

The Brooks County Board of Commissioners met for its Regular Monthly Meeting on Monday, June 5, 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. James Burchett, County Attorney; and various residents.

1. PUBLIC HEARING – NONE

2. CALL TO ORDER - Chairman called the meeting to order at 5:07 p.m.

Prayer & Pledge of Allegiance – Pastor Steve Shierling, Brooks County Ministerial Association, led all in attendance in prayer and pledge of allegiance.

Chairman called for a motion to amend the agenda, to delete Item E under New Business, Tax Commissioner Contract Services for City of Quitman. Mr. Larko made the motion to strike Item E under New Business regarding Tax Commissioner Contract Services for City of Quitman, Mr. Cody seconded. Vote was unanimous.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

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| A. Regular Monthly Meeting | May 1, 2023 |
| B. Special Called/Workshop/Executive Session | May 23, 2023 |

4. INVITED GUESTS – (5 MINUTES) - NONE

A.

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

A. Brooks County Fire Department – Chief Catlett – Provided the report for May 2023 Fire Department and activities:

- Responded to 67 calls for service, calls average 62 for past six months. Calls EMS Medical, trees down.
- Chief Catlett informed the Board this would be his last meeting as Fire Chief; stating that it has been a pleasure and thanked the Board for the challenge. The fire department has gotten better in the past 22 months; but still have a long way to go.
- Chief Catlett introduced the new Fire Chief, Ricky Weeks, and hopes the Board works with the new Chief as they have worked with him. Applications were submitted, four interviews were conducted; narrowed down to two individuals; and Mr. Weeks was chosen after submission/completion of projects.
- Chief Catlett's last day is June 19, 2023; he will help Mr. Weeks get started. But he will be at the 4th of July fireworks and the grand opening of Station 2 on July 1, 2023.
- The county ISO rating is complete and remains at a 5.
- All volunteers are compliant and have 17 paid fire fighters; with five per shift, 24 hours a day. He stated the foundation has been laid and is solid.

- Provided the Board with a copy of the ISO report and the five-year plan for the Fire Department.

B. Brooks County Extension Office – Michasia Dowdy – Introduce New 4-H Agent –

Ms. Machasia Dowdy introduced the new 4-H Agent, Ms. Haley Clark, former teacher at Lake Park; but lives in Brooks County. Mrs. Clark stated she wants to build a relationship with the Brooks County Schools. Ms. Dowdy stated they finally have a fully staffed office.

6. CONSENT AGENDA - NONE

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. Opioid Regional Representation - During the May meeting, the Board discussed an appointment for the Opioid Regional Board for the Second Round Opioid Litigation, and the criteria/requirements to be on the board. Currently, there is no one on the Board from Brooks County. The Board discussed possible candidates and received three resumes of potential candidates. Resumes were submitted by Mr. James Pitt, Mr. Patrick Anderson, and Dr. Marie Horne. County Attorney will submit the resumes; as the County does not make the choice.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Abandonment of Charles Lane – Proceed with Abandonment Process – Mr. Maxwell made a recommendation to table this item as he needs to go and look at it before the process starts; he is not familiar with Charles Lane. The citizens are having problems and affecting two residents. The existing culvert crossing Charles Lane has been exposed due to erosion. Residents are asking the county to repair the ground cover to make the driveway more accessible. Research has been conducted as to whether Charles Lane right of way was abandoned and relinquished to property owners when Crosbytown Road was constructed. Nick Clark mentioned the issue can be resolved with loads of dirt placed over the pipe to re-establish road grade and tie back to the driveway. After discussion, this item was tabled for more time to research it out and take care of the culvert until the abandonment is taken care of, on a motion by Mr. Maxwell, Mr. Cody seconded. The vote was unanimous.

B. SGRC – Vacancy on the Executive Committee for Local Chief Elected Officials of Southern GA – Administration received notification for SGRC/Workforce Development Board (WDB) regarding a vacancy on the Executive Committee of the Local Chief Elected Officials of Southern GA. The WDB operates under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), which stipulates those decisions regarding the expenditure of funds and service delivery be made by the local WDB with the guidance and input of the LCEOs. The LCEO Board is made up of one County Commission Chairman or Mayor from each of the 18 counties. The local elected officials from the County (Chairman and Mayors) come together and nominate one individual to represent their County. There is currently a vacancy on the board from Brooks County. This topic was discussion, no action taken.

