

Lamar County Board of Commissioners
Regular Business Meeting Minutes
May 20th, 2025

7:00 p.m.

Administration Building

Present for the meeting were Vice-Chair Fletcher, Commissioner Lovett, Commissioner Gilles, Commissioner Boyle, County Administrator Townsend, County Clerk Davidson, and County Attorney Mayfield. Chairman Traylor joined the meeting via Teams.

1. Call to Order

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

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Everyone said the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Invocation

Pastor Bennie Tate of Rock Springs Church gave the invocation.

4. Approval of Agenda

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

5. Proclamations

1. Vice-Chair Fletcher presented a Proclamation to the Lamar County School High School Career, Technical, and Agricultural Education (CTAE).
2. Commissioner Gilles presented a Proclamation to the Lamar County High School Fine Arts Program.

6. Minutes Approval

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

- Workshop Meeting-April 10th, 2025
- Public Hearing-April 15th, 2025
- Regular Business Meeting-April 15th, 2025

7. Public Safety Tower and Radio Communications Presentation

Commissioner Boyle made a motion to table the Public Safety Tower and Radio Communications Presentation until he is finished gathering more information. Commissioner Lovett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Old Business

None

9. New Business

Commissioner Gilles made a motion to table Ordinance 2025-04 Francis Street, Tax ID 049 095 until next month due to various complaints, and noise and truck traffic on the roads. Vice-Chair Fletcher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Gilles made a motion to approve Ordinance 2025-05 James Cauthen 146 Hoyt Road, Tax ID 019 025. Commissioner Lovett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Lovett made a motion to table Ordinance 2025-06 Community House Road, Tax ID 082 046. Commissioner Lovett noted that the application is lacking a notarized signature. He suggested that Mr. Worthy and Mr. Mason meet and discuss this issue. Commissioner Boyle seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Traylor called for a moment of silence in honor of former Tax Commissioner Amanda Gamez.

Commissioner Lovett made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-10 Call a Special Election to fill the Vacancy of the Lamar County Tax Commissioner. Commissioner Gilles seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Lovett made a motion to approve a change in the 457B program with the option for a Roth account amendment policy. Vice-Chair Fletcher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Gilles made a motion to approve the Towaliga Circuit Budget for FY 2025 (attached to the minutes) Vice-Chair Fletcher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Lovett made a motion to approve the Roger Brown Project which entails installing a 54" x 120' Snaptile pipe. This includes removing two trees on the left side, installing two loads of rip rap, and 18 cy of grout. (The municipality will haul the trees). The staff recommend Wigington Contractors with a bid of \$115,360.00. Approval for \$75,000.00 was received from Bill Wright with the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) or 70% of the project. Commissioner Gilles seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Lovett made a motion to approve having a Haunted House at the Old Jail Museum with all of the profits going towards the repair of the Old Jail Museum. Vice-Chair Fletcher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

10. Administrator's Report

County Administrator Townsend gave the April Report.

Revenue Update for April 2025

General Fund: \$1,668,204.38

Total Fiscal Activity: 3,679,473.29

Expenditures: \$5,366,489.62

Total Expenditures: -\$1,687,016.33

Cash Flow Update:

Grant Total of General Fund: \$4,087,347.82

Special Revenue Funds: \$50,470.54

Capital Project Funds: \$2,831,524.27

Debt Service: \$3,887,275.22

Grand Total of Governmental Funds: \$10,856,617.85

Projects:

GDOT Project – Hwy 41 & Hwy 36 the signal arm has been ordered for the red light.

RFP for the R-cut and Atlanta Street curve modifications and culvert design. EXP will put bid out this month.

Working with property owners regarding right of way on Chappell Mill Road and Rock Springs Project

Collection Disbursements

Local Option Sales Tax (LOST): \$ 153,416.49

Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST): \$269,157.69

Transportation Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (TSPLOST): \$251,376.52

AmeriPro Health Transports

Request: 298 Transport: 172 Refusal: 98 Cancellation: 28 Response Time: 7:27

Mutual Aid with Upson County: 13 Pike: 2

10. Public Comment

Mrs. Hallada clarified that the lot Mr. Worthy is requesting to rezone is not 49 acres, as previously stated, and that the acreage has changed with the filing of new deeds. She expressed concern that individuals who spoke in favor of the rezoning do not reside within the community. Mrs. Hallada noted that the Board approved the estate-residential zoning in 1997–1998 and emphasized that the community is unique in nature. She added that Mr. Gunter had received the Homeowners Association (HOA) documents and their covenants.

