

**Lamar County Board of Commissioners**  
**Regular Business Meeting**  
**November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020**  
**7:00 p.m.**

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 Pastor Kevin Thomas from the Church of the Nazarene.

**III. Agenda Approval**

Commissioner Heiney made a motion to approve the agenda and Commissioner Traylor seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**IV. Minutes Approval**

Vice-Thrash Thrash made a motion to approve the following 3 sets of minutes and Commissioner Horton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- i. Workshop Meeting-October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020
- ii. Public Hearing Meeting-October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020
- iii. Regular Business Meeting-October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**V. Second Reading 2020-07 Zoning Ordinance**

Planning and Community Director Buice addressed the board and said that this has been about five months in the making and started back in June of 2020 with the intent of creating sustainable neighborhoods and protecting the Agricultural Residential (A-R) zoned areas, encouraging small businesses, and home occupations. She said that there have been several community meetings, Lamar County Commissioner Workshops, Planning and Zoning board meetings, and input from citizens that have shaped the final product. Planning and Community Director Buice said that the official Public Hearing meeting for the First Readers was September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020 and the public did what they were supposed to do. She said that they looked at it and came back with suggestions and changes that led to the culmination for the Final Second Readers. Planning and Community Director Buice said that all of the First,

Second, and Final Second Readers have been posted on the Lamar County website. She said from the last Public Hearing meeting, regarding the Development Ordinance pertaining to the subdivisions, there were no new changes. Planning and Community Director Buice reported that in the Zoning Ordinance, there were several changes as follows:

- 1) Allow Home Occupations in Residential Zonings (R1-R-4) In the home only.
- 2) Allow a Onetime Special Events license.
- 3) Guest Houses must be on at least 2 acres. The property owner must live on the property.

Planning and Community Director Buice said that there were no other changes and from now until it is actually codified, there will be formatting that will need to be cleaned up. She said that there has been a lot of time and effort put into this and she said that she appreciated the time and opportunity.

Chairman Glass said that he was impressed with the public feedback.

Commissioner Horton made a motion to approve the Second Reading of Ordinance 2020-07 Zoning Ordinance. Commissioner Traylor seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **VI. Second Reading 2020-08 Development Regulations**

Vice-Chair Thrash made a motion to approve the Second Reading of Ordinance 2020-08 Development Regulations. Commissioner Traylor seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **VII. Resolution 2020-21 Budget Amendment**

County Administrator Townsend explained that the purpose of the Budget Amendment was to amend the budget. He said that on the revenue side, the insurance money that came in was for the damage to the dump truck which is in the amount of \$18,000.00, insurance money for damage to a motor grader panel that had to be repaired in the amount of \$10,757.00, and the surplus sale of the paving equipment in the amount of \$179,600.00. County Administrator Townsend explained that on the expenditure side, the Capital Outlay for the Public Works Department is \$197,600.00 and the Maintenance and Repair of Vehicles is \$10,757.00. He said that the total expenditures budget amendment is \$208,357.00.

Commissioner Traylor made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-21 Budget Amendment for \$208,357.00 based on the staff's recommendation. Vice-Chair Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **VIII. Purchase of Public Works Dump Truck**

Vice-Chair Thrash made a motion to approve the purchase of a new dump truck from Peterbilt of Atlanta for a total of \$148,773.60 based on staff recommendations. Commissioner Horton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## **IX. CPR Equipment for the Fire Department**

County Administrator Townsend stated that on the South end of the County the Fire Department has a Lucas device which is a Chest Compression System used for Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). He said that Fire Chief Matthews would like to have one on the North end of the County at the Parker Branch Fire Station. The cost for the device from Stryker is \$14,215.52. Fire Chief Matthews said that this will come from the Special Local Options Sales Tax (SPLOST) funds allocated to the Fire Department. Commissioner Traylor made a motion to approve and accept the bid from Stryker for a cost of \$14,215.52. Vice-Chair Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## **X. Administrator's Report**

County Administrator Townsend gave an Administrators Report. He said that for October the projection was for 83.33 percent on expenditures but the actual expenditures are at 78.01 percent. He said that they have been able to keep the expenditures lower. County Administrator Townsend said that the cash flow reports are higher than what was actually forecast for this year. He said that the State laws have changed making the sales tax distributions received higher than in the past years and also receiving funds from the CARES Act have helped out the cash flow. County Administrator Townsend said that he hopes that they can pay off the Tax Anticipation Note (TAN) next month.

## **XI. Public Comments**

Alesia Morris of 181 Unionville Road Barnesville addressed the board. She said that for the past 10 years she has been a Milner resident living on Moore Street. Mrs. Morris said that she has accomplished many things. She said that she helped to raise over \$25,000.00 for the City of Milner. She has helped put in new playground equipment and new flooring for the Milner Police Department as well as new flooring and cabinets for the Milner Fire Station, where the Community Ambulance resides. Mrs. Morris said that she has also assisted Tracy Alford with the Milner Pecan Festival. Mrs. Morris said that she received a Bachelor's Degree in Business Management last year. She said that she moved in with her Mother in Law this past August when her Father in Law passed away. She said her Mother in Law's vision is not doing do well so they were able to sell their house within 45 days.

