

COMMISSIONERS MEETING
JANUARY 27, 2009
7:00 P.M.

The Lamar County Board of Commissioners in and for the County of Lamar, State of Georgia, held a Commissioners meeting on Tuesday, January 27, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. Chairman Jay Matthews called the meeting to order. Present for the meeting was Vice-Chairman George R. Brown, Commissioner Bennie Horton, Jr., Commissioner Jimmy Hearn, and Commissioner Nancy M. Thrash.

The pledge of allegiance was said by everyone.

Rev. Marion Underwood gave the invocation.

Zoning Administrator Danny Gunter presented re-zoning application 08-07 for Mr. Lorie Mangham which is the Deer Trail Golf Course located at 1782 Highway 341 South, Barnesville, GA 30204. The property is now zoned as C-2 and he is requesting that it be zoned to A-R. Mr. Mangham once operated a restaurant on his golf course but he has not operated the restaurant for awhile. The Planning Commission does not recommend rezoning the property. Mr. Mangham was unaware of the C-2 zoning. Commissioner Jimmy Hearn made a motion to approve the re-zoning request changing it from C-2 zoning to A-R zoning. It was seconded by Commissioner Nancy M. Thrash. Unanimous decision.

Zoning Administrator Danny Gunter presented Special Exception 08-01 for Mr. Lorie Mangham to continue to operate a golf course that is located at 1782 Highway 341 South, Barnesville, GA 30204. It was motioned by Vice-Chairman George R. Brown to accept this Special Exception for Mr. Mangham. It was seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Hearn. Unanimous decision.

Ms. Gwen Moore of 195 Deerfield Trace was concerned about the number of Commissioner Meetings per month. She suggested that the Commissioners form a panel of 3 persons per district for some meaningful discussions at the Commissioners Meeting. She also asked that the Special called meetings be held in the evenings to be beneficial to all of the citizens.

Ms. Brenda Ross of 386 Ingram Road, Barnesville, GA 30204 was concerned about the Commissioners having one meeting per month. She wants to attend 2 meetings. Chairman Jay Matthews clarified the lack of need for having two meetings a month, and he also stated that there is no need for a citizenry advisory board.

Vice-Chairman George R. Brown made a motion to re-appoint Ms. J. Robyn Underwood-Chute as the County's independent auditor. It was seconded by Commissioner Bennie Horton, Jr. Unanimous decision. Vice-Chairman George R. Brown made a motion to

approve the minutes of January 13, 2009 regular meeting. Commissioner Bennie Horton, Jr., seconded the motion. Unanimous decision.

Mr. Aaron Brown of 323 Forsyth Street, Barnesville, GA 30204 asked a question to the Commissioners as to whether they can sit in on meetings for the IDA, etc. The answer was yes, but they do not have any voting rights if they are not appointed to that board. He also stated that he wants the Commissioners to consider having 2 meetings a month.

Ms. Fern Gentis of 108 Cedar Ridge Road, Jackson, GA was concerned with transparency issues. She stated that she has attended Commissioners meeting for 19 years and she wants the Commissioners to continue to have 2 meetings per month.

Commissioner Bennie Horton Jr. stressed the importance of taking his job seriously, and informed everyone that he is not in anyone's pocket. He is his own man and he makes the best decision for the people in his community. He votes on the way things should be and if the people are not satisfied with his decision making then when election time comes again they can vote him out if that is their choice.

Vice-Chairman George R. Brown stated that he stands with opposition to going to one meeting a month. Commissioner Jimmy Hearn stated that it would be a savings to the County to go to one meeting a month. He stated that the cost for 2 meetings a month is approximately \$1759.47 and the cost for one meeting is approximately \$ 1161.24. Commissioner Nancy M. Thrash stated that when she campaigned her promise was to be fiscally responsible with the taxpayers' money. She stated that you can't have it both ways.

Vice-Chairman George R. Brown made a motion to go into executive session at 7:38 p.m. Commissioner Bennie Horton, Jr. seconded the motion. Unanimous decision. Commissioner Bennie Horton made a motion to return to regular session at 8:35 p.m. An affidavit for the closed meeting executive session is attached as a part of these minutes with the discussion being on personnel. There being no further business to discuss Vice-Chairman George R. Brown made a motion at 8:35 p.m. for the meeting to adjourn. Commissioner Nancy M. Thrash seconded the motion. Unanimous decision.

Jay Matthews, Chairman

George R. Brown, Vice Chairman

Bennie Horton, Member

Jimmy Hearn, Member

Nancy M. Thrash, Member

Wayne Patterson, County Administrator