

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES  
WORK SESSION  
Monday, January 23, 2023

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

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

Vice Chairman Orenstein was not in attendance.

Chairman Slaughter called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Chairman Slaughter asked County Attorney, Walter Elliott to introduce Mr. Hansell Watt, a new attorney who started with the Elliott and Blackburn firm last week.

**MINUTES**

The minutes were presented for the work session and regular session of January 9, 2023. No changes to the minutes were requested.

**APPOINTMENT**

**Valdosta-Lowndes County Development Authority**

County Manager, Paige Dukes, presented the reappointment. Mrs. Dukes stated Mr. Brad Folsom's term expired January 1, 2023 and he is currently serving as Chairman on that authority. Chairman Slaughter stated Mr. Folsom works closely with the elected officials and does a good job on this board.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**REZ-2022-20 Teramore Development, LLC, ~3 acres at Hwy 122 & Skipper Bridge (Part of 0067 051), EA to C-C, Well and Septic**

Chairman Slaughter stated this rezoning request was tabled at the December 13, 2022 regular session meeting. County Planner, J.D. Dillard, presented the item. Mr. Dillard stated this request is for three (3) acres from Estate Agricultural (E-A) zoning to Crossroads Commercial (C-C) zoning. Mr. Dillard stated the future land use map does recommend C-C zoning in the rural service area and agriculture/forestry character area. Mr. Dillard stated there are no wetlands depicted on the map according to GIS; however, in the applicants overall site plan there are some depicted. Mr. Dillard stated the applicant is open to enhanced facade for the facility, if approved. Mr. Dillard stated the Planning Commission heard this request and recommended denial since this would be spot zoning.

## **FOR CONSIDERATION**

### **Adopt Resolution Accepting Infrastructure for The Landings Phase III**

Director of Engineering Services, Chad McLeod, presented the item. Mr. McLeod stated the Landings Subdivision, phase III is located on Val Del Road, north of Sermans Road. Mr. McLeod stated engineering and utilities staff have completed all final inspections.

### **Adopt Resolution Accepting Infrastructure for Ballantyne Subdivision**

Director of Engineering Services, Chad McLeod, presented the item. Mr. McLeod stated the Ballantyne Subdivision is located on Clyattstone Road and Simpson Road. Mr. McLeod stated engineering and utilities staff have completed all final inspections with a punch list of items to be completed before recording.

### **Special Assessment Rate for 2023**

Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented the item. Ms. Black stated the Commission is required to set the special assessment rate every year to address paving and utility assessments that are not paid within ninety days. Ms. Black further stated the rate is based on two percent above prime, which is 9.5%. Ms. Black stated the rate for last year was set at 5.25%. Commissioner Marshall asked regarding the impact of inflation on the special assessment rate, Chairman Slaughter stated this rate is reflective of what banks are charging for financing. Chairman Slaughter asked how many outstanding assessments there are currently, Ms. Black answered there are a small number, even though none have been processed in 25 years.

### **Approval of DA's Federal VOCA Grant Application Renewal**

Victim Services Director with the District Attorney's Office, Carla Williams, presented the item. Ms. Williams stated the District Attorney's office has received the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant since 1997 and this is a renewal grant application. Ms. Williams stated this does not impact the county budget and the funds benefit victims of crimes that are processed by the Superior Court.

### **Replacement of Server Blades**

IT Director, Aaron Kostyu, presented the item. Mr. Kostyu stated this is for six server blades going in two data centers and will replace server blades out of support. Mr. Kostyu stated these are the oldest six out of twenty plus blades and this is a budgeted item.

## **REPORTS - County Manager**

County Manager, Paige Dukes, welcomed Mr. Hansell Watt. Mrs. Dukes requested an executive session for the purpose of privileged attorney-client communication regarding the acquisition of real estate. At 8:41 a.m. Commissioner Griner made a motion to enter into executive session for the purpose of privileged attorney-client communication regarding the purchase of real estate, Commissioner Wisenbaker second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:49 a.m. Chairman Slaughter reconvened the work session with no additional information being discussed. Commissioner Marshall made a motion to adjourn the work session meeting, Commissioner Wisenbaker second. Chairman Slaughter adjourned the meeting.