

Lamar County Board of Commissioners
Regular Business Meeting
April 20th, 2021

Present for the meeting were Chairman Glass, Vice-Chairman Horton, Commissioner Heiney, Commissioner Traylor, Commissioner Thrash, County Administrator Townsend, County Clerk Davidson, and County Attorney Mayfield. The meeting was available 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 Jimmy Fambro of the Hope Tree Ministries.

III. Recess for Public Hearing

Commissioner Heiney made a motion to recess the Regular Business Meeting to go into a Public Hearing. Vice-Chairman Horton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Reconvene the Regular Business Meeting

The board reconvened the Regular Business meeting at approximately 7:51 p.m.

V. Agenda Approval

Commissioner Traylor made a motion to approve the agenda with the removal of the V.F.W. 75th Anniversary Proclamation. Commissioner Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Minutes Approval

Vice-Chairman Horton made a motion to approve the following three sets of minutes with the addition of the word minimum to the lot width dimensions in the March 16th, 2021 Workshop Minutes. Commissioner Heiney seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- i. Workshop Minutes-March 11th, 2021
- ii. Public Hearing Minutes-March 16th, 2021
- iii. Regular Business Meeting-March 16th, 2021

VII. Proclamations

Commissioner Thrash presented a Confederate History and Heritage Month Proclamation to the members of the “Barnesville Blues, Camp 2137 of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. The members present to receive the Proclamation were Bill Lindsey, Frank Abbot, and Leon Ross.

Commissioner Traylor presented a Nurse’s Week Proclamation to Nurse Manager Sherry Farr and other nurses from Lamar County. Other members present to receive the Proclamation were Laura Trice, Mollie Minter, and Nikee Rioks

VIII. Board of Appeals

Vice-Chairman Horton made a motion to approve Mattie Drake to the Board of Appeals representing District 1 and Commissioner Heiney seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Heiney made a motion to table the appointment of Lavetrece Walker to the Board of Appeals because she is an employee of the Solid Waste Authority, which is an Authority in the County. Commissioner Thrash requested that they check on this issue before making this appointment. Vice-Chairman Horton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IX. VoIP Communication-Wireless Technology

Commissioner Thrash made a motion to approve the contract with RingCentral for VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol) phone service for a \$1,585.00 monthly amount. The first five months of service will be free and will be managed by Wireless Technology. Commissioner Traylor seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

X. NFP-Health Broker

Commissioner Traylor made a motion to approve the Health Care broker contract with NFP for \$1,109,036.00. The service date of the contract runs from June 30th, 2021 to July 1st, 2022. The cost difference from 2020 is \$165,153.00 which is a 17.50 percent increase. Vice-Chairman Horton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

XI. Corporate Health Partners (CHP)

Commissioner Traylor made a motion to approve the Wellness Program base contract with Corporate Health Partners (CHP) in the amount of \$53,740.00. The service date of the contract runs from May 1, 2021, to April 30, 2022. The board agreed to learn more about an add-on to the contract for a diabetes program that would cost the County \$280.00 per employee. Commissioner Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

XII. Contract for the Augusta Radio Fellowship Institute, Inc.

Vice-Chairman Horton made a motion to approve a lease agreement with Augusta Radio Fellowship Institute, Inc. for \$120.58 per month from April 2021 to December 31st, 2021. Commissioner Heiney seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

XIII. Towaliga Circuit Budget

County Administrator Townsend presented the Towaliga Circuit Budget and the breakdown for each entity. The Towaliga Judicial Circuit budget increased from \$64,133.19 to \$77,277.908 which is a 20 percent increase. The Public Defender budget increased from \$39,997.55 to \$50,410.85 which is a 26 percent increase. The Towaliga Accountability Court budget increased from \$10,3243.17 to \$10,500.00 which is an increase of 1.7 percent. County Administrator Townsend explained that the caseload was backed up due to COVID-19 last year and into this year. He said that a lot of those cases will need to be solved. County Administrator Townsend said that there is enough money in the budget that will cover the cost this year and then he will adjust it into next year's budget. County Administrator Townsend said that the only one he will be short in is the Accountability Court. He said that he should be able to move this from the Court Reporter's budget to cover it. Chairman Glass said that Lamar County is taking a two percent increase based on population. County Administrator Townsend said that Lamar County has gone from 23 percent in 2020 to 27 percent in 2022. Commissioner Thrash made a motion to approve the Towaliga Circuit Budget from July 1st, 2021 to June 30th, 2022. Commissioner Traylor seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

