

The Brooks County Board of Commissioners met for its Monthly Work Session and Regular Monthly Meeting on Monday, May 6, 2019 at 5:00 p.m., in the Commissioners Meeting Room located at the Brooks County Office Building. Commissioners present were: Mr. James Maxwell, Chairman; Mr. Patrick Folsom, Vice Chair; Ms. Myra Exum; and Mr. Willie Cody. Mr. Rhett Rowe was not present due to illness. Others present were: Ms. Patricia Williams, Interim County Administrator/County Clerk; Mr. Vann Parrott, County Attorney; and various residents.

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

**A. Re-Zoning – D. Vance Hiers** - Ms. Sherry Davidson, Local Government Services Director, Southern Georgia Regional Commission, presented the request from Vance Hiers for a Request to change the zoning of a 5.7 acre parcel, located at 8597 Highway 84 West in unincorporated Brooks County; and being more specifically described as Map No. 066, Parcel No. 004, from Agricultural (AG) to Highway Commercial (C-H). Planning Commission met on April 23, 2019; and voted unanimously to approve the request. Regional Commission Staff recommended Commercial Highway (C-H) as the most appropriate zoning for the subject parcel, rather than AG, due to the commercial character of the surrounding area and the broader range of uses that would be permitted under C-H zoning. There were no one present to oppose the request.

**B. Special Exception – To Build a Cell Tower – H. Buddy Robinson, Jr.** - Ms. Sherry Davidson, Local Government Services Director, Southern Georgia Regional Commission, presented the request from H. Buddy Robinson, Jr. for a Special Exception to build a 300-foot-tall cell tower on a property located at 1100 GA Highway 122, within the Agricultural Zoning District of unincorporated Brooks County, being more specifically described as Brooks County Map No. 026, Parcel No. 00211. Planning Commission voted unanimously to approve the request during meeting on April 23, 2019. Regional Commission Staff recommends approval for the Special Exception to build a 300-foot-tall cell tower within the Agricultural zoning district of unincorporated Brooks County. There was no one present to oppose the request.

Chairman closed the Public Hearing at 5:05 p.m. to go into the Work Session.

**WORK SESSION** – Chairman called Work Session to order.

## **Reports from Committees/Departments**

**A. David Santiago – Recreation – Boys and Girls Club** – Mr. Santiago updated the Board on Recreation and the Boys and Girls Club:

- Registration numbers July 2018 – June 2019: 187 – Baseball/Softball, 3 T-Ball Teams, 4 “3 & Tee Teams, 5 Coach Pitch Teams, 3 Kid Pitch Teams; and 1 softball Team, 145 Soccer, 96-Football/Cheerleading
- Registration numbers July 2017 – June 2018: 162 Baseball/Softball; 111 Soccer
- Increase in past year: 15% Baseball/Softball, 30% Soccer; 57% Total.
- Numbers for registration has increased 26% for Baseball and Softball; and 63% increase for Soccer.

- Maintaining Fields for BCHS Softball & BCMS Softball and Football
- Boys and Girls Club buildings will be completed later in the summer and will be partnering with the Brooks County School System to provide quality afterschool programs.

**B. Mike Smith – 911/EMA Director** – Presented report:

- Informed the Board that the CodeRed and CodeRed Weather Warning (CRWW) services for Brooks County has been deactivated. At this time, any Subscribers that were signed up for CRWW through Brooks County's account were also deactivated. CodeRed was limited; once the service exceeded the allowed data/minutes; extra charges were incurred.
- Will move from CodeRed to RAVE for weather warning services; and will be unlimited and newer technology. It will cost more to set up; and the annual fee will also increase by \$1400; and \$1000 for a one time setup fee; but will provide more knowledge and information.

**C. JJ Allen – Road Department** – Provided road update report for April 2019:

- All roads are repaired and open.
- Preparing for upcoming storms.
- Rotating out culverts.

**D. Ben DeVane – County Surveyor/Engineer** – Updated the Board on projects:

- 2018 LMIG and Striping contracts have been executed and H & H Paving has begun; starting with Studstill Road.
- Will begin the 2019 LMIG Project List soon.
- Board inquired regarding the status on Rogers Lane; and if the poles have been moved. Road Supervisor will need to contact Georgia Power for status.

**E. Brett Hulme – Representative for Southeastern Carpenters Regional Council – Update on Solar Project** – Mr. Hulme requested to appear to update the Board on the Solar Project. He stated 65% of the labor force hired are from the local area. As of May 6, 160 people were hired to work on Solar Project; and 130 of those are local. Mr. Hulme thanked the Board for allowing them to use the Library to take applications. The project will be complete early December 2019.

Chairman closed Work Session to go into the Regular Meeting at 5:29 p.m.

**1. Call to Order** – Chairman called meeting to order.

**A. Prayer & Pledge** – Mr. Cody led all in attendance in prayer and pledge of allegiance.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

**A. May 6, 2019 Regular Monthly Meeting** – Mr. Cody made the motion to approve the agenda, Mr. Folsom seconded. Vote was unanimous.

