

**Lamar County Board of Commissioners
Regular Business Meeting
December 20th, 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. Pastor Ann Mann of the Barnesville First United Methodist Church gave the invocation.

III. Agenda Approval

Commissioner Thrash made a motion to approve the agenda with one change to the agenda, moving item # 6, Retirement Recognition, until later in the meeting because Vice-Chairman Heiney was delayed by the train. Commissioner Horton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Minutes Approval

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

- i. November 10th, 2022-Workshop Agenda
- ii. November 15th, 2022-Regular Commission Meeting
- iii. November 16th, 2022-Joint Intergovernmental SPLOST IV Meeting

V. FY2023 Annual Board Appointments

Commissioner Thrash made a motion to approve Smith, Welch Webb, and White, Attorney Scott Mayfield, as the County Attorney for Lamar County. The term is for a period of one year and will expire on December 31st, 2023. Commissioner Horton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Horton made a motion to approve Attorney Scott Mayfield with Smith, Welch, Webb, and White as the Open Records Custodian for the year 2023. The term is for a period of one year and will expire on December 31st, 2023. Commissioner Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Horton made a motion to approve the 2023 County Physicians for Worker's Compensation as follows. Commissioner Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- i. Drs. Woodall, Wilson, and Manley
- ii. Dr. Aaron Buice
- iii. Family Medical Center (Family Medicine) Griffin, Ga
- iv. The Hughston Clinic (Orthopedic Surgery)
- v. Orthopedics Sports Medicine & Surgery-Thomaston Ga.
- vi. Orthopedics Sports Medicine & Surgery-Brandon Boyce-Barnesville, Ga.
- vii. Resurgens Orthopedics-Griffin, Ga.
- viii. Resurgens Orthopedics-Fayetteville, Ga.

Commissioner Horton made a motion to approve James Butler as the County Surveyor. Commissioner Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Thrash made a motion to appoint Tyler Young to the Lamar County Industrial Development Authority for Post 2 due to the resignation of Jimmy Matthews. The term is for four years and will expire on 12-31-2026. Commissioner Horton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Thrash made a motion to re-appoint Erin Cook to the Lamar County Industrial Development Authority for Post 3. She will serve as the Chair for a term of 4 years which will expire on 12-31-2026. Commissioner Horton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Resolution 2022-23 FY 2023 Budget Approval

Commissioner Thrash made a motion to approve Resolution 2022-23 Budget for FY 2023 in the amount of \$13,998,436.00. Commissioner Horton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. Resolution 2022-24 Budget Amendment

Commissioner Thrash made a motion to approve Resolution 2022-24 Budget Amendment in the amount of \$5,997.59 for Safety Grants and Senior Activities. Vice-Chairman Heiney seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Vice-Chairman Appointment

Chairman Traylor explained that since the District 3 Commissioner position was vacant and in line for the Vice-Chairman position, they would move the Vice-Chairman position to the District 4 Commissioner position. Vice-Chairman Heiney made a motion to approve District 4 Commissioner Nancy Thrash for the Vice-Chairman position. Commissioner Horton seconded the motion. Commissioner Thrash abstained. The motion carried 2-1.

IX. Appointment of Tax Assessor Board

Commissioner Thrash made a motion to re-appoint John Wayne Robinson for a four-year term expiring on 12/31/2026 and to re-appoint Jere Moore for a six-year term expiring on 12/23/2028. Vice-Chairman Heiney seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

X. Resolution 2022-25 Tax Assessor Board Appointment.

Commissioner Thrash made a motion to re-appoint John Wayne Robinson for a four-year term Starting 1/1/2023 and expiring on 12/31/2026 and to re-appoint Jere Moore for a six-year term starting 1/1/2023 and expiring on 12/31/2028. Vice-Chairman Heiney seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

XI. Animal Shelter

Commissioner Horton made a motion to approve the animal Shelter bid for the Architectural Plans from Southern Classic for a cost of \$16,500.00. Commissioner Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

XII. Vacation/Comp Time Rollover

Commissioner Thrash made a motion to approve Vacation/Comp Time for people that have worked over 40 Hours toward the end of the year and have not been able to take their time. County Administrator Townsend reported several requests from various boards and departments. The Vacation /Comp Time would need to be used by March 31st, 2023. Commissioner Horton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

XIII. Administrator's Report

County Administrator Townsend reported the following:

- i. Reported that expenditures for the month of November should be at 91.67 percent and are at 85.99 percent.
- ii. Reported that the cash flow was off due to the Tax Commissioners Office not bringing in November Collections until December.
- iii. Reported that the gym renovation includes new metal on the outside of the building, foam spray insulation in the gym, new doors, LED lights, and the air conditioners are being shipped.
- iv. Reported that they are starting renovations in the new Administration Building.
- v. Reported that the old Accountability Court building is being renovated for the Mental Health Department. There has been a new handicapped bathroom added, new cabinets, and a new water heater. The renovation should be completed in January.
- vi. Reported that the Local Options Sales Tax (LOST) distribution for November was \$149,401.01.
- vii. Reported that the Special Purpose Local Options Sales Tax (SPLOST) distribution for November was \$265,111.69.

