

12-5-96

7-96

# JOINT ORDINANCE

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, AND THE MAYORS AND COUNCILS OF THE CITIES OF VALDOSTA, HAHIRA, LAKE PARK, AND DASHER, GEORGIA ABOLISHING THE GREATER LOWNDES COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION AND ESTABLISHING IN LIEU THEREOF THE GREATER LOWNDES PLANNING COMMISSION TO EXERCISE ALL OF THE DUTIES, POWERS AND AUTHORITY FORMERLY EXERCISED BY SAID ABOLISHED COMMISSION AND TO INCLUDE THE CITY OF DASHER IN ITS MEMBERSHIP**

WHEREAS, the Greater Lowndes County Planning Commission was established by joint-ordinance in 1989 to include Lowndes County, the City of Valdosta, the City of Hahira, and the City of Lake Park, Georgia as its member governments, and

WHEREAS, the City of Dasher, Georgia has formally petitioned these member governments to become a member of said Planning Commission.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED jointly by the Lowndes County Board of Commissioners, the Mayor and Council of the City of Valdosta, the Mayor and Council of the City of Hahira, the Mayor and Council of the City of Lake Park, and the Mayor and Council of the City of Dasher, Georgia, that:

**Section 1. Abolishment of Prior Commission.** The Greater Lowndes County Planning Commission, as established in 1989 by joint ordinance of Lowndes County, City of Valdosta, City of Hahira, and City of Lake Park, is hereby abolished.

**Section 2. Creation of the Greater Lowndes Planning Commission.** There is hereby established a Greater Lowndes Planning Commission, hereinafter referred to as the Commission, to succeed to the general powers, duties and responsibilities of the former Greater Lowndes County Planning Commission, and as hereinafter more fully set forth. All acts, decisions, determinations and findings heretofore made by said abolished Greater Lowndes County Planning Commission, are hereby ratified and confirmed, and shall remain in force and effect until changed. Any unfinished business of the abolished Greater Lowndes County Planning Commission, including any scheduled hearings or hearings in progress, shall be assumed, continued and carried out by the Commission. All 13 membership appointments of said abolished Greater Lowndes County Planning Commission shall continue uninterrupted until the expiration date of their term as original members of the new Commission. Future membership appointments and re-appointments, including the addition of a 14th member representing the City of Dasher, shall continue as prescribed in Section 3.

**Section 3. Membership.** The Commission shall consist of fourteen (14) appointed members; five (5) members appointed from the Lowndes County Commission, five (5) from the Mayor and Council of the City of Valdosta, two (2) appointed by the Mayor and Council of the City of Hahira, one (1) appointed by the Mayor and Council of the City of Lake Park, and one (1) appointed by the Mayor and Council of the City of Dasher. All members shall be appointed for five (5) year terms and until their successors are appointed.

**Section 4. Compensation.** All members of the Commission shall serve without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for actual expenses incurred in connection with their official duties.

**Section 5. Organization, Rules, Staff and Officers.** The Commission shall elect from its members a Chairman and a Vice-chairman, each to serve for a term of one calendar year and until a successor is elected. The Commission shall meet at least once each month at the call of the Chairman, and at such other times as the Chairman or majority of Commission members shall determine. The Commission shall adopt rules and regulations for the conduct of its meetings and the transaction of its business, and shall keep records of its resolutions, motions, transactions, findings, determinations, and recommendations. These records shall be public records. The Commission may appoint such employees and staff as it deems necessary for its work, within the budget provided for its operation by the respective member governments, or other funds lawfully available to it.

**Section 6. Finances.** In the performance of its duties, the Commission may cooperate with, contract with, and accept funds from federal, state, local, public or semi-public agencies, or private individuals or corporations, and may expend such funds and carry out cooperative undertakings and contracts with any of the same within its lawful powers. The Commission is authorized to make expenditures for the purchase of required equipment and supplies, all, with exception of gifts to said Commission, or contract receipts, to be within the amounts appropriated for the purpose by the member governments of the Commission. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Joint Ordinance to the contrary, all checks or other orders of the Commission for the withdrawal of money from banking institutions shall be signed in accordance with the Commission's operating procedures as authorized by the member governments.

**Section 7. Powers, Duties and Responsibilities.** It shall be the function and duty of the Commission, subject to the direction and control of the respective member governments, to make surveys and studies of existing conditions and future developments and to prepare such plans for physical, social and economic growth as will best promote the public health, safety, morals, convenience, prosperity, general welfare, efficiency and economy in the development of the member governments. In particular, the Commission shall have the power and duty, subject to the direction and control of the member governments, to:

1. Prepare and maintain a local Comprehensive Plan, for each of the member governments, in accordance with State of Georgia guidelines and regulations, and make recommendations on any amendments thereto.

2. Prepare and recommend to the member governments the adoption of amendments or revisions to local development regulations, including zoning ordinances and maps, subdivision regulations, special ordinances, and the like.

3. Prepare and recommend to the member governments for the adoption of subdivision plats, or official maps, and amendments thereto, showing the exact location of the boundary lines of existing, proposed, extended, widened, narrowed, or closed streets, public open spaces, or public building sites.

The Commission shall have such additional duties and responsibilities and shall perform such additional functions and services as may be called for from time to time by the member governments.

**Section 8. Severability.** If any phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph or section hereof is declared unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such declaration shall not effect any of the remaining phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs or sections of this Joint Ordinance.

**Section 9. Conflicts and Effective Date.** All ordinances and resolutions, or parts of ordinances or resolutions, in conflict herewith are hereby repealed. This Joint Ordinance shall become effective upon passage by all member governments.

**LOWNDES COUNTY, GEORGIA**

ATTEST:

*Phyllis Waters*  
County Clerk

Date: 12-4-96

*J. Norman Bennett*  
County Commission Chairman

**CITY of VALDOSTA, GEORGIA**

ATTEST:

*Jan Aiken*  
Clerk of Council

Date: 12-5-96

*J. Hain*  
Mayor

**CITY of HAHIRA, GEORGIA**

ATTEST:

*Marilyn Brady*  
City Clerk

Date: 12-5-96

*John S. Adams*  
Mayor

**CITY of LAKE PARK, GEORGIA**

ATTEST:

*Ann B. Peterson*  
City Clerk

Date: 1/7/97

*Bess Williams*  
Mayor

**CITY of DASHER, GEORGIA**

ATTEST:

*Jonis S. Studoties*  
City Clerk

Date: 12/2/96

*J. Dasher*  
Mayor