

The Brooks County Board of Commissioners met for its Regular Monthly Meeting on Monday, June 7, 2021 at 5:00 p.m., in the Commissioners Meeting Room located at the Brooks County Administration Building, located at 610 South Highland Road, Quitman, GA. Commissioners present were: Mr. Patrick Folsom, Chairman; Mr. James Maxwell, Vice Chairman; Mr. Willie Cody; Ms. Myra Exum; and Mr. Rhett Rowe. Others present were: Mrs. Jessica McKinney, County Administrator; Ms. Patricia Williams, County Clerk; Ms. Kim Daniels, Human Resources; Mr. James Burchett, County Attorney; and various residents.

Public Hearings – All Public Hearings were presented by Ms. Sherry Davidson, Local Government Services Director, Southern Georgia Regional Commission.

A. Special Exception – Azalea City Ministries – Lydia’s House – Dormitory for Women Court Ordered – Sign in Sheet Provided – This Petition was presented to the Board during the regular meeting on December 7, 2020; however; based on State Law 36-66-4 the Board had to wait six (6) months to decide whether to approve or deny. Planning Commission met on November 24, 2020; and unanimously approved the petition. The Special Exception is to establish a dormitory for women that are court ordered to reside on the property; the property is 5.8 acres with two existing manufactured homes. Pastor Gwin Jarriel commented this is positive for the community and rescue their needs. No one present was against the Special Exception.

B. Special Exception – Joshua Carter – Establish Small Animal Petting Farm – Sign in Sheet Provided – The Petition by Joshua Carter for a Special Exception for a Rural Home Occupation to establish a small animal petting farm located at 13655 Hwy 133. Planning Commission met on May 17, 2021 and approved the Petition and no one in attendance was against the proposal. SGRC Staff recommended approval. The hours of operation will be three days a week (Thursday, Friday, and Saturday) from 9am to 6pm. No one spoke in opposition.

C. Special Exception – Alice Carol Williams – Shelter to Smoke Meats/Park Grill Under/Store Firewood – Sign in Sheet Provided – Alice Carol Williams submitted a Petition for a Special Exception for Rural Home Occupation to put up a shelter to smoke meats to sell; park grill under and store firewood. There will be no food served, potential buyers would pull in and pick up. The property is located at 505 Studstill Road. The Applicant proposes to buy a 12x20x8 shelter with one corner closed off for supplies. Planning Commission met on May 17, 2021 and voted unanimously to approve. No one in attendance was in opposition.

D. Special Exception – Danny and Debra Hall – Family Cemetery on Hall Farm Property – Sign in Sheet Provided – Petition to request a Special Exception to allow the establishment of a family cemetery on Hall Farm located at 1314 Peacock Road. Planning Commission met on May 17, 2021 and voted unanimously to approve. No one in attendance was in opposition.

E. Zoning Change – Morris Hines – AU (Agriculture) to MHP (Mobile Home Park) – Sign in Sheet Provided – Morris Hines requested a zoning change to 36.78 acres located off Hwy 133, which has an existing curb cut for the property in the Troupeville area in unincorporated Brooks County, from AU (Agriculture) to MHP (Mobile Home Park). The site plan show 60 half acre lots. All roads are paved to GDOT standards; and is not the responsibility of Brooks County. Each mobile home will have a septic tank and there will be a community well. Planning Commission met on May 17, 2021 and voted unanimously to approve. No one in attendance was in opposition.

Adjacent property owner, Jerry Newman, has a pond and is concerned about children playing. Previously there was dumping on his property; and in 1980 a youngster set fire and burned 50% of timber causing to harvest early. He asked for consideration of a condition to ask tenants to adhere with no trespassing. County Attorney advised that the County can ask it be added to the Agreement; but cannot enforce it. No Trespassing signs can be placed; minimal 6 feet buffer added and a fence on the property line.

Chairman closed the Public Hearings and went into the regular meeting at 5:28 pm.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Prayer & Pledge of Allegiance – Chairman called the Regular Meeting to order; and asked Pastor Gwin Jarriel to lead all in attendance in prayer and pledge of allegiance.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On the motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Ms. Exum, the Board unanimously approved the agenda for June 7, 2021 regular meeting.

