

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
WORK SESSION
Monday, February 21, 2022

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

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

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

PRESENTATIONS

GFOA Distinguished Budget Presentation Award, County Manager, Paige Dukes, stated a picture would be taken and a presentation would be given tomorrow night, at the regular commission meeting.

Auditor's Report on FY2021 Financial Reports, Mr. Mark S. Rogers, CPA with Henderson and Godbee, LLC gave the Commission an update regarding the audit.

MINUTES

Work Session - February 7, 2022 & Regular Session - February 8, 2022

The minutes were presented for the work session of February 7, 2022 and the regular session of February 8, 2022. No changes to the minutes were requested.

APPOINTMENTS

Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD), County Manager, Paige Dukes, presented the item. Mrs. Dukes stated the term of Ms. Kelley Saxon is due to expire on March 8, 2022 and Ms. Saxon has expressed a desire to continue to serve as well as Mr. Carlton Richard who would like to serve. Chairman Slaughter asked if there were two appointments, Mrs. Dukes responded yes.

PUBLIC HEARING

Addition to Basic Decorative Street Lighting District: Cypress Lakes Subdivision, Phase IV (26 lots) and Plantation Point Subdivision (87 Lots), Planning and Zoning Director, J.D. Dillard, presented the request stating a petition was received and verified to add twenty-six (26) lots of Cypress Lakes Subdivision, Phase IV and eighty-seven (87) lots of Plantation Point Subdivision 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.

FOR CONSIDERATION

Beer and Wine License - Nehaben Patel of Hari Krupa 3663, LLC., DBA JP Foods 2 - 3663 New Statenville Hwy., Valdosta, GA, Finance Accounts Receivable Technician, Lorraine Taylor, presented a request for the sale of beer and wine for consumption off the premises. Mrs. Taylor stated the request is due to a change in ownership and all requirements for the license have been met.

Beer and Wine License - Manishkumar Patel of Busy Stop, LLC., DBA Misha Food Mart - 5139 Madison Hwy., Valdosta, GA, Finance Accounts Receivable Technician, Lorraine Taylor, presented a request for the sale of beer and wine for consumption off the premises. Mrs. Taylor stated the request is due to a change in ownership and all requirements for the license have been met.

Language Access Plan and Resolution for Federally Funded Grants and Programs, Director of Engineering Services, Chad McLeod, presented the item. Mr. McLeod stated the Language Access Plan (LAP) addresses the County's responsibilities as a recipient of Federal financial assistance as it relates to the needs of individuals with limited English language skills. Additionally, Mr. McLeod informed the Commission that Lowndes County adopted the Language Access Plan in May of 2020.

Reports - County Manager

County Manager, Paige Dukes, introduced Jeff Palmer and James Rosenbaum with the Lowndes County Utilities Department. Mrs. Dukes stated they participated in the Pine Grove Middle School STEM Career Day and students had an opportunity to learn where our local water comes from, and how the Lowndes County Utilities Department maintains water mains, fire hydrants and sewer mains. Mr. Palmer and Mr. Rosenbaum displayed the model, which was used at the school, for the Commission to view. Chairman Slaughter and the Commissioners thanked Mr. Palmer and Mr. Rosenbaum for making the model and for participating in this event.

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Presentation/Update

Chairman Slaughter excused himself and asked Vice Chairman Evans to run the remaining meeting. County Manager, Paige Dukes, asked Planning and Zoning Director, J.D. Dillard to introduce Corey Hull, the Transportation and Environmental Director, with the Southern Regional Commission Office. Mr. Hull introduced Ms. Whitney Shepherd, Project Manager with Transport Studio, to give an update regarding the Valdosta-Lowndes MPO Land Use and Transportation Planning. Ms. Shepherd presented a presentation to the Commission. Commissioner Marshall asked for recommendations related to transportation and how to increase the growth in south Lowndes County, Ms. Shepherd stated there are types of transportation provided to include walkable community developments for millennials and looking at the ULDC related to bike paths and sidewalks, as well as reviewing the Comp Plan adopted and reviewing zoning. Commissioner Marshall asked if the presentation she presented was available to commissioners, Ms. Shepherd responded yes. Mrs. Dukes asked Mr. Hull to recognize staff attending with him, to include Elizabeth Backe, Planning Director, Amy Martin, Senior Planner and Cameron Chaverria, Transportation Planner. Vice Chairman Evans and Mrs. Dukes thanked Mr. Hull and Ms. Shepherd for the information presented.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Marshall second. Vice Chairman Evans adjourned the meeting at 9:22 a.m.

