

LAMAR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORKSHOP MINUTES
August 13th, 2019
4:30 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. on August 13th, 2019. Present for the meeting were Chairman Glass, Vice-Chairman Traylor, Commissioner Horton, Commissioner Heiney, Commissioner Thrash, County Administrator Townsend, and County Clerk Davidson.

Recreation Director, Tiffany Lowe addressed the board with a plan to restructure the Recreation Department staff according to the performance of the recreation employees and title the positions to match what they actually do so that they can be successful. The current positions include Soccer Coordinator, Brandy Oglesby; Maintenance Director, Bo Ogletree; Park Maintenance, Joey Strickland; Recreation Maintenance, Michael Williamson; and Laborer, Red Fambro. The new structured positions are Programs Manager, Brandy Oglesby; Recreation Maintenance Supervisor, to be determined; Recreation/Athletic Specialist, Bo Ogletree; and Recreation/Grounds Maintenance, Joey Strickland.

Planning and Zoning Director Buice presented to the board a revised Alcohol Ordinance. The Ordinance will include definitions contained in the State Code book. The board reviewed the different license types and definitions. A licensed alcoholic beverage caterer means any person licensed for the sale of alcoholic beverages by the state and who possesses a license by a local government in the state authorizing such person to sell or dispense alcoholic beverages by the drink off the licensed premises and in connection with an authorized catered function. The board reviewed the definition of a brewpub and Planning and Zoning Director Buice stated that breweries and home breweries are on the cutting edge and are very popular. Planning and Zoning Director Buice added a section regarding brown bagging. Planning and Zoning Director Buice went over the difference between brown bagging and bringing your own bottle (BYOB). She said that brown bagging means that you can buy a bottle of wine at a restaurant and if it is not finished, they can bag it, cork it, and you can take it home with you. Planning and Zoning Director Buice stated that BYOB means you are allowed to bring in your own alcohol, such as bottle of wine, and drink it at the restaurant. Planning and Zoning Director Buice said that she took out the actual alcohol fees so that they can change them up or down and the Ordinance doesn't have to be re-written. In Sec-2-3-4 changed Compliance with Article to Compliance with Chapter. In Sec 2-3-20 changed corporation to officers and took out the section about advertising. Chairman Glass requested that in sec-2-3-21 that the portion regarding advertisement be deleted but said that he would discuss further with the Sheriff. The board agreed that with Sec 2-3-37 it is at the discretion of the board to approve the beer and wine licenses and if a hearing is necessary then the appeal would go before the Lamar County Board of Commissioners. In Sec 2-3-24, applicants must provide their name, address and phone number that they have had for past five years, employers they have for the past five years, a listing of any other license held in any other jurisdiction for alcoholic beverages, and any revocation of such license. In Sec 2-3-25, there was discussion about the posting of notice, specifically the section regarding posting a sign. Commissioner Thrash requested that a sign be posted when obtaining an alcohol license because of transparency. Commissioner Thrash addressed the section on character located in Sec 2-3-32. and how it is measured. Planning and

The board discussed the fact that currently alcohol licenses are due by Dec 1st, 2019 and are typically approved at the December Regular Business meeting. Chairman Glass requested that the second reading be ready for approval at the September Regular Business meeting with an effective date of October 1st, 2019.

Commissioner Horton inquired about the mechanisms that are in place for establishments that are not in compliance with the Alcohol Ordinance. Planning and Zoning Director Buice stated that those that were not in compliance would be handled by the Lamar County Sheriff's Office.

Planning and Zoning Administrator Buice stated that she would like to have a supplement Ordinance to the hotel-motel tax and that this will be a supplement to the zoning ordinance. She is modeling this ordinance with one from the City of Savannah, Georgia which involves short term vacation rentals. She said that they have a good Ordinance, application, and license form in place.

Planning and Zoning Buice stated that she has an upcoming request from Rock Springs Church for a new sign that shows an encroachment on the County right of way. She also has two code enforcement issues regarding people being on the County right of way who have not asked for permission and she is working with the County Attorney on this issue. Planning and Zoning Director Buice stated that the issue with Rock Springs Church is coming up for a variance hearing because of the size of the sign but the Board of Appeals can't legally give them permission to encroach on the right of way. Planning and Zoning Buice stated that the variance would not go on the agenda, only the right of way encroachment. They will need to wait until after the Board of Appeals meeting to see if the variance request is approved or denied before adding the encroachment request to the agenda.

Regular Meeting Discussion

The board discussed the Regular Meeting agenda for August 20th, 2019

- 1) The board added 4 sets of minutes to the agenda.
- 2) The board added the new building and zoning permit fee schedule to the agenda.
- 3) The board added Ordinance 2019-12 Hotel-Motel Excise Tax to the agenda.
- 4) The board added Ordinance 2019-13 Alcohol Beverage Ordinance to the agenda.

