

**Lamar County Board of Commissioners**  
**Regular Business Meeting**  
**June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

Present for the meeting were Chairman Traylor, Vice-Chair Gilles, Commissioner Fletcher, Commissioner Lovett, Commissioner Thrash, County Administrator Townsend, County Clerk Davidson, and County Attorney Mayfield. The meeting was available via Teams Meeting.

**I. Call to Order**

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

**II. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation**

Everyone said the Pledge of Allegiance. Pastor Cole Smith with the Barnesville Christ Chapel gave the invocation.

**III. Agenda Approval**

Vice-Chair Gilles made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Fletcher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**IV. Recess for Public Hearing**

Commissioner Fletcher made a motion to recess for a Public Hearing. Commissioner Lovett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**V. Public Hearing**

Planning and Community Development Director Buice addressed the Board. The applicants are LOR Properties who are asking for a rezoning from A-R (Agriculture-Residential) to M-2 (Manufacturing-2) subject to the following conditions:

- An opaque physical barrier of a height of no less than 10' must be placed along all property lines that are shared with residential properties.
- A 50' natural buffer must be maintained along all property lines.

Commissioner Lovett inquired if there had been any responses from the neighbors. Planning and Community Development Director Buice responded that she had not but the applicant had spoken to them.

**VI. Reconvene Regular Business Meeting**

Commissioner Thrash made a motion to reconvene the Public Hearing. Vice-Chair Gilles seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**VII. Minutes Approval**

Vice-Chair Gilles made a motion to approve the following minutes. Commissioner Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

1. Workshop Minutes-June 13th, 2024
2. Regular Business Meeting-June 18th, 2024

**VIII. Old Business**

None

**IX. New Business**

**Resolution 2024-03: Line of Credit Recreation Lighting Upgrade**

Vice-Chair Gilles made a motion to table Resolution 2024-03: Line of Credit Recreation Lighting Upgrade. Commissioner Fletcher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Ordinance 2024-05: LOR Properties Rezoning from AR to M2 for Property on Breezy Point Way (061-002)**

**XI. Administrator's Report**

County Administrator Townsend reported the following:

- i. AmeriPro Health Report:  
Transported: 173 Refusals: 89 Cancellations: 23 Response Time: 7:18  
Mutual Aid Report Upson County 15 Pike County 1
- ii. Expenditures for the Departments should be at 41.66 percent and are at 38.93 percent.
- iii. Reported that revenues are running higher in the month of May due to receiving LAR funds of \$580,534,94
- iv. Reported that on the animal shelter: The concrete pad has been poured. The mason is laying blocks, and the electricity is being laid inside the block.
- v. Reported that in the month of May, \$143,266.49 was received for the Local Option Sales Tax (LOST).
- vi. Reported that in the month of May, \$251,344.00 was received for the Special Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST IV).
- vii. Reported that in the month of May, \$230,698.78 was received for the Transportation Special Local Option Sales Tax (TSPLOST).
- viii. Received a bid for \$30,800.00 bid for the brick at the Courthouse from Certified Roofing.
- ix. Reported that the County has several plans to reduce claims and expenses for the ACCG liability insurance. Reported that there was an overall 7 percent increase. Lamar County's overall increase is 6.2 percent. The County received \$4,000.00 for a Safety Grant, \$2,000.00 in Wellness Funds, and \$22,890.00 for a Safety Credit, and the County receives free ACCG/LGRMS training offered every year in all 12 months. Reported that County Clerk Davidson removed 14 vehicles from the inventory, and for

those vehicles and equipment under the \$5,000.00 deductible, they will only have liability rather than full coverage.

