

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
WORK SESSION
Monday, July 11, 2022

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

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

Commissioner Demarcus Marshall was not in attendance.

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

Recognition of Lowndes County Fire Rescue Firefighter Jacob Whiting (Work Session)

County Manager, Paige Dukes, recognized Jacob Whiting, a firefighter with Lowndes County Fire Rescue for helping a citizen in need. On June 30th, while off-duty, Mr. Whiting witnessed a vehicle accident in which the occupant was trapped. Mr. Whiting stopped and rendered aid until EMS arrived on scene. Mrs. Dukes stated firefighter Whiting is the standard that we strive to have every day and thanked him for his service.

MINUTES

Work Session - June 27, 2022 & Regular Session - June 28, 2022

The minutes were presented for the work session of June 27, 2022 and the regular session of June 28, 2022. No changes to the minutes were requested.

APPOINTMENTS

Hospital Authority of Valdosta and Lowndes County

County Manager, Paige Dukes, presented the appointments. Mrs. Dukes stated Dr. Brian Griner's term will expire August 1, 2022. Mrs. Dukes stated the names of Dr. Brian Griner, Mr. Bo Lovein and Mrs. Suzanne Mathis have been submitted by the Hospital Authority and all have expressed a desire to serve. Additionally, Mrs. Dukes stated Dr. John Roan's term will expire August 1, 2022. Mrs. Dukes stated the names of Dr. John Roan, Mr. Hayden Hancock and Mrs. Suzanne Mathis have been submitted and all have expressed a desire to serve. Chairman Slaughter stated Dr. Griner and Dr. Roan have been an asset to this board and the other candidates submitted are qualified as well.

PUBLIC HEARING

REZ-2022-13 Hunter Property, Madison Hwy, E-A to C-C, County Water & Septic, ~7ac

County Planner, Trinni Amiot, presented the item. Mrs. Amiot stated the entire tract is seven acres and approximately two acres are being requested to be rezoned. Mrs. Amiot stated this request represents a change in zoning from Estate Agricultural (E-A) zoning to Crossroad Commercial (C-C)

zoning. Mrs. Amiot stated the general motivation in this case is for the development of approximately two acres for future speculative commercial use, per the letter of intent received. Further, Mrs. Amiot stated the Planning Commission recommends approval and the TRC considered the request and had no objectionable comments and if approved, a more detailed analysis of commercial plans would be required. Commissioner Wisenbaker stated this property has frontage on Jumping Gully Road and he has heard from residents who were unaware of this rezoning due to the placement of the public notice sign on Madison Highway and suggested to table this item. Chairman Slaughter asked Mrs. Amiot if there was a requirement to put the public notice sign on Jumping Gully Road, Mrs. Amiot responded no sir, the signs are posted on the roads with the most traffic, in this case being Madison Highway. Commissioner Griner asked if any part of the two acres being rezoned were located on Jumping Gully Road, Chairman Slaughter answered yes, one side is on Jumping Gully Road.

REZ-2022-14 Ben Beasley, River Rd. R-21 to R-A, County Water & Septic, ~13acres

County Planner, Trinni Amiot, presented the item. Mrs. Amiot stated this request represents a change in zoning on a portion of the subject property from R-21 (Medium Density Residential) to R-A (Residential Agriculture) zoning. Mrs. Amiot stated the original parcel was seventeen (17) acres and includes two existing residential dwellings that were subdivided into a one acre and three acre tract earlier this month. Mrs. Amiot stated if approved, the applicant intends to utilize Family Ties and further subdivide the ~13-acre tract to create up to five (5) additional lots. Mrs. Amiot stated the Planning Commission recommended approval and the TRC had no technical objections. Mrs. Amiot stated Mr. Dillard sent information regarding the history of the applicant last week. Chairman Slaughter asked if the property has been subdivided recently for Family Ties, Mrs. Amiot answered no sir, Mr. Beasley did not use Family Ties for the first two subdivisions. Mrs. Amiot stated Mr. Beasley chooses to rezone this property to further subdivide.