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
REGULAR SESSION
Tuesday, February 22, 2022

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

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

Commissioner Mark Wisenbaker was not in attendance.

Chairman Bill Slaughter called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and recognized the presence of Leadership Lowndes Youth League Class Members and thanked them for their interest in our community. Chairman Slaughter also recognized the presence of City Councilwoman, Sandra Tooley.

INVOCATION

Commissioner Griner

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Griner

PRESENTATION

GFOA Distinguished Budget Presentation Award, County Manager, Paige Dukes, presented the award, stating this award marks the sixteenth consecutive designation for Lowndes County's budget documents. Chairman Slaughter congratulated Ms. Black and her staff and thanked them for their hard work.

MINUTES

The minutes were presented for the work session of February 7, 2022 and the regular session of February 8, 2022. Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, Vice Chairman Evans second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

APPOINTMENTS

Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD), County Manager, Paige Dukes, presented the appointment. Mrs. Dukes stated the term of Ms. Kelley Saxon is due to expire on March 8, 2022 and Ms. Saxon has expressed a desire to continue to serve. Additionally, Mrs. Dukes stated there is an additional vacant seat and Mr. Carlton Richard has expressed a desire to serve. Chairman Slaughter nominated Ms. Kelley Saxon for reappointment. There being no other nominations, Ms. Saxon was reappointed by acclamation. Commissioner Orenstein nominated Mr. Carlton Richard, Vice Chairman Evans second. There being no other nominations, Mr. Richard was appointed by acclamation.

PUBLIC HEARING

Addition to Basic Decorative Street Lighting District: Cypress Lakes Subdivision, Phase IV (26 lots) and Plantation Point Subdivision (87 Lots), Planning and Zoning Director, J.D. Dillard, presented the request stating a petition was received and verified to add twenty-six (26) lots of Cypress Lakes Subdivision, Phase IV and eighty-seven (87) lots of Plantation Point Subdivision 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 Orenstein made a motion to approve the request as presented, Commissioner Griner second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

FOR CONSIDERATION

Beer and Wine License - Nehaben Patel of Hari Krupa 3663, LLC., DBA JP Foods 2 - 3663 New Statenville Hwy., Valdosta, GA, Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented a request for the sale of beer and wine for consumption off premise. Ms. Black stated the request is due to a change in ownership and all requirements for the license have been met. Commissioner Griner made a motion to approve the request as presented, Commissioner Marshall second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Beer and Wine License - Manishkumar Patel of Busy Stop, LLC., DBA Misha Food Mart - 5139 Madison Hwy., Valdosta, GA, Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented a request for the sale of beer and wine for consumption off premise. Ms. Black stated the request is due to a change in ownership and all requirements for the license have been met. Commissioner Marshall made a motion to approve the request as presented, Commissioner Griner second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Language Access Plan and Resolution for Federally Funded Grants and Programs, Director of Engineering Services, Chad McLeod, presented the updated plan and resolution. Commissioner Marshall made a motion to approve the language access plan as presented, adopt the resolution and authorize the Chairman to sign the resolution, Commissioner Orenstein second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

REPORTS - County Manager

County Manager, Paige Dukes, stated an annexation and rezoning application was received from the City of Valdosta from Murray Staten Farms, VA-2022-03, and this request has been withdrawn and no further action is needed. Mrs. Dukes stated the Commission Retreat will begin tomorrow at 1:00 p.m.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Marshall second. Chairman Slaughter adjourned the regular session at 5:42 p.m.