

The Brooks County Board of Commissioners met for its Regular Monthly Meeting on Monday, March 7, 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.

Chairman called the Public Hearing to order.

**Public Hearing – Sign-In Sheet Provided**

**Text Amendment to Zoning Ordinance to Include Solar Regulations** – Ms. Sherry Davidson, SGRC, Local Government Services Director, presented the Text Amendment to the Brooks County Zoning Ordinance to include the Solar Regulations as part of Chapter 9. The Planning Commission met on February 28, 2022, at their regular meeting and voted unanimously to approve. SGRC Staff recommends approval of the text amendment. Changes were made to the Ordinance according to specifications by the Board. All large-scale solar projects will come to the Board for review.

Sign-in Sheet was provided but no one in attendance signed for or against the text amendment. Chairman closed the Public Hearing at 5:03 p.m. to go into the regular meeting.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

**Prayer & Pledge of Allegiance** – Chairman called the Regular Meeting to order; and Mr. Herb Mason led all in attendance in prayer and pledge of allegiance.

Chairman asked for a motion to amend the agenda. On the motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Larko, the Board approved to amend the agenda for March 7, 2022 to delete Item #7B under New Business, City Contract Renewal. Vote was unanimous. Mr. Maxwell made motion to add Item #5A under Consent Agenda, for discussion of Permits/Inspections/Code Enforcement positions, Ms. Exum seconded. Vote was unanimous.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On the motion by Mr. Cody, seconded by Mr. Larko, the Board unanimously approved/accepted the minutes of the following meeting:

- Regular Monthly Meeting February 7, 2022

**3. INVITED GUESTS**

**A. Chandler Giddes – Thomasville Thomas County Humane Society** – Administration invited Mr. Chandler Giddes, Thomasville Humane Society, to provide information regarding animal control services. Mr. Giddes stated the Humane Society has been in business since 1970; and he has been employed with the Society for two

years. From January 1, 2021 to January 1, 2022 1,494 lives have been saved, 510 Cats and 978 Dogs. Beyond financial consideration, we consider the standard of care for all animals to receive vaccinations, medical care, heart worm treatment/preventative spay/neuter surgery. As a "No Kill", shelter we do not kill healthy treatable animals even when the shelter is full, reserving euthanasia for terminally ill animals or those considered a danger to public safety. There have been 7,508 animals saved in five years at Thomasville Thomas County Humane Society (TCHS), and 86.4% more in 2021 than 2019. Mr. Giddes further stated they would love to help residents of Brooks County like in Thomasville. Ms. Exum inquired regarding what the relationship between Brooks County and Thomasville would look like? TCHS would respond, officer would show up, write report, and show the report to the Department of Health. Service is provided 7 days a week and two officers are always on duty. They would have to understand what Brooks County wants, the standard expectation. There are different packages with cost options. They have received a grant to help four additional counties under an Memo of Understanding (MOU). Mr. Giddes thanked the Board for the opportunity to appear to provide information on their services.

#### **4. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES & DEPARTMENTS – (5 MINUTES)**

**A. Fire Chief Catlett – Brooks County Fire Department** – Chief Catlett updated the Board on the Fire Department progress and activities.

- Making great strides in conversation with BCT Gin regarding making improvements on the property.
- Continuing the Georgia Fire Fighters Training Standard, all not certified yet; but have one year to 18 months to complete.
- New Fire Trucks will be in Friday, March 11<sup>th</sup>.
- Started testing, flowing, painting fire hazards.
- Fire hoses will be tested in April.
- Provided mutual aid to City of Quitman; and received mutual aid for fire in Dixie.

**B. Matt Connolly – Road Department Superintendent** – Updated the Board on Road Department activities/projects:

- Going through inventory, checking to see what they have and/or need. Getting the department caught up.
- Will start going through each District in group of three.
- Cleaning weeds around stop signs; there is a stop sign delineation.
- New Max Mower was inoperable but back working.
- Chairman asked to check pipe on Williams Road, stop sign change on Wheeler Road; Shady Acres for potholes; and check bridge on Campground Road to see if need guard rails.

**C. Michasia Dowdy – Extension Office** – Ms. Dowdy introduced the new 2<sup>nd</sup> ANR agent, Aaron Bruce, for the Extension Office began employment on March 1<sup>st</sup>. He will be working with cotton, peanuts, and vegetables. Ms. Dowdy informed the Board the Secretary position is open for applications.

**5. CONSENT AGENDA**

**A. Permits/Inspections/Code Enforcement** – County Administrator recommended to the Board to split the positions Permits, Inspections, Zoning and Code Enforcement, they are currently combined. The offset will not affect the budget for new salary line item. She requested approval from the Board to split the positions. On the motion by Mr. Cody, seconded by Mr. Larko, the Board unanimously approved to split the positions as requested by County Administrator.

**6. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Downed Vehicle Inventory for Auction/Surplus** – Administrator provided a list of downed vehicles not in service. Ms. McKinney concurred with the Sheriff regarding down vehicles in his department and provided a list. There are 13 vehicles on the downed vehicle list that have not been reported by the Sheriff's Department and continue to be on the County's insurance. County Clerk should be notified of downed vehicles to delete from the insurance. Administrator would like to auction the vehicles to get off the property; they are taking up space. Mr. Larko made the motion to accept the list of downed vehicles for auction, declared as surplus; and authorized the Administrator to use discretion to find an auctioneer to take care of the inventory, Mr. Cody seconded. Vote was unanimous.

**B. Brooks County Historical Preservation/Society – By Laws** – A proposed draft of the By Laws for the newly created Brooks County Historical Preservation/Society has been presented to the Board. County Attorney informed the Board the Society must be created by an ordinance first and the by-laws adopted second. Mr. Kemp further advised that the By-Laws are complete and is preparing the ordinance. No action is needed.

**7. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Text Amendment to Zoning Ordinance to Include Solar Regulations** – The Text Amendment has been reviewed by the Planning Commission during their regular meeting and was approved. Ms. Exum made the motion to approve the Text Amendment to Zoning Ordinance to Include Solar Regulations, Mr. Cody second. Vote was unanimous.

**8. PUBLIC COMMENTS – (5 MINUTES)**

**A. County Administrator Updates** – None

**B. Commissioners Notes/Comments**

- **Lee Larko (District 1)** – Invited participation and attendance of meetings.
- **Patrick Folsom, Chairman (District 2)** – Thanked everyone for attending. Condolences to Sheriff Dewey for loss of his mother.
- **Willie Cody (District 3)** – Thanked everyone for coming.
- **Myra Exum (District 4)** – No comment.
- **James Maxwell, Vice (District 5)** – No comment.

**9. EXECUTIVE SESSION – NONE**

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Maxwell made the motion to adjourn regular meeting at 6:00 p.m.; Mr. Cody seconded.

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