

Lamar County Board of Commissioners
Regular Business Meeting
July 21st, 2020

Present for the meeting were Chairman Glass, Vice-Chair Thrash, Commissioner Horton, Commissioner Heiney, Commissioner Traylor, County Administrator Townsend, County Clerk Davidson, and County Attorney Mayfield. The meeting was available to the public via Zoom.

I. Call to Order

Chairman Glass called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation

Everyone said the Pledge of Allegiance. The Invocation was given by Craig Ogletree Pastor of the Greater Hill Missionary Baptist Church

III. Recognition of the City of Milner Mayor

Chairman Glass recognized the new Mayor for the City of Milner, Andy Marlowe.

IV. Agenda Approval

Commissioner Traylor made a motion to approve the agenda with the removal of items 10; Resolution 2020-12 Major Subdivision Grove Park and item 11; Ordinance 2020-03 Rezoning Grove Street Park. Vice-Chair Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

V. Minutes Approval

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

- i. Public Hearing-June 4th, 2020
- ii. Special Called Meeting-June 4th, 2020
- iii. Workshop Meeting June-11th, 2020
- iv. Regular Business Meeting-June 16th, 2020

VI. Resolution 2020-07 New Cingular Wireless, PCS, on behalf of AT&T

Commissioner Heiney made a motion to table Resolution 2020-07 New Cingular Wireless, PCS, on behalf of AT&T until further research can be done. Chairman Glass stated that Resolution 2020-07 would be placed back on the agenda in August. Commissioner Horton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. Resolution 2020-09 Authorizing Adoption of the Lamar County Hazard Mitigation Plan

Commissioner Horton made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-09 Authorizing the Adoption of the Lamar County Hazard Mitigation Plan so that if a Federal or State Declared Disaster occurs in Lamar County both Federal and State funds can be applied for through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Commissioner Heiney seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Resolution 2020-10 Major Subdivision Fox Crossing Phase III

Planning and Community Development Director Buice stated that this proposed subdivision in Fox Crossing is for Phase III with 105 lots. She explained that this is the preliminary plat for the subdivision and any minor changes will be brought back to the board. Planning and Community Development Director Buice stated that there had been one issue and that was with the drainage in the Fox Crossing subdivision. She said that the engineers are following the guidelines and said that there should not be a problem with maintenance. She said that if an issue does arise, bonds will be called back in. She said that they are responsible for the first two years and after that, the County is held responsible. Commissioner Heiney made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-10 Major Subdivision for Fox Crossing Phase III. Vice-Chair Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IX. Resolution 2020-11 Minor Subdivision Forever Moore

Commissioner Traylor made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-11 Minor Subdivision, Forever Moore. Vice-Chair Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

X. Ordinance 2020-04 Rezoning Forever Moore

Commissioner Traylor made a motion to approve Ordinance 2020-04 Rezoning Forever Moore. Commissioner Horton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

XI. Ordinance 2020-05 Rezoning Fox Crossing Phase III

Commissioner Heiney made a motion to approve Ordinance 2020-05 Rezoning Fox Crossing Phase III with a variance request approval for a 70' centerline setback as opposed to the required 85' centerline setback, which is comparable to the setbacks in Phase II. Vice-Chair Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

XII. State of Extension Address-Lamar County UGA Extension

The board heard a presentation from the 4-H County Extension Coordinator, Octavia Jackson, and from the Agricultural and Natural Resource County Extension Agent (AG Agent), Haley Robinson regarding their programs and what they do in Lamar County. Ms. Jackson explained that extensions agencies were established based on the funding that would flow from Congress to the United States Department of Agriculture and then out to the Land-Grant Universities to be matched with monies from the states and counties receiving programs. The cooperative

extensions have brought the latest agricultural research and education from land-grant universities, such as the University of Georgia and Fort Valley State, to farmers and businesses. Ms. Jackson stated that she has worked with the students of Lamar County over the last 20 years bringing educational programs to each of them. She said that they do an array of activities including Community Service in Nursing Homes, Pack your Backpack, Health Fairs, and Public Speaking. The 4-H Youth Development is run by Ms. Jackson and they provide the following services to the students of Lamar County.

