

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES  
WORK SESSION  
Monday, August 22, 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 8:30 a.m.

**MINUTES**

The minutes were presented for the work session of August 8, 2022 and the regular session of August 9, 2022. No changes were requested.

**APPOINTMENT**

**Valdosta Lowndes Zoning Board of Appeals**

County Manager, Paige Dukes, presented the appointment. Mrs. Dukes stated Mr. John McCall's term will expire on August 28, 2022 and Mr. McCall has expressed a desire to continue to serve.

**Public Hearing**

**Addition to Basic Decorative Lighting District: Grove Pointe Subdivision, Phase 5, Sections 1 and 2 (101 Lots)**, Planning and Zoning Director, J.D. Dillard, presented the lighting districts. Mr. Dillard stated this request has been advertised as required and staff recommends approval of adding the 101 lots of the Grove Pointe Subdivision, Phase 5, sections 1 and 2 into the County's basic decorative street lighting district.

**FOR CONSIDERATION**

**QPublic Appeals Module**

Chief Appraiser, Lisa Bryant, presented the item. Mrs. Bryant stated Lowndes County currently utilizes qPublic.net and has for years. Mrs. Bryant stated the new addition is an online appeals module, that will allow the public to research and submit an appeal electronically. Mrs. Bryant stated this is an item that has been allocated in their budget and the amount for the first year is \$18,736.00, with the current remaining balance amount of \$10,776.00.

### **Adoption of 2022 Millage Rate**

Chairman Slaughter stated this item would be discussed at the regular session meeting.

### **Adoption of 2022 Fire District Millage Rate**

Chairman Slaughter stated this item would be discussed at the regular session meeting.

### **Utilities Radio Replacement**

Utilities Director, Steve Stalvey, presented a request in the amount of \$64,160.45, to purchase twenty-two (22) radios from Motorola. Mr. Stalvey stated the current radios are outdated and no longer supported.

### **FY2023 Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Grant**

EMA Director, Ashley Tye, presented the grant. Mr. Tye stated Lowndes County was awarded the Delinquency Prevention Grant in April 2022 with this grant helping the low risk youth. Mr. Tye stated this grant is for a full year, October 1, 2022 - September 30, 2023 and Lowndes County is eligible for up to \$50,000.00 in continuation funding and intends to apply for the full amount in order to continue the Strengthening Families Program. Mr. Tye stated Evidence Based Associates has indicated that they will not be able to serve as the program administrator for this grant; once funding is awarded, Lowndes County will solicit proposals from qualified service providers to continue providing the Strengthening Families Program. Mr. Tye stated locally, PeaceWay Counseling and Mediation is participating with this grant. Commissioner Evans asked how many families would this serve, Mr. Tye responded that currently twelve (12) families are being served and this will allow the program to serve two groups of twelve with a minimum of twenty-four (24) total. Commissioner Evans asked the age group which would be served, Mr. Tye stated seven year olds through seventeen year olds. Commissioner Marshall asked what percentage of participants are homeless, Mr. Tye stated to his knowledge no participants are homeless. Mr. Tye stated he would verify this information as well.

### **BID**

#### **Manhole Improvements Project**

Utilities Director, Steve Stalvey, presented the item. Mr. Stalvey stated Lowndes County was awarded a Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA) loan for lift station and manhole improvements. Mr. Stalvey stated there are approximately 100 manholes in need of repair. Mr. Stalvey stated RPI, Inc. submitted the low bid in the amount of \$439,836.00.

#### **South Lowndes Utilities Building Expansion**

Utilities Director, Steve Stalvey, presented the item. Mr. Stalvey stated additional shop space is needed at the Land Application System (LAS). Mr. Stalvey stated that with the current inventory of pumps and generators, there is currently not enough space to store these items. Mr. Stalvey stated Kellerman Construction submitted the low bid in the amount of \$386,167.00.

### **REPORTS - County Manager**

Chairman Slaughter recognized Leadership Lowndes members who were in attendance.

County Manager, Paige Dukes, requested an executive session for the purpose of a privileged attorney-client communication regarding potential or pending litigation and settlement. At 8:47 a.m. Vice Chairman Orenstein made a motion to enter into executive session for the purpose of privileged

attorney-client communication regarding potential or pending litigation and settlement, Commissioners Evans and Marshall second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:36 a.m. Chairman Slaughter reconvened the work session with no additional information being discussed. Commissioner Wisenbaker made a motion to adjourn the work session meeting, Vice Chairman Orenstein second. Chairman Slaughter adjourned the meeting.

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES  
REGULAR SESSION  
Tuesday, August 23, 2022

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT**

Chairman Bill Slaughter  
Commissioner Joyce Evans  
Commissioner Mark Wisenbaker  
Commissioner Demarcus Marshall

Vice Chairman Scott Orenstein and Commissioner Clay Griner were not in attendance.

Chairman Slaughter called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and recognized Leadership Lowndes and Youth Leadership Lowndes class members in attendance.

