

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
WORK SESSION
Monday, May 23, 2022

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

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

Commissioners Demarcus Marshall and Clay Griner were not in attendance.

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

MINUTES

The minutes were presented for the work session of May 9, 2022 and the regular session of May 10, 2022. No changes to the minutes were requested.

APPOINTMENTS

Valdosta-Lowndes County Land Bank Authority Appointment Approval, County Manager, Paige Dukes, presented the item. Mrs. Dukes stated the Valdosta-Lowndes County Land Bank Authority would like to reappoint Mr. Jack Oliver. Chairman Slaughter questioned if both governments needed to approve, Mrs. Dukes responded yes.

Valdosta - Lowndes County Development Authority (Joint Appointment - City's Rotation), County Manager, Paige Dukes, presented the appointment. Mrs. Dukes stated Ms. Aneesha Johnson, who has served as a joint appointee on the Valdosta-Lowndes County Development Authority, has resigned and Mr. John Crawford has expressed a desire to serve and the Valdosta City Council requests the Lowndes County Commission's approval of this appointment. County Attorney, Walter Elliott, stated there are two members appointed by the Valdosta City Council and two members appointed by the Lowndes County Commission; the fifth member is appointed by joint action of the Valdosta City Council and the Lowndes County Commission. Chairman Slaughter asked to verify if the Lowndes County Commission would like to appoint someone else, was that an option, Mr. Elliott responded yes.

FOR CONSIDERATION

Adopt Resolution Accepting Infrastructure for Quarterman Estates West, Phase III-D, Director of Engineering Services, Chad McLeod, presented the item. Mr. McLeod stated engineering and utilities staff have completed the final inspection of the project.

Release of Lien for 2009 CHIP Grant, Community Development Director, Rachel Thrasher, presented the item stating Lowndes County needs to release its lien relating to its 2009 CHIP Program Grant to Kristen Wade. The five-year affordability period expired in 2015 and she is no longer required to pay the promissory note to Lowndes County. Further, Mrs. Thrasher stated Ms. Kristin Wade is deceased and her surviving husband, Mr. Steven Latoria Wade, Jr., is selling the property and is requiring a quit claim deed and release from Lowndes County.

Valdosta Extraterritorial Extension of Water and Sewer Services along Lake Laurie Drive and North Oak Street Extension, Utilities Director, Steve Stalvey, presented the item. Mr. Stalvey stated this property is within the Lowndes County water and sewer service area, and the property is owned by Murray State Farms, LLP. Mr. Stalvey stated the property owner desires to receive water and sewer service from the City of Valdosta as the County does not have any lines in that area and in order to do this an extraterritorial agreement is needed to be approved as provided by the 2008 SDS agreement. Mr. Stalvey further stated there would be no negative effects on Lowndes County. Mr. Stalvey stated there may be additional parcels involved, due to a late notification sent via email and he will have clarification regarding that matter tomorrow night.

State Route 122 (Highway 122) @ State Route 125 (Bemiss Road - Walkers Crossing) Roundabout Lighting Agreement with the Georgia Department of Transportation, Director of Engineering Services, Chad McLeod, presented the item. Mr. McLeod stated this is a lighting agreement with a roundabout project at Highway 122 and Bemiss Road (Walkers Crossing). Mr. McLeod stated the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) will be installing the lights and Lowndes County will be responsible for providing the energy, operation and maintenance of the lighting systems located in Lowndes County. Further, Mr. McLeod stated the construction is set to begin in 2024 with two years to completion. Chairman Slaughter asked to verify that Lowndes County would only be responsible for the four lights located in Lowndes County, Mr. McLeod stated that is correct.

BID

2022 LMIG Resurfacing, Director of Engineering Services, Chad McLeod, presented the item. Mr. McLeod stated the 2022 resurfacing bids presented include resurfacing 5.89 miles of Jumping Gulley Road and 1.40 miles of Peterson Road. Mr. McLeod stated the original bids included 3.30 miles of McMillan Road, but the bids were considerably over budget and after reviewing the roads again, the road taken off of the list is McMillan Road. Chairman Slaughter asked between the three roads, if McMillan Road has a higher rate based on the grade and that is why this road was selected to be taken off of the list, Mr. McLeod answered yes, that is correct.

REPORTS - County Manager

County Manager, Paige Dukes, stated Chairman Slaughter and herself met with the Board of Elections regarding the logistics for today and tomorrow. Mrs. Dukes thanked Public Works Director, Robin Cumbus and her staff for their work in helping set up. Mrs. Dukes mentioned in the past, the Elections Division with the Georgia Secretary of State's Office sent out cards to registered voters to make them aware of the polling locations for voting. Mrs. Dukes stated due to reapportionment and some other difficulties at the state level, they were only able to send out cards referring citizens to a website and/or the local Board of Elections office. Mrs. Dukes stated she met with Public Information Officer, Meghan Barwick and Community Development Director, Rachel Thrasher, and created a communication

message which went out over the weekend on social media to help voters. Chairman Slaughter encouraged the Commissioners to share and repost the social media communication related to the Board of Elections information.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Slaughter reminded the Commission of the Budget Work Session being held at 9:00 a.m. Vice Chairman Orenstein made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Evans second. Chairman Slaughter adjourned the meeting at 8:42 a.m.

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
REGULAR SESSION
Tuesday, May 24, 2022

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

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

Commissioner Clay Griner was not in attendance.

