

The Brooks County Board of Commissioners met for its Monthly Work Session and Regular Monthly Meeting on Monday, June 6, 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**

**Stephanie Hollifield – UGA Extension** – Ms. Hollifield provided copies of monthly newsletter; which included review of activities for May.

- Ms. Hollifield introduced the 2016 UGA summer agriculture intern, Megan Powell.
- Several visits were to Brooks County UGA crop/agronomy specialists and Southwest District Program Development Coordinator.
- Visits were coordinated with Dr. J. Michael Moore, UGA Tobacco Specialist and Dr. Stanley Culpepper, UGA Weed Scientist.

Attended monthly Chamber of Commerce and Kiwanis Club meetings; and Carol Smith was involved in 4-Hers in community events.

**B. Glenn Walker - Public Works** – Glenn Walker, Road Superintendent, reported on work completed for month of April:

- 10-911 calls; 23 side arm jobs completed; and 22 pot holes repaired.
- 60 work orders completed; 22 cold patches; and one round of mowing completed.
- 27 concrete pipes were laid on Ramsey Road.
- Received the new Excavator for demonstration use. Board authorized Administrator to prepare a letter of intent to lease the Excavator from Yancey.
- Ms. Exum commented on signs missing on Heirs Road.
- County Engineer will go with Mr. Walker to look at and access Pine Brook Road.

**C. Ben DeVane – County Engineer**

- 2015-2016 LMIG contract has been executed with H & H Paving; and should be complete by December 30, 2016.
- Four Oaks Plantation Project Contractor is dumping lime and base material on Ramsey Road; project is progressing forward. County Attorney and Administrator are working on an MOU between Four Oaks Plantation

and County; Board agreed to Administrator's request to have County Engineer as authorized signer on the pay requests as they are submitted.

Chair closed Work Session to go into the Regular Meeting at 5:16 p.m.

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

**A. Prayer & Pledge** – Mr. Bertram Whitfield, Chaplain, Presbyterian Home, led all in attendance in prayer and pledge of allegiance.

2. **Approval of Agenda**

**A. June 6, 2016 Regular Monthly Meeting** – Mr. Cody made the motion to approve the agenda, Mr. Maxwell seconded; vote was unanimous.

3. **Approval of Minutes**

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

A. Work Session & Regular Meeting	May 2, 2016
B. Special Called Meeting	May 17, 2016

4. **Appearances**

**A. Angelica Curry – Information about USDA Programs** – Ms. Curry requested to appear before the Board to share information about USDA and its programs and activities available to the County. The programs include: Community Facilities Loan and Grant Program, Water, Wastewater and Solid Waste Systems, Business and Cooperatives Programs, Community Facility and Utility Programs, Multi-Family Housing, and Single Family Housing.

**B. Linda Peterson – ARC of Brooks County** – Administration received a request from Ms. Linda Peterson of ARC to appear and share information about ARC programs and activities. Their purpose is to increase the community's awareness of the services provided to the Developmental Disabled people in Brooks County by presenting programs to organizations; and to encourage support to help ensure services continue to be provided in Brooks County. Ms. Peterson stated they are in need of funding assistance; and asked Board to consider including \$2,000 for FY2017-2018 budget year. The facility is also in need of driveway repair assistance to get in and out of second driveway. Board authorized Road Department to assist with repairs.

**C. Suzanne Lastinger – Request for Road Closure (Artis Lane)** – Mr. Bill Holland, Attorney, submitted a request on behalf of Ms. Lastinger, regarding a request for

the County to formally begin road closure process for Artis Lane. Mr. Holland's client owns land on both sides of the lane and has also spoke to surrounding property owners regarding the closure. They have cleared up access issues that arose during the first request to abandon the lane for owners located south of Artis Lane, where the road turned private. The abandonment was previously considered January 2015, but was withdrawn until an easement could be established for other property owners. Attorney representing Ms. Lastinger stated he is requesting the Board to determine that Artis Lane does not serve a public purpose. The Board approved proceeding with abandonment process, pending consent from property owners and an easement, on a motion made by Mr. Wingate and seconded by Mr. Maxwell. Vote was unanimous. The public hearing will be scheduled for July 11, 2016.

**5. New Business**

**A. Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement with GEMA** – EMA Director, Mike Smith, requested to appear to ask the Board for permission to renew the mutual aid agreement with GEMA. This agreement is vital for the County to receive disaster assistance when requested from outside agencies. On a motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Cody, the Board approved the renewal of the Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement with GEMA. Vote was unanimous.

**6. Unfinished Business - None**

**7. County Administrator Notes/Comments**

**A. Solid Waste Collection Bids Due June 29, 2016** - Bids are being received until June 29<sup>th</sup> for Curbside Solid Waste Collection for Unincorporated Areas of Brooks County. Current contract expires on August 2, 2016 with Thomasville Utilities.

**B. Budget Progress / Meeting Schedule** – Administrator has advertised Thursday, June 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. for Public Comments on the proposed FY 2016-2017 County Budget. A Special Called meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 30, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. for the Adoption of the FY 2017 County Budget.

Administrator is also asking the Board to consider changing the Fire Protection Fee from a fee based collection to a millage rate. County Attorney is researching whether the Fire Protection Fee can become a special millage or if the tax should just be collected through the M&O.

**C. Casting for Courtroom Scene / Movie** – Administrator reminded the public that non-speaking parts in the upcoming film being made in Brooks County are

still available. Interested parties should contact RKDS Media on Facebook or at their website, RKDSmedia.com.

**D. July Regular Meeting – July 11<sup>th</sup>** – Due to the first Monday in July being the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Holiday, Administrator requested the meeting date be changed to the following Monday, July 11, 2016. Board agreed.

**8. Commissioners Notes/Comments**

**A. Joe Wingate - District 1** – Commented on the litter and trash on City property at Webster Street's Recreation Park; and how bad it looks. Councilman Mark DeVane stated he will bring it to the City at their next meeting and see what they can do to assist the County maintenance with cleaning and mowing since Recreation does not use fields.

**B. S. L. Jones, District 2** – Commented on Road Department mowing after hours and on Saturdays.

**C. Willie Cody, District 3** – Commented on driveway pipes on Old Thomasville Road being stopped up and needs cleaning. Mr. Walker will go out and look at.

**D. Myra Exum, District 4** – No comments.

**E. James Maxwell, District 5** – No comments.

**9. Executive Session – None**

**10. Adjournment** - Mr. Maxwell made the motion to adjourn regular meeting at 6:00 p.m.; Mr. Wingate seconded.

Ms. Myra Exum, Chairperson

Mr. Justin DeVane, Administrator

Ms. Patricia A. Williams, Clerk