

**Lamar County Board of Commissioners  
Regular Business Meeting  
February 21st, 2023**

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

**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 Ricky Brooks of the East Mount Sinai Baptist Church gave the invocation.

**III. Agenda Approval**

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

**IV. Recess for Public Hearing**

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

**V. Reconvene the Public Hearing**

Commissioner Lovett made a motion to reconvene the Regular Business meeting. Commissioner Fletcher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**VI. Minutes Approval**

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

- i. Workshop Meeting 1-12-2023
- ii. Regular Business Meeting 1-17-2023
- iii. Special Called Meeting 1-19-2023
- iv. Lamar County Commissioners Planning Workshop & Retreat 1-26-1-27-2023

**VII. Ordinance 2023-02 Amendment for County Insurance**

Commissioner Gilles made a motion to approve Ordinance 2023-02 Amendment for County Insurance. Commissioner Lovett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **VIII. Comprehensive Plan Committee Appointment of Commissioner**

Vice-Chair Thrash made a motion to approve Commissioner Ashley Gilles to be the Comprehensive Plan Committee appointment for the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Fletcher seconded the motion. Commissioner Gilles abstained from the vote. The motion passed 3-1.

### **IX. Administrator's Report**

County Administrator Townsend reported the following:

- i. Reported that revenues over expenses for the month of January should be at 8.33 percent but are at 6.11 percent.
- ii. Reported that the December cash flow is above forecast by 3.62 percent.
- iii. Reported on the gym renovations; HVAC units have been installed, finishing the wood framing and painting, and the week of February 27<sup>th</sup>, the new floors will be installed. The groundbreaking with the Commissioners should happen in March.
- iv. Reported that the Local Options Sales Tax (LOST) distribution for January was \$144,262.73.
- v. Reported that the Special Purpose Local Options Sales Tax (SPLOST) distribution for January was \$248,174.06.
- vi. Reported that the Transportation Special Purpose Local Options Sales Tax (TSPLOST) distribution for January was \$236,234.96.

Commissioner Lovett requested an overview of how the 1 percent sales tax ( penny) is collected, how the local internet shopping has changed, and its impact on Lamar County. County Administrator Townsend stated that LOST stands for Local Option Sales Tax. He explained that in July of 2021, shopping locally allowed for the 1 percent penny to be collected and distributed based on where the products purchased were being delivered. He stated that in 2012 the property tax was 64 percent of the budget, and as of 2023, it is 46 percent of the budget. The LOST, SPLOST, and TSPLOST collections have all increased based on purchases from the citizens and visitors in the community of Lamar County.

Chairman Traylor emphasized the importance of shopping locally and having items shipped to your home versus driving out of town to pick up an order. He stated that anyone who travels through or to Lamar County and buys gas, food, or any other item contributes to the sales tax collections, which help pave the roads in Lamar County and any other infrastructure needed.

### **X. Public Comments**

Harold Jackson of 132 Laurel drive addressed the board about his concerns with the trash pickup in Lamar County and the City of Barnesville. He learned from the City of Barnesville Manager Turner and one of the City of Barnesville Council members that a homeowner has four days to dump for free, but they need to know what four days a year this is. Mr. Jackson said that he is not going to pay a \$26.00 fee to dump trash at the County dump so he will put it on the street. He said the limb truck had been broken, and a new limb truck had been ordered. He tried to help clean up the trash in front of his home because the City of Barnesville looks

like a third-world country. Mr. Jackson said that he feels that those who pay County and City taxes are being discriminated against and should have the same privileges as those in the County. Mr. Jackson stated that he would like the four-day dumping issue and the dual tax question to be answered.

Elaine Hallada of 131 Steeple Chase addressed the board. Mrs. Hallada said that she also has to pay when she dumps at the county landfill and said the fees for a county resident has tripled. She also had concerns with those from out of state being allowed to dump at the Lamar County landfill. Chairman Traylor said they allow those outside of Lamar County to dump at the landfill. He also said that residents in the County who pay for trash pickup are permitted a maximum of 4000 lbs. per year to be dumped at the county landfill. Mrs. Hallada said she would also like the Water Authority re-instated at the county level.

## **XI. Round Table**

Commissioner Gilles announced that on Thursday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023, there would be a meeting regarding Bottoms Road and Turner Bridge Road at the Courthouse at 6:00 p.m.

Chairman Traylor thanked Vice-Chair Thrash for attending the Regular Business meeting even though she was sick with allergies. He also thanked Hatch Woodall, the son of Wright Woodall, for working on his Boy Scout Eagle Project and attending the meeting. Chairman Traylor thanked all of the members of the NAACP for attending the meeting. He thanked Mr. Jarrell with the Three Rivers for his work with the Comprehensive Plan. Chairman Traylor thanked everyone in attendance for being at the meeting and encouraged the citizens present to contact the Commissioners outside of the Regular Business meeting. He said that the Commissioners are working for you, and after the recent Board Retreat, he knows they have a great board. Chairman Traylor said that at the Workshop meetings, there is not a pebble unturned, and a lot of research is being done. He said that it is all for the community and the goal is to leave Lamar County better than they found it. Chairman Glass said that they have a great staff and some knowledgeable directors.

## **XII. Adjournment**

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

THE LAMAR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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Ryran Traylor, Chairman

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Nancy Thrash, Vice-Chair

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Jarrold Fletcher, Commissioner

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Jason Lovett, Commissioner

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Ashley Gilles, Commissioner

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