

The Brooks County Board of Commissioners met for its Regular Monthly Meeting on Monday, January 9, 2023, 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; 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 – NONE

2. CALL TO ORDER

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

3. CHAIR & VICE CHAIR ELECTIONS

A. Nominations/Election – Chairman (Attorney Leads) – County Attorney, Jason Kemp, took the lead for the yearly organizational meeting for the Board until the Chairman is elected. Mr. Kemp opened the floor for nominations for Chairman. Mr. Maxwell made the motion nominating Mr. Folsom for Chairman for 2023. County Attorney called for any other nominations, there were none; nominations were closed. Mr. Kemp called for the vote. Mr. Maxwell, Mr. Cody, Ms. Exum; Mr. Folsom; and Mr. Larko voted yes. Vote was unanimous for Mr. Folsom to serve as Chairman for 2023.

B. Nominations/Election of Vice Chairman (Chair Leads) – Chairman Folsom opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chair. Mr. Cody made the motion nominating Mr. Maxwell as Vice Chair for 2023. Chairman called for any other nominations; there were none, nominations were closed. Chairman called for the vote. Mr. Cody, Mr. Maxwell, Mr. Folsom voted yes. Mrs. Exum and Mr. Larko opposed. The vote was 3 to 2 for Mr. Maxwell to serve as Vice Chairman for 2022.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| A. Regular Monthly Meeting | December 5, 2022 |
| B. Executive Session | December 5, 2022 |
| C. Special Called Meeting | December 15, 2022 |
| D. Executive Session | December 15, 2022 |

5. INVITED GUESTS – (2 MINUTES)

A. David Taylor Construction – Commissioner Cody requested Mr. David Taylor to appear to introduce Taylor Construction Company to possibly bid on County projects. Mr. Taylor was not present, but representative Mr. Kendrick Wade appeared due to Mr. Taylor having a conflict. Mr. Wade stated the company has office located in Moultrie, GA, as well as Brooks County. His company does asphalt, concrete and construction. The company is certified by GDOT. He

hopes to be part of the bid process for Brooks County projects. Per the request of the Board, they will provide a company packet to County Administrator.

B. Brooks County Development Authority – Stephanie Williams, Director – Mrs. Williams was not present due to illness. Mr. Jack Harrell appeared to address the Board regarding applications/resumes for upcoming Board appointments. Four resumes were submitted:

Amanda Manning
Peggy Howard
Blake McLeod
Melissa Smith

Mr. Harrell stated that there are two appointments needed, District 1 and District 3. He requested that the appointments be made without politics involved, but for people who wants to work with the Development Authority. These two appointments are needed for the Development Authority to conduct business.

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

A. Brooks County Fire Department Report - Fire Chief Catlett – Chief Catlett provided the monthly report for December 2022:

- Brooks County Fire Department had a very busy month in December.
- There were 59 calls for service for the month of December.
- The department participated in community holiday events.
- Opened another paid station manned 24 hours a day with three Fire Fighters.
- Training consisted of all Firefighters (career and volunteers) completed all State required training.
- Hazmat awareness and operation certification classes conducted; pump training, and Fire Department Policy and Procedures.
- Completed six fire safety inspections, participated in Christmas parade, and construction of the County float.
- 94 out of 102 Pre-fire plans completed and annual pump testing on all fire engines completed.
- Chief provided report on the fire on Golding Road. Will provide copy of the report to the Board.

B. Public Works Department Report – County Administrator – Copy of report of Road Department activities for December 2022 was provided. County Administrator reported:

- Lot of pothole mix used in Mr. Larko's District.
- Wilson Pond Road needs attention for potholes, as well as Rocky Ford Road.
- Been doing tree debris cleanup form the last storm.
- Two Dump Trucks are being utilized everyday hauling lime rock two to three times per week. One of the trucks is down but being repaired.
- Administrator met with GDOT regarding the new STIP, will get information to the Board this week.
- Reames will start the LMIG projects by the end of the week.
- Mr. Cody requested Rogers Lane be looked at, the road has needed improvement for some years. County Administrator will look at it.

