

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
REGULAR SESSION
Tuesday, August 27, 2024

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

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

Commissioners Mark Wisenbaker and Clay Griner were not present.

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

INVOCATION

Vice Chairman Demarcus Marshall

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

Vice Chairman Demarcus Marshall

MINUTES

The minutes were presented for the work session of August 12, 2024, the special called meeting of August 12, 2024 and the regular session meeting of August 13, 2024. No revisions to the minutes were requested. Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, Commissioner Orenstein seconded. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

APPOINTMENTS

*After the work session meeting held on August 26, 2024, County Attorney, Walter Elliott, requested that the appointment be changed to the Lowndes County Library Board instead of the South Georgia Regional Library Board on the agenda and cover sheet, as well as to revise the cover sheet to reflect a term of two years instead of three years.

Lowndes County Library Board

County Manager, Paige Dukes, presented the item. Mrs. Dukes stated the seats of Mr. William Booth and Mr. William Kent have both expired. Mr. Booth has expressed a desire to continue to serve, but Mr. Kent does not want to be reappointed. Mrs. Dukes stated Mr. Malcolm Warren, Mr. George Foreman, Ms. Debra Carruth and Mr. Phillip Williams have all expressed a desire to serve. Chairman Slaughter nominated Mr. William Booth to be reappointed with his term ending June 30, 2026. Vice Chairman Marshall nominated Debra Carruth to be appointed with her term ending June 30, 2026. There being no other nominations, Mr. Booth is reappointed and Ms. Carruth is appointed by acclamation.

PUBLIC HEARING

Basic Decorative Street Lighting Districts - The Landings, Ph. 3 and Quarterman Estates, Ph. 4 Sec. 2 County Planner, J.D. Dillard, presented the item. Mr. Dillard stated this request has been advertised as required and staff recommends approval of adding the fifty-four (54) lots of phase 3 of the Landings Subdivision and thirty-three (33) lots of phase 4, section 2 of the Quarterman Estates Subdivision into Lowndes County's basic decorative street lighting district under the Street Lighting Ordinance. 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 this request. Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to approve the basic decorative lighting districts: The Landings, phase 3 (54 lots) and Quarterman Estates, phase 4, section 2 (33 lots), Commissioner Evans seconded. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

FOR CONSIDERATION

Annual Contract Renewal with VSU for Mosquito Identification and Testing

Public Works Director, Robin Cumbus, presented an annual contract renewal in the amount of \$56,197.58 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. Vice Chairman Marshall made a motion to approve the agreement as presented, Commissioner Evans seconded. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Annual Contract Renewal with the State of Georgia Department of Corrections

Public Works Director, Robin Cumbus, presented an agreement in the amount of \$147,954.00 with the State of Georgia Department of Corrections. Mrs. Cumbus stated this item is for three prison work details, one (1) for the Engineering Department to meet state requirements for storm water and two (2) for the Public Works Department to maintain/clean county-owned drainage easements. Vice Chairman Marshall made a motion to approve the contract renewal as presented, Commissioner Orenstein seconded. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

REPORTS - County Manager

County Manager, Paige Dukes, mentioned the below items:

- Lowndes County Facilities and Marketing Coordinator, Jessica Ganas, will be attending the Georgia Downtown Conference in Thomasville this week.
- Staff is meeting with representatives of Senator Warnock's office tomorrow, here locally.
- On Thursday, August 29th, 1:00pm-4:00pm, staff will be representing the GoLoco initiative and attending Valdosta State University (VSU) for The Happening Information Fair being held on the front lawn.
- Lowndes County staff will be volunteering at Quola of Valdosta serving lunch on Friday.
- The Lowndes County Offices will be closed for the Labor Day holiday, Monday, September 2nd.
- Some staff and commissioners will be attending the Home Builders Association of Georgia Fall Meeting and Officers Installation next week.
- On Saturday, September 7th the Valdosta Fire Department will be hosting the 4th Annual 9/11 5k Memorial Run being held in downtown Valdosta.

Mrs. Dukes recognized Commissioner Joyce Evans' upcoming birthday.

CITIZENS WISHING TO BE HEARD

Burton Fletcher, 3533 Cherry Creek Road, addressed the commission regarding the Lowndes County Animal Shelter. Mr. Fletcher read statistics for the month of July from the animal shelter. He commended the shelter for extending the office hours by four hours, and spoke regarding funding between the shelter and the animal rescue organizations. Mr. Fletcher asked for an update regarding the new shelter and transparency as well as collaboration with the citizens.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chairman Marshall made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Evans seconded. Chairman Slaughter adjourned the regular session meeting at 5:45 pm.