FOR CONSIDERATION

Annual Contract Renewal for Mosquito Identification and Testing

Public Works Director, Robin Cumbus, presented an agreement in the amount of \$54,079.73, between Lowndes County and Valdosta State University for the trapping, identification and testing of mosquitoes for the purpose of monitoring the County for mosquito borne diseases. Mrs. Cumbus stated the agreement is a renewal of the current terms.

Acceptance of FY23 Juvenile Justice Incentive Grant

EMA Director, Ashley Tye, presented the item stating this is the ninth year of coming before the Commission for this grant and previously in April the application request was approved. Mr. Tye stated \$195,372.00, in grant funds have been awarded to fund programs that will serve thirty-six (36) youth and their families over the next grant cycle. Mr. Tye stated this award packet includes a service agreement with Evidence Based Associates (EBA). Chairman Slaughter asked to verify there is no funding through Lowndes County, Mr. Tye answered that is correct, this is funded on a reimbursement basis.

Abandonment of a Portion of Boring Pond Lane

Director of Engineering Services, Chad McLeod, presented the item. Mr. McLeod stated in 2019, Lowndes County completed the paving of the Boring Pond Lane project, and as part of the new project, the new right-of-way was designed to remove two ninety-degree turns.

REPORTS - County Manager

There was no additional information reported.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chairman Orenstein made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Evans second. Chairman Slaughter adjourned the work session at 8:44 a.m.

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
REGULAR SESSION
Tuesday, July 12, 2022

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

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

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

INVOCATION

Commissioner Marshall

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

Commissioner Marshall

Medical First Responders License Recognition with SGMC Emergency Medical Services and Lowndes County Fire Rescue (Regular Session)

County Manager, Paige Dukes, introduced Ms. Emily Brown, the Trauma Program Manager at South Georgia Medical Center, to address the commission regarding this recognition. Ms. Brown stated she appreciates the leadership shown by Chief Lloyd Green, Captain Jeff Talley, and Assistant Chief Gary Williams during this process. Ms. Brown stated this is a great benefit for our community; for many years the county fire services as well as all of the paid fire services here in Lowndes County have supplemented South Georgia Medical Center (SGMC) with helping to respond to certain medical calls. Ms. Brown stated in going through the Department of Public Health with the State of Georgia, the Lowndes County Fire Rescue Service is licensed as a dual agency; a non-transporting medical first responder agency. Chairman Slaughter thanked Lowndes County Fire Rescue staff for their efforts in training and moving forward with this process as well as the assistance from Ms. Emily Brown.

MINUTES

The minutes were presented for the work session of June 27, 2022 and the regular session of June 28, 2022. No changes to the minutes were requested. Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, Commissioner Evans second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

APPOINTMENT

Hospital Authority of Valdosta and Lowndes County

County Manager, Paige Dukes, presented the appointments. Mrs. Dukes stated Dr. Brian Griner's term will expire August 1, 2022. Mrs. Dukes stated the names of Dr. Brian Griner, Mr. Bo Lovein and Mrs. Suzanne Mathis have been submitted and all have expressed a desire to serve. Additionally, Mrs. Dukes stated Dr. John Roan's term will expire August 1, 2022. Mrs. Dukes stated the names submitted by the Hospital Authority are Dr. John Roan, Mr. Hayden Hancock and Mrs. Suzanne Mathis and all have expressed a desire to serve. Commissioner Griner nominated Dr. Brian Griner for reappointment. There being no other nominations, Dr. Griner was reappointed by acclamation. Commissioner Griner nominated Dr. John Roan for reappointment. There being no other nominations, Dr. Roan was reappointed by acclamation.