C. Brooks County 911/EMA Department Report – Director, LaToya Hampton – Ms.

Hampton provided report for 911/EMA:

- All Dispatchers are GCIC certified.
- A total of 33087 calls for Law Enforcement, including Brooks County Sheriff's Department, Quitman Police Department, Morven Police Department, Pavo Police Department, and Board of Education/School Law Enforcement.
- EMS calls included Zone 1, Zone 2, Requests and responded to calls for a total of 5951 calls.
- Brooks County Fire Department had a total of 951 calls to include District 1, District 2, District 3, Station 1, Station 2, Station 3, Station 4, Station 5, Station 7, Station 8, Station 9, Station 10, Station 11, and Station 12.
- Quitman Fire Department had a total of 911 calls.
- There are issues with addressing, 70 addresses are not on the map, goes out twice a month to check.
- Problem with addresses for Georgia Power and Windstream, addresses changed without knowledge.

D. Brooks County Zoning/Code Enforcement Report – Zoning/Code Enforcement, Mrs. Melissa Smith provided a report for December to the Board:

- There were 17 zoning inquiries, 30 calls, one certified letter to residence, six calls regarding trash pickup.
- One subdivision plat review, Commercial plan review approved.
- Six zoning letters approved.

E. Brooks County Buildings & Permits Report – Mr. Jason Montesano, Buildings & Permits provided a report for December 2022:

- Inspections and Permits were issued for culvert, two storage garage, re-roofing, mobile homes, Tire Shop, and new homes for a total of \$9,676.00.

7. CONSENT AGENDA – NONE

8. OLD BUSINESS

A. Special Exception – Wright Home-Based Business for Trucking Company – Sharkettia Wright submitted petition for a Home-Based Business for a Trucking Company, known as S&W Trucking, located on a county-maintained dirt road at 1040 Oliff Road, 0.2 miles west of Crosbytown Road and 1 mile east of Studstill Road in unincorporated Brooks County. The Planning Commission unanimously tabled the special exception until their December Planning Commission meeting to give the family an opportunity to work with Zoning & Code Enforcement to address concerns. Staff did not recommend approval. The Board deferred the Special Exception back to the Planning Commission for recommendation during the December 5, 2022, regular meeting. The Planning Commission held their meeting on December 22, 2022. No new information or changes were reported. The Planning Commission voted unanimously to recommend denial of the request because it does not conform with the Comprehensive Plan and is an incompatible location for a Trucking Company. Staff stated they are not saying they cannot drive trucks; but cannot have a trucking company. They need to have somewhere to park vehicles, trailers are not allowed and do not qualify for a special exception for a home-

based business. Mrs. Exum made the motion to uphold the denial by the Planning Commission for the special exception, Mr. Cody seconded. The vote was unanimous.

B. Airport Authority – Funds Assistance – During the December regular meeting, Mr. Robin McDaniel requested the Board to assist the Airport Authority with funds to finish paying Mr. Price for property at the airport in the amount of \$50,000. Mr. McDaniel presented their five-year plan for capital improvements. Mr. Larko made the motion to approve the funding assistance of \$50,000 to complete the payment to Mr. Price, and the funds will come from the ARPA account, Mrs. Exum seconded. The vote was unanimous.

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. FY2023 Annual Appointments

The Board made the following Board/Committee appointments for FY2023:

Boards/Committees

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

Mr. Maxwell made the motion to accept the previous Board/Committee appointments from FY2022, Mrs. Exum seconded. Vote was unanimous.

FY2023 Building Assignments

County Admin Building	Mr. James Maxwell
Agriculture Building & Annex	Mr. Patrick Folsom
Courthouse	Mr. Lee Larko
Sheriff's Department (Jail & C.I.D.)	Ms. Myra Exum
Public Works	Mr. Willie Cody
Voting Precincts	Mr. Lee Larko
E-911 Center	Mr. Willie Cody
Multi-Purpose Building (Head Start & Senior Center)	Mr. James Maxwell
Fire Departments	Ms. Myra Exum
Washington Street Gym	Mr. Willie Cody/Mr. James Maxwell
Regular Monthly Meeting	

January 9, 2023

Page 4 of 5

Boys and Girls Club

Mr. Cody

The motion was made by Mr. Larko to accept the FY2022 Building Assignments for FY2023, seconded by Mrs. Exum. Vote was unanimous.

FY2023 Other Appointments

Mr. Maxwell made a motion to appoint Burchett & Kemp, LLP to serve as County Attorneys for FY2023, Mrs. Exum seconded. Vote was unanimous.

On the motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Cody, the Board approved to appoint Mr. Gary Zeigler as County Auditor for FY2023. Chairman called for the vote. Mr. Maxwell, Mrs. Exum, Mr. Cody and Mr. Folsom voted in favor. Mr. Larko opposed. Vote was 4 to 1.