3. Approval of Minutes

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

- Regular Monthly Meeting May 3, 2021
- Town Hall Workshop May 10, 2021
- Special Called May 20, 2021

4. APPEARANCES

A. Bill Twomey – ACCG Presentation – Mr. Bill Twomey, ACCG, appeared to present Chairman Folsom his Certificate of Completion. The Certificate is usually presented at the Annual Conference in Savannah; due to COVID-19 all conferences, meetings and training classes were cancelled. Chairman was surprised and gave Mr. Twomey a personal thank you.

B. Erin Blanton – Family Connection – Ms. Erin Blanton and Ms. Natalie Singletary, Family Connection, appeared to present the Family Connection Annual Report for 2020.

C. Harold “Herb” Mason, Jr. – Concerns – Shady Acres Subdivision – Mr. Mason expressed his concerns regarding the condition of the roads in Shady Acres; and other issues of concern. There is no lighting for the entrance on Glynn Brooke at Hwy 133 which makes the intersection dangerous because it is on a hill.

Mr. Mason stated his concerns related to hazardous property belonging to the Stephenson Family on Hwy 133 across from Gateway Baptist Church. The house is falling in; and there are two tractor trailers that have been parked there for years. Ms. Sherry Davidson, SGRC, stated she would get with Tax Assessors office to find out who owns the property.

The final concern is the store at Troupeville on Hwy 133 that has installed a security light that effects the ability to see the road at night. Ms. Davidson stated she would speak with them and ask to redirect lighting.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. Special Exception – Azalea City Ministries – Lydia’s House – Dormitory for Women Court Ordered – On the motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Rowe; the Board unanimously approved the Special Exception for Azalea City Ministries, Lydia’s House, to establish a dormitory for women that are court ordered to reside on the property; the property is 5.8 acres with two existing manufactured homes. Must meet the following conditions as adopted by the Board of Commissioners on November 2, 2020:

- Must have a minimum of 3 acres.
- Limit the amount of participants to ten (10).
- Must have proper signage depicting its use.
- Must have property completely fenced.

B. Special Exception – Joshua Carter – Establish Small Animal Petting Farm – Ms. Exum made the motion to approve the request of Joshua Carter to establish a Small Animal Petting Farm located at 13655 Hwy 133. The hours of operation will be three days a week (Thursday, Friday, and Saturday) from 9am to 6pm.; Mr. Cody seconded. Vote was unanimous.

C. Special Exception – Alice Carol Williams – Shelter to Smoke Meats/Park Grill Under/Store Firewood – The Board approved the Special Exception by Alice Carol Williams for a Rural Home Occupation to put up a shelter to smoke meats to sell; park grill under and store firewood located at 505 Studstill Road on the motion by Mr. Maxwell; seconded by Ms. Exum. Vote was unanimous.

D. Special Exception – Danny and Debra Hall – Family Cemetery on Hall Farm Property -The Petition to request a Special Exception to allow the establishment of a family cemetery on Hall Farm located at 1314 Peacock Road was approved on the motion by Ms. Exum; and seconded by Mr. Rowe. Vote was unanimous.

E. Zoning Change – Morris Hines – AU (Agriculture) to MHP (Mobile Home Park) – Ms. Exum made the motion to approve the zoning change by Morris Hines for 36.78 acres located off Hwy 133 from AU (Agriculture) to MHP (Mobile Home Park) with stipulations: include a fence on the east property line with a 6 feet wooded buffer; Mr. Cody seconded. Vote was unanimous.

F. Board Appointment – Brooks County Board of Health – Administration received a letter from Dr. C. Martelia Cunningham informing the Board of her resignation from the Brooks County Board of Health effective after the close of the next Board of Health meeting on June 23, 2021. Dr. Cunningham recommended Mrs. June Lynn Furney be considered as a replacement. This item was tabled on the motion by Mr. Maxwell, Mr. Cody seconded. Vote was unanimous.