The board reviewed a request from Caldwell & Lowry Attorneys at Law, LLC., for a Title Ad Valorem Tax (TAVT) refund of \$4,064.55 which was paid to the Lamar County Tax Commissioners office in error. County Administrator Townsend said that the County Attorney and the Tax Commissioner have been going back and forth on the refund issue. The County Attorney said that the County is allowed to give their refund back but there is still a portion that the State and the School Board is responsible for. County Administrator Townsend said that the amount that the County is responsible for can't be determined because the TAVT system has been down. County Administrator Townsend said that a form is supposed to be submitted to the Department of Revenue and they are supposed to approve the refund but the County Attorney is stating that in certain laws from 2010, counties can approve refunds for their portion that has been paid to them. Chairman Glass requested that County Administrator Townsend speak to the Tax Commissioner about this issue.

The board discussed the fact that the Public Hearing for the Lamar County Board of Education will be held on August 27th, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. The Lamar County Board of Commissioners will need to approve the Resolution for their tax millage rate. The board agreed to hold a Special Called meeting on August 30th, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. and approve all of the Resolutions for the tax millage rate including the Board of Commissioners and the Board of Educations.

Commissioner Thrash reported that a lot of citizens are upset about Silver Dollar Road and the condition of the road because of the loggers. She stated that she met with Public Works Director Rigdon and he said he can't do anything about the roads until the loggers are finished. He said that all he can do at this point is maintain the roads to keep them safe. Commissioner Thrash said that the loggers don't like being told what route they have to travel and said that Public Works Director Rigdon assigns these routes for safety reasons. Commissioner Thrash stated that she will be giving a presentation to the legislators regarding logging on County roads. She said that the timber taxes don't cover the damage that is being done to the roads. Commissioner Thrash stated that many of the trucks on the roads are exceeding the weight limits which is also causing damage to the roads. Commissioner Thrash said that they need to hold the logger's feet to the fire. She said one way that might help would be that the logging companies be required to put up a separate repair bond attached to the bond that they currently submit. Commissioner Horton agreed and stated that something should be done and liked the idea of Commissioner Thrash giving a presentation to the legislators.

Administrator's Report

County Administrator Townsend presented a training proposal for a Management Development Program for Department Heads and Constitutional Officers. The training would be giving by Walt McBride with the University of Georgia for a cost of \$525.00 per person. Chairman Glass stated that he wasn't interested in paying this much for training and suggested that they reach out to Continental Tire, Jordan Lumber, or the School System to see if they can provide some training from their Human Resources Department.

County Administrator Townsend presented a Maintenance Plan for air conditioners in the Courthouse, the Sheriff's Office, the Senior Center, the Administration building, the Old Jail Museum and the Recreation Department. He said that if they hire someone in the Maintenance Department, they can purchase units at government cost for \$1,200.00 to \$1,300.00 versus \$5,000.00 to \$6,000.00 and have that maintenance employee install and maintain the units. The cost analysis shows for this year alone it would cost \$35,563.95.00 for the service. He said that he has a person in mind that is making \$23.00 an hour and they could pay them \$21.00 an hour. County Administrator Townsend stated that he would still have to advertise for this position. This person would have fewer hours and be closer to home and he wants to spend time with his family.

County Administrator Townsend stated that he was in the process of taking bids for copiers and maintenance services. He said that he is sending out a Request for Proposal, (RFP) in the next week.

County Administrator Townsend presented a Finance Report for the month of July. He stated that the July trends are off due to timing issues. He said that last year they paid Towaliga Judicial Circuit in September and this year they paid \$96,280.00 in August. The new Lamar County Health Department landscape and paving cost \$25,100.00 and this amount was not forecasted. Also, a third payroll was not forecasted in July. The receipts less disbursements on the cash flow forecast shows a negative \$276,000.00. County Administrator Townsend reported that the Tax Anticipation Note (TAN) balance as of July 31^s is \$2,645,000.00 and the remaining balance left to borrow as of July 31st, was \$1,155.00. County Administrator Townsend stated that Accounts Payable may go to every three weeks to help on cash flow. Commissioner Thrash inquired about Fire and Ambulance Fees. County Administrator Townsend stated that these fees are no longer being collected. Chairman Glass stated that pre-paid wireless fees are being collected monthly.

Chairman Glass reported that the 911 Control Panels will need to be replaced at the Sheriff's Office because the current company is going out of business and is no longer providing support.

Commissioner Thrash inquired about the Three Rivers Regional bus contract. Commissioner Horton stated that there is an upcoming meeting scheduled at the end of August that will include a discussion on the Three Rivers Regional bus contract.

Adjournment

Commissioner Thrash made a motion to adjourn the workshop meeting at approximately 6:45 p.m. Commissioner Horton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

THE LAMAR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Charles Glass, Chairman

Ryran Traylor, Vice-Chairman

Bennie Horton, Commissioner

Robert Heiney, Commissioner

Nancy Thrash, Commissioner

Attest: _____ Carlette Davidson, County Clerk