The motion was made by Mr. Maxwell to appoint Ms. Patricia Williams as County Clerk for FY2023, Mrs. Exum seconded. Vote was unanimous.

County Surveyor, Mr. Stan Folsom, was appointed to continue as County Surveyor for FY2023 on the motion by Mrs. Exum, seconded by Mr. Maxwell. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Maxwell made the motion to appoint Mrs. Melissa Smith as ADA Coordinator for FY2023, seconded by Mr. Cody. Vote was unanimous.

The Board unanimously appointed Chief Ralph Catlett as Safety Coordinator for FY2023 on motion by Mr. Maxwell, Mr. Cody seconded.

Mr. Maxwell made a motion to re-appoint Ms. Ann Guess for another term on the DFACS Board for District 4, Mr. Cody seconded. Ms. Guess wants to continue for another term, which expires January 2026. Mrs. Exum abstained from voting.

The Board re-appointed Ms. Toni Brinson for another term on the Board of Health, Mr. Maxwell made the motion, Mr. Cody seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Mrs. Julie Swann, Ms. Patty Hancock, Ms. Mary Henley were re-appointed to the Brooks County Library Board, terms expire June 30, 2025, on motion made by Mrs. Exum, seconded by Mr. Cody. Vote was unanimous.

Mrs. Exum made the motion to table the appointments due to candidates being outside of the districts, and the need to get the right people on the Development Authority Board, Mr. Maxwell seconded. Chairman called for the vote. The vote was 4 to 1. Mr. Maxwell, Mrs. Exum, Mr. Cody, and Chairman voted in favor. Mr. Larko opposed.

Mr. Ulysses Marable was reappointed to the Development Authority Board on the motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Cody. Chairman called for the vote. Mr. Maxwell, Mr. Cody, and Chairman voted in favor. Mrs. Exum and Mr. Larko opposed. Vote was 3 to 2.

DFACS Board – District 1
DFACS Board – District 2
DFACS Board – District 3
Regular Monthly Meeting

Mr. Nick Hampton (June 30, 2026)
Ms. Molly Radford (June 2025)
Ms. Pinky Brown (June 2025)

January 9, 2023

Page 5 of 5

DFACS Board – District 4	Ms. Ann Guess (June 2027)
DFACS Board – District 5	Ms. Mary Thomas (June 2025)
Board of Health (6 yr. term)	Ms. Toni Brinson (Dec. 2028) Ms. Shelley Kirkendoll (12/31/2027) Ms. June Furney (12/31/2023)
Library Board Appointments (3-year terms)	Ms. Julie Swann (July 2025) Mr. Willie Cody (July 2025) Ms. Patty Hancock (July 2025) Ms. Mary Henley (July 2025)
South Regional Joint Dev. Auth. (4 years)	Mr. Jason Shaw (Mar. 1, 2019-2023)
Joint Development Auth.	Mr. Jack Harrell (Dec 2022) Mrs. Stephanie Williams (Dec 2023)
Tax Assessor’s Board	Mr. Brewer Bentley (Dec 2024) Mr. Ralph Manning (Dec 2023) Mr. Melvin DeShazior (Dec 2025)
Elections Board	Mr. Zurich Deshazior (Dec 2025) Ms. Karen Murray (Dec 2023) Mr. Don DiStefano (Dec 2024)
South Georgia Community Service Board	Ms. Gerry Folsom (Sept 2024)
Brooks County Development Authority 3-year terms	Vacant (Dec 2025) D1 Mr. Jack Harrell (Dec 2023) D2 Mr. Ulysses Marable (Dec 2025) D3 Mr. Derren Yearby (Dec 2024) D4 Mr. John LaHood (Dec 2024) D5 Ms. Marie Horne (Dec 2023) D6 Ms. Erin McKenzie (Dec 2025) D6
Appointment to Behavioral Health Board (3-year terms)	Mr. Donnie Ware (Dec 2024)
Quitman – Brooks Co. Airport Authority	Rep. John LaHood (July 2023) Mr. Robin McDaniel (July 2023) Mr. Lee Larko (July 2023) Mr. Kenny Marshall (July 2023) Mr. Timmy Hiers (July 2023)
Brooks County Historical Society Regular Monthly Meeting	Ms. Jennifer Edwards (Dec 2025) 3 yrs. January 9, 2023

Est. June 2022

Ms. Jacquelyn Harper (Dec 2024) 2 yrs.
Ms. Cynthia Huewitt (Dec 2024) 2 yrs.
Dr. Marie Horne (Dec 2025) 3 yrs.
Mr. James Maxwell (Dec 2023) 1 yr.