XIV. Bid for Sweeper

Commissioner Traylor made a motion to accept the bid for a sweeper from Yancey/CAT for \$8,400.00 which is for an attachment to the rubber tire loader. Commissioner Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

XV. Financial Policy

County Administrator Townsend presented a new Financial Policy to the board which will delete Section 2-2-111-119 in the Lamar County Code Book and replace it with the new Financial Policy. The Financial Policy will follow the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) rules. County Administrator Townsend stated that the Financial Policy will address things such as Auditing, Budgeting Policies, Revenue Policies, Capital Improvement Projects, Investments, Debt Service, Purchasing Policies, Line-Item Amendments, Grant Management, and Travel. County Administrator Townsend said that one of the changes in the Financial Policy was from the Constitutional Officers concerning the distance of travel for training. He said that travel within 80 miles one way of the workplace is considered local and overnight stay is not allowed unless the traveler is attending training for two or more consecutive nights. This was changed to 50 miles.

XVI. Ordinance 2021-05 Kong Real Estate Holdings, LLC.

Planning and Community Development Director Buice addressed the board with the request from Kong Real Estate Holdings, LLC. She said that this is a rezoning application to rezone

from Highway Commercial with the condition prohibiting access to and from the property via Silver Dollar Road to Highway Commercial without the condition prohibiting access to and from the property via Silver Dollar Road subject to further conditions of use which shall additionally restrict the use of the property and land as follows:

- 1) No gas stations, liquor store, or auto repair shop may be operated from this location
- 2) A natural adequate screening buffer shall be kept along the property line shared with Silver Dollar Road

Commissioner Thrash made a motion to table Ordinance 2021-05 Kong Real Estate Holdings, LLC. She said that she visited the location for about two hours watching the traffic. Commissioner Thrash said that the entire area is a dangerous intersection. She said that she would like to have the time to meet with the Planning and Community Development Director, the Public Works Director, the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT), and the concerned neighbors. Commissioner Thrash said that she appreciated Dr. Kong's comments and all of the citizens from Silver Dollar Road that were there to speak. She thanked Dr. Kong for acknowledging the citizens' concerns. Commissioner Thrash said that she would like to come up with an idea that is safe for everyone. She said that currently when you come off of Silver Dollar Road you have to cross over two lanes of the highway and then go up and make a U-turn and then cross over a hill with oncoming traffic. She said that the traffic in the morning time is something that she plans on addressing with the Sheriff. Commissioner Traylor seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

XVII. First Reading of Ordinance 2021-06 Financial Policy

Commissioner Thrash made a motion to approve the First Reading of Ordinance 2021-06 Financial Policy. Commissioner Traylor seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

XVIII. First Reading of Ordinance 2021-07 No Thurs Trucks on McKenzie Road

Commissioner Thrash made a motion to approve the First Reading of Ordinance 2021-07 No Thru Trucks on McKenzie Road beginning at the Milner City Limits and ending at the intersection with Martin Dairy Road. Commissioner Traylor seconded the motion.

