

The Brooks County Board of Commissioners met for a Special Called Meeting on Tuesday, July 28, 2020 at 5:15 p.m., in the Auditorium at the Brooks County Ag/Extension Building located at 400 East Courtland Avenue, Quitman, GA. Commissioners present were: Mr. James Maxwell, Chairman; Mr. Patrick Folsom, Vice Chairman; Mr. Willie Cody; Ms. Myra Exum; and Mr. Rhett Rowe. Others present were: Ms. Jessica McKinney, County Administrator; Ms. Patricia Williams, County Clerk; Mr. James Burchett, County Attorney; and various residents.

**Special Called** – Chairman called meeting to order; and asked Mr. Cody to lead everyone in prayer.

**SPLOST IGA and Resolution** – Administrator presented the SPLOST IGA (Intergovernmental Agreement) and Resolution for Board approval/adoption for the upcoming 2021-2026 SPLOST 1% Sales tax to be placed on the ballot in November to be voted on by the citizens of Brooks County.

Ms. Exum made the motion to adopt the Resolution as presented for SPLOST #7; and proceed to place on the ballot for the voters in November 2020 election; Mr. Folsom seconded. Vote was unanimous.

On the motion by Mr. Folsom, seconded by Mr. Cody, the Board unanimously approved the SPLOST IGA entered into between Brooks County, City of Quitman, City of Morven, City of Pavo; and City of Barwick.

**Millage Rate** – Administrator presented the Board two options to adopt the 2020 millage rate. Option #1: the Board can keep the millage rate same as last year, which is higher than the rollback rate; and this is due to the growth in the digest. By law if we have to place an ad in the newspaper giving notice to the public of the increase. The millage rate has not increased; but the digest grew; and we would have to explain to the public. The millage rate would be 13.1458 to create an increase of approximately \$644,978; the County would collect more because the property value went up, not the millage rate.

The second option would be to come in at the rollback, would not have to advertise or have public hearings; and will generate an increase of \$324,980 in revenue. The millage rate would be 12.4608.

Ms. Exum made the motion to set millage rate with option two (2), 12.4608, which would be logical for the taxpayers, especially now we need to make the burden as minimal as possible. Mr. Rowe seconded. Chairman called for discussion. Mr. Cody stated he would go with option one (1) if it meant no increase. After discussion, Chairman called for the vote in favor of option one (1); Mr. Maxwell, Mr. Folsom, Ms. Exum; Mr. Cody; and Mr. Rowe voted yes in favor of option one, 12.4608 millage rate for 2020. Vote was unanimous.

**Agenda Approval for August 3, 2020**

### **Reports From Committees/Departments**

**Development/Zoning – Sherry Davidson – Refuge of Hope** - Ms. Davidson, SGRC, will provide an update on Refuge of Hope.

Mike Smith will appear to provide an update on COVID-19.

Jim Owens, Road Department Consultant, will provide updates on road work, closures, and bridge upkeep.

### **Appearances**

Ms. Moon requested to appear to discuss removal of Confederate statute on Courthouse grounds.

### **Unfinished Business**

County Attorney advised the Board to revisit the vehicles that were voted on during the regular monthly meeting on July 13<sup>th</sup>, to avoid issues and provide transparency. Mr. Burchett added it would help the Board to make an informed decision; and all would be on the same page. He recommended, if it is the will of the Board, to include the vehicle information in the meeting packet for upcoming regular meeting Monday, August 3, 2020. Purchase of a new service truck will also be placed on the agenda; and the trade-in of two trucks.

**Elections Board Member Appointment** – The Board agreed that a letter should be sent to Board Member to confirm whether or not she wishes to serve on Elections Board. The Commissioners will need to decide whether or not to remove the current Elections Board Member or appoint someone else.

**Adjournment** - Mr. Exum made the motion to adjourn regular meeting at 6:05 p.m.; Mr. Folsom seconded.

Mr. James Maxwell, Chairman  
Ms. Jessica McKinney, Administrator  
Ms. Patricia A. Williams, Clerk