

The Brooks County Board of Commissioners met for its Regular Monthly Meeting on Monday, December 5, 2022, at 5:00 p.m., in the Courtroom at the Brooks County Courthouse, located at 100 East Screven Street, Quitman, GA. Commissioners present were: Mr. Patrick Folsom, Chairman, Mr. James Maxwell, Vice Chairman; Ms. Myra Exum; Mr. Willie Cody; and Mr. Lee Larko. Others present were Mrs. Jessica McKinney, County Administrator; Ms. Patricia Williams, County Clerk; Ms. Kim Daniels, Human Resources; Mr. Jason Kemp, County Attorney; and various residents.

1. PUBLIC HEARING – Special Exception – Sharkettia Wright – Trucking Home-Based Business – Sign-In Sheet Provided - Sharkettia Wright submitted a petition for a Home-Based Business for a Trucking Company, known as S&W Trucking, located on a county-maintained dirt road at 1040 Oliff Road, 0.2 miles west of Crosbytown Road and 1 mile east of Studstill Road in unincorporated Brooks County. The 5.4 acre property is zoned AG (Agricultural) with three dwellings with addresses 1032, 1036, and 1040 Oliff Road. Planning Commission unanimously tabled the special exception until their December Planning Commission meeting to give the family an opportunity to work with Zoning & Code Enforcement to address concerns. Staff does not recommend approval.

Ms. Sherry Davidson, SGRC, presented the request to the Board, stating that it is difficult for two vehicles to pass on the road, this is not a home-based trucking company. There is junk, tires, vehicles, and the property need to be re-zoned to Highway Commercial. It is not consistent with the County Comprehensive Plan, community agenda and neighborhood development. They received a Business License in 2020 based on being home-based. Did not get license in 2021 but obtained one in 2022. It has never been before Zoning for approval and goes against what is adopted and things the Board may not want there. The requested petition was tabled by Planning Commission. The Board can hear the request, table it, approve or deny, and can send back to the Planning Commission. Ms. Davidson further stated that this type of business does not belong on a dirt road.

Concerns of the Planning Commission:

- 1) Devaluation of citizens property.
- 2) Citizens want everyone to follow same rules and standards.
- 3) The number of trucks/trailers on the property.
- 4) Impact on roads, egress concerns.
- 5) Maintenance/repairs on Semis in the yard.
- 6) Noise complaints of refrigerated trailers running.
- 7) Unsightly property (debris in yard on property lines).
- 8) Encroachment on others property (septic tank, mowing, etc.)

Chairman called for those who wish to speak in favor of the request. Ms. Sharkettia Wright stated that water ruins the road, has caused damage to her car and there is only one entrance off of Studstill Road. She does not see how the noise from refrigerated truck is any louder that the traffic noise.

Barbara Wright stated she has lived there since 1995, worked for another company, and her husband works on cars and trucks. Have not had problems with neighbors, do anything to keep the peace.

Chairman called for those wishing to speak against the request. Holly McAllister stated she does not understand how a business is put up without proper protocol as everyone else does. She is not debating good neighbor/bad neighbor. How did it get passed Zoning, Health Department and Brooks County. Stated she was never notified. Who does enforcement? Explain who allowed this to happen.

Nikki Faucette has great concerns and is not debating the good neighbor/bad neighbor. The truck is loud from the refrigerated trailer. The road is already bad why make it worse. She does not deny anybody to earn a living, but there are legal statutes and laws. Does not understand why the Planning Commission tabled the issue. Stated she is asking for help, a honest unbiased vote by the Board as to what they think should be done.

Chairman closed the public hearing at 5:51 pm. to go into the regular meeting.

2. CALL TO ORDER

Prayer & Pledge of Allegiance – Chairman called the Regular Meeting to order. Pastor Leroy Hunter, Brooks County Ministerial Association, led all in attendance in prayer and pledge of allegiance.

Chairman asked Mr. Larko to make a motion to amend the agenda. Mr. Larko made a motion to amend the agenda to strike from New Business, Item F, Cell Tower Discussion, Mrs. Exum seconded. Vote was unanimous.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On the motion by Mrs. Exum, seconded by Mr. Maxwell, the Board unanimously approved the following minutes as read:

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| A. Regular Meeting | November 7, 2022 |
| B. Executive Session | November 7, 2022 |

4. INVITED GUESTS – (5 MINUTES)

A. Proclamation Presentation – Commissioner Myra Exum – Commissioner Exum presented and read the Proclamation to Mrs. Andrew Jackson from the Board commemorating Mr. Andrew Jackson IV for a life lived serving others, sacrifices and dedication to Brooks County. Mrs. Jackson thanked the Board.

B. Brooks County Library Report – Director Scott Routsong – Presented the Board an update on the projects and activities of the Brooks County Library.

- The Library has a good book selection and is constantly working on collecting books.
- Has a range of 3,500 active users and approximately the same for inactive users.

- Has a good DVD collection and accepts donated DVDs.
- There were approximately 1432 patrons in November, this is about average.
- The Lego Club is resuming and thinking about some game nights (to include chess).
- Library has a nice 3D printer, prints nice ornaments and if come by the library will give you one.
- Continuing to work with local Presbyterian Home for Book Club twice a month.
- Working on "PLAY" card for local schools. PLAY stands for Pines Library Access for Youth.
- Works every day on any number of projects for patrons, resumes, job applications, access to Brooks County business licenses, etc.