- **Community Service**
- **Project Achievement**
- **School Programming**
- **STEM Judging Teams**
- **Summer Programs**
- **Volunteers**
- **COVID-19 Programming/Response**

Mrs. Robinson works with producers and homeowners in Lamar County. As the Ag Agent for both Lamar and Upson County. Mrs. Robinson provides the following services.

- **Lunch N Learns**
 - (Homeowner Based)
- **Beef Cattle 101**
 - (Collaboration with NRCS and SWCD)
- **Southeastern Hay Contest**
- **Youth Livestock Shows**
- **Producer Programs**
- **Producer Tours**
- **Monthly Meetings**
- **Monthly/Weekly/Daily Tasks**
- **Covid-19 Programing/Response**

XIII. Administrator's Report

County Administrator Townsend reported that the collections in Lamar County are doing well. He said that the State revenue is down by three percent but the collections in Lamar County are up. County Administrator Townsend stated that C.W. Matthews may start paving next week but that the dates are subject to change due to the rain. County Administrator Townsend said Maintenance Director Beverly, is working on getting updated prices from Blue Bear Restoration to replace the windows at the Courthouse. County Administrator Townsend reported that the expenditures are at 41.67 percent and continues to be lower than projected. He said that the cash flow is above where it should be. County Administrator Townsend reported that a pipe on Old Alabama Road had been replaced. He said that it cost about \$10,000.00 to repair. He did note that the Public Works Department has been worried about snakes in the swampy areas of the roads and they are working on getting protective boots. County Administrator Townsend reported that Allen's Asphalt will be submitting a quote to pave a portion of the Old Alabama Road.

XII. Public Comments

Ashley Gilles of 425 Abbott Road Barnesville, Georgia addressed the board and stated the Lamar County Republican Party is hosting an event on September 4th at 5:30 p.m. honoring the First Responders. She stated that even though it is under the Grand Old Party (GOP) that it is a nonpolitical event. She stated that Doug Collins and Senator Marty Harbin are scheduled to be at this event to honor the men and women who risk their lives to keep everyone safe.

Calandra Foster Hunter of 132 Brooke Road addressed the board and said that she has lived in this County for 49 years and loves this community. She said that she was not aware that individuals could leave their livestock without any supervision. She said that her neighbor, Ms. Betty Jo Parsons, is also having the same issue. Ms. Hunter said that the goats are destroying her property and that there is poop everywhere. She said that she has called the Sheriff's Office, and Code Enforcement to come out to her property. Ms. Hunter says that he has a big white dog to guard the animals and she admitted to feeding the dog. She said that the dog stays on the road and people are afraid of him. Ms. Hunter said that the goat is a major problem because they stay in her yard, the neighbor's yard, and they also stay in the road. Ms. Hunter said that she has met with the property owner regarding this issue, but nothing has changed. She said that he brings his children down to the property, but he does not live there so they do not stay. Ms. Hunter stated that he lives in Atlanta, Georgia.

The board suggested that she send a letter to the property owner or have the Sheriff's Office to give the property owner multiple citations and then take it to the Magistrate Court. They also suggested that she contact the Department of Agriculture.

Ms. Hunter stated that the property owner has money and the citations would not bother him. She stated that the Department of Agriculture has been out there but unless the animals are in danger or they are being mistreated they want to do anything.

Ms. Hunter also reported that people are shooting high powered rifles in her neighborhood and that she has also contacted the Sheriff's Office about this. She said that cars are coming and going with no lights and it sounds like World War III.