Mrs. Morris said that off of High Falls Park Road there is a road called Unionville Road. She said that there is a dirt side and a paved side and she lives on the dirt side. She said that the paved said of Unionville Road takes you down to Johnstonville Road. She said that if you are standing on the dirt side of the road on the left-hand side is I-75 and the right side of the road is Hwy 36 towards Barnesville. Mrs. Morris said that she is requesting two extra stop signs so that it makes a four-way stop on Unionville Road and High Falls Park Road. Mrs. Morris said that when she comes out of the road, for the past 10 years, she has to look left, then right, and then left twice, making sure that no one is coming over the hill and the sharp curve by the church. She said that with an estimated 5 car lengths, with a car going about 45 miles an hour, this can make an impact. She said that she has two children and the bus wants to pick them up but she has to walk across the street which puts her safety in danger as well as the children's safety and

other people. Mrs. Morris says that she works at the school system as a substitute because she loves children.

Chairman Glass asked Mrs. Morris which street does she have to cross. Mrs. Morris replied that she has to cross High Falls Park Road. Mrs. Morris said that her Uncle, Roger Cole, lives on the paved side of the road. He works for Bottoms and Associates. She said that with the road being 45 miles per hour, not everyone does the speed limit and especially on a hill. Mrs. Morris said that as you are passing High Falls Park Road onto Unionville Road, the speed limit changes to 35 miles per hour because there is even a sharper curve. Mrs. Morris said that because of this, she feels it is beneficial to have a 4-way stop sign. She said that with the amount of traffic going to Gordon State College because they come from Macon or Exit 201 this would be beneficial. She said that there has also been a lot of traffic coming from I-75 and they take Exit 201 onto High Falls Park Road and then onto Unionville Road to get to Johnstonville Road if Exit 198 is closed. Mrs. Morris said that Exit 198 has been closed almost every weekend for the past two months for construction. Mrs. Morris said that she has heard rumors that a trucking lane is being put in which will be even more of a problem. She said that she plans on building her dream house, on 38 acres, in the next couple of years, on this road so she will be there forever.

Mrs. Morris said that she contacted the Transportation Department and asked if the bus can come down Unionville road. She said that there is a turnaround spot for them but their main concern is not having enough bus drivers this year because of COVID-19 and maintenance for the buses. Mrs. Morris said that she did hear that they just got a new bus for this route. She said that if they cannot come down Unionville Road, and having two kids, and herself having Cerebral Palsy, then crossing High Falls Park Road and having to wait if someone is coming down the road on a hill at 45 miles per hour and putting other kids on the bus in danger, then this is a problem. Mrs. Morris said that the Transportation Department told the bus driver it was okay for her to go in the middle of the road for them to walk across the street. Mrs. Morris said that she lives on the dirt part of Unionville Road and there is the paved side of Unionville Road. The bus driver has to turn down the paved side of Unionville Road to pick up other children. Mrs. Morris said that she has already tried going across the street and parking her car across the grass to get the kids on the bus safely. She said that cars were trying to turn in and then they see the bus. Mrs. Morris said that if they put in the stop signs, she would suggest that they also put in rumble strips before the curve and a bus stop sign or a stop ahead sign. She said if there are stop signs located there then she would not mind walking her kids across the street if the bus cannot come down the road.

Mrs. Morris said that they also need to look at the shrubbery on the side of the road because they have to look over the trees to see the traffic. Chairman Glass and Vice-Chair Thrash said that they would investigate this issue as soon as possible. Mrs. Morris thanked the board for their time.

## **XII. Round Table**

Commissioner Traylor recognized Talajjah Murphy for being nominated and accepted to the Emerging County Leaders Program on behalf of Lamar County. The program is designed to bring awareness and teach students the core principles and skills of County leadership, public

relations, civic responsibility, and research skills. Commissioner Traylor said that Ms. Murphy is a Senior at Lamar County High School, attends Gordon State College as a Senior, and is heavily involved in the community. Commissioner Traylor said that as a part of the Emerging County Leaders Program, she was required to attend a Board of Commissioners meeting.

Chairman Glass said that the runoff election will be held on January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020 and early voting will begin on December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020. He said that there is no requirement for Saturday voting. He said that the first week of early voting will be the full five days and the second week contains Christmas Eve and Christmas Day so there will only be three days of early voting. He said that the third week will be four days of early voting because of the January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 holiday. He said that you can also mail-in absentee ballots and in-person voting at all six precincts.

**XIII. Executive Session and Adjournment**

Commissioner Horton made a motion to recess the meeting to go into Executive Session for Personnel and Litigation at approximately 7:28 p.m. Vice-Chair Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The board came out of executive session. Vice-Chair Thrash made a motion to adjourn the Regular Business meeting at approximately 7:50 p.m. Commissioner Horton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

THE LAMAR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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Charles Glass, Chairman

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Nancy Thrash, Vice-Chair

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Bennie Horton, Commissioner

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Robert Heiney, Commissioner

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Ryran Traylor, Commissioner

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ Carlette Davidson, County Clerk