

The Brooks County Board of Commissioners met for its Monthly Work Session and Regular Monthly Meeting on Monday, August 1, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Meeting Room located at the Brooks County Office Building. Commissioners present were: Ms. Myra Exum, Chairperson; Mr. Joe Wingate, Vice Chairman; Mr. James Maxwell; Mr. Willie Cody; and Mr. S. L. Jones. Others present were: Mr. Justin DeVane, County Administrator; Ms. Patricia Williams, County Clerk; Mr. Vann Parrott, County Attorney; and various residents.

PUBLIC HEARINGS - NONE

WORK SESSION

Reports from Committees/Departments

A. Stephanie Hollifield – UGA Extension – Ms. Hollifield presented copies of monthly newsletter, UGA Extension Brooks County Ag and 4-H Clover Connection; which included review of activities for July; and August in review.

- The Brooks County Extension Office was busy with agriculture research projects, client calls, and harvesting of two corn research trials.
- July 7th Stephanie conducted an Extension Leadership System/Ag Program Development Team meeting for Brooks County Cooperative Extension.
- 4-H news included several trips chaperoned by Carol, Meagan, and volunteer leaders; Junior Camp, Chehaw Zoo and Park, Skyzone trip to Tallahassee.

B. Glenn Walker - Public Works – Glenn Walker, Road Superintendent, was not present; but provided reported on work completed for month of July:

- 10-911 calls; 31 for trees removed and seven washout repairs. 21 pot holes repaired; eight pipes installed, 12 roads were bladed; and also picked up trash.

C. Ben DeVane – County Engineer – Reported the 2015-2016 LMIG project is underway; and Contractor is completing the surface pavement first.

- Beatty Road, Coffee Road, Old Coffee Road have been paved; and 80% of Pauline Church Road is complete.
- The first pay request has been approved; amount is approximately over \$400,000.
- Completed the quantity estimate for Railroad Crossing repair for item 5-E.

Chair closed Work Session to go into the Regular Meeting at 5:12 p.m.

1. Call to Order – Ms. Exum called meeting to order.

Regular Monthly Meeting

August 1, 2016

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A. Prayer & Pledge – Pam France, Pastor, Quitman United Methodist Church; led all in attendance in prayer and pledge of allegiance.

2. Approval of Agenda

A. August 1, 2016 Regular Monthly Meeting – Mr. Wingate made the motion to approve the agenda, Mr. Maxwell seconded; vote was unanimous.

3. Approval of Minutes

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

A. Work Session & Regular Meeting

July 11, 2016

4. Appearances

A. Dewey Fountain – Road Concerns on Coeey Road and Ochlawilla Road – Administrator received a request from Mr. Dewey Fountain to address concerns that Coeey Road and Ochlawilla Roads have not been provided attention has promised previously by the Commission. Mr. Fountain stated the road is unpassable; and has been for months; he is requesting help. He has concerns for the elderly that lives on the road; and emergency vehicles not being able to access in case of an emergency. Ms. Exum advised will get with Road Department to see what can be done.

B. Edward Lumpkin – Request for Paving on Greenlake Circle -Administrator received a request from Mr. Edgar Lumpkin to appear before the Board again to re-request the Board please consider paving Greenlake Circle. Mr. Lumpkin complained of ruts in the road; requested much needed help. After discussion, Chair advised she will meet with Mr. Lumpkin and other residents to see if can find a resolution to the problem.

C. Zurich DeShazor – Use of Facilities Request (Courthouse Grounds) - A request was received from Mr. Zurich DeShazor on behalf of the NAACP Youth Program to hold a Classic and Antique Car Show, also with a Camaro Category, at the Brooks County Courthouse on September 3, 2016 starting at noon. There will be vendors, food musical entertainment, raffles and more. On the motion by Mr. Cody, seconded by Mr. Jones, Board unanimously approved the use of Courthouse grounds on September 3, 2016 beginning at 12:00 p.m. for a Classic and Antique Car Show sponsored by Brooks County NAACP Youth Program.

D. Dana Watson – Health Department – Ms. Dana Watson requested to appear to introduce herself as the new head nurse at the Brooks County Health Department; but was not present.

E. Bob Cooper – Update on Troupeville Water System - Mr. Cooper requested to appear before the Board, as he was unable to make the meeting last month. He is hoping to provide an update on the Troupeville Water System; but was not present.

F. Development Authority – Economic Development Update - Administrator received a request from Tiffany Holmes, Interim Director, Brooks County Development Authority, to appear before the Board to give an update on economic development in Brooks County. Ms. Holmes provided highlights of activities and projects of the Development Authority:

- Since its creation, the Authority focus has been centered on industrial development, as is consistent with other authorities across the State.
- Since 2007, Development Authority has worked projects totaling hundreds of millions of dollars and thousands of jobs.
- Has seen great success in recent years with the location of several industries including Crown Healthcare Laundry Services, Industrial Cutting Tools, Rayonier, Elec-tec, and Georgia Bottle, resulting in over \$25 million in local investment.
- The Brooks County Industrial Park is a 250-acre GRAD (Georgia Ready for Accelerated Development) certified park.
- Since most recent update to the Commissioners, have continued to market the park by hosting visitors (state project managers, utility companies, consultants, etc.) and by responding to requests for information.
- Currently working five active projects, receiving a site visit from one (\$18 million investment, 75-80 jobs) and having been selected as top three in another (\$40 million investment, 30-40 jobs).
- Also have three industrial buildings available (American Cold Storage, Thomasville Lumber and Remanufacturing and Barwick Candy Company) that they continue to market.
- Also continue to market our retail and commercial properties, specifically with our partners at Electric Cities of Georgia.