XIX. Second Reading of Ordinance 2021-03 Timber Harvest

Commissioner Traylor made a motion to approve the Second Reading of Ordinance 2021-03 Timber Harvest. Vice-Chairman Horton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

XX. Resolution 2021-05 Tax Anticipation Note (TAN)

County Administrator Townsend addressed the board about the Tax Anticipation Note (TAN). He said that they wanted to make sure that the Resolution was in place with a line of credit slated for \$2,000,000.00. Chairman Glass noted that this was late in the year to acquire a TAN and that it will not be used if it is not needed but it will be put into place just in case the cash

flow falls short. County Administrator said that the goal is to get to October when tax collections start to come into the County. County Administrator Townsend said that they are requesting \$2,000,000.00 and last year TAN was for \$3,800,000.00. Chairman Glass said that he hopes that they do not have to draw on the TAN. Commissioner Traylor inquired about historical data related to past years with a TAN. County Administrator Townsend said that a ten-year plan was in place to reduce the TAN and said that this year the revenues have been higher than the expenditures. County Administrator Townsend said the goal for next year is to not have a TAN. He said that this will save the County interest of about \$37,000.00. Commissioner Thrash said that this is a beneficial step for the County and thanked County Administrator Townsend and the staff for making this happen. Vice-Chairman Horton made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-05 Tax Anticipation Note (TAN) in the amount of \$2,000,000.00. Commissioner Heiney seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

XXI. Resolution 2021-06 Deannexation of Property from the City of Milner

Planning and Community Development Director Buice addressed the board. She said that Mr. Vaughn owns two pieces of property that share a common property line. Planning and Community Development Director Buice said that one piece of the property is in the jurisdiction of the County and the other piece of the property is in the jurisdiction of the City of Milner. She said as the owner of both pieces of property, Mr. Vaughn, would like to take five acres, that is within the City Limits of Milner, and add them to the tract of land that is within the County's jurisdiction. She said that to do this it is called a Deannexation. Planning and Community Development Director Buice said that before the City of Milner can vote to deannex the property and said that it has to have a Resolution from the Board of Commissioners saying that it will be accepted into the County should they vote to let it go. Commissioner Thrash made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-06 Deannexation of Property from the City of Milner. Commissioner Heiney seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

XXII. Administrator's Report

County Administrator Townsend gave an Administrators Report. He said that LOST and SPLOST revenues are higher than the average forecast. County Administrator Townsend reported that the revenues were higher than the expenditures. He said that a bill for \$278,000.00 was budgeted in March but was paid in April. County Administrator Townsend said that there was a 90-day extension on property taxes due to COVID and revenue came in higher in March. He said that there was a bid for a Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant (LMIG) Safety Action Plan (SAP) that was received for \$38,000.00 that was used on Yatesville Road. County Administrator Townsend said that the Departments and the Constitutional Officers are doing a great job with keeping expenditures low. County Administrator said that the windows for the courthouse on the backside have been ordered. He said that he received a quote for the front windows for around \$47,000.00. County Administrator Townsend said that they are going to choose a window in the front of the Courthouse that has metal around it and he will take the metal off to see what he will actually be working with so they are not going granite to granite or wood to wood. County Administrator stated that the funds for the windows would come from Facilities in SPLOST. Chairman Glass said that the bid for the back windows

had already been approved and said that they will need to approve the bid for the front windows. County Administrator Townsend said that he is hoping that they can approve this in May.

XXIII. Public Comments

Ashley Gilles of 425 Abbott Road addressed the board. Ms. Gilles announced that the Republican Party will be hosting Senator Bert Jones on May 4th, 2021 at 6:45 p.m. at the Lamar County Courthouse.

XXIV. Round Table Comments

Commissioner Thrash announced that she lost her grandson and said that this has been the most wonderful community with her family except for a few people. She said that when something happens everyone comes together. Commissioner Thrash said that there are people in the community that use social media to prey on other people's problems and tragedies. She said that she thinks that it is a travesty and a shame and they will have to deal with what they do. Commissioner Thrash said that she wanted to publicly say "Thank You" to everyone that attended the funeral, sent flowers called, and texted. She said that they will not get over this but they will get through it.

Attorney Mayfield requested that everyone come and support the girls' Soccer Team on Thursday and the boys on Friday. He said that both the boys and the girls won Region 3AA soccer titles and will host playoff games here this week. The girls will host Swainsboro and the boys will host Vidalia.

XXV. Adjournment

Commissioner Thrash made a motion to adjourn the Regular Business meeting at approximately 8:50 p.m. Commissioner Traylor 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