

The Brooks County Board of Commissioners met for a Special Called Meeting and Work Session on Wednesday, February 24, 2021 at 5:13 p.m. in the Commissioners Meeting Room at the Brooks County Administration Building located at 610 South Highland Road, Quitman, GA. Commissioners present were: Mr. Patrick Folsom, Chairman; Mr. James Maxwell, Vice Chairman; and Mr. Willie Cody. Ms. Myra Exum; and Mr. Rhett Rowe were not present. Others present were: Ms. Jessica McKinney, County Administrator; Ms. Patricia Williams; County Clerk; Ms. Kim Daniels, Human Resources; and Mr. Jason Kemp, County Attorney; and other residents.

1. Call to Order

Prayer/Pledge – Mr. Jack Harrell led all in attendance in prayer and the pledge of allegiance.

2. Special Called Meeting –

A. TSPLOST Project List – At Mr. Maxwell's request, the Board discussed projects for TSPLOST funding. Previously, Jefferson Street was included in the discussion; but it has been removed. Mr. Maxwell stated the City of Quitman is interesting in assisting; the County just needs to let them know how far or how much Brooks County will do. Mr. Cody requested County Engineer, Mr. Ben DeVane check mileage for Hill Street. From Barnes Street to East Warren Street is .36 miles. From Barnes Street to South Court Street going east to Washington Street and cross Culpepper Street is approximately one-half mile (.5114). Mr. Cody recommended the County does Barnes Street to Warren Street; and the City takes the remainder.

Board discussed a contract with the city and how it should be handled. County Administrator recommended the City prepare the contract; and the County reimburse the City. On a motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Cody, the Board unanimously approved the County reimbursing the City for the cost of Barnes Street to Warren Street, total of .3598 miles (.36) from the total of .5114 (.51), subject to agreement with the City.

Chairman requested Mr. DeVane and Mr. Owens get together and take a look at Tama Drive, it is very narrow, citizens would like the road widen; and report at the next meeting.

Administrator provided the Board with the annual Operations Report as of July 1, 2020 from Georgia Forestry Commission, Brooks County Unit, submitted by Lee Weaver, Chief Ranger III. Current Protection Responsibility: 181,055 Forested acres (316,000 acres total land area). Annual County Tax Revenue Contributed to State Forestry Operations: \$18,105.50. Total permits were 4,036 and total permit acreage 23,160. Assisted 26 Landowners with burning assistance, total acres 1,153.02, 16 wildfires total of 377.45 acres, seedlings sold were 29,010, 4 school related programs, 9 programs/contacts regarding firewise/fire prevention; and 190 calls (wrecks, fires and miscellaneous calls for service).

B. Welcome Signs – Board previously discussed welcome signs at the entrance of all major roads in Brooks County. Administrator provided a copy of the application; and advised the Board of compliance with GDOT for signs on State roads/highways. After discussion, this topic was tabled until the April regular meeting.

3. Executive Session - Litigation

The Board closed the special called meeting to go into executive session at 5:56 p.m.; on the motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Cody.

Mr. Maxwell made the motion to go out of executive session at 6:51 p.m. to go into the work session, Mr. Cody seconded.

No action was taken.

4. Workshop

March 1, 2021 – Regular Monthly Meeting Agenda Review/Approval

County Administrator led the Board in review of the agenda for the regular meeting on March 1, 2021. The agenda was reviewed item by item and the only change made was to table the Welcome Signs, under Unfinished Business, and place on the agenda for April 2021.

On the motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Cody, the Board adjourned the work session at 7:08 p.m.

Mr. Patrick Folsom, Chairman
Ms. Jessica McKinney, County Administrator
Ms. Patricia A. Williams, County Clerk