

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES  
WORK SESSION  
Monday, July 13, 2020

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

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

Commissioner Clay Griner was 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 June 22, 2020, and the regular session of June 23, 2020. No changes to the minutes were requested.

**APPOINTMENT**

**Lowndes County Division of Family and Children Services Board**

County Manager, Joe Pritchard, presented the appointment. Mr. Pritchard stated the seat held by Rebecca Powell has expired, adding Mrs. Powell would like to continue to serve. Mr. Pritchard further stated Ms. Rhonda Harraghy has also expressed an interest in serving. Ms. Harraghy addressed the Commission and provided details related to her experience in working with children and families.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**Rezoning Case REZ-2020-06 Cedric Solomon, GA Hwy 135, E-A to R-1, Well and Septic, (District 1 and 4)**

Planning & Zoning Director, JD Dillard, presented the item. Mr. Dillard stated the parcel was previously subdivided in March of 2020 as part of a settlement. Mr. Dillard further stated the property owner would like to further subdivide the property into three smaller lots. Mr. Dillard informed the Commission that the Planning Commission and TRC voted to deny the request, adding the request is inconsistent with the Comprehensive Plan and Future Land Use Development Map. Spot zoning that increases population density and impact the rural character of the area and safety on a state route were also cited as reasons for denial.

## **FOR CONSIDERATION**

### **Adoption of Fiscal Year 2021 Budget**

Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented the fiscal year 2021 Budget. Ms. Black stated the budget is balanced and remains ready for the Commission's consideration.

### **Beer, wine, and liquor license - Saumil Patel and Shiv Patel of Lake Park Liquor, LLC. DBA. Smitty's Liquor - 1265 Lakes Blvd, Lake Park, GA**

Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented the item. Ms. Black stated the request is due to a change in ownership, adding that all requirements have been met.

### **Beer and wine license - Mayank Pandya of Lake Park Food Mart, LLC DBA Lake Park Food Mart - 7215 Lakes Blvd, Lake Park, GA**

Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented the item. Ms. Black stated the request is due to a change in ownership, adding all requirements have been met.

### **Fiber Optic to Lowndes EOC**

ITS Representative, Paul Basehore, presented a proposal in the amount of \$198,775.00, for the extension of a fiber optic link to the Lowndes County Emergency Operations Center. County Manager, Joe Pritchard, stated staff found only one vendor, Mr. Dave Stacey, that could manage the entire project. Chairman Slaughter stated one vendor will provide a greater accountability if there are any issues. Chairman Slaughter further stated this is a much needed project in that dependable communications are vital to emergency response. Vice Chairman Marshall questioned the size of the fiber, to which Mr. Basehore replied ninety-six strand.

### **Judicial System Software Purchase**

ITS Representative, Paul Basehore, presented a proposal in the amount of \$102,762.00, from Tyler Technologies for judicial system software needed by the Probate Court. Mr. Basehore stated the technology will greatly improve the court's function with regards to licenses and other records.

### **Approval of Clyattstone Rd.-Simpson Ln. ROW and Easement Purchases (Parcels 26 and 34)**

County Engineer, Mike Fletcher, presented the item in the amount of \$23,590.00. Mr. Fletcher stated both parcels have been previously approved by the Commission; however, the names on the deeds changed. This being the case, the deeds need to be considered with the updated names.

### **Amendment to TPO Agreement FY2021 - Transit**

County Engineer, Mike Fletcher, presented a clerical update to Lowndes County's agreement with MIDS Inc. Mr. Fletcher stated the update will not increase the cost to the county and only addresses a change from fixed pricing to unit pricing.

### **Acceptance of FY 2021 Juvenile Justice Incentive Grant**

EMA Director, Ashley Tye, presented the item on behalf of Juvenile Court Judge, James Council. Mr. Tye stated \$289,489.00, in grant funds have been awarded to fund programs that will serve fifty-six youth over the next grant cycle.

### **GEFA Loan Application**

Utilities Director, Steve Stalvey, presented a request to apply for a Georgia Environmental Finance Authority grant in the amount of \$2,500,000.00, to be used for utility projects. Mr. Stalvey stated the loan can be structured for repayment over the next thirty years, the interest rate will not exceed 1.94% and there is a grant component which allows for forgiveness up to \$625,000.00.