**3. Approval of Minutes**

On a motion by Mr. Cody, seconded by Mr. Folsom, the Board unanimously approved the following minutes:

- A. Special Called Meeting March 27, 2019
- B. Monthly Work Session & Regular Meeting April 1, 2019
- C. Special Called Meeting April 8, 2019

**4. Appearances**

**A. Brooks County Resource Center – Facility Use – Courthouse Grounds**

Administration received a request from Mr. Eugene “Peter” Gates to use Courthouse Grounds on August 3, 2019 for six (6) hours to host a Back to School Bash to give away school supplies and food. Mr. Gates was not present to present his request. The motion was made by Ms. Exum and seconded by Mr. Cody, to allow Brooks County Resource Center to host a Back to School Bash on August 3, 2019 for six (6) hours on the Courthouse grounds. The vote was unanimous.

**B. Armogene Natson – Facility Use – Courthouse Grounds**

– Ms. Natson requested the use of Courthouse Grounds to host a fundraiser Spring Carnival for their church, Crusaders for Christ, on May 18, 2019 from 9:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. Mr. Cody made the motion to approve the request for Courthouse Grounds on May 18, 2019 from 9:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m., Mr. Folsom seconded, vote was unanimous.

**C. Mattie Neloms – Facility Use – Ag Building**

– Ms. Neloms submitted a request to appear to request to use the Ag Building for the Fodie Church of God in Unity's Women Conference on August 24, 2019 for five (5) hours. When a request for permission to use County Building or Facility that includes provision for use of restroom is \$150.00; to use the kitchen fee is \$50.00; and use of supplies and utilities is \$20.00. The total cost will be \$220.00. Mr. Cody made a motion to approve the request to use Ag Building on August 24<sup>th</sup> for five (5) hours; and the cost will be \$220.00; Ms. Exum seconded. Vote was unanimous.

**D. James Curtis Griffin, Jr. – Courthouse Grounds**

– Mr. Griffin requested permission to use the Courthouse Grounds for a wedding on August 10, 2019 for three (3) hours starting at 2:00 p.m. The request for permission to use Courthouse Grounds on August 10, 2019 for a wedding starting at 2:00 p.m. for three (3) hours was approved on the motion by Mr. Cody, seconded by Mr. Folsom. Vote was unanimous.

**E. Azalea City Prison Ministries/Refuge of Hope – Facility Use – Courthouse Grounds**

A request was submitted by Ms. Bonnie Squires on behalf of Azalea City Prison Ministries/Refuge of Hope to use Courthouse Grounds on May 25, 2019 to cook hot dogs on portable grill; give away drinks; will have Christian Bibles and materials to give away; and also candy for the children. The setup will begin at 8:00 a.m.; and the event will end by 5:00 p.m. Ms. Squires was not present to present the request. Ms. Exum made the motion to approve the use of Courthouse Grounds for Azalea City Prison

Ministries/Refuge of Hope on May 25, 2019 beginning at 8:00 a.m. with setting up; and the event will end by 5:00 p.m.; Mr. Cody seconded. Vote was unanimous.

**F. Macedonia Community Foundation – Recognition of Slave Cemerties in Brooks County** – Macedonia Community Foundation requested to appear to ask the Board to recognize all slave cemeteries in Brooks County. The Macedonia Community Foundation seeks to restore a sense of community and respect for humanity. They are archiving the many slave, Native American burial grounds and landmarks and ask anyone who knows of a site to please contact them. The information was to inform the Board of their organization.

**G. Steve Schreck – East Brooks Fire Department not being Called Out** – Mr. Schreck requested the Board to look into and resolve why they are not being called out. Ms. Exum inquired whether or not he had documentation that will support his request. He stated he did; but did not provide a copy to the Board. Mr. Schreck asked Interim Administrator for her email so he could send documentation to her; upon the request of Ms. Exum.

**H. Gary Couch – Petition for Speed Bumps on Augusta Road** – Mr. Couch requested to appear to present a petition for Speed Bumps on Augusta Road due to speeding traffic. He stated the speeding gets up to 70/80 miles and does not slow down. Road Supervisor, JJ Allen, looked into it and contacted DOT; and stated there is possibility of losing funding by placing speed bumps. Board will consider the petition and look into it.

## **5. New Business**

**A. Re-Zoning – D. Vance Hiers** – Ms. Exum made the motion to approve the request from Mr. Hiers to re-zone 5.7 acres located at 8597 Highway 84 West from Agricultural AG to Commercial (C-H), Mr. Cody seconded. Vote was unanimous.

**B. Special Exception – To Build a Cell Tower – H. Buddy Robinson, Jr.** – Motion was made by Ms. Exum, seconded by Mr. Folsom to approve the Special Exception to build a 300-foot-tall cell tower on property located at 1100 GA Highway 122, within the Agricultural Zoning District in Brooks County; and the request to allow 911 and public safety for space at the top at no charge. Vote was unanimous.

