

The Brooks County Board of Commissioners met for its Regular Monthly Meeting on Monday, June 3, 2024, 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; Mrs. Myra Exum; Mr. Willie Cody; and Mr. Lee Larko. Others present were Ms. Patricia Williams, County Clerk; Ms. Kim Daniels, Human Resources, Mr. James Burchett, County Attorney; and various residents.

**1. PUBLIC HEARING – NONE**

**2. CALL TO ORDER** – Chairman called the meeting to order.

**Prayer & Pledge of Allegiance** – Pastor Willie Freeman, Brooks County Ministerial Association, led all in attendance in prayer and pledge of allegiance.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On the motion by Mr. Cody, seconded by Mrs. Exum the Board unanimously approved the following minutes:

- |  |              |
|--|--------------|
| A. Regular Monthly Meeting             | May 6, 2024  |
| B. Special Called Meeting/Work Session | May 20, 2024 |

**4. INVITED GUESTS – (5 MINUTES)**

**A. Scott Routsong – Brooks County Public Library Appointments** – Brooks County Public Library Director, Mr. Scott Routsong, informed the Board of upcoming expiring terms of Library Board Members, Ms. Mary Henley, Ms. Patty Hancock, Mr. Willie Cody, and Ms. Julie Swann, who has served their two consecutive terms on the Board. They will rotate off at the beginning of FY2025 on July 1. Mr. Routsong presented patrons interested in serving on the Board and recommends the candidates. The candidates are Mrs. Linda Troutman, Mrs. Naomi Conger, Mrs. Jenay Wortman, and Mrs. Sandra McDonald. The Board has set a precedent to advertise for Board appointments to give others an opportunity to apply if interested.

Mr. Routsong presented an update with a schedule of activities at the library for the month of June.

**B. Debrief of Moody AFB – MOA Town Hall Meeting – County Attorney James Burchett** – County Attorney, James Burchett, provided the Board information of the town hall meeting. A town hall meeting was hosted by Moody Air Force Base personnel at the Lowndes County Courthouse on May 22, 2024. The purpose of the meeting was to inform and engage the public concerning the implementation of the Moody MOA expansion which becomes effective July 11, 2024. After attendance of the town hall, it appears the expansion will moderately impact current operations primarily in the way aviators

communicate with Valdosta controllers and JAX Center. Moody will begin flying training sorties in the expanded MOA, which includes the section encompassing 4J5 (Quitman-Brooks County Airport) named Corsair South, on July 11, 2024. Those sorties will include tactical maneuvers with rapid climbs and descents where aircraft will be as low as 1,000 feet above ground level ("AGL"). The expected amount of time the aircraft is at 1,000 AGL is a few seconds. Local training flights may be inconvenienced in the active MOA near 4J5.

**C. Matt Campbell – CEO – Georgia Matters** – Matt Campbell, CEO, Georgia Matters, a consulting firm. Mr. Campbell does post for the county to the county website, county Instagram, and county Facebook page. He posts the meeting agendas, minutes, and more as we send to him. He informed the Board and provided information on a Leadership Program. Mr. Campbell is also a Lobbyist appointed by Governor Kemp.

