

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
WORK SESSION
Monday, April 26, 2021

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Vice Chairman Clay Griner
Commissioner Joyce Evans
Commissioner Mark Wisenbaker
Commissioner Demarcus Marshall

Chairman Bill Slaughter and Commissioner Scott Orenstein were not present.

Vice Chairman Clay Griner called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

MINUTES

The minutes were presented for the work session of April 12, 2021 and the regular session of April 13, 2021. No changes to the minutes were requested.

APPOINTMENT

Valdosta Lowndes County Airport Authority, County Manager, Paige Dukes, presented the item. Mrs. Dukes stated the seat currently held by Jeff Sikes will be expiring May 21, 2021, adding Mr. Sikes has expressed a desire to continue to serve.

FOR CONSIDERATION

Liquor License - Richard D. Johnson of Johnson Distributing Co. - 4571 N. Valdosta Rd., Valdosta, GA, Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented the item. Ms. Black stated Johnson Distributing Company currently has a wholesale license and is requesting to add liquor.

Wine License - Jacquelyne A. Sirmans of Eddie Felders, LLC, DBA Eddie Felders Country Meat Market - 3954 Old US Hwy 41 North, Valdosta, GA, Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented the item. Ms. Black stated this is a new establishment requesting a license for the sale of wine for consumption off premise. Ms. Black stated this location was previously a liquor store which has been closed for over a year.

Historic Lowndes Courthouse Rehabilitation and Restoration Construction Manager Selection, Projects Manager, Chad McLeod, presented the item. Mr. McLeod stated the courthouse rehabilitation and restoration construction manager selection process began in February 2021. Mr. McLeod stated staff received six proposals and the top three companies selected are Ajax, Allstate Construction with Cauthan Construction, and Spraitlin and Son Construction. Mr. McLeod provided an explanation of the RFP review process and announced Allstate Construction with Cauthan Construction as the staff recommended selection based on a scoring of the proposals received.

Commissioner Wisenbaker asked what is the scoring system, Mr. McLeod stated each item has a weighted score. Commissioner Marshall asked if Allstate was local, Mr. McLeod answered the company is based out of Warner Robins, but will be using a construction team here locally which is Cauthan Construction.

Comprehensive Facilities Energy Savings Project, Projects Manager, Chad McLeod, presented the item. Mr. McLeod stated Lowndes County sought proposals for a guaranteed energy savings performance contract. Mr. McLeod stated the County received a proposal from ABM which the County selected as the provider that best meets the County's needs. Mr. McLeod stated Jason Anderson with ABM will be giving a presentation to the Commission at the regular session meeting tomorrow night. Commissioner Marshall asked what is the savings amount, Mr. McLeod stated it is listed in the finance agreement. Mrs. Dukes commented the final drafts of those documents are being sent via FedEx today.

Acceptance of Infrastructure for The Landings Phase II, County Engineer, Mike Fletcher, presented the item. Mr. Fletcher stated the County is being asked to accept all infrastructure related to Phase II, adding the work is substantially complete at this time.

Purchase of License and Hardware for the Odyssey Jail Project, IT Director, Aaron Kostyu, presented the item. Mr. Kostyu stated the Lowndes County Sheriff's Office has requested additional licenses for the Odyssey Jail Project. Additionally, Mr. Kostyu stated the licenses are for the jail inmate classification and e-signatures. Commissioner Marshall asked how does the jail handle this now, Mr. Kostyu responded the same system is used currently.

BID

Lowndes County Fire Rescue Station #5 Additions and Renovations, Projects Manager, Chad McLeod, presented the item. Mr. McLeod stated Station #5 is the Bemiss Road Fire Station and will house Fire Rescue and EMS full time. The addition includes a truck bay and living quarters on the south side of the building to meet the needs of Fire Rescue. Additionally, Mr. McLeod stated the project includes site work to move the parking lot further south to make room for the addition. Lastly, Mr. McLeod stated bids were opened April 15, 2021 and five bids were received with the lowest being Kellerman Construction Company for \$796,865.00. Commissioner Wisenbaker asked if there was a different amount originally budgeted, Mr. McLeod stated \$550,000.00. Commissioner Wisenbaker questioned the increase, Mr. McLeod stated originally full time EMS was going to be housed and full-time fire rescue staff was added; also an increase in construction costs and labor. Commissioner Evans asked were the changes added before the bid went out, Mr. McLeod responded yes. Commissioner Marshall asked how many square feet would be added, Mr. McLeod stated almost 4000 square feet on the south side, the existing side will have interior remodeling. Commissioner Wisenbaker asked Finance Director, Stephanie Black, do we have the funds available for this project, Ms. Black responded there should be funds available based on current SPLOST collections.

Reports - County Manager

County Manager, Paige Dukes, asked EMA Director, Ashley Tye, to give the commission an update on the storm damage from the weekend. Mr. Tye stated the County did experience a significant storm with rain, hail and winds. Mr. Tye stated there were 38 calls for trees and/or power lines being down. Public Works Director, Robin Cumbus, stated there were 11 roads where trees were removed from

the right of way and public works will be coordinating with fire rescue to make sure that the clean-up efforts are completed. Mrs. Dukes thanked all the departments and staff that helped during this storm and for their team efforts.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Evans made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Marshall second. Vice Chairman Griner adjourned the work session at 8:50 a.m.

