

The Brooks County Board of Commissioners met for its Regular Monthly Meeting on Monday, June 6, 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 HEARINGS – NONE**

**2. CALL TO ORDER**

**Prayer & Pledge of Allegiance** – Chairman called the Regular Meeting to order. Mr. Steve Shierling Brooks County Ministerial Association led all in attendance in prayer and pledge of allegiance.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On the motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Cody, the Board unanimously approved/accepted the minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting held May 2, 2022. On the motion by Ms. Exum, seconded by Mr. Cody the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the Town Hall Meeting held May 10, 2022.

**4. INVITED GUESTS**

**A. Jimmy Smith – Thomasville Solid Waste** – Mr. Jimmy Smith was invited to address the Board's questions regarding the curbside service. During COVID-19, he stated they lost a lot of their staff; from 25 employees down to 11, and due to this lack of staff, Thomasville cannot serve Brooks County as they are accustomed to. Mr. Smith stated that Thomasville contracted with Deep South Sanitation to assist with curbside pickup for

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

**A. Fire Chief Catlett – Brooks County Fire Department** – Chief Catlett provided an overview to the Board of what Fire Department is working on.

- Certified fire inspector accomplishments.
- 42 monthly runs, 12 alarms, vehicle accidents and grass fires.
- Compared to January 2022 calls average 40+ per month.
- Response time for all runs since January is 14 minutes working on improvement of response time procedures, will be working on the rest of the year.

**B. Matt Connolly – Road Department Superintendent** – Updated the Board on Road Department activities/projects for May 2022:

- Provided a list of road projects and their status.
- Completed 207 roads: District 1: 77 roads, District 2: 33 roads, District 3: 43 roads, District 4: 32 roads, District 5: 22 roads. Other roads got more attention last month.

- Received 164 calls for May, 26 culvert repairs, 10 tree calls, replaced 33 signs and some on order.
- Only have one dump truck in service.
- Rocks are hard to get, used seven pallets, previous cost \$7,500, not it costs \$12,500 per truck.
- Advised Commissioners when they receive calls, to have the caller call the Road Department; to get on the list.
- Commissioner Larko stated his appreciation for the work doing.
- Commissioner Exum gave great compliment, she has not received any calls; and what they are doing is being noticed. Asked Mr. Connolly to share with his team because they are on the ground every day.

**C. Stephanie Williams – Development Authority** – Updated the Board on budget requests.

- The Authority is requesting consideration of an increase to .7 mills for FY2022-2023 and justification for the increase.
- In 2021 moved into new office, association expenses are up and attorney fees. Stating having problem with obtaining documents from former Attorney, 2017 documents are missing.
- 2021 started the collaboration meetings, one scheduled for this week.
- Economic Development Grant is a success with Industrial Park and entities.
- Purchased a vehicle, hired an Auditor.
- Conducting a feasibility study with the cities.
- Applying for a well at Industrial Park and rail spur with loading dock.
- Met with Surveyor, Stan Folsom to look at dirt to see if can be used; if so, the County is welcome to use it.
- Speaking to seven prospects regarding the 35.66 acres across from the Industrial Park.
- Prospect for Moven fell thru.
- Collaboration meeting scheduled for Friday, June 10, 2022, from 9am to 12pm.

**D. Jason Montesano – Building & Permits** – Presented copy of report on building inspections and permits for month of May to the Board; and a proposed schedule of permit fees for adoption/approval. Proposed permit fees will be adopted/approved under the topic of New Business.

**6. CONSENT AGENDA - NONE**

**7. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Board Appointments - Brooks County Historical Preservation/Society** – County Attorney conducted the lot drawing for the appointment of Board members to the Brooks County Historical Preservation/Society. Each Commissioner will draw a name from the bowl to determine the term of each appointed Board member. Board members will serve staggered terms.

Commissioner Exum – Jacquelyn Harper – 2-year term  
Chairman Folsom – Cynthia Heuwitt – 2-year term  
Vice Chair - Maxwell – 1- year term – self appointment  
Commissioner Cody – Marie Horne – 3-year term

Mr. Larko made the motion to approve the choices by the Board for the appointments and terms to the Brooks County Historical Preservation/Society, seconded by Mr. Cody, vote was unanimous.

**B. Farmers Market – Deed – City of Quitman** – The City of Quitman has signed the deed giving full ownership to Brooks County to the Farmers Market. The City and County jointly owned the Farmers Market. On the motion by Mr. Cody, seconded by Mr. Larko, the Board unanimously accepted the signed deed from City of Quitman giving Brooks County full ownership of the Farmers Market.

**C. Jamar Loop** – Administrator updated the Board on the Jamar Loop project. The water company, UI Water, has made claim that they never committed to funding the move of the water lines and challenging us to produce hard documentation of such commitment. If UI Water does not partner with funding of water lines being moved it will either result in the homeowners of the community absorbing the cost in their water services or require Brooks County to revisit the full amount of the invested cost to accomplish the paving.

## **8. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Resolution – 2022-2027 Joint Brooks County and Cities of Barwick, Morven, Pavo, and Quitman** – Administration was advised by SGRC that DCA have not completed their review of the 2022-2017 Updated Joint Comprehensive Plan, therefore the resolution can not be adopted at this time. On the motion by Mrs. Exum, seconded by Mr. Maxwell, the Board tabled this item until it is ready to be presented. Vote was unanimous.

**B. City of Thomasville – Solid Waste Rate Increase** – The Board tabled the rate increase from City of Thomasville until the work session on the motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mrs. Exum. Vote was unanimous.

