

Lamar County Board of Commissioners
Regular Business Meeting
May 18th, 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 Jeff Morgan of Antioch Baptist Church

III. Agenda Approval

Commissioner Thrash made a motion to approve the agenda and Vice-Chairman Horton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Minutes Approval

Commissioner Traylor made a motion to approve the following three sets of minutes. Commissioner Heiney seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- i. Workshop Minutes-April 16th, 2021
- ii. Public Hearing Minutes-April 20th, 2021
- iii. Regular Scheduled Meeting-April 20th,2021

V. Surplus of Vehicles

Vice-Chairman Horton made a motion to surplus the following three Sheriff Office vehicles. Commissioner Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- i. 2010 Chevy Tahoe-1GNMCAEOXAR109982
- ii. 2010 Chevy Tahoe-1GNMCAE05AR108528
- iii. 2005 Chevy Avalanche-3GNEK12Z95G108967

VI. Board Appointments

Commissioner Thrash made a motion to approve Lavetrece Walker to the Board of Appeals and Commissioner Heiney seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Traylor made a motion to approve Laura Trice to the Board of Health replacing Jodi Kidd. Commissioner Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. LMIG Safety Action Plan Bid

County Administrator Townsend explained that Lamar County will receive a LMIG Safety Action Plan Grant for \$38,781.16 to be used for Yatesville Road. He stated that two bids were received; one from Peek for \$36,360 and another one from Midstate Striping for \$36,000.00. Commissioner Traylor made a motion to approve Midstate Striping for \$36,000.00 with the funding source coming from the LMIG Safety Action Plan Grant for Yatesville Road. Vice-Chairman Horton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. White Horse Partners LLLP and Loblolly Investments LLLP; Claim for Property Tax Refund

County Administrator Townsend explained that due to an administrative error in the Tax Assessor's Office a refund for overpayment of taxes for the years 2018, 2019, and 2020 was requested by White Horse Partners LLLP and Loblolly Investments LLLP; Claim for Property Tax Refund on Tax parcel 100-08. The amount of the overpayment is the difference between taxes paid and taxes based on the conservation and use assessment value. The amount of the refund is \$1,815.05. Commissioner Thrash made a motion to approve a refund to White Horse Partners LLLP and Loblolly Investments LLLP; Claim for Property Tax Refund on Tax parcel 100-08 for \$1,815.05. Commissioner Traylor seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IX. Recreation Gym Architectural Firm

County Administrator Townsend presented the bid for the Recreation Gym Architectural Firm. He said that there were two bids; one from Precision Planning for \$71,560.00 and one from JMA Architectural for \$135,102.00. Vice-Chairman Horton made a motion to approve the bid for Precision Planning for \$71,560.00. Commissioner Heiney seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

X. Resolution 2021-07 Special Exception in Agriculture-Residential to Operate a Kennel-Robert Leigh and Heather Henderson

Planning and Community Development Director Buice said that Robert Leigh and Heather Henderson have applied for a Special Exception to operate a commercial kennel in Agricultural-Residential located at 454 Forsyth-Yatesville Road. This is for map 101, parcel 101 013. The condition is 250 ft. from the property line as submitted in the zoning ordinance and in addition the condition is to limit the number of dogs to 33. Planning and Community Development Director Buice said that the condition of 33 dogs is already in place on site.

Commissioner Thrash said that if they limit the dogs to 33, and they plan to grow their business, will they have to come back to the board and amend the condition of 33 dogs. Planning and Community Development Director Buice said that they would if they wanted to remain on the same property. Chairman Glass said that this would also require new structures on the property. Planning and Community Development Director Buice said that the neighbors who are appeased now, because of the work that was done on the property to eliminate the noise level, would have the opportunity to be notified if they do grow. Chairman Glass said that at this

point, the condition is to limit the number of dogs to 33. Commissioner Thrash asked if they could amend those conditions to 40 dogs which gives them an opportunity to grow. Chairman Glass said that if they do this, they will have to put some other conditions in place because they would need a structure that could handle 40 versus 33 dogs. Commissioner Thrash asked the applicants if their structure could handle 40 dogs. Mr. Leigh responded that it would but said that they had not filled in that section of the property. Commissioner Thrash said that if the growth potential is there then why not change the condition to 40 dogs and give them that opportunity to grow as opposed to making them come back to the board. Mr. Leigh said that they were okay with either condition. Commissioner Thrash said that she would like to amend the condition of having 33 dogs to 40 dogs in the current structure. She said that this gives them an opportunity in a new business to grow and expand.

Chairman Glass asked why not have 44 dogs since they already have 3 runs of 11 each to handle the 33 dogs. He said that adding another run will allow for 44 dogs. Commissioner Thrash said that this was an even number that she choose as a growth potential and said that she is good with changing the condition to 44 dogs.

