



**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Patrick Folsom, Chairman (District 2)

James Maxwell, Vice (District 5)

Myra Exum (District 4)

Willie Cody (District 3)

Lee Larko (District 1)

**COUNTY STAFF**

Patricia Williams, County Clerk

Kim Daniels, Human Resources

James Burchett/Jason Kemp, County Attorneys

**Brooks County Board of Commissioners  
Work Session/Special Called/Executive Session  
Thursday, September 5, 2024 @ 2:00pm**

**Brooks County Administration Building  
Commissioners Meeting Room  
610 South Highland Road  
Quitman, GA**

---

**WORK SESSION/SPECIAL CALLED MEETING – 2:00pm**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

A. Prayer/Pledge

B. Fire Fee Recalculations

**2. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Personnel

**3. ADJOURNMENT**

The Brooks County Board of Commissioners met for a Special Called Meeting/Work Session/Executive Session Thursday, September 5, 2024, at 2:00 p.m., at the Brooks County Administrative Building, in the Commissioners Meeting Room, 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. Larko. Others present were Mr. Randy Dowling, Interim County Administrator; Ms. Kim Daniels, Human Resources; and Mr. Jason Kemp, County Attorney, and various residents.

### **SPECIAL CALLED MEETING**

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

**A. PRAYER/PLEDGE** – Mr. Maxwell led all in attendance in prayer and pledge of allegiance.

**B. Fire Fee Calculations** – County Attorney, Mr. Jason Kemp, looked at other calculations other than what we had to see if we needed to reset the fee to be compliant with the law. He worked with Chief Tax Appraiser, Mr. Wayne Waldron, and Tax Commissioner, Mrs. Becky Rothrock, to use different scenarios of numbers to figure rates to try and help make sense and digestible. The question was asked, do we want to keep the fire fee the same or change it from current flat fee to square footage system. Mr. Maxwell suggested not to rush and wait until next tax season and put something together with the new Administrator and evaluate resources. Mr. Larko's opinion was to offer an alternative to what we have now. We have figures that will get us close to where we are currently with our tax base, we should adopt this. Mrs. Exum suggested to have a conversation with Wayne Waldron to see if we are making it any better or any worse. The equitable way in the long run is to migrate and move toward a millage to fund. We do not have to rush a decision, and we cannot move to a millage at this point because we have already had the public hearings. Mrs. Exum further suggested that Chief Weeks look at his budget and see if it can go a different direction than it went this year; and she agrees that this should be top priority this year.

Mr. Larko inquired if Mr. Waldron have the figures ready. Mr. Waldron responded, he advised the Board that he could not present the figures or make any suggestions, it is strictly up to the Board as to how they want to proceed. Chairman advised the Board that the reason for the meeting was to give them an opportunity to get with Mr. Waldron and Mrs. Rothrock prior to the meeting. Mr. Cody also agreed they need to wait and get it right this time., Mrs. Exum concurred. Mrs. Exum asked Mr. Dowling if he figured our budget on the existing rate, and he confirmed that it was based on what is existing now. Mrs. Exum made a motion to keep the fire fee as it currently is, Mr. Maxwell seconded. The vote was unanimous.

**3. EXECUTIVE SESSION** – The Board went into executive session at 2:19 pm on a motion by Mr. Maxwell, and Mr. Larko seconded.

**A. Personnel** – The Board unanimously approved/ratified the Employment Agreement between Brooks County and Buddy Johnson on the motion by Mrs. Exum, seconded by Mr. Maxwell.

The Executive Session was adjourned at 2:36 pm, to go back to the special called meeting, Mrs. Exum motioned, and Mr. Maxwell seconded.

**4. ADJOURNMENT**

The Board adjourned at 2:44 pm, on the motion by Mrs. Exum, seconded by Mr. Maxwell.

Mr. Patrick Folsom, Chairman  
Mr. Randy Dowling, Interim County Administrator