## **5. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES & DEPARTMENTS – (5 MINUTES)**

**A. Brooks County 911/EMA – Director LaToya Hampton** – Ms. Hampton provided an update for 911/EMA for May 2024:

- There were 1,624 calls received.
- 911 addressing and corrections are continuing to be made for the county and city.
- On June 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, Ms. Hampton and four senior Dispatchers will attend the required training for Dispatchers for 10 hours of yearly certification in Berrien County.
- **EMA:** May was a severe weather month for Brooks County, May 10<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, and 18<sup>th</sup>, all severe thunderstorms as well as tornado warnings. Two occurred while students were in school, we kept the county informed through email, phone calls, and text messages with Code Red.
- May 24<sup>th</sup> assisted elderly couple in Morven with tarp due to leaks in the house from the storm.
- May 16<sup>th</sup>, met with Mrs. Davenport from Terracon for contracting to remove the tree and rebuild Bethlehem Primitive Baptist Church to pre-storm conditions. She will submit the labor cost and scope of work to me by Friday, June 7, 2024; and I will submit it to the State and FEMA.
- Advised today, June 3, 2024, will be the last face to face visit with project manager I have been meeting with monthly and weekly since September. The project is in the close out stage.
- Received a call from GEMA Rep that all projects have been allocated and closed out on CAT A project, we just need to watch out for our checks.
- Hurricane season began June 1, 2024, and will be in effect until November 30, 2024. Anticipating it to be an active season from normal to 3 to 7 hurricanes possibly affecting our area. We are already prepared from Hurricane Idalia.
- Code Red pushed on EMA Page so citizens can sign up and be weather ready.
- Meeting with SGMC and with department heads before July 1, 2024, launch to meet and greet and get an idea on where we stand.

**C. Brooks County Fire Department – Chief Weeks** – Presented report for May 2024 for activities/projects with the Brooks County Fire Department.

- Responded to total of 64 calls for service, 28 medical calls, 13 canceled/nothing found, 0 structure fires, 2 brush fires, 9 MVA, 1 vehicle fires, controlled burns 2, 2 fire alarms, 3 trees down, 2 water emergency, and 1 other call.
- **Training:** Tanker driving.
- **Update:** Nothing new from Morven, we should receive the Fireworks Grant fund soon.
- **Budget:** Still in progress.
- **Employee Update:** We are currently involved in hiring several positions that have recently opened.

**D. Brooks County Public Works Department Report – Project Manager -Kyle Christian**  
Kyle Christian, Project Manager, reported for May 2024:

- 277 work orders, 143 completed.
- The work included grading roads, ditching, pipe installations, removal of trees, busting beaver dams, fixing washouts, and repairing potholes and shoulders of roads.
- Also picked up and delivered materials to roads that needed such as rock, clay, lime rock, sand, and any other materials needed.
- Provided the Board with a report by District.

**6. CONSENT AGENDA - NONE**

**A.**

**7. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Washington Street Gym** – 12 Stones Engineering, Jesse Bush, presented the foundation and floor plan for Washington Street Gym to secure the structure so it will not move any more. The foundation and floor plan will include concrete beam from column to column, remove wood floor, and cut patch concrete.

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. GDOT – Indication of Roundabout Support – SR 122 @ SR 133** – GDOT informed the county of their proposal for a roundabout project at SR 122 @ SR 133. They are still in the early stages of concept development but want to be sure it is on the Board's radar in case there are questions for area residents or business owners. The project is federally funded on a state route, GDOT does not expect Brooks County to participate in funding the design and construction. GDOT does expect Brooks County to fund the operation, repair and maintenance costs of any lighting or lawn care (if applicable) once it has been constructed. An "Indication of Roundabout Support Letter" was provided which is an acknowledgment of the county's awareness of what is to come in terms of responsibility on the county side. The motion was made by Mrs. Exum to approve the funding of the operation, repair and maintenance costs of any lighting or lawn care once the Roundabout is constructed, Mr. Larko seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

**B. Solar Moratorium – Extension** – The Board approved to extend the Solar Moratorium for six months until February 4, 2025, on a motion by Mr. Maxwell, and seconded by Mr. Larko. The current Moratorium expires August 4, 2024. Mrs. Exum abstained. The extension will allow the Board time to schedule a Town Hall meeting to give citizens an opportunity to present their issues/concerns and provide the industry with the opportunity to justify. A date for the town hall meeting was discussed. A preliminary date of October 17, 2024 was discussed; but the Board tabled until the July meeting to look the week of October 17 – October 21, 2024, to give everyone a chance to look at their calendars.

**C. Approval for Removal of Shiver Road from 2023 LMIG Project List** – Jesse Bush, 12 Stones Engineering, recommended to the Board the removal of Shiver Road from the 2023 LMIG Project List to bid separate due to the need for the project to be a larger construction project to fix drainage issues before widening and resurfacing. Mr. Bush stated the recommendation would be first to widen, curb and gutter, and build the road at one time and second to overlay the existing road. After discussion, the motion was made by Mr. Larko to remove Shiver Road from the 2023 LMIG Project List, Mr. Cody seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

**D. Designate Brooks County Hospital Liaison** – County Attorneys are working on new By-Laws for the Hospital Authority, and Mr. Folsom is working with them and assisting to get updated and refresh the Hospital Authority Board members. Mr. Maxwell motioned to appoint Mr. Folsom as the Liaison for the Hospital Authority Board; Mr. Cody seconded. The vote was unanimous.

