

The Brooks County Board of Commissioners met for its Regular Monthly Meeting on Monday, January 4, 2021 at 5:00 p.m., in the Auditorium at the Brooks County Ag/Extension Building located at 400 East Courtland Avenue, Quitman, GA. Commissioners present were: Mr. Patrick Folsom, Chairman; Mr. James Maxwell, Vice Chairman; Mr. Willie Cody; Mr. Rhett Rowe; Ms. Myra Exum, via telephone. Others present were: Mrs. Jessica McKinney, County Administrator; Ms. Patricia Williams, County Clerk; Ms. Kim Daniels, Human Resources; Mr. Jason Kemp, County Attorney; and various residents.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

**Prayer & Pledge** – County Clerk called the Regular Meeting to order. Mr. Maxwell led all in attendance in prayer and pledge of allegiance.

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

On the motion by Mr. Folsom, seconded by Mr. Cody, the Board unanimously approved to amend the agenda under Appearances, Stephanie Mata, Joint Development Authority Appointments, delete "Joint"; and should read Development Authority Appointments; and approved the agenda as amended.

**3. Chair & Vice Chair Elections**

**A. Nomination/Election of Chairman (Attorney Leads)** – County Attorney, Jason Kemp, opened the floor for nominations for Chairman. Mr. Maxwell made the motion nominating Mr. Folsom for Chairman. County Attorney called for any other nominations, there were none; nominations were closed. Mr. Kemp called for the vote. Mr. Cody, Mr. Rowe, Ms. Exum; Mr. Folsom; and Mr. Maxwell voted yes. Vote was unanimous for Mr. Folsom to serve as Chairman for 2021.

**B. Nomination/Election of Vice Chairman (Chair Leads)** – Mr. Folsom opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chair. Mr. Cody made the motion nominating Mr. Maxwell as Vice Chair. There were no other nominations, Chairman closed nominations; and called for the vote. Mr. Cody, Mr. Rowe, Ms. Exum; Mr. Folsom; and Mr. Maxwell voted yes. The vote was unanimous for Mr. Maxwell to serve as Vice Chairman for 2021.

**4. Approval of Minutes**

On the motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Cody, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the following meetings with necessary corrections:

- Regular Monthly Meeting December 7, 2020

**5. APPEARANCES**

**A. Stephanie Mata – Development Authority Appointments** – Ms. Mata requested to appear to advise the Board of two reappointments, District 4, Darren Yearby and District 5; John LaHood. These terms expired December 31, 2020.

**B. Peggy Howard – Quitman Solar** – Ms. Howard submitted a request to appear to address concerns regarding Quitman Solar 1.

- Who is responsible for the upkeep of the property? She would like written proof; wants clarification.
- Consideration of an option to adopt an Ordinance regarding solar. Take a look at the model ordinance to see how it addresses Brooks County.
- Special Exception should be null and void. Asking Board to rescind.

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. FY2021 Board Appointments (By Position or Slate)** – Chairman stated the appointments would be approved as slate. Mr. Maxwell made the motion to approve Board Appointments as listed for FY2021, Mr. Cody seconded. Vote was unanimous.

**2021 Board Appointments**

**Boards/Committees**

Brooks County Library Board	Mr. Willie Cody
Brooks County Airport Authority	Mr. Rhett Rowe
Brooks County Board of Health	Mr. James Maxwell
Council on Aging	Ms. Myra Exum
Coastal Plain Area, E.O. A.	Mr. Zurich DeShazor
Chamber of Commerce	Mr. Rhett Rowe
Regional Commission Board	Mr. James Maxwell
Dept. of Family & Children Services	Ms. Myra Exum
Mid South RC & D Council	Mr. James Maxwell
Lowndes-Valdosta MPO	Mr. Patrick Folsom
Recreation Department	Mr. Willie Cody
South Regional Joint Development Authority Board	Ms. Myra Exum
ACCG Appointment	Mr. Folsom
Seven Rivers RC & D	Administrator

Mr. Cody made the motion to accept the 2021 Building Assignments with corrections, Mr. Maxwell seconded. Vote was unanimous.