### **Annual Contract Renewal for Mosquito Identification and Testing**

Public Works Director, Robin Cumbus, presented a contract between Lowndes County and Valdosta State University in the amount of \$45,790.00, for the annual trapping and testing of mosquitoes.

### **Office of the Governor Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Accountability Court Lowndes County DUI Court- State**

State Court Judge, Ellen Golden, presented the grant award in the amount of \$104,057, for the upcoming fiscal year that requires a ten percent match (\$11,562). Judge Golden further stated they are asking for the same funding amount (\$40,000) as last year, that will help fund a portion of the court director's salary and allow the DUI Court to continue operations.

### **REPORTS - County Manager**

County Manager, Joe Pritchard, requested an executive session at 8:44 a.m., for attorney-client privilege for the purpose of discussing real estate. Commissioner Wisenbaker made a motion to enter into executive session as requested, Vice Chairman Marshall second. All voted in favor, no one opposed.

To preserve social distancing standards, Chairman Slaughter asked that everyone exit the Commission Chambers.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:50 a.m., Vice Chairman Marshall made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Orenstein second. No further discussion took place. Chairman Slaughter adjourned the work session at 8:50 a.m.

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES  
REGULAR SESSION  
Tuesday, July 14, 2020

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT**

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

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 June 22, 2020, and the regular session of June 23, 2020. Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, Commissioner Evans second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

**APPOINTMENT**

**Lowndes County Division of Family and Children Services Board**

County Manager, Joe Pritchard, presented the appointment. Mr. Pritchard stated the seat held by Rebecca Powell has expired, adding she is interested in continuing to serve. Mr. Pritchard further stated Ms. Rhonda Harraghy is also interested in serving. Chairman Slaughter nominated Mrs. Rebecca Powell for reappointment. There being no other nominations, Mrs. Powell was appointed by acclamation.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**Rezoning Case REZ-2020-06 Cedric Solomon, GA Hwy 135, E-A to R-1, Well and Septic, (District 1 and 4)**

Planning and Zoning Director, JD Dillard, presented the item. Mr. Dillard stated that the applicant has requested to subdivide a lot that was recently subdivided due to a settlement, into three smaller lots. Mr. Dillard further stated that due to the request being inconsistent with the Comprehensive Plan and Future Land Use Map and other factors, both the Planning Commission and TRC

recommended denial. No one spoke for or against the request. Commissioner Evans made a motion to follow the recommendation of the Planning Commission and TRC to deny the request, Commissioner Wisenbaker second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

## **FOR CONSIDERATION**

### **Adoption of Fiscal Year 2021 Budget**

Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented the Fiscal Year 2021 Budget for consideration. Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to approve the budget as presented, Commissioner Griner second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

### **Beer, wine, and liquor license - Saumil Patel and Shiv Patel of Lake Park Liquor, LLC. DBA. Smitty's Liquor - 1265 Lakes Blvd, Lake Park, GA**

Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented the item. Ms. Black stated the request is due to a change in ownership, adding all requirements have been met. Commissioner Griner made a motion to approve the request as presented, Commissioner Orenstein second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

### **Beer and wine license - Mayank Pandya of Lake Park Food Mart, LLC DBA Lake Park Food Mart - 7215 Lakes Blvd, Lake Park, GA**

Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented the item. Ms. Black stated the request is due to a change in ownership, adding all requirements have been met. Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to approve the request, Commissioner Griner second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

### **Fiber Optic to Lowndes EOC**

ITS Director, Aaron Kostyu, presented a proposal from Mr. Dave Stacey, in the amount of \$198,775.00. Mr. Kostyu stated the project will provide a fiber optic connection to the Lowndes County Emergency Operations Center. Mr. Kostyu also stated the project is a sole source consideration being that Mr. Stacey was the only interested vendor able to complete the entire project. Vice Chairman Marshall made a motion to approve the request as presented with Mr. Dave Stacey as the sole source vendor, Commissioner Orenstein second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

### **Judicial System Software Purchase**

ITS Director, Aaron Kostyu, presented the item in the amount of \$102,762.00, from Tyler Technologies for the purchase of software to assist the Probate Court. Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve the item as presented, Commissioner Wisenbaker second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