Mrs. Hallada concluded by stating that she did not wish to appear confrontational or aggressive in opposing the rezoning, but she could be a pit-bull.

Cindy Bushby of 155 Redbone Run addressed the board. Mrs. Bushby said that she is opposed to the Community House rezoning. She said there are thirteen people in their subdivision opposed to the rezoning, six are in favor of the rezoning, three were relatives of the applicant, and three did not live in their subdivision.

Katie Cavanaugh of 136 Francis Street addressed the Board regarding her opposition to the rezoning application submitted by Justin Laney. Mrs. Cavanaugh explained that she operates a horse-riding school on her property and has done so for the past seven years. She expressed serious concerns about the potential impact of a commercial business being located directly across the street from her facility, especially given that small children participate in riding lessons. Mrs. Cavanaugh emphasized that the presence of heavy equipment poses a significant safety risk, noting that horses can be unpredictable in such environments. Her primary concern is the safety of the children who ride at her school. While acknowledging that she supports entrepreneurship, she stated that individuals should thoroughly research property zoning before making a purchase. She noted that purchasing property surrounded by low-income single-family homes and expecting commercial rezoning is not appropriate. Mrs. Cavanaugh further stated that she would never purchase farmland in an area likely to be rezoned for commercial use and urged the Board to preserve the quiet and peaceful nature of the neighborhood. She praised the strong sense of community among the residents of Francis Street and reiterated her concerns for her neighbors. She also mentioned using a vacuum system on her property, further illustrating her commitment to maintaining a clean and safe environment.

Woody Horst of 185 Francis Street, addressed the Board and began by commenting on the poor sound quality in the meeting room, humorously suggesting that if his taxes were lowered, the County could afford a better sound system. Mr. Horst noted that he is a neighbor of Katie Cavanaugh and formerly kept horses himself. He expressed concern about the safety hazards posed by commercial truck traffic, specifically citing the use of Jake brakes and downshifting, which could startle horses. He warned that it is only a matter of time before a child could be injured due to this activity. While Mr. Horst shared that he has mixed feelings, acknowledging his support for individuals starting personal businesses, he stressed that the increase in truck traffic would likely lead to the road being overhauled and widened. He reported the presence of a pothole between Sudduth Road and Francis Street, which has repeatedly caused damage to his farmer's market trailer, including a bent axle. He added that when semi-trucks travel through the area, they are often forced to pull into ditches due to the narrow road. Mr. Horst stated that he is currently trying to sell his property and believes he has a potential buyer, affect his property value. He concluded his remarks by quoting his father's advice: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you," explaining that this is how he wants to live.

11. Round Table

Commissioner Gilles recognized Vice-Chair Fletcher and County Clerk Davidson for organizing and writing the Proclamations presented tonight.

Chairman Traylor said he found out that Upson County has a County Manager's job opening and said they were thankful for County Administrator Townsend, who lives in Upson County, for doing an excellent job and staying on with Lamar County. He requested that everyone give him a round of applause. County Administrator Townsend said he was not applying for that job in Upson County.

Chairman Traylor stated that the Association of County Commissioners (ACCG) and Carl Vinson of the University of Georgia (UGA) provides Core and Specialty Track Training. Recently Commissioner Lovett was awarded with earning his Commissioner Core Track Completion Certificate at the ACCG Annual Conference. Vice-Chair Fletcher and Commissioner Gilles had previously been awarded with their Commissioner Core Track Completion Certificates. Chairman Traylor congratulated them all. County Clerk Davidson congratulated and reported that Chairman Traylor was also awarded with a Specialty Track Certificate: Quality of Life/Social Issues. County Clerk Davidson explained that along with the Core Certification there are 8 Specialty Track courses requiring many hours of training that any Commissioner, Manager, Administrator, or Clerk can take.

Chairman Traylor requested that everyone be safe, stay hydrated, because heat strokes can occur and to enjoy any summer trip they may take.

12. Executive Session

None

13. Adjournment

Commissioner Lovett made a motion to adjourn the Regular Business Meeting at approximately 8:13 p.m. Commissioner Gilles seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Lamar County Board of Commissioners

Ryran Traylor, Chairman

Jarrold Fletcher , Vice-Chair

Jason Lovett, Commissioner

Ashley Gilles, Commissioner

Truman Boyle, Commissioner

Attest: _____ Carlette Davidson, County Clerk