G. Fire Truck Bids – Fire Chief, Jordan Smith, provide the Board with bids/quotes for two fire trucks, one new and one used. The new fire truck for Station 10 will cost \$438,959. No new equipment has been purchased for the Fire Department since being established. The need for the trucks is declared an emergency due to having two vehicles down and the need to protect citizens of Brooks County. The Board waived the procurement policy of having three quotes due to the vehicle being a Specialty Vehicle on the motion by Ms. Exum; seconded by Mr. Cody. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Maxwell made the motion approving the purchase of a new Fire Truck, 18111 demo model, in the amount of \$282,074, funds will come from the Fire Fund CD; and waive the procurement policy, Mr. Rowe seconded. Vote was unanimous.

H. Quotes for Additional Work at Courthouse – Quotes were provided from Barber Contracting Company: 1) to replace broken exterior brick pavers in the amount of \$7,488.74; 2) replace broken glass with clear glass for \$500 per window; 3) to replace broken stone tile in corridor with existing floor tile at the cost of \$5,252.63; and 4) replace concrete sidewalks for \$25,009.60. After discussion, the Board tabled the quote for the concrete sidewalks (\$25,009.60), and approved to put out an RFP for the replacing sidewalks on the motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Ms. Exum. Vote was unanimous.

The Board discussed not replacing the broken glass windows (\$500.00 each) and leave the windows as is. On the motion by Ms. Exum; seconded by Mr. Rowe; the Board approved Change Order #15, from Barber Contracting Company, to replace the broken stone tile in the corridor of the Courthouse (\$5,252.63); due to being a specialty, and having extra floor tile to replace the broken tile. Ms. Exum made the motion to table the broken exterior brick pavers (\$7,488.74) and put out an RFP, Mr. Cody seconded. Vote was unanimous.

I. Vehicle Purchase – Jail Administrator – Sheriff requested a vehicle for the Jail Administrator. The current vehicle is on its last leg, the Sheriff stated to the Board. Sheriff Dewey informed the Board of a vehicle he found from Classic Automobile Co., Inc. in Largo, Florida. The vehicle is a 2008 Ford Crown Vic with 77,907 miles; and the cost is \$8,795.00. The Board approved up to \$9,000.00 for the purchase of the Crown Vic; and the funds will come from the Contingency Fund, Ms. Exum made the motion; and Mr. Maxwell seconded. Vote was unanimous.

J. Board of Education Grant to be Funded thru the County – Rep. Goodman assisted the Board of Education with a \$100,000 Georgia One Grant for construction of livestock annex for students. Administrator received an email, completed the forms; and as the work is done the funds will come in. The work has to be verified before invoicing. The funds will be disbursed thru Brooks County. The motion was made by Ms. Exum to approve the \$100,000 Georgia One Grant for the Board of Education to construct a livestock annex, the County will be the recipient of the funds; pay invoices as come in, Mr. Maxwell seconded. Vote was unanimous.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Tree Removal Review – This item was tabled during the May 3rd regular meeting due to questions and information that needed clarification. A motion was made by Mr. Maxwell to remove the tree removal from being tabled, Mr. Rowe seconded. There were still inconsistencies with the three bids. On a motion by Mr. Cody; seconded by Mr. Maxwell, the Board voted unanimously to table this item until the June 15, 2021 meeting to decide where funds would come from and get more clarification of the bids.

7. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR NOTES/COMMENTS

- June 15, 2021 – Budget Review/Recommendations
- June 26, 2021 – Independence Celebration
- CARES Act Funding – Update/Recommended Use
- ARP Funding – Update/Recommended Use
- July 4th Observance – Monday, July 5, 2021 (Regular Meeting will be July 12, 2021)

8. **EXECUTIVE SESSION** – None

Commissioners Notes/Comments

- **Rhett Rowe - District 1** – Hats off to 911, First Responders, Sheriff's Department for quick responses. Thanked attendees for coming.
- **Patrick Folsom, District 2** – Commented on following up on Farmers Market. Advised Mr. Owens he will be place on the upcoming meeting agendas under Appearances and Workshop.
- **Willie Cody, District 3** – Commented on dust from solar site on Hodges Road.
- **Myra Exum, District 4** – Commented; hats off to First Responders; and room full of people.
- **James Maxwell, District 5** – No comment.

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. Exum made the motion to adjourn regular meeting at 7:10 p.m.; Mr. Maxwell seconded.

Mr. Patrick Folsom, Chairman

Ms. Jessica J. McKinney, County Administrator

Ms. Patricia A. Williams, Clerk