

The Brooks County Board of Commissioners met for its Regular Business Meeting on Monday, October 6, 2025, 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 Mr. Buddy Johnson, County Administrator; Ms. Patricia Williams, County Clerk; Ms. Kim Daniels, Human Resources; Ms. Janice Jarvis, Finance Director; Mr. Jason Kemp, County Attorney, and various residents.

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Prayer & Pledge – Chairman asked Mr. Herb Mason to lead all in attendance in prayer. The pledge of allegiance was led by John Rados, a Brooks County Student, that asked to do the pledge of allegiance for the Project on Flag Respect he is working on.

II. PUBLIC HEARING – Sign-In (No one signed in to speak)

A. Special Exception – Wes Bancroft, Authorized Agent – The Towers, LLC – 195-Foot Tall 4G Cell Tower – Troupeville Community South of Highway 133 – Rep for Verizon Wireless – Wes Bancroft, Authorized Agent for The Towers, LLC, filed a petition for a Special Exception to build a 195-foot-tall monopole 4G Cell Tower. The property is in east Brooks County, near the Troupeville Community on the south side of Highway 133 (Valdosta Highway), across from Dugong Road. The property is within the Highway Commercial Zoning District of unincorporated Brooks County, known as the Troupeville Community, more specifically described as Brooks County Map No. 146, Parcel No. 00119.

The request was reviewed and approved unanimously on February 2, 2022, by the County Commissioners. However, special exception permits expire one year after approval and expire six months after a building permit is pulled. Both permits have lapsed, and they had to reapply for both permits.

Staff recommend approval of the petition by Wes Bancroft, Authorized Agent for The Towers, LLC, for a special exception. The Planning Commission voted to table for more information due to concerns about a potential failure because it is close to two office buildings, one being onsite and the other being next door.

B. Special Exception – Wes Bancroft, Authorized Agent – The Towers, LLC – 190-Foot Tall Cell Tower +9' Lightning Rod – County Road 78 (Owned by Charlie Rose) – Rep for Verizon Wireless – Wes Bancroft, Authorized Agent for The Towers, LLC, filed a petition for a Special Exception to build a 190-foot-tall cell tower with a 9' lightning rod which equals 199' overall height on a property located on County Road 78 (owned by Charlie Rose). The property is within the Agricultural Zoning District of unincorporated Brooks County, more specifically described as Brooks County Map No. 018, Parcel No. 0041.

The request was reviewed and approved unanimously on September 9, 2019, by the County Commissioners. However, special exception permits expire one year after approval and expire six months after a building permit is pulled. Both permits have lapsed, and they had to reapply for both permits.

Staff recommend approval of the petition by Wes Bancroft, Authorized Agent for The Towers, LLC, for a special exception. The Planning Commission voted unanimously for approval of the 190-foot-tall cell tower on property located on County Road 78.

Chairman closed the public hearing at 5:14 pm to go into the regular business meeting.

III. COMMISSIONER BUSINESS PRESENTATION – (5 MINUTES) - NONE

IV. CONSENT AGENDA – One Motion for Approval on all Items – (Johnson)

A. Approval of prior meeting minutes

On the motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Larko, the Board unanimously approved the following minutes for September 2025:

- 1) CA033-2025** - Regular Business Meeting – September 8, 2025
- 2) CA034-2025** - Special Called/Work Session/Executive Session – September 29, 2025

V. FORMAL ACTION REQUESTS–Commissioners Discussion with Action (Johnson)

A. Approve/Disapprove/Other Official Actions

1) FA070-2025 – Special Exception – Cell Tower – Troupeville Community South of Highway 133 – The Board did not take any action on this item due to it going back to the Planning Commission to review for more information. This formal action number was re-assigned to the Repeal of the Fire Fee Ordinance under Section VIII, Item 2 under New Business.

NB010-2025 – Re-assigned to Formal Action FA070-2025 – Repeal of the Fire Fee Ordinance – Mrs. Exum made the motion to approve the Repeal of the Fire Fee Ordinance, Mr. Larko seconded the motion. The Fire Fee Ordinance will expire on December 31, 2025. The Repeal of the Fire Fee Ordinance will lay on the table for 30 days at the Office of the Clerk of Court for public review and comment. After 30 days, the ordinance will be presented to the Board for a public hearing and approval.