**C. IOMC Palehorse – 2-Day Temporary Beer & Wine License for Charity Event (August 5th and 6th)** – Administration received a request from IOMC Palehorse, Mr. Brian King, for Board consideration of a 2-day temporary Beer & Wine license for a charity event to be held August 5th and August 6, 2022 from 2pm until 11 pm. On the motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Larko, the Board unanimously approved the 2-day temporary Beer & Wine license for a charity event on August 5th and August 6, 2022 from 2 pm until 11pm.

**D. GDOT – Request to Acquire Easement/Ownership** – Administration received notification from GDOT regarding the projects on North Highland Road

sidewalk drainage improvements and North MLK Jr. Drive sidewalk and drainage improvements. GDOT is in the process of purchasing property to improve the roadway designated and determined an appraisal in unnecessary. The estimated value of the property and/or rights to be purchased is \$500.00. The Board can choose to accept the offer of fair market value or donate the property which is required for right-of-way. Administrator recommended accepting the offer from GDOT. County would have to pay to have property surveyed. Mr. Larko made the motion to accept the offer of \$500.00 from GDOT for easement/ownership for sidewalk and drainage improvements on North Highland Road and North MLK Jr. Drive projects, Mr. Cody seconded. Vote was unanimous.

**E. Health Insurance Quotes** — During the May regular meeting, Administrator was authorized to obtain health insurance quotes for the County health insurance, which renews July 1, 2022. Three quotes were received by Human Resources Coordinator, Ms. Kim Daniels. The quotes were 40% higher than national benchmarks in 2019 and now we are 13% below national benchmarks in 2022.

**F. Brooks County Permit Fees** – Building & Permits, Mr. Jason Montesano, presented the Board a Permit Fee Schedule for Brooks County to include fees for the Fire Department inspections to be adopted/approved. The Board inquired of Mr. Montesano when he would like the new fee schedule to become effective and how to get the word out?

Placing something in the Quitman Free Press, posting on Facebook was discussed. The Board asked to set a date but grant leniency on the time fines. Mr. Larko made the motion to adopt the Brooks County Permit Fees Schedule to become effective July 1, 2022, and the fines will be effective September 1, 2022, Mr. Cody seconded. Vote was unanimous.

The Fire Department permit fees for inspections include all municipalities except for City of Quitman, which they have their own Fire Department. The list for fire permits will become effective immediately on the motion by Mrs. Exum, Mr. Cody seconded. Vote was unanimous.

**G. Naming County Buildings – Resolution** – County Attorney prepared and presented the Board a proposed Resolution for Naming County Buildings. The Board wanted to establish guidelines regarding the assigning of names to County owned assets either in memory or honor of an individual, group of individuals or organization. The Board unanimously approved Resolution 22-R-2, A Resolution of the Board of Commissioners to Establish Criteria Governing the Naming of County Buildings, Parks, Facilities, Bridges, Fixtures or Related Properties, on the motion by Mrs. Exum, seconded by Mr. Larko.

**H. Road Abandonments – Old Pavo & Giddens Road** - During the May regular meeting, Mr. Jim Davis appeared to request the closure of a portion of Old Pavo Road

between Tallokas Road and Pleasant Hill Church Road. Mr. Tim Brady also appeared and requested closure of Giddens Road at the intersection of Dewey Road. Both were advised of the process for road abandonment. The motion was made by Mrs. Exum, seconded by Mr. Cody, to proceed with the process of road abandonment for Old Pavo Road and Giddens Road, Petitioner will bare cost, and will provide estimated cost associated with the process. Vote was unanimous.

**I. 2021 Caterpillar Motor Grader – Resolution to Lease and/or Purchase**

Administration received the Lease/Purchase Agreement from Cat Financial for the 2021 Caterpillar Motor Grader renewal. The Agreement, Resolution, and Opinion of Counsel Letter has been reviewed by County Attorney and is ready for approval. The Board approved Resolution 22-R-3, Governmental Entity Resolution to Lease, Purchase and/or Finance, for the 2021 Caterpillar Motor Grader, renewal lease, at the terms stated in the Agreement, on the motion by Mrs. Exum, seconded by Mr. Maxwell. Vote was unanimous.

**9. PUBLIC COMMENTS – (5 MINUTES)**

**A. County Administrator Updates**

- 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration – Saturday, June 25, 2022
- Jackson Road Fire Station – Certified and Compliant, Ribbon Cutting will be June 21, 2022 at 10am.
- Senior Center Re-opening – There are a few more improvements that are being worked on, will get more information out to the public. The re-opening is scheduled for July 4, 2022.
- FY2022-2023 Budget – Meeting scheduled for June 21, 2022 at 12:00pm.

**B. Commissioners Notes/Comments**

- **Lee Larko (District 1)** – Commented to everyone to be safe in the heat, watch your health, and Happy Father's Day.
- **Patrick Folsom, Chairman (District 2)** – Thanked everyone for attending.
- **Willie Cody (District 3)** – Thanked everyone for coming.
- **Myra Exum (District 4)** – Reminded everyone to remember former Commissioner, Mr. Joe Wingate, served on the Board from 2010 – 2018, and his family. Viewing will be Thursday, June 9, 2022, from 6pm – 8 pm, and the service will be Friday, June 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am. He was a big inspiration. Thanked everyone for attending.
- **James Maxwell, Vice (District 5)** – Thanked everyone for attending.

**9. EXECUTIVE SESSION - NONE**

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Maxwell made the motion to adjourn regular meeting at 7:12 p.m.; Mrs. Exum seconded.

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