C. CD Accounts – Transfer of Accounts - Board discussed transferring the county’s CDs from Edward Jones to AMB (Allen, Mooney, and Barnes) during the special called meeting held May 23rd. Chairman allowed Mrs. Exum’s request to add to regular meeting agenda to give her time for review. Financial Advisor, Mr. Brewer Bentley, explained to the Board how well the accounts have benefited in the past years under his advisory with Edward Jones. Mr. Bentley is

no longer with Edward Jones. He is currently with AMB (Allen, Mooney & Barnes) Wealth Management Investment Banking Client Services out of Thomasville, GA, but his office will be in Quitman. Mr. Bentley stated that he wants to deliver value back to Brooks County and would like to see it continue. He assured the Board that if the CDs are transferred from Edward Jones the accounts will not miss a penny of accrued interest, will not be penalized, or experience any loss. After discussion, the motion was made by Mr. Maxwell to transfer Brooks County CDs from Edward Jones to AMB, Mr. Larko seconded. The vote was unanimous.

D. Discussion Regarding the July Monthly Meeting Date – Possibility of Rescheduling

The Board discussed the July meeting date and possibly rescheduling due to the first Monday being July 3rd. Moving the date to the following Monday, July 10th was discussed; but there were conflicts with scheduling. Therefore, the Board unanimously approved moving the July monthly meeting date to July 11th at 5:00 p.m., on the motion by Mr. Larko, Mr. Maxwell seconded.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS – (5 MINUTES)

A. Peggy Howard – Review of Current Solar Ordinance – Large Scale Solar Facilities – Mrs. Peggy Howard submitted an agenda request to appear to address the current solar ordinance; stating it does not protect the citizens of the county enough and needs to be strengthened, specifically, to large scale facilities. Mrs. Howard presented a model ordinance and highlighted sections for consideration: Adverse Sound Character, Solar Lease Options to be filed in court the day signed, Escrow Account for Complaints, Waste Disposal, Noise Ordinance, Property Value Guarantee, Liability Insurance, and Setbacks. She stated that if the distance was extended there may not be complaints. County Attorney and Ms. Sherry Davidson, Zoning/Code Enforcement will discuss going the noise/nuisance route; he wants to make sure the citation will stand.

11. ADMINISTRATION/ELECTED OFFICIALS UPDATES

A. County Administrator Updates

- June 30, 2023 - is the Independence Day Celebration. There will be a parade at 6:30 p.m., food trucks, and music on the lawn from 7:00 p.m. until 9 p.m.
- July 1, 2023 – Station 2 open house and ribbon cutting from 9 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- Proposed dates for FY2023-2024 Budget – Monday, June 12th, Tuesday, June 20th, and Monday, June 26th. Administrator will get the budget to the Board by the end of week.
- July 11, 2023 – Workshop with PATH
- Board agreed to June 26th for FY2023-2024 Budget at 5:15 p.m.

B. Commissioners Notes/Comments

- **Lee Larko (District 1)** – Thanked everyone for coming, advised to be safe on 4th of July, and be happy we are in a free society.
- **Patrick Folsom, Chairman (District 2)** – No comment.
- **Willie Cody (District 3)** – No comment.
- **Myra Exum (District 4)** – Commended Mr. P. D. Duncan for job well done with flags on courthouse grounds.
- **James Maxwell, Vice Chairman (District 5)** – Reminded everyone about the Juneteenth Celebration on June 17th on courthouse grounds.

Sheriff Dewey addressed the Board regarding his concerns with the Juneteenth Celebration, the large crowd, and need for extra security.

12. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Personnel

The Board closed the monthly meeting to go into executive session at 6:15 p.m. on the motion by Mr. Maxwell, Mr. Cody seconded.

The Board closed executive session to return to the monthly meeting on the motion by Mr. Maxwell, Mrs. Exum seconded, at 7:10 p.m.

No action was taken.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Maxwell made the motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:13 p.m.; Mr. Cody seconded.

Mr. Patrick Folsom, Chairman

Mrs. Jessica J. McKinney, County Administrator

Ms. Patricia A. Williams, Clerk