

**Lamar County Board of Commissioners
Regular Business Meeting
March 15th, 2022**

Present for the meeting were Chairman Glass, Vice-Chairman Heiney, Commissioner Horton, 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. Keith Battle from Antioch Baptist Church gave the Invocation.

III. Agenda Approval

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

IV. Minutes Approval

Commissioner Horton made a motion to approve the following four sets of minutes. Vice-Chairman Heiney seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- i. Special Called Meeting-February 10th, 2022
- ii. Workshop Minutes-February 10th, 2022
- iii. Regular Business Meeting-February 15th, 2022
- iv. Workshop Meeting-February 28th, 2022

V. Child Abuse Prevention Awareness Month Proclamation

Commissioner Thrash presented the Child Abuse Prevention Awareness Month Proclamation to Kelly Paige and Christy Holliman with the Division of Family and Children Services (DFACS). April is National Child Abuse Prevention Awareness Month. This event raises awareness of the role that caring connections play in strengthening communities. Each year, we encourage local community groups to generate public attention to raise people's awareness of the campaign. 33 Pinwheels that are on display outside the Lamar County Court House this month represent the number of substantiated cases of Child Abuse and Neglect in Lamar County in 2022. The purpose of the pinwheels is a reminder to everyone that child abuse and neglect is a serious issue that is around us every day.

VI. Ordinance 2022-02 Rezoning from Residential 3 to Commercial

Vice-Chairman Heiney made a motion to table Ordinance 2022-02 Rezoning from Residential 3 to Commercial 2-Vacant 1.76 Acre Lot on VFW Road (Tax Map 33, Parcel 71)-Thomas Moss Commissioner Horton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. Ordinance 2022-03 Rezoning from Residential 4 to Highway Commercial-1400 Old 41 Highway, Tax map 018 portion of parcel 030B-Bedsole Investments

Commissioner Thrash made a motion to approve Ordinance 2022-03 Rezoning from Residential 4 to Highway Commercial-1400 Old 41 Highway, Tax map 018 portion of parcel 030B-Bedsole Investments. Vice-Chairman Heiney seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Resolution 2022-06 Special Exception in Agriculture: Concentrated Outdoor Commercial

Commissioner Thrash made a motion to approve Resolution 2022-06 Special Exception in Agriculture: Concentrated Outdoor Commercial-962 Gordon Road (Tax Map 062, Parcel 004 C3) Stillwater Trace, LLC- Ann Walker with the condition that no amplified sound after 8:00 p.m. Commissioner Horton seconded the motion. Planning and Community Development Director Buice said that the precedence is 8:00 p.m. Sunday thru Thursday at 8:00 p.m. and Friday and Saturday at 9:00 p.m. Commissioner Thrash modified her motion to include the condition that the amplified sound will cease on Sunday thru Thursday at 8:00 p.m. and Friday and Saturday at 9:00 p.m.

IX. Resolution 2022-07 Special Exception in Agriculture for Small Engine/ATV Repair

Commissioner Thrash made a motion to approve Resolution 2022-07 Special Exception in Agriculture for Small Engine/ATV Repair for 1269 Hwy 341 South with the condition that the hours of operation for running the ATVs start at 7:00 a.m. and end at 9:00 p.m. Commissioner Horton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

X. Resolution 2022-08 Extension of Moratorium

Commissioner Horton made a motion to approve Resolution 2022-08 Extension of Moratorium for a period of 90 days. Commissioner Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

XI. Resolution 2022-09 Special Election

Commissioner Thrash made a motion to approve Resolution 2022-09 calling for a Special Election. On March 7, 2022, Ryran Traylor, District 3 Commissioner on the Lamar County Board of Commissioners, qualified to run for election for Chairman of the Lamar County Board of Commissioners. His current term expires on December 31, 2024. The office of any State, County, or Municipal elected official shall be declared vacant upon such elected official qualifying, in a general primary or general election, or special primary or special election, for another state, county, or municipal elective office. The Lamar County Code of Ordinances provides that in the event of a vacancy on the board because of death, resignation, removal

of residency from the commissioner district, or for any other cause, and the unexpired term is six (6) months or more, such vacancy shall be filled for the unexpired term at a special election which shall be called by the election superintendent of Lamar County. The Board hereby notifies the Lamar County Elections Superintendent to call for a special election to fill the vacancy in the office of the District 3 Commissioner on the Lamar County Board of Commissioners to be held on November 8, 2022. Qualifying for the election shall be held Tuesday, August 2, 2022, through Thursday, August 4, 2022, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. The qualifying fee shall be \$108.00. Commissioner Horton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