**Building Assignments**

County Admin Building	Mr. Patrick Folsom
Agriculture Building & Annex	Mr. Patrick Folsom
Courthouse	Mr. Rhett Rowe
Sheriff's Department (Jail & C.I.D.)	Ms. Myra Exum
Public Works	Mr. James Maxwell
Voting Precincts	Mr. Rhett Rowe
E-911 Center	Mr. Willie Cody
Multi-Purpose Building (Head Start & Senior Center)	Mr. James Maxwell
Fire Departments	Ms. Myra Exum
Washington Street Gym (Boys and Girls Club)	Mr. Cody

Mr. Maxwell made the motion to accept the change for County Attorney from J. D. Burchett Law, LLC to Burchett & Kemp, LLP, Mr. Cody seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Maxwell made the motion to accept the County Auditor, Mr. Gary Zeigler, Mr. Cody seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Ben DeVane was accepted as the County Engineer on the motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Cody. Vote was unanimous.

The Assistant Engineer, Mark DeVane, was deleted.

Fire Chief, Jordan Smith, was accepted as ADA Coordinator on the motion by Mr. Maxwell, Mr. Cody seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Maxwell made the motion accepting Chief Smith as Safety Coordinator, seconded by Mr. Cody. Vote was unanimous.

The Board accepted Mr. Mike Smith as EMA Director on the motion by Mr. Cody, seconded by Mr. Maxwell. County Administrator advised the Board that Mr. Smith is a paid salary employee; he holds the position as EMA Director and does not need to be appointed; therefore; the appointment should be nullified. After discussion, Mr. Cody rescinded his motion; Mr. Maxwell rescinded his second. Mr. Cody made the motion to nullify the previous appointment as EMA Director as Mr. Smith is a paid salary employee, Mr. Maxwell seconded. Vote was unanimous.

The Deputy Fire Chiefs and Fire Departments are appointed by Fire Chief Jordan Smith; and needs to be deleted from the list. The Deputy Fire Chiefs and Fire Department appointments were deleted from the appointment list to allow the Fire Chief to make appointments on the motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Cody. Vote was unanimous.

### **Other Appointments for 2020**

County Attorney  
County Auditor  
County Engineer  
Assistant County Engineer  
ADA Coordinator  
Safety Coordinator  
EMA Director  
Fire Chief

Burchett & Kemp, LLP  
Mr. Gary Zeigler  
Mr. Ben DeVane  
Mr. Mark DeVane  
Mr. Billy Ingram  
Fire Department  
Mr. Mike Smith  
Mr. Jordan Smith

DFACS Board – District 1  
DFACS Board – District 2  
DFACS Board – District 3  
DFACS Board – District 4  
DFACS Board – District 5

Vacant (June 30, 2025)  
Ms. Molly Radford (June 2020)  
Ms. Pinky Brown (Nov 2024)  
Ms. Ann Guess (Jan 2023)  
Ms. Mary Thomas (June 2023)

Health Department

Dr. Cunningham (12/31/2022)  
Ms. Shelley Kirkendoll (12/31/2021)  
Dr. Ricky Rowe (12/31/2023)

Library Board Appointments (3 year term)

Ms. Julie Swann (2019- 2022)  
Mr. Willie Cody (2019-2022)  
Ms. Patty Hancock (2019-2022)  
Ms. Armetta Waller (2022)

South Regional Joint Dev. Auth. (4 years)

Mr. Jason Shaw (Mar. 1, 2019-2023)