2) FA071-2025 – Special Exception – Cell Tower – County Road 78 – On the motion by Mrs. Exum, seconded by Mr. Maxwell, the Board approved the Special Exception 190-foot-tall cell tower with a +9' lightning rod which equals 199' overall height on a property located on County Road 78 (owned by Charlie Rose).

3) FA072-2025 – Proposal – Ordinance Codification – Municode Codification Services – County Administrator recommended the approval; the ordinances have not been codified since 2007. On the motion by Mr. Cody, seconded by Mr. Larko, the Board approved the ordinance

codification by Municode for a one-time fee at the time of signing the contract of \$5,968.00 and \$3,395.00, totalling \$9,363.00. The annual renewable will be invoiced at time of signing the contract and annually thereafter for \$3,395.00 (\$2,000.00 for supplementation and online code hosting bundle for \$1395.00). The one-time fee of \$5,968.00 and the renewable for \$3,395.00 which totals \$9,363.00 due at contract signing. The annual recurring fees for supplementation and online hosting bundle (\$3,395.00) will be billed annually. The funds will come from the Contingency Fund.

4) FA073-2025 – Board of Tax Assessors - Appointment – Mr. Maxwell made the motion to re-appoint Mr. Melvin DeShazor to the Board of Tax Assessors for another three-year term, Mr. Cody seconded. Mr. DeShazor has served as a valued member of the Board since 2020; and has successfully completed more than 120 hours of training and continuing education for County Tax Officials. Mr. DeShazor's term will expire December 31, 2025. Chairman called for the vote. Mrs. Exum, Mr. Maxwell, and Mr. Cody voted in favor. Mr. Larko opposed. The vote was 3 to 1.

5) FA074-2025 – Regional Advisory Council for Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities – Board Appointment – Mr. Maxwell stated he had spoken with Mr. Donnie Ware, and he is willing to serve another term on the Regional Advisory Council. Mrs. Exum motioned to approve the re-appointment of Mr. Donnie Ware to the Regional Advisory Council, Mr. Larko seconded.

6) FA075-2025 – Approve – FY2026 LMIG Application Submission to GDOT – On the motion by Mr. Larko, seconded by Mr. Maxwell, the Board unanimously approved the submission of the FY2026 LMIG Application to GDOT. The project consists of widening, resurfacing, and restriping with RPMs Barwick Road from the Quitman City Limits to East Main Street/East Coffee Road for the estimated construction cost of \$3,977,000.00.

VI. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES & DEPARTMENTS – (5 MINUTES) - NONE

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – NONE

VIII. NEW BUSINESS – (JOHNSON)

- 1) **NB009-2025 – Animal Control Ordinance** – County Attorney provided a redlined copy of the Animal Control Ordinance for review. The Ordinance will lay on the table for 30 days at the Clerk of Court Office for review by the public. Members of the Animal Control Committee were present and expressed their gratitude and thanks to the Board for making sure Brooks County has an ordinance to work with and a place to start. It is good for the community and the pets to have a working document; this was a great first step. Mrs. Exum (Ordinance Sponsor) made the motion to approve the ordinance to lay on the table at the Clerk of Court for 30 days, Mr. Cody seconded.

County Administrator complimented the Committees (Solar & Animal Control) for their hard work; and commented there may be other committees created.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS– (2 MINUTES)– (Requests must be prior to the work session) -NONE

Chairman allowed Herb Mason to speak. Mr. Mason commented on issues of concern from citizens.

Mr. Gary Christian was allowed to speak. He reminded the Board of his discussion regarding fishing for the community project he presented to the Board. He stated he has support from the VFW and Brooks County Schools.

X. ADMINISTRATION/ELECTED OFFICIALS UPDATES

A. Administration Updates

County Administrator Johnson commented that the Jamar Subdivision will be a FY2026-2027 budgeted project in August of September 2026.

B. Commissioners Notes/Comments

- **Lee Larko (District 1)** – Commented we do not have parks & recreation; he would like to see Parks & Recreation created.
- **Patrick Folsom, Chairman (District 2)** – No comment.
- **Willie Cody (District 3)** – No comment.
- **Myra Exum (District 4)** – Reminded everyone about the Skillet Festival on October 18, 2025.
- **James Maxwell, Vice (District 5)** – No comment.

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION - NONE

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Larko motioned to adjourn the regular business meeting at 5:52 pm, Mrs. Exum seconded.

Patrick Folsom, Chairman

Mr. James (Buddy) Johnson, County Administrator

Ms. Patricia A. Williams, County Clerk