1. ACCG Safety Action Plan
  2. Drivers Training
  3. Sheriff's Office has an Incident Review Committee
- x. Reported that he had received calls about Cannafax and Van Buren Road regarding markings on the road and construction signs. Reported that Mr. Fleming had asked the men on sight about replacing gas lines. Reported that they worked on the bridges on Ethridge Mill Road, Cannafax, and Van Buren in September.
- xii. Replied to the May 21, 2024, Regular Business meeting Public Comments.
1. Harold Jackson-Yes, they do background checks on vendors. For any bid received, references and previous work projects are reported. They also check with counties that have used the vendors. EXP provides recommendations for paving companies.
  2. Chip Gardner-Reported from GDOT there is not enough area with the creek on the Hwy 41 and Five Points Road intersection to add a turning lane. He plans to meet with Tyler Peak and Daniel Trevorrow in Thomaston next month about the turning lane on Atlanta Street (Hwy 41) and Hwy 36. He will also discuss trimming the bushes on Hwy 41 and Five Points Road. Reported there may be some partnership funding as well.

Chairman Traylor thanked the citizens for shopping locally and for ordering things online. He said earlier today, UPS and FedEx delivered items to the Administration building, and he offered them a bottle of water. They reported an increased number of deliveries in Lamar County. Chairman Traylor said that when you order online, and it is delivered to your house, tax money goes to the community. If you go to Walmart or another store in another County, that tax money goes to their community.

## **XII. Public Comments**

Bonnie Martin of 626 Piedmont Road addressed the Board. Mrs. Martin suggested moving the podium because it blocks the audience's view of the Board of Commissioners. Mrs. Martin asked when the town hall meetings would begin as promised since it has been a year since the last one. What is the status of the Conflict Resolution issue concerning the Solid Waste Authority (SWA) fiasco? \$19,000.00 of tax dollars have been spent on a lawyer to answer questions. As far as they can tell, nothing has been resolved. Are the two Commissioners who serve on both the Board of Commissioners and the Solid Waste Authority Board acting legally or ethically when they vote on the issues of an engineering and physical audits? Why has the advice from the Conflict Counsel not been shared with the public? Did the advice not suit the majority of the Board? Why are they not being updated on the status of the Waste to Fuel Project? The December deadline is behind them, and the summer timeframe that Johnny Poore gave Fox 5 News is now here. How much longer is the continued delay going to go on? Mrs. Martin said patience can be a virtue and said what is going on in Lamar County is beyond patience. Ignoring the issue is not the way to run our County. People who are paying attention and voting and care, want, deserve, and demand to be informed. Mrs. Martin said they want constructive action.

Donald Hartman, 507 Old Milner Road, addressed the Board. Mr. Hartman congratulated Truman Boyle and said he looked forward to him serving District 4. He hoped the other Commissioners would take the opportunity to congratulate him before he goes into Office. Mr. Hartman thanked Walter Geiger of the Herald Gazette for an article posted on May 14, 2024, talking about the Cedar Grove Landfill, the Solid Waste Authority. Mr. Hartman said this is the way they get informed. He said he missed something when he read this in one of the other meetings. "Currently completing construction of a new lined landfill cell of roughly 6 acres, which is expected to come online within 45 days. Planning for another 17 plus acres". Mr. Hartman said he forgot that and that Johnny Poore specifically promised or made a statement that they would make landfills obsolete. He said it does not sound obsolete if they are going to be bringing another online. Mr. Hartman said they have to get some transparency here. He said it was a keyboard warrior at its best, and he does not agree with it. Mr. Hartman said he recently learned that Johnny Poore's operation does not like to go by the federal guidelines; non-compliance. He is not running a good operation. Mr. Hartman said he was not going to explain what he knows, but you should be smart enough to figure it out. He said he believes he knows with all his might that what he is doing is not right. He is in violation of the federal guidelines. Mr. Hartman said he would give them some time to figure it out, and then he would bring it up. He said they need town hall meetings because they are a great thing to have, and they bring about transparency. Mr. Hartman said in closing he thinks most of them know that Lamar County grew on June 11, 2024, and they gained another member of the County. Mr. Hartman congratulated Commissioner Gilles on her new baby.