Ms. Dara Barwick, Consultant, updated the Board on efforts to market retail and commercial properties to bring businesses to downtown area.

5. New Business

A. Purchase New Jail Main Control Computer – Administrator received a request from Capt. Scott Boutwell, County Jail Administrator, for permission to use budget funds from the Jail Budget to purchase a new main control terminal for the Jail. The terminal is a touchscreen based computer that controls all of the doors and gates at the jail. Without this system in place, jailers would have to manually open and closed each door with a jail key to move throughout the building. The current system has been in place since the jail open, and is past its useful life expectancy. It has also had problems with overheating and lockups due to hardware failure. A replacement system is \$9,939 and this was included in the FY2017 budget. Mr. Wingate motioned to approve the purchase of a new main control computer for the Brooks County Jail with funds included in the Jail Budget for FY2017, Mr. Jones seconded. Vote was unanimous

B. Brooks County Litter Clean-up/Adopt a Road Program Policy – Administrator received a request from Susan Radford to set a date for the Brooks County Clean-up Program for September 10th. Administrator has also prepared an Adopt-A-Road program policy to be implemented along with her efforts. Administrator would like to ask the Board to allow for extra roll-off trash containers to be brought in to assist with MS. Radford's effort and to encourage people to clean up their trash. The Board unanimously approved the request with roadside litter pickup to begin September 10, 2016; to allow extra roll-off containers to be brought in to assist Ms. Radford's effort; and adopted the Adopt-A-Road Program Policy to be implemented along with the Clean-up Program, on the motion by Mr. Wingate and seconded by Mr. Cody.

C. Approval of USDA Application for Sheriff's Vehicles – Administrator received a request from Sheriff Dewey to submit an application to USDA for Community Facilities Funds to purchase vehicles for the NARC investigators. Administrator informed the Board the Sheriff has withdrew the request due to low funding level available within the grant.

D. Approval for Water Line at Fire Training Ground (SPLOST 6) – Fire Chief, Tom Eggers, requested permission to install a water line onto the fire training property located next to the County jail. A hydrant connection is required for ISO rating on the training ground. John Thursby, the City Water Superintendent, has prepared a cost estimate around \$9,000 for 5" main and two hydrant connections, one adjacent to the live burn building and another second location along the western property line. The City may also provide funding for the project, and split the cost with the County. Funds for the project are to be

approved from SPLOST 6. Mr. Maxwell made a motion to approve the request for SPLOST 6 funds to construct a water main on training ground property; split cost amount of funding with City of \$4,500 - \$5,000 with funds from SPLOST 6, seconded by Mr. Wingate. Vote was unanimous.

E. GA/FL Grade Crossing Improvements – Administration spoke to Scott Cloud from the GA/FL Railroad concerning the crossing on Empress Road (x2), Johnson Short by the County Shop, and Barney Crossing on HWY 122. Mr. Cloud is looking for assistance on repairing the crossing on HWY 122. GDOT is not interested in helping, but asked if the County could supply asphalt and a dump truck to haul off rubble. He figures that the HWY 122 crossing needs to dump truck loads of asphalt, and one load to one ½ loads of asphalt at each of the other three crossings. Administrator suggested that if the Board was going to consider helping, the three crossings in the south portion of the County would need to be included. Based on recent asphalt prices, around \$75.00 a ton, the County would need, on average \$2,000 a crossing. Administrator has spoken to the County engineer about possibly change-ordering the asphalt into our LMIG project, due to the quick timetable on the Barney grade crossing. DOT will begin detouring traffic to Barney for the HWY 133 project in August.

Mr. Wingate inquired if north brooks railroad crossing could be included. Administrator advised he would check; but did not foresee a problem. Administrator also requested a proposed change order for LMIG for the asphalt be approved to assist with the GA/FL Railroad repair. With a motion by Mr. Wingate, and a second by Mr. Maxwell, the Board unanimously approved the request for assistance to GA/FL Railroad to repair grade crossings; and the change order for 2015-2016 LMIG.

6. Unfinished Business - None

7. County Administrator Notes/Comments

A. Boys and Girls Club CDBG Update – Administrator informed the Board that the bid specs are are being prepared for the Boys and Girls Club CDBG project; and should have Contractor for approval by the next month meeting.

8. Commissioners Notes/Comments

A. Joe Wingate - District 1 – No comments.

B. S. L. Jones, District 2 – Commented on the road concerns for Greenlake Circle, Coeey Road and Oclawilla Road.

C. Willie Cody, District 3 – No comments.

D. Myra Exum, District 4 – Informed Board that shut off valves has been installed on Rogers Lane; and farmer will be removing extension.

E. James Maxwell, District 5 – No comment.

9. Executive Session – None

10. Adjournment - Mr. Maxwell made the motion to adjourn regular meeting at 6:35 p.m.; Mr. Jones seconded.

Ms. Myra Exum, Chairperson
Mr. Justin DeVane, Administrator
Ms. Patricia A. Williams, Clerk