- viii. Reported that the Transportation Special Purpose Local Options Sales Tax (TSPLOST) distribution for November was \$240,071.91.

XIV. Retirement Recognition

Commissioner Thrash presented a Proclamation recognizing Chairman Traylor for his years of service over the last 12 years as a District 2 Commissioner and the Chairman of Lamar County. Commissioner Thrash recognized his service with blood drives and clean community workdays. Chairman Traylor has led the Community and the County with his knowledge and leadership and through the financial challenges of operating a County Government. The Lamar County Board of Commissioners, employees, and citizens of Lamar County honors and express their most sincere appreciation to Chairman Traylor for his years of service and dedication to the community.

Commissioner Thrash presented a Proclamation recognizing Bennie Horton for his years of service over the last 20 years as the District 1 Commissioner for Lamar County. Commissioner Horton has served the community with integrity and volunteers his time in the community and serving as the Chairman of the local Democratic Party. During Commissioner Horton's leadership, Lamar County entered a new era of economic prosperity and a newfound sense of financial responsibility. The Lamar County Board of Commissioners, employees, and citizens of Lamar County honors and expresses its most sincere appreciation to Commissioner Horton for his years of service and dedication to the community.

Commissioner Thrash presented a Proclamation recognizing Robert Heiney for his years of service over the last eight years as the District 2 Commissioner for Lamar County. Commissioner Heiney has served the community and his constituents with integrity. Commissioner Heiney routinely volunteers his time in the community and has worked tirelessly on election integrity. During his leadership, Lamar County entered a new era of economic prosperity and sustainability. Lamar County and the citizens have benefited from his leadership, knowledge, and calmness in the face of operating a County Government. The Lamar County Board of Commissioners, employees, and citizens of Lamar County honors and express its most sincere appreciation to Commissioner Heiney for his years of service and dedication to the community.

Chairman-Elect Rylan Traylor recognized Chairman Traylor, Commissioner Horton, and Commissioner Heiney for the lessons they taught him over the years as a Commissioner. He thanked them for what they had done for the community and stated that next year would be a challenge to fill their shoes. Chairman-Elect Traylor thanked them for their dedication and said they would always have a seat and be a part of the Lamar County Board of Commissioners.

XV. Public Comments

Elaine Hallada of 131 Steeple Chase addressed the board. Her concerns continue to be with Estate Residential, and because it is the last meeting with Chairman Traylor and Commissioner Heiney, she wanted to address them with the right to say what she believes. She said that as a

group that came before them and she feels they should have been treated fairly with the Estate Residential rules on Little Tobesofkee Creek Ranch. She originally had 20 affidavits signed by the different residents who had bought property in Little Tobesofkee Creek Ranch. Mrs. Hallada addressed her issues with Chairman Traylor and Commissioner Heiney and their hunting in an Estate Residential. Mrs. Hallada also addressed the issue with Chairman Traylor and Commissioner Heiney hunting for free in an Estate Residential. Mrs. Hallada read a statement from her husband regarding hunting in an Estate Residential and said that he is glad that Chairman Traylor and Commissioner Heiney will no longer be on the Lamar County Board of Commissioners.

Chairman Traylor stated that Mrs. Hallada could pursue civil action through the Court System or submit an ethics complaint in writing to County Administrator Townsend, who would pass it on to the Lamar County Superior Court.

XVI. Round Table

Commissioner Horton thanked God, District 1 and all the Lamar County constituents for allowing him to serve them. He thanked the County workers and the Constitutional Offices for working together. Commissioner Horton thanked Walter Geiger of the Herald Gazette for his knowledge because he helped him in his first meeting with constituents. He thanked County Attorney Mayfield for his hard work and asked God to continue blessing him. Commissioner Horton thanked County Clerk Davidson for making them all look good and said she had gone beyond the call of duty. He also stated that County Clerk Davidson's late husband knew his late wife, and she used to tell him how good a man he was. Commissioner Horton said that after he was sick in 2013, he promised the Good Lord that if he saw anyone in need, he would be there to assist them, and he proved himself with County Clerk Davidson and her late husband, Mr. Davidson. Commissioner Horton thanked County Administrator Townsend for his leadership and for getting the County into good shape. He thanked Commissioner Thrash and said that when she was sworn in at the Courthouse, her Daddy came over to himself and his late wife and asked that they watch over his daughter, which was an honor to him. He asked that God continue to bless her. Commissioner Horton thanked Vice-Chairman Heiney and said that he was a man amongst many. He said that he did not do like Peter when things got hot and heavy. Peter denied Jesus, and since Vice-Chairman Heiney has been here, they have been in some situations where it could have been easy, but he stood for right. He said there would be more for him and Vice-Chairman Heiney to do in the coming years. Commissioner Horton said that he has worked with many men and many smart men over the years, and in his opinion, Chairman Traylor stands at the top. He thanked Chairman Traylor for his leadership and said he could sometimes say something without saying anything. Commissioner Horton stated that there were a few times that he got that look, and it steered him in the right direction. He thanked him for his willingness and calmness and asked that God continue blessing him.

