

The Brooks County Board of Commissioners and the City of Quitman met for a Joint Meeting Workshop on Monday, July 31, 2023, at 3:00 p.m. at the Brooks County Administrative Building, in the Commissioners Meeting Room, located at 610 South Highland Road, Quitman, GA. Commissioners present were: Mr. Patrick Folsom, Chairman; Mr. James Maxwell, Vice Chairman; Mrs. Myra Exum; Mr. Willie Cody, and Mr. Lee Larko. Others present were Mrs. Jessica McKinney, County Administrator; Ms. Patricia Williams, County Clerk; Mr. James Burchett, County Attorney, Mayor Zinda McDaniel, Councilman Morgan, Councilman Mark DeVane, Mr. Raphael Maddox, City Manager, Ms. Lola Slydell, City Clerk, Chief Roy Hart, Fire Chief Floyd Demps, Rep. John LaHood, and various citizens.

Joint Meeting - Workshop

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chairman called meeting to order at 3:00 pm.

Prayer & Pledge of Allegiance – Chairman Folsom led all in attendance in prayer and pledge of allegiance.

City Manager, Mr. Raphael Maddox, stated the agenda will be amended to table discussion on IGA, and not get into financials. This is a meet and greet, and to schedule quarterly meetings moving forward; and disagreements can be worked out one on one.

Mr. Maxwell discussed the City and County working together on paving streets, the City would be responsible for their section and the County will be responsible for our section.

Mayor McDaniel discussed the community calendar for different events to include the City, County, Chamber of Commerce, Development Authority and municipalities, Morven, Pavo and Barwick. She stated the City will know about events and make sure they do what the things they need to do. Mayor recommended a clean up day for the City prior to the Skillet Festival to make sure streets look good.

Police Chief, Roy Hart, commented he would like to know in advance about events so he can have people in place.

Mayor McDaniel suggested that Alison Wider be the lead for calendar events and figure out the best way to distribute the calendar of events. Mr. Maxwell inquired what the County can do to acquire the Gazebo? Mrs. Wider responded she will need to get with her Board.

The City and County agreed to the quarterly meetings being held the 4th Monday of each month for March, June, September, and December. The September meeting will be September 25th, due to the Labor Day holiday, and December meeting will be December 18th, due to Christmas Day, the time will be 4:00 pm.

Representative John LaHood thanked for being invited, he is here to listen and learn, find ways to be helpful and make himself available. Rep. LaHood stated most of his calls are regarding road issues, and asked to be enlighten on what is going on. Chairman provided an explanation stated the Road Department does not have enough employees, there is not a person to do everything that needs to be done, do not have certain employees to do certain things and do not have time to ditch roads in the capacity they are in. During the work session last week, the Board authorized the Administrator to reach out to neighboring counties to hire skilled operators to work temporarily. An ad will be run in the paper, the lowest bid will be accepted, if no bid is received, reach out and ask companies. Funds were repurposed for the Sheriff's Department for inmate detail but has not worked out.

County Attorney, James Burchett, also a State Representative, commented the same problem is happening everywhere, Department of Corrections (DOC) is running on third officers at prisons. Will push on the DOC for assistance. Rep. LaHood commented that legislature was passed to help, maybe they can help us.

Mayor McDaniel commented she is glad we came together to sit down and talk, and we need to do again to discuss Intergovernmental Agreements (IGA) between the City and County and set a date. These discussions will include Chairman Folsom, County Administrator, City Manager and take back to the Commissioners and Councilmen.

The workshop was closed on a motion by Mayor McDaniel at 4:36 p.m., Mr. Morgan seconded.

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