

The Brooks County Board of Commissioners met for its Regular Monthly Meeting on Monday, October 3, 2022, at 5:00 p.m., in the Courtroom 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; Ms. Myra Exum; and Mr. Willie Cody; and Mr. Lee Larko. 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. PUBLIC HEARING – Zoning Appeal

Bobbie Beverly – Zoning Appeal – Temporary Permitted Use for RV – Ms. Melissa Smith, Zoning and Code Enforcement, presented the application for a zoning appeal by Ms. Bobbie Beverly to allow the temporary permitted use for one (1) Recreational Vehicle (Camper Trailer) on her property as a secondary dwelling for Herbert and Melissa Hart for a period not to exceed 12 months to care for an estate due to a death in the family. The 8.4 acres are located at 10177 Tallokas Road, Pavo, GA, on the northwest corner of Old Pavo Road and Tallokas Road in the unincorporated area of Brooks County, more specifically described as Map No. 031, Parcel No. 0009, and zoned “AG” (Agricultural). Ms. Beverly is also requesting all fees paid for the Application, advertising, and adjacent property owner notification (\$262.00) be refunded due to limited income.

Per Section 3-28 of the Brooks County Zoning Ordinance, “Recreational Vehicles shall not be utilized as a permanent dwelling in any Zoning District. Occupancy exceeding 30 days shall be considered permanent.”

Zoning Staff does not recommend the approval of this Appeal. Recreational Vehicles (“RV”) are not designed to be a permanent dwelling, but temporary living quarters for recreational activities such as camping; and are not regulated by applicable building codes nor HUD. Allowing the use of an “RV” as a permanent dwelling has potential to increase threats of human life and/or property; and could potentially have a negative impact that will set precedent for an already complex enforcement of Recreational Vehicles as permanent dwellings.

A sign-in sheet was provided for those wishing to speak for or against the zoning appeal. Mr. Larko stated the RV would not be in use for 30 days; but temporary weekend use. County Attorney commented this a precedent by circumstances, not a green light for RV use. Mr. Maxwell stated we need to follow the recommendation of the Board. Chairman stated he see both sides; how does this differ from other RV use? County Attorney responded: 1) could establish precedent limited by circumstances granted, do not want temporary use becoming permanent. Could set limited duration and a final end date for temporary use, or 2) can revisit the Zoning Ordinance.

Chairman called the names of those on the sign-in sheet; no one spoke against.

Kim Thompson, daughter, stated the use may not be on the weekend; but maybe days during the week.

Melissa Hart stated it maybe on Monday, not always on the weekend, maybe a couple days a week.

Chairman closed the public hearing at 5:26 pm.

2. CALL TO ORDER

Prayer & Pledge of Allegiance – Chairman called the Regular Meeting to order. Pastor Rodney Tennery, Brooks County Ministerial Association, led all in attendance in prayer and pledge of allegiance.

Chairman called for a vote to amend the agenda to delete item 7A Clay Bank Subdivision, under Old Business; and delete item 8C Finance Software, under New Business, on the motion by Mrs. Exum, seconded by Mr. Larko. Vote was unanimous.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On the motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mrs. Exum, the Board unanimously approved the following minutes as read:

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| A. LOST Renegotiation/Special Called Executive Session | August 26, 2022 |
| B. Special Called Meeting/Work Session | September 1, 2022 |
| C. Regular Meeting | September 12, 2022 |
| D. Executive Session | September 12, 2022 |
| E. Special Called/Work Session/Executive Session | September 22, 2022 |
| F. Executive Session | September 22, 2022 |

4. INVITED GUESTS – (5 MINUTES)

A. Chairman Report – Brooks County Historical Society – Dr. Marie Horne

- Dr. Horne conveyed appreciation individually to the Board, Administrator, and County Clerk.
- Stated the Historical Board is a very passionate group of people.
- Board members: Mr. Maxwell, Parliamentarian, Ms. Jacqueline Harper, Vice President, Mrs. Jennifer Edwards, Treasurer, Mrs. Cynthia Huewitt, Secretary; and Dr. Marie Horne, President; wants to generate, cultivate, and enhance the community.
- Will assist the Board of Commissioners with renovations of Washington Street Gym, particular the Washington Street High School Alumni.
- Thanked County Administrator for assisting with the Historical Preservation to get on the National Registration.
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B. Chairman Report – Tax Assessors Board – Mr. Ralph Manning, Chairman, Tax Assessors Board reported:

- All Appraisers and Assessors will be attending upcoming training, and all are doing great.
- Hired two additional employees, now the office is fully staffed with five employees; and can do a better job.
- Getting the roof leak repaired and floor fixed.
- Thanked the Board for the appointment of Brewer Bentley to the Tax Assessors Board.

C. Chairman Report – Airport Authority – Not present.

5. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES & DEPARTMENTS – (5 MINUTES)

A. Fire Chief Catlett – Brooks County Fire Department – Chief Catlett provided the monthly report:

- There were 36 calls for service for the month of September.
- Continuing to prepare for ISO evaluation coming up October 12, 2022.
- Training consisted of conducting ISO briefing for County Administrator and shift personnel; drivers training, live fire training and Fire Department hydraulics.
- Significant response for the month: Responded to Quitman for a Mutual Aid call for structure fire.
- Hose test completed; hydrant testing completed for Pavo, Morven, and Quitman hydrants outside the city limits.
- Fire prevention and safety presentation activities: Baby Love Day Care, North Brooks Elementary School, Board of Education Pre-school.
- Pre-fire Plans 78 out of 96 completed.

