

LAMAR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Business Meeting Minutes

July 15th, 2025 – 7:00 p.m.

Administration Building

1. Call to Order

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

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

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. Invocation

The Invocation was given by Mrs. Norma Greenwood a guest of Vice-Chairman Fletcher. She was the former Assistant Superintendent for the Lamar County School System and a member of the First Baptist Church

4. Approval of Agenda

Vice-Chairman Fletcher made a motion to amend the agenda adding Ulanda Barkley in place of Dr. NaToya Fletcher to the Public Facility Board. Commissioner Lovett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Recess for Public Hearing

Commissioner Lovett made a motion to recess the Regular Business Meeting to go into a Public Hearing. Vice-Chairman Fletcher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Public Hearings

Planning and Community Development Director Buice presented two applications for rezoning.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert and Evelyn Harrell applied to rezone 2 acres of a 9-acre tract from Agriculture-Residential to Residential-2. This property borders other agricultural properties with sections of R-2 properties and R-3 properties nearby. This area is considered Rural Residential in the Lamar County Comprehensive Plan which advises larger tracts with “limited exceptions for 2-acre home sites on working farms. The approximate location of the property is on Walton Road, Tax ID 059 012. There was not a quorum at the Joint Planning Commission Board. Therefore, there was no recommendation from Joint Planning Commission Board.

Mrs. Kathryn Keadle has applied to rezone 2 acres of a 31-acre tract from Agriculture-Residential to Residential-2. This property borders other agricultural properties with sections of R-3 properties nearby. The applicant property area is considered Rural Residential in the Lamar County Comprehensive Plan which advises larger tracts with “limited exceptions for 2-acre home sites on working farms. The location of the property is on Bush Road, Tax ID 080 005. There was not a quorum at the Joint Planning Commission Board. Therefore, there was no recommendation from Joint Planning Commission Board.

7. Reconvene Regular Meeting

Commissioner Lovett made a motion to reconvene the Regular Business Meeting. Commissioner Gilles seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Minutes Approval

Commissioner Lovett made a motion to approve the following minutes. Commissioner Gilles seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

1. Workshop Meeting – June 12, 2025
2. Public Hearing – June 17, 2025
3. Regular Business Meeting – June 17, 2025

9. Old Business

10. New Business

Ordinance 2025-12: Rezoning from Agricultural Residential to Residential 2-Applicant: Kathryn Keadle (Tax Map 080, Parcel 005).

Vice-Chairman Fletcher made a motion to approve Ordinance 2025-12-Rezoning from Agricultural Residential to Residential 2-Applicant-Kathryn Keadle (Tax Map 080, Parcel 005). Commissioner Boyle seconded the motion. Commissioner Lovett abstained from the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Ordinance 2025-13: Rezoning from Agricultural Residential to Residential 2- Applicant: Robert and Evelyn Harrell (Tax Map 059, Parcel 012)

Vice-Chairman Fletcher made a motion to approve Ordinance 2025-13- Rezoning from Agriculture-Residential to Residential-2- Applicant: Robert and Evelyn Harrell (Tax Map 059, Parcel 012). Commissioner Lovett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Northridge Road Abandonment

Commissioner Lovett made a motion to begin the process of abandoning the dirt portion of Northridge Road. Commissioner Boyle seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Surplus Vehicles and Equipment

Sheriff's Office

Commissioner Gilles made a motion to approve to surplus a 2011 Dodge Ram, VIN# 9882 that was sold by the Sheriff's Office. Commissioner Boyle seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Recreation Department

Commissioner Lovett made a motion to surplus the following vehicles located at the Recreation Department. The vehicles will be sold in an auction with TAC Auctions. Commissioner Gilles seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

- 2002 Ford Van (VIN# 8212)
- 2005 Chevrolet Van (VIN# 0280)
- 2006 Dodge Ram 1500 (VIN# 3954)
- Bobcat 185 Series 3 (VIN# 6447)
- Ford Tiller (WV-2278)
- John Deere Tractor 2210 (LV2210H210731)
- John Deere Tractor 997Z (DM997SB010376)
- John Deere Gator 4x2 (VIN# 1698)
- John Deere Mower 997Z (00554)

Speed Limit Changes

Commissioner Boyle made a motion to approve the process to lower the Speed limit to 35 mph on the following roads. Commissioner Gilles seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- Evans Road: Establish 35 MPH speed limit
- Johnstonville Road: From Lanette Circle to Northridge Road – 35 MPH (limited sight distance)

