**Valdosta/Lowndes County Land Bank Authority**

**Meeting Minutes**

**February 19, 2025**

**Historic Courthouse**

**Members:** James Miller, Joyce Evans, Jack Oliver, Sandra Tooley, Carla Walker.

Others Present: Billy Steinberg, Charizma Harp, Eric Thomas

The meeting was called to order at 11:05a.m. Mr. Thomas led the Invocation.

**January Meeting Minutes Approval:** After reading the January minutes by Mr. Thomas, Mr. Miller asked if there were any corrections. There were none. Mr. Miller asked for a motion to accept; Mr. Oliver made a motion to accept, Ms. Tooley seconded. Motion carried.

Mr. Miller presented a proposal from the Center for Community Progress (CCP) to reengage, assess the progress, and to establish an action plan to further the development of the Land Bank. Ms. Evan asked if the proposal was to determine if the LBA was on track or to give us further direction. Mr. Miller stated for further direction. Ms. Evans stated that in 2021 the focus of the CCP assessment was to hire an Executive Director and to meet as an Authority instead of a committee and that has been accomplished. Ms. Evans added that at this time, the cost of involving the CCP would not be feasible. Like Mr. Miller, Mr. Thomas believed it would be beneficial to seek the assistance of CCP in moving LBA forward for the next 3-5 years. Ms. Tooley said she agreed with Ms. Evans because the LBA is starting to get organized and maybe the LBA can revisit the proposal in the future. Mr. Miller explained upon learning the LBA has secured an Executive Director, the CCP believed it would be a good time to get together to discuss strategies to move forward. Ms. Evans suggested sending the Director to them in the future for training. Ms. Walker asks what the strategies in the last assessment were and could Mr. Thomas implement those strategies before the LBA uses the CCP services again. Ms. Walker also suggested that some of the LBA strategies will have to come from within. Ms. Walker stated that she would like Mr. Thomas to provide the Board with some strategies to move the LBA forward. Mr. Oliver inquired if there were time constraints to accept the proposal. Mr. Miller indicated that there was none, and the proposal will be tabled.

Mr. Thomas presented proposals on 822/830 Brookwood. Ms. Tooley asked if the proposals were of market value, to which Mr. Thomas indicated they were. Ms. Walker made a motion to accept the proposals, and the motion was seconded by Ms. Evans. Motion carried. Mr. Thomas presented proposals for 2531 Forrestwood Dr. and 106 MLK Jr. Ms. Tooley made a motion to accept the proposals and Ms. Evans seconded. Motion accepted.

Mr. Thomas discussed the donation property located at 1009 Hillside. Ms. Walker asked about the value of the home. Mr. Thomas said the assessor had valued the property at $69,900. Mr. Steinburg suggested the LBA get an appraiser to appraise the house “as is,” that way the LBA will have a better understanding of the value.

**Meeting adjourned at 12:05p.m.**