PUBLIC HEARING

REZ-2022-13 Hunter Property, Madison Hwy, E-A to C-C, County Water & Septic, ~7ac

Planning and Zoning Director, J.D. Dillard, presented the item. Mr. Dillard stated this request represents a change in zoning from Estate Agricultural (E-A) zoning to Crossroad Commercial (C-C) zoning on approximately seven acres and then the applicant would like to subdivide two acres for development. Mr. Dillard stated staff has not been informed of a specific use, though it could be used for a possible restaurant. The Planning Commission recommended approval, and the TRC considered the request and had no objectionable comments and if approved, a more detailed analysis of commercial plans would be required. No one spoke against this request. Frank Hunter, 463 Palmwood Lane, Atlantic Beach, FL spoke in favor of the request. Mr. Hunter thanked the commission for considering this request. Vice Chairman Orenstein asked to clarify that this rezoning request is not for the two acres, but all seven acres being rezoned to C-C, Chairman Slaughter answered yes, it is the entire seven acres being rezoned. Commissioner Wisenbaker stated there seems to be some confusion regarding this item and believes it should be tabled. Commissioner Wisenbaker made a motion to table this item until the next commission meeting of July 26, 2022, Vice Chairman Orenstein second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

REZ-2022-14 Ben Beasley, River Rd. R-21 to R-A, County Water & Septic, ~13acres

Planning and Zoning Director, J.D. Dillard, presented the item. Mr. Dillard stated this request represents a change in zoning on a portion of the subject property from R-21 (Medium Density Residential) to R-A (Residential Agriculture) zoning. Mr. Dillard stated the original parcel was seventeen (17) acres and includes two existing residential dwellings that were subdivided into a one acre and three acre tract earlier this month. Mr. Dillard stated if approved, the applicant intends to utilize Family Ties and further subdivide the approximately 13acre tract to create up to five (5) additional lots. Mr. Dillard stated the Planning Commission recommended approval and the TRC had no technical objections. Commissioner Marshall asked regarding the letter of intent which was submitted, Mr. Dillard responded the applicant is in the audience for further clarification. Vice Chairman Orenstein asked to verify if Ben Beasley is the applicant, Mr. Dillard responded yes. Vice Chairman Orenstein stated the citizen making the inquiry is Rebecca Beasley and asked her relationship to Ben Beasley, Mr. Dillard answered he believes that is Ben Beasley's wife. Marcus Campbell, 4386 River Road, spoke against the request. Mr. Campbell stated this property joins his property on the west side. Mr. Campbell mentioned he had heard that this property might be used for a mobile home park and that concerns him. Ben Beasley, 4813 Springbrook Drive, spoke in favor of the request. Mr. Beasley stated he is the husband of Rebecca Beasley and would be happy to answer

any questions. Mr. Beasley stated these lots are being subdivided for his wife's children and his wife (Rebecca Beasley) is the granddaughter of Ms. Floyd. The children are young and Mr. and Mrs. Beasley do not want to give the children the property yet. The lots would be going to his wife, Rebecca Beasley and when the children are old enough, then they would be given to them. Commissioner Griner asked how old are the children, Mr. Beasley answered, a 22-year-old, two 20-year olds and a 16-year-old. Chairman Slaughter addressed Mr. Beasley stating when you use family ties, it is utilized for that purpose for family, it is not to be utilized for a process to circumvent the subdivision regulations, Mr. Beasley responded yes, it is for family. Vice Chairman Orenstein asked Chairman Slaughter what is to prevent them from selling the lots and how is that monitored, Chairman Slaughter answered if Mr. Beasley's position, as stated, is to let the grandchildren obtain their lot; there is nothing that would prevent them from selling. Chairman Slaughter stated this needs to be taken into consideration whether or not the family ties is applicable. Vice Chairman Orenstein asked if there is a grandchild identified for each lot, Vice Chairman Orenstein asked Mr. Dillard if there is enough information in the application identifying who the children are, Mr. Dillard stated the application is somewhat lacking, it wasn't identified who the individuals are, but these are the grandchildren or possibly great grandchildren of Ms. Floyd. Mr. Dillard stated grandchildren are allowed and great grandchildren are not allowed based on the ULDC. Commissioner Griner asked if we rezone this as presented they are not required to connect to water and sewer per ULDC, Mr. Dillard answered they would be exempt due to family ties. Chairman Slaughter stated there is one way to this property and asked Mr. Dillard how would road regulations on subdivisions tie into this, Mr. Dillard stated this is one of the exemptions with family ties as far as roads being a sixty-foot road frontage and shared driveway. Chairman Slaughter asked if the ingress/egress would be considered a driveway and not a road to serve these subdivided lots, Commissioner Griner responded basically it would be a private road. Commissioner Marshall asked if this can be resolved by having a will, Chairman Slaughter responded it would still require the subdivision of the property. Vice Chairman Orenstein made a motion to approve the request as presented, the motion failed for lack of a second. Commissioner Marshall made a motion to deny this request as presented, Commissioner Griner second. Commissioners Wisenbaker, Marshall and Griner voted to deny the request, Commissioner Evans and Vice Chairman Orenstein opposed. Motion carried.

