

The Brooks County Board of Commissioners met for its Regular Monthly Meeting on Monday, February 1, 2021 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. Patrick Folsom, Chairman; Mr. James Maxwell, Vice Chairman; Mr. Willie Cody; Mr. Rhett Rowe; and Ms. Myra Exum. 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.

Public Hearing – Coy Reaves – Special Exception (Report Attached). Sign-in sheet was provided.

Mr. Coy Reaves submitted a Petition for a Special Exception to establish a rural home occupation located at his residence 4870 Barwick Road to work on ATVs in an existing metal building located on his property. The subject property is 17.5 acres which the applicant has owned for six years. The property is within the Agricultural Zoning District located at Barwick Road in unincorporated Brooks County, being more specifically described as Brooks County Map No. 64, Parcel No. 00022. Brooks County Planning Commission met on January 19, 2021 and unanimously voted to approve the request. There was no one in opposition at the meeting. SGRC Staff recommends approval of the Petition by Mr. Coy Reaves for a Special Exception.

Ms. Sherry Davidson, SGRC, presented the Petition to the Board. The property came out of conservation November 2020. Mr. Reaves lives on the property, setbacks are met, it is a separate building; with no well and no bathroom. The building is behind the residence; the hours will be 9 am to 5 pm, Monday thru Friday. There will be no selling on the property.

Chairman asked for those who wanted to speak against the request. Mr. Bud Reaves stated he lives on property on the south and north of Mr. Reaves. He stated it is peaceful and feels it will become noisy and de-value his property; and does not see it as a good thing.

Ms. Joan Reaves owns property on Barwick/Reaves Road. She asked the question: Why does most people live in the country? For peace and quiet she stated; and is her main concern. She owns horses and feels the loud noise will affect her horses causing them to react to the noise and she may get hurt or someone else could get hurt. Ms. Reaves further stated, the ATVs may be bogging and will create more trash on the road; and bring the value of her property down. She asked the Board to keep her concerns in mind; and please consider her concerns.

Mr. Coy Reaves, Petitioner, spoke in favor; and stated he understand the concerns; he has lived on and maintained the property all of his life. He does not see property value being affected. There will be no ATVs up and down the dirt road. Mr. Reaves stated he hopes the Board will see the benefit to approve his request. Ms. Exum inquired when the ATV has been repaired, where will it be test driven? Mr. Reaves responded the test drive will be done on the property; that most of the ATVs are dropped off; and there will not be a lot of machines on the property. Mr. Rowe inquired about weekends; and if there will be any bogging. Mr. Reaves responded no to both questions. Accessories will be sold; but no ATVs will be sold. Administrator asked about EPA standards being met. Mr. Reaves stated yes standards are being met; he has container drums; company pumps tank; and there is no burning.

Chairman closed the public hearing at 5:32 pm to go into the regular meeting.

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On the motion by Mr. Cody, seconded by Mr. Maxwell, the Board unanimously approved to amend the agenda under New Business, Farmers Market Discussion/Approval, to strike the word “Approval”; and read: Farmers Market Discussion; and approved the agenda as amended.

3. Approval of Minutes

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

- Workshop/Special Called – December 29, 2020
- Regular Monthly Meeting – January 4, 2021
- Workshop/Special Called – January 7, 2021
- Workshop/Special Called – January 26, 2021
- Executive Session – January 26, 2021

4. APPEARANCES

A. Stephanie Mata – Joint Development Authority – Resignation/Appoint Replacement – Ms. Mata requested to appear to advise the Board of the resignation of Mr. Donald Turner. Mr. Turner submitted a letter of resignation on January 8, 2021 to be effective immediately. Mr. Rowe made the motion to accept the resignation of Mr. Turner; and replace with Ms. Erin McKenzie; Ms. Exum seconded. Vote was unanimous.

B. Stephanie Hollifield – Resignation – Ms. Hollifield provided the Board a copy of the UGA Extension Brooks County Ag & 4-H Clover Connection newsletter; and a pocket calendar. Due to COVID-19 pandemic; and the increase in positive cases, the Brooks County Extension Office activities and January calendar appeared different this year as compared to previous years. The in-person winter production meetings at the Ag Building and traveling to State/National meetings has found agents connecting their UGA Specialists and County Producers via virtual meetings.

Ms. Hollifield informed the Board of her acceptance of a promotion with the University of Georgia to serve as the UGA Southwest District ANR Program Development Coordinator. In this new position she will be responsible for development of ANR educational and research programming to train ANR Agents within 41 counties in Southwest District. She will begin the position on February 1, 2021. Ms. Hollifield stated although she will no longer be working daily in Brooks County; she will continue to look after Brooks County.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. Coy Reaves – Special Exception – Mr. Maxwell made the motion to approve the Special Exception request of Mr. Coy Reaves to establish rural home occupation located at his residence 4870 Barwick Road to work on ATVS in an existing building located on his property; Mr. Rowe seconded. Vote was unanimous.