### **Approval of Clyattstone Rd.-Simpson Ln. ROW and Easement Purchases (Parcels 26 and 34)**

County Engineer, Mike Fletcher, presented the item. Mr. Fletcher stated the deeds have been previously approved by the Commission; however, the names changed. Mr. Fletcher further stated the deeds needed to be voted on again as amended. Commissioner Griner made a motion to approve

the deeds as presented, Commissioner Orenstein second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

#### **Amendment to TPO Agreement FY2021 - Transit**

County Engineer, Mike Fletcher, presented the agreement. Mr. Fletcher stated there is no additional cost to the county, adding the only change includes a unit price. Vice Chairman Marshall made a motion to approve the amendment to the agreement, Commissioner Evans second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

#### **Acceptance of FY 2021 Juvenile Justice Incentive Grant**

EMA Director, Ashley Tye, presented the grant in the amount of \$289,498.00. Mr. Tye stated the funding will provide services for fifty-six youth to be served by Juvenile Court programs in Lowndes County. Vice Chairman Marshall made a motion to approve the grant and accept the funds, Commissioner Wisenbaker second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

#### **GEFA Loan Application**

Utilities Director, Steve Stalvey, presented a request to apply for a Georgia Environmental Finance Authority grant in the amount of \$2,500,000.00, to be used for utility projects. Mr. Stalvey stated the loan can be structured for repayment over the next thirty years, the interest rate will not exceed 1.94% and there is a grant component which allows for forgiveness up to \$625,000.00. Commissioner Griner made a motion to approve the request as presented, Commissioner Wisenbaker second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

#### **Annual Contract Renewal for Mosquito Identification and Testing**

Public Works Director, Robin Cumbus, presented a contract between Lowndes County and Valdosta State University in the amount of \$45,790.00, for the annual trapping and testing of mosquitoes. Vice Chairman Marshall made a motion to approve the renewal as presented, Commissioner Orenstein second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

#### **Office of the Governor Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Accountability Court Lowndes County DUI Court- State Court**

Chairman Slaughter presented the item, adding the Commission heard from Judge Golden during the work session. Commissioner Wisenbaker made a motion to approve the grant as presented, Commissioner Evans second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

#### **Utility Easement Purchases & Release of Utility Easement**

Utilities Director, Steve Stalvey, presented a request in the amount of \$248,625.00, for the purchase of three utility easements and the release of a fourth easement. Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to purchase parcel #2 from Loch-Winn Farms LLLP, .230 acres, for \$34,500.00, parcel #3 from River Hill LLC, 1.68 acres, for \$168,000.00, parcel #4 from Loch-Winn Farms LLLP, .369 acres, for \$46,125.00 and the release of parcel #4 Loch-Winn Farms LLLP, .647 acres, Commissioner Wisenbaker second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

## **REPORTS - County Manager**

County Manager, Joe Pritchard, requested an executive session for attorney-client privilege to discuss personnel. Commissioner Wisenbaker made a motion to go into executive session at 5:56 p.m., Commissioner Orenstein second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

## **CITIZENS WISHING TO BE HEARD**

David Johnathan Davis, 2004 Falling Leaf Lane, addressed the Commission on behalf of the Valdosta Peaceful Protest group. Mr. Davis stated his group has worked to design a statute for consideration. Mr. Johnny Lewis Cook III, 417 University Drive, spoke with Mr. Davis as the artist that designed the statute. Mr. Davis stated he would like installation of the statute considered along with a walking museum on the historic courthouse square.

Michael Noll, 2305 Glynnedale Drive, addressed the Commission regarding the county's support of KLVB and the restoration of funding for the program.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

At 6:22 p.m., Chairman Slaughter reconvened the regular meeting. Chairman Slaughter stated the Commission discussed the position of County Manager due to the retirement announcement of current County Manager, Joe Pritchard, effective July 31, 2020. Commissioner Griner made a motion to appoint County Clerk/PIO, Paige Dukes, as the County Manager as of August 1, 2020, Commissioner Evans second. Commissioners Evans, Griner and Orenstein voted in favor of the motion, Commissioner Wisenbaker and Vice Chairman Marshall opposed. Chairman Slaughter asked that his vote be recorded in affirmation. Motion carried.

Commissioner Wisenbaker made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Griner second. Chairman Slaughter adjourned the regular meeting at 6:24 p.m.