Vice-Chair Thrash stated that this problem has been going on for a year and it needs to stop and that Ms. Hunter should not have to live this way. Planning and Community Development Director Buice stated that the only way to get anything done in the Courts is to show a progression of the actions that are being taken so that all of the documentation reaches the Court System. She said that the only way the Department of Agriculture will do anything is if the animals are being mistreated. Planning and Community Development Director Buice said that she would try to find someone in the County who could take the animals.

XIII. Round Table

Commissioner Horton praised and commended 4-H Coordinator Jackson and AG Agent Robinson for a fantastic presentation and their work with the UGA Extension Office and their presentation. He said that he is a musician and he loved watching them work the audience as much as he loves working the audience. Commissioner Horton stated that every one bleeds red

and when problems come up, they all need to remember "In God We Trust" and continue to pray.

Commissioner Heiney said that he agreed with Commissioner Horton and stated that the UGA Extension Office is an awesome resource for the County. He said that his children participated in the 4-H program and they were very blessed. He thanked 4-H Coordinator Jackson and AG Agent Robinson and said that he learned a lot.

Commissioner Traylor said he also echoed Commissioner Horton and Commissioner Heiney and thanked 4-H Coordinator Jackson and AG agent Robinson for their presentation. He said he had a student that was huge in the 4-H program showing goats and had won numerous awards. Commissioner Traylor stated that he helped him to prepare for a speech that he had to make in one of his competitions. Commissioner Traylor thanked the people for coming out to the meeting for whatever circumstance that they were there for and said that he hopes that they had a resolution for their issue. He said that he communicates with a lot of Chairmen and Commissioners around the State of Georgia. He says that even though the County does not do Facebook he relies on the Herald Gazette to educate the public. He said that he is not a Commissioner for the money but to help the community. Commissioner Traylor encouraged everyone to come back to the next meeting and asked everyone to stay safe and to take care.

Vice-Chair Thrash complimented the citizens for their comments on the Grove Street duplexes and said that she appreciated them coming to the meeting. Vice-Chair Thrash thanked 4-H Coordinator Jackson and AG Agent Robinson for working with the youth. Vice-Chair Thrash congratulated councilman Fred Stephens on his retirement and for his 17 years of service.

Chairman Glass thanked everyone for coming. He thanked everyone for helping out with the blood drive this past Thursday. Chairman Glass reported that 57 units of blood were collected at the blood drive. He said that there were restrictions due to COVID-19 and they could not get everyone into the building at one time. He said that it was hot and that they had fans running under the tents. He said that they had great volunteers and it was a safe operation. Chairman Glass spoke about the 100th Anniversary of the County and said that in August of 1920 the Legislature created a Resolution to create a new County called Lamar separating them from Monroe and Pike County. He said that in August it was approved by the Legislature and then signed by the Governor. He said that in November of 1920, it was on the ballot as a constitutional amendment to create Lamar County. He said that it passed with a Statewide vote and on January 1st, 1921 Lamar County came into existence. Chairman Glass said that they are getting close to this Anniversary and Lamar County is planning to celebrate as a County on January 1st, 2021 as the 100th Anniversary. He said that if they want a reason to celebrate start now in August because they pretty much knew it was going to be a new County in August of 1920. He said that it goes back to the forefathers and a lot of work was put into this to make sure the County was put into existence. Chairman Glass said that he has been happy with the services of the UGA Extension, and the National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). He said that he was honored to volunteer with the kids for the 4-H program even though the kids asked some hard questions.

XIV. Executive Session and Adjournment

Commissioner Heiney made a motion to recess the Regular Business meeting at 7:33 p.m. to go into Executive Session to discuss litigation. Commissioner Horton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The board came out of executive session at 7:54 p.m. Vice-Chair Thrash made a motion to adjourn the Regular Business meeting at 7:56 p.m. and Commissioner Heiney seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

THE LAMAR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Charles Glass, Chairman

Nancy Thrash, Vice-Chair

Bennie Horton, Commissioner

Robert Heiney, Commissioner

Ryran Traylor, Commissioner

Attest: _____ Carlette Davidson, County Clerk