

**MINUTES  
MERIWETHER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING**

**MARCH 29, 2021**

**This meeting was held by Zoom due to COVID-19 for the public with Board Members and County Staff attending in Person  
4:00 P.M.**

Commissioners Present: Chairman Bryan Threadgill, Vice Chairman Alfred McCoy, Commissioner Shirley Hines, Commissioner Rosla Plant and Commissioner Beth Neely-Hadley.

Commissioners Absent: None

Staff Present: County Administrator Theron Gay, Deputy Clerk, Allyson Stephens

Staff Absent: County Clerk Beverly Thomas, Finance Director, Bill Gregory, and County Attorney, Nathan Lee

**I. CALL TO ORDER** – Chairman Threadgill at 4:00 p.m.

**INVOCATION** –

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**II. NEW BUSINESS**

Engineering Proposal – Greenville Recreation- Administrator Gay opened the meeting and thanked the Board for allowing him the opportunity to discuss engineering for the Meriwether County Recreation Park. Administrator Gay stated the park would be located off McLaughlin Road in Vice Chairman McCoy's district. Administrator Gay advised the Board that there was a lot of inhouse work already done on the grant. He stated at this time he would need the Board to approve an engineering firm to assist with information and plans we need for the grant to progress. Administrator Gay advised the Board that Phase I of the grant process has been approved. Administrator Gay stated there was \$250,000 dedicated for Recreation with the SPLOST renewal. Administrator Gay went on to explain to the Board that the proposed grant would consist of \$200,000 from the grant with the county matching that \$200,000 and also \$25,000 of in-kind services. Administrator Gay stated there was a lot of competition for the grant as it is on a federal level. The Administration office has done all of the work up to this point in house at no outside costs. He stated there had been volunteers and staff time and at this point we have gone as far as we can go, and help would be needed from an engineering service. Administrator Gay advised there will need to be a survey done with 2-foot contours, based off lidar. He also explained there would need to be environmental and geotechnical surveys done. Administrator Gay stated that he would work to keep costs as low as possible as with federal grants anything done as far as surveys, environmental and geotechnical reviews cannot be counted as expenses. Administrator Gay stated we did receive word that a historical study was not needed and if the Board approved him to move forward, detailed engineering and final engineering would not be done until after a notice to proceed was received. Administrator Gay stated that in Phase I, 25-acres was laid out with only ½ of it cleared for a road, parking, playgrounds and equipment, a paved walkway and path around the park and the rest would be left for nature trails. Administrator Gay also stated the proposed park would have benches, electrical outlets, and trash receptacles and a timed gate to close at certain times. He stated the idea is to have a peaceful place for families. Administrator Gay stated there is an urgency for approval to proceed with allowing an engineer to come in as the deadline to have the information back is April 30, 2021. Vice Chairman McCoy asked how many competitors for the grant there were and Administrator Gay stated 80-90 and Meriwether County made the first cut and second cut. Commissioner Plant stated she appreciated the time spent on the project and was confused at first but now feels comfortable to move forward. Vice Chairman McCoy wanted to clarify that the

value of the property could not be considered since the County already owned it. Commissioner Hines asked what type of timeframe this could be completed in. Administrator Gay stated 18-24 months. A motion was made by Commissioner Neely-Hadley to allow Administrator Gay to seek help from an engineering firm. A second was made by Commissioner Hines. All were in favor.

**III. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There was no need for an Executive Session.

**IV. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Commissioner Neely-Hadley and seconded by Commissioner Plant to adjourn at 4:22 p.m. All were in favor.

Approved by: *Meriwether County Board of Commissioners*  
Attest: *Allyson L. Stephens*  
Date: *April 14, 2021*