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Joint Development Auth.	Dr. Rose Horne (Dec 2022) Mr. Donald Turner (Dec 2023)
Tax Assessor's Board	Dr. Gerald Golden (Dec 2021) Mr. Ralph Manning (Dec 2023) Mr. Melvin DeShazor (Dec 2022)
Elections Board	Mr. Zurich Deshazor (Dec 2021) Ms. Karen Murray (Dec 2023) Mr. Don DiStefano (Dec 2022)
South Georgia Community Service Board	Vacant
Brooks County Development Authority	Mr. Tim Crosby (Dec 2021) D1 Mr. Jack Harrell (Dec 2023) D2 Mr. Ulysses Marable (Dec 2022) D3 Mr. Derren Yearby (Dec 2024) D4 Mr. John LaHood (Dec 2024) D5 Ms. Marie Horne (Dec 2023) D6 Ms. Erin McKenzie (Dec 2021) D6
Appointment to Behavioral Health Board (3 year term)	Vacant
Quitman – Brooks Co. Airport Authority	Rep. John LaHood (July 2023) Mr. Robin McDaniel (July 2023) Mr. Rhett Rowe (July 2023)

Mr. Maxwell motioned to re-appoint Derren Yearby to the Development Authority Board for a four-year term, expiring December 31, 2024; Mr. Cody seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. John LaHood was re-appointed to the Development Authority for a four-year term, expiring December 31, 2024; on the motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Cody. Vote was unanimous.

**B. Procurement Policy Discussion** – A revised copy of the County's Purchasing Policy has been completed and a copy provided to the Board for review. Administrator stated she would like for them to continue to review the Policy; and it will be placed on the agenda for the February meeting. This item was tabled for continued review by the Board until the next regular meeting on the motion by Ms. Exum, seconded by Mr. Rowe. Vote was unanimous.

**C. Thomasville Sanitation Recycling Center Rate Increase** – Administration received notice from Thomasville Municipal Solid Waste of an increase in environmental and construction costs, stating the price adjustment is needed in order to continue to provide the level of service we expect. The new rate will be effective January 1, 2021. The increase effects the Recycle Center, not the curbside fees. Currently, the rate per ton is \$32.73; the new rate will be \$35.00 per ton. Mr. Maxwell made the motion to accept the increase from Thomasville for the Recycle Center, Mr. Cody seconded. Vote was unanimous.

**7. Unfinished Business**

**A. Modular Building – New Quote** – Administrator presented a new quote for the Modular Building to be placed at the Fire Station on Jackson Road for Grady EMS. The building was put out to bid; no bids were received. The Board approved the request of County Administrator to waive the requirements of the Procurement Policy and do a targeted bid during the December regular meeting. There is a slight increase with the new quote (\$166,125); previous quote was \$165,750. The increase is due to material cost and a temperature controlled closet added. Where will the funds come from? Administrator advised the calculation between offset of budgeted contract, \$75,000, will be absorbed with combination of the two things. Mr. Maxwell made the motion to accept the quote for the Modular Building in the amount of \$166,125, Mr. Cody seconded. Vote was unanimous.

**8. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR NOTES/COMMENTS**

**A. Schedule Workshop Meeting (2021 LMIG, TSPLOST Discretionary Fund Projects, East Brooks Fire Department Contract)** – Administrator provided dates to the Board to schedule a workshop. The workshop is scheduled for Thursday, January 7, 2021 @ 5:15 p.m. in the Commissioners Meeting Room, located at the Brooks County Administration Building.

**9. CALENDAR ITEMS TO NOTE - None**

**Commissioners Notes/Comments**

- **Rhett Rowe - District 1** – No comment.
- **Patrick Folsom, District 2** – Thanked everyone for coming.
- **Willie Cody, District 3** – Wished everyone Happy New Year.
- **Myra Exum, District 4** – Hoped everyone had a Merry Christmas; Happy 2021, and be safe.
- **James Maxwell, District 5** – Congratulated new Chairman. Stated he has enjoyed serving as Chairman for past two years.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Maxwell made the motion to adjourn regular meeting at 6:47 p.m.; Mr. Cody seconded.

Mr. Patrick Folsom, Chairman  
Ms. Jessica J. McKinney, County Administrator  
Ms. Patricia A. Williams, Clerk