

The Brooks County Board of Commissioners met for its Regular Monthly Meeting on Monday, July 12, 2021 at 5:00 p.m., in the Court Room located at the Brooks County Courthouse, located at 100 East Screven Street, Quitman, GA. Commissioners present were: Mr. Patrick Folsom, Chairman; Mr. James Maxwell, Vice Chairman; Mr. Willie Cody; Ms. Myra Exum; and Mr. Rhett Rowe. 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.

Public Hearings – The Public Hearings were presented by Ms. Sherry Davidson, Local Government Services Director, Southern Georgia Regional Commission (SGRC). Sign in Sheets were provided.

A. Special Exception – Jesse Bush, II – Develop Building to be used as Warehouse and Office for Ag Nutrients – Ms. Sherry Davidson presented the Petition for a Special Exception by Jesse Bush, II to develop a 12,400 square foot building to be used as a warehouse and office for Ag Nutrients. The property is a 10 acre vacant parcel located at the intersection of Lazy River Drive and Hwy 133 in the Troupeville area; in the Agricultural Zoning District in unincorporated Brooks County. The Planning Commission held a meeting on June 22, 2021 and voted unanimously to approve. SGRC Staff also recommended approval.

There was no opposition; no one signed in to speak for or against. Mr. Bush explained that material would be move in and out; will not be any manufacturing; only selling. Safety guidelines are in place for waste run off.

B. Special Exception – J. D. Yeager – Establish Law Enforcement & Federal Government K-9 Training Facility – The Petition by J. D. Yeager for a Special Exception to build a house and a law enforcement and federal government K-9 training facility was presented by Ms. Sherry Davidson. The property is an 8 acre pecan grove located in Barney, GA bordering Moody, Hall; and 1st Street in unincorporated Brooks County. The proposed use falls under the Farm Supplies category, which is allowed by Special Exception within the Agricultural Zoning District. Planning Commission met on June 22, 2021 and unanimously approved the Petition. SGRC Staff also recommended approval. The hours of operation will be Monday – Friday from 9am to 4pm. Ms. Davidson informed the Board of some of the concerns by citizens that included:

- Outside cameras looking in neighbors back yards
- Flood lights glaring
- Other animals coming on property
- Detectives coming from Valdosta to live in the house
- Don't like the owner of facility being from Florida
- Waste from the kennels
- Barking dogs; and training being done at night

Several citizens spoke against the request. Stan Folsom, adjacent owner, stated he is not opposed to the request; but where it is in a residential area. Derrick Skinner stated he had a Petition with 58 signatures and addresses that are against the petition. He further stated that it would have no economic impact.

Randy Lettington property joins the subject property in the middle and is concerned about being attacked by dogs. No need for it to be in a residential neighborhood; creates negative impact on infrastructure. Michael Force property butts the subject property; he has environmental concerns/impact to the creek that may cause to wash out and seep in the

ground and run in the creek. Mandy Force was emotional and stated it is overwhelming; showed pictures of property to the Board. Georgia Clements is an adjacent property owner that does not oppose; but wants it somewhere else; due to possibility of hearing racket such as barking dogs. Ms. Clements emphasized the peacefulness as it is; and pray the Commissioners will listen to what the people have to say.

Sebastian Davis asked the question, "Will it increase property value"? Who wants to live next to it? Libby Burton had waste water concerns. She is not against but rather it is somewhere else. Gary Nichols had same concern; not against it; but not in the community; it will impact negatively.

Chairman closed the Public Hearings and went into the regular meeting at 5:55 pm.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Prayer & Pledge of Allegiance – Chairman called the Regular Meeting to order; and asked County Attorney, Jason Kemp, to lead all in attendance in prayer and pledge of allegiance.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On the motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Cody, the Board amended the agenda under New Business to add item H, Amend Potential Contract for the Tax Commissioner to Collect Taxes for the City of Quitman; and delete item B, under Unfinished Business; EMS/Grady Contract; vote was unanimous.