Commissioner Heiney said that it sounds to him like they are planning on moving out of this facility. Ms. Henderson said that at some point they do plan to move. Ms. Henderson and Mr. Leigh both said that they plan on being there for about a year. Ms. Henderson said that at some point they will have a facility away from their home. Commissioner Heiney said that there was not a lot of pressure to add on an additional capacity. Commissioner Thrash asked for an argument as to why this would not be a good thing for the taxpayers. Commissioner Heiney said he had no argument against it at all but said that he was saying that there was no compelling need to increase the numbers. Commissioner Heiney asked Commissioner Thrash if she wanted to increase the number from 33 dogs to 44 dogs with 4 runs at 11 each. Commissioner Heiney said that he was fine with this.

Commissioner Heiney made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-07 Special Exception in Agriculture-Residential to operate a Kennel run by Robert Leigh and Heather Henderson with the condition that the Kennel be limited to the existing structure only; a maximum of 44 dogs to be kenneled on the property at any one time. Commissioner Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

XI. Resolution 2021-08 Special Exception in Agriculture-Residential-Fortified Telecom on behalf of Verizon Wireless to place a Cell Tower at 1444 Hwy 18 West

Planning and Community Development Director Buice said that the applicant is Fortified Telecom on behalf of Verizon Wireless for a 150' cell tower to be placed at 1444 Hwy 18 West, map 10, parcel 010-013. She said that the Board of Appeals recommended approval.

Commissioner Traylor made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-08 Special Exception in Agriculture-Residential-Fortified Telecom on behalf of Verizon Wireless to place a Cell Tower at 1444 Hwy 18 West with the condition that the buffer requirements per Section 502(g)(3) are suspended until such time as the pre-existing natural vegetation no longer provides adequate screening. Commissioner Heiney seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Chairman Glass and the Board of Commissioners acknowledged that the request for Ordinance 2021-05 Kong Real Estate Holdings, LLC was withdrawn.

XIII. 2nd Reading of Ordinance 2021-06 Financial Policy

Commissioner Heiney made a motion to approve the 2nd Reading of Ordinance 2021-06 Financial Policy. Vice-Chairman Horton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

XIV. 2nd Reading Ordinance 2021-07 No Thru Trucks McKenzie Road

Commissioner Thrash made a motion to approve the 2nd Reading of Ordinance 2021-07 No Thru Trucks McKenzie Road; McKenzie Road beginning at the Milner City limits and ending at the intersection with Martin Dairy Road. Commissioner Traylor seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

XV. Administrator's Report

County Administrator Townsend gave an Administrators Report. He said that the County is doing very well. He said that the expenses are at 28.71 percent and they were projected to be at 33.33 percent. County Administrator Townsend said that they have not had to acquire the Tax Anticipation Note (TAN). He said that the cash flow is going in the normal trend. He said that the Local Options Sales Tax (LOST) distribution came in at \$122,076.76 which is the highest amount received in Lamar County. Chairman Glass said that the Lamar County School System also had their highest LOST distribution. County Administrator Townsend said that Courthouse windows had been ordered and that Blount Construction will begin paving on May 24th, 2021. He said that he is also working on the bids for the Animal Shelter.

XVI. Round Table

The board heard Round Table comments.

- i. Commissioner Horton said that he is glad that COVID is gone and that the Country is getting back to normal.
- ii. Commissioner Heiney agreed.
- iii. Commissioner Traylor thanked County Administrator Townsend and the staff for being active in not having a TAN and recognized that this was a ten-year plan that has been accomplished in four to five years. Commissioner Traylor thanked Robert Leigh and Heather Henderson for being in the community and for attending the Republican Party and the Rotary Club meetings. He thanked them for choosing to live in Lamar County.
- iv. Commissioner Thrash congratulated all of the graduates. Commissioner Thrash said that she and County Administrator Townsend had met with the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) along with Planning and Community Development Director Buice, and Public Works Director Rigdon about the dangerous sections on Hwy 36

including Eady Creek Road. She said that GDOT is looking at the possibility of changing some of the intersections.

- v. Chairman Glass congratulated all of the High School and College Graduates.
- vi. Commissioner Thrash announced that Commissioner Traylor's daughter is the Valedictorian for the Lamar County High School.

XVII. Adjournment and Executive Session

Commissioner Thrash made a motion to adjourn the Regular Business meeting at approximately 7:33 p.m. and go into Executive Session for litigation. Vice-Chairman Horton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The board came out of Executive Session and Commissioner Thrash made a motion to adjourn the Regular Business meeting at 7:45 p.m. Vice-Chairman Horton 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