Vice-Chairman Heiney said it was a privilege to serve with Commissioner Horton, and Commissioner Thrash was a great mentor to him. He told Chairman-Elect Traylor that he had always been a great voice of wisdom. Vice-Chairman Heiney said that Attorney Mayfield was a pleasure to work with. He thanked County Clerk Davidson for all she had done and said

that he appreciated all that County Administrator Townsend had done with the finances of the County. He said he had done mighty work in turning this County around to get it where it needed to be. Vice-Chairman Heiney said that Chairman Traylor had been a great Commissioner and appreciated all he has done. Lastly, he thanked God that we have a free Country where people such as Elaine Hallada can say what is on their mind whether they like it or not, and he prays that their free Country never changes regardless of if they are right or wrong. Vice-Chairman said that he prays that the incoming Board of Commissioners that they too do mighty work and continue what the current board has started.

Commissioner Thrash said to the incoming Board of Commissioners that she wishes every constituent had to sit in their seat for 30 days and see what they go through as elected officials. She said that people are under the misconception that because they are elected officials, they can say whatever they want to say to them and do whatever they want to do to them. Commissioner Thrash said that they have Constitutional rights as well as anyone else. She said that it has truly been an honor to serve with each one of the Commissioners, and she feels like they are family. She said that when they have disagreed on things, they have done it behind closed doors. They have worked through their differences, and as evidence of the County's shape, she feels that they have done a heck of a job, and she hopes that the new incoming Commissioners will pick up where they left off. Commissioner Thrash said that with Chairman-Elect Traylor's leadership, they would have a strong board moving forward and prays that God will continue to bless the outgoing Commissioners.

County Administrator Townsend said he had received the knowledge about Lamar County from the Board of Commissioners and especially Chairman Traylor because he is like an encyclopedia of Lamar County. He noted that Vice-Chairman Heiney and Commissioner Horton have always been there for him, and he will miss them all. County Administrator Townsend said they have helped him grow as a Finance Director and Administrator. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

County Clerk Davidson said she had known Commissioner Horton since high school when his band played for her prom. She said he was a great friend to her and her late husband, a great Commissioner, and a boss. She said that Commissioner Heiney had been a great boss, Commissioner, and friend during her husband's illness. She said that she thanked God that he lived in Redbone, Georgia, so he could always be on vacation and said that it is God's Country. County Clerk Davidson said Commissioner Thrash had been her mentor over the years. She had supported and helped her grow in her work, as well as when her husband was so sick. County Clerk Davidson said that Chairman Traylor came on board about the same time that she did as a Commissioner and then a Chairman. County Clerk Davidson said that she came from K-12 to Local Government, and he helped her to learn and grow. She said that not only was he a West Point Graduate, but like her own Daddy, he was a walking encyclopedia and said that because of this, the County has grown with his leadership, and the County is in great shape because of it. County Clerk thanked him for all that he had done for her and all that he had done for the County.

County Attorney Mayfield said that it had been a pleasure serving with all three Commissioners, and they all bring something different to the table. He said that when one door

closes, another one opens, and all of them live here, and most have roots here. County Attorney Mayfield said they all have a servant's heart, and he is sure that he will see them again after today, either professionally or personally.

Chairman Traylor said that this is the most rewarding yet challenging job you can have. He said that he had enjoyed the last 12 years even though it had been hard work, and he thanked everyone that helped them out. He said he gets credit many times when he does not do anything. He said that sometimes things go well in this County if he gets out of the way. Chairman Traylor said that the comradery and the sense of community here on the board and in the community are unique. He said he had spoken to many Commissioners throughout the State of Georgia and other officials in other positions and many times they asked how they do it in Lamar County. Chairman Traylor said that many times he was so glad that he is not a part of that County and considers himself extremely lucky and blessed that he is in a County that does look out for each other and pulls together. He said he is looking forward to the next four years because they will have great ideas, new priorities, and goals. Chairman Traylor thanked everyone for all the support over the years and said it was an honor to serve the community.

XVII. Closing Prayer

Pastor Ann Mann of the Barnesville First United Methodist Church closed the meeting with a word of prayer.

XVIII. Adjournment

Commissioner Horton made a motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:04 p.m. Vice-Chairman Heiney Commissioner Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

THE LAMAR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
2023 Board Approval of December 20th, 2022 Minutes

Ryran Traylor, Chairman

Nancy Thrash, Vice-Chair

Jarrold Fletcher, Commissioner

Jason Lovett, Commissioner

Ashley Gilles

Attest: _____ Carlette Davidson, County Clerk