3. Approval of Minutes

On the motion by Mr. Cody, seconded by Ms. Exum, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the following meetings:

- Special Called & Work Session June 3, 2021
- Executive Session June 3, 2021
- Regular Monthly Meeting June 7, 2021
- Special Called & FY2021-2022 Budget Work Session June 15, 2021
- Special Called & Executive June 21, 2021
- Special Called & FY2021-2022 Budget Work Session June 29, 2021

4. APPEARANCES

A. Charlene Thompkins – Request Road Name – Deputy Thompkins Way – Ms. Thompkins requested to appear to request Board consideration to name the crossing road between Brooks County Middle School and Quitman Elementary School to Deputy Thompkins Way. Deputy Thompkins was a School Resource Officer for these schools for several years. The Board advised Ms. Thompkins that she may need to reach out to the Board of Education; as that is their property. Further there needs to be clarification as to whether the location is on a State Road. County Administrator stated she would help Ms. Thompkins get in the right direction.

B. Derrica Reynolds – Use of Grounds at Washington Street Gym – Ms. Reynolds is requesting permission to use the grounds at Washington Street Gym for a family reunion. There will be tents, grills, and a bounce house; approximately 100 guests. The event will be held July 17, 2021 from 12 pm until 7 pm. Mr. Cody made the motion to approve the request by Ms. Reynolds to use the grounds only at Washington Street Gym for a family reunion, from 12 pm until 7 pm; will include cleanup and a portable potty, Mr. Maxwell seconded. Vote was unanimous.

C. Kathryn Patrick – Skillet Festival – Kathryn Patrick, Quitman-Brooks County Chamber of Commerce, requested to appear to request use of Courthouse lawn for the annual Skillet Festival; but was not present. The Board has approved this request in the past years. Due to not placing a date on the request; but is usually held the third Saturday in October. Ms. Exum motioned to approve the request to use the Courthouse lawn for the annual Skillet Festival on the third Saturday in October 2021, Mr. Cody seconded. Vote was unanimous.

D. Tax Commissioner – Request for Resolution – Mobile Home Decals – Tax Commissioner, Becky Rothrock, requested the Board's consideration for a Resolution for mobile home decals. Georgia S.B. 193 grant counties the option to require mobile home decals to be issued and displayed by owner. Ms. Rothrock stated there are 2500 mobile homes in Brooks County which consumes time for Staff; and there is no foreseeable effect for Brooks County if choose by Resolution to not issue decals be placed on mobile homes. The Board unanimously approved a Resolution for Mobile Home Decals or any other appropriate instrument not to be issued by the Tax Commissioner on a motion by Mr. Maxwell; and seconded by Mr. Cody.

E. Don Spencer – Name Change for County Road #9 (Tyson Lane) to Harlow Lane – Mr. Spencer appeared to request a name change for County Road #9 (Tyson Lane) to Harlow Lane in memory of his granddaughter. He stated the road is approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile long and dead ends. There are three property owners on the road; and all are for the name change to Harlow Lane. County Administrator stated she will consult with County Attorney and get with Mr. Spencer to discuss confidentiality. Administrator advised Mr. Spencer he will be responsible for the cost.

F. Kurt Childers – Naming the New Ag Building in Honor of Henry Carr – Mr. Childers requested Board consideration to name the New Ag Building in honor of Mr. Henry Carr. The Board advised there is a process; will check into and get back with him.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. Special Exception – Jesse Bush, II – Development Building to be used as Warehouse and Office for Ag Nutrients - The Special Exception request by Jesse Bush, II for a building to be used as warehouse and office for Ag Nutrients in the Troupeville area was approved unanimously on the motion by Ms. Exum; and seconded by Mr. Rowe.

B. Special Exception – J. D. Yeager – Establish Law Enforcement & Federal Government K-9 Training Facility – Ms. Exum made a motion to deny the request of J. D. Yeager to establish K-9 Training Facility for Law Enforcement and Federal Government in Barney, GA.; Mr. Rowe seconded. Vote was unanimous.

C. Contract Renewal – Jim Owens, Road Department Consultant – The current six-month contract for Mr. Jim Owens, Road Department Consultant, expired June 30, 2021. Mr. Maxwell made a motion to approve the contract for one year as is, Mr. Cody seconded. Ms. Exum inquired whether we are actively looking for a Road Superintendent and Building Inspector. County Attorney advised the Board of the need to actively look for the positions. After discussion, Chairman called for the vote. Ms. Exum and Mr. Rowe opposed. Mr. Maxwell, Mr. Cody; and Mr. Folsom voted yes. The vote was 2 to 3 in favor of renewing the contract for Mr. Owens for one year as it is.

