower for the seat previously held by Mr. Folsom, and nominated Mr. Bailey to be reappointed. Commissioner Marshall, nominated Mr. Kevin Bussey for the seat previously held by Mr. Folsom. Mr. Bailey was reappointed by acclamation. Commissioners Griner, Wisenbaker, and Vice Chairman Orenstein voted in favor of Mr. Hightower. Mr. Hightower was appointed by popular vote.

Lowndes County Board of Health, County Manager, Joe Pritchard, presented the appointment. Mr. Pritchard stated due to the resignation of Mr. Myron Faircloth there is a vacancy on the Board of Health. Mr. Pritchard further stated that there are no names for consideration at this time. Commissioner Marshall nominated nurse, Clarice Howell. Vice Chairman Orenstein nominated Dr. Frances Brown, and stated that she is very well educated, has four college degrees, a PhD, and is a retired nursing director and instructor at VSU. He also mentioned that not only is Dr. Brown willing to serve, but she is excited to serve and she is a lifelong friend of Dr. Grow and comes highly recommended. Commissioner Marshall stated that he would like to withdraw his nomination. He further stated that he would state his nominee's credentials, but he was unaware of there being other nominations, which is why he nominated Ms. Howell. Dr. Brown was appointed by acclamation.

FOR CONSIDERATION

Adoption of the 2018-2019 Budget Calendar, Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented the budget calendar for the 2018-2019 fiscal year budget. Ms. Black stated the budget packages have gone out, and the dates are general guidelines, allowing for budget adoption by June 30, 2018. Commissioner Evans made a motion to adopt the budget calendar for 2018-2019, Commissioner Wisenbaker second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Beer and Wine License - Donna Smithey of Fred's Stores of Tennessee Inc. DBA Fred's Store # 3115, 4401 Bemiss Road, Valdosta, GA, Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented the item for beer and wine consumption off premise. The establishment has been there for some time and they are requesting to add alcohol sales. Commissioner Marshall made a motion to approve the beer and wine license, Commissioner Griner second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Workers' Compensation Insurance Renewal, Human Resources Director, Kevin Beals, presented the annual renewal for Lowndes County's Workers' Compensation Coverage with the ACCG's Group Self Insurance Workers' Compensation Fund. Mr. Beals stated for this upcoming year the premium is \$264,104.00, but due to the longevity of the County's relationship with the program, there are credits equaling a 7.5 percent reduction, which comes to a total cost of \$246,708.00. Vice Chairman Orenstein made a motion to approve the workers compensation insurance coverage renewal through ACCG as presented, Commissioner Wisenbaker second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Set Qualifying Fees, County Manager, Joe Pritchard, presented the item. Mr. Pritchard stated that state statute requires the Commission, as the governing authority, to establish and fix the qualifying fees for county offices that are upcoming in the primary or general election. Commissioner Marshall made a motion to set and publish qualifying fees as required by law for the position of Commissioner at \$450.00 and for the position of Tax Assessor at \$360.00, Commissioner Wisenbaker second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

BID

Bid for Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus Equipment, Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented the item with Thermo Fisher presenting the low bid in the amount of \$443,262.00. Ms. Black stated the county received bids from American Safety and Fire for \$496,000.00, Municipal Emergency Services for \$501,290.00, and Thermo Fisher for \$443,262.00. Vice Chairman Orenstein, questioned the life expectancy of the equipment, to which EMA, Director Ashley Tye, responded, approximately 10 years. Commissioner Wisenbaker asked if the bid amounts were for 105 units and not 150, to which Mr. Tye stated 105 units, not 150 units. Commissioner Marshall made a motion to award the bid items to Thermo Fisher in the amount of \$443,262.00, Commissioner Evans second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

REPORTS

County Manager, Joe Pritchard, called on Public Works Director, Robin Cumbus to give an update on the scrap tire program. Mrs. Cumbus stated they were a little surprised how busy they were and mentioned that they filled two semi-trucks with around three thousand tires. She also stated that those trucks have been picked up and new trucks are ready for Saturday. Commissioner Marshall stated that he was informed of city residents being able to bring tires to the event, to which Mrs. Cumbus responded yes and Commissioner Marshall said great job.

CITIZENS WISHING TO BE HEARD - none

Commissioner Wisenbaker made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Griner second. Chairman Slaughter adjourned the meeting at 5:49 p.m.

Bill Slaughter, Chairman

K. Paige Dukes, County Clerk