

The Brooks County Board of Commissioners met for a Special Called Meeting on Thursday, May 20, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Meeting Room at the Brooks County Administration Building located at 610 South Highland Road, Quitman, GA. Commissioners present were: Mr. James Maxwell, Vice Chairman; Ms. Myra Exum; and Mr. Willie Cody. Mr. Patrick Folsom, Chairman; and Mr. Rhett Rowe were not present. Others present were: Ms. Jessica McKinney, County Administrator; Ms. Patricia Williams; County Clerk; Ms. Kim Daniels, Human Resources; and Mr. James Burchett, County Attorney, via telephone; and other residents.

1. **Call to Order** – Vice Chairman called meeting to order at 5:03 pm.

**Prayer/Pledge** – Mr. Cody led all in attendance in prayer and the pledge of allegiance.

2. **Special Called Meeting**

**A. Annual Notices of Assessment** – Chief Tax Appraiser, Wayne Waldron, informed the Board of the Annual Assessment Notices mailed to residents; the same notices sent out every year. There are no significant value changes. Provided the information to the Board in case they start receiving calls; and advised to have them call the Tax Assessors Office.

**B. Courthouse Renovations/Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, May 25<sup>th</sup>** – County Administrator reminded the Board of the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony to be held on May 25, 2021 at 11:45 am to celebrate the 2021 completed renovation of the Historic Brooks County Courthouse. Ribbon will be cut at the chime of the clock. The Chairman or any Commissioner can speak. An additional walk-thru was done; and the Chairman was concerned about broken windows; but the windows are stress cracked not broken. Storm windows were placed over the windows to seal them. To replace the glass will be an added cost; Barber, Contractor for Courthouse renovations is working up a quote. There was also concrete work done at the back side of the Courthouse; concrete was replaced joint to joint. Perimeter sections are cracked as well; and Administrator has asked the Contractor do this work also. Ms. McKinney stated the Chairman wanted cement work done on all sidewalks; but that would cost an estimated \$25,000. The Board tabled this item for further discussion.

**City Beautification** – Administrator was asked to meet with Thomas Humphrey, PLA, who is working on a landscape plan for the City of Quitman. A drawing was provided of the proposed landscaping which would be continuity between City of Quitman and Brooks County.

**C. Independence Day Celebration, June 26<sup>th</sup>** – Administrator informed the Board of the community project to provide an Independence Day Celebration on the Courthouse grounds. The celebration would include a parade, food, décor; and vehicle floats for both Brooks County and City of Quitman. Ms. McKinney further stated that at 9:00 pm, at dark, there would be fireworks. There will also be music, a band, and games for the kids. Question was asked, where would the fireworks take place? Administrator advised the fireworks will be held on the new property owned by the County. There were concerns regarding safety issues from the Board; but was re-assured that all safety precautions will be considered. Fire Chief, Jordan Smith, advised from his perspective the event should be safe; he did not see a problem.

**D. Grady EMS 90-Day Non-Renewal/RFP** – Grady EMS has requested an increase in their annual subsidy; which is the same amount requested before the Board approved and purchased a building to house them in an effort to assist Grady financially. The requested increase amount is \$480,000 annually. Administration received a letter from Bill Compton, Grady

EMS, notifying of the 90-day non-renewal process. Administrator explained the process to the Board that this does not dismiss their ownership of the Zone License to operate; they still will continue services; and staff ambulances. While Grady is in ownership of the Zone License, they are responsible to provide service; but the quality of service may be in question. Grady EMS will put the Regional Council on notice; and Regional Council will put the bid out. After further discussion, a unanimous vote by the Board on the motion by Ms. Exum to continue with the current contract between Grady EMS and Brooks County at the original amount until September 1, 2021, seconded by Mr. Cody

**3. Executive Session – None**

On the motion by Mr. Cody, seconded by Ms. Exum, the Board adjourned the special called meeting at 5:39 p.m.

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