**C. Brooks County Transit – Adopt Drug & Alcohol Testing Policy** – MIDS Transportation, Inc. submitted an updated Drug & Alcohol Testing Policy to be adopted by the Board for Brooks County Transit and submit to DOT. Mr. Cody motioned; and Mr. Folsom seconded, to approve the updated Brooks County Transit Drug & Alcohol Testing Policy. Vote was unanimous.

**D. County Attorney - Discussion** – County Attorney Vann Parrott announced to the Board that his office, Parrott & Mitchell, LLP, will no longer represent Brooks County. Previously, Mr. Parrott had informed the Board he will no longer practice law; and Mr. Mitchell would be representing the County. Mr. Parrott informed the Board his office will

be available until the end of the month. Chairman requested the Board to start the search for an attorney; provide names; and have them to submit resumes to Administration.

## **6. Unfinished Business**

**A. GDOT – Roundabout SR 122 @ SR 333 Moultrie Highway** – In December Administration received notification from GDOT they are in concept of working on project located at SR 122 and SR 333 (Moultrie Hwy) for a roundabout. The letter included the agreement that the County is responsible for providing power for and maintaining lighting for this intersection. During the December regular meeting, the Board authorized Administration to send a letter to GDOT informing that the Board concurs with their concept of working on the project; but did not want to commit funds until more information is available; or until GDOT's plans are complete. The Board stated they could not commit to an agreement without the cost and pricing for providing power and maintenance of lighting for the project.

GDOT has provided an estimation for typical lighting costs and maintenance for roundabouts in Georgia. Brooks County could assume \$1200 per year for power costs; \$500 per year for LED fixture replacement; and \$1000 per year for replacing a pole every eight years, the assumed cost could be approximately \$2700 per year including power and maintenance costs. On the motion by Ms. Cody, seconded by Ms. Exum, the Board unanimously approved the assumed cost of \$2700 for power and maintenance for the roundabout project that will be located at SR 122 and SR 333 (Moultrie Hwy).

**B. Solid Waste Collections – Intergovernmental Agreement – Thomasville** – Brooks County will not renew the contract with Advanced Disposal. On the motion by Mr. Cody, seconded by Mr. Folsom, the Board unanimously approved to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with Thomasville Solid Waste for curb side service and the effective date will be September 1, 2019.

**C. Budget Ordinance** – County Attorney, Luke Mitchell, was authorized to review/modify Budget Ordinance during March meeting. He spoke with County Auditor, Gary Zeigler and he mentioned possible changes; and some specific guidelines about when an amendment can be made without notice. Mr. Mitchell provided the changes to the Budget Ordinance related to the fiscal year. As for the changes regarding amendments, he stated it appears that we are doing more than is required by law as far as notice on amendments to the budget. Ms. Exum made the motion to approve the changes/amendments to the Budget Ordinance provided by County Attorney, Mr. Folsom seconded. Vote was unanimous.

**D. Ordinance/Resolution to Enforce Payment of Personal/Real Property Taxes** – During the April meeting, Tax Commissioner, Becky Rothrock, requested the Board consider adopting an Ordinance/Resolution enforcing payment of personal and real property taxes. If a taxpayer has a business in Brooks County; and have not paid their

property taxes, they would not be allowed to renew their business license or apply for a new one. The Board authorized County Attorney to look into this matter. On the motion by Ms. Exum, seconded by Mr. Cody, the Board unanimously approved to table this item until the June regular meeting.

**7. County Administrator Notes/Comments**

**A. New Hire Solutions – Approval to Use Courthouse Grounds on Monthly Basis**

Ms. Chandler Foy with New Hire Solutions appeared during the April meeting to request use of Courthouse Grounds to host job fair to try to bring in new applicants. Ms. Foy contacted Administration and inquired if she could use the Courthouse Grounds on a monthly basis. The Board had questions about how long; would it be every month? After discussion, the Board unanimously agreed Ms. Foy will need to complete an Agenda Request form and appear before the Board to answer questions on the motion by Ms. Exum, seconded by Mr. Cody.

**8. Commissioners Notes/Comments**

**A. Rhett Rowe - District 1** – No comment.

**B. Patrick Folsom, District 2** – Commented on going out to look at site,

**C. Willie Cody, District 3** – Provided the name for DFCS Board member, Ms. Armetta Wallace.

**D. Myra Exum, District 4** – No comment.

**E. James Maxwell, District 5** – Stated the Board will meet on Wednesday, May 8, 2019 at 5:15 p.m. with Harris Tennyson for the health insurance renewal.

**9. Executive Session – Personnel – County Administrator Position**

On a motion by Mr. Cody, seconded by Mr. Folsom, the Board closed the regular meeting to go into Executive Session at 6:29 p.m.

On motion by Mr. Cody, seconded by Mr. Folsom, the Board closed Executive Session and returned to regular meeting at 6:49 p.m.

No action was taken.

**10. Adjournment** - Ms. Exum made the motion to adjourn regular meeting at 7:01 p.m.; Mr. Folsom seconded.

Mr. James Maxwell, Chairman  
Ms. Patricia A. Williams, Interim Administrator/County Clerk  
Regular Monthly Meeting

May 6, 2019

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