Elaine Hallada of 131 Steeple Chase addressed the Board. Mrs. Hallada said she was one of the 90 percent that voted for a Solid Waste Authority (SWA) investigation. She said 2.5 net million dollars in revenue was what the SWA was supposed to generate for the County in 2017. It is now 17 million dollars and counting. She told the County Administrator the budget would look great if he had that money. Mrs. Hallada said the money could have paid off the new Administration Building, and the Lamar County Animal Shelter would have been paid for years ago, the new Senior Center Bus would have been paid for, they could have had an updated Recreation Department for the children, a new County swimming pool, more and better-paved roads, a new intersection at Hwy 41 and Hwy 36, and Courthouse repairs are all the items that could have been paid for years ago. She asked if it was wishful thinking to have the investigation added to the July meeting agenda. Mrs. Hallada said that 90 percent of the voters who answered yes to the question are waiting for the right thing to occur. Mrs. Hallada said she has been led to believe that anything legal discussed in Executive Session cannot be revealed. The Board of Commissioners represent the citizens and it is hard to understand why they are keeping the results from them. She said they are the citizens paying for services and have the right to know the outcome. Transparency goes a long way. Mrs. Hallada said she is still curious about how a Resolution was approved on July 20, 2021, and the AmWaste agreement was ratified the next day. She said that the Board of Commissioners are supposed to represent all of the citizens of the County.

James Hyde of 116 White Oak Drive said he made a statement at last month's meeting saying he wanted to clarify that Commissioner Lovett apologized for being wrong, and Mr. Hyde said he was wrong but said he was not wrong. He was right. Mr. Hyde said he did not see the joint

restrictive account on the Administrator's report for which \$1.00 for every ton of trash that goes into the landfill must flow by law. By monitoring that account and the influx to that account, we can see how much illegal trash is entering the landfill. By monitoring the outflow, we can see where they are spending the money. It is only one-third of the three dollars they are collecting. That one dollar is required by State law to go through that joint account. Mr. Hyde asked the account be included on the Administrator's report so the citizens have some idea of what is going on.

### **XIII. Round Table**

Commissioner Lovett said that a few people who normally attend the meetings and said that they were absent because they are working with the Elections. He said he had the opportunity to work with those folks and put out the election apparatus at the local precincts, which is an immense undertaking. He said when the Chairman of the Elections, Bill Christopher, addressed the Board of Commissioners at the recent Workshop meeting and requested funds, he felt it was his obligation to go and take a look at their process. Commissioner Lovett said it was extremely labor intensive. Commissioner Lovett said they would meet tomorrow morning at the old Administration building and invited anyone who would like to help disassemble the elections apparatus from the four precincts. Commissioner Lovett said going forward, there was a request for funding, and he would sincerely ask that they take a look at this because it is a labor-intensive process. He said for those involved in civic organization and needs some hours this would be a great time to get them.

Chairman Traylor said Reverend Collier preached a moving sermon on Sunday. He said something had been on his mind for several weeks, especially when he was enjoying a much needed vacation. The message resonated with things he used to comment on through Round Table that he has discontinued. Reverend Collier said they should encourage one another, love one another, and forgive one another. The forgiveness portion really stuck with him. Chairman Traylor said if he had wronged you, he apologized. If he had said something to hurt your feelings, he apologized. Chairman Traylor said his message really stuck with him, and he feels like the things that spoke to him so much was that, at some point, they have to accept each other's differences and their difference of opinion and the way they respond to emotional decisions. Chairman Traylor said ultimately, they need each other. For those researchers or Bible followers, he says in Romans 15: "Accept one another, just as Christ accepted you in order to bring Praise to God." Chairman Traylor said his goal has always been to find what is right for our community, what is right, and what is good, not what is popular. He said that what Rev. Collier went on to say helped him to remember the whole reason he decided to start doing this tough job. Chairman Traylor said that he knows that each of you here loves our community, and the Commissioners need you; the community and the young people need you. He said if anything can happen during this summer, we all need to work together to improve and continue to move our community forward.

### **XIV. Executive Session and Adjournment**

Commissioner Thrash made a motion to go into Executive Session for Litigation at 7:42 p.m. Vice-Chair Gilles seconded the motion. The Board of Commissioners came out of executive

session at 7:49 p.m. Vice-Chair Gilles made a motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 7:50 p.m. Commissioner Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

THE LAMAR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ryran Traylor, Chairman

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Ashley Gilles, Vice-Chair

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Jarrod Fletcher, Commissioner

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jason Lovett, Commissioner

\_\_\_\_\_  
Nancy Thrash, Commissioner

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