

Lamar County Board of Commissioners
Regular Business Meeting
June 20th, 2017

Present for the meeting were Chairman Glass, Vice-Chairman Horton, Commissioner Heiney, Commissioner Traylor, Commissioner Thrash, County Administrator Zellner, County Clerk Davidson and County Attorney Mayfield.

I. Call to Order

Chairman Glass called the meeting to order at approximately 7:02 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation

Everyone said the pledge of Allegiance. Jeff Morgan of Antioch Baptist Church gave the invocation.

Recess for Public Hearing

Vice-Chairman Horton made a motion to recess for a Public Hearing regarding an application from the City of Barnesville to move approximately 103 graves from the Wadsworth Cemetery to the Greenwood Cemetery. Commissioner Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The board reconvened the regular meeting at approximately 7:42 p.m.

III. Agenda Approval

Commissioner Thrash made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of adding the approval of a Wellness Program. Commissioner Traylor seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Minutes Approval

Commissioner Traylor made a motion to approve the following four sets of minutes and Commissioner Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- i. Workshop Session Meeting-May 5th, 2017
- ii. Workshop Meeting-May 16th, 2017
- iii. Regular Business Meeting-May 17th, 2017
- iv. Special Called Meeting-May 24th, 2017

V. Board Appointments

- i.** Commissioner Horton made a motion to approve the re-appointment of Ms. Annie Ruth Bush to the Lamar County Division of Family and Children Services Board. Commissioner Heiney seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- ii.** Commissioner Thrash made a motion to table the appointment to the McIntosh Trail Community Service Board and Commissioner Heiney seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- iii.** Commissioner Traylor made a motion to re-appoint Douglas Matthews and Robert Cox to the Region 4 (West Georgia) Emergency Medical Services Council) and Commissioner Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Wellness Program

Commissioner Thrash made a motion to approve the Wellness Program Contract with Corporate Health Partners for an annual fee of \$50,800.00 and Commissioner Traylor seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. Approval of Burial Disturbance Application

Commissioner Thrash stated that it bothered her that the City of Barnesville had stated that no descendants were found and she would like to get feedback from the families as to whether or not they would or wouldn't want their families moved. Commissioner Thrash stated that it is their duty as elected officials to uphold the law and the constitution but that she would give up her position as Commissioner before she would give up her Christian belief.

Chairman Glass read the issues considered in the decision on the application for a burial disturbance permit.

1. The presumption in favor of leaving the cemetery or burial ground undisturbed;
2. The concerns and comments of any descendants of those buried in the burial ground or cemetery and are interested parties;
3. The economic and other costs of mitigation;
4. The adequacy of the applicant's plans for disinterment and proper disposition of any human remains or burial objective.
5. The balancing of the applicant's interest in disinterment with the publics and any descendants' interest in the value of undisturbed cultural and natural environment and
6. Any other compelling factors which the governing authority deems relevant.

Commissioner Horton stated that he was not being disrespectful but he didn't know anyone was buried there until recently and looking at the present situation he tries to analyze things in their present conditions. He has been looking and reading what the City of Barnesville has done and he has to go by what they have done and

give them his utmost respect. It takes dignity to make this move and those buried out there will have a better place where the graves are looked after and maintained. Commissioner Horton said, "I am not trying to be disrespectful but I didn't know anyone was buried there until recently. I have been analyzing things in their present condition and looking and reading things from the City and if we go about this with utmost respect and dignity to make this move then they will be in a better place. They will be looked after and maintained. If you go about this and do this in a proper way there is no disrespect. I don't think it is God's will to hold it against you." Commissioner Horton stated that during the train wreck 26 soldiers were dumped in a hole and that they should do whatever to put them in a better position than they are now.

Commissioner Traylor stated that this was heavy on his heart and that he teaches Bible Study at Rock Springs and multiple churches. He has done research and was unable to find scripture reference one way or another but that he is not a bible scholar. Commissioner Traylor said that his son saw the stress in his eyes and stated that he doesn't get paid enough for this job. He son said, "Daddy, make the best choice there is not just for District 3 but for the whole community". Commissioner Traylor said that he worries about what someone might say to him at the grocery store or because of his Spiritual beliefs and that he has to realize what might be keeping him from being able to stand before God is because of the opinions of what others think that is keeping him up. Commissioner Traylor said that he is thankful that people came out to support this regardless of the outcome. Commissioner Traylor said that this community is the reason he moved back to Barnesville and that he bought extra land around his house so his kids would want to move back to Barnesville to live.