Wilmot Road – Establish Speed Limit

Commissioner Gilles made a motion to approve and start the process to establish a speed limit on Wilmot Road. Commissioner Boyle seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

11. Board Appointments – Public Facility Board

Vice-Chairman Fletcher made a motion to approve Kevin Blosser to the Public Facility Board for a term of two years ending on August 17th, 2027. Commissioner Lovett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Vice-Chairman Fletcher made a motion to approve Linda Olivier to the Public Facility Board for a term of two years ending on August 17th, 2026. Commissioner Gilles seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Gilles to approve Ulanda Barley replacing Dr. NaToya Fletcher to the Public Facility Board for a term of two years ending on August 17th, 2027. Vice-Chairman Fletcher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

12. Administrator's Report

- June Financial Report
 - Total Revenue: \$5,234,821.62
 - Total Expenditures: \$1,634,705.08
 - Year-to-Date Expenditures: \$8,158,627.83
 - General Fund: \$2,527,035.80
 - Special Revenue Fund: \$69,445.18
 - Capital Project Fund : \$2,783,673.23
 - Debt Service Fund : \$3,887,275.22
 - Total Governmental Funds: \$9,267,429.43
- Project Updates
 - De-Humidifiers and Fans are drying out the walls at the Animal Shelter.
 - Doors and Frames are being removed for the contractors working at the Animal Shelter.
 - Plumbing repairs are ongoing at the Animal Shelter.

- Atlanta Street (State Route 7): Waiting for GDOT to install guard rails
- Piedmont, Howard, and Zebulon Road RFP goes out tomorrow for bid.
- Sales Tax Distributions
 - LOST: \$149,600.91
 - SPLOST: \$262,462.67
 - TSPLOST: \$243,244.51
- Ameri Pro Health project update

Request: 294 Transport: 168 Refusal: 90 Cancellation: 36 Response Time: 6:07

13. Public Comments

Elaine Hallada (131 Steeple Chase)

Reported that she recently came across a voicemail message left by Johnny Poore, which she had received three years ago. Recalled that during that time, she and two others had toured the Enercon building, where she observed equipment that was not in use.

Referencing the preliminary report from the Special Master published in the Herald Gazette, she noted that it mentioned tours of the facility occurring on July 7th, 8th, and 10th. Questioned whether any members of the Board of Commissioners had participated in those tours, whether they were invited, if the tours were attended solely by attorneys, and what was observed during those visits. Further asked whether what was seen during the recent tours differed from what she observed during her visit two years ago.

Donald Hartman (507 Old Milner Road)

Expressed concern regarding landfill operations based on his visit this past weekend. Reported that he took items to the landfill around 10:30 a.m. and noticed an additional scale in place. Observed large trucks entering the site and questioned whether Saturdays were intended for residential use only. Noted that the dumpsters were full and posed safety concerns for residents, as debris was falling from them.

Extended congratulations to all those involved with the Animal Shelter for successfully finding homes for all the animals prior to its temporary closure for repairs. Commended everyone for ensuring that no animals were euthanized during the process.

Concluded by mentioning that his water is currently discolored and expressed hope that it would be resolved soon, while acknowledging that the County is not responsible for the issue.

Harold Jackson (200 Laurel Drive)

Requested an update on the red-light installation on Hwy 35 at the 4-Lane intersection. Shared that he had had a personal near-miss with tractor trailers not stopping.

County Administrator Townsend replied that a couple of months ago the GDOT had to order the long arm to be installed at the red-light and reported that it would take six months or longer for them to receive it. Reported that are working with GDOT and the R-Cut below Hot Shot. The plan is to take the bridge out so that it takes away the danger of the tractor trailer trucks coming over into the other lane where people are having to slam on breaks to stop for the truck.

14. Round Table

Vice-Chairman Fletcher

Expressed his excitement about the successful rehoming of the animals, which allowed the animal shelter to close temporarily for necessary repairs Emphasized his strong desire to see the project completed as soon as possible so the shelter can reopen and continue serving the community.

Commissioner Lovett

Reported that the Board of Commissioners had no prior knowledge of the Solid Waste Authority proceedings or the visits from the Special Master. He stated that the Board found out at the same time as the public and emphasized that, in this matter, the community appears to have more access to the legal system than the Board itself.

He announced that a meeting with the Special Master is scheduled for Thursday. He is set to meet at 9:00 a.m., and Commissioner Gilles will meet at 11:00 a.m. He clarified that these will be considered interviews with the Special Master and that the County Attorney will be present, along with the likely presence of attorneys representing others involved.