FOR CONSIDERATION

Annual Contract Renewal for Mosquito Identification and Testing

Public Works Director, Robin Cumbus, presented an agreement in the amount of \$54,079.73. Mrs. Cumbus stated the agreement represents the annual renewal of the work Dr. Mark Blackmore and his staff as well as students perform with regarding to the trapping, identifying and testing of mosquitoes for disease. Commissioner Marshall made a motion to approve the agreement as presented, Commissioner Orenstein second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Acceptance of FY23 Juvenile Justice Incentive Grant

EMA Director, Ashley Tye, presented the grant in the amount of \$195,372.00. Mr. Tye stated the funding will provide services for thirty-six (36) youth and their families over the next grant cycle. Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve the grant and accept the funds, Commissioner Griner second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Abandonment of a Portion of Boring Pond Lane

County Manager, Paige Dukes, presented the item. Mrs. Dukes stated in 2019, Lowndes County completed the paving of the Boring Pond Lane project, and as part of the new project, the new right-

of-way was designed to remove two ninety-degree turns. Mrs. Dukes stated this request is before the Commission to determine either "that the section of the county road system has for any reason ceased to be used by the public to the extent that no substantial public purpose is served by it" or "that its removal from the county road system is otherwise in the best public interest," or both. Mrs. Dukes stated staff will move forward with advertising, if approved. Commissioner Wisenbaker made a motion to determine "that the highlighted section of the county road system has for any reason ceased to be used by the public to the extent that no substantial public purpose is served by it", Commissioner Marshall second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

REPORTS - County Manager

County Manager, Paige Dukes, gave an update on the fuel costs, currently \$3.18 for unleaded and \$3.96 for diesel. Mrs. Dukes stated there are three projects out for bid - the Griner Property Park, LAS maintenance shop, and manhole improvements for the utilities department. Mrs. Dukes mentioned the Fire Marshall and two inspectors will be moving to the third floor of the administration building until the remodeling is complete with the permits and inspections department, at which time they will relocate to the second floor. Mrs. Dukes thanked Public Works Director, Robin Cumbus, and her staff for the 5,175 tires collected for the scrap tire grant. Mrs. Dukes stated since January 2022 Lowndes County Public Works Department has collected 4,514 bags of trash on our roadways. Mrs. Dukes mentioned this morning that Chairman Slaughter and herself met with the Litter Crew at Public Works and distributed new shirts for them. Mrs. Dukes presented Commissioner Wisenbaker with a shirt as a honorary member. Chairman Slaughter thanked Commissioner Wisenbaker for his passion in keeping the roadways clean for the citizens of Lowndes County.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Griner made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Wisenbaker second. Chairman Slaughter adjourned the regular session at 6:10 p.m.