**E. Funds Request – Airport Authority** – The Airport Authority is requesting fund assistance with outstanding invoices for Quitman-Brooks Airport Layout Plan, Construction, and Environmental Assessment. A list of outstanding invoices was presented to the Board in the amount of \$79,518.00. The Airport Authority is requesting Board assistance with the balance of \$79,518.00; they have \$30,000 in their budget and are requesting \$50,000.00 to complete the balance owed. They cannot pay the funds back, but per the Board, their yearly supplement from the county will be cut. The Board approved unanimously to provide the Airport Authority with \$50,000.00 to pay for outstanding invoices of \$79,518.00 and the funds will come from the Contingency fund, on the motion by Mr. Larko and seconded by Mrs. Exum.

**F. Reappointment of Ms. Mary Thomas – DFACS Service Board** – Ms. Sky Robinson, DFACS Director, submitted an appointment letter for the reappointment of Mrs. Mary Thomas to the DFACS Board, whose term expired June 30, 2023. Mrs. Thomas has expressed a willingness to serve another term on the board. Mr. Maxwell made the motion to reappoint Mrs. Mary Thomas; Mr. Cody seconded. After discussion regarding the term end date and advertising for potential candidates, Mr. Maxwell rescinded his motion; and Mr. Cody rescinded his second. The Board asked the Clerk to check the expiring term date and to advertise the appointment.

**G. Open Bids – Emerson Road Project** – Three bids were submitted for the Emerson Road Storm Drain Project.

1. Bates Company, Inc. - \$118,070.00
2. The Scruggs Company - \$193,554.76
3. Meriwether Site Solutions - \$219,918.99

The bid will be awarded during the Special Called/Work Session on June 24, 2024.

## **9. PUBLIC COMMENTS – (5 MINUTES)**

**A. Christopher Godfrey – Road Issue – Maintenance** – Mr. Godfrey appeared to address his concerns regarding right-of-way that was maintained and grandfathered in and an issue with the landowner. Board advised that the lane is not owned by the county it is private and we cannot maintain or enter private property. The County Attorney advised that it is a civil issue and may need to seek legal counsel.

**B. Shellion Hallerbach/Marco Hallerbach – Hodges Road – Pavement** – Mrs. Hallerbach appeared to address concerns with the condition of Hodges Road and inquired about paving the road. The Board explained that Hodges Road is on the TIA2 list, and the issues occurred previously when the Board tried to pave the road. Chairman asked Project Manager, Kyle Christian, to go out and see what can be done.

**C. James & Erika Self – Coeey Road – Erosion of Road Caused by Grading & Rain** – Mr. James Self requested to appear to discuss Coeey Road issues with erosion, grading and rain. He stated his questions had been answered while others addressed their road concerns and the Board explaining the past and current status of the Road Department.

## **10. ADMINISTRATION/ELECTED OFFICIALS UPDATES**

### **A. County Administration Updates**

- 1) Region 8 EMS Approved – Brooks County EMS Starts July 1, 2024
- 2) ACCG President – Appointed Commissioner Myra Exum as Chair of the Natural Resources and Environmental Policy Committee for 2024-2025 Policy Year

### **B. Commissioners Notes/Comments**

- **Lee Larko (District 1)** – Read a written statement.
- **Patrick Folsom, Chairman (District 2)** – No comment.
- **Willie Cody (District 3)** – No comment.
- **Myra Exum (District 4)** – No comment.
- **James Maxwell, Vice (District 5)** – No comment

## **12. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Maxwell moved to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:07 pm; Mr. Cody seconded.

Mr. Patrick Folsom, Chairman  
Patricia A. Williams, County Clerk