B. Matt Connolly – Road Department Superintendent – Provided report the monthly report for the Road Department:

- 198 roads graded; 6 driveways completed; 7 trees cut; 10 beavers eradicated; Side Arm mowed 14 roads.
- Cleared 10 pipes and ditches; replaced 114 signs; 6- 911 calls; 71 cold patches.
- One end dump truck is back in operation along with grader.
- One Side Arm is operational; the other will be by the end of the week.

C. Jason Montesano – Inspections & Permits – Provided a copy of the report for September 2022:

- Inspections and permits were down for the month, \$5941.00.
- Stated he taking care of previous problems of the department.
- Will take a 3-5 year plan for the County to get back where need to be.

D. Melissa Smith – Zoning/Code Enforcement – Provided a report for the month:

- Received 30 zoning inquiries.
- Sent out 24 zoning violation letters; and getting ready to write the first citation.
- Starting to see clean up on Augusta Road and Terrace Lane.

6. **CONSENT AGENDA – None**

7. **OLD BUSINESS**

A. **Clay Bank Subdivision** – Removed from agenda.

B. **Fire Ordinance** – County Attorney made the edits from the work session held September 22, 2022 to the Fire Ordinance. The Ordinance needs to be sponsored, sit open for 30 days for inspection; and then the Board will ratify. Mrs. Exum made the motion to sponsor Ordinance No. 2022-02 To Establish Rules and Regulations for Fire Prevention and Protection in Brooks County to lay on the table for 30 days for inspection, Mr. Larko seconded. Vote was unanimous.

8. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. **Bobbie Beverly – Zoning Appeal – Temporary Permitted Use for RV** – Mr. Larko made a motion to approve the variance for temporary permitted use for RV; and refund the cost due to limited income, Chairman called for a second three times, motion died due to lack of a second. Chairman called for subsequent motion. Mrs. Exum stated, if the appeal is denied, the Zoning Ordinance states stay less than 30 days; person can not reside after 30 days. The motion was made by Mrs. Exum to deny the appeal of the applicant for temporary permitted use for RV, Mr. Cody seconded. Chairman called for the vote. Mrs. Exum, Mr. Maxwell, Mr. Cody, and Chairman voted yes. Mr. Larko opposed, voted no; the vote was 4 to 1.

B. **Appointment – Planning Commission Board – James Warren** – Mr. Maxwell made the motion to approve/accept the appointment by Chairman Folsom of Mr. James Warren to serve on the Planning Commission Board, Mr. Cody seconded. Vote was unanimous.

C. **Finance Software** – Removed from agenda.

D. **SGRC – FY2024 Grant Application for Regional Transit – Authorizing Resolution** - It is time to submit the application for FY2024 5311 Rural Public Transit funds. SGRC handles our Rural Public Transit and is preparing the application to submit to GDOT for the Southern Georgia Regional Commission to continue to provide regional public transit services on behalf of counties. The due date is October 31, 2022, to submit the application to GDOT. The Authorizing Resolution needs to be approved by the Board to include with the FY2024 Grant Application to support SGRC Regional Public Transit. The Board unanimously approved the Authorizing Resolution to include in the FY2024 Grant Application for Regional Transit, on the motion by Mrs. Exum; seconded by Mr. Cody.

Ms. Megan Fowler, SGRC Transit Manager, appeared to update the Board on the Rural Public Transit of Brooks County; and answer any questions the Board may have. There were 158 trips at the end of FY2022, and 648 trips for FY2023 from July to September.

9. **PUBLIC COMMENTS – (5 MINUTES)**

A. Paul Gates, Jr. – Restoration of Barney Voting Precinct & Board of Elections Appointments – Mr. Gates submitted a request to appear regarding restoring the Barney Precinct; and the process for appointments to the Board of Elections. Mr. Gates provided handouts to the Board, stating he/they have been trying to reopen the Barney Precinct since 2019. They have met with the Board of Elections, started the process of gathering signatures and have 43. Mr. Gates questioned why Ms. McDonald was terminated from the Board of Elections, the same person was appointed to replace her; and what is the procedure to be on the Board of Elections?

B. Gerald Spencer – O.G. & M, Williamson, Kirk E. – Mineral Rights Taxes for 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020 be Written Off – Mr. Spencer was not present.

B. County Administrator Updates

Skillet Festival will be held October 15, 2020

Tree Lighting will be December 3, 2022

C. Commissioners Notes/Comments

- **Lee Larko (District 1)** – Appreciate everyone coming out, a positive change for the community.
- **Patrick Folsom, Chairman (District 2)** – Thanked everyone for attending.
- **Willie Cody (District 3)** – Thanks to all department, doing a good job; and keep turning things around.
- **Myra Exum (District 4)** – It is harvest season, beware of equipment on roads. Thankful there was no storm damage; prayers are with Florida. Thanks to the First Responders.
- **James Maxwell, Vice (District 5)** – Invited all Commissioners to visit the Washington Street Gym to look at.

9. **EXECUTIVE SESSION - NONE**

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Larko made the motion to adjourn regular meeting at 6:33 p.m.; Mr. Maxwell seconded.

Mr. Patrick Folsom, Chairman

Mrs. Jessica J. McKinney, County Administrator

Ms. Patricia A. Williams, Clerk