

The Brooks County Board of Commissioners met for its Regular Monthly Meeting on Monday, November 2, 2020 at 5:00 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; and Mr. Willie Cody. Ms. Myra Exum was present via telephone. Mr. Rhett Rowe was not present. Others present were: Ms. Patricia Williams, County Clerk; Ms. Kim Daniels, Human Resources; Mr. James Burchett, County Attorney; and various residents.

Public Hearing – Planning Commission

- **Court Ordered Rehab – Special Exception** – Ms. Sherry Davidson, SGRC, presented a petition by Brooks County Zoning Administrator for a text amendment to allow Court Ordered Rehab by Special Exception in unincorporated Brooks County. No action was taken by the Planning Commission due to lack of a quorum for their meeting scheduled for September 22, 2020. The Planning Commission met on October 20, 2020 and unanimously recommended approval with the following conditions:
 - 1) Must have a minimum of 3 acres.
 - 2) Limit the amount of participants to ten (10).
 - 3) Must have proper signage depicting its use.
 - 4) Must have property completely fenced.
 - 5) Must follow all local, state and federal guidelines.

Chairman closed the public hearing at 5:04 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman called the Regular Meeting to order. Mr. Patrick Folsom led all in attendance in prayer and pledge of allegiance.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On the motion by Mr. Folsom, seconded by Mr. Cody, the Board unanimously approved to amend the agenda to add Item F, IGA between City and County Regarding Use of Ball Fields behind the Administration Building, under New Business. Vote was unanimous. Mr. Folsom made the motion to remove Item B, Appointments Joint Development Authority Board; and Item C, under Unfinished Business, Appointments Develop Authority Board, Mr. Cody seconded. Vote was unanimous.

3. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES/DEPARTMENTS

A. 911/EMA – Mike Smith – Report on COVID-19 Activities and Current State of County – Reported as of today there are 536 total cases, 26 deaths, 10 active cases, overall the numbers are remaining stable.

- Update on Use of RAVE with the Community – Provided information on using the alert system; and stated RAVE was used during the Census, approximately 5,000 texts were sent. He informed attendees of how to set their phones to receive text alerts from RAVE.

B. Jim Owens – Road Department Consultant – Mr. Owens updated the following:

- Update Status on Vehicle Purchase for Road Department and Uniform Patrol – Mr. Owens advised the Board the Clerk would have latest information. County Clerk informed the

Board of a call from Brian Priest, Cass Burch, advising that three (3) of the vehicles for the Road Department are in.

- Update on Status of Speed Limit Audit for GDOT for Accurate Speed Limit Posting on County Roads – Mr. Owens stated that GDOT has not given him any formal information. Therefore, whatever the Sheriff says is what he is going by.
- Update on GDOT Bridge Compliance – The Road Department has been spraying and cutting under the bridges getting ready for GDOT inspections.

4. Approval of Minutes

On the motion by Mr. Cody, seconded by Mr. Folsom, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the following meetings:

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| • Regular Monthly Meeting | October 5, 2020 |
| • Special Called Meeting & Workshop | October 19, 2020 |
| • Executive Session | October 19, 2020 |
| • Special Called Meeting & Workshop | October 27, 2020 |
| • Executive Session | October 27, 2020 |

5. APPEARANCES

A. Harold “Herb” Mason, Jr. – Concerns Regarding Shady Acres Subdivision – Administration received a request from Mr. Mason to appear to discuss issues regarding Shady Acres Subdivision:

- Safety & Security of Shady Acres Subdivision – Mr. Mason stated for security and safety a light is needed at the intersection of Ridgeland Road; and throughout Shady Acres. Individuals are going through the neighborhood breaking in vehicles. He commented there needs to be more interaction in Subdivision regarding safety.
- The Road Repair Crew – Appreciates the response he gets from the Road Department crew; they usually responds within 48 hours. Mr. Mason further stated there is an average of 2 to 3 potholes a week; and asked the Board to consider putting asphalt on the paved roads in the Subdivision. Chairman stated the Board would look at using TSPLOST funds to improve/pave roads. Ms. Exum recommended getting a cost analysis for Pine Forest and Augusta Road.
- Three Houses in Shady Acres – There are three dead houses in the Subdivision, one of the houses is dilapidated, one is burned, and one has been unoccupied for over a year and the grass is growing around it. Ms. Sherry Davidson, SGRC, advised she would get with Tax Assessors Office for Homeowners Association; and send them a letter.

B. SGRC – Megan Fowler & Corey Hull – Regional Transit – Administration requested an appearance from Megan Fowler and Corey Hull to provide information regarding the 5311 Regional Transit. Ms. Fowler has been working to prepare an FY2022 5311 Rural Public Transit grant application to GDOT for SGRC to be the regional public transit operator on behalf of counties. Currently the Brooks County Transit System operates through a Third Party Operator (MIDS, Transportation, Inc.). A regional transit system offers public transportation within a region for the benefit of increased access and mobility to its citizens. Each County will need to pass a resolution, which the same is required with Brooks County Transit, to opt in or out of a regional system and commit to proportionally funding any shortfall in funding the SGRC might incur. Mr.

Hull stated they do not anticipate the County having to match funds. Chairman was concerned about that statement; and commented he does not want to take away from Brooks County, Mr. Cody and Mr. Folsom agreed. No action was taken, the Board will look at this information further.

C. Stephanie Mata – Development Authority – Potential Commercial Interest, Community Grant Special Project – Ms. Mata informed the Board there is a Commercial Developer interested in purchasing one (1) acre of the land purchased by Brooks County to build a new Administration Building. They would build one building; but will contain two offices related to USDA. Once the land purchase is finalized by the County, the County Attorney will look into their interest to purchase an acre.

Community Grant Special Project – Ms. Mata presented information regarding a Community Grant the Development Authority has received. Development Authority is considering paying half of the \$10,000 request from the Boys & Girls Club (\$5,000); and asking the Board to consider paying \$5,000. County Attorney recommended tabling this issue; and asked Ms. Mata to provide a budget at the next meeting.

The Joint Development Authority, which Brooks County is a part of, requires three (3) appointments to represent Brooks County. One of the appointees is the Director of Economic Development plus two (2) more appointees which are appointed by the Brooks County Board of Commissioners.

D. Mike Smith – 911 Wrecker Service Contract & Rave Contract Renewal – Mr. Smith provided a copy of the modified Wrecker Service Contract; but stated he would like to see it in Ordinance form. There needs to be something done with the wrecker rotation. County Attorney recommended finding a sponsor for the Ordinance; and then determine how it will go

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. Public Hearing – Court Ordered Rehab – Special Exception – Mr. Cody made a motion to approve the text amendment for the Court Ordered Rehab Special Exception in unincorporated Brooks County with the conditions approved by Planning Commission, Mr. Folsom seconded. Vote was unanimous.

B. Appointment to Joint Development Authority – On motion by Mr. Folsom; seconded by Mr. Cody, the Board unanimously approved to appoint Stephanie Mata to the Joint Development Authority Board representing Brooks County.

C. Rave Contract Renewal – County Attorney informed the Board that the contract is an automatic yearly renewal; and he has put in a call to RAVE to see why they need a signature; and when he gets a response, will let Mr. Smith know. Mr. Folsom made the motion to table the RAVE Contract renewal, Mr. Cody seconded. Vote was unanimous.

D. Wrecker Service Contract - The Wrecker Service Contract was tabled on the motion by Mr. Cody, seconded by Mr. Folsom. Vote was unanimous.

E. Fields at Armory – During the September regular meeting, Mr. Ricardo Davis appeared to discuss use of the ball field located behind the County Administration Building for local youth organization team practices/games. Mr. Davis stated, if permission is granted, they will be

responsible for keeping area cleaned and mowed. County Attorney advised the Board of the need for waiver of liability. County Attorney prepared the waiver of liability; met with the team and parents for signatures for practices only. The lights need to be turned on by the City of Quitman; but an IGA needs to be in place that will allow the City to go on County property. Board authorized County Attorney to negotiate an IGA for electrical behind the Armory/Administration Building at the ball field on the motion by Mr. Folsom, and seconded by Mr. Cody. Vote was unanimous.

7. Unfinished Business

A. Washington Street Gym – Chairman requested this item on the agenda for discussion regarding an RFP for a Structural Engineer. Mr. Folsom made the motion to proceed with the RFP for a Structural Engineer for the Washington Street Gym; and the County Attorney will follow up, Mr. Cody seconded. Vote was unanimous.

B. Deed of Open Space Conservation Easement – County Attorney presented the Deed of Open Space Conservation Easement for the Quitman II Solar, LLC. Mr. Burchett explained there is a certain amount of space open for conservation; the Board needs to approve the Deed as to form until an actual description of property can be attached; and afterwards it will be given to the Board for ratification. The Deed of Open Space Conservation Easement was approved on motion by Mr. Cody, seconded by Mr. Folsom. Vote was unanimous.

8. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR NOTES/COMMENTS

Update on Applications:

- Part-Time Building Inspector
- Full Time Road Superintendent

Kim Daniels, Human Resources, informed the Board that the applications are being vetted and no action is being taken at this time.

9. CALENDAR ITEMS TO NOTE - None

Commissioners Notes/Comments

- **Rhett Rowe - District 1** – Not present.
- **Patrick Folsom, District 2** – Emphasized on appreciation of Mr. Owens.
- **Willie Cody, District 3** – Appreciate everyone coming out.
- **Myra Exum, District 4** – No comment.
- **James Maxwell, District 5** – Thanked everyone for coming out. Commented on Elections Day and that afterwards nothing will change.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Cody made the motion to go out of regular meeting and into executive session at 7:01 p.m.; Mr. Folsom seconded.

Mr. Cody made the motion to go out of executive session and return to the regular meeting at 7:34 p.m.; Mr. Folsom seconded.

Ms. Exum made the motion to terminate the Right of Way Mowing Contract with Green Maintenance and Cleaning, Inc. due to being in breach of contract; subject to paying for complete miles mowed up to date, Mr. Cody seconded. Vote was unanimous.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Cody made the motion to adjourn regular meeting at 7:37 p.m.; Mr. Folsom seconded.

Mr. James Maxwell, Chairman
Ms. Patricia A. Williams, Clerk
Ms. Kim Daniels, Human Resources