B. CSX Bridge Abandonment – The vote was unanimous on the motion made by Mrs. Exum, seconded by Mr. Maxwell, that we abandon the interest the County owns, if any, in the material that comprises the bridge over the CSX railway on the abandoned County Road adjacent to Blue Springs Lane subject to a mutually agreed upon abandonment contract with CSX.

C. Heritage Drive & Candleglow Trail – Nick Clark, 12 Stones Engineering, presented proposals for the additional scope of work requested on Heritage Drive, Candleglow Trail, Grooverville Road and the Ag Building. Material estimates for the County portion of work is provided. 12 Stones Engineering Company, Inc. provided hourly rates for the Heritage Drive and Candleglow Trail improvement projects for engineering and construction services. Hourly rates for construction management are \$100/hour and \$125/hour for construction layout/staking. Construction management and surveying fees shall not exceed \$15,000.00 during the construction of Heritage Drive and Candleglow Trail. Services will include layout and oversight as needed by County forces during the construction of erosion control, grading and limerock base installation.

Ms. Exum made the motion that construction management and surveying fees shall not exceed \$15,000.00 during construction of Heritage Drive and Candleglow Trail, and the funds will come from the ARPA fund account, Mr. Maxwell seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Change Order No. 1 – Reames and Son Construction provided additional scopes of work on the Brooks County LMIG project for Heritage Drive and Candleglow Trail in amount of \$101,915.96. Mr. Maxwell motioned to approve Change Order No. 1 for additional work on the LMIG for Heritage Drive and Candleglow Trail for \$101,915.96, funds will come from the ARPA fund, Mr. Cody seconded. Vote was unanimous.

On the motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mrs. Exum, the Board unanimously approved the Grooverville Road striping in amount of \$39,454.38, and to be funded from ARPA account.

The Ag Building Parking lot paving in amount of \$32,284.00 to be funded from the ARPA account, was unanimously approved on the motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Larko.

The motion was made by Mrs. Exum to approve the Ag Building parking lot paving Alternate 1 for \$45,331.00, and funds will come from ARPA fund account, Mr. Larko seconded. Vote was unanimous.

D. SGRC – Regional Transportation Sales Tax (TIA 2) – Process Officially Has Begun

During the November regular meeting, the Board voted and approved the Resolution, that initiated the process outlined in the TIA Act of 2010 for the voters of the Southern Georgia region to consider continuing the one cent sales tax. With the submission of 10 Resolutions, the TIA 2 process can officially begin. The next step is for the SGRC to secure the Regional Transportation Roundtable (RTR). The RTR is the decision-making body for the Southern Georgia Region, which consists of the County Chairman from each County (18 seats) and one

Mayoral Representative for each County (18 seats). Mayoral designation is to be completed through the **designation of “one” Mayor** by all Mayors within each County – **18 seats; one Mayor per County**. The designated Mayor will be Counties’ Mayoral representative member of the Regional Transportation Roundtable. There is no action to be taken by the Board of Commissioners, as the Chairman is automatically added.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS – (5 MINUTES)

A. Ulysses Marable – Rogers Lane – Repair, Needs Sewer, Ditches Need Pulling, Sewer Pipe Upgrade – Mr. Marable was not present. Mr. Cody addressed the issues regarding improvements needed on Rogers Lane and emphasized the need for repairs that have been ongoing for some years.

11. ADMINISTRATION/ELECTED OFFICIALS UPDATES

A. County Administrator Updates

B. Commissioners Notes/Comments

- **Lee Larko (District 1)** – Emphasized on getting dates for the Development Authority Board appointments.
- **Patrick Folsom, Chairman (District 2)** – Thanked for opportunity to serve as Chairman for FY2023, hope to continue to work together.
- **Willie Cody (District 3)** – No comment.
- **Myra Exum (District 4)** – Commented we are off to a good start.
- **James Maxwell, Vice (District 5)** – Commented hope to have a wonderful year and Board work closer together, respect and love each other as good Christian should do.

12. EXECUTIVE SESSION – NONE

13. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Exum made the motion to adjourn regular meeting at 6:54 p.m.; Mr. Maxwell seconded.

Mr. Patrick Folsom, Chairman

Mrs. Jessica J. McKinney, County Administrator

Ms. Patricia A. Williams, Clerk