C. Brooks County Airport Authority – Robin McDaniel, Chairman – Provided update for projects and activities at the Airport.

- Langdale has sold the Hangar and expecting two Jets in the future which will bring approximately \$35 -\$50,000.
- Tenants at the airport does a lot more than the public is aware of.
- Airport provides 5-10% of funding, and the State provides the rest.
- City of Quitman has not been funding the airport; but provided funds this year, \$10,000 and in-kind service.
- Brooks County does approximately \$30,000 in mowing at the airport property.
- Needs money to purchase land from Herbert Price (\$50,000), asking Brooks County if can assist. They have \$500,000 earmarked in the bank.
- Need bigger Hangars, do not have fuel at the airport, which is a safety concern from GDOT and needs to be corrected before GDOT provide funding for Hangars and fuel.

5. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES & DEPARTMENTS – (5 MINUTES)

A. Brooks County Fire Department Report - Fire Chief Catlett – Chief Catlett provided the monthly report for November 2022:

- There were 60 calls for service for the month of November.
- Training consisted of Firefighter Agility Test conducted for career and volunteer firefighters, drivers training, incident command, fire officers training and fire department hydraulics.
- Hydrant test completed.

B. Public Works Department Report – County Administrator – Will provide Board with copy of the monthly report from Road Department.

6. CONSENT AGENDA – NONE

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. Public Road System Ordinance – County Attorney advised the Board the Ordinance needs a sponsor, no vote needed at this time. A public hearing will be required as ordinance is in draft format. Mrs. Exum stated she would like to get with

Zoning/Code Enforcement, Agent Melissa Smith, to review requested amendments to Section 3 of the Brooks County Zoning Ordinance. On the motion by Mrs. Exum, the Board tabled the Public Road System Ordinance, Mr. Cody seconded. Vote was unanimous.

B. Venue Ordinance – Agent Melissa Smith has requested amendments to Brooks County Zoning Ordinance for Section 2 related to Wedding Venues to regulate proper use as a venue. Ms. Sherry Davidson requested to be part of the discussion. This item was tabled until January 2023 on the motion by Mr. Larko, seconded by Mr. Cody. Vote was unanimous.

C. Annual Appointments – A list of the annual appointments for 2022 was provided to the Board as a reminder to review for upcoming appointments at the January 9, 2023 meeting.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Special Exception – Sharkettia Wright – Trucking Home-Based Business – Mr. Maxwell made the motion to send the special exception back to the Planning Commission, Mr. Cody seconded. Chairman called for the vote. Mrs. Exum and Mr. Larko opposed. Mr. Maxwell, Mr. Cody, and Chairman voted in favor. Vote was 3-2. Planning Commission will meet December 22, 2022, the Board will hear it at the January 9th meeting.

B. Georgia Probation Management – Contract Renewal – Superior and State Courts
The current Agreement for Offender Supervision Services between Brooks County and Georgia Probation Management, Inc. (GPM) for Brooks County Superior and State Courts will expire 12/31/2022. GPM would like to execute new agreements with the County so that they can continue to provide services to the Courts and Community. The Board unanimously approved the contract renewal from Georgia Probation Management for Superior and State Courts on the motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Larko.

C. Amendment for Indigent Services – Circuit Public Defender Office – The Chief Circuit Administrator, Ms. Patti Sutton, submitted the annual Amendment for Indigent Services to be signed by the Chairman to continue public defender services through 2023. This is an annual requirement and has no impact on the budget. Mrs. Exum made the motion to approve the annual renewal with changes related to the date(s) from the Circuit Public Defender Office to continue public defender services through FY2023-2024, Mr. Cody seconded. Vote was unanimous.

D. Thomasville Sanitation – Rate Increase – Administration received notice of rate increase from Thomasville Sanitation in amount of \$6.00. The notice stated the increase is primarily prompted by three factors: 1) increase of resources (containers, trucks, parts, fuel, etc.), 2) increased labor cost; and 3) increased Consumer Price Index (CPI-U). The increase from \$14.00 to \$20.00 per household is anticipated to take effect on July 3, 2023.

E. Workers' Compensation Renewal – Bid Award – The only bid received was opened during the special called on November 21, 2022. The bid was for a TPA (Third Party Administrator, which is not what Brooks County has because there is nothing to administer, since we are not for self-insured through workers' compensation. The renewal will be handled normally during the work session.

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS – (5 MINUTES)

A.

10. ADMINISTRATION/ELECTED OFFICIALS UPDATES

A. County Administrator Updates

B. Commissioners Notes/Comments

- Lee Larko (District 1)
- Patrick Folsom, Chairman (District 2)
- Willie Cody (District 3)
- Myra Exum (District 4)
- James Maxwell, Vice (District 5)
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11. EXECUTIVE SESSION – Real Estate

Mr. Maxwell made the motion at 6:56 p.m. to go into executive session, Mr. Cody seconded.

Mr. Cody made the motion to go out of executive session at 7:26 p.m. and return to regular meeting. No action was taken upon returning to regular meeting.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Maxwell made the motion to adjourn regular meeting at 7:27 p.m.; Mr. Larko seconded.

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