

The Brooks County Board of Commissioners met for its Regular Monthly Meeting on Monday, May 4, 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; and Mr. Lee Larko. Mr. Patrick Folsom and Mr. Willie Cody were not present. 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 5:04pm.

A. Prayer – Mr. Herb Mason led all in attendance in prayer.

B. Pledge of Allegiance – Brooks County 4-H – Beulah Hannah

Agenda Amendment – On the motion by Mr. Maxwell, and seconded by Mr. Larko, FA037-2026, the Special Exception, BC-0226-01, regarding surface mining was struck from the agenda as the application was officially withdrawn by Scruggs.

III. COMMISSIONER BUSINESS PRESENTATION

1. South Georgia Wellbeing Alliance – Mental Health Awareness Month – Proclamation – South Georgia Wellbeing Alliance was recognized by the Commissioners for Mental Health Awareness Month and presented a Proclamation. Madam Chair read the official proclamation declaring May 2026 as Mental Health Awareness Month.

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

A. Board Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

1) CA012-2026 – Regular Business Meeting– April 6, 2026

The motion passed unanimously to approve the prior meeting minutes for CA012-2026 April 6, 2026, on the motion by Mr. Maxwell, and seconded by Mr. Larko.

V. FORMAL ACTION REQUESTS – Commissioners Discussion with Action

A. Approve/Disapprove/Other Official Actions

1) FA037-2026 – Special Exception – BR-0226-01 – Scruggs Co. Land Use of Surface Mining in AG Zoning District – This item was struck from the agenda as noted above.

2) FA038-2026 – SGRC – Agreement for Technical Assistance Services – Mr. Larko made the motion to approve the Agreement for Technical Assistance Services related to the update of the joint Comprehension Plan for 2027-2032 with Brooks County and the cities of Barwick, Morven, Pavo, and Quitman, Mr. Maxwell seconded. The cost is \$15,000.00 and funding will come from the general fund. Vote carried unanimously.

3) FA039-2026 – Board Appointment – Planning Commission – The Board tabled this item until the next work session due to absence of board members, Mr. Larko made the motion, Mr. Maxwell seconded.

4) FA040-2026 – Data Centers Facilities Update – Moratorium Extension – A new six-month moratorium was approved, replacing the expired three-month moratorium, on data centers on the motion by Mr. Larko, seconded by Mr. Maxwell.

5) FA041-2026 – State of Emergency – Due to Extreme and Widespread Threat of Wildfires County Attorney prepared a resolution declaring state of emergency due to wildfire risk and ongoing drought conditions. This will enable expedited funding, price controls, and public advisories. Residents are urged to observe burn ban and exercise fire safety. The Resolution to Declare a State of Emergency was adopted/approved unanimously on a motion by Mr. Larko, and Mr. Maxwell seconded.

6) FA042-2026 – Safety Action Plan (SAP) Project List – Due May 15, 2026 – The Board prioritized roads for restriping for the FY2026 LMIG SAP application to be submitted to GDOT before May 15, 2026. The roads approved on the motion by Mr. Larko and seconded by Mr. Maxwell are: Troupeville Road, Cooper Road, Studstill Road, Cates Road, and Grooverville Road, the 10% local match, will be funded by TSPLOST. Johnson Short Road was removed for an alternate solution. The state has allocated \$256,000.

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

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - NONE

VIII. NEW BUSINESS – (Johnson)

(1) NB001-2026 – Discussion – Airport Authority Board – Resignation – Board

Vacancy

Chairman Robin McDaniel has resigned. Position to be advertised; preference for candidates with Aviation knowledge. A general ad for board appointments will be advertised.

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

A. Joseph & Susan Whitehead – Special Exception for Three-day Events on Bob Hiers Rd – Barney, GA – Concerns Regarding the Drought and Possibly Carelessly Starting a Fire – Joseph & Susan Whitehead voiced concerns about a planned food truck event near their home, citing increased fire risk, lack of rain, and limited emergency response resources. Requested board intervention and consideration to postpone or restrict the event. Commissioners reinforced the importance of adhering to the burn ban and community vigilance.

X. ADMINISTRATION/ELECTED OFFICIALS UPDATES

A. County Administration Updates

Budget Retreat – Administrator Johnson commented on the positive feedback on the budget retreat and participation. He commended the Constitutional Officers and stated it was good to see everyone working together. Individual meetings are ongoing to finalize budget proposals and make necessary cuts before board review.

B. Commissioners Notes/Comments

- **Lee Larko (District 1)** – Reiterating about fire safety and if you see something, say something.
- **Patrick Folsom (District 2)** –
- **Willie Cody (District 3)** –
- **Myra Exum, Chair (District 4)** – Reminded everyone of upcoming events, Peacock Festival May 9th, and Peach Festival May 16th in Morven. Commented to continue to pray for rain to support agriculture. VFW flag sales announced for Memorial Day.
- **James Maxwell, Vice (District 5)**

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION - NONE

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Maxwell moved to adjourn the regular meeting at 5:30 pm; Mr. Larko seconded.

Mrs. Myra Exum, Chair

Mr. James (Buddy) Johnson, County Administrator

Ms. Patricia Williams, County Clerk