Commissioner Thrash said, "Someone said to me on social media that I am just worried about getting re-elected. As Commissioners, we have a responsibility to everyone in this county and when we sit up here and make these decisions we have to think about what if we say no to this and what will the City think and then we are involving everyone in the City's process along with legal fees and appeals. Keep that in mind when you are thinking about things because these are the positions that we are in. The thing that bothers me the most is that the City has done more diligence on this than anything that I have seen since I have been in office. The thing that burns me up the most is the fact that I have heard that there are people who have descendants out there and if it was my great-great granddaddy I might feel the same way."

City Manager Roberts said, "We haven't denied identifying any descendants because plenty have been identified. An archeological team worked on this and posted on ancestry.com. and received comments from that site. They didn't object but said they wanted to be made aware of information as to what transpires. I understand the emotional issues and what happens after we die. The moving of these graves will add dignity, honor and respect. There have been no monuments and there never have been. We intend to memorialize, have a monument and record historical facts. We have made no argument about the confederate soldiers who died in train wreck and

that are buried there. But, based on records, you can't make a determination as to who is buried there. We engaged Auburn University and the Anthropologist Department who will assist in this process and will identify age, gender, and ethnicity and spend a substantial amount of time doing this. We want to facilitate if there is a mass Grave and will work to separate remnants and identify if there are civil or union soldiers and same artifact to reveal that fact. Please understand we don't feel callous or uncaring with this."

Chairman Glass asked if permit request were contingent on closing on land. City Administrator Roberts stated absolutely not and they won't proceed for at least 30 days.

Commissioner Thrash stated that she learned that according to federal records there were two military personnel in the train wreck buried at Greenwood Cemetery.

Commissioner Thrash made a motion to table the decision of the application for 30 days. Then Commissioner Thrash amended her motion to table the decision for the application for 30 days in order to have a proper military burial and line up the ceremony with the Sons and Daughters of the Confederacy. Attorney Mayfield stated that it was legal to table for 30 days from the Public Hearing but they must notify the applicant within 30 days with additional requirements. They can vote to approve or deny yes or no within 30 days. Commissioner Thrash then re-amended her motion to table the approval of the application to approve or deny on July 13th in a Special Called meeting. She also requested that they have a Special Military Service. Chairman Glass wanted to know how you can have a Military Memorial Service if you don't know who is buried there. City Manager Roberts stated that they don't know if confederate soldiers are buried there.

Commissioner Thrash made a final motion to have a Special Meeting Called Meeting on July 13th at 6:00 p.m. to approve or deny the application. Commissioner Traylor seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Traylor requested to hear from Southern Research and Mr. Dean Wood stated that he is an Archeologist and that you never want to get into this situation where you want to excavate bodies but it is common in this part of the country to move graves for industrial expansion and to excavate cemeteries. He further stated that he had once excavated a Native American gravesite due to a highway's industrial expansion.

VIII. Department of Natural Resources and Water Conservation Fund Project

Agreement- Resolution 2017-08

Vice-Chairman Horton made a motion to approve Resolution 2017-08 for a matching grant of \$100,000.00 and Commissioner Traylor seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IX. McLeRoy Contract for Demolition and Disposal of 19 Aldora Street (Nipper Property)

Commissioner Traylor made a motion to approve the contract with McLeRoy Inc. for a total cost of \$10,000.00 to demo and dispose of 119 Aldora Street in Lamar County. Commissioner Traylor seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

X. Surplus a Mitsubishi Television WS-B55 located at the Lamar County Senior Center

The board approved the surplus of a Mitsubishi Television WS-B55 located at the Lamar County Senior Center. No motions were made.

XI. Public Comments

Eddie Felton of 220 McCollum Road addressed the board with a request to have a sign placed on Hwy 36 and McCollum Road. Chairman Glass explained that this is a matter for the Georgia Department of Transportation but he would contact them and have something available before the next meeting.

Penny Hutson addressed the board and stated that she realized that this is weighing on Commissioner Thrash's heart and she could have a list of descendants for her to contact before the next Public Hearing on July 13th.

Ashley Gilles of 426 Abbott Road addressed the board and stated specifically to Commissioner Traylor that he had made a bold move in stating that there were no bible verses and read a bible verse related to moving graves. The bible verse came from the Old Testament and speaks of touching dead bodies that shall be unclean.

