

The Brooks County Board of Commissioners met for its Regular Monthly Meeting on Monday, July 6, 2026, at 5:00 p.m., in the Commissioners Chambers at the Brooks County Courthouse, located at 610 South Highland Road, Quitman, GA. Commissioners present were: Mrs. Myra Exum, Chair, Mr. James Maxwell, Vice Chair; Mr. Patrick Folsom; 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. PUBLIC HEARING - NONE

II. CALL TO ORDER – Madam Chair called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

A. Prayer – Mr. Rodney Tenery, Brooks County Ministerial Association, led all in attendance in prayer.

B. Pledge of Allegiance – Brooks County 4-Hers – Abby Haineault and Archer Cannon led all in attendance in the pledge of allegiance.

III. COMMISSIONER BUSINESS PRESENTATION - NONE

IV. CONSENT AGENDA – One Motion for Approval on All Items

A. Board Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

1) CA019-2026 – Regular Business Meeting – June 1, 2026

2) CA020-2026 – Special Called Meeting/Work Session – June 29, 2026

The motion passed unanimously to approve the prior meeting minutes for June 2026, on the motion by Mr. Cody, and seconded by Mr. Folsom.

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

A. Approve/Disapprove/Other Official Actions

1) **FA061-2026 – Planning Commission – Board Appointment** – Mrs. Linda Gosier was reappointed to the Planning Commission for another five-year term on a motion by Mr. Folsom, Mr. Maxwell seconded, the vote passed unanimously. The term will expire June 30, 2031.

2) **FA062-2026 – Department of Family & Children Services (DFCS) – Board Appointment** – Mr. Maxwell made the motion to reappoint Mr. Nick Hampton to the DFCS Board for another term, seconded by Mr. Cody. Term will expire June 2031.

3) **FA063-2026 – Resolution – Technology Fee – Superior Court** – During the work session, County Attorney presented a Resolution for Technology Fee for Clerk of Superior Court for the Board's review.

Similar fees have been set for Probate and Magistrate Court. Mr. Larko made a motion to approve the

Resolution for the Technology Fee for fines and fees for multiple courts for the Clerk of Court, that will

be reflected in the Resolution, and the resolution number will be added, Mr. Folsom seconded.

The Resolution will go to Legislation.

4) FA064-2026 – FLOST IGA – The Board discussed placing a new 1% sales tax (FLOST) on the November ballot during the work session; and reviewed a draft copy prepared by County Attorney. The 1% tax will offset property taxes for all landowners and businesses. It was agreed that the distribution method will be by the digest percentage. County Attorney will finalize the IGA with the digest percentages. The percentages determined are Brooks County: 80.91%, Quitman: 16.05%; Morven: 1.86%; Barwick: 0.59%; Pavo: 0.6%. The Board unanimously approved the FLOST IGA to be placed on the November referendum ballot for voters to decide on the motion by Mr. Larko, seconded by Mr. Folsom. There was extended discussion addressing public misconceptions (especially on social media) about FLOST, clarifying that funds directly benefit taxpayers by rolling back property taxes, impacting both property owners and renters.

There were two options: the LHOST and the FLOST, the county chose the FLOST because it benefits the Taxpayers by bringing personal tax down. The money does not go to any general fund account; it directly benefits taxpayers.

5) FA065-2026 – Ordinance Codification Review – The Board approved moving forward with digital codification of county ordinances, streamlining updates and future amendments. It was noted that the meeting date for the Commissioners needs to be updated. Mr. Folsom motioned to approve moving forward with digital codification of Brooks County ordinances, Mr. Maxwell seconded the motion.

6) FA066-2026 – Stanley Road Closure/Abandonment – This item was tabled during the June 1st meeting for further review and again during the June 29th work session. Madam Chair asked if any Commissioner wishes to move forward. No Commissioner motioned to proceed with the process of closing/abandoning Stanley Road. The issue was dropped and the formal action number retired.

7) FA067–2026 - Opioid Funding Request – Board of

Health – The Board of Health requested funding from the Opioid account. During the work session, Jessica Arnett presented a great presentation for

proposed projects. On the motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Larko, the Board approved the opioid funding for the Board of Health in the amount of \$35,403.75.

8) FA068-2026 – Data Center Ordinance – During the work session, Administrator Johnson asked the Board to submit input as to what they want the ordinance to do for a future ordinance regulating data centers in Brooks County. Some of the issues the Board wanted the Ordinance to regulate is location, cooling systems, zoning, scale, lighting, noise, landscaping, square footage limitation, etc. Once the information is in hand; a template can be created to build the ordinance and a committee formed. The committee would consist of five members, including two Commissioners, to refine before adoption. The current moratorium on data centers remains in effect until December 31.

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

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - NONE

VIII. NEW BUSINESS – (Johnson)

1) Contract – Road Department – Road Maintenance and Support Services – Attorney Kemp prepared a redlined copy and a final copy of the Road Maintenance and Support Services Contract for JWA & Associates contract renewal. Only one bid was received and Administrator clarified that only one bid was received, not just opened. The contract was updated with minor changes, including compensation corrections and clarification on employee benefits. Mowing is not a part of the contract; the county retains its own mowing department. The Brooks County Road Maintenance and Support Services contract for JWA & Associates was approved with necessary changes on motion by Mr. Maxwell, and Mr. Cody seconded.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS – (2 MINUTES) – (Requests must be prior to the work session)

A. Charnissa Brown – Monthly Community Pop-up Market – Ms. Brown presented a proposal organizing monthly pop-up markets at the Farmers Market to support local vendors and youth entrepreneurship. Administrator Johnson advised that he would schedule a time to meet to collaborate with her to develop a calendar and plan.

B. Chris Godfrey – Land Ownership and Equality – Mr. Godfrey postponed and will get on next month agenda.

- C. **a. Herb Mason – Trash Company – Send Letter to Residents When Trash Cans Should be Taken Off the Curb** – Mr. Mason requested better communication for new residents regarding trash can ordinances. The Board acknowledged the need for improved resident orientation.
- b. Herb Mason – Morven not Paying for Fire Protection** – Mr. Mason raised questions about Morven's fire protection payments. The Board acknowledged that fire service arrangements will be discussed with Morven leadership.

Administrator commended and thanked Mr. Mason for a job well done by the honor guard during the July 4th celebration.

X. ADMINISTRATION/ELECTED OFFICIALS UPDATES

A. County Administration Updates

- Administrator Johnson explained the Commissioners' structure, authority, and the role of the County Administrator (not a County Manager) to educate the public and address transparency concerns.
- Proposed working with the school district to install signs recognizing local athletic achievements at county entrances, pending Board approval and coordination with GDOT.

B. Commissioners Notes/Comments

- **Lee Larko (District 1)** – No comment.
- **Patrick Folsom (District 2)** – Explained to Ms. Howard the process of maintaining grass in ditches, clarified right-of-way upkeep.
- **Willie Cody (District 3)** – Concurred with Administrator comments.
- **Myra Exum, Chair (District 4)** – Allowed Chief Tax Appraiser, Wayne Waldron, to commend the Board on sending residents to their office or advising calling with questions and to keep

sending them. Will get with Mr. Lee at the School System regarding the signs recognizing local athletic achievements.

- **James Maxwell, Vice (District 5)** – Commented on community inclusivity and historical context in response to recent public discourse.

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION - NONE

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Maxwell moved to adjourn the regular meeting at 6:05 pm; Mr. Cody seconded.

Mrs. Myra Exum, Chair

Mr. James (Buddy) Johnson, County Administrator

Ms. Patricia Williams, County Clerk