**INVOCATION**

Commissioner Marshall

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG**

Commissioner Marshall

**MINUTES**

The minutes were presented for the work session of August 8, 2022 and the regular session of August 9, 2022. Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, Commissioner Marshall second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

**APPOINTMENT**

**Valdosta Lowndes Zoning Board of Appeals**

County Manager, Paige Dukes, presented the appointment. Mrs. Dukes stated the seat held by Mr. John McCall will expire on August 28, 2022 and Mr. McCall has expressed a desire to continue to serve. Commissioner Evans nominated Mr. John McCall for reappointment. There being no other nominations, Mr. McCall was reappointed by acclamation.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**Addition to Basic Decorative Lighting District: Grove Pointe Subdivision, Phase 5, Sections 1 and 2 (101 Lots)**, Planning and Zoning Director, J.D. Dillard, presented the lighting districts. Mr. Dillard stated a petition was received and verified to add one hundred and one (101) lots of the Grove Pointe Subdivision, Phase 5, sections 1 and 2 into the County's basic decorative street lighting district. Mr. Dillard stated the current charge for the basic decorative street lighting is \$61.50 per lot, per year. No one spoke for or against the request. Commissioner Marshall made a motion to approve the request as presented, Commissioner Evans second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

## **FOR CONSIDERATION**

### **QPublic Appeals Module**

Chairman Slaughter presented the item stating the commission heard from Mrs. Bryant, with the Assessor's Office, during the work session. No further discussion took place. Commissioner Marshall made a motion to approve the item as presented, Commissioner Wisenbaker second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

### **Adoption of 2022 Millage Rate**

Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented the item. Ms. Black stated following the 5:00 p.m. public hearing, this item is to adopt the millage rate as proposed. Ms. Black stated the county-wide millage rate for 2022 should be set at 10.211 mills, with the County receiving 7.961 mills, the Industrial Authority receiving 1.00 mill, and the Parks and Recreation Authority receiving 1.25 mills. Commissioner Wisenbaker made a motion to adopt the 2022 county-wide millage rate at 10.211 mills, Commissioner Evans second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

### **Adoption of 2022 Fire District Millage Rate**

Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented the item. Ms. Black stated this item is for the unincorporated fire millage for a special district that is made up of the unincorporated area and used to fund fire services. Ms. Black stated the 2022 rate should be set at 2.50 mills, which is no change from the prior year millage. Commissioner Marshall made a motion to adopt the 2022 fire district millage rate at 2.50 mills, Commissioner Evans second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

### **Utilities Radio Replacement**

Utilities Director, Steve Stalvey, presented a request in the amount of \$64,160.45, to purchase a quantity of twenty-two (22) radios for the utilities department. Mr. Stalvey stated these are needed to replace existing radios which are no longer supported. Mr. Stalvey stated this amount includes programming and initial hardware needed. Additionally, Mr. Stalvey mentioned this item was approved and included in the current budget. Commissioner Wisenbaker made a motion to approve the item as presented, Commissioner Evans second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Vice Chairman Orenstein arrived at 5:38 p.m. due to being out of town at a GEFA meeting in Atlanta.

### **FY2023 Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Grant**

EMA Director, Ashley Tye, presented the item. Mr. Tye stated this is a continuation grant allowing Lowndes County to apply for an additional \$50,000.00, in funding to continue the Strengthening Families Program. Mr. Tye stated Evidence Based Associates has indicated they will be unable to serve as the program administrator for this grant so Lowndes County will solicit proposals. Mr. Tye stated if approved by the commission, an application would be submitted. Lastly, Mr. Tye verified information for Commissioner Marshall that there are currently no participants who are homeless in this program. Vice Chairman Orenstein made a motion to approve this item as presented, Commissioner Evans second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

## **BID**

### **Manhole Improvements Project**

Utilities Director, Steve Stalvey, presented the item. Mr. Stalvey stated Lowndes County was awarded a Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA) loan for lift station and manhole improvements. Mr. Stalvey stated there are approximately 100 manholes in need of repair. Mr. Stalvey stated RPI, Inc. submitted the low bid in the amount \$439,836.00. Commissioner Wisenbaker made a motion to approve the low bidder, RPI, Inc., in the amount of \$439,836.00, Vice Chairman Orenstein second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

### **South Lowndes Utilities Building Expansion**

Utilities Director, Steve Stalvey, presented the item. Mr. Stalvey stated additional shop space is needed at the Land Application System (LAS). Mr. Stalvey stated that with the current inventory of pumps and generators there is currently not enough space to store these items. Mr. Stalvey stated Kellerman Construction submitted the low bid in the amount of \$386,167.00. Commissioner Marshall made a motion to approve the low bidder, Kellerman Construction, in the amount of \$386,167.00, Vice Chairman Orenstein second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

## **REPORTS - County Manager**

County Manager, Paige Dukes, thanked Vice Chairman Orenstein for representing Lowndes County at GEFA today. Mrs. Dukes stated a second hose uncoupling will be held Thursday, August 25th at 10:00 a.m. at the Bemiss Road Fire Station. Mrs. Dukes reminded the Commission of the 9/11 Memorial Ceremony being held Friday, September 9th at 10:00 a.m. at Freedom Park. Mrs. Dukes mentioned The Valdosta Fire Department will be hosting a 9/11 Memorial 5k Run in which Lowndes County Fire Rescue will be participating in on Saturday, September 10th. Mrs. Dukes stated the mid-year commission retreat has been confirmed for Friday, November 18th. Mrs. Dukes mentioned the second round of ARPA funding from the state related to water projects to include 20,000 gallon hydro tanks at Creekside and Alapaha, an elevated tank on the northend, Creekside water main extension and an additional loop considering 9.23 miles (westside of the interstate), new wells and Nano-filtration plant on north end, a water main extension on Mcmillan Road to Register Road (4.83 miles), funding for the Lake Alapaha treatment plant and an elevated tank at exit 13. Mrs. Dukes stated there is 400 million dollars available at the state level. Utilities Director, Steve Stalvey, gave an update on the sink hole located on Golf Drive in Lake Park. Commissioner Wisenbaker asked the time frame regarding completion, Mr. Stalvey answered close to a month later. Commissioner Wisenbaker asked if the current hole had to be re-excavated, Mr. Stalvey replied no sir.

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

## **ADJOURNMENT**

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