

The Brooks County Board of Commissioners met for its Regular Monthly Meeting on Monday, May 1, 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

Prayer & Pledge of Allegiance – Apostle Willie Freeman, Brooks County Ministerial Association, led all in attendance in prayer and pledge of allegiance.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

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| A. Special Called Meeting/Executive Session | April 17, 2023 |
| B. Regular Monthly Meeting | April 24, 2023 |
| C. Executive Session | April 24, 2023 |

4. INVITED GUESTS – (5 MINUTES)

A. Gerry Folsom – Legacy Behavioral Health Board – Ms. Gerry Folsom, Legacy Behavioral Health Board requested to appear to introduce the CEO for Legacy Behavioral Health, Ms. Pam Cartwright. Ms. Cartwright informed the Board that May is mental health awareness month. “There is a lot going on, she stated”. One in five people have mental health issues, one out of 20 has serious mental health issues; and one of every six children experience mental health illness. Legacy Behavioral Health Services, local Community Service Board (CSB), provides mental, health, substance use and intellectual/developmental disabilities services for those in the community with limited income. Legacy Behavioral Health Services operates in ten counties in South Georgia. There are 246 served in Brooks County, 63 of the 246 are primary or secondary diagnosed. Ms. Cartwright stated that the numbers are expected to increase. She also thanked the Board for the support provided to Legacy Behavioral Health Services.

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

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

- Responded to 245 calls for service. Calls included fire alarms 12, EMS Medical 7, Grass Fires 2, MVA injuries 4, MVA 3, structure fires 1, power lines/trees down 47, vehicle fires 1, mutual aid calls 1, and hazmat 1.

B. Brooks County Zoning/Code Enforcement – Sherry Davidson – Ms. Davidson thanked the Board for her return as Zoning/Code Enforcement. Reported she has reviewed 6 plats, found 16 houses in violation. She will attend the City of Quitman monthly meeting tomorrow, Tuesday, May 2, 2023.

C. Brooks County Building Permits/Inspections – Jason Montesano – Mr. Montesano provided a report for April 2023 consisting of structures of new homes, sheds, pools, mobile homes, and culverts. Total revenue for April 2023: \$10, 637.00.

6. CONSENT AGENDA - NONE

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. Development Authority – Board Appointment(s) – District 1 – On the motion by Mrs. Exum, seconded by Mr. Larko, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of Mr. Tyler H. Hart to the Development Authority Board.

B. Board of Elections – Board Appointment – Two resumes were received for the appointment to the Board of Elections. The motion was made by Mr. Maxwell to appoint Mr. Karl Britton to the Board of Elections, Mr. Cody seconded. Chairman called for the vote. Mr. Maxwell, Mr. Cody, and Chairman voted in favor. Mrs. Exum and Mr. Larko opposed. The vote was 3 to 2.

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. GMC Architect Firm – Review Proposal on Administration Building – GMC Architect Firm submitted a proposal to provide Professional Architectural Services for the Board of Commissioners for a new Administration Building. The proposal was a result of the meeting on January 30, 2023. The Board would like to design and consolidate several buildings into an administration complex. A kick-off meeting is recommended to work through the project vision statement of the GMC PATH process; and will be the foundation of all future meetings. Interviews will be conducted with authorized individuals to further define the program and utilize GMC's Project Approach Theory (PATH) process. There will be an estimated budget given at the conclusion of Conceptual Design. Compensation is proposed as follows: \$69,000.00 lump sum, additional services for exterior views \$1,200.00 per view, \$1,500.00 per view for additional interior views, artistic colored aerial site plan \$1,200.00 per view; and 3-D animation \$15,000.00 for up to a 3-minute video with sound. Mr. Maxwell made the motion to give Administrator authorization to proceed with GMC building design for the new Administration Building; and the cost of basic service in the amount of \$69,000.00 to come from the ARPA Fund, Mr. Cody seconded. The vote was unanimous.

B. Constitutional Officers Pay – The discussion began regarding the Constitutional Officers pay cycle which they have brought to the Board. County Attorney, Mr. James Burchett, stated he has done research and it all states to pay in equal monthly installments. The complaint from Constitutional Officers was that there is no regular date scheduled, at minimum set a policy, such as they will get paid the 1st and 15th of each month. Mr. Burchett has spoken with ACCG, and 95% are paid bi-monthly at a Regular Monthly Meeting

minimum. He stated he does not envision a significant amount of liability, if the Constitutional requests, there is likely threshold of liability. He further stated it may be permissive to have the Constitutional Officers sign a waiver/agreement to be paid bi-monthly. Regardless of the direction the Board proceeds payments must be consistent and equal monthly installments to be in line with the Georgia Law. The Board authorized the Administrator to proceed, and the County Attorney will prepare an affidavit and waivers for all to review. The pay schedule will include all Constitutional Officers.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS – (5 MINUTES)

A. Steve Schreck – Declare Meeting Void of December 15, 2022 – Recall Decision

– Mr. Schreck requested to appear regarding the no notice to relocate East Brooks Volunteer Fire Department. He is also requesting to re-advertise and re-hold the meeting. Mr. Schreck wants the Board to declare the meeting void and recall the decision at the meeting and re-open East Brooks Volunteer Fire Department.

11. ADMINISTRATION/ELECTED OFFICIALS UPDATES

A. County Administrator Updates - None

B. Commissioners Notes/Comments

- **Lee Larko (District 1)** – No comment.
- **Patrick Folsom, Chairman (District 2)** – Thanked everyone for coming; and to be careful.
- **Willie Cody (District 3)** – No comment.
- **Myra Exum (District 4)** – Inquired about the Plaque update for the Ag Building. Administrator advised the Plaque is at the office; has spoken with Ms. Robby to come take a look for approval before it is hung. Barker will hang the plaque for us.
- **James Maxwell, Vice Chairman (District 5)** – Commented on there not being signs at rivers, streams, ponds, etc. in Brooks County; and the Historical Society will take on this project and present signs to the Board to find funding.

12. EXECUTIVE SESSION – NONE

13. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Larko made the motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 5:58 p.m.; Mr. Maxwell seconded.

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