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
REGULAR SESSION
Tuesday, April 27, 2021

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

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

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

INVOCATION

Commissioner Griner

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

Commissioner Griner

MINUTES

The minutes were presented for the work session of April 12, 2021, and the regular session of April 13, 2021. No changes to the minutes were requested. Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, Commissioners Evans and Marshall second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

APPOINTMENT

Valdosta Lowndes County Airport Authority, County Manager, Paige Dukes, presented the item. Mrs. Dukes stated the seat currently held by Jeff Sikes will be expiring May 21, 2021, adding Mr. Sikes has expressed a desire to continue to serve. Being that no additional candidates were presented, Chairman Slaughter stated Mr. Jeff Sikes will be reappointed by acclamation.

FOR CONSIDERATION

Liquor License - Richard D. Johnson of Johnson Distributing Co. - 4571 N. Valdosta Rd., Valdosta, GA, Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented the item. Ms. Black stated Johnson Distributing Company currently has a beer and wine wholesale license and is requesting to add liquor. Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to approve the request, Vice Chairman Griner second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Wine License - Jacquelyne A. Sirmans of Eddie Felders, LLC, DBA Eddie Felders Country Meat Market - 3954 Old US Hwy 41 North, Valdosta, GA, Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented the item. Ms. Black stated this is a new establishment requesting a license for the sale of wine for consumption off premise. Ms. Black stated this location was previously a liquor store which has been closed for over a year. Vice Chairman Griner made a motion to approve the request, Commissioner Orenstein second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Historic Lowndes Courthouse Rehabilitation and Restoration Construction Manager Selection, Projects Manager, Chad McLeod, presented the item. Mr. McLeod stated the courthouse rehabilitation and restoration construction manager selection process began in February 2021. Mr. McLeod stated staff received six proposals and the top three companies selected are Ajax, Allstate Construction with Cauthan Construction, and Spraitlin and Son Construction. Mr. McLeod provided an explanation of the RFP review process and announced Allstate Construction with Cauthan Construction as the staff recommended selection based on a scoring of the proposals received. Vice Chairman Griner made a motion to approve the request, Commissioners Evans and Orenstein second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Comprehensive Facilities Energy Savings Project, Projects Manager, Chad McLeod, presented the item. Mr. McLeod stated Lowndes County sought proposals for a guaranteed energy savings performance contract. Mr. McLeod stated ABM has completed the audit. Mr. McLeod introduced Jason Anderson with ABM and he gave a presentation to update the commission. Commissioner Orenstein stated he felt the ABM team was a part of the Lowndes County team and additionally stated the commission will be better stewards with the tax payers money with this project being approved. Chairman Slaughter stated he appreciated Mr. Anderson and the staff of ABM and it has been a pleasure working with everyone. Mr. Anderson stated he appreciated and would like to thank the Chairman, Commissioners, County Manager and all of the County staff involved in this project. Vice Chairman Griner made a motion to approve and authorize the Chairman to sign the attached resolution approving the four referenced vendor agreements with ABM and approve and authorize the Chairman to sign the attached resolution approving the referenced Equipment Lease/Purchase Agreement, related documents, and other actions, Commissioners Evans and Marshall second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Acceptance of Infrastructure for The Landings Phase II, County Engineer, Mike Fletcher, presented the item. Mr. Fletcher stated the County is being asked to accept all infrastructure related to Phase II, adding the work is substantially complete at this time. Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve the request, Commissioner Orenstein second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Purchase of License and Hardware for the Odyssey Jail Project, IT Director, Aaron Kostyu, presented the item. Mr. Kostyu stated the Lowndes County Sheriff's Office has requested additional licenses for the Odyssey Jail Project. Additionally, Mr. Kostyu stated the licenses are for the jail inmate classification and e-signatures. Further, Mr. Kostyu stated the purchase of additional signature pads for the jail is needed for the 'go-live' next month. Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to approve the request in the amount of \$26,751.00, Commissioner Evans and Vice Chairman Griner second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

BID

Lowndes County Fire Rescue Station #5 Additions and Renovations, Projects Manager, Chad McLeod, presented the item stating five bids were received with Kellerman Construction Company presenting the low bid in the amount of \$796,865.00. Commissioner Wisenbaker asked is this for Station #5 only, Mr. McLeod responded there will be minor renovations at the Clyattville Fire Station being handled in-house. Commissioner Marshall made a motion to approve the request, Commissioner Wisenbaker second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

REPORTS - County Manager

County Manager, Paige Dukes, stated the budget meetings with Finance Director, Stephanie Black, have been completed with elected officials and other departments. Mrs. Dukes thanked the ABM team for their effort and time spent with the county departments to move forward with this project. Additionally, Mrs. Dukes stated this project was initiated by former County Manager, Joe Pritchard, in 2018 and thanked him for his time and efforts.

County Manager Paige Dukes, requested an executive session for the purpose of the proposed purchase of property. Chairman Slaughter asked that the motion be made for the executive session after citizens wishing to be heard.

CITIZENS WISHING TO BE HEARD

Robert Eugene Simmons, Jr., 2109 North Troup Street, spoke to the Commission regarding the inequality within the community.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5:59 p.m. Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to enter into executive session for the purpose of the proposed purchase of property, Commissioner Evans second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

At 6:18 p.m., Chairman Slaughter reconvened the regular meeting, no additional information was discussed. Commissioner Wisenbaker made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting, Vice Chairman Griner second. Chairman Slaughter adjourned the meeting at 6:19 p.m.