XII. Administrator's Report

County Administrator Zellner reported that in May the county had a negative balance of \$1,184,000.00 and the total receipts were \$234,000.00. Payroll and expenses were \$589,000.00. County Administrator Zellner said, "We were short \$1.54 million dollars and \$1.4 million was previously projected."

County Administrator Zellner gave the following report for the Month of May.

1. Accounts Receivable & Payable:

- i. Received the Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) distribution of \$77,053.43
- ii. Received the Special Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) distribution of \$137,400.59.
- iii. Total General Fund Receipt of \$233,812.93.
- iv. Processed 10 SPLOST checks for a total of \$75,781.17 which includes \$56,334.25 for the City of Barnesville's SPLOST portion.

2. Public Works

- i. Completed 91 Work Orders for a total cost of \$72,449.05
- ii. Included in the Work Order total:
 1. Scraped 4.7 miles of roads, with 72 man hours for a total cost of \$11,293.
 2. Completed 21 man-hours repairing potholes for a total cost of \$1289.23.
 3. Worked 39 man hours on culverts for a total cost of \$2,400.42.
 4. Worked 473 man-hours cutting right of way for a total cost of \$39,549.85.
 5. Put out gravel on roads with 75 man-hours for a total cost of \$9,746.07.
 6. Damaged signs with 7 man-hours \$559.78 and 3 man-hours on tree limbs for a total cost of \$67.91.

3. Planning and Zoning

- i. Issued 0 Commercial Occupational Tax Licenses.
- i. Home Occupational Tax Licenses Issued:
 1. 5 New
 2. 36 Renewals
 3. 6 Non-Renewals
 4. Issued 37 Walk-Ins and 72 Zoning Permits
 5. Issued around 69 verbal zoning verifications.
 6. 4 Plat Plan Reviews

4. Code Enforcement

- i. Completed 1 Code Compliance Inspection.
- ii. Completed 2 Code Enforcement Issue/Pending(Nipper South side Nippers)
- iii. Completed 2 Code Enforcement Issues Resolved
- iv. Logged 1210 miles using 79.4 gallons of gasoline.

5. Building Permits and Inspections

- i. Issued 5 Site Built Home.
- ii. Issued 3 Electrical Permit.
- iii. Issued 6 Accessory Bldgs. (Barnes, etc.) Permits.
- iv. Issued 3 Addition to Home Permit.
- v. Issued 1 Manufactured Home Permit.
- vi. Issued 1 Deck/Patio Permit.
- vii. Issued 1 Cell Tower Upgrade Permit.
- viii. Completed 53 Building Inspections.
- ix. Completed 4 Consultations.
- x. Completed 7 Sign Work Orders.
- xi. Certificate of Occupancy:
 - a. 3 Single Family Residences.

- b. 1 Dining Hall for Mama's Kitchen

6. Animal Control

- i. 24 Animal Control Work Orders.
- ii. 3 Dead Deer picked up.
- iii. 14 Dogs Picked Up.
- iv. 2 Cats Picked Up.
- v. 1 Goat Picked Up.
- vi. 13 Dogs Euthanized.
- vii. 11 Cats Euthanized.
- viii. 1 Dog euthanized for the City of Milner.
- ix. Logged 1500 Miles using 82.3 Gallons of Gasoline.

7. Senior Center

- i. 1 Facility Rentals-\$232.00.
- ii. 868 Congregate Meals served \$684.23.
- iii. 950 Home Delivered Meals delivered \$179.00.
- iv. Daily Activity Average at the Center 51.

8. Parks and Recreation

- i. Hosted the 2017 Tee-ball All-Star Tournament June 17th-June 19th. Also hosted the 2017 SYFC meeting (Football League) June 14th. Will be taking registration for 2017 Fall Sports (Soccer, Tackle Football and Cheerleading).

9. Fire Department

- i. Responded to 13 calls for controlled burning, cooking fires, grass fires, lightning strikes, trash fires and downed power lines.
- ii. Responded to 40 medical calls.
- iii. Responded to 5 vehicle accidents.
- iv. 37 calls cancelled in route.
- v. Total calls for March was 95.

XIII. Adjournment and Executive Session

Vice-Chairman Horton made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m.
Commissioner Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

THE LAMAR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Charles Glass, Chairman

Bennie Horton, Vice-Chairman

Robert Heiney, Commissioner

Ryran Traylor, Commissioner

Nancy Thrash, Commissioner

Attest: _____ Carlette Davidson, County Clerk