XII. Public Defender-Doug Smith

Public Defender Doug Smith for the Towaliga Judicial Circuit presented his proposal for the 2023 Fiscal Year Budget. The dependency caseload between Monroe, Butts, and Lamar County was 166 in 2021 and 162 in 2022. The overall Fiscal 2022 budget was \$746,827.45 and the Fiscal 2023 proposed budget is \$746,824.02 which is a budget decrease of \$3.46. The Fiscal 2022 budget for Lamar County's portion was \$201,643.41 in 2022 and the Fiscal 2023 proposed budget is \$201,642.68 which is a budget decrease of \$.73. Reported he has lost several employees to Henry, Clayton, and Fayette County because they were able to offer an 8.5 to 10.5 percent increase in salary. Reported that he had received several State Grants including COVID money that helped to support his budget. Public Defender Smith reported that he had received a Summer Intern Grant for two interns from ACCG. This will be for recent graduates or their last year in Law School who can help to handle some cases in Court and possibly secure a position with the Towaliga Judicial Circuit.

XIII. RFP# 2201-01 LMIG

County Administrator Townsend presented 3 bids for the RFP# 2201-01 Local Maintenance Improvement Grant (LMIG). Piedmont for a bid of \$1,222,130.26, CW Matthews for a bid of \$1,130,100.42, and Blount Construction for a bid of \$1,143,708.56. The staff recommendation was for the bid from C.W. Matthews. The Priority List of Roads for the paving includes Burnette Road, Community House Road, Banks-Walton Road, Church Street, Johnston Street, Skinner- Bypass-Browns Springs Road, Lovejoy Road, McBroom Street, and Ware Street. Vice-Chairman Heiney made a motion recommending C.W. Matthews for the LMIG bid of \$1,130,100.42. Commissioner Horton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

XIV. Administrator's Report

County Administrator Townsend reported the following:

- i. Reported that revenues over expenses for the month of February are at 13.37 percent.
- ii. Reported that the Cash Flow includes the 10-million-dollar TSPLOST funds that came in from the Bond.
- iii. Reported that the Cash Flow is off due to a bill being paid in January instead of February.
- iv. Reported that he is waiting on bids for the Recreation Gym from Hogans and Barnsley Construction.

- v. Reported that he is waiting on a bid for the front of the Courthouse.
- vi. Reported that he met with the Architects and is waiting on their feedback for the construction of the building. The goal is to be in the building by the end of the year.
- vii. Reported that the Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) distribution was lower than in January. The distribution for LOST in February was \$122,486.92
- viii. Reported that the Special Local Options Sales Tax (SPLOST) distribution for February was \$218,726.44. Chairman Glass explained that the LOST and the SPLOST are all one penny each. The amount collected is virtually the same for both. The difference between the two is that the LOST distribution is the fifth penny. The first four pennies goes to the State, the fifth penny goes towards the LOST, the sixth penny goes toward the Education Local Options Sales Tax (ELOST), and the seventh penny goes towards the Special Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST). The Department of Revenue (DOR) distributes the monies to the counties and the cities. The SPLOST distribution comes to the county and the portions are divided among the cities.
- ix. Reported that in one month's timeframe the new ambulance service with Ameri Pro EMS has made 578 transports with 212 transports in Lamar County and 366 in Upson County. The new ambulance service came together in 90 days and the State was amazed that they were able to pull everything together after losing the service with Community Ambulance. Reported that overall, the new ambulance service is running smoothly but some bugs are in process of being worked out. Chairman Glass reported that the comments from the citizens have been positive and all of the partners from the Lamar County Fire Department, the County Administrator, and Upson County have created the perfect storm for the acquisition of the new ambulance service.

XV. Round Table

Commissioner Horton thanked the citizens for being concerned and thanked County Administrator Townsend and the Staff. He said that there is a wealth of information at the Administration Office and said that the staff or any of the other Commissioners can go into detail about any project or anything that a citizen would like to know about. Commissioner Horton said that the government is set up for the citizens and they need to make sure that everything is running correctly and if something is not running correctly then they need to go to the source or talk to himself or any of the other Commissioners.

Commissioner Thrash encouraged everyone to exercise their right to vote. She said that there will be some changes in the County and she wants to make sure everyone's voice is heard. Commissioner Thrash wished everyone a Happy Easter.

Chairman Glass said that he appreciated everyone coming out and thanked everyone for their time. He requested that the citizens provide ideas for things or issues that the Commissioners might not know about and asked that they bring them to the Commissioners with possible solutions. Chairman Glass stated that he appreciated the feedback that they received and said that emails and phone calls work well for him and the Commissioners.

XVI. Adjournment

Commissioner Thrash made a motion to go into Executive Session for Real Estate at approximately 7:51 p.m. Vice-Chairman Heiney seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The board came out of executive session. Commissioner Thrash made a motion to adjourn the Regular Business meeting at approximately 8:10 p.m. Commissioner Horton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

THE LAMAR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Charles Glass, Chairman

Robert Heiney, Vice-Chairman

Bennie Horton, Commissioner

Nancy Thrash, Commissioner

Attest: _____ Carlette Davidson, County Clerk