Expressed that he wished he could offer more help to Mr. Hartman regarding the landfill but stated that “the landfill was given away to the golden goose long before I sat in this seat.” He also reported that he had been served again that evening and said it would be added to the ongoing stack of legal documents related to the landfill. He reaffirmed the Board's commitment to continuing the fight until the full truth is uncovered.

Concluded by giving Commissioner Gilles a round of applause for adopting one of the dogs that was available prior to the closure of the animal shelter.

Commissioner Gilles

Reported that the family recently changed the name of their dog from Oreo to Max, joking that she didn't enjoy calling for a cookie from her front porch. She shared that Max is doing well and has been a great fit for their family.

She also noted that grass cutting has resumed throughout the county and encouraged residents to be cautious and aware of mowing crews. Additionally, she reported that the sign machine had been temporarily down, but several signs will be replaced now that it is operational again.

Commissioner Gilles presented a large poster board from the recent "STEAM Carnival," featuring artwork created by children who participated in the event. The artwork reflected what the children love about living in Lamar County, with common themes including family, hearts, nature, and sports. Board members who attended the event shared with the children how their decisions as commissioners impact the county's future, and the children were asked to express through painting what they love most about their community.

Commissioner Boyle

Reported that he is currently working on several projects. He noted that traffic studies have become a major focus, and they are specifically addressing concerns on Morgan Dairy Road. Possible safety enhancements under consideration include the installation of rumble strips or "Stop Ahead" signage.

He shared that during a recent visit to the State Patrol Office in Forsyth, he learned there have been approximately 40 accidents since January 2025 either at or near the intersection of Fredonia Church Road and GA Highway 18. While not all of the incidents occurred directly at the intersection, they are considered related to it.

Commissioner Boyle stated that they will be meeting with the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) to explore potential solutions for improving safety at this location.

County Administrator Townsend

Reported that a Mid-Year Review with County Departments is scheduled for July 16, 2025. During this meeting, Department Heads and Constitutional Officers will present updates on their activities, discuss any challenges they are currently facing or have experienced, and outline anticipated budget needs for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Chairman Traylor reported that recent water issues have impacted both the County and the City of Barnesville unless residents are on well systems. He stated that he has spoken with Mayor Hughes, and together they are moving in the right direction. His primary concern is determining the necessary steps to prevent similar issues in the future.

Chairman Traylor also shared that he and his wife recently traveled over 2,500 miles across the country. They spent the Fourth of July in Williamsburg, Virginia, where they learned about the history of the United States. They continued on to Kentucky and toured the McLean House, where General Robert E. Lee surrendered to General Ulysses S. Grant. They then traveled to Little Rock, Arkansas, where they learned about the integration of public schools, and later

visited Hot Springs, where he discovered that the water naturally coming out of the ground reaches 140 degrees.

On the return trip, while driving through Memphis and Birmingham, they observed what he described as a "huge trash mountain." Upon arriving in Birmingham, they stopped at a Cracker Barrel. His wife, who had been driving, asked him to drive the remaining two hours home, expressing her excitement about returning to Lamar County.

Chairman Traylor shared that throughout their journey, he often thought about the many things he loves about Lamar County. He noted that although they could live anywhere in the country, they choose to stay in Lamar County because they love it, despite its challenges. He observed that potholes and road conditions were worse in many other areas, and he spoke with elected officials and law enforcement during his travels, stating, "I wouldn't trade their shoes for mine for anything."

He highlighted that great things are happening in Lamar County. Positions are being filled, and the Public Works Department is implementing creative approaches to expand its efforts. A new van has been purchased for the Senior Center, and many other positive developments are underway.

Chairman Traylor closed by saying he hopes everyone recognizes what a blessing it is to be able to travel, something not everyone can do, and that it only reaffirmed how wonderful Lamar County is for living and raising children. He wished everyone a safe July and said he looked forward to seeing everyone again in August.

15. Executive Session

Commissioner Gilles made a motion to adjourn the Regular Business meeting to go into Executive Session for Real Estate, Litigation and Personnel with no action being taken at approximately 7:59 p.m.

16. Adjournment

Commissioner Gilles made a motion to adjourn the Regular Business meeting at approximately 8:30 p.m. Commissioner Boyle seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Lamar County Board of Commissioners

Ryran Traylor, Chairman

Jarrod Fletcher , Vice-Chairman

Jason Lovett, Commissioner

Ashley Gilles, Commissioner

Truman Boyle, Commissioner

Attest: _____ Carlette Davidson, County Clerk