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

INVOCATION

Commissioner Demarcus Marshall

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

Commissioner Demarcus Marshall

MINUTES

The minutes were presented for the work session of May 9, 2022 and the regular session of May 10, 2022. No changes to the minutes were submitted. Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, Commissioner Evans second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

APPOINTMENTS

Valdosta-Lowndes County Land Bank Authority Appointment Approval, County Manager, Paige Dukes, presented the item. Mrs. Dukes stated the Valdosta-Lowndes County Land Bank Authority would like to reappoint Mr. Jack Oliver. Further, Mrs. Dukes stated according to the Intergovernmental Agreement between Lowndes County and the City of Valdosta regarding the Land Bank Authority one member shall be appointed by the Authority subject to approval by the Lowndes County Board of Commissioners and the City of Valdosta. Chairman Slaughter stated there being no other nominations, Mr. Jack Oliver is approved to be reappointed by acclamation.

Valdosta - Lowndes County Development Authority (Joint Appointment - City's Rotation), County Manager, Paige Dukes, presented the appointment. Mrs. Dukes stated Ms. Aneesha Johnson, who has served as a joint appointee on the Valdosta-Lowndes County Development Authority, has resigned. Mrs. Dukes further stated the Valdosta City Council has proposed Mr. John D. Crawford be

appointed to fill the unexpired term of Ms. Johnson. Chairman Slaughter nominated Mr. John D. Crawford for appointment. There being no other nominations, Mr. Crawford was appointed by acclamation.

FOR CONSIDERATION

Adopt Resolution Accepting Infrastructure for Quarterman Estates West, Phase III-D, Director of Engineering Services, Chad McLeod, presented the item. Mr. McLeod stated engineering and utilities staff have completed the final inspection of this project, containing 21 lots. Vice Chairman Orenstein made a motion to approve the resolution, Commissioner Wisenbaker second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Release of Lien for 2009 CHIP Grant, Community Development Director, Rachel Thrasher, presented the item stating Lowndes County needs to release its lien relating to its 2009 CHIP Program Grant to Kristen Wade. The five-year affordability period expired in 2015 and she is no longer required to pay the promissory note to Lowndes County. Further, Mrs. Thrasher stated Ms. Kristin Wade is deceased and her surviving husband, Mr. Steven Latoria Wade, Jr., is selling the property and is requiring a quit claim deed and release from Lowndes County. Commissioner Wisenbaker made a motion to approve the item as presented, Vice Chairman Orenstein second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Valdosta Extraterritorial Extension of Water and Sewer Services along Lake Laurie Drive and North Oak Street Extension, Utilities Director, Steve Stalvey, presented the item. Mr. Stalvey stated this request involves two parcels located along Lake Laurie Drive and North Oak Street Extension. Mr. Stalvey stated this property is within the Lowndes County water and sewer service area and the property is owned by Murray State Farms, LLP. Mr. Stalvey stated the property owner desires to receive water and sewer service from the City of Valdosta as the County does not have any lines in that area and in order to do this an extraterritorial agreement is needed to be approved as provided by the 2008 SDS agreement. Mr. Stalvey further stated there would be no negative effects on Lowndes County. Vice Chairman Orenstein asked if these properties were speculative or serving vacant properties, Mr. Dillard responded the real estate agent representing these properties has contacted the office stating plans for a planned multi-unit apartment have been proposed, but no plans have been submitted yet. Vice Chairman Orenstein made a motion to approve the item as presented, Commissioner Wisenbaker second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

State Route 122 (Highway 122) @ State Route 125 (Bemiss Road - Walkers Crossing) Roundabout Lighting Agreement with the Georgia Department of Transportation, Director of Engineering Services, Chad McLeod, presented the item. Mr. McLeod stated this is a lighting agreement with a roundabout project at Highway 122 and Bemiss Road (Walkers Crossing). Mr. McLeod stated the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) will be installing the lights and Lowndes County will be responsible for providing the energy, operation and maintenance of the lighting systems located in Lowndes County. Commissioner Marshall made a motion to approve the item as presented, Commissioner Evans second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

BID

2022 LMIG Resurfacing, Director of Engineering Services, Chad McLeod, presented the item. Mr. McLeod stated the 2022 resurfacing bids presented include resurfacing 5.89 miles of Jumping Gulley Road and 1.40 miles of Peterson Road. Mr. McLeod stated the original bids included 3.30 miles of McMillan Road, but the bids were considerably over budget and after reviewing the roads again, the road taken off of the list is McMillan Road. Mr. McLeod stated the Scruggs Company submitted the low bid in the amount of \$1,676,443.10. Commissioner Wisenbaker asked if the Jumping Gully Road Bridge would be in place before this resurfacing begins, Mr. McLeod answered no. Commissioner Marshall made a motion to approve the item as presented, Vice Chairman Orenstein second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

REPORTS - County Manager

County Manager, Paige Dukes, thanked Chairman Slaughter and Chief Green, as well as his staff, for assisting the Red Cross with the smoke detector program this past Saturday. Mrs. Dukes stated a few meetings ago the Commission approved a change in the way heavy equipment is posted for sale online, in using the Techbid site, eight pieces of equipment have been sold with a revenue amount of \$197,600.00. Mrs. Dukes thanked Public Works Director, Robin Cumbus, Finance Director, Stephanie Black and Purchasing Agent Amy Woods for their help in this process. Mrs. Dukes addressed a question Commissioner Wisenbaker had asked at the work session meeting related to fuel costs; Mrs. Dukes stated last year the cost was \$1.97 for unleaded fuel and \$2.05 for diesel, currently the cost is \$3.58 for unleaded fuel and \$4.36 for diesel. Mrs. Dukes reminded the Commission of the Memorial Day holiday and that the Lowndes County Offices will be closed.

CITISENS WISHING TO BE HEARD - There were no citizens wishing to be heard.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Wisenbaker made a motion to adjourn the regular session meeting, Commissioner Marshall second. Chairman Slaughter adjourned the meeting at 5:45 p.m.