



LAMAR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Workshop Meeting

Administration Building

December 11, 2025, 4:00 PM

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm with the following board members present: Chairman Ryran Traylor, Vice-Chairman Jarrod Fletcher, Commissioner Jason Lovett, Commissioner Ashley Gilles, and Commissioner Truman Boyle. County Administrator Sean Townsend and County Clerk Carlette Davidson was also present.

County Coroner Clay Tillery approached the board with a request to add a second Deputy Coroner in order to have full coverage. He explained that this position would be part time and paid on a per call basis. Commissioner Lovett suggested that a written agreement be put in place requiring the individual to remain in the position for a specified period of time after completion of training.

The Board then reviewed the draft agenda for December 16, 2025. Commissioner Lovett opened a discussion concerning the appointments to the Three Rivers Regional Council. He had concerns about the attendance of the non public member for Lamar County. By general consensus, the Board agreed to postpone this agenda item until January.

Planning and Community Director Anita Buice and County Fire Chief Douglas Matthews were present to discuss proposed changes to the county ordinance chapter 2-5 Building and Property Regulations. Ms. Buice explained that Lamar County had adopted the state minimum codes many years ago and these updates were a continuation of that adoption. However, there are major changes to the fire code, one of which would be a requirement to install automatic sprinkler systems in all commercial buildings 5000 sq' or more. After some discussion from the Board it was agreed to remove this update from the December meeting.

Lamar County Animal Control Director Tyler White joined Chief Matthews and Ms. Buice to present to the Board the proposed 2026 Fee Schedule that includes building, zoning, fire, and animal control fees. Mr. White explained that after review of actual costs for housing animals, he was able to reduce some of the adoption fees.

The board then discussed the request made by Mr. Justin Laney for an exception to the moratorium in place in order to obtain a building permit. Ms. Buice explained that Mr. Laney, who previously had come to the board for a rezoning request that was now in appeal, had

recently purchased property that was already zoned commercial. He has agreed to no longer pursue his appeal if allowed to receive a building permit for the new property.

Public Comment

Elaine Hallada of 131 Steeple Chase addressed the board. Mrs. Hallada said she obtained a copy of the report from the Solid Waste Authority meeting in 2021. Reported a friend called her and informed her of a “secret” Industrial Development Authority Meeting. She said she knew that Chairman Traylor, Commissioner Lovett, and County Administrator Townsend were at the meeting. Mrs. Hallada said that as a citizen she is not against growth nor is she against the I-75 project. However, Mrs. Hallada said that there is no way that AmWaste should get a 50% reduction in taxes. The tax reduction should be given to the citizens. Mrs. Hallada said she also does not think that Amazon should be given a tax break. She said she started coming to the Board of Commissioner meetings because of an issue in Redbone. Mrs. Hallada said she was never impressed with the former Chairman Glass.

Harold Jackson addressed the board. Mr. Jackson said they do not know what the data centers are going to do to the environment. He said he has received a lot of comments from people who have these Data Centers in their neighborhood and they do not like them. Mr. Jackson said he heard that everyone’s power bill in the State of Georgia will be increased by \$25.00 a month. He said they were told that they were all going to get \$250.00 off of their taxes and he came up short on this deal. Mr. Jackson said that Amazon should pay every dime including the power bills that is going into their location.

Round Table

Commissioner Lovett said that if you would like to protect rural bliss and live in Redbone without paying \$1500.00 in property tax you have to offset that with commercial and industrial development. If you want to live in a community that is run over by subdivisions, and still have a Fire Department, a Sheriff’s Office, and Public Works to pave the roads, then you will have to find a revenue source. Commissioner Lovett used to say that it always better to sit on this side of the table than the other side, because when you sit on this side and look at the decisions that have to be made; getting a new fire truck, or a new gravel truck, it was so much easier to be a community activist than it is to be a Commissioner.

Commissioner Lovett said Mrs. Hallada is looking at a spreadsheet from the IDA meeting where it could be a possibility, but they have no idea. They know someone wants to buy a car, but they do not have any of the details on the car. He said that car has a depreciation, but the buildings do not. Commissioner Lovett said that Charles Glass is great with numbers and he did an excellent job on the spreadsheet. He said that when you start somewhere, you have to decide where you are. There is nothing for years one through three but after year three, when there are buildings and equipment it will be sky high. By years five and six there is no more tax revenue. However, they are going to put new equipment in the buildings, and the revenue goes back up. So, to get this project going you have to spend 100 million dollars. So, the point made to Mrs. Hallada was that they have to have these initial discussions.

Commissioner Lovett said this was an initial meeting with the IDA that said they have someone coming into town that was interested in “buying a car” and these were the thoughts. Commissioner Lovett said he and Planning and Ms. Buice are going to continue to work hard to get this best deal for this community. Commissioner Lovett said, at some point, they are going to

be mandated to build a new jail, a new Courthouse, or a new school. Who pays for that? If you do not want to ruin the rural bliss there has to be another revenue source. Commissioner Lovett said it is hard to have a secret meeting when everyone parked outside the County building and no one rode together. Commissioner Lovett said he does not trust Government, and she should not trust him or any of them. He said what you read on social media is so overblown and so toxic which is the reason he is not on social media.

Commissioner Gilles thanked everyone and reminded everyone of the Christmas Parade on Saturday. She said the Commissioners would be in the parade.

County Clerk Davidson said she had a wonderful 15 years and announced that this was her last workshop.

Chairman Traylor said that the State of Georgia has deemed itself as "Data Center" friendly. He said counties are campaigning to get Data Centers in their community. Lamar County did not campaign to get a Data Center. The companies are competitive much like recruitment in the sports field. Counties are figuring out ways for these companies to come into their community. Chairman Traylor said they have to look at the "Why" Why are people not coming to us? He said there is always a reason. The companies with computers have a heavy depreciation. Chairman Traylor said Data Centers are not unique to Lamar County. They do not have the secret sauce.

Chairman Traylor said there is a lot of need in the community with Continental Tire Closing and other families in need. United Bank is hosting an after hours for the Empty Stocking Fund tonight from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm.

Commissioner Lovett made a motion to adjourn the Workshop meeting at approximately 5:35 pm. Commissioner Fletcher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

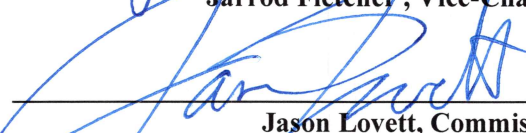
Lamar County Board of Commissioners



Ryran Traylor, Chairman



Jarrod Fletcher, Vice-Chairman



Jason Lovett, Commissioner

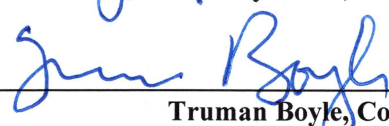
Attest:



Anita Buice, County Clerk



Ashley Gilles, Commissioner



Truman Boyle, Commissioner