D. Road Department Purchase Approval – Trailers – Three quotes were submitted by Mr. Owens for purchase of trailers for 911 Mini Excavator for the Road Department:

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| 1) | Herc Rentals | \$9,000 |
| 2) | Down 2 Earth Trailers | \$10,995 |
| 3) | itowtrailers.com | \$7,925 |

Mr. Maxwell made a motion to accept the quote from Herc Rentals for two trailers in amount of \$9,000 each; and funds will come from SPLOST #6, Mr. Cody seconded. Vote was unanimous.

E. Quitman Solar II – Ratify/Execute IGA – County Attorney presented the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between Brooks County and Quitman Solar II; stated there are no changes; and the Board of Education, Development Authority and Brooks County are satisfied. The Board accepted/ratified the IGA; acknowledged the MOU and Development Authority Agreement between Quitman Solar II, on the motion by Mr. Maxwell; and seconded by Mr. Cody. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Maxwell made the motion approving the purchase of a new Fire Truck, 18111 demo model, in the amount of \$282,074, funds will come from the Fire Fund CD; and waive the procurement policy, Mr. Rowe seconded. Vote was unanimous.

F. Victim Witness

Realignment to Sheriff – County Administrator informed the Board of the realignment of the Victim Witness Office being realigned to the Sheriff's Department after housekeeping and cleaning up. Jackie Johns' role has stepped up; and she is managing the CJCC award.

Grant Spend – Vehicle Purchase (Sheriff) - There are still funds available after hiring personnel; and we do not want to give it back. The funds will be repurposed to purchase a vehicle.

G. Bartow Street – Paving – City of Quitman – Mr. Maxwell requested this be placed on agenda for discussion. He emphasized that Bartow Street in the City of Quitman serves three Commissioners districts; Mr. Cody, Mr. Rowe; and Mr. Maxwell. Discussion included looking at the cost for the joint project for Brooks County and City of Quitman if the decision is made to follow through. Mr. Maxwell made the motion authorizing Mr. Owens to look at the cost for Brooks County; and the City will put the project out to bid, Mr. Cody seconded. Vote was unanimous.

H. Amend Potential Contract – Tax Commissioner – During the Special Called Meeting held June 29, 2021, Tax Commissioner, Becky Rothrock, appeared to present the request from Mayor Nancy Dennard to bill, process, receive and collect ad valorem taxes by and on behalf of the City of Quitman. A contract between the City of Quitman; Brooks County; and Brooks County Tax Commissioner was approved. The Board set the rate of 3% to be charged, total amount \$10,584.45; and ratified the contract between the City of Quitman and Brooks County.

Tax Commissioner presented an amendment to the previously approved contract for the rate of 3% (\$10,584.45) to be charged to the City of Quitman. Ms. Rothrock recommended charging the City 20% of the software cost (\$22,029), which are the total approximate fees for 2020 tax bills, there are approximately 10,000 bills. Our billing already includes 2,135 parcels inside the City of Quitman; it will not incur any additional fees to collect for the City; and any compensation will help offset the fees. The total amount for 20% of billing cost equals \$4,405.80;

Tax Commissioner recommended charging the City a total of \$4,400.00 annually. The Tax Commissioner and City of Quitman has agreed to this amount. Mr. Maxwell made the motion to approve the amendment to the Contract between the City of Quitman, Brooks County Board of Commissioners; and Brooks County Tax Commissioner; to change from 3% (\$10,584.45) to 20% of software cost (\$4,400) annually; plus any additional setup fee up to \$2,000.00; Mr. Rowe seconded. Vote was unanimous.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Reconsideration of Landscaping Contract/Bid – County Attorney advised the Board there is a statute and an extra step needed due to the bid being awarded. This item was tabled on the motion by Mr. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Rowe. Vote was unanimous.

7. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR NOTES/COMMENTS - NONE

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Personnel – On the motion by Mr. Maxwell; seconded by Mr. Rowe; the Board closed the Regular Meeting to go into Executive Session at 7:10 pm.

The Board went out of Executive Session and returned to the Regular Meeting at 7:36 pm; on the motion by Ms. Exum; and seconded by Mr. Maxwell.

No action was taken.

Commissioners Notes/Comments

- **Rhett Rowe - District 1** – No comment.
- **Patrick Folsom, District 2** – No comment.
- **Willie Cody, District 3** – No comment.
- **Myra Exum, District 4** – No comment.
- **James Maxwell, District 5** – No comment.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Maxwell made the motion to adjourn regular meeting at 7:38 p.m.; Ms. Exum seconded.

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