B. CID Gas Pump Replacement Discussion/Approval – Administrator presented a quote from Petroleum Services Group (PSG) for Gas Pump replacement at CID building. The pump has been down for a while; the face has fallen off. PSG is the only company that performs this type

of work. The quote is in the amount of \$8,020.38. Administrator recommended the funds come from the Highways & Streets budget. There were concerns from the Board regarding the funding from Highways & Streets. Administrator informed the Board there is approximately \$50,000 remaining in SPLOST #6 account. After discussion, Ms. Exum made the motion approving the purchase from PSG in the amount of \$8,020.38 to replace the gas pump at CID building; and the funding to come from SPLOST #6; Mr. Maxwell seconded. Vote was unanimous.

C. Development Authority Office Space Discussion/Approval – Ms. Stephanie Mata informed the Board that the Development Authority had found a building to purchase; and will not need a temporary office space.

D. Personnel Policy Updates (30-Day Review/Approve in March 1 General Meeting) – Administration informed the Board she needs more time to complete due to her computer crashing. This item was tabled.

E. Personnel Annual Performance Review Template (30-Day Review/Approve in March 1 General Meeting) – This item was tabled due to being the same as above item.

F. Farmers Market Discussion – Half of the Farmers Market is owned by City and County. County Attorney will verify the title. County Administrator stated if the Board decide to re-purpose funds, the Farmers Market can actually be turned into a true Farmers Market. She further stated it is a prime part of the City and can cater to the County needs in the City of Quitman. Mr. Maxwell emphasized we need to find out if the City has any interest since they own part of the Farmers Market; and find out what they want to do; it needs to be a joint effort.

6. Unfinished Business

A. Vanguard Modular Building Funding – During the January regular meeting, County Administrator presented a new quote for the Modular Building to be placed at the Fire Station on Jackson Road for Grady EMS. The Modular building for EMS was re-quoted after meeting with Fire Chief, and EMS of changes that are needed. A handicap ramp is needed to be in compliance; and is the one driving increase by \$11,200. Administrator advised the Board there is a handicap ramp at the Ag Building that hopefully can be re-purposed to use for the Modular Building and will bring the cost down to approximately \$159,975. The original quote was \$166,000; the new quote with additions is \$171,175. Administrator recommended the funding come from the Fire Protection Fee Fund during January's meeting; but there were questions and concerns as to whether or not the funds could be used for that purpose. Administrator advised the Board of the \$75,000 in the Fire Department budget to build a Fire Department on Hickory Head Road; and \$15,000 in the budget for capital; and include the \$75,000 savings with the EMS contract; would total \$165,000 needed to purchase the Modular Building. The Fire Fee CD would be used and earmarked for the build of Fire Department at Hickory Head Road; and classified as capital.

7. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR NOTES/COMMENTS

A. Mid-Year FY2021 Financial Report/Review – Administrator provided the Board a copy of mid-year financial report which gave a snapshot of each department and where they currently stand. Departments have used approximately 51% of their budget; and should be sitting 10% in the positive.

B. Letter of Appreciation from Boys & Girls Club – Boys & Girls Club of Brooks County sent a letter extending their appreciation for the County's donation in the amount of \$2,500 on December 18, 2020 to build the Boys & Girls Club Brooks County basketball program.

C. 2021 Chevy Tahoe's Update – The Board previously approved the purchase of six police packaged vehicles for the Sheriff's Department. Administration informed the Board that we will not get those vehicles due to production being halted, cannot get the computers for the vehicles; may can get them by August, but there is no guarantee. The Sheriff's Department is in need of vehicles; the entire fleet needs to be replaced. Sheriff Mike Dewey informed the Board of the option to purchase Dodge Durangos, will also have the police package, for \$4,000 less than the Tahoes (\$34,161); and the vehicles can be outfitted the way they need to be. County Attorney advised the Board they would need to make a motion to amend the type of vehicle; pending legal review. After discussion, Ms. Exum made a motion to purchase the six Dodge Durangos requested by the Sheriff instead of the 2021 Chevy Tahoes; subject to legal review; Mr. Cody seconded. Vote was unanimous.

D. Outstanding Fund Reimbursement Due to Brooks County – Ms. McKinney, Administrator, informed the Board of outstanding reimbursements due to the County:

- i. City of Quitman
- ii. Board of Education
- iii. Development Authority. Development Authority has submitted their reimbursement to the County.

8. Commissioners Notes/Comments

- **Rhett Rowe - District 1** – Commented enjoying weather; and thanked everyone for coming.
- **Patrick Folsom, District 2** – Thanked everyone for coming.
- **Willie Cody, District 3** – No Comment.
- **Myra Exum, District 4** – Thanked everyone for coming out; and advised to stay warm.
- **James Maxwell, District 5** – Thanked everyone.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Maxwell made the motion to adjourn regular